

God Winks
over the past two years while preparing LPC for sale.
12-1-25

Several years ago LPC decided to find a new church home. We had to sell our church in Lincroft. I volunteered to clear out all our movable property. So two years ago I made a spreadsheet with over 350 different items, classified by room location. We chose several historically meaningful items to bring to Matawan, like the original pew from the Chapel at Leedsville and the handmade Baptismal font. We priced the two pianos, the Oriental rug, and the Communion table. We decided to give the rest away. With no experience in sales, except for Girl Scout cookies, I depended on friends and faith to show me how to make all this happen. And a lot of people did help! Many from Matawan and LPC cleaned, prepped, communicated, hauled, and helped the property find new homes.

And we had Divine help! Every time we had an unsolvable task or needed help, we received a God Wink with unexpected assistance, timely answers or gifts to make our work manageable and enjoyable.

1. The church cleanup was supposed to be a couple of days in May of 2024 but it only took one! So many people showed up from both churches that we got the whole attic and even the shed cleaned out! We brought it all downstairs to the large classroom that had been prepared for it. It was like a miracle happened that weekend!
2. During the attic cleanup, we discovered four 2'x2' cobalt blue stained glass pieces. I gave them to a local artist and in return he crafted a large cobalt blue and clear beveled- glass cross for us. [See the Cobalt Cross story]
3. Jane Chou was in the FPCM choir and learned that Mae Divinagracia would gladly mail all our Bibles, Hymnals, and choir robes to a connected church in the Philippines. Jane reviewed every Bible and Hymnal nameplate to verify that the original owner/donor wanted to donate it. We washed all the adult and children's robes. She boxed everything up for Mae and it all went to a new home!
4. While chatting to a neighbor during a morning walk, Frank Munn learned that the Borough of Rumson could use some folding metal chairs for their July 4th celebration. He contacted them, we made arrangements, and they picked up over 100 chairs. They were very happy – sitting pretty!
5. Jill Humann's friend's daughter, Sharon, is active at the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen. Sharon was asked if they might be interested in our property and the church was delighted to receive the handmade, six-foot, hanging oak cross and the two Parsons chairs!
6. During the summer of 2024, I advertised online and locally that we had a "Free Book Sale". We were giving it all away. We had books and syllabus materials for all ages, toys, furniture, chairs and tables, bookcases and cubby holes, nursery room items, rugs and bulletin boards, Xmas decor and crafts, and just a wealth of things. A lot of public school teachers came and were delighted with their gifts! Our rooms got cleaned out down to the bare walls.
7. From September through November of 2024, we were able to host a small church that was looking for a place to stay for three months while their home at the Jewish temple was undergoing mold remediation. We now had lots of clean space for them and they brought their own tables and chairs. It worked out fine for both of us!

8. Right before Christmas of 2024, Jill's friend, Nanci at the Middletown United Methodist Church, gladly picked up 40 blue upholstered Sanctuary chairs. Good timing! During the following summer, we gave the rest of the upholstered chairs to our new friend, Mona, who works for two Catholic churches in Middlesex County and had received many other items from LPC for their charities.
9. Karen Brostrom took our handmade oak lectern, kitchen items, and a very heavy oak butcher block table to Camp Johnsonburg. Good Will Industries took the rest of our kitchen supplies.
10. We made a few bucks by recycling some metal brackets and framework. We sold the silverplated tea set to Red Bank Antique Center after unsuccessfully trying to sell it on Facebook Marketplace. And a few of our church members unexpectedly bought a few items that we would have freely given to anyone!
11. We sold the organ back to its maker but couldn't give the Yamaha piano away, so one day while we were in Freehold, we sold the piano to Freehold Music Center. We left the Baldwin piano in the lounge for the new owners' new nursery school.
12. The Oriental rug in the Sanctuary was given away, after I had no takers on Facebook Marketplace. Then that kind recipient donated a lovely sum for it.
13. This summer, we found mouse droppings in the kitchen. I remembered that our visiting church had a professional cleaner as a member and he agreed to clean the kitchen for a very reasonable fee because he was thankful for our help when they needed it. Sweet gratitude!
14. In the Fall of 2025, KCNJ (the Korean Congregation of NJ) hadn't found a new home and time was running out: sale papers were being drawn up. While at a German Community meeting at the Lutheran Church nearby, Judy Musa learned that the church was looking for a new tenant. Everything clicked into place and soon KCNJ was worshipping in their new home!
15. The last item to go was the Communion table. With no takers on it I was beginning to worry about its future. I re-advertised it as a "library table" and the very next day I had four offers. The best was from a couple in Kingston, New York with an antique store. They were fascinated to have a Communion table/library table. God winked the very day before they arrived when I discovered the actual artist's scale drawings of the table; so we had a little provenance to give with it! The couple loved it from first sight, paid cash, loaded it up, and drove off with big smiles! And I hope it's made them, or its new owners, very happy.

Who knows how things will happen when God winks!

Thanks be to God.

Joanne Irwin for the J Team