

***St. John's United Methodist Church
Church Council
May 27, 2008***

Attendance

In attendance were Council Members: Liz Benton, Jim Bodie, Kevin Bumpus, Barry Clayton, Rosalind Crenshaw, Beth Eberhard, Dennis Fish, Tommy Grier, Jim Holly, George Howle, Jeanette Isaacson, Lamar Keisler, Vera Keisler, Steve Lathrop, Gail Marine, Tom McCollum, Leigh Norton, Michael Norton, Nancy Perrine, Virgil Sauls, Van Smith, Al Snell, and Donna Walker. Staff present: Gene Aiken, Nancy Fairgrieve, Jan Gilbert, Mary Kosky, Catherine Stapleton Nance, Nancy Reed and Harry Sampson. Also attending: Paula Clayton, Mark Dickens, Jack Gilbert, Bob Kosky and Pam McCollum.

Call to order

Chairman, Virgil Sauls, called the meeting to order. After praises and prayer concerns, Al Snell gave the opening prayer.

Minutes

The second sentence under Stewardship report should read: The committee's present emphasis is on implementation of a time and talent campaign. Under Trustees report, repairs to the mini-bus should be \$3,500. Liz Benton moved that the minutes of the previous meeting with corrections be approved. Al Snell seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Harry Sampson announced that the safe sanctuary policy meeting will be next Thursday. Work will begin on developing a safe sanctuary policy for St. John's. The first draft of the fund raising policy has been sent to committee chairmen for comments that are due in June.

New Business

There was no new business

Committee Reports

Finance – Liz Benton reported that April was not one of our better months, with expenses exceeding revenues by \$10,640.06. The current long term debt balance is \$1,072,708.31, with \$13,000 having recently been applied against the debt. Liz reported a partial audit has been conducted and overall it was a good report. It was recommended that some of the financial duties should be separated, but this is difficult to do.

Strategic Planning – No report

Trustees – Kevin Bumpus indicated the Trustees are looking into replacing the broiler for the sanctuary. An initial estimate is in the neighborhood of \$30,000, with additional estimates to be solicited. The mini-bus has been repaired but at some time in the future probably needs to be replaced. The Trustees are looking at modifying our facilities request policy for weddings. They are considering an increase in rates for non-St. John's members.

Pastor Parish – Al Snell reported that subject to annual conference approval, Keith Stewart will be our new associate pastor. Keith and family will move to Aiken June 18 and he will fill the position of Nurture Pastor. Marshal Mahoney will be a summer intern working with the Youth. Mark Dickens was introduced as our new organist. George indicated this is Keith's first appointment. He then discussed Keith's duties as our Nurture Pastor.

Global Outreach Leadership Team (GOLT) – Michael Norton 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 individual missionaries and provided some details of several Ends of the Earth mission trips that are being planned. Five St. John's members leave June 12 for a short-term mission trip to Honduras. The GOLT newsletter will be ready next week. Michael reported that about \$57,000 has been received in Faith Promise offerings.

Stewardship – Harry reported for Paul Rideout that the Stewardship Committee hopes to get everyone involved in the fall stewardship campaign.

Education – Beth Eberhard reported that the recent ministry minute resulted in a fair number of commitments to help with OARS. A contract has been signed with WBBQ for 75 radio commercials to advertise the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast on August 17. Five youth have been selected to receive the Inez Crain Scholarship. Due to low attendance, the young adult Sunday School class is faltering, but will finish out their current study and then reassess.

Congregational Care – Jeanette Isaacson reported on Church tours conducted and on the recent new member coffee. Jeanette emphasized the one on one contact with the new members and the opportunity this provides to find out areas of the Church they are interested in serving. Jeanette thanked the staff for attending the coffee and also thanked Nancy Reed for her help with Congregational Care.

Evangelism – Jim Holley reported the committee is working on a number of things. Harry has produced a new commercial on the 9:02 service that started running on cable last week. Jim also reported on the new visitor booth that Harry built. Jim indicated that evangelism might be best as a resource for other committees. He discussed adding an evangelism component (carry the message implicitly or explicitly) to everything we do.

Family Life – A report handed in by Judy Jernigan stated that Teresa Crain has done a wonderful job of planning monthly family activities. Vacation Bible School is being expertly handled by Cheryl Stephens, Kathy Samaha and Michelle Brown. Family Life Committee has purchased and will give out to fathers of young children a book entitled *The Dad in the Mirror* – a gift from the church family for Father's Day. Plans are already underway for Operation Christmas Child and for a Christmas party for children.

Endowment – Harry reported that Walter Cantwell will receive \$3,500/year for the next three years from the Joe Lee Hill Endowment Fund.

Youth – Gene Aiken reported on the "kidnapping" of the 6th graders and the trip to Carowinds. This Saturday the youth will do yard work at one of the Salkehatchie houses. Sand River Salkehatchie camp is June 7-14 and

approximately 70 youth and leaders will be working on 6 houses. The Pee Dee Salkehatchie will be June 28-July 5. Overall, about 40 St. John's youth will participate in one of the Salkehatchie camps.

UMW – Nancy Perrine reported there is still a need for 2 people to co-chair Applefest. She stressed that Applefest is not solely a UMW function, but a St. John's Church activity. Nancy asked that we pray for the needed leaders so Applefest could happen once again.

UMM – Steve Lathrop reported on UMM activities and indicated that Vicki Bukovitz, Director of ACTS, would be the guest speaker at next month's meeting. UMM will provide pizza for Sand River Salkehatchie on Sunday evening, June 8.

Virgil announced that the next Church Council meeting will be June 24.

King's Brass will perform next Tuesday evening at 7:30 as part of Under the Steeple series.

Pastor's Closing Comments – George Howle asked that we be in prayer for our delegates to the Annual Conference next week. There will be one service at 10:30 on June 29, which will be our July 4 celebration. Military families in the community will be invited and a picnic in the gym will follow the service. Another opportunity to invite the community will be August 17 for the blessing of the backpacks. George reported that the Stewardship Campaign for 2009 would be done differently, by emphasizing the positives of the Church and everything we are doing. There will be a celebration of the ministries of the Church, a meal, a motivational video and handing out of pledge cards. George asked for input on the 8:30 service – possibly changing it to 8:40. If this were done, the order of worship would be changed, with the sermon being first. George then closed the meeting with prayer.

/s/ Thomas N. McCollum

**Thomas N. McCollum,
Recording Secretary**