

BREVARD-DAVIDSON RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SESSION BRIEF

August 2008

There was no stated meeting of the Session in July. However, there were two half-day retreats, on July 11 and July 25, for the purpose of identifying emphases for the future. Two areas of primary importance emerged: local outreach and Christian education. These topics will be discussed in small groups at the Church Family Retreat in September, where the theme will be "Moving Forward Together".

The stated meeting of the Session for August was held on the 19th. The following motions were passed prior to the meeting by internet voting:

1. To have Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson extend an invitation to Rev. Billy Newton, former pastor at B-DRPC, to preach in September.
2. To have Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson extend an invitation to Rev. Dan McCall, former pastor at B-DRPC, to preach on October 12.
3. To hire Sophia Russo for the church nursery as recommended by the Worship MT.

Two motions from the Special Funds Management Committee were also passed, and are specified in the report of that committee.

Ministry Team (MT) Reports to Session

Membership Ministry Team, Don Gentle, Lead Elder

The team met on August 4. Corinne Hachbold reported that the list of Bread Cart attendants is full for August and September. Three loaves of bread were given out July 20th and two on July 27th. She also reported that John Folger and Steve Hogenboom had repaired the baker on the bread cart and Julie Sindahlsen will repaint it.

Martha Roth has volunteered to be on the bread

baking committee. Edna Bell reported that three calls were made last month to Jim and Donna Peterson, Bill and Debra Anderson, Michael and Heather Hosey. Calls were also made to Seth Gerring and Cassie Paris and Will and Drew Morris but they could not be reached. Edna Bell reported that 24 invitations were issued for the Inquirer's Classes. Eight of these invitations were to new members who had not attended an Inquirer's Class, three people asked

to be invited to the next class because of conflicts and one has already joined another church.

No new members for the month of July since the Britts joined July 13. Ann Hinze delivered a new member packet to Jack and Frances Britt. A suggestion was made and discussed that

we have members of the MMT accompany new members to coffee hour after the service when they join and make sure they meet some of our church members. We will get input from Keith Thompson and Don Gentle.

The next meeting will be on September 8 at 4:00 pm.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM MISSION STATEMENT: Ensure that our congregation is caring, friendly, and involved in the life of the church; and that as our Congregation grows in numbers it also grows in becoming more loving, welcoming, and hospitable.

Administration Division, John Rowe, Lead Elder

Special Funds Management Committee:

This group met in July to hear a report from John Ryan, the investment advisor for the Endowment Funds. Investment values were down approximately 4% over March 31, 2008, due to a decline in the market. Over the longer term, investment values are expected to increase per goals. The SFMC also approved a motion from the Mission MT to fund Transylvania Christian Ministries with a \$15,000 one-time grant to replenish its reserves during the current unprecedented demand for TCM's services to the community. The grant will be made as follows: \$2,500 from the Mission Endowment Fund Income appropriated for 2008 use (leaving a \$500 balance for 2008) and \$12,500 from the General Endowment Fund income appropriated for 2008 use (leaving a \$47,500

balance). A motion was made to the Session July 15th to confirm this grant via internet and it was approved by an 12-0 vote. The SFMC approved a motion by the Mission MT to revise the previously-awarded grant to the Transylvania Christian Ministries to fund counseling activities. The grant, which was formerly approved for three years 2008-2010, was revised to years 2009-2011, leaving the previously-awarded \$2,500 from the Mission Endowment Income and \$2,500 from the General Endowment Income for 2008 again available for use. A motion was made to the Session July 15th to confirm this change via internet, and it was approved by a 11-1 vote. The SFMC did not meet in August, as there was no current business to transact.

Property Ministry Team: Jim Ansley, Lead Elder

The team met on August 19, 2008. The new ceilings and insulation have been installed in the preschool wing. New energy efficient lighting has also been installed, and new flooring has been installed in the infant room. Painting has been done in all the rooms that have had ceiling installed. Paint colors were discussed for the sanctuary. It was decided by the members that more contrast was needed between the two colors that were selected. An information and procedure package has been developed for the use of church property. Discussion of a new freezer was proposed. It was decided at this time to investigate the reason. It was suggested that perhaps the kitchen team should assign someone to oversee the use of the freezer to see that the contents be kept up to date to prevent over-stuffing. Also arrangement of items needs to be explained for more efficiency. Jim suggested that the team needs to be thinking about the budget and ways to cut expense.

