

February Session Brief

The B-DRPC Session met for its stated meeting on February 19, 2008, 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.

Beth McLeod, Weekday Preschool Director, gave an update on the water damage in the preschool (more details follow in the Weekday Children's Ministry and Property Ministry Teams' reports). She stated that the preschool will be closed Thursday and Friday, Feb 28 and 29 so that the asbestos floor tiles can be removed in the two damaged rooms.

Ministry Team (MT) Reports to Session:

Administration Division – John Rowe, Lead Elder

Special Funds Management Committee (SFMC): The SFMC met Feb 12th and welcomed Bob Maxwell as a new member of the committee. At present two vacancies exist on the committee as the committee attempts to keep the membership at six. Current members are Don Bieger, Bob Maxwell, Brenda Monk and John Rowe, current chair. John Ryan of the investment advisory firm of Ryan, Hess & Morais met with the committee and reported on the status of the Endowment Funds at 12-31-07. The SFMC will report to the Session in March about the balances in these funds, the income available for distribution, and any further current recommendations for uses of these funds.

Motions from SFMC that were approved were:

-**That \$50,000** of the Dorothy Ewertsen bequest received in 2006 be put into the Major Maintenance/Capital Replacement Fund March 1, 2008. The Fund will be administered by the Finance MT, and requests for these funds would be made to them. Only major items that are not provided for in the General Budget would be eligible for funding from this Fund, per the rules adopted by the Session 9-24-06.

-**That \$2991** of the income earned by the Mission Endowment Fund be given for local mission work in Transylvania County, with recommendations for specific projects to be made through the Mission MT. This money should be used for specific projects.

-**That the \$25,816.98** bequest received from the estate of Jim Brown be accepted by the Session and the full amount be placed in the permanent Mission Endowment Fund. The SFMC is directed to write a letter to the Brown family to acknowledge the receipt of the funds and to thank them. Next meeting will be March 11th at 12:30.

Stewardship: This MT did not meet in January and is in need of a chairman and additional members as work should begin soon on 2008 stewardship activities.

Personnel: This MT continues to work on the revisions to the Employee Manual. A recommended revision is expected to be ready for Session approval in March.

Finance: Tom Taylor, Lead Elder. Current members are Phillip Jerome, Rick Mills, Nita Padgett, John Rowe and Tom Taylor, current chair, and are in the process of identifying two

additional members that would bring the total membership to seven. The Finance MT met Feb 14th. Rick Mills presented an ongoing analysis of operating expenditures in major categories (Benevolences, Programs, Overhead, Staff) as a percent of tithes and offering received and covers the period from 1988-2007. The general trends suggest a reduction in spending on Benevolences, an increase in expenditures for staff, and flat to decreasing tithes and offerings (in inflation adjusted dollars) since 2002. Overall, tithes and offerings were ahead of forecast; however, these represent only one month. FMT will present an overview of 2007 financial results and 2008 budget information at the annual meeting on Feb 27th. Next meeting will be March 13.

Property: Jim Ansley, Lead Elder. Wes Branning, Chair. The Property MT met Feb 19th. Discussed was the water damage done in the two preschool rooms due to a major leak in the water heater (under warranty and has been replaced). The insurance company was notified and the claims adjuster has given his findings on the damage; however, the insurance company has not responded as to how much it will pay on the claim. The floor tiles contain asbestos and will require a specialist to do the work with an estimate of \$4100 to do the removal and disposal. Ceiling tiles were also tested and found to be free of asbestos. With the insurance company's go ahead, the floor cabinets will be removed, flooring replaced and the floor cabinets re-installed. The long-range goal is to remodel the Preschool Wing that includes replacing ceiling tiles and outside windows. Due to budget reductions, the landscaping company has been released of their job. A subcommittee of Property has been formed that includes members who have experience with care and handling of plants. The next meeting will be March 18th at 9:00 am.

A request was made from Rise and Shine to Property MT to have a dinner/dance fundraiser Friday, May 23rd in DRH. We support Rise and Shine; therefore, a motion was made to allow the use of DRH for this purpose. Dorothy Semans will be notified of this decision and asked to get in touch with Nita Padgett to fill out the necessary form and learn the clean-up procedures, etc.

