



The B-DRPC Session met for its stated meeting on February 17, 2009 at 6:00 pm in the Church Lounge. The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer followed by sharing of concerns of members of our church family.

***Ministry Team (MT) Reports to Session:***

**Care Giving Division – Carolyn Turner, Lead Elder; Freddie Hart, Elder**

**Congregational Care Ministry Team: Nancy McManus, Chair**

The new chairperson, Nancy McManus was introduced to the MT.

Members of CCMT signed up to visit homebound members on a regular basis during the year.

Transportation for those at College Walk was discussed. The possibility of have one or two cars at College Walk each Sunday at 10:30am was suggested. We decided to contact members at College Walk to ask if they would take advantage of transportation if it were provided each week.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has completed 123 shawls. It continues to be a wonderful way to show comfort to those in need.

The office of Deacon commissioned by the Session was announced by Marilyn. She explained the new procedures for this year and noted that the next Deacons' meeting would be on February 8.

Cards were signed by CCMT for those members with concerns.

**Church Family Division – Don Gentle, Lead Elder; Tammy Nye, Elder**  
Membership Ministry Team: Edna Bell, Chair.

Bread Delivery and Baking: Corinne Hachbold reported that she has people lined up to attend the Bread Cart for February and March.

Calling Visitors: Linda Goodwin reported that she continues to try to make contact with visitors.

Inquiry Class: Edna Bell reported that the next Inquirer's Class will be in May unless we see a need sooner.

Members: Joining: Jane and Roger Shiley, Nancy and "Spike" Dumville, Will and Drew Deane Morris joined January 11, 2009.

Photo-taking of New Members: We are up to date.

New Member Packets: Ann Hinze said she delivered packets to the Morris/Deanes and the Dumvilles. The Shileys are out of town and will pick up their packet on their return. Dinners/Lunches: New members will be invited to attend the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper February 24. There will be about 25 invitations issued.

Pictorial Directory/Updates: Two full pages are ready to be printed and mailed to members of the congregation.

Attendance Analysis: Eunice James reported that she has completed the attendance records for November and December and delivered them to the Commissioned Deacons as of Jan. 21, 2009.

A meeting with Martha Taylor, CEMT, Keith Thompson and new members to discuss formation of a new Sunday Class will take place after the middle of February. Eunice James suggested we get e-mail addresses or phone numbers of new members to notify them of upcoming events or something of interest to them.

Tammy Nye announced that there will be a Sunday school teacher's meeting on March 3 to plan an open house for Sunday school classes.

The next meeting will be March 2, 2009.

**Finance Division – Tom Taylor, Lead Elder; John Hachbold & Phillip Jerome, Elders**  
Finance Ministry Team: Tom Taylor, Chair  
The Finance MT met on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

The January 2009 month-end financial statements were reviewed. Since only one month's data is available, analysis of trends is not possible. However, important observations include: a) prepaid pledges for 2009 (monies for 2009 pledges received in 2008) were \$29,400 and will accrue to the operating

budget at the rate of 1/12 of that amount, or \$2,450, per month; b) January revenues of \$41,914.41 exceeded expenses of \$40,974.11.

Other items of discussion included: a) line item forecasts for 2009 have been received from most ministry teams and Nita will be inputting them into the budget for tracking purposes; b) periodic appeals will be made to the congregation to keep up with pledges so that the FMT can determine if sustainable surpluses are developing that can be used to pay off the general fund deficit, support salary increases for staff and provide additional funds to ministries.

The next meeting of the Finance MT is scheduled for Thursday, March 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room

Stewardship Ministry Team: Tom Taylor, Chair

The 2009 Stewardship MT is taking shape, with its first meeting anticipated in March.

**Spiritual Life Division – Larry Goodwin, Lead Elder; Tom Taylor & Tammy Nye, Elders**

Worship Ministry Team: Mary Johnson, Chair

The Worship MT discussed the following worship services taking place in March and April:

A Koinonia Lenten lunch and worship service will be held at B-DRPC on Friday, March 20 at 12:00 p.m. The Westminster Handbells will participate in the service. Paula Jackson and Cathy Gary are in charge of lunch.

A Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae service will be held on April 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. At the service, we experience in Word and music the last hours of Christ, from the Last Supper (communion will be observed) to His death on the cross. Special music will be provided by the Chancel Choir.

Prior to both morning worship services on Easter Sunday (April 12), the congregation will be invited to place a fresh cut flower on a cross. Also, Easter lilies and spring flowers will be placed throughout the sanctuary to commemorate loved ones. Helen Russell is in charge of the decorations.

Worship MT finalized their 2008 Annual Report for the Congregational Meeting scheduled on Sunday, February 22.

Charlie Steele announced that on Saturday, March 14, B-DRPC will again sponsor the Blue Ridge Children's Choir Festival. Everyone is invited to attend the closing program at 12:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Christian Education Ministry Team: Martha Taylor, Chair

Martha Taylor was present at this Session meeting and asked for direction, support and ideas for Christian Education from each Session member. The Christian Education focus was discussed and it was determined to “be more intentional to learn more that will apply to daily life”. Officers were encouraged to lead by example and attend Midweek Manna and Sunday school. Parents will be asked what they

want in the way of Christian Education for their children. New members will also be asked their views on Sunday school. Support for Sunday school teachers was recommended.

