

## Feasibility Study Report to Church Council 1/11/12-Faith Forum Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

Current expenses are \$3667.55 Carol Cole's contract came in at \$2350 of the \$2500 allocated. The balance, \$1242.55 were architect fees for a site visit, review of information requested, rendering current floor plan and brief communications plus a fee of \$75 for the Vermont Preservation Trust Conference on Sacred Spaces.

The Feasibility Committee met last week to review Carol's written report. As you noticed following her presentation at our Annual Meeting, many of the suggestions for our building were not new to us. There was no one suggestion that "jumped out" to us.

We are involved in a process of discerning how we might work with Springfield in a joint effort to rebuild community vitality and maintain our presence and spiritual home on Main Street. It is necessary to ask what the leadership of Springfield believes is needed to support the community rather than us telling them. *What are important about the ideas suggested is that they are not from us!*

It is a different community even from 50 years ago.

- None of the leaders in the interview are members of our church.
- The responses, to the question, "What roll, if any, do you think the churches play in Springfield?" made it sound like churches are a "good hearted family" rather than a Christ centered institution.
- We have a disproportionally high level of low income housing.
- 46% of our school children are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch. The state average is 36%.
- Unemployment for 2011 ranges from 4.7 to 5.8% in Windsor County. In Springfield it is 6.1 to 7.6%

We have heard the community's suggestions. The committee has suggested a Faith Forum to help narrow the ideas to ones we think may be feasible. We also talked about the possibility of a dinner with some of the interviewees to gather, eat and have a conversation about a possible direction.

In discussion, the Council started making suggestions that were picked up by others and a vision of what might be was developing. As a congregation, we need to have the same opportunity with time to foster discussion, doubts and possibilities. Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> we will have a Faith Forum to begin the discussion on possibilities and direction.

Feasibility Study Committee

Diane Holme, Betsy Owen, Pelly Remick and Pastor Christine