

April Session Brief

The B-DRPC Session met for its stated meeting on April 22, 2008, at 6:00 pm in Davidson River Classroom.

The meeting was opened with a devotion and prayer followed by sharing of concerns of members of our church family.

Several members of WNC Presbytery including Rev. Bobbi White, Presbyter; Rev. James F. Bernhardt, Chair, Committee on Ministry and Rev. Layton Mauze, III, B-DRPC liaison to COM were welcomed to the meeting.

Ministry Team (MT) Reports to Session:

Spiritual Life Division – Lead Elder Joyce Carney, Larry Goodwin, Elder Member

Christian Education: Joyce Carney, Lead Elder. A staff of ten will be selected to teach “Veggie Tales” during Vacation Bible School. JAM continues smoothly with an average attendance of 13-15 each Wednesday. The Sr. Hi. Sunday School class continues to be offered by Cathy Gary and Dorothy Knowles. Pastor Keith Thompson has mailed an invitation to the young people who have not been attending since December. Each was invited to speak with Keith, Kristen Clanton and Joyce Carney to express their feelings of moving forward. Recruiting continues for Sunday School teachers and a coordinator. We know of upcoming vacancies in the K-2 and middle school classes. Bolt College Loans/Scholarships have been granted to three of our high school graduating seniors: Annelise DeJong, Allison Hawkins and Sara Jerome will each be granted \$1000 scholarships during the May service when all graduates are recognized. They will be notified by letter of their award. Many thanks to Steve Hogenboom for serving as chair during March and April.

Worship: Larry Goodwin, Lead Elder. Pat Crawford, Chair. Maundy Thursday and Easter services were well received and will be done much the same next year. There was also positive feedback on the children’s service on March 30th. Del and Debbie Braaksma, missionaries to Sudan, will be on leave this summer and Debbie will preach on July 27th. A new recording system using CD’s has been installed. There are plans to make the “Welcome” sign more visible.

Administration Division – John Rowe, Lead Elder

Property: Jim Ansley, Lead Elder. Wes Branning, Chair. The Property MT met April 15th. A preschool request was made by Judy Caldwell – to replace the ceiling tiles in three classrooms during the August break. Extra funds will be needed to complete all three rooms. Other preschool requests included: remove the loft area in the infant room and replace the carpet in the infants’ room that can be sanitized frequently. The two large hemlock trees have been treated for Woolly Aphids at a cost of \$300. The shelves in the Young Children’s Worship Room will be divided to give more shelf space. Diseased trees at the rear of the church property are being removed. Church Workday is Saturday, May 10th.

Special Funds Management Committee (SFMC): John Rowe, Chair. The SFMC met April 8th. Investment Advisor John Ryan made his regular quarterly presentation regarding the status of

the Endowment Funds at March 31, 2008. Investment market values are down about 4% from December 31, 2007 due to market fluctuations. The Wills & Trusts Seminar is scheduled for Monday, May 12th, from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm in Davidson River Hall. Local attorneys Don Jordan and Margaret Hunt will speak. Ginny Bradford, representing the Mission Division, made a second presentation requesting Endowment income support for the partial funding of a case manager position at Transylvania Christian Ministries. The case manager position will cost \$30,000/year, with the funds to come from area churches and from the United Way. The request was for BDRPC to provide \$5,000/year for three years, with consideration for renewal of the pledge after three years. The SFMC voted to approve the request, with appropriate restrictions on the use of the funds. The \$5,000/year will be pledged partially from Mission Endowment income and partially from General Endowment income. This recommendation will be brought to the Session for approval in May, 2008. John Rowe reported that the Session has reorganized its ministry teams slightly. The Special Funds Management Committee, the Property Committee and the Personnel Committee will now be a part of the Administration Division under one lead elder, while the Finance Committee and the Stewardship Committee will comprise the new Finance Division under a second lead elder. The change became effective March 18th. The SFMC has changed its regular meeting time from the second Tuesday of each month at 12:30 pm to the second Thursday of each month at 10:30 am.

Personnel: Motion presented and approved: That Dr. Charlie Steele's title be changed from Director of Music to Minister of Music, to better recognize the impact of his talents and contributions on our congregation.

Finance Division – Tom Taylor, Lead Elder

Stewardship: This MT did not meet in April.

