

The Vestry was abuzz with excitement Thursday night as the Executive Committee relived all of the fun of the Kickoff Dinner. Our consultant, Margery Williams stated that our dinner was one of the top two of the 30+ campaigns that she's worked on. (Someone pointed out that the other top dinner served "adult" beverages.) Doesn't seem like a fair comparison, does it? A disgruntled member who thought we should have been the TOP dinner, sputtered, "At least we'll remember ours." For more info, see story on next page.

- Betsy Morin reported that she's having a lot of fun working with our members who will be visiting our families. What did she expect? We're wonderful—all 80+ of us that they're planning to visit!
- Nancy Frick and Matt O'Hala are still working on setting up meetings with our Advanced Gift donors. Wow! They've had the longest-lasting job of all!
- This group is already talking about planning for Celebration Sunday! No procrastinators here!

It seems that with all of the excitement of the Kickoff dinner last weekend, Mr. Mousey Taylor's elopement to Ms. Mabina Murphy of Ireland. Unbeknownst to this reporter, one of the mad and vicious Taylor family cats ate Mr. Mousey's first wife, Mabel. He's found himself a fine and loving second wife, Mabina, Mabina is an Irish name that means, "nimble," which is fortunate for her, considering she'll be setting up house in the Taylor residence with the aforementioned enemy combatants!

I felt so honored and proud to enter our room at DiBurro's Function Facility last Saturday night! It was grand — spacious and impeccably appointed! However, one of the most beautiful features of the room was not something immediately seen upon entering the room, for it was located on a far wall behind the head table. And that's a *good* thing, for the doorway would have been crowded with people experiencing the vapors upon spotting the breathtaking work of art! And what a exquisite surprise! A Blessing Tree created for us to store our memories of the gifts, tangible and intangible, we've been given as a result of this campaign. So creative! So beautiful! A creation for the ages! And, to think this magnificent creation was the creation of our own Carmen Weisensee and Stacy Lamson! We are truly blessed. And, rumor has it, that the two are working on another surprise. Can our hearts take another surprise???

Scripture for the week:

Oh God, thou art my God, I seek thee early with a heart that thirsts for thee...

Psalm 63:1a

"Very exciting! Good food; good service; good entertainment; wonderful pom-poms!" "That's the most fun I've had in years!" "I haven't danced in 15 years!" That is just a few of the many, many compliments I've heard around the church in the week following the Kickoff Celebration. From the moment one stepped into DiBurro's, 'till the late night end of the party, there was electricity and fun in the air. Certainly, the Task Group responsible for the affair must be heartily congratulated and even forgiven for their kooky behavior prior to the event!

The hour prior to dinner was certainly very lively. The "bar" tender confirmed that, "Yes. If the quantity of liquids consumed is any indication, this is a group that likes a party!" This was confirmed by more than one partygoer, (they-who- shall-not-be-named) who were seen squeezing through the crowd at the soda bar multiple times, leaving with hands full of drinks, shouting, "Look! Free drinks!"

Apparently, the food was also enjoyed, as evidenced by a waitress, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, "I have never worked a function where each and every plate was brought back to the kitchen clean as a whistle. And, (*voice lowered to a whisper*) I found thousands of tiny dishes under each table, just as clean...?"

The entertainment was a rousing success. Luckily, Matt O'Hala was caught entering Las Vegas airspace before he had a chance to gamble our money away and was heard desperately pleading, "But we could double, even triple our money!" And, who knew that our own Dave Blackmun owned a tux! A video chronicling Main Street's history, and showing us what and why the work needs to be done was motivating to all.

The highlight of the entire evening was when our own Nancy Frick (who needs Vanna?) revealed our total funds raised to date: \$ 264,416... 65% of our campaign goal! *Excellent!*

Following the announcement, all were given a moment to gather their senses, and the dancing began... And boy, was there a lot of dancing! The missus and I took a full day to recover, share our memories of the night, and contemplate how fortunate we are to be surrounded by the love of such a talented, caring, and giving group of individuals.

For some of the more salacious details of the Kickoff dinner, and the week of the Campaign, please refer to the sotry below

Small Talk...

...by the Big Cheese

Did you know...?

- Door prize winner, Ed Stevens, (yes, quiet, always smiling Ed) who had the guess closest to the actual amount raised in the campaign so far, tried everything he could to pump the total from consultant Margery Williams? *And*, I have it on good authority that he told his tablemates, "I tried every angle I could think of!"
- Matt O'Hala recently was overheard saying that he has a strange compulsion to chase CC, and he doesn't know why?
- Linda "loose lips" Horhota, who snatched a centerpiece right out of the hands of Betty Shepler, is considering posting the same centerpiece for sale on eBay?
- Word on the street is that David Frick *and* Steve Horhota *both* are eggheads?
- Roger Jones and Ed Stevens are *bothered* - now that we're seeing honest-to-goodness pledges, they'll actually have to do some work!
- There was more than one lady blushing on the dance floor last Saturday! Seems like there were more than a few dashing and chivalrous men dancing with some single women, sending hearts aflutter!
- I have it on quite good authority that David Frick is actively looking for a shovel to help dig himself out of a hole at home. Something about Nancy needing to get better telling red from green....?

Main Street Congregational Church The Movie

Copies will be available at coffee hour or in the church office.

Please consider a donation to the Capital Campaign to help defray the costs of expenses

