

***St. John's United Methodist Church
Church Council
January 22, 2008***

Attendance

In attendance were Council Members: Liz Benton, Jim Bodie, Kevin Bumpus, Linda Calhoun, Vicki Carlberg, Barry Clayton, Darby Copeland, Rosalind Crenshaw, Beth Eberhard, Linda Endler, Dennis Fish, Tommy Grier, Tom Hallman, Archie Hargett, Jim Holly, George Howle, Jeanette Isaacson, Judy Jernigan, Ron Jernigan, Lamar Keisler, Vera Keisler, Steve Lathrop, Tom McCollum, Leigh Norton, Michael Norton, Rebecca Osteen, Nancy Perrine, Paul Rideout, Virgil Sauls, Van Smith, Al Snell, Chuck Tatman, Hazel Tatman and Donna Walker. Staff present: Gene Aiken, Michelle Brown, Nancy Fairgrieve, Jan Gilbert, Mary Kosky, Nancy Reed, and Harry Sampson. Also attending: Jack Gilbert, Pam McCollum and Bob Stokes.

Call to order

Chairman, Virgil Sauls, called the meeting to order. After prayer concerns, Jan Gilbert gave the opening prayer.

Minutes

Lamar Keisler moved that minutes of the November, 2007 meeting be approved. Al Snell seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Virgil welcomed both new members and returning Council members. He then discussed the purpose of Council, what the Discipline states and the Council's purpose in implementing the Church's mission statement. Another purpose is to provide for administration of the Church and Virgil emphasized the Council's role as a great way to communicate Church activities. He talked about upcoming key events, especially GIC, implementing evangelism in all work areas and the March 2008 church-wide planning session.

Old Business

Gene Aiken discussed last Sunday evening's Contemporary Worship service practice. He also commented on the status of the new service and equipment needs. Jane Timmerman will lead the Contemporary Worship service band, with the service beginning February 17 at 9:02 am. Gene indicated that volunteers are needed to help with the service.

New Business

There was no new business.

Committee Reports

Stewardship – Paul Rideout reported that 541 pledges totaling \$1,628,788 have been received. He stated there are 545 no-pledges. Based on past history, Paul anticipates that receipts for 2008 will meet the budget of \$1,822,175.60. He indicated that a new time and talent survey is being developed.

Finance – Liz Benton reported that at the half-way point of our debt reductions campaign (6-1-06 thru 5-31-09), the debt has been reduced by \$1,707,207.31. Of this amount, \$173,900 was paid in December 2007 and the current debt balance is \$1,246,608.31. Liz indicated that from the 2007 budget, we have a carryover of \$211,348. She asked staff/committee chairs to review 2008 budget column amounts, for their work area, and report any corrections to Harry Sampson or Nancy Fairgrieve. Liz indicated that pledges are \$193,387 short of the 2008 budget total. From the revenue expense report thru 12/07, she pointed out several specific areas of savings that resulted in the 2007 carryover. There was some discussion about the use of \$400,000+ in accumulated carryover funds. Liz also reported that the District Superintendent requested that St. John's assist Wesley Church with their pension fund. The Finance Committee approved making a contribution from unbudgeted funds.

Strategic Planning – Tom Hallman announced that the morning of March 1 (commence at 8:30 am and finish by lunch) is the date for the church-wide 2008 planning exercise. Members of all committees and Church Council at large members should attend. Childcare will be provided.

Trustees – Kevin Bumpus reported that the ladies restroom in the Narthex has been finished. The Trustee will be pursuing long-term planning to upgrade the sanctuary. During 2008 they will try to get a conceptual design, with eventual implementation being in phases and no capital campaign is anticipated. Kevin commended the work of the Monday maintenance group.

Pastor Parish – Al Snell discussed the recent loss of Terry and Carla Fleming. He indicated the love gift for them was very generous. With the support of George, Nancy Reed, Walter and volunteers, the staff congregational care duties are being taken care of very well. By February 1, notification will be made to the District Superintendent of our interest in an Associate Pastor who will fill the Congregational Care position. Al discussed the process which would culminate in filling the position in late June. He indicated that outside the formal Associate Pastor appointment process, the Pastor and PPRC are looking for candidates for a Nurture Pastor position. A job description has been prepared in order to fill the organist vacancy and Catherine has been actively recruiting candidates for the job. In the meantime, an interim organist has been hired. Al concluded by mentioning that PPRC is studying future requirements, to include a Facilities Manager.

Global Outreach Leadership Team (GOLT) – Michael Norton discussed GIC and highlighted major events, with emphasis on the Life Commitment service. He encouraged all to attend as many events as possible. Michael indicated a February 10 meeting will be held for those showing an interest in life commitment activities/ministry. He announced a Habitat House will be built this spring, two Salkahatchie camps will be held, our youth are going to New Orleans, a March dental-related trip and a June trip to Honduras, Frances Osteen is contemplating a trip to Kenya and GOLT is researching a possible trip to Paraguay/Brazil. Concerning the Faith Promise offering, Michael indicated there will be some increase in funding for Jerusalem and Judea Ministries, but most of the funds will be used in Ends of the Earth Ministry.

Education – Beth Eberhard reported that the Education Committee had met and specific assignments for each committee member agreed upon. A new Sunday School class for young adults has started, along with a young adult fellowship group that meets on Thursday evenings. Julie Whitesell has shown an interest in OARS leadership and is being “shown the ropes” with the hope she will become the new coordinator.

Evangelism – Jim Holly reported the Evangelism Committee has met since year end. Additional TV and radio spots to support the new Contemporary Worship service are planned. The committee is considering ways of interaction with visitors to all services, with emphasis on the new Contemporary service. Jim discussed the important focus of evangelism throughout the church for 2008 and the need for all work areas to be involved in Gospel spreading or sharing.

Family Life – Judy Jernigan reported that Family Life Council has met and divided into age-level coordinators. She announced the Valentine Luncheon for widows and widowers will be Thursday, February 14. The Easter Egg hunt will be Sunday, March 16. FLC has a Valentine gift for married couples, a devotional book, to be made available the Sunday prior to Valentines Day.

Endowment – No report.

Youth – Rebecca Osteen reported that over 40 youth have been attending on Sunday night and 30 have signed up for the February ski trip. She commented on a one-day Salkahatchie in Gloverville during GIC and a Tiger GO mission trip to New Orleans during Spring Break which is open to all (not just youth).

UMW – Vera Keisler reported that UMW now has a slate of officers with Mary Lou Wallace as President. Jeanette Isaacson reported that \$22,500 from AppleFest will be divided between three charities.

UMM – Archie Hargett introduced Steve Lathrop as the new UMM president. He gave a summary of last year’s activities, fund raisers and contributions. He emphasized the Nothing but Nets project that UMM and the youth sponsored collected \$1,325.

Virgil mentioned upcoming events that included the next Church Council meeting on February 26 and tomorrow’s beginning of GIC.

George’s closing comments included his pulpit sharing experience at 2nd Baptist Church and last Sunday evening’s practice Contemporary Worship service. He believes this new service will reach a group that we have not been serving. George emphasized the good news of paying down the debt, having a budget surplus and meeting the budget. He spoke about the upcoming GIC and said it will change our church, as God’s business is pursued by increased mission work. George stated that God will honor what we do in sharing his love and never let the church down if we are about His work. He commented that our vision is too small and needs to be focused beyond the church building and the City of Aiken. George thanked everyone for all they do and then closed the meeting with prayer.

**Thomas N. McCollum,
Recording Secretary**