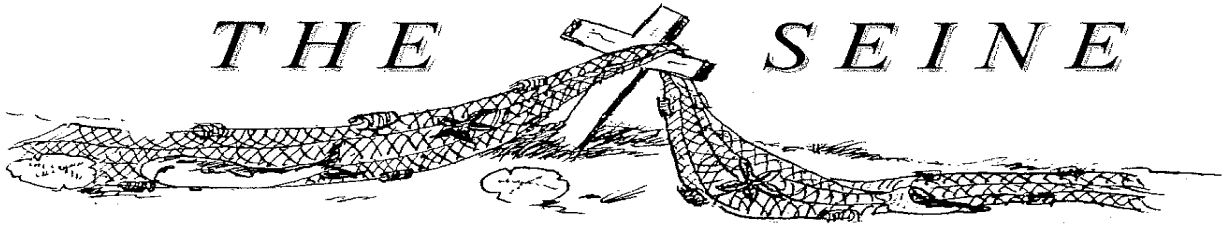


THE SEINE

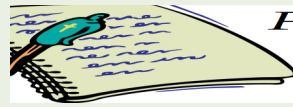


GROOME UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Matthew 4:19 "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"

January-February 2018

Stewardship & Pledging



*From the
Pastor's Pen*

Long before my arrival as pastor, Groome Church employed the fundamental characteristics of good stewardship. One need only look at the building and its appointments to conclude that Groome has long been a "no frills" church. Frugality can be attributed to a multitude of sources: locale, personality of leadership, pastoral characteristics and even the fact that Groome was, for most of its life, a Methodist Protestant Church. This particular subdivision of Methodism has long held the reputation of being less formal in worship and much simpler in church adornments. The remnants of this philosophy of identity still exist to this day.

This is clearly nothing to criticize. Upon my arrival I discovered a church with over \$200,000 in endowment, who habitually paid all of its bills, had done a good job maintaining the facilities and had a modest "wish list" of fundamental improvements. All of this has been accomplished through congregational generosity, attentive diligence and "penny-pinching" leadership over the long history of our church. Because it has worked so well, we have become complacent with this mode of operation. After all, if it isn't broken, don't fix it!

Well, the moment of truth has arrived. This operating on what I shall call the "honor system"; a system whereby it is assumed the congregation has both the will and means to annually fund the operation of our church, without any real projection as to what the yearly income will be, has run its course. For one thing, in the past decade, the cost to operate this, and any church, has blossomed exponentially. During the same period, membership has remained remarkably flat, more members are on fixed income and programs and ministries remained the same, as the cost to maintain a full-time pastor (especially without a parsonage) has soared.

We all need to take a sobering look at the facts. The annual budget for Groome Church has remained the same during my three plus years as pastor. We have done a remarkable job of holding the line at \$178,000. However, the income side of the equation has not come close to matching our expenses. Just so, you can understand how expensive it has become to maintain a full-time pastor; my salary which has not changed since I arrived, and benefits account for approximately two-thirds of our total budget.

During this past year we incurred \$28,000 in unbudgeted legal fees associated with the sale of our New Road property. After adding in other extraordinary expenses, our total operating expense for 2017 came very close to \$210,000. Our total income was \$149,000 which included \$12,000 of interest income transferred to our general fund from our Ameriprise Investments. In short, in order to pay all of our bills, we had to transfer \$85,000 from our investment principle, which means our current investment balance is \$121,000 in contrast to the over \$200,000 we had a little over three years ago. Simple math leads to the unsettling conclusion that we have just one more year in which we can operate at this level of financial short-fall; or we will go out of business waiting for our multi-million dollar windfall.

It turns out that math is not our friend. Even if the budget had no extraordinary expense (which is impossible) Groome Church is funded by roughly 68 giving units (family units). We only have 200 members, and when you factor in the people who rarely attend, married couples as one giving unit, those with very limited income, the numbers are quickly reduced. One does not need a Ph.D. in macro-economic theory to determine that 68 giving units goes into \$178,000 about 2,600 times with a considerable amount left over. In other words, every one of our giving units would have to contribute at least \$2,600 a year to meet the budget. Obviously, that does not happen.

