

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

## **Church Council**

### **April 25, 2006**

#### **Attendance**

In attendance were Council Members Liz Benton, Jay Bilyeu, Judy Bilyeu, Jim Bodie, Brent Boore, Tom Brown, Dennis Fish, Terry Fleming, Neil Flowers, Archie Hargett, Jim Holly, George Howle, Billie Johnson, Dave Kelly, Donna Caprell Kraft, Nancy McKnight, Brenda Meeks, Jackie Meeks, Ellen Miller, Diane Miniard, Catherine Stapleton-Nance, Leigh Norton, Lisa Taylor Peck, Bob Prather, Renee Reid, Virgil Sauls, Deedee Vaughters, Edward Yeh and Bud Zobel. Also attending were Spence Grotheer, Jerry Johnson, Chester Reeves, Harry Sampson, Bob Kosky, Mary Kosky, Dan Peck.

#### **Call to order**

Chair, Archie Hargett, called the meeting to order in the Chapel. Brent Boore gave the opening prayer. Prayer Requests were made for the following persons: Jimmy Player, Dennis Hydrick, Mimi Wiland, Mary Lou Wallace and the families of Fred Ponder and Wanda Lowry.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following correction: The seminar attended by Diane Minard and Patsy Flowers was on the subject of worship, not just the teaching of new hymns.

#### **New business**

Chairperson, Archie Hargett announced that Church attendance is up and Attendance was good at the Holy Week Services.

**Capital Campaign Update** – Virgil Sauls announced the following Campaign up-coming events: Advanced Commitment Meeting on May 3, and the May 21 Special Event.

#### **Committee reports**

**Staff Parrish Relations-** Dennis Fish reported that the committee is working to refine the job description, and is looking for the right person to handle matters of staff and planning. The committee recommended that Senior Pastor George Howle's housing allowance be changed from \$18,000 to \$30,000 for the year and that the additional \$12,000 be removed from his salary. This transaction has been approved by accountant Trent Arnold. The motion was seconded by Dave Kelly and carried.

**Finance** — Liz Benton reported that Church receipts remain higher than expenditures. She requested that each committee give an estimated cost of postage and Calling Post Messages with their budget requests for next year. The price of postage has gone up and Church groups are using Calling Post Messages more often at a cost of \$.05 a call. In discussion, suggestions were made that groups consider using e-mail and volunteer callers to communicate with committee members.

Liz also reported that in anticipation of the results of the Capital Funds Campaign, a new mortgage loan agreement is needed to adjust the payment

schedule. The Finance committee recommend the motion that Allen B. Radcliffe, Jr. and David R. Buchanan be authorized to sign for the new agreement. Rene Reid seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

**Education-** Terry Fleming reported that the Education Committee will meet next week. They are still gathering information on how the Sunday School Program is running. On the first Sunday in June the committee will sponsor a class on the Culture of Poverty. Later, they hope to hold a weekend workshop inviting other Churches to participate and with the author of the text book present.

**Congregational Care-** Terry Fleming reported the plan to expand the lay visitor program to include visits to persons who are ill. At the present time Malcolm and Jewel Dailey lead a group of about 40 volunteers who visit shut-ins. Congregational Care possibilities include checking on members who have not attended recently. Deedee Vaughters reported that a new member breakfast is held the first Sunday of every month. The program needs additional volunteers.

**Worship** —Diane Miniard reported that the committee will meet in May to discuss the possibility of an additional Service. Members are asked to report their opinions on this to Diane or other committee members. May 7, Men will be singing in the Choir in honor of Mothers' Day.

**Evangelism** — Jim Holly reported that the committee visited Mt. Horeb Church in Lexington to observe how they work with visitors. Some members attended their Contemporary Service, others attended their Traditional Service. The average age of its membership is 35. The church was spirit filled and very prayerful. After the service, committee members met with their Associate Pastor. Members came back with ideas from which to work. One idea is to visit each visitor presenting them a copy of the Church's DVD and some baked goods. The committee may visit another church whose average membership age is closer to that of our Church. Two immediate needs are basic location signs hung from the ceiling so visitors can easily find their way around and a welcome center.

**Missions-** Dave Kelly reported that The Missions Committee is like a duck preparing to take flight from a pond. It is paddling hard to prepare for new projects. Dave has an appointment with George Howle tomorrow to discuss possible projects.

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

**Trustees-** Neil Flowers reported that the windows in the Education and Sanctuary Buildings are being painted. The hope is to gradually replace the windows with vinyl to prevent constant up-keep. The new chiller is running With the new controls in the Ebenezer Center and the new chiller the cost of utilities should be reduced. Bob Prather and his crew volunteer their time twice a week to do routine maintenance around the church. The Aiken Council on Aging has asked to use our facility for its nutrition site for three months while their building is being renovated.

**Youth-** Neil Flowers reported that the Scavenger Hunt will be this Sunday with the nine new Confirmants. May 14 is Senior Sunday.

**United Methodist Women-** Rene Reid reported receiving a good response to the idea of making our Apple Fest a community affair to benefit ACTS. First

Presbyterian Church and First Baptist Church have agreed to participate. Plans are moving ahead. UMW will host the Senior Breakfast.

***United Methodist Men-*** United Methodist Men will meet Thursday evening.

***Endowment Committee-*** No report

***Strategic Planning:*** Jay Bilyeu reported that the comments from the Cottage Meetings have been collected, entered into a database and are being analyzed. Part of the analysis includes identifying duplicates which includes keeping track of number of occurrences. The comments have been sorted into categories that generally match the church committees. The comments have also been identified as Strategic, Immediate, Complete, or in-Progress. We are now preparing narrative summaries of the comments for each category.

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

The New Pictorial Directory sittings continue.

Confirmation Sunday- May 7

Senior Sunday-May 14

Special Events Sunday- May 21.

Celebration Sunday-June 4

Salkehatchie Sand River Camp- June 3-10

Sam Marcengill's Farewell- June 11

Vacation Bible School-June 12-16

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


On Celebration Sunday we will celebrate and announce the total amount raised during our Capital Campaign. It has been suggested that everyone dress in red for Pentecost Sunday and release balloons. Salkehatchie participants will also be commissioned.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 23 at 7:00.

## **Closing**

George closed the meeting with prayer.



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**Judy D. Bilyeu**  
**Secretary**