



Council on Ministries November 15, 2007

Members Present: Joe Ownbey, Jamie Gilmore, Mark Bailey, Ray Garner, Brian du Toit, Kerry Purselle, Bob Hayward, Mieke Benepe, Clinton Flowers, Kim Dodson, Mike Jordan, Carol Dodson, Phyllis Blunt, Hal Martin

Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Chair, Joe Ownbey opened with a prayer.

The minutes of the August 16 meeting were approved.

Ray Garner, Chair, Adult Ministry Group

Ray submitted the following written annual report for 2007 and reported from it:

We have tried to spread warm, loving care to over 170 shut-ins, grieving, sick, injured or just plain lonely during 2007.

Visitations at their homes, hospitals, rest homes or therapy centers let them know that we care and want to help.

We furnish transportation to doctors, stores, hairdressers, grocery stores, and many other places-here and in Asheville.

Home parties are hosted to help new and old members and shut-ins feel a part of our congregation several times each year. This year 140 participated.

Gasoline prices have doubled over recent years and the number of visitations has tripled. We need considerable help to continue our work at the increased level.

Our trips to concerts, musicals, comedies, etc. are almost self supporting. Participants pay for their tickets, meals and transportation. A revolving budget has been established. These trips foster a sense of togetherness over 6-10 hour adventures.

Our church family depends on the stewardship of these 55-85 year old members of the congregation. They represent the largest segment in numbers, attendance, gifts of time, talents and money, by far.

Please assist us in keeping all of them involved as much as humanly possible.

We request a grant of \$1,000 to keep our local ministry at full strength and growing!

Brian Du Toit, Chair, Missions/Outreach Ministry Group

Brian submitted the following written report and reported from it:

1. Some of the planned activities for Fall did not materialize. Our planned Gulf Coast Work Group was not able to complete their arrangements and this mission is now planned for Spring 2008.
2. Blood drives are improving but are not where we would like to see them. In August we delivered only 30 viable units. In October we reached 37 units, and hope for a good showing on December 13.
3. FUMC Brevard was awarded top recognition by the American Red Cross for total amount of blood collected during 2006-2007.
4. Some financial juggling was required to meet our covenant agreement of \$2,500 for Fran Lynch in Alaska. This was done by "milking" the Heifer Project (with their permission). The new budget will increase the line item.
5. Crop Walk was enjoyable but shared by only 6 FUMC members. Where were the youth?
6. The Mexican multi-generational mission did not act this fall. The leaders felt that "people are tired of fund raising." The next trip might be in Spring.
7. Operation Christmas Child was again a great success – More than 300 boxes have already been transported to the center for shipment to Charlotte.
8. We contacted Fran Lynch concerning a possible work team visiting Alaska. She explained that there were 13 groups ahead of us on the list. It might thus be a year or two before FUMC Brevard can be invited.

Mark & Kathy Bailey, Coordinators, Youth

All is going well with the youth programs.

Carol Dodson, Chair, Children's Ministry Group

Carol submitted the following written annual report for 2007 and reported from it:

The Children's Ministry Committee was involved this year in the sprucing up of children's classrooms and the cleaning out of supply closets. It helped prepare for the Easter Sunday School event, "A Walk Through Holy Week," written by Kim Dodson. This was a rich experience for the both the children and the adults who participated in this drama.

Vacation Bible School was a huge undertaking this year, as it was again held as an intergenerational week-long evening event. The theme was "For God So Love the World: Caring for God's Creation". The children's curriculum was written by Kim Dodson, compiled from a number of resources. Each evening's meal was followed by popular intergenerational activities, age-level activities, and ended with a short closing worship. The adult portion of VBS involved various speakers from the community. Evaluations of the event showed a high level of satisfaction with the program. We hope that this kind of intergeneration VBS will continue, and that the number of participants will continue to increase.

Another large undertaking this year has been the reviewing and revision of the church's Safe Sanctuaries policy. Kim Dodson, Carol Dodson and Jessica Coye, who has agreed to be the church's first Safe Sanctuaries Administrator, have been in meetings to revise the policy. It is hoped that these revisions will help streamline the policy and its procedures. The next step will be to have the church staff review the policy and to have it approved by the Administrative Board.

A church family advent workshop is being planned for the morning of Saturday, December 1. The event will include three craft activities which will help bring meaning to the Advent and Christmas seasons.

Phyllis Blunt, Chair, Church Life Ministry Group

Phyllis submitted the following written report and reported from it:

The Church Life Ministry Group met on October 30, 2007 to discuss upcoming events.

An update on the Kitchen refurbishing plans was given: it appears we have received almost the \$15,000 estimated for the project. Completion of the kitchen remodeling may have some effect on plans for December.

The number of people participating in the Wednesday Night Souper Suppers has nearly tripled; 90 persons were served at the last meal. Ruth Butler has asked for additional teams to help with meal preparation and clean up.

Mike and Diann Harle have been solely responsible for preparing and cleaning up the Sunday morning coffee social time. Volunteers to help on a regular basis are needed to assist them.

Gospel Gourmets continues through April, with a group wide picnic/potluck in May. A new coordinator for 2008-2009 is being recruited.

We will assist with the Church wide covered dish dinner to be held on Consecration Sunday, November 18. We have budgeted \$100 to purchase fried chicken from Ingles; Beth McLeod will order and pick it up. Church Life will set up and ask the Stewardship to provide decorations and help clean up.

