

November Session Brief

The B-DRPC Session met for its stated meeting on November 18, 2008. The meeting was opened by Moderator Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson, and devotional reading and prayer were offered by Jim Ansley. The moderator reviewed names of those in the church family needing prayers at this time. Minutes of the October meeting were corrected and approved.

Ministry Team reports were accepted by omnibus motion. The following motions had been approved by internet voting:

- A. To move Valeria and Jim Robertson from affiliate to active members.
- B. To hold a congregational meeting on November 23 following the 11:00 am service for the purpose of informing the congregation of the current budget challenges.
- C. To send a letter from the Finance Ministry Team to the congregation.

Ministry Team (MT) Reports to Session:

MISSION DIVISION: Ginny Bradford, Lead Elder

Worldwide Ministries, Local Outreach, and Peace and Justice did not meet prior to the November Session meeting. Their report will be in the December *Session Brief*.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION: John Rowe, Lead Elder

Personnel MT: Glenn Cutler, Chair

The Personnel MT met by phone in November. Issues with respect to contracts at the Preschool were shared with Beth McLeod, the Preschool Director. The Personnel MT is gathering information for the Finance MT regarding comparative salary increases for 2009.

Special Funds Management Committee: John Rowe, Lead Elder

The SFMC did not meet in November, as there was no business to conduct.

Committee on Ministry: John Rowe, Chair

The Committee On Ministry is not yet organized, as only the 2009 chair has been appointed. The COM did not meet in November.

Property Ministry Team: Jim Ansley, Lead Elder; Wes Brennan, Chair

The team met on November 18. The meeting opened with prayer. A review of recommendations regarding accepting, displaying and disposing of non-monetary gifts to the church was tabled because Larry Braisted was away. The document he emailed was in an Apple format and we could not open it. Jeanne Hart said that she would get a copy of the Local Library's procedure to use as a guide.

We would like to report that the remodeling of the four Youth Sunday school rooms has been completed. We are still having trouble with church doors being left unlocked. We are still trying to find someone to come by and check the doors in the evening. We are still having problems

with a group of people who use the church facilities on a regular basis. It was recommended that the Lead Elder bring this matter up at session tonight. We would like to report that the hedge in front of the Preschool has been planted and also a new tree on the east side of the sanctuary. Jim Ansley reported on the status of the Property Ministry Team budget and expenditures.

FINANCE DIVISION: Tom Taylor, Lead Elder

Finance Ministry Team : Tom Taylor, Lead Elder; Phillip Jerome, Elder

The Finance Ministry Team met on Thursday, November 13, 2008. Members in attendance: Nita Padgett, Betsy Smith, John Rowe, Rick Mills, and Tom Taylor. Guests included Beth McLeod and Sara Freeman. The following topics were discussed:

The Preschool continues to be a concern financially. Estimated revenue shortfalls will require the church to contribute an additional \$12,500 - \$16,000 additional benevolence this year, and shortfalls may continue for the remainder of the school year ending in May 2009. The revenue shortfall was created by a large number of students withdrawing from the Preschool just prior to the beginning of the school year. Measures have been taken to begin filling empty seats to boost revenue. Representatives from FMT will work with the WCMT and the Preschool staff to help develop a more robust business plan going forward.

The budget shortfall continues. The general fund deficit stands at approximately \$46,170, representing monies borrowed from the money market account to fund operating expenses. Weekly income continues to track below forecast, particularly unpledged giving.

Budget requests for 2009 have been received and are being compiled. One major budget item missing is salary increment recommendations from the Personnel Ministry Team. Once this information is received, FMT will prepare an initial 2009 budget. Projections based on budget requests, estimated 2009 salaries, and 2009 pledges received indicate that significant reductions will be required in budget requests from ministry teams.

The budget challenges facing B-DRPC will be the focus of the congregational meeting on 11/23/2008.

The next meeting of the FMT will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008.

