

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

Attendance

In attendance were Council Members: Liz Benton, Kevin Bumpus, Linda Calhoun, Vicki Carlberg, Beth Eberhard, Dennis Fish, Archie Hargett, Doris Hoffman, Jim Holly, George Howle, Jeanette Isaacson, Ron Jernigan, Lamar Keisler, Vera Keisler, Tom McCollum, Diane Miniard, Michael Norton, Paul Rideout, Virgil Sauls, Van Smith, Al Snell, Chuck Tatman, Hazel Tatman and Donna Walker. Staff present: Gene Aiken, Michelle Brown, Walter Cantwell, Nancy Fairgrieve, Mary Kosky, Catherine Stapleton Nance, Nancy Reed and Harry Sampson. Also attending: Paula Clayton, Bob Kosky and Pam McCollum.

Call to order

Chairman, Virgil Sauls, called the meeting to order. After prayer concerns, Jim Holly gave the opening prayer.

Minutes

Al Snell made the motion that the minutes from the March meeting be approved. Jim Holly seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

The ad hoc committee to establish guidelines for fund raising is in the final organization stage and will be meeting soon.

New Business

There was no new business

Committee Reports

Finance – Liz Benton reported that we will continue with the budget as approved last fall. She encouraged committees to be judicious in dealing with their expenses. An additional \$31,000 has been deposited toward debt reduction.

Strategic Planning – Virgil reported for Tom Hallman and asked that all committees have their plans in by April 30. Any committee desiring assistance should contact the Strategic Planning Committee.

Trustees – Kevin Bumpus discussed the problems with the mini-bus and indicated that repairs will cost about \$2,500. A facilities director will not be hired at this time as Allen Radcliffe is performing some of the responsibilities on a volunteer basis.

Pastor Parish – Al Snell reported that a Nurture Pastor will be on board in June. PPRC is still looking for a Mission and Evangelism Pastor, which may or not be clergy.

Global Outreach Leadership Team (GOLT) – Michael Norton reported that the Chastains (missionaries to Russia) will be here this Sunday. Frances Osteen is on her way back from Kenya. Michael gave an update on activities and funding in each of the three mission areas. He also announced specific funding partnership arrangements that have been agreed upon for four individual missionaries and provided some details of seven Ends of the Earth mission projects that we will provide funding and/or participation.

Stewardship – Paul Rideout indicated the Stewardship Committee is in the beginning stages of the fall campaign. The committee’s present emphasis is on implementation of a time and talent. Paul stressed that stewardship is more than finances.

Education – Beth Eberhard reported on plans for a “back to school” Sunday on August 17. The event will be called “Operation Backpack” and will involve a community-wide teacher appreciation breakfast, blessing of the backpacks at all services, school supply collection drive, OARS promotion and open house and a back-to-school party. Michelle Brown is putting together an OARS promotional DVD showing the various facets of our children’s ministries.

Congregational Care – Jeanette Isaacson reported there will be a new member coffee this Sunday. Plans are being made to receive new members one Sunday a month. Congregational Care committee members will accompany new members at each service. The first church tour will be tomorrow at 6:00.

Evangelism – Jim Holley reported the committee is looking at pursuing visual aids to encourage members to sign up and serve. The committee is also looking for speakers to witness or give short testimonials to Sunday School classes and other groups about evangelism. Jim reiterated the need for first-time visitors to come by the visitor’s table and also discussed the possibility of having designated visitor parking.

Family Life – Ron Jernigan reported that the Family Life Council has three projects underway. A PrimeTimers trip on May 22 to the Billy Graham Library, reactivating of monthly family activities with polo match on April 27 and Vacation Bible School in June.

Endowment – No report.

Youth – Gene Aiken reported on the Tigers Go trip to New Orleans. Gene indicated it was an amazing trip as 30 youth and adults made the trip and worked on three houses. Gene announced that Sand River Salkehatchie will be held at St. John’s June 7-14. Graduation Sunday will be June 1.

UMW – No report.

UMM – Bob Kosky reported for Steve Lathrop that UMM will meet this Thursday with Rev. Bruce Fox, one of the Christ Central founders, as guest speaker. Bob indicated the need for a place to store equipment and materials used for Salkehatchie.

Harry Sampson reported on staff training at Orangeburg for safe sanctuary policy and discussed the development of this policy.

Virgil announced that the next Church Council meeting will be May 27.

Pastor's Closing Comments – George Howle discussed the level of activity in the Church and thanked everyone for all that is being done. George indicated he believed we will see the same growth in evangelism next year as we now have in missions. He announced there would be one service the Sunday before July 4, with military families in the community being our guests. George reported on the meeting with the young men of the Church and indicated the possibility of forming a young men's group. He indicated that we have 118 young men under age 45. We have lost 17 members since January and there have been a lot of members in the hospital. George thanked Nancy Reed and Walter Cantwell for all their visits and also for the lay visitors to the hospital. George paid tribute to Walter Cantwell, who will be leaving May 12 and will preach at the May 4 services. Walter then closed the meeting with prayer.

/s/ Thomas N. McCollum

**Thomas N. McCollum,
Recording Secretary**