The Thanksgiving Breakfast will again be prepared by the Pratt family and their crew, followed by a worship service.

Beth McLeod will coordinate Christmas caroling to our shut-ins, followed by a chili supper in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 19. We will gather at 5 p.m., carol in groups, and return to church for supper at 6:30 p.m.

Carol Regier will chair the dinner in celebration of FUMC's 50th anniversary on Sunday, January 6. There will be 2 worship services in the Sanctuary at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. We plan to have a catered dinner and ask the congregation to make reservations. There will be a basket for donations to help defray the cost of the meal.

We will ask the Finance Committee to consider increasing our 2008 budget from \$1550 to \$1600. Wednesday Night Suppers will continue to be a restricted line item.

The new Church Life Ministry Group will meet mid-January, at which time we will make plans for the year, beginning with the Memory Lane Lunch Bunch on February 10.

Further discussion: The work on the kitchen will begin on December 3. That presents some slight problems with scheduled events but we will work around it. We express our appreciation to the COM for the funds that have helped us with the kitchen project.

Hal Martin for Mike & Jenel Stoltz Co-Chairs, Stewardship Committee

Hal read the following written annual report for 2007 submitted by the Stoltzs:

The Stewardship Committee began a series of planning meetings in August of this year with Rev. Mike Jordan and Rev. Kerry Purselle. During our planning sessions we explored various objectives for the upcoming Stewardship Campaign and decided on the theme for the campaign which is KAINOS. The basic meaning and concept of KAINOS will be explained on Consecration Sunday which will be on November 18th. The feeling of the committee as well as the ministerial staff was to personalize the mailing as much as possible in order to convey the feeling that no matter how large or small the contribution (time, talents, or resources) we are a much better church because of each person and what is given.

Bob Hayward, Representative, Stephen Ministry

Bob submitted the following written report and reported from it:

Currently we have 17 active Stephen Ministers of which 5 are Stephen Leaders. We also have 6 Stephen Ministers on sabbaticals. Currently a training class for new Stephen Ministers is underway with 7 participants. These individuals should be commissioned in March.

Continuing Education: Unfortunately, we have had two cancellations by speakers lately both due to illness of the speakers. In September our substitute session was provided by a missions presentation at Brevard College. There we learned about a missions program in Cambodia. In October our very able Associate Pastor stepped in with an excellent presentation on grief.

New Class: The training class for new Stephen Ministers is going well with 7 participants. Class meets on Thursday evenings in the Asbury Room. A retreat at Lake Junaluska took place last Friday evening overnight through Saturday morning.

Further discussion: Kerry mentioned that on December 9 the Stephen Ministers at all services will be handing out blue Christmas tree ornaments as a ministry to the congregation. Each member attending will receive an ornament with a written message attached.

Clinton Flowers, Director of Music

Senior adult choir sings at 8:30 this coming Sunday.

The decorating committee will be putting up the advent wreath and other decorations prior to December 2.

In December there is lots of music every Sunday. Chancel Choir on the 16th. The 9th is children. On the 2nd are senior adults and handbells.

Kerry Purselle, Associate Pastor

A few loose ends for Stewardship. They are out of town. We need some help with clean-up on Sunday.

Everybody got the commitment cards in the mail. There need to put two cards in front of every Bible in the pew racks.

Natural Church Development. Our minimum factor needs to be worked on. It was needs oriented evangelism. Whatever group you are with, see if you can find a way to meet the needs of needy groups. There are four work groups set up. One is implementing a spiritual gifts survey trying to match people's gifts to needs around the church. We need to find those people. Another group is addressing community needs. A third of families with children in the community are single parent families. There is also a hospitality group. Another group is looking into how to help people share their faith. Two overlapping groups are looking into Wednesday evening planning for activities to address needs oriented evangelism. They are perhaps considering support group for parents.

Ray: Do we have any transportation groups now?

Kerry: We have individuals doing some.

Ray: We need to know who's doing what. We need to coordinate on that. It is getting very expensive both in time and expense.

Kim Dodson, Director of Christian Education

Met with Sunday School teachers last night. Reminds me of how great they are. Good teams for this year. We are thankful for the volunteers who support this ministry.

Advent workshop on December 1. We will have refreshments that morning. Focus on the season of Advent to add meaning to the advent wreath and how to celebrate advent in our homes. We'll be making Christmons for Christmon trees. The third thing we'll do is make angel ornaments for the Christmas carolers to take with them. Those who are Friends in Faith with children might want to come and make an ornament with their child.

Church basketball is starting. It doesn't look like we'll have a senior high girls team as in past years but we will have a K-2 team, 3-4 boys and 5-6 girls for sure.

Jamie Gilmore, Youth Minister

Jamie submitted the following written report and reported from it:

The youth continue to meet each Sunday evening for fellowship, service, and study events. They are also volunteering the second Thursday of each month at Bread of Life. We have a great group of 6th graders that ride the bus to the church each Wednesday for a small group. We are also offering a small group for senior high girls on Wednesday evenings.

This weekend Jamie Gilmore and Cathy Dorner will be attending the National Youth Workers Conference as a youth ministry training event thanks to funding from a special grant made to the church.

Further discussion: Our group Wednesday evening for senior high girls meets with girls from the Presbyterian Church. They have been