Stewardship Ministry Team

Pledges continue to be received. As of 11/17/2008 we have received 213 pledges compared to 226 in 2008. The total amount of 2009 pledges to date is \$444,292, compared to \$472,937 in 2008. A breakout of results is as follows:

- 27 new pledges
- 73 pledges increased from 2008
- 24 pledges decreased from 2008
- 89 pledges did not change
- 40 pledges stopped or not yet received

The average pledge for 2009 \$2,086, which is below the 2008 average of \$2,092.

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL DIVISION: Judy Caldwell, Lead Elder; Sara Winston, Elder

Weekday Children's Ministry Team: Judy Caldwell, Lead Elder. The team met on November 11. The meeting opened with a devotion and prayer offered by Celia Ansley.

Directors' Reports: The preschool budget is experiencing a significant shortfall. As a result, the Finance Ministry Team has increased the benevolence by \$16,500. The shortfall is due primarily to the loss of approximately 15 children who had pre-registered for classes and did not show up or notify the preschool of a change in plans. The directors are taking steps to cut expenses and also to reduce the 2009 budget request. No teacher raises are planned, no overtime is approved, the directors will fill in as substitutes as much as possible, and teacher training will be limited to no-cost options. Class openings are being offered at reduced rates as necessary in order to fill classes. Policy changes are being discussed, including a revised leave policy to reduce the use of substitutes, and changes in registration procedures to limit unforeseen under-enrollment and subsequent overstaffing.

The Ministry Team is in agreement with the need to revise the leave policy, and recommended that any changes be made for the 2009-10 school year rather than sooner, in order to give teachers ample notification. A visiting team for evaluation of the preschool will be planned for February or March.

Discussion of the final plan for the Child Study Team was deferred until next month.

The annual Christmas program is scheduled for Monday, December 15, at 11:00 am. Dr. Charlie Steele is currently leading the children's music program. Kathy Palmer continues the bells program as a volunteer. Ministry Team members are required to have background checks. Sara Freeman will provide forms for the information needed. Team members were requested to link their Ingles cards to Tools for Schools, which offers school supplies and equipment at no cost. The team discussed approaching women's circles in the church about support for the preschool as one or more of their monthly projects. It was agreed that Celia will alert circle leaders of the need at the Coordinating Meeting on December 1, and Judy will send a letter to each circle. Sara Freeman will provide a list of specific uses of donated funds which will be included in the letter. The next meeting of the Ministry Team will be a luncheon meeting on December 9 at 12:30 at Judy Caldwell's home.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Communications Ministry Team: Ginny Bradford & Judy Caldwell, Co-Lead Elders

The CMT meeting was held on Nov 7.

Sadie Carlson was welcomed as a new member to CMT. She is in charge of the "Current Event" bulletin board in the Ed Wing. Thank you Sadie! Denise reported that a training session for Elders and Chairs of Ministry Teams will be held Friday, November 14 at 1:00 pm. The Church Crier reporting done by Cathy Gary continues to go well. If vacancies occur in the Breaking Bread Groups, Denise will contact Membership MT and the person in charge of assigning members so that new members could possibly be assigned to a group. The team reviewed the church calendar for the remainder of the year for events that might be published in the *Transylvania Times* so that the community might be aware of these events – The Hanging of the Greens, Love Feast, Christmas Eve Service, and Epiphany were noted. Ginny will contact Pat Crawford, Worship MT Chair to see if they are interested in writing articles for these events. Judy Caldwell, WCM Chair, will write an article for the Weekday Preschool in hopes of recruiting more students. Sadie Carlson reported that she has received articles concerning church

members that can be placed on the “Current Event” bulletin board in the Ed Wing. Julie will help Sadie with some lettering for the bulletin board.