Mission Division: Ginny Bradford, Lead Elder

Worldwide Ministries MT:

There was no regular meeting in July. The Guatemala Mission Team left Brevard Tuesday, June 24 arriving in Guatemala City and then on to Antigua; a coffee plantation in Santa Elena; home of weavers; Tecun Uman and families of Horeb meeting with partner church and scholarship children and then back to Guatemala City; returning to NC on Tuesday, July 1. The team included Kristen Clanton, Sara Jerome, Louise Morgan, Betsy Smith, Judith West, Elly Leidner, Carla Hill, and Judy Nebrig.

Del and Debbie Braaksma, missionaries to Sudan whom we help support, arrived on Saturday, July 26. Grady and Louise Morgan were their hosts for the weekend and had a drop-in for them on Saturday night. On Sunday Debbie delivered the sermon at both worship services, Del lead Faith Sharing with the children and they both lead a class during the Sunday School hour. The Thompson family was their host for Sunday lunch. Sue Barrett was in charge of transportation – picking them up on Saturday and taking them halfway to Gastonia on Sunday. Dr. Barbara Nagy, an internist and missionary to Malawi whom we help support, was the guest of honor at a covered dish supper on Tuesday, August 5. She spoke of her work in Malawi and needs there. Other area churches were invited to come and hear Dr. Nagy. Mills River Presbyterian had eight members who came.

Peace and Justice MT:

This MT met on August 5. A report was made concerning a response from the Mid-Week Manna planning group about the study this fall that P&J would like to provide. After the planning group reviewed the material, it was agreed that P&J provide leadership for the study of Isaiah that was developed for the Peacemaking Offering season in 2006 that will be for six sessions. Further consultation with the planning team will happen prior to the last three sessions. The course will be taught by Judith West, Larry Goodman and other members of the P&J MT. Ministry Updates are planned for Sept 21 and 28 to promote the Peacemaking Offering.

Local Outreach MT:

This MT met on August 19, the day of the Session meeting, and the report of the meeting will be given next month. A revised grant and letter of understanding to TCM/Sharing House to provide \$5000/yr for three years beginning in 2009 to fund the case management initiative was completed and signed by all parties in July. The funding will come from Endowment Funds income. A donation of \$15,000 will be given to TCM/Sharing House to help replenish their cash reserves during this extraordinary period of need on behalf of their clients in Transylvania County. The donation will come from the Mission Endowment Fund Income and the General Endowment Fund income. The Church Chicken for Charity money raised will be divided, with \$500 going to the Church Home Repair Team Fund and the remainder going to TCM/Sharing House designated for home heating oil. Phone Cards for the Military continues to receive donations – the most recent being \$350 from a person in Florida.

Christian Education Ministry Team: Joyce Carney, Lead Elder

The MT met on August 12. Several visitors were welcomed to the meeting as possible CEMT members. The Mission Statement was read and copies of the Christian Ed. page from the Annual Meeting booklet, Feb. 08, were passed. Sunday School – Contacts have been made with possible teachers for all classes. With the emphasis on teams of teachers, the substitute list may not be needed. For K-2, possible 5 regular attendees, waiting for responses from teachers; Grades 3-5, possible 4 regular attendees, Jinny and Bob Heckert; Debbie Thompson and Shellie Dambax, Middle School, 5 regular attendees, waiting for responses from teachers; High School, Kristen has been contacting students. Teachers will depend on need with the focus being on Wed. night and PYC. Superintendent, still searching! Youth Activities – PYC will try Sunday night dinners again if parents are willing to sign up. Letters with permission slips, medical forms and a covenant have been mailed to homes. Vacation Bible School – Evaluation of our recent VBS is needed. Joyce will email a request for answers to two questions to help in our planning for next summer: (1) what worked well, and (2) what might be improved. The team heard comments that the morning time was better, and attendance reflected that (from 27, an increase to 42). Some questioned the curriculum. Midweek Manna – This group has its own planning committee and was placed under the umbrella of the CEMT, but is self-sustaining. Changes in response to the survey last year include more study choices. Dinner registration will be changed to weekly instead of the possibility of a one-time sign up with cancellation needed. Scholarships – Checks have been mailed. The Team will consider evaluating the application form and requirements at a later meeting. Genesis Sunday -- August 24, 2008, Theme is “Moving Forward Together in Christian Education.” Sunday bulletin announcements will be amended to include mention of prizes. Communicator article has been published. The Coffee Hour chair has been contacted to inform of changed format. Each CEMT member was asked to contribute cookies or nibbles to be placed on class tables. Sunday School Bell – Due to difficulties with time at the beginning of class and also at closing time, there will be a bell rung beginning Sept. 1. Since students of all ages tend to dribble into class, the first bell will be rung at 9:55, and the second bell will signal 10:50. Teacher Training – Thursday, August 21, 5:30 PM has been placed on the office calendar for our teachers’ meeting. Each teacher will be invited to bring a dish and sitters will be provided. Keith has agreed to lead our training. This is planned as a team-building, support and spiritual growth opportunity. Budget – We have been asked by the Finance Team to examine our spending. Copies of the budget will be passed during our next meeting. We will ask teachers to teach Sunday School offering designations each month and emphasize this more. Time Change – Notice the new time for our meetings. Tuesday, September 2, 4:00 PM. -- From the 2nd Tue to the 1st Tue, and from 11:00 to 4:00. Devotions – to be prepared by Edwin Jones.

