

St. John's United Methodist Church

Church Council

February 28, 2006

Attendance

In attendance were Council Members Brenda Aiken, Liz Benton, Jay Bilyeu, Judy Bilyeu, Jim Bodie, Mae Croft, Beth Eberhard, Terry Fleming, Neil Flowers, John Geiger, Jean Gieger, Walter Guy, Archie Hargett, Zoom Heaton, Jim Holly, George Howle, Billie Johnson, Dave Kelly, Donna Caprell Kraft, Frankie Lambright, Tom McCollum, Nancy McKnight, Brenda Meeks, Jackie Meeks, Diane Miniard, Leigh Norton, Andy Parlantieri, Shirley Parlantieri, Travis Pearson, Ann Prather, Bob Prather, Allen Radcliffe, Renee Reid, Virgil Sauls, Bob Stokes, and Edward Yeh.

Also attending were Sydney Beckner, Sarah Fleming, Carla Fleming, Andrew Sherburne, Diane James, Andrea Mikes, Jerry Johnson, Elisabeth Mize, Duane Coldiron, Rebecca Coldiron, and Alma Mize.

Call to order

Chair, Archie Hargett, called the meeting to order and recognized members of the Confirmation Class as special guests. Neil Flowers gave the opening prayer. Requests for prayers were made for the following persons, Ryan Fleming, Carolyn Heaton, Dennis Hydrick, Tom Pond, Chuck Rudolph, Fran Newson, Tara Long, and six of our youth who will be participating in the youth walk to Emmaus.

Minutes

Dave Kelly moved and Liz Benton seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the following corrections: In the statement regarding the Emerging Ministry, the i will be changed to e in the word emerging. In the paragraph regarding the \$120,000 left over from last year, the sentence will be changed to read that the \$120,000 was left from 2004.

Old business

Katrina guests- Neil Flowers reported that three of our guests have returned to New Orleans, one is in jail, and the others remain settled in Aiken.

New business

Youth –Travis Pearson reported the success of the “Box City” held by the youth to bring attention to the needs of the homeless. \$200 was raised for Acts, Samaritan House, and Golden Harvest. The youth had speakers from Golden Harvest and Acts. Youth also raised \$800 for Christ Central with their Souper Bowl project, and \$1600 for Salkehatchie with their Valentine Dinner. On March 10 they will serve a meal at Christ Central.

Capital Fund Drive: Virgil Sauls reported a good response in recruiting volunteers for teams. Additional volunteers are being recruited to help with the campaign. We are on schedule. Information packets will be distributed

during the week of April 2-9. The special event will be May 21 and a celebration will be held on June 4.

Committee reports

Staff Parrish Relations- Rev. George Howle reported a staffing reorganization. Associate Pastor, Sam Marcengill will be given his own church in June. George has talked with several possible candidates for the Associate Pastor's position, but did not find, what he considered to be a "good match" for the Church. Therefore, in June, Christian Education Director, Terry Fleming, will become Director of Congregational Care and pursue courses leading to his ordination in parish ministry. The duties of Christian Education Director will be handled by volunteers. Harry Sampson has agreed to give 15 to 20 hours a week to do programming, children's ministry, and other aspects of education. The church may pursue an Associate Pastor at a later date. The money saved by not paying an Associate Pastor can be used to hire other positions as the need arises.

Finance — Liz Benton reported that there are no major budget concerns at this time.

Education- Beth Eberhard reported that the Education Committee has written the following mission statement. *The mission of the Education Committee of St. John's United Methodist Church of Aiken, South Carolina is to engage people in spiritual growth through Bible Study.* The committee is in the process of evaluating the Sunday School program. It is considering a change in format for Elementary classes. Under the new format, children would study one theme for six weeks while rotating to a different class each week to approach the topic by way of music, drama, and other genre. The new format will probably begin this fall.

Congregational Care- Brenda Aiken reported that the committee is checking into the possibility of having a breakfast for new members once a month.

Worship —Diane Miniard reported that the committee has been discussing the possibility of adding a third worship service. It would possibly be an informal service during the Sunday School hour. Our church will be hosting the Lenten Luncheons each Wednesday. A Communion Service will be held each Wednesday during Lent from 6:00-6:30.

Evangelism — Jim Holly reported that the committee is reviewing how our church deals with visitors. Three members are looking at United Methodist materials on how to make our church a more welcoming environment. A report will be made at the next meeting. The group is considering a visit to Mt. Forum United Methodist Church in Lexington to observe their method of greeting visitors. Archie and Kathy Hargett have agreed to make contact with visitors.

Missions- The results of the Mission survey have been published in the *Visitor*. The committee has learned how to make a better survey next time, since the one used this time did not produce the statistics needed. Our church continues to build a strong relationship with diverse cultures who worship the same God, through participation in *Heart, Soul, and Mind*.

Stewardship- No report

Trustees- The HVAC installation is in its final stages and should be completed by early April. The cost of the signal control for the Sanctuary, Chapel and Music rooms is under budget. The concerns of evening Hosts regarding door security and staffing are being considered. Also, with the possibility of not having an Associate Pastor next year, the trustees will be considering what to do with the Magnolia Street parsonage. Possibilities include rent, sell, or mothball.

United Methodist Women- The Lenten study will be *Life Lessons from the Bible*. The spring project has been cancelled. All members have been encouraged to pray in small groups for our projects.

United Methodist Men- Jim Bennett, pastor at Charles Wesley Church, spoke on Gardening. It was an evening of good food with an inspiring and entertaining speaker.

Endowment Committee- No report

Announcements: Sign-up for Pictorial Directory Pictures will begin March 5 and last for four Sundays. Picture taking begins the day after Easter and ends May 3.

George Howle's Closing Comments and Additional announcements: Each of our Confirmation Class members is learning through being involved in Church process and through discussion about Christian beliefs and life's journey with his/her mentor. Class members will be received into the Church on May 7.

George recently attended a retreat on Natural Church Development into a Healthy Congregation. It involves eight characteristics of a healthy congregation. A survey will be held in the Church to identify our minimum factor. The church then will work on strengthening that factor.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00.

Closing

George closed the meeting with prayer.



Judy D. Bilyeu
Secretary