

September Session Brief

The B-DRPC Session met for its stated meeting on September 16, 2008. The meeting was opened by Moderator Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson, and devotional reading and prayer were offered by Don Stinchcomb. Minutes of the August meeting were approved.

Ministry Team reports were accepted by omnibus motion with the exception of motions as listed below.

1. The Special Funds Management Committee moved to approve a grant from the General Endowment Fund Income Dividend for 2008 to fund the purchase of certain furnishings for four rooms used by youth members in the Education Wing of the church in the amount of \$8500.

MOTION PASSED

2. The Communications Ministry Team moved that church database training be provide by Denise Byrd for elders and ministry team chairs. MOTION PASSED

3. The Worldwide Ministries Ministry Team made a motion regarding Guatemala Student Sponsors: to allow WWMinistries to seek renewals of student sponsors and add new sponsors for 2009 Horeb scholarships from members of the congregation for \$100/student. Letters to current sponsors will be mailed in October. An article will be included in the November Communicator/Bulletins along with an informational table in Davidson River Hall for church members to learn about sponsorship.

MOTION PASSED

4. A motion from Mission Division stated: That Mission Division be allowed to pursue the possibility of partnering with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC, in order to provide homes of B-DRPC church members for their church family during a natural disaster such as a hurricane. MOTION PASSED

5. Tom Taylor moved that a committee be formed to explore matters relating to the spiritual growth and maturity of the congregation. The committee will report to the session its initial concepts within six months.

Recommendations shall require action by the Session in accordance with the Book of Order (G-9.0501).

MOTION PASSED

MINISTRY TEAM (MT) REPORTS:

MISSION DIVISION: Ginny Bradford, Lead Elder

Mission Division Quarterly Meeting

This meeting was held on September 16 at 11:00 am with 18 members attending from all ministry teams – Local Outreach, Peace and Justice and Worldwide Ministries. Betty Strickland was welcomed as the new PW representative. Judith West gave the devotions.

Worldwide Ministries MT : Ginny Bradford, Acting Chair

Kristen Clanton talked about the Guatemala Mission trip and spoke of the ceremony where each of the scholarship children was presented with a certificate and how important this was to them. She also had a short slide show of their trip. Judy Nebrig discussed the scholarship children also and stated that we have over 40 children now that we support enabling them to attend school. This is a 3-yr commitment. Angela Reyes, from Horeb, and a representative from that Presbytery and PW will be in Brevard Saturday, Sept 20 until the morning of Wednesday, Sept 24. She will be spending time with some of the mission team, attending church on Sept 21 and meeting with other members at various times while here.

Louise Morgan and Keith Thompson spoke of their time spent with Del and Debbie Braaksma and Barbara Nagy during these two missionary visits this summer. They each have great needs that they shared. After some research, Mission will determine which needs we might be able to help support and will present this at a quarterly meeting during the first part of 2009.

Kristen stated that we will again support Christmas Child Shoeboxes and she has ordered enough supplies for 150 boxes. These boxes will be stuffed and then mailed in November.

A card was signed by all attending to be sent to Brett McMichael who is awaiting a kidney transplant.

Peace and Justice MT: Judith West, Chair

Judith West, Chair, reported that during the month of May the congregation had the opportunity to learn more about peace and justice through some ministry updates including some on healthcare access and had the opportunity to attend a Memorial Day Service.

A class for the fall is being offered at Mid Week Manna – *The Shalom of God in the Midst of Empire: Studies in Isaiah*. The first class had 14 participants.

Peacemaking Offering will be received the first Sunday in October. The local portion 25% will be directed to TCM. There will be two ministry updates in late September. Charlie Steele will use a peace-focused anthem for the first Sunday in October. Kristen will include the Peacemaking Offering in her Faith Sharing with Children.

Fair Trade Coffee continues to be available. Steve and Martha Hogenboom are in charge of keeping the coffee and other supplies stocked for sale and are new members to P&J.

Local Outreach MT: Luck Shepherd, Chair

Luck shared a letter he had received from Sharing House thanking B-DRPC for \$2000 designated for home heating fuel. This was from monies raised during the Church Chicken for Charity event. The other \$500 from these monies went to build the fund for the Church Home Repair Team. Luck also reminded everyone that a challenge has gone out from Edwin and Jeanie Jones where they will match funds to fill a tank of home heating fuel (\$1000). Ruth Waugaman is the contact person for this.

