



A VOLUNTEER demonstrates the new energy-efficient smart thermostat to Ruth Coulimore at Central Baptist Church.



OLD INCANDESCENT light bulbs removed at Central Baptist Church by volunteers and replaced with more energy-efficient LEDs.

Central Baptist Church Weatherized To Control, Reduce Energy Use

A team of volunteers recently made the Central Baptist Church in Quincy Center more energy efficient, preventing the church from having another expensive heating disaster like it did last winter.

Imagine for a moment walking into your home to find your radiators have burst. The horror! Water everywhere. Broken boiler. Burst pipes. Ruth Coulimore walked into this disaster one Sunday morning in her home away from home, the Central Baptist Church on Washington Street.

An oil delivery went to the

wrong tank and the church's fuel tank was empty. It was the coldest day of the year. The water in the pipes froze and burst the heating system in several places.

With the help of the Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET) and a group of Harvard University volunteers, this will never happen again.

Earlier in September, a new smart thermostat was connected to Coulimore's home computer. Now, when cold winter nights threaten to freeze those pipes again, she can check her home computer and, if needed,

turn the thermostat up a bit. The thermostat will also send her an emergency email if the indoor temperature drops too low. Now the church can safely set back its thermostat when unoccupied with confidence, saving money.

Volunteers from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government came to learn how to connect these smart thermostats and participate and various other energy efficiency actions, all of which will decrease the energy use and carbon footprint of the church.

The simple act of chang-

ing 39 incandescent light bulbs to new LEDs will save the church \$40 each month on its electricity bills. The church expects to save more than \$2,000 annually from the work done in September.

HEET organizes these weatherization events for non-profit groups with high energy bills. HEET is a grassroots non-profit dedicated to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and teaching others how to do the same.

"We do it to fight climate change and the melting of the ice caps, which are

swelling the oceans," said HEET's Jason Taylor. "But saving money on church energy bills is a great thing too."

This HEET work has been funded from the Imago Dei Fund and others, so it cost the church nothing but materials.

Justin Galle, one of the Harvard volunteers, said, "I had such a blast...is there any potential to arrange another day of volunteering like this?"

Yes, there is. Groups can call 516-900-HEET (4338)

or send an email to audrey.schulman@heetma.org to indicate that you are interested in making your organization's property more energy efficient. HEET will create an energy report and develop a plan for reducing your energy use.

Coulimore commented, "How do you find such great team leaders? You folks did a wonderful job at Central Baptist Church in Quincy. Without your leadership we would be wondering what to do next. Thanks so much for your skills and your leadership. God Bless."