### **Communications Division – Ginny Bradford, Lead Elder; Don Stinchcomb, Elder**

Communications Ministry Team: Don Stinchcomb, Chair

Accomplishments in 2008 were discussed so that this information could be included in the Annual Meeting report. This MT accomplished many different things—continuing areas of communication with the Session Brief, articles for *Transylvania Times*, Office Production Team, and web site development. New areas of communication included the Church Crier, kiosk, extended ministry announcements, quarterly congregational meetings, current event bulletin board and surveys.

Important issues for Communications at this time were determined to be the budget, stewardship for 2009 and Christian Education. It might be helpful if Communications MT and Christian Ed MT meet to see how we might help in communicating classes and curriculum. Presbytery meeting news/events were determined to be an area that should be communicated to the congregation. Guidance will be needed in this area.

*Transylvania Times* church announcements were reviewed for the next few months and it was determined that Shrove Tuesday (Church Family Fellowship) and Ash Wednesday (Worship) and the Children's Choir Workshop (Worship/Music) would be contacted about submitting articles for the paper.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be February 22 after the 11:00 worship service for one hour. The focus will be how the 08 budget ended and the new approved 09 budget. The preschool will also be discussed. A slide presentation will run showing the ministry teams, members and responsibilities. This information as well as the reports of all the ministry teams will be included on the web site following the meeting. There will be no printed Annual Report this year as a cost saver. If someone requests a copy, it will be provided. The Congregational Meeting team that includes Martha Taylor, Don Stinchcomb, Phillip Jerome and Ginny Bradford met to finalize the Annual Meeting. Tom Taylor also attended the meeting.

A sign for the top of the kiosk "Information Center" is needed.

### **Standing Committee of the Session**

Nominating Committee: Tom Taylor, Chair; Steve Letterman and Glenn Winston, members-at-large

The 2009 Nominating Committee will be assembled soon and will begin their work by filling a vacancy in the 2009 Class. Work will then begin on the new 2012 Class of Officers.

### **Administration Division – Phillip Jerome, Lead Elder; Jim Ansley & Lew Sayre, Elders**

Personnel Ministry Team: Tom Crawford and Glenn Cutler, Co-Chairs

The Personnel MT did not have a scheduled meeting in February.

Property Ministry Team: Wes Branning, Chair

The draft of a policy for accepting donations of artwork, books, and other physical property was reviewed and was presented to Session for approval. This policy was approved and is included at the end

of this Session Brief.

A draft of a fee for church use by outside groups (based on a report prepared by Don Monk) which showed the charges by other churches in the community was discussed, but no final agreement was reached. This was tabled for the next meeting.

Outstanding projects to be accomplished were discussed and are as follow:

- The painting of the sanctuary.
- Finish the ceiling replacement of the Preschool.
- Clean and reseal the hall floors in the Sunday School Wing.

Jim Ansley discussed the budget outlook.

Moving the stain glass from the balcony to behind the choir was brought up, but no one on the team knew where that stands in relation to funds donated for that purpose. This will be investigated and reported at the next meeting.

Committee on Ministry: Ginny Bradford, Chair  
The Committee on Ministry will have its first meeting in late February.

Special Funds Management Committee: John Rowe, Chair  
This committee met on February 12.

John Ryan of Ryan, Hess & Morais, the SFMC's investment advisor, presented the status of the Endowment Funds as of 12/31/08. Due to the deteriorating economy, the investment values were down compared to 12/31/07. The market value of the Mission Endowment Fund at 12/31/08 was \$134,523, down 18% compared to 12/31/07. The market value of the General Endowment Fund at 12/31/08 was \$1,056,473, down 16% compared to 12/31/07. Despite the fall in investment market values, the B-DRPC Endowment Funds fared much better during 2007 than the market as a whole, which declined 35-40%, primarily because of conservative investment strategies employed by the SFMC. The SFMC will address whether to declare dividends from the Endowment Funds at its next meeting.

John Rowe advised the SFMC that its 2008 Endowment Funds Annual Report To The Session is due by March 31, 2009. John and Nita Padgett will draft the report and bring it to the Committee for approval at the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Weekday Children's Ministry – Celia Ansley, Chair, Sara Winston, Lead Elder; Freddie Hart, Elder**

Weekday Children's Ministry Team met on February 10.

Plans are underway for registration in the Summer Play Program. It will meet three days per week for seven weeks. The classes will need to be filled before final plans for staffing will be completed.

Registration for the 2009-2010 school year will begin the first week in March for returning students and for children of church members. All classes must be filled to meet budget.

The Mission Statement and the responsibilities of the MT were reviewed. The MT is made up of two elders, a chairperson, five additional church members, two parent representatives, one teacher representative, two co-directors and Kristen Clanton representing Church Staff.