Luck discussed some of the home repair needs in the county. He has met with Mike Thomas and Mark Burroughs concerning grant money; with WCCA and with Linda Burrell, a social worker with Home Health trying to gather as much information as possible to help with determining projects for this team. Sharing House also has Weatherization Funds. A screening process for home repairs is being considered. Luck Shepherd, Bill Dashiell and Edwin Jones went to a possible worksite Sept 15 and determined that this homeowner is in need of our help. She is willing to pay \$700 towards the repairs. There will be a planning meeting for this work on Tuesday, Sept 23, at 6:00 pm in DRH. Everyone interested in helping and/or learning more about this work is encouraged to attend.

Ruth Waugaman and Alice Dalton discussed food collection for Sharing House. Ruth stated that Bill Lovejoy is delivering the food collected during Sept. She will now start working on individuals to help during December. Alice will work on a bulletin board for Sharing House.

Gail Blunt is the new Sharing House contact person. We also welcomed her as a new member to LO. She will be coordinating the food drive that will take place on Saturday, Nov 22. B-DRPC members will be asked to sign up to help with this drive at Bi-Lo. More information will be coming out later.

Horty Menser reported on Phone Cards for Soldiers. She stated that 150 cards have been sent out with 50 more ready to go. She read several thank you cards written by soldiers in Iraq. She also mentioned a visitor to our church from Florida who read about the phone cards in the bulletin and sent \$350 to help.

Faye Paden reported that the 5-cent-a-meal offering collected in August was \$529.40 and ytd \$3268.85. Relay for Life totaled \$4296. Kristen will not be able to be co-captain with Faye next year so a new person is needed.

Kristen announced that the CROP Walk will take place at 3 pm at the Brevard Library on Sunday, October 19 and 25% of money raised will go for local charities.

Corinne Hachbold has agreed to be the contact person for Grandfather Home and will become a new member of LO.

Sharyn Tuers reported on Rise & Shine. Our church has been a partner church in the Rise & Shine Freedom School since its founding 12 years ago. Not only does our church help financially, but we also supply a team of tutors that meets with children in grades Kindergarten through 2nd grade six times a year for a week at a time. The R&S Freedom School operates from the Sunday School rooms at Bethel A Baptist Church. A team of seven tutors meets with the children on a one-on-one basis after school, Monday through Thursday. Each team members tutors two children. The main objective is to make sure each child completes his or her homework for the following day and receives extra help in any area he or she is having trouble with. Special programs and pot-luck suppers are offered throughout the school year to create bridges between the tutors, the children and their families. Beverly Cowan and Sharyn Tuers assumed leadership of the Presbyterian R&S this year from Sue Barrett and Fowler Dugger. The new team for 2008-2009 is Elaine Roehrich, Kim Spencer, Linda Mashburn, Debra Davis, and Edie Gabcik with substitutes Jean LaForce, Sue Larson, Jane Kennedy and Kristen Clanton. The first week of tutoring began Sept 15.

Koinonia: Ginny Bradford reported on the August meeting.

Partnership with Westminster Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC

A motion was approved today and has been recommended that Session approve a partnership with this church. Rena Letterman has agreed to organize this with WPC. If approved, B-DRPC members would provide housing for church members displaced by a natural disaster such as a hurricane.

2009 budget: The 2008 budget was distributed and each member was asked to carefully look over the budget and email Ginny with any recommendations. Luck will look over LO budget also.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION: John Rowe, Lead Elder

Personnel MT: Glenn Cutler, Chair

The Personnel MT did not meet in September.

Committee on Ministry: John Rowe, Chair

The Committee on Ministry did not meet in September.

Special Funds Management Committee: John Rowe, Chair

The Special Funds Management Committee met September 11, 2008. Kristen Clanton and Joyce Carney (Christian Ed MT) met with the SFMC to request funds to purchase furnishings for four rooms in the educational wing that serve youth activities. The SFMC voted to approve a grant of \$8,500 from the 2008 General Endowment Fund Income Dividend for this purpose. (see above motion) Beth McLeod, director of the preschool, also met with the SFMC to request funding for playground equipment and upgrades. Although the SFMC is favorably disposed to approve this request, several questions need to be addressed before the vote is taken on the request. Beth McLeod will return to the SFMC in October to report the answers to the questions.