Spiritual Life Division – Co-Lead Elders Joyce Carney and Larry Goodwin

Christian Education: Joyce Carney, Lead Elder. Current members are Judy Caldwell, Joyce Carney, Kristen Clanton, Marie Engelson, Steve Hogenboom and Edwin Jones. Judith West presented a request from the Peace and Justice MT that they join Christian Ed as partners to offer educational opportunities to children and adults of our church family with suggestions that Midweek Manna may present a good time frame for a series of presentations. Judith was invited to attend the next meeting of Midweek Manna planning team on March 4. Senior High Sunday School is currently meeting in the Conference Room. A Wednesday evening High School Coffee Talk Group is starting to meet with Kristen at Quotations. The division of PYC into age groups, with Middle School at 6:00 and Senior High at 7:00 is a better arrangement. Chris Bennett is a new advisor. Summer sessions of Sunday School will proceed as usual. Beginning in August, two teachers will be needed in the K-2 class and one teacher will be needed in the Middle School class. January Sunday School offering money will be added to our February offerings and go to Presbyterian Home for Children. Vacation Bible School will be June 16-20, and at the next meeting the proposed curriculum from "Veggie Tales" will be viewed. Youth and Children's Sunday will be March 30th. Kristen reported that our church will host the Friday noon Koinonia luncheon, Feb 29. Soup and salad will be served. Lenten themes are planned for Midweek

Manna. A motion was made and approved that Midweek Manna will be a subgroup under Christian Ed. Next meeting will be March 11 at 11:00 am.

Worship: Larry Goodwin, Lead Elder. Pat Crawford, Chair. Head Ushers are still needed for a few months. Ash Wednesday Communion Service was held on Feb 6th. The Friday Lenten Service on Feb 29th was discussed. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday plans are underway. Kim Spencer has agreed to be in charge of obtaining Liturgists for worship services.

Care Giving Division – Sue Rossman, Lead Elder

Congregational Care: Sue Rossman, Lead Elder. Martha Taylor, Chair. Carolyn Turner, Elder member. The Shawl Ministry Group has made twenty-four shawls and twenty-one have been delivered. All Commissioned Deacons will be encouraged to attend the Hands of Faith training March 11th at 5:30.

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

Weekday Children’s Ministry Team: Director Beth McLeod reviewed the status of the preschool wing following a leak in the water heater (noted above in Property). The objective is to return these classrooms to normal use as soon as possible. The displaced classes are sharing one classroom in the preschool wing, while another class has been moved temporarily to the education wing. On Feb 12th, Beth McLeod, Judy Caldwell and Jim Ansley met with the SFMC to alert members to the problem and the need for repair and replacement funds. On Feb 15th, Beth McLeod, Judy Caldwell, and Jim Ansley met with Nita Padgett and Steve Sales to make a plan for taking care of immediate needs and also a comprehensive assessment of

other repairs are needed due to the age of the facility. If the work can be done over the summer, the preschool’s Summer Playgroup will be cancelled. This decision will need to be made by April 1 so that parents can be notified. Asst Director Sara Freeman reported that the annual parent survey of needs for the coming school year has been sent, and early results confirm the growing need for a 5-day program for all ages. Registration for current students will begin on March 3, with open registration the week of March 10th. Kristen Clanton showed a new book of Bible stories that she is using in the preschool chapel program, as well as a prayer that the children are learning. It is hoped that some of the three and four-year-olds in the preschool program will be able to attend VBS. The Teacher Appreciation Luncheon will be Feb 27th. A new volunteer, Mary Lash, has begun working in the preschool several days a week. The next meeting will be March 11 at 5:00 pm.

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

All ministry teams of the Mission Division met Tues, Feb 12th at noon for the quarterly luncheon meeting. The budget was reviewed and a draft of the Annual Report was given.

Peace and Justice: Judith West, Chair. They are working on “what is peace” and have talked with Christian Ed about partnering on some educational issues of peace. Healthcare, mediation, and poverty are all components of peace. John Folger, Volunteers in Medicine Medical Director, will be invited to address the team in March. Camp Greer work days will be April 5 and 12. The next meeting will be March 11th at 9:30 am.

