

Report on the workday we had at RF on Thursday, July 25.

Throughout the day we had 16 people joining in the clean-up project, some staying all day and some coming and going giving the time they could to the project. There was obvious support and enthusiasm for the effort we are putting forth.

Barbara Peppey and I were the point persons for the day.

Tony Ferrara introduced a process that has been suggested by the programming committee to have a moment of "centering" before the work begins, and read a passage that he had selected to help us let go and be present for the work before us, leading us to working together in unison and harmony..

Carol Gregor presented Work Safety guidelines that have been adopted by Habitat for Humanity Projects that incorporate so many skilled and unskilled workers. She requests that at a future meeting we formally adopt these guidelines as part of our work. We did ascertain that we had a working cell phone on site. And someone was able to produce a first aid kit, and masks.

Gail made the group aware of the Safe Sanctuary Policy which is part of all United Methodist Church directives, and has been adapted and adopted for BUMC which includes RF.

Then the work began. All of the debris was cleaned out from under the building! A brush pile grew and grew as fallen, broken and rotted tree limbs were carried out of the wooded area and from around the church. A lot of raking was done around the perimeter of the church.

We ended up with a pile of wood and "stuff" and bagged debris to be taken away by Bill Leck.

Discussion ensued on how best to get rid of the big brush pile. Haul it away or burn it? Barbara volunteered to contact the fire department about the possibility of burning it at the side or front of the church, and having the assistance of the fire department as we do it.

The next work meeting will be on Saturday, August 3, 8:30-noon and Alison Miner and Jackie Pike are the point persons. I think the work that day will be concentrated mostly out in the woods area where Jerry was able to saw up some of the fallen trees so that they are ready to be moved out of there, and ?burned or ?hailed away. Do others of you that were there on Thursday have other suggestions for work to be done on the August 3rd?

We need A First Aid Kit....maybe someone will donate one to be kept on site. Heavy duty big trash bags. Masks.

I have compiled a notebook of Resources for the Building Committee which I will give to Alison or Jackie for the August 4th meeting, and then it can be left at RF for future use. So far it has a copy of the Work Safety Guidelines that Carol presented, a copy of the Safe Sanctuary Policy and a site map. I do not think the site map I have included has the new boundaries since the donation of land by Bob and Annie Poole that will provide us with the possibility of water someday.

To my knowledge we have not decided how and who will determine our next Building Committee Meeting. The next Large group Meeting (all committees and interested people) is scheduled for August 21st but I do not know the time. When we meet on that day, or if we determine the need for a meeting before that I think we need to look at the structure of how our group will function, minutes, conveners.....

And to that end, I have a suggestion about the opening process Tony led for us. I can see that that format will work for a committee that gathers at a table, has an opening to center the group and proceed with their business at hand. The problem I identified with the beginning opening circle for our work day was that people came ready to dive in and work, and some of them with limited time..."I can help for 1/2 hour....I can be here for an hour...I'm ready to work, what do you want me to do". Everyone was chomping at the bit to begin. I do think that developing "community" among those that come, and recognizing why we have come is important, but what if we just start the work days having the point people give guidance and direction, safety guidelines, and then set a "break" time for lunch or snack or beverage in which everyone would stop work, refresh, and be led in a prayer, or a song, or a story.....