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

The team met on September 14.

Judy Nebrig has been assisting Margaret Flory's move into an apartment at college walk. Margaret wants to donate some of her items she has collected in her ministry throughout the world. She had been associated with PCUSA and partner bodies throughout the world. Judy will work with Margaret in labeling and relocating these items. We discussed the implication of accepting such donations and the possibility of future donations of objects and what to do with them. We believe there needs to be a written policy concerning donated objects for example:

- A. Donations limited to church members and/or family members.
- B. No limitations to be attached to the gift, such as that it be displayed.
- C. Donation is absolute gift, with no expectation that it will be returned at a future date or limitation on final disposition in event the church can no longer utilize the gift. Church reserves the right to retain, sell, transfer, or give the gift to another entity.

D. If donated has tax implications for donor, the church may issue a receipt but will not attempt to place a value on the gift.

E. Associated transfer documents or letters of donation to be executed by owner or legally qualified personal representative shall acknowledge receipt of this policy before agreeing to donate.

F. Church to assume no liability for loss, theft, damage, etc.

G. The church to be the sole determiner of the best use for the gift.

If there are more points to consider, we can obtain a copy to the county library's policy on donations. Due to the urgency for removal of the objects, we did agree to store some of them on a temporary basis.

Kristin Clanton requested assistance in painting four Sunday School classrooms and the replacing of ceiling tiles in the senior class room because of the holes punched in them by pool cues. We agreed to take on this project. She also asked that we remove the old heat radiators. The middle school class wants to help with the painting of their class room. We agreed to remove the radiators and after the prep work is done accept the help of the middle school students.

Jeanne Hart gave an update on the colors for the sanctuary. We unanimously agreed. She also continues to work on a church use procedure package.

Larry Braisted had examined the outside overhead entrance to the preschool and saw that it is cracking. It is a stucco over lath construction. He received an estimate of \$90 for two coats of water proof paint designed for the repair and Steve Sales received an estimate of \$300 to have the work done. We approved the work.

Beth McLeod informed us of the redesign of the preschool playground and asked for our advice and assistance in overseeing that the work was done safely. We said that we would help and suggested that the new fence be of a vinyl coated variety and a double gate installed to facilitate entry by larger utility equipment so that we did not have to remove the fence when the surface chips were replenished.

Steve Sales reports that the church is not being left secured after use, especially on Sunday.

FINANCE DIVISION: Tom Taylor, Lead Elder

Finance Ministry Team : Tom Taylor, Lead Elder

The Finance Ministry Team met on Thursday, September 11, 2008. The following topics were discussed:

Pledges continue to run ahead of forecast for 2008. New pledges exceed forecast and are anticipated to grow as new members join B-DRPC. Unpledged receipts and Loose Offering, however, remain significantly below forecast. Expenses are running close to forecast. As a result, we should anticipate a revenue shortfall of as much as \$30,000 compared to budget, barring any major changes in giving patterns over the remaining months of 2008.

A revised format for communicating financial information was discussed. The new format will be published quarterly and include lines for Tithes and Offerings, Other Revenues and Expenses. Each line will include budget and year-to-date actual figures.

A letter to the congregation was discussed which would gently ask the congregation to fulfill pledges and, if possible, make unpledged contributions. Such a letter was sent to the congregation in December of 2007 and resulted in substantial giving. The letter was tabled for the time being, but will likely be sent before December this year.

The committee decided that a statement with a current loan balance should be sent to Rev. Dr. B Ronald Gilmer quarterly.

Based on budget projections (see first item), Lead Elders are again asked to work closely with their ministry teams to curtail unnecessary spending in 2008.

The 2009 budget time is upon us. Lead Elders were asked in August 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. If you have not already done so, please get your initial budget request submitted ASAP!

The next meeting of the FMT will be held on Thursday, October 9, 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. This year’s program will be low-key and focused on the obligation we have as Christians to support the work of the church in which we worship.

