

**Christian Education Committee**  
**Wednesday, January 10, 2007**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Eileen Denne, Joan Taylor Reid, Clara Beth Van de Water, Patrick Hunnicutt, Diane Hellmuth

**Unable to attend:** Katie Donley, Jim Hoben

**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Eileen welcomed everyone with an opening prayer. The group talked about recent activities including Joan's Sabbatical in Scotland.

**Christmas Event**

Eileen asked for the group's views on the Christmas event held December 10 at Trinity United Methodist Church. All thought the pageant was fine. The food line went a little slowly. The committee suggested that we try to combine the pageant with a dinner in 2007 and perhaps skip the live nativity or do it after dinner.

**Children's Ministry**

Joan reported that she has ordered the Creation Station blinds using the 2006 budget. She said that attendance at Creation Station is slightly down (average is 24). For the next several months Joan is combining the kindergartners with grades 1-2 so there will only be 3 Creation Station classes. For the 6<sup>th</sup> Rotation the classes will be about Feasts and Festivals of the Jewish Faith and Joan hopes to have the children join the Jewish congregation's children at one of their celebrations. She will contact 2<sup>nd</sup> graders about doing a Milestones of Faith session on the Lord's prayer.

Joan has asked for volunteers in a Chronicle article to help recreate the Creation Station rooms at Westminster (requires painting, etc.). She is hopeful that Matt Kilby will help decorate as his Eagle Scout project. Joan is also asking for utensils to be placed in the kitchen. She is gathering a committee to look at the nursery and how to arrange it.

**Adult Education Report:**

Clara Beth reported that the Advent lecture series went well. This January, Dr. Kathy Grieb from Virginia Theological Seminary is teaching "Jesus as Savior; the Meaning of Jesus in a Christian World." Class participants can purchase a book to use for the class. There will be only one adult education class offered through the end of the year.

## **Youth Activities**

Patrick said that he is focusing on people involved in ministry. He has purchased the book "Purpose Drive Youth Ministry" to help guide his planning. He is gearing up for coming back to the building and engaging the youth in helping to plan the space. The group made several recommendations on space planning; Patrick hopes to get some new furniture for the Youth rooms. He's hoping to encourage a new level of ownership among the youth for the space.

Regarding missions trips, the committee encouraged Patrick to consider taking both Senior High and Middle School youth on retreats this summer, rather than planning elaborate mission trips out of town. The Middle School can attend a conference at Massanetta in late June or early July. The Senior Highs may be able to attend Montreat although it may be too late for summer 2007. Patrick has also planned a Middle School Retreat at the end of March at Shrinemont.

## **2007 Planning**

Eileen asked the committee to consider the move back to Westminster and how we might use the space for innovative Christian Education programming. She said that with the new building, we need to think about putting new energy into programming that will attract lots of different kinds of people. She asked that the February meeting be devoted to considering how we might broaden our perspectives and offerings.

## **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, February 7th at Eileen's house.

## **Closing Prayer**

Joan offered the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.