

## June 17, 2018 Leadership Moment

The Leadership Council have committed themselves to Love & Serve through Christ alongside of you, working with Pastor Tom as well as our Trustees, our Finance team and many of the service teams that have been growing over the past few years.

Many of the things which Leadership Council does you might not actually “see” – not the least of which is keeping all of you, our church family, purposefully in our hearts and prayers. Others are much more visible. We would like to share with you some of the things that we have learned and are acting on here at the church.

Something well-known in the field of “welcoming initiatives” for churches is the proximity of the nursery to worship spaces as well as the nursery’s warmth and cleanliness. Studies show that parents with young children are more discerning of church facilities than any other group of visitors. With this in mind, an initiative was started to move our nursery from the far end of the education building to a more central and permanent space... which was the pastor’s office. We concluded that this location would be easily found by visitors - as it is conveniently located in the center of our two buildings and two entrances. We expect the new nursery will be ready for use by September.

This relocation of the nursery initiated a well-thought-out chain of moves that we believe will better serve our staff and our ministry teams. Pastor Tom and Linda Sands have been relocated to offices on the second floor above the rear lobby. Our administrative assistant, Sue Walter, along with volunteer office staff, remain in the reception office in its original location.

One final move was made to support one of our busiest ministry teams. The Wayne Food Pantry is now operating out of the former staff workroom... just a few feet from the rear entrance.... Here they distribute 25 -35 bags of groceries every Wednesday and Thursday. For this team that means no more carrying bags of groceries up and down the stairs, no more wheeling the many Food Pantry carts in and out of the elevator. Food donations coming in the back door can be taken easily and directly to this new location. Those of you who serve on that team know how wonderful that move has been. All of these efforts were undertaken to make our church more welcoming and effective.

In the area of Team Ministry... The Adult Connections team works to provide opportunities for adults to gather for education, conversation, reflection, relationship building and growth. You may have seen or

participated in some of our previous Sunday morning offerings such as my own sharing after a trip to Israel last fall or our most recent series with Karen Bruno on spiritual meditation. Out of that team came the thoughtful and prayerful realization that Wayne Church was lacking a very important space – a place for our members and guests to connect with each other more informally, to enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, to make a new church friend or learn about our ministries, even to sit and read or just relax in God's house. This team began with the simple thought of rearranging and perhaps updating some furniture, but quickly came to realize that we need to do more to make Wayne Church the welcoming, comfortable and engaging place we seek to be. Soon that team was reaching out to Pastor Tom, to the Leadership Council, and to Trustees and Finance to discuss possibilities.

The outcome of these discussions led us to the understanding that our church parlor, constructed in 1966 and largely unchanged from that time, is a center of connection for our church family. From weddings and funerals to Sunday refreshments, men's breakfasts and learning opportunities, we have all gathered in that room at one time or another. It is one of our most central spaces and it is the threshold where many people first encounter welcoming ministry.

To that end, we believe new furniture - including new comfy sofas and chairs plus a few conversational café tables and chairs - are just what we need. We will also have areas where phones or laptops can be charged, and a special new set up for coffee and tea service. At the same time, the room will be designed for easy changes into fellowship hour (you know we Methodists can't live without our after church snacks!), as well as for the special needs of weddings and funerals. This refreshed space will also include a monitor, smaller but similar to those we now enjoy in this worship space, to share prayers, lyrics and photos during church services.

That said, we expect that sometime in mid-July the room at the back of the sanctuary typically referred to as "The Parlor," will be closed for the rest of the summer. During that time, it will be receiving a much-needed facelift. In September, the space will formally be re-christened as *"The Well."* As many of you may know, during Biblical times, the well is where everyone routinely gathered for news, friendship and sharing. We believe a new name and a new look will encourage that kind of relational activity and connectedness we want for years to come.

Just one more important word about this improvement... your Adult Connections Team believes in this project enough to bring nearly \$10,000 to the table to help complete the project... they are already half

way there. If you would like to play a part in this important work, your donation is most welcome...just designate your gift to "The Well."

One final item to share, most of you know (or have at least seen) our sound & video technician, Kevin Farrell. Every Sunday, Kevin operates from the first row of the balcony putting words and images on the screens for our worship. His tools are currently just a laptop and a collapsible TV tray.

We think our sound and video is now better than ever. Kevin's ministry is an extremely important part of our ability to connect with future generations. Therefore, it's important that Kevin and those team members who work with him have the resources they need. That includes a designated and safe area to operate our sanctuary A/V equipment. Toward that end, the last few rows of the south side of the balcony will be closed off in July and remodeled for permanent use as the sanctuary media booth. This is a very important step for us and the future of our church. We will begin operations from that new permanent location in September.

The Leadership Council are very excited about our continual efforts to engage new ministries and welcome new people to our church home, so that we can ultimately be the church that God calls us to be in these changing times. We hope you share that excitement.

Please feel free to contact members of the Leadership Council, if you would like to talk more about these new initiatives, would like to get involved or if you have additional ideas about how we can continue to work together, loving and serving through Christ, and looking to the future for Wayne Church.

#### **2017 – 2018 Leadership Council**

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