Finance: Tom Taylor, Chair. Phillip Jerome, Elder. The MT met April 10th. The operating budget ended the month of March 2008 with a positive balance of \$11,904.50 for the month and a positive year-to-date balance of \$21,306.39. Pledges are running ahead of budget so far this year. Unpledged receipts and loose offering comprise approximately 20% of anticipated income. Dean McGaha will be contacted to conduct the annual review of the books. A streamlined financial statement was developed that could be posted on the web site, probably quarterly. The FMT does not think it is prudent to post a detailed budget on the web site, particularly given the sensitive nature of staff salaries. The proposed report is broken into major categories to provide an overview of the church's financial situation. A note can be included on the web page that complete reports are available from Nita. The next meeting of the FMT will be held on Thursday, May 8, 2008.

Presbyterian Preschool Division – Judy Caldwell, Lead Elder, Sue Yowell, Elder Member

Weekday Children's Ministry Team: The ministry team met on April 8. Director Beth McLeod and Assistant Director Sara Freeman reported on enrollment. The summer playgroup has only a few places left for three- and four-year-olds. Sara Freeman will be the director for this program. Volunteers are needed. Fall enrollment filled very quickly, and at present only eight places remain to be filled in the four-year-old group. Maintenance priorities for August work are (1) replacement of ceilings in a minimum of three classrooms, (2) removal of the loft in the infant room to create more open space, and (3) replacement of the carpet in the infant room with a material that is easier to keep clean. Judy Caldwell will meet with Property and Special Funds to request this work. The time frame is critical, as

the school is in use except for the month of August. Both of the classrooms damaged by water are back in use, with new flooring and new paint jobs. Work by Property volunteers is much appreciated. The directors reviewed the many community services that are supporting our preschool. Among them are testing for speech and physical therapy, dental screening, respite care, tuition assistance, Bookmobile and Fire Department visits. Kristen Clanton continues a chapel program and reports that the children are memorizing a prayer. She will begin using segments of the Young Children's Worship curriculum for the chapel program. The next meeting will be on May 13 at 5:00 p.m.

Mission Division – Ginny Bradford, Lead Elder, Rod Nunnelee, Elder Member

Mission Division will meet together to have its Quarterly Meeting on May 6th at 11 am. There will be no individual MT meetings for May.

Peace and Justice: Judith West, Chair. P&J met April 8th. Dr. John Folger, Medical Director of TCVIM, shared information about healthcare needs in Transylvania County and how TCVIM is helping. More volunteers are needed. What is peace and justice? In May several members of P&J will try to help clarify this by doing ministry updates each Sunday. Camp Grier work day went well with seven members from our church helping. Fair Trade products are being coordinated by Steve and Martha Hogenboom. Next regular meeting June 3, 9:30 am.

Worldwide Ministries: Ginny Bradford, Acting Chair. WWMinistries Team met March 21st and April 18th and those two reports will be combined for this report. Brett McMichael's official end of term and move to disability began the end of 2007. He is awaiting a kidney transplant. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering as of 4-20-08 was \$3879.13. Ginny Bradford met a second time with the SFMC concerning the funding for Mission's project to help support a staff case manager for Sharing House. Planning meetings continue for the Guatemala Mission Team and also preparations for the fund raisers – "Coffee and More" and a Talents Auction and Spaghetti Lunch after the 11:00 worship service April 27. Team members who will make the trip are: Kristen Clanton, Carla Hill, Sara Jerome, Ellie Leidner, Louise Morgan, Judy Nebrig, Betsy Smith and Judith West. Other team members helping to plan only are: Ginny Bradford and Joy McGill. Del and Debbie Braaksma, missionaries we help support from Sudan have been approved by Worship MT to preach on July 27th. Next regular meeting will be June 20th, 10:30 am.

Local Outreach: Luck Shepherd, Chair. LO met March 18th and will meet April 22; therefore, only March 18th report will be given at this time. 5-cents-a-meal offering totaled \$485.35 for February with ytd of \$1255.97. Relay for Life had two yard sales. Church plans for the Home Repair Team were discussed and is partnered with the Men's Group. LO approved that Rise & Shine will receive 40% of the Pentecost Offering being received on May 11. General Assembly designated that 40% of the offering should go to local children at risk. Rod Nunnelee gave an update on the "Church Chicken for Charity" fundraiser to be held in conjunction with the White Squirrel Festival in May. A motion was approved to allow LO to ask for donations (any amt accepted) to purchase phone cards for the military service men and women in Iraq, with this possibly becoming a church community project. Next regular meeting will be June 17th, 10:30 am.

Communications Division – Co-Lead Elders Ginny Bradford and Judy Caldwell

Communications: The ministry team met April 4, 2008. Since the Communications Task Force evolved into Communications Division and Communications Ministry Team effective at the March

Session meeting, the MT has been working on a Mission Statement, goals and responsibilities and objectives. When these are complete, they will be presented to Session for approval. "Roundtable Discussions" was again discussed and it was felt that this type of communication /listening training could possibly be used at the Church Family Retreat and with the Conflict Resolution Task Force. Don Gentle stated that as new members join, pictures are taken of the family and put on the New Member Bulletin Board. A page contains eight pictures of families, and when this page is full (8 pictures), then this completed page will be made available to church members to add to their Directory. Julie Singdahlsen presented her detailed scale drawing of the proposed 5-sided kiosk. This was approved by CMT and will be recommended for approval by Session when cost estimates and a volunteer (s) are obtained. It is hoped that a skilled wood crafter in the church may volunteer to make this.

Completed goals are:

- Formed a Communication Task Force and identified members for this group.
- Evaluated current communication venues with congregational input.
- Established a Production Support Team with Paula Jackson as Chair to assist with the Sunday bulletin, *Communicator*, and other office duties as needed.
- Session Brief made available on a monthly basis on the website and in baskets at the church.
- Approved Session minutes included on the website.
- Session approved that the Communication Task Force be changed to Communications Division.

Preliminary make up that will continue to be discussed at the next meeting:

Communications Division

- Communications Ministry Team
- Production Support Team
- Website Development Team
- Newsletter Staff Team (reporters included in this group)
- Evaluation and Feedback Team

Next meeting will be May 9th.

Care Giving Division – Sue Rossman, Lead Elder, Carolyn Turner, Elder Member

Congregational Care: Martha Taylor, Chair. Care Giving MT met on March 17th and April 21st. Team members continue to visit members in local nursing homes. A meeting with the Church Visitation Volunteers was held on March 13th to assign names of people to visit who are homebound. A list has been compiled of members who wish to receive tapes or CD's of the Sunday worship service. Commissioned Deacons will be asked to help deliver the tapes/CD's. The Transportation Ministry reported that three additional couples have volunteered to drive members to the 11:00 service. It was decided that the Bereavement Support Teams will be reorganized once a year. The Shawl Ministry is going well with 36 shawls having been completed. Completed shawls are stored in the workroom and are there for anyone who knows someone who could use an up-lift in their life. College student care packages were made at Midweek Manna on April 9th. Graduating from high school this year are Sara Jerome, Annelise DeJong, Allison Hawkins and Mary Hollingsworth.

Church Family Division – Co-Lead Elders Sara Champion and Don Gentle

Church Family Fellowship: Sara Champion, Lead Elder. Jinks Ramsey, Chair. The Easter Egg Hunt at the Thompson's was well attended and a great success. Since Pentecost falls on Mother's Day this year, the covered dish picnic will be held later in the summer; however, special refreshments will be served during the fellowship time following both worship services. The Church Family Retreat planning team has begun meeting.

Membership: Don Gentle, Lead Elder/Chair. The MT met April 7th. Seven calls to visitors were made and loaves of bread are available for visitors during the fellowship time. The Inquiry Class was discussed. The Church member rolls – new members added, dismissals, deaths and births were reviewed. Pictures are taken of all new members and new member packets are provided. Ways to identify visitors were discussed. The next meeting will be May 12th.

Communications:

A letter was read from Steve Owen and Associates regarding purchasing property on Appletree Street that abuts the church property. A motion was made and approved to inform Steve Owen and Associates that B-DRPC is not interested in purchasing the property.

Unfinished Business:

The Session Retreat was changed from May 2nd to Wednesday, May 21st, noon to 5:30 pm.

Pastor's Comments: The Thompson family had a wonderful trip to France and Keith thanked all who helped while he was away.

The meeting was adjourned with a circle of prayer.

Ginny Bradford, Elder