The budget has been significantly cut. The 2008 budget was \$26,300 and the 2009 budget is \$9401. Scholarships from Special Funds have been helpful. Delinquent accounts are being collected. Some accounting errors in the office program have been costly. Nita has made corrections in the program. Several Personnel Policy changes are being made.

The plans were completed for the visiting team who will evaluate the preschool practices, procedures, environment, and leadership. The team will do their evaluations the last week of February.

The MT provided a Teacher Appreciation Lunch for the staff on February 11. The ladies on the team treated the staff as there were no funds in the budget.

The next meeting will be March 10.

**Mission Division – Ginny Bradford, Lead Elder; Don Stinchcomb, Elder**

Local Outreach Ministry Team: Luck Shepherd, Chair

Souper Bowl of Caring: Kristen Clanton

The Super Bowl of Caring luncheon held on Sunday, Feb. 1, and sponsored by the Youth, raised a total of \$1,221.62 surpassing last year's total by over \$300. The total amount will be given to Sharing House.

Sharing House Food Collections: Ruth Waugaman and Alice Dalton

Sue and Norm Macoy are delivering food in Feb. Julie Singdahlsen has designed and made, with the help of Luck Shepherd, a Sharing House gauge to reflect the total pounds of food and other items donated each month.

Sharing House Contact: Gail Blunt

February is both Valentine's and Heart month. Our theme is "Remember Sharing House with a Warm Heart". Bring good serviceable blankets, coats and mittens.

Current Top Needs:

Personal care top needs: Toothpaste and toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo and hand soap

Cleaning Supplies: All cleaning products, soaps and especially paper towels

Phone Cards for Soldiers: Horty Menser

Since May, 225 phone cards have been sent. Fifty more cards will be mailed in the next month.

5-cents a meal: Faye Paden

The January offering totaled \$222.29.

House Calls: Luck Shepherd

Eleven House Call volunteers expended over 160 hours from September through December. Six projects were completed and work continues on one. The other was not started since it was beyond the team's capabilities. An Extended Announcement about House Calls will be given March 1 at both worship services.

Peace and Justice Ministry Team: Judith West, Chair

A review of last year's activities included the Peacemaking Offering, Peacemaking emphasis in May, including ministry updates, Fair Trade coffee/chocolate, Memorial day service, Bible study at Midweek Manna, and ongoing education of congregation on what Peace and Justice is and isn't. Not enough emphasis was put on access to health care. Local Outreach is the main contact for the free clinic (Transylvania County Volunteers in Medicine). Our role might be more in informing about issues.

Decisions about goals for 2009 include to continue past activities and to develop "working definition" of peace and justice. To again have a Memorial Day Service in conjunction with Worship MT. Develop materials on local issues of peace and justice which may include housing, employment, hunger, health care, child care, transportation, racism/prejudice, mental health and criminal justice. Larry will confer with Midweek Manna to explore offering a study on local issues and our Christian response. Larry and Judith will continue involvement in Living Wage Coalition for Transylvania County.

The possibility of more suitable space for the storage of coffee was considered and will be reported back at the next meeting.

Worldwide Ministries Ministry Team: There was no meeting in February.

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The representatives from B-DRPC attending the February Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian Church in Asheville on Saturday, January 31 were Tom Taylor, Ginny Bradford, Bob Singdahlsen and Keith Thompson. Several amendments were discussed and voted on, and Keith Thompson was recognized as having completed The Pastors' Institute VI.

Changing the day of the monthly Stated Session meeting was discussed. Moving the meeting to the fourth Tuesday of the month will allow ministry teams more time to submit their reports for that month. This was approved on a trial basis with the next meeting being Tuesday, March 24, at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned with a circle of prayer led by The Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson.

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The Annual Meeting of B-DRPC was held on Sunday, February 22, 2009, following the 11:00 worship service in Davidson River Hall. A slide presentation ran after the 8:45 am service and also prior to the noon meeting. Each ministry team was listed showing the members, mission statement and

responsibilities.

Moderator, The Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson, opened the Annual/Corporation Meeting with prayer.

Phillip Jerome explained the purpose of the meeting and introduced the speakers. Tom Taylor, Chair of Finance, reviewed the end of 2008 and then brought everyone up-to-date on the current 2009 budget.

Beth McLeod, Preschool Director, and Sara Freeman, Preschool Associate Director, each spoke about the preschool that has been established for over fifty years and is an outreach ministry of the church. They spoke of current needs as a result of their reduced budget and asked for volunteers and referrals of children for the 2009-2010 registration that will begin in March. As they made their presentations, a slide show was being shown of the preschool children at work and play.

The Coffee Hour volunteers were recognized for all they do in arriving early to make coffee, to set up, to provide cookies and then in cleaning up afterward. The retiring officers from the 2008 Class were recognized and thanked for their service to the church over the last three years as church officers. They are Judy Caldwell, Joyce Carney, Sara Champion and John Rowe.

Phillip Jerome stated the ministry team slide presentation as well as individual ministry team reports are on the church website ([www.bdrpc.org](http://www.bdrpc.org)) for review. A hard copy will be made available to anyone requesting one.

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.