

# **St. John's United Methodist Church**

## **Church Council**

### **March 28, 2006**

#### **Attendance**

In attendance were Council Members Liz Benton, Jay Bilyeu, Judy Bilyeu, Brent Boore, Tom Brown, Mae Croft, Beth Eberhard, Dennis Fish, Terry Fleming, Neil Flowers, Walter Guy, Archie Hargett, Jim Holly, George Howle, Billie Johnson, Dave Kelly, Donna Caprell Kraft, Tom McCollum, Nancy McKnight, Diane Miniard, Catherine Stapleton-Nance, Travis Pearson, Allen Radcliffe, Renee Reid, Virgil Sauls, Bob Stokes, and Edward Yeh. Also attending were Heather Yeh, Jerry Johnson, and Mimi Wiland.

#### **Call to order**

Chair, Archie Hargett, called the meeting to order in Ward Hall and offered an opening prayer. Prayer Requests were made for the following persons: Mick and Linda Ferrell, Jimmy Player, Kent Fog, Jane Selman, Lenora Fallaw, Salley Ewing, and Christians in prison.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following corrections: The Trustees report should read "The HVAC controls and energy reduction project installation is in its final stages and should be completed by early April. The Proposal for the Sanctuary, Chapel, and Music room chiller is under budget." Under prayer concerns the name of Tom Ponds should be spelled Pons.

#### **New business**

*Capital Campaign Update* – Heather Yeh reported that over 300 persons had signed up to help with the campaign. Information has been sent to all the Adult Sunday School Classes requesting that the classes use a special curriculum for four weeks. All have responded positively except for two classes that have not yet responded. Information packets including a DVD will be distributed to the congregation for the next two Sundays. All materials for the campaign have been printed in-house. All church members are asked to pray for this project. The project special event will be held with one service on May 21.

#### **Committee reports**

*Staff Parrish Relations-* Dennis Fish reported that since we will not have an Associate Pastor after June, the committee is studying staff structure to improve staff effectiveness. Our present Christian Education Director, Terry Fleming, will serve as Director of Congregational Care. The committee is looking into hiring someone in an administration position to assist George and supervise staff and planning. The salary for this position will come from the funds budgeted for the Associate Pastor's position. Qualifications would include good management skills, good personnel skills, a team spirit, a heart for Christ and Ministry, and good communication skills. The committee is

now working on a job description. The position of Associate Pastor may be filled at a later date.

**Finance** — Liz Benton reported that Church receipts are higher than expenditures.

**Education-** Beth Eberhard reported that the Education Committee has been meeting via e-mail. Sunday School observations are now being compiled and evaluated to determine program strengths and weaknesses. The committee has discussed having a contact person in each Adult Sunday School class who will contact new church members and inactive members. Sunday School curriculum is being catalogued so that a list can be given to each Adult Class to facilitate the choosing of new studies. The committee would like to designate September as Open House Month to encourage Sunday School attendance. This will include the use of Cokesbury Sunday School promotional materials and ideas using the theme “Sunday School: It’s for Life”. In addition the promotion will include several messages in the *Visitor* written by individuals telling what Sunday School has meant to them and articles that will describe various Sunday School Classes.

**Congregational Care-** No report

**Worship** —Diane Miniard reported that the Lenten Luncheons continue along with weekly Lenten Communion Services. She and Patsy Flowers have recently attended a workshop on teaching new hymns.

**Evangelism** — Jim Holly reported that the committee continues to work on the best way to fulfill the needs of visitors. This includes gathering information and materials for possible procedures. The church will now have greeters for Sunday School as well Church. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Hargett have agreed to do follow-up activities with visitors. Visitors to Church are now being invited to meet with Terry Fleming at the front of the sanctuary after the service to have their questions answered. The committee is considering a visit to Mt. Horeb Church in Lexington to observe their approach to visitors. The Church ads for The Yellow Pages and the Electronic Yellow Pages have been renewed.

**Missions-** Dave Kelly reported that The Missions Committee has not met. It will have two speakers at its next meeting. One will be a missionary to Italy and the other will be Beth Eberhard who will present a program on what every Church Member needs to know about poverty. Our church members are active in the Kairos Ministry to prisoners at the McCormick Prison. Out-dated Sunday School materials are being collected to take to the Prison. Four states now participate in the Kairos Ministry which provides a four day week-end program that is known to reduce the rate of return offenders.

**Stewardship-** The Stewardship chair had no report. George Howle announced that the Stewardship Campaign next fall would begin October 15.

**Trustees-** The HVAC controls and energy reduction project has been completed. The initial indications regarding energy savings have been good. The new chiller for the Sanctuary, Chapel and Music Room should be operational by this week-end. The cost has been less than the amount that was budgeted. The committee is looking into options for the Magnolia Street Parsonage. The committee has had much discussion regarding Church security in the evenings. The building will be locked after 7:30 p.m. each evening. Accommodations will be made for Choir and Basketball practice. Trustees are checking into possible additional insurance needs.

**Youth-** Travis Pearson reported that the Youth provided a meal for Christ Central on March 10 and plan to provide another one on May 5. Salkehatchie Camp registration is now due. April 30 will be the Scavenger Hunt. Up-coming activities also include Senior Sunday and Confirmation Sunday.

**United Methodist Women-** Rene Reid asks for prayers as UMW makes a decision about incorporating the twentieth anniversary of ACTs with The Apple Fest. Discussion is being held for the possibility of including all area churches with proceeds from the project to benefit ACTS. Also, she asks for prayer as key Apple Fest volunteers are being sought.

**United Methodist Men-** Jim Ross reported that the Budget for the United Methodist Men has been adjusted to give more to Habitat for Humanity and the Honduras Mission. UMM also wishes to be more supportive of the Scouting program. In April the speaker will be a former trainer for the Detroit Lions. Plans are being made for a strong membership drive.

**Endowment Committee-** No report

**Strategic Planning:** Archie Hargett and Jay Bilyeu reported that committee members are sorting information gathered at the cottage meetings into a working document that places each suggestion under the appropriate committee for possible action.

**Announcements:** The following are up-coming events:

Community Lenten lunches and devotions continue each Wednesday at noon.

The Dramatization of *The Last Supper* will be held on Maundy Thursday.

Pictures will begin being made for the New Pictorial Directory on April 17.

Vacation Bible School will be June 12-16.

The celebration of the Capital Campaign will be held on June 4, Pentecost Sunday

June 4<sup>th</sup> is also the commissioning of members of the Santee Camp.

The S.C. Laity Convocation at Lake Junaluska will be July 14-16.

**George Howle's Closing Comments and Additional announcements:**

George asks for prayers for our confirmation class. The use of mentors with the class is working very well. The Capital Campaign celebration will be held regardless of the amount of money raised.

## Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 25 at 7:00.

## Closing

George closed the meeting with prayer.



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**Judy D. Bilyeu**  
Secretary