The good news is that we are clearly not a bunch of "spend-thrifts", the bad news is that we are clearly not a bunch of "spend-thrifts." There is no fat to cut out of our spending. We operate at a truly modest level. In short, the only place where we can make an adjustment that will help alleviate the problem is with the income side of the equation.

We all know from our own personal experience, it is impossible to make any intelligent estimate of our financial situation without first knowing how much income we can rely upon having in the course of a year.

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MID-WEEK GATHERING

Please join us for a soup and sandwich lunch followed by Bible Study beginning

each Thursday, starting January 18 at 11:30 a.m. Bible study will follow at noon until 1:00 p.m. This is a wonderful time of fellowship and learning more about God's word.

Invite a friend or neighbor to join us for a time of Christian fellowship and sharing.



Debbie and I would like to thank everyone for your generous Christmas gift and love offering.

We deeply appreciate everyone for your thoughtfulness and willingness to serve in the church. As we venture into the new year, may God continue to bless Groome Church as we work to grow His kingdom.

In Christ Love, *Will & Debra*

Pastor's comments cont. from page 1

To this end, Groome has arrived at that moment when we need to ask our members to pledge an amount that fits their individual budgets, while letting the leadership know what we can depend upon to operate in the upcoming year. Over the next couple of weeks we will be preparing to get the campaign underway. Selected members of the congregation will be making brief presentations during worship in order to give a collective and objective point-of-view regarding stewardship. Pledge cards will be distributed on a specified Sunday, and the week following will be our designated Loyalty Sunday, when we bring our pledges to church and offer them as a means for performing God's work in our community.

I trust that everyone will take the time to reflect on both the magnitude of the problem as well as our commitment to its solution. Together we can make a significant stride forward to the resolution of this budget problem and move toward our shared desires and visions for a magnificent future for Groome Church.

Blessings, Will

Groome Anchor Coffee House and Concerts

Groome is very excited about the Coffee House outreach that started in September of 2017. Each month we have been blessed with wonderful worship and performing selections from talented musicians and singer songwriters.

Information and events are available on the Anchor Coffee House Facebook page and on the Groome website.

Saturday, February 10, Concert 7-9 pm: "All You Need Is Love"

George & Pat Bilenki, Rich Johnson Trio-Love Songs for All of Us.

Saturday, March 24, Spring Concert 7-9 pm: "Ampersand"

Beth Lawton & Dick Hogle & Family: Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Hammered Dulcimer, Bass and Rich vocal harmonies.

Saturday, April 21, Concert 7-9 pm: "Local Folk Show"

Mini folk fest w/Instrument Swap-Artist TBD

Saturday, May 12, Fiddle/Voice Workshops & Concert 7-9 pm:

LATOGQ Claude Methe, Dana Whittle, David Greely, Veteran fiddlers David Greely (Louisiana) & Claude Methe (Quebec) Time TBD

COFFEE HOUSE OPENS AT 6 PM FOR EACH EVENT
COST \$10 PAY AT THE DOOR

**January—February**

Hugh Councill	02/15
Evelyn Leahy	01/27
Ted Fort	01/25
Eugene McCoy	02/15
Betty Dunn	01/13
Marlene McCoy	02/19
Geraldine Padgett	02/10
Jeff Mitchell	02/10
Doris Shockley	01/05
Bill Hopkins	01/01
Retta Rose Frampton	01/22
Richard Bryan	02/06
Nancy Lank	02/17
Nycolas Chasteen	01/11
Kristin Martz	01/19
Bobby Foxx	02/14
John Beauchamp	01/16
Cody Truitt	01/31
Eileen Weitzel	02/28

**January—February**

Bill & Cathy Hopkins	01/29 (52)
Charles & Mary Ellen Sheppard	01/18 (49)
Maxine & Chuck Ungerbuehler	02/14 (43)



The office staff would like to thank the United Methodist Men for purchasing

the new phones for the church office and a new microwave for the kitchen. Your faithfulness to the work of the church is greatly appreciated.