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL DIVISION: Judy Caldwell, Lead Elder

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

Directors’ Report:

- Beth McLeod, Director, reported that there are still a number of openings in the three/four class.
- The budget is in development and will be reviewed when ready.
- Beth will present a request to the Special Funds Committee for playground improvements.
- Beth and Sara Freeman, Associate Director, met recently with Linda Iauch of FIPP, who will be providing staff training this year in the area of early childhood development. Teachers will earn credit hours for participating in this training. A resource has also been identified for training in making speech referrals.
- Staff will attend a seminar for faith-based preschools on November 7 in Charlotte.
- Beth discussed the Developmental Profiles for each child, which will be done the week of October 6, with assistance from members of the Ministry Team. The results will be shared with parents during fall conferences.

Kathy Palmer, former preschool teacher assistant/music teacher, was present to discuss a letter she had written to the MT regarding issues of identifying children with developmental delays or aggressive tendencies, as well as some safety considerations. Team member Laura Franklin spoke on the topic of timely and complete communication with parents. The MT and preschool staff are currently addressing these issues in a variety of ways.

Ministry Team-Classroom Liaisons: These members of the Ministry Team will provide a direct communication link between classroom teachers and the MT. In addition, support and assistance will be provided according to each teacher’s needs.

Infants - Clif Boyd; Toddlers-Elizabeth Gentle; Twos -Laura Franklin; Threes -Anita Dorfman;
Threes/Fours -Carolyn Winchester and Sara Winston; Fours (Jill)-Celia Ansley

Child Study Team: A draft plan for a Child Study Team was distributed. Due to the lateness of the hour, discussion was deferred until the October meeting, which will be on October 14.

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

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

The team met on September 5, 2008.

Denise Byrd reported that a training session had been held for Circle moderators, and that a second training session is planned for Presbyterian Women. It was suggested that mass e-mails to the congregation be tried to communicate significant information. The idea was approved for trial and evaluation. Denise proposed website training for Session members and Ministry Team chairs, so they can have access to information they need. Denise will prepare a draft agenda for training for the next Session meeting, and Ginny and Judy will be prepared to offer a motion for the training session. It was noted that several Church Crier articles have been published, and more are planned. The August Session Brief has also been published.

Status reports:

The new format for Midweek Manna was commended. Paula Jackson suggested that elders be identified on their nametags. It was noted that few elders are participating in Midweek Manna.

Judy Caldwell confirmed that there will be an evaluation sheet to be filled out by those attending the Church Family Retreat, and results will be given to this MT and the Session.

Items for the Transylvania Times can be e-mailed to news@transylvaniatimes.com by Tuesday of each week for Thursday's Church News. The team decided to look at the church calendar quarterly to identify events to be publicized and assign follow-up for articles. For September/October articles, Ginny Bradford will provide an article on the Guatemala Team, Judy will report on the Retreat, and Paula will report on Kirkin' of the Tartans. It was also suggested that an article be written on the preschool renovations.

The team reviewed its statement of responsibilities and objectives and noted progress in most areas. In the area of Evaluation and Feedback, a need was identified for a structured plan for obtaining and using that feedback. Jim Bollini agreed to draft a plan, to be reviewed at the October 3 meeting.

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

Christian Education Ministry Team: Joyce Carney, Lead Elder

The team met on September 2, 2008.

Genesis Sunday: Thanks to Kristen, the CEMT and teachers for helping to create a successful day.

Sunday School Teachers, Coordinator: Joyce reported that classes are fully covered, however two more teachers are needed in the middle school class in order to complete the team concept. We are still looking for the Coordinator whom God has selected.

VBS Evaluation Responses: Six teachers responded. Those comments were read and will be considered in planning for next year.

Teachers' Meeting: To be held Thursday, Sept. 4, 5:00 PM. No pot luck, but refreshments will be served. Email invitations have been sent or phone calls made to each teacher. CEMT members will be introduced and support of staff, Session and Team will be reinforced. Keith will lead us, stressing that teaching is a call from God. He also plans to explain the Session action that each SS class:

1. "Be intentional about making sure that all you teach is grounded in scripture."
2. "Be very intentional about nurturing in each participant both a personal and a corporate relationship with Jesus Christ."

Budget Evaluation: Kristen and Joyce have met to go over CEMT budget line items. We will have copies for the next meeting. Discussion will continue and Finance Team will be consulted.

