

Talk to CUMC

Doug Faulkner, Chair, Cut Utility Expenses

31 May 2015

Thank you, Pastor.

Good Morning! I'm Doug Faulkner and I lead Cherrydale's "Cut Utility Expenses" task force.

Notice anything different? No, this is not a trick question, but I want to draw your attention today to the chandelier up front over the piano.

As our latest step in cutting our church's utility bills, we have replaced all twelve of the old 60 watt incandescent bulbs there with modern, less than 10 watt LEDs (light emitting diodes).

Why did we only fix one chandelier out of eight, if there's such a big difference in electricity use? We wanted to test your reaction first: do you like the new light? If not, we will try different low watt bulbs next. But, if they meet with your approval, we will switch out all of the other chandeliers, 96 bulbs in all.

How many light bulbs do you think are in this church building? If you guessed over 700, you would win the contest. Not all of them are energy wasteful, but it is our top priority to replace those that are, inside and out, with energy efficient bulbs. We started by replacing those old hot lights in the arch here over the pastor and the choir and we will be doing more in coming weeks.

Our group was formed a year ago and we have made slow but steady progress. My family started a memorial fund for my late Mom and Dad, Barb and Bill Faulkner, to jumpstart our effort. We have already replaced a number of bulbs, insulated pipes and the hot water heater, and installed a programmable timer on the heating/cooling unit in the office area. And, most important, our church's spending on electricity especially has started to come down.

I'm proud of our team and grateful to be working alongside such talented and professional members of our congregation: Maribeth Bradfield; Billy James; Jane Luxton; Gene McClellan; Don Strehle; and Gerry Stock. Pastor Elizabeth, Bruce Harrison and my business partner in "Jacob's Ladder Energy Group", Scott Sklar, are right at our side in discussing energy priorities. Dick Wiley's Trustees have contributed funds and Claire Wade's Finance Committee has been supportive too by including a new line item in the 2015 church budget for this work. Thanks to all of you.

We have gotten off to a good start by targeting Cherrydale's "low-hanging fruit", but there is much more to be done. For example, we want ultimately to deepen the insulation in the attic; replace leaky doors and windows; and completely upgrade our ancient heating and cooling system. But, all of that will take a lot more money and time.

Our goal is simply put: to save money to save souls. We want to squeeze our church's spending on electricity, natural gas and water, so we can spend more on our core mission to bring more souls to Christ. We will succeed in both with the help, patience and prayers from all of you. If you would like to contribute money over and above your pledge to this effort, please let us know.

How many Methodists does it take to change a lightbulb? As many as it takes, brothers and sisters, working together to change this church and this world for the better! And, that's no joke! Thanks for listening.