

St. John's United Methodist Church

Church Council

August 26, 2008

Attendance

In attendance were Council Members: Liz Benton, Kevin Bumpus, Dennis Fish, Tommy Grier, Tom Hallman, Doris Hoffman, George Howle, Jeanette Isaacson, Vera Keisler, Lamar Keisler, Frankie Lambright, Gail Marine, Tom McCollum, Leigh Norton, Michael Norton, Nancy Perrine, Paul Rideout, Virgil Sauls, Al Snell, and Donna Walker. Staff present: Gene Aiken, Michelle Brown, Nancy Fairgrieve, and Harry Sampson. Also attending: Jack Gilbert, Jan Gilbert and Pam McCollum.

Call to order

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

Minutes

Dennis Fish moved that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved. Al Snell seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Harry Sampson reported that the safe sanctuary policy committee had met and will meet again in September. He indicated they have talked with and are getting assistance from the carrier of the Church's insurance policy.

Virgil discussed the development, key points and summary of a draft policy for fund raising activities. A copy of the draft was handed out and with one change and after discussion, it was unanimously approved.

New Business

There was no new business.

Committee Reports

Trustees – Kevin Bumpus reported on the new sanctuary boiler. Three bids were received and the Trustees approved a bid of \$31,000+/- for the new boiler, which is to be installed within 50 days. Kevin commented that some work continues by the firm from Augusta engaged by the Trustees to develop conceptual design plans for potential future upgrades to the sanctuary.

Finance – Liz Benton announced that \$31,000 to replace the boiler had been approved by the Finance Committee with funding coming from the contingency account. She indicated that June revenues exceeded expenses by \$14,000+/-, July expenses exceeded revenues by \$40,744 and YTD revenues exceed expenses. The Church's long term debt is now below \$996,886. Liz reported that all 2009 budget requests have been received and are being reviewed by the Finance Committee.

Strategic Planning – Tom Hallman reported that the SPC has received reports from 6 of the 13 active committees that can be used in developing a current strategic plan for the church. He indicated that it would be most

desirable to have input from all committees and asked those who have not responded to e-mail their reports to him. The SPC would like to finalize and present the new strategic plan to the Church in early fall. Tom indicated that we need to be thinking about dates for our annual planning session.

Pastor Parish – Al Snell reported that PPRC is working on their budget and still pursuing candidates for the Mission and Evangelism Associate Pastor position. However, meeting our evangelism and missions staffing needs with a full-time non-clergy individual is a consideration.

Global Outreach Leadership Team (GOLT) – Michael Norton reported that the new Habitat House that the Church helped sponsor was dedicated on 8/24. He indicated that Grace Kitchen has been going on for four weeks, with people served growing from 14 to 33. In the Judea area he mentioned the Epworth Director's presentation at last month's UMM meeting, a future trip to Marlboro County to visit Shirley Townsend Jones and the 9/18-21 Kairos MCCI event being led by Dave Kelly. Concerning Ends of the Earth mission programs, Michael told of visits by Michael Agwanda and Dick Weber. He also indicated funding levels being provided for several missionary programs, to include Whitney Simon's mission in Mexico. Michael stated that short term missionary trips to Russia and Paraguay were being postponed but will hopefully occur next year. He discussed Dan and Judy Armstrong's visit on September 28, GIC planning for 2009 and the team's last meeting with the Mission Society.

Stewardship – Paul Rideout stated that the dates for the Stewardship Dinners will be October 14, 15 and 16. He indicated that the main objective would be to make people more aware of Church activities and accomplishments. Pledge cards will be handed out at the dinners.

Education – Virgil read a report prepared by chairman, Beth Eberhard. The August 17 Operation Backpack was a big success. Breakfast was served to 24 Aiken Co. teachers and a larger group is expected next year from word-of-mouth advertising. The Blessing of the Backpacks was well received, with many children bringing their bookbags to be blessed. A large crowd of children and parents participated in the Back-to-School Blast in the afternoon with games, a live band, refreshments, etc. The school supply drive was also successful and the donated supplies were taken to Christ Central and the Bennettsville-Cheraw Ministries.

Congregational Care – Jeanette Isaacson reported on the recent new member coffee. Jeanette stressed the importance of having present members meet and greet the new members at these coffees. November 16 will be the last new member coffee.

Evangelism – Harry Sampson reported for Jim Holley and indicated the new visitor parking signs have been made. There will be a new radio ad for the 9:02 service beginning in September.

Family Life – No report.

Endowment – No report.

Youth – Gene Aiken discussed several upcoming youth events; the parents meeting in the fall and the Asbury Hills retreat.

UMW – Nancy Perrine announced the Applefest charities would be Grace Kitchen, Jack Meeks Memorial Ramp Ministry and Golden Harvest Food Bank. Applefest is November 1, 8:00-2:00 and Turkey Dinner is November 20.

UMM – It was announced that UMM will meet this Thursday at 6:30 with the girls' basketball coach from USCA as guest speaker.

Virgil announced that the next Church Council meeting will be September 23 and Charge Conference is November 16. He also asked committee chairmen to furnish a list of highlights for the year.

Pastor's Closing Comments – George Howle indicated that the Church is doing well – the debt is down from 3.8 million to less than a million, we are growing in numbers, we have met all financial challenges, and there are about 150 prospects interested in St. John's. We have had community outreach with our Under the Steeple series and Operation Backpack. Those served at Grace Kitchen has almost tripled. Also, the number of people to whom we minister is much larger than our membership. Our collections for missions have doubled from last year. George discussed the stewardship campaign and indicated there would be a 20 minute video, showing all that St. John's is doing, at the stewardship dinners. He indicated that no one in the conference comes close to what St. John's is doing in mission work. We are a church that looks to the needs of the world. George gave thanks for all that we are doing and thanked the staff for all they do. He recognized and thanked Jan Gilbert for her service as Director of Missions. George then closed the meeting with prayer.

/s/ Thomas N. McCollum

**Thomas N. McCollum,
Recording Secretary**