Judy reported that the ad hoc committee consisting of Judy Caldwell, Ginny Bradford, Don Stinchcomb, Martha Taylor and Phillip Jerome, Chair met on November 6 to discuss the format of the first Congregational Meeting. It was decided to discuss the revenue shortage relating to the church general budget. It would be a brief meeting lasting approximately 30 minutes following the 11:00 service on Nov 23 in DRH with a PowerPoint presentation using graphs to show the shortfall resulting in many programs. Session approval and announcements at two Sunday Worship Services will be done. Phillip will be in charge of the PowerPoint presentation and will seek help from Tom Taylor, Finance MT along with Nita Padgett, Business Administrator. Judy agreed to design a short evaluation form to be handed out prior to the meeting and taken up as members leave. Feedback from this will help in planning the next meeting which is the Annual Meeting that will be held in February. Also included on the form will be space for members to list any question they may have relating to the budget that could not be answered during the meeting. The ad hoc committee consisting of Don Stinchcomb, Chair and Ginny Bradford from CMT, Larry Goodwin and Pat Crawford from WMT and Nancy Davidson, member-at-large has been formed to reformat Sunday worship announcements that would take place as needed to inform the congregation about major topics of interest lasting about five minutes. The first topic considered was changing the time of the 8:45 am worship service to 8:30 am to allow for more fellowship time between the early worship service and Sunday school. After further discussion with CEMT and WMT, it was decided to postpone this announcement until possibly February. Don Stinchcomb brought up for discussion the possibility of sending a letter to members not pledging. A lengthy discussion followed on members’ responsibility and how that relates to making an annual pledge to the general operating budget each year. The Business Administrator would have to send the letters as member pledges are only known to her. It was determined that this matter is a FMT decision that would come to the Session as a recommendation from them for approval. The next meeting will be on Friday, December 5, at 10:00 am.

SPIRITUAL LIFE DIVISION: Joyce Carney & Larry Goodwin, Lead Elders

Christian Education Ministry Team: Joyce Carney, Lead Elder

The meeting was held on November 3 in Room ED3, the newly redecorated Senior High room. Edwin Jones led in devotions with thoughts and scripture pointing to silence. Members present: Kristen Clanton, Joyce Carney, Marie Engelson, Sue Heglar, Steve Hogenboom, Edwin Jones, Tammy Nye, Martha Taylor

September minutes were approved as written. Joyce reported that the first teachers’ meeting was held September 18. We will be scheduling future meetings with an emphasis on spiritual growth. Scheduling of our next meeting will be in January after the busy holiday season. A newsletter will be sent to each teacher.

Appreciation was given to Kristen for seeing a need and responding so quickly to facilitate the redecoration of SS classrooms. On the topic of changing the early service to 8:30 am, responses from the Worship Team and the Communications Team were shared. The suggested timing and logic for the change will be presented to those attending the 8:45 service. Their feedback will be requested before a decision is made. Kristen gave dates and planning by ALPS for the Advent Season. Martha volunteered

be the representative to the Manna Planning Committee since she will already be attending. Martha Taylor was introduced as the new Christian Education Ministry Team chair. We are grateful she has responded to God's calling to lead the Team.

Fall Festival – Kristen announced that the offering during the Halloween/Fall Festival was \$237.00, to be used for Youth and Children's Ministries. Third Grade Bibles – Bibles will be presented to third graders Nov. 16. This year Keith will meet them in their classroom for the presentation. All teachers will be attending and plan to share special personal Bibles of their own.

2009 Budget – Copies of the 2008 budget were passed and line items discussed. The current budget situation was reviewed. Joyce will present our requests to the Finance Committee. Annual Meeting – The Team responded to the most important information to be passed along to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Next Meeting – On a trial basis, our meeting time was switched to the third Monday of each month, 3:30, in ED3. Our December meeting will be Dec. 15. Joyce will plan devotions.

CHURCH FAMILY DIVISION: Sara Champion & Don Gentle, Co-Lead Elders

Membership Ministry Team: Don Gentle, Lead Elder, Edna Bell, Chair The team met on November 2. Members present were Edna Bell, Bill Engelson, Don Gentle, Linda Goodwin, Corinne Hachbold, Ann Hinze, Steve Hogenboom, Eunice James, Sara Kellar. Corinne Hachbold opened with a devotion.

