

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

## ***Church Council***

### ***March 25, 2008***

#### **Attendance**

In attendance were Council Members: Liz Benton, Jim Bodie, Kevin Bumpus, Vicki Carlberg, Dennis Fish, Archie Hargett, Doris Hoffman, Jim Holly, George Howle, Lamar Keisler, Vera Keisler, Frankie Lambright, Tom McCollum, Diane Miniard, Leigh Norton, Michael Norton, Virgil Sauls, Van Smith, Al Snell, Chuck Tatman, Donna Walker and Mary Lou Wallace. Staff present: Gene Aiken, Walter Cantwell, Nancy Fairgrieve, Jan Gilbert, Mary Kosky, Catherine Stapleton Nance, Nancy Reed and Harry Sampson. Also attending: Jack Gilbert, Bob Kosky and Pam McCollum.

#### **Call to order**

Chairman, Virgil Sauls, called the meeting to order. After prayer concerns and praise for last weekend's Kairos Walk, Harry Sampson gave the opening prayer.

#### **Minutes**

It was suggested that minutes from the 2/26/08 meeting be amended to reflect that representation by the Education committee (not Evangelism committee) on the ad hoc committee that will formulate a policy on acceptable fund raising. Also, Frankie Lambright and Walter Cantwell should be added to the listing of those in attendance. As moved and seconded by Liz Benton and Kevin Bumpus respectively, the minutes, as amended, were unanimously approved.

#### **Old Business**

Gene Aiken reported that the 9:02 service started two weeks ago and the response has been great. He indicated that the more laid-back style of this service appeals to many people and Gene is very excited about its future.

#### **New Business**

There was no new business

#### **Committee Reports**

***Finance*** – Liz Benton reported that expenses through February totaled \$119,781.45. Also in February \$16,000 was deposited toward debt reduction, leaving a loan balance of \$1,117,608.31.

***Strategic Planning*** – Virgil reported for Tom Hallman and thanked Council members who attended the annual Church strategic planning session on March 1. Virgil reminded them that a more complete copy of their plans, both on Evangelism and for typical committee work should be given to Tom no later than April 15.

***Trustees*** – Kevin Bumpus discussed ongoing progress to acquire a conceptual design plan for future potential upgrades in the sanctuary. Kevin indicated that at a cost of \$10,000 a firm had been engaged to provide a design plan which the Trustees should have in a couple of months.

**Pastor Parish** – Al Snell reported that Mark Dickens has been hired as the new Church Organist effective June 1. He also indicated that within a few weeks PPRC and the Senior Pastor should get the names of individuals that will fill the positions of Nurturing Associate Pastor and Mission and Evangelism Associate Pastor. Both of these Associate Pastors are to begin work in June.

**Global Outreach Leadership Team (GOLT)** – Michael Norton indicated that prayer teams have been formed for various missionaries and mission programs. Michael indicated that GOLT has decided on an allotment of funds between the Jerusalem, Judea and Ends of the Earth mission activities. He indicated that currently about \$32,000 of faith promise contributions have been received. Michael went over a detailed list of upcoming activities in each of the three mission areas. A few highlights include: Jerusalem – a new Habitat House will start on April 18, which we are funding at \$10,000; Judea – Spring Break Tiger GO mission to New Orleans and three future Salkehatchie camps; Ends of the Earth – the Reyes family will be supported at \$1,000 a month through 2010 and Archie Hargett is working toward the organization of a trip to Paraguay in August. Randy Shelly will make a medical mission trip to Honduras shortly and several summer trips are being planned. Also, Michael indicated that Frances Osteen will be going on an exploratory trip to Kenya April 14.

**Stewardship** –No report.

**Education** – Virgil read a detailed report prepared by Beth Eberhard. An ad hoc committee to plan and organize the events of August 17 has been formed and there will be several activities during the day. The committee is putting together a powerpoint slide show to use during a Ministry Minute and brochures and other print material to more effectively communicate the OARS program.

**Congregational Care** – No report.

**Evangelism** – Jim Holley thanked those who attended the March 1 strategic planning session. He indicated that the enthusiasm and many good ideas were great. Jim indicated an emphasis in two areas; these include organization to better interact with first time worshipers and more effective communication. Additionally, new TV spots are being developed and Jim mentioned the potential desirability of forming a communications committee.

**Family Life** – No report.

**Endowment** – No report.

**Youth** – Gene Aiken discussed the April 5-10 Tiger GO New Orleans trip. He indicated that Bobby Coker will head up the June 7-14 Sand River Salkehatchie.

**UMW** – Mary Lou Wallace announced that the first general meeting will be April 20 at 4:00 p.m.

**UMM** – Bob Kosky reported for Steve Lathrop that UMM will have their annual fish fry this Thursday evening with Richard Church as the guest speaker.

Virgil announced that the next Church Council meeting will be April 22.

*Pastor's Closing Comments* – George Howle talked about the great attendance at the Palm Sunday Easter Egg hunt and at the Easter Sunday worship services. He indicated that a record attendance of approximately 1,350 attended the three Easter worship services. He then closed the meeting with prayer.

/s/ Thomas N. McCollum

**Thomas N. McCollum,  
Recording Secretary**