C.S.Lewis book study: From the last Inquirer's Class we received a request for a class which would study the C.S.Lewis, Screwtape Letters book. Marie will look into the catalogs for video-led discussion study guides. We have capable members in our church who might respond to this short-term commitment. Continuing would be up to the group.

8:30 Early Church? Since the inquiry was made to the CEMT, we discussed some pro and con reasons for moving from 8:45 to 8:30. This appears to be a "historic" question. The main reason for considering this was so that there would be time for both fellowship and Sunday School between 9:30 and 11:00. This will be taken to the Worship Ministry Team before we take to Session.

Recycle Old Curriculum: Joyce will call Presbytery to see if there are poor churches which could use.

Next Meeting: Several of our members will be out of town. No meeting will be held in Oct. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 4, 4:00 PM, in the Conference Room.

Worship Ministry Team: Larry Goodwin, Lead Elder

The team met on August 27. Plans for the Kirkin' o' the Tartans on October 12 were discussed. The 44 banners will be in Davidson River Hall, and there is a planned rehearsal on the morning of the 11th at 10:00 am. Jinks Ramsey is in charge of the breakfast on the 12th, and Brenda Monk is handling publicity. In new business, Hanging of the Greens will be on November 30. Approval was given for the baptism of Avery Dhein on September 28. Pastor Keith Thompson

reported that about 20 children had signed up to be acolytes. This program is led by Shellie Dambax, Debbie Thompson, and Carla Hill.

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

Membership Ministry Team: Don Gentle, Lead Elder

The team met on September 8. Team reports were given as follows:

Web page: Don Gentle reported that it looks good; needs next Inquirer's Class dates.

Bread delivery and baking: The bread cart has been repaired by John Folger, Steve Hogenboom, and Julie Singdahlsen.

Calling visitors: Linda Goodwin reported that phone calls were made to Bob and Jeanne Oliver (no answer), Kris and Capers Dixon, Bo and Susan Geist, Richard and Joan Doyle, Melissa Nichols and Matt Henderson.

Inquiry class: Edna Bell reported that of the two new couples who attended the last Inquirer's class, one couple, Bill and Debbie Anderson, has joined. The next Inquirer's class will be held Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2 and 9. MMT has a person who might be interested in presenting a history of the church at each session of the Inquirer's Class and Don Gentle will contact her this month.

Members joined: Carolyn Fetzeer and Ed Edwards, Debbie and Bill Anderson, Joan and Dick Doyle,
Bo and Susan Geist and Annelise

Deaths: Robert Edgar

Moved: Jean Atkins, Rod and Sharon Nunnelee, Jack and Mary Ellsworth

Births: Morgan Jana Baldrige

Photos of New Members: Steve Hogenboom is up to date on pictures of new members

New member packets: Ann Hinze delivered new member packets to those who have joined recently and had two new packets to deliver this month.

Dinners/Lunches: MMT will try to find people who attend Midweek Manna to invite new members to attend with them in order that they may be introduced not only to members of the church, but also to what Midweek Manna is.

Pictorial Directory update: Don Gentle is still working on printing sheets of new members to be mailed out to church members.

Attendance analysis: Eunice James reported that she has completed the report for July and August and the necessary information will be passed on to the Congregational Care Ministry Team.

Session comments: Don Gentle reported that members of the Session will lead discussions at the church Retreat. It is planned to have a Search Committee by 2009 for an associate pastor.

New business: On the day new members join the church, a member of MMT will accompany them to the coffee time at the Fellowship Hall. Edna Bell accompanied the Andersons, Eunice James accompanied the DoYLES and Don Gentle accompanied the Geists.

New Business: A reminder is being placed in the Sunday bulletins and Communicator to remind members to wear their name tags. If tags have been lost, they can be replaced by contacting the office.

NEXT MEETING: October 6, 2008

OTHER SESSION BUSINESS:

Worship MT and Communications MT were asked to meet together and reformat Sunday worship announcements that would take place from time to time to inform the congregation about major topics of interest lasting about five minutes.

October 26 will be Commitment Sunday. Members will receive a letter from the Pastor and hear two updates during morning worship prior to that Sunday.

Officers training will be October 12, 19, and 26 at 5:00 pm and last 1½ hours.

The meeting was adjourned with a circle of prayer.