



Dear Church Family:

In keeping with my promise to periodically write a personal note to you, each couple of months I have shared through this instrument called The Trinity Spirit. I do hope this has been helpful to you – I count it an honor to use this avenue to share with the people of this great congregation. Since this is the last writing for 2010, I thought I would reflect a bit as well as update you on some important happenings around here.

In 2010 our church was unexpectedly blessed with a generous gift from the late Shirley and Roger Hamrick. There had been some back and forth correspondence about what the estate would entail, but we were not sure for quite some time. As the year comes now to a close, the picture is clear. And, instead of sharing “what might be” I can share “what is” with you. As I stated, the gift was generous in nature, in keeping with how generous and gracious the Hamrick family has been to Trinity. Even in this personal context, I do not feel it proper to get into specific numbers with you – but I do invite you to come by and get specifics from our Administrator, Jackie Jeffers. She will be more than happy to give you as many details as we can.

The Discipline of the United Methodist Church is very clear about how the church is to go about receiving gifts of this nature. The Trustees of our church have diligently worked with our Finance committee to disperse the funds of this estate in direct keeping with what the Discipline allows. It is very important for you to know that while this is a generous gift, it is not to be used to cover our daily ministry expenses within the church. Gifts of this nature may not be used to pay utilities, salaries or provide (or substitute) for already budgeted items through our church. These things are cared for through the generous and regular support of you, the congregation, each and every week through your offerings and tithes.

However, because of this generous gift, we have been able to see that some goals were accomplished for which there was no budget amount set aside. Let me share some of these with you.

**First, because of this generous gift we have been able to purchase a new 25 person church bus.** Because of God’s blessing, most of our programs now easily involve more people than our church van (which seats 10 persons) can carry to any location. Our youth, children, and music, and other adult ministries will be able to use this wonderful tool for transportation for years and years to come.

**Second, we have chosen to tithe the amount of the bequest to our Connectional Missional Giving (also known as apportionments).** The Hamrick didn’t just love Trinity, they loved the United Methodist Church and were generously supportive of its mission to make disciples of all persons. With this in mind, one-tenth of every dollar has been given outside our local church to assist our Annual Conference in our missions throughout the world.

**Third, unknown to any of us but corresponding with the receipt of this estate, the property beside our church came up for sale.** Currently the Meyerholz Tire company uses the property. For years the leadership of our church has been praying for God to open the doors He wants opened and to close doors to our future He wants closed. Our leadership has been convinced that acquiring this property will offer us great possibilities for our future as a church. With this in mind, and after many meetings and prayers, the Church Council has voted to purchase this property, in part with funds from this estate. For the immediate future, the tire company will continue to use the property paying Trinity a sum for rent each month. My understanding is that this contract will be confirmed in the next few weeks. There are several of our laity who have been instrumental in helping negotiate this property and we owe them our heartfelt gratitude.

**Finally, we are almost finished with the renovation of our beautiful sanctuary. NONE of the Hamrick estate funds have been used to make this dream a reality. This is being accomplished completely because of you, the generous men and women within the congregation.** You should know how proud I am of our church for the way you have been patient throughout this process. I am so grateful to all who have done so much to see that the entire project has been handled well and effectively.

So ..... other than that, things are just about normal around here! Let me close by wishing each of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and blessed Christmas. My family and I look forward to all this wonderful season holds for us.

Pastor Bobby