In His Service,

Church Staff & Hospitality

Mitten Christmas Tree **2017 Mission Project**

Groome decorated a Christmas tree with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats to support the West Rehoboth New Beginnings Learning Center. To say the least, the project was an overwhelming success again this year. The items were taken to the center before Christmas in time for gifts for the children. New Beginnings was very thankful and express their gratitude for the gifts for all the children in a letter to Groome.

Groome's faithfulness and generosity is proven time and time again as we continue the work of the Lord.

In His Service



Groome's Ash Wednesday Service

February 14, 7:00 pm.

All are invited to attend.

Merciful and ever-living God, Creator of heaven and earth, the crucified body of your Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy day. Grant that we may await with him the dawning of the third day and rise in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Stewardship Message from your Finance Committee

Jesus taught, "Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." *Luke 6:38*.

"The measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you." *Mark 4:24*.

Take the time to explore what you can do for your church and in your community with your skills and talents. We should not mismanage our skills and talents budget anymore than we should or mismanage our financial budget. We should try to discover the wealth of undiscovered skills in our church and how we can use those talents as part of our stewardship responsibility.

St. Francis of Assis (1182-1226 A.D.) believed and taught that the world and all who exist in it were all gifts of God's love. The Bible said, immediately after God finished creating everything, "God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was very good." *Genesis 1:31*. St. Francis believed since God created the earth and all that is in it, that God intended for us to be stewards of the world. St. Francis lovingly cared for the earth and all on it as best he could. Every man was his brother, every woman his sister. He even cared for the animals for God created them all. In God's creation there is a purpose for everything.



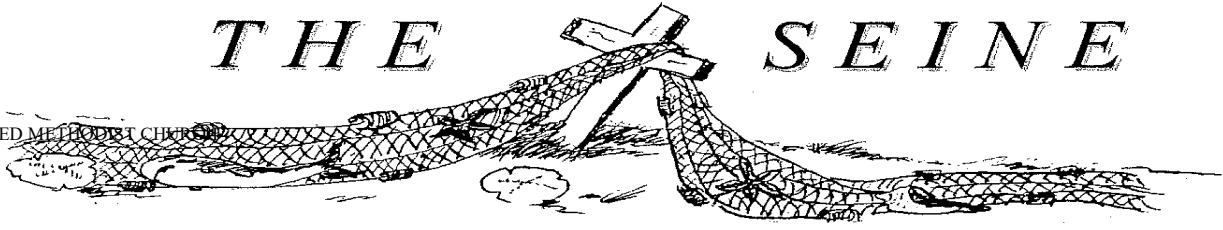
2018 Leadership Training ***Saturday, February 24, 2018*** ***Clergy and Laity***

2018 Leadership Training classes are being held at Avenue United Methodist Church, 20 N. Church St, Milford, on Saturday, February 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Registration forms and class information are available on the table in the annex of the church or on the pen-del.org website. Several classes are available to attend: Staff Parish Relations, Leadership Development, Worship, Children's Ministry, Lay Leader (Connecting with the Body of Christ), Trustees, Evangelism, Prison Outreach, Prayer & Healing Ministry, Finance, Missions. Cost is \$7 per person, and the deadline to register is February 15.

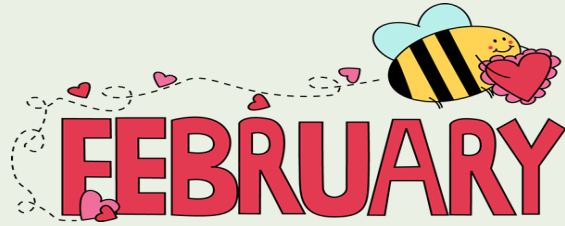
THE SEINE

GROOME UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Matthew 4:19 "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"

January-February 2018



Groome United Methodist Church
Pastor: Reverend Dr. Will Crossan

Sunday Worship Service—Sunday, 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Children's Church & Nursery

Mid-Week Gathering—Thursday, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Soup & Sandwiches/Bible Study
(September-May)

"Our Vision is to enhance people's belief in
Jesus Christ so they live a life of holiness and service to others."

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