

Attending: Betty Hansell, Rick Starck, Linda Starck, John McQuire, Carol McGuire, Vic Costello, Alfred Current, Karen Current, Ken Priest, Joan Priest, Mary Hilton, Nancy Prins, Jan Prins

The meeting opened at 6:30pm with the lighting of the Christ Candle and a prayer.

Nancy and Jan Prins from Englewood UMC were invited to join our meeting to give whatever assistance they could provide. Nancy is the Mission Committee Chairperson at EUMC and both of them accompanied Dan Christopherson to Cuba two years ago. They are scheduled for another trip this year. EUMC has two Cuban sister churches.

Agenda Item 1 – Funding

Mary Hilton stated John Furtado was unable to attend the meeting but had indicated to her that we received some of the \$1500 needed for Scott Folsom's Cuban Trip. (As of 6/29/14, \$1749.00 has been donated towards Scott's trip) An additional \$200 had been donated for the Nicaro Church. Betty raised the question of how we would raise the additional funds needed (A minimum of \$1200 per year is needed. Add \$1500 for travel expenses if we invite the Nicaro Pastor to visit us.). After some discussion we agreed to post a request in the Sunday bulletins as well as making an announcement each Sunday. (This was later delayed until we hear from our Sister Church what their specific needs are.) There has been a lot of enthusiasm regarding our new sister and we believe we will easily meet the immediate goals. Vic Costello indicated that the Men's Club would be meeting tomorrow and would likely vote a gift similar to donation made by the Crafty Ladies. Finally a Saturday Special Breakfast was proposed by Alfred Current where tickets would be presold as we did for the Pig Pickin' event. (Nancy showed that EUMC uses both dime & quarter coin collector cards for Missions. A 5-gallon water jug "THIRSTING FOR THE WORD" could be kept in the sanctuary to collect coins. One of the large donation boxes could be decorated and left in the sanctuary for direct donations. Or special giving envelopes, similar to Psalm 25, could be created for Sister Church gifts.)

Agenda Item 2 – Preparation for Pastor Ernesto "Tornado" Leon of the church in Tacajo

During our July 9th Wednesday evening dinner we will have a guest speaker, Cuban Pastor Ernesto "Tornado" Leon. Pastor Ernesto will, via a translator, tell us about life in Cuba as a Pastor. A question and answer period will follow. We will be preparing a beef dinner as beef is unavailable to citizens of Cuba. Please prepare and email your questions to Betty Hansell (bettyandpat@comcast.net) so they may be compiled and forwarded to Dan Christopherson in advance. Jeanne Shroust stated that she has composed information regarding the July 9th event to include in this Sunday's bulletin.

Agenda Item 3 – Scott Folsom’s Cuban Summer Camp Trip

There were several offers of luggage donations to Scott so that he can leave everything behind for use in by the Nicaro church community. There was also a lot of discussion about identifying things to take for donation. Nancy and Jan Prins were able to give a lot of advice along these lines as they had previously gone on a Cuban trip.

The following is a partial list:

Expiration dates on medicines, vitamins, etc. must be at least 14 months away.

Recommend smaller size bottles to distribute to more people.

No liquids.

They have 110 electrical power.

Not everything has to be brand new.

A few Spanish Bibles	Children’s Vitamins (not chewable)
Used baseball equipment of all types	Women’s Vitamins
Clothing	Aspirin and all pain killers
Fabrics for sewing/needles, thread, etc.	Sinus medicine
Socks and underwear	Band-Aids and other dressings
Razors/shave cream	All over the counter medicines are needed
Soap, towels, etc.	
Toothpaste and brushes	Unblocked cell phone for Pastor \$69.00
Solar powered Spanish Bibles (galcom.com)	Clown and other costumes
	Plastic placemats/teaching aids
Power tools for building	Old computers
Musical instruments	Digital Camera with sim cards to send to us
Pencils, paper, crayons	
Coloring books	Bike tires & tubes
Teaching aids	Flannel boards (Amazon)
Dollar Tree is wealth of goodies	Toilet paper

Agenda Item 4 – Begin Communication with Nicaro Church

Give the returning Pastors a letter in Spanish introducing Gulf Cove UMC, some group pictures taken during Sunday services and a couple of church directories. Ask the returning District Superintendent to advise the Nicaro Pastor we would like to have a prayer list and a list of immediate needs. Possibly Scott can bring these back with him.

Agenda Item 5 – History of our Relationship

It is important to start documenting our relationship with the Nicaro church. This will not only keep our congregation (especially snow-birds) up-to-date, but also there will be a recording of events for new members to view. Rick Starck indicated that there is a page on our website with much of the initial information.

Miscellaneous

There is a website that translates documents from English to Spanish (freetranslation.com) & (translate.google.com).

When visiting Cuba be sensitive to water restrictions. Don't flush toilets each use.

Nicaragua has high unemployment because the Nickel industry has been shut down in Nicaragua.

As a result of the Nickel industry there may be ground water pollution and a need for a clean water supply.

Also pollution from the Nickel industry may have adverse effects on the health of the community.

Charlotte Halbert may be fluent in Spanish.

There is a continuing need to inform not only our congregation but also our community about the needs of the Cuban people and what we can do to help.

Should you plan to go to Cuba with Dan on a future trip, your passport must be valid for a minimum of one year after your return.

Nancy recommended that we haunt Dollar Tree, thrift stores, garage sales, etc. for delightful items.

Any cash sent with the DS has to be given to him several days before his departure in order for him or Dan to take it to the bank and get "clean money"