Linda Knodle

• Thanksgiving Eve Service of Gratitude is being planned. The Reverend Doctor Matthew Mardis-LeCroy and Saturday Night Band Director, the Reverend Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy, are preparing the liturgy and music.
• Homeless Shelter Dinner is Friday, September 27.
• Inspiration Lounge Library is close to being ready. Volunteers are still “pocketing” books in preparation for checking them out. An open house is planned for a weekend in November.

October 2019 Council Report

Board of Benevolences Important Updates submitted by Irene Hardisty

Special Offering Gifts: Recipients for the Thanksgiving gifts will be 10% to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund and 45% each to Family Promise of Greater Des Moines and Plymouth’s Food Buddies’ partnership with Hubbell School.

The application for the Christmas Special Offering gifts is now available and the link is posted on Plymouth’s website. Current Happening and Contact Articles have been submitted. The application will be electronic format and the deadline is November 22. For more information contact Shawna Lode (shawnalode@gmail.com).

Plymouth’s Family Promise: FP committee meeting is being held 10/28 to discuss next steps and committee leadership. The next FP hosting, by Plymouth, is scheduled Plymouth is January 20-26. Please contact Matt Mardis-Lecroy or Irene Hardisty should a needed arise.

Shelter Meals: These six meal dates remain open: Nov. 26 or 27; Dec. 26 or 27; and May 26. Current Happenings and Contact articles are soliciting individuals or groups who’d like to participate. Please share these service opportunities to people who may have interest in preparing the meal or donating food for a meal. Also, not all Council boards and committees have signed-up for shelter meal. If unsure whether your group has or to sign-up, please contact susanapohl@gmail.com or ihardisty@yahoo.com. (Thanks!)

Additionally, until further notice, when providing meals please take disposable cups as we have learned the shelter has a shortage of drinking cups.

Food Insecurity:

Bread for the World letter (post-card) signing activity will be held adjacent to Church services on 10/26 – 27th. Diane Sickles is leading this effort to encourage elected Federal representative for food sustainability for children and mothers. This initiative is supported by the Peace, Food Buddies, and Food Pantry committees.

Food Pantry and Food Buddies are coordinating food collection at Plymouth Church. For October, although other food donations are welcomed, the requested food donation is 16 ounce jar of peanut butter, which is a size that is placed in the backpacks and is a size desired by DMARC food pantries.
**Furniture Pickup and redistribution:** Although the team is still picking up furniture, the team reports that with fewer refugees, the demand for furniture has decreased.

**HAT:** November Contact article regarding homeless assistance activities including shelter meals, furniture pickup, hygiene products and hosting families.

Cuba Partnership: Irene will be in Cuba **11/5 – 11/15**. Please contact Alex Moon (Amoon1676@gmail.com) for any BoB relevant concerns.

**Trustees Report**

September Financial Notes

**September Monthly Results:** Overall pledge income was markedly lower than budget due primarily to just over $50,000 less non-pledge income than expected. Non-pledge income is difficult to forecast and it is possible that there will be a reversal in the fourth quarter, however, non-pledge income is now $105,000 lower than budget YTD. Personnel expenses continued to trend favorable and September results did include the YTD back pay adjustment for program staff that was approved by Trustees and Personnel committee last month. Building and Operations continued to trend positively with nearly a $15,000 positive variance to budget.

**YTD Results:** Trends for the first 9 months of the year continue. Personnel costs are now $125,000 better than budget. Building and Operations are just over $60,000 better than budget. Expenses overall are $175,000 better than budget. Income is $87,000 lower than expected driven by over a $105,000 negative variance in non-pledge income. Reserve usage is currently projected to be at $35,000, which is $50,000 less than budget.