Minutes for October were corrected listing Angie Ladd as having died September 19, 2008. Don Gentle reported that he has to put next Inquirer's Class dates on the Web page. Edna Bell has given him the dates of February, May and August 2009. These dates are tentative as we have to see how many prospects we have to invite. Corinne Hachbold reported that she has people lined up to attend the Bread Cart for November and will begin signing up for December. She has plenty of bread on hand now as very few people have picked up a loaf the last few weeks. Linda Goodwin reported that she has made one phone call and that was to Jean Hanson who was leaving for Florida. Edna Bell reported that the last Inquirer's Class for this session will be held November 9. Keith Thompson will not be in town but has asked Bob Singdahlsen to fill in for him. Edna Bell will also not be available and Eunice James will fill in for her. Others who will attend if possible are Steve Hogenboom, Ann Hinze (after attending the Bread Cart), Bill Engelson and Corinne Hachbold. It was suggested that we invite Congregational Care MT to come and talk about what they do at the next Inquirer's Class. This was approved by MMT. At present we have Bob Singdahlsen, Parish Associate, Charlie Steele, Minister of Music, Kristen Clanton, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, Christian Education MT, Missions MT, Presbyterian Women and the Men's Club. Sara Kellar gave a brief run down of the History of Brevard Davidson Presbyterian Church which she presented to the Inquirer's Class on October 26. Deaths: Tim Murphy, husband of member Arlene Murphy. Tim died October 23. The Rev. Ed Roy, husband of member Grace Roy, died November 1, 2008. There were no new members during the month. It was brought to our attention that Susan and Bo Geist have not received their new member packet. It will be delivered this week. Directory update: Don Gentle is still waiting until we get enough new members to print two sheets of new members to be mailed out to church members.

Eunice James reported that she has the attendance records for September and October and will be working on that right away. Don Gentle sent a Session report to all members of the MMT advising us of the budget shortfall. The Session has approved a halt to all non-essential spending

for the remainder of this year. Regarding the inactive members, the names that were identified and reviewed by Eunice James, Denise Byrd and the MMT were discussed and approved. The Session had further discussion regarding the need to keep up with “inactive” members. A new camera will be put on hold for now.

A sympathy card was signed by the members of MMT to send to Will Morris who had attended the Inquirer’s Class. Will’s father died October 24, 2008. The question came up about the number of Elders who attend Memorial Services and enter the Sanctuary as a group. There have been so few lately the question was, “Why not ask inactive Elders to join them?” **NEXT MEETING:** December 1, 2008

CARE GIVING DIVISION: Sue Rossman, Lead Elder; Carolyn Turner, Elder

Congregational Care Ministry Team: Martha Taylor, Chair Congregational Care Ministry Team continues to visit members in nursing homes, hospital, and those who are homebound. The MT encourages other members of the congregation to visit members also. Advent devotional booklets will be distributed to all nursing home, hospitalized, and homebound members. Mary Beth Cox is chair of visitation. Transportation is being provided for two members who do not drive and desire to attend worship services on Sundays. Transportation is also provided to others as needed. Pam Dashiell is chair of transportation. The Prayer Shawl Ministry celebrated the completion of their 100th shawl this past week at a luncheon held at Roberta Schlacks’ home. Roberta is chair of this ministry.

Other Session Business:

Two motions from the Worship Ministry Team were presented and approved:

1. The schedule for communion services in 2009.
2. The baptism of Webster Dambax, son of Marc and Shellie Dambax, on November 23, 2008.

The Session discussed the format and content of the congregational meeting to be held on November 23. Slides presenting the financial picture were reviewed and suggestions made for their use. The Preschool budget was discussed; Tom Taylor and Phillip Jerome will meet with the directors, Judy Caldwell, and Sara Winston this week.

The next Session meeting will be on December 16 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned with a circle of prayer.