Finance Division, Tom Taylor, Lead Elder

Finance Ministry Team

Since the last meeting of the session, the Finance Ministry Team met on Thursday, July 10 and Thursday August 14, 2008. Pledges continue to run slightly ahead of forecast for 2008, but lag 2007 levels by about 10%. New pledges exceed forecast and are anticipated to grow as new members join BDRPC. Unpledged receipts and Loose Offering remain significantly below forecast (45%). Expenses are running close to forecast. As a result, we should anticipate a revenue shortfall of as much as \$30,000 compared to the budget, barring any major changes in giving patterns over the remaining months of 2008. Based on budget projections, Lead Elders are asked to work closely with their ministry teams to curtail unnecessary spending through the remainder of the 2008. The FMT made a recommendation to the congregation that the position of Associate Pastor be dissolved until such time as the position can be fully funded through the tithes and offerings. A motion to that effect was made, seconded and passed by the congregation. The church will save approximately \$500 per month and the Board of Pensions has made the savings retroactive to the beginning of 2008. A portion of the monies held in the money market account have been placed into CD's to earn a higher rate of interest. The 2009 budget process is beginning. Lead Elders are asked to work with their ministry teams to develop an initial “zero-based” 2009 budget request and provide it to Tom Taylor no later than September 15, 2008. The next meeting of the FMT will be held on Thursday, September 11, 2008.

Stewardship Ministry Team

In anticipation of “Stewardship Season,” articles and reminders about stewardship will be appearing in the Communicator and the bulletins in August, September and October.

Weekday Children’s Ministry Team, Judy Caldwell, Lead Elder

The Ministry Team met on August 12. Sara Freeman, Summer Playgroup Director, gave a preliminary report on the program. Due to a variety of factors such as a need for many substitute teachers and a delay in beginning registrations, enrollment was down slightly and it is unlikely that the budget was sufficient to cover expenses. Personnel changes were announced. Kathy Palmer has resigned her teaching assistant position and will continue to be the music teacher. Heather Kinsland will not be returning and will be replaced by her former teaching assistant, Laura Burgess. There are only two vacancies for the new school year. Interviews were held on August 14 and two teaching assistants were selected.

MOTION: That Julie Lefler and Amy Brubaker be hired as teaching assistants for the preschool.

(Julie is a preschool parent and was a member of last fall’s Visiting Team for evaluation. Amy is a certified teacher. Both hires will be dependent on background checks). Motion passed.

Director Beth McLeod announced that she will be requesting Special Funds to purchase a replacement for the wooden play tower in the outdoor play area. It is quite old, somewhat unstable, and prone to giving splinters to children.

Preschool initiatives for the 2008-2009 school year were announced and discussed:

1. Clarification of the steps in the school discipline policy
2. Staff identification of possible developmental delays in children
3. Staff inservice and training related to classroom discipline and developmental delays
4. Development of a child study team for cases of persistent behavior problems and/or possible developmental delays.

The Ministry Team will base it’s annual goals on ways to support the preschool initiatives.

Beth McLeod has requested a change in title for Sara Freeman, from Assistant Director to Associate Director, with an increase in hourly pay rate of approximately \$1. Beth’s reason for the request is to recognize the portion of the workload carried by Sara.

MOTION: To change Sara Freeman’s title to Associate Director, with an appropriate increase in hourly rate of pay. Motion passed.

Renovations scheduled in the preschool wing for August are nearly complete. The Property Team and Steve Sales have been well-organized in coordinating the work of the many subcontractors required, and the results are commendable. As a bonus, some painting of the refurbished classrooms has been done, which is much appreciated. The next meeting of the Ministry Team will be on September 9 at 5:00 pm.