Worldwide Ministries: Ginny Bradford, Acting Chair. Progress on the plans for the Guatemala Mission trip (a Mission project) for June 24-July 1, 2008 was discussed. This is not a work trip but a trip to strengthen our partnership with the Horeb church and the families/children that we sponsor and learn more about the culture of Guatemala. The team is meeting monthly for Bible Study, Spanish language and cultural training, planning for the Celebration with the students/families, and planning the next fundraiser – Skills and Talent Auction that will be held April 27th. “Coffee and More” raised \$158 in Feb and will be held the first Sunday of each month through June. One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Palm Sunday. B-DRPC will host the Friday, Feb 29 Lenten Service at noon and will provide soup, crackers and fruit for everyone attending the service. The next meeting will be March 21st at 10:30 am.

Local Outreach: Luck Shepherd, Chair. Ruth Waugaman was welcomed as a new member. The Souper Bowl of Caring luncheon raised \$879.67 and the Presbytery will match 50 cents to the dollar with the money going to the Sharing House. An update was given on the progress being made on applying for the grant for the new case manager at TCM (a Mission project-partial funding of this position). Frank and Faye Paden will be recognized during the services on Feb 17th for their service in handling the 5-cent-a-meal offering since 1998. Edwin Jones gave a power point presentation on the Towel Ministry at St Phillips to help us in forming our own Home Repair Church Group (a Mission project in partnership with the Men’s Group). He has obtained over sixty names of interested helpers. A motion was approved to request start-up funds of \$2000 from either the Mission Endowment Fund or the Undesignated Endowment Fund. Rod Nunnelee discussed the Men having a food booth preparing grilled chicken dinners at the White Squirrel Festival May 24th on the front lawn of the church with the proceeds helping to fund the Home Repair endeavor. He will take this as a motion to the Session for approval. The next meeting will be March 18th at 10:30 am.

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

Church Family Fellowship: Sara Champion, Lead Elder. Jinks Ramsey, Chair. Shrove Tues/Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner, Feb 5th, was enjoyed by all attending (approximately 90). Workers for the event were Dan and Mary Jane Bennett, Bob and Dottie Reid, Jinks Ramsey, Larry Goodwin, Fred Nebrig, Rod Webb, Norm Macoy and Sara Champion. The Brevard College Jazz Combo provided music and Helen Crais was crowned queen. Attendees were challenged to give up something for Lent. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt and Picnic on March 15 at the home of Keith and Debbie Thompson. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board next to the Narthex.

Membership: Don Gentle, Lead Elder/Chair. Plans are underway to get the Inquirers Class active again. No visitors signed the Register of Friendship or visited the Bread Cart in January. New members Bill and Pam Dashiell joined. Directories will be left out in DRH through the end of February.

New Business:

Tom Taylor stated that a balanced budget was obtained by making reductions in every area. He suggested that we prioritize any monies that come in over budget. The format for the Annual Meeting was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned with a circle of prayer.

An Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on Wednesday, Feb 27, in DRH. A “bag dinner” was served at 5:00 pm. The meeting began at 5:30 pm with an opening prayer by The Reverend Keith Thompson who also moderated the meeting. The meeting was limited in time because of choir practice that followed the meeting. Members present heard reports from Tom Taylor, Lead Elder, Finance MT and Special Funds Management Committee, John Rowe, Chair. A summary of each of the four Session tasks force efforts was presented by Judy Caldwell - Communications, Phillip Jerome - Conflict Resolution, Joyce Carney - Committee on Ministry, and Tom Taylor - Spirituality and Spiritual Leadership. There was a brief time for questions after each presentation. Interested members were invited to participate in ministry teams and/or task forces. Charlie Steele led the group in singing two hymns. The Communications Task Force asked each member present to fill out a Communications Feed Back Questionnaire ranking six ways of receiving information about church events. The Annual Report and a Financial Narrative pamphlet were distributed to each member present. Additional copies will be available for anyone unable to attend. To close the meeting, everyone joined hands in a circle of prayer led by Reverend Thompson.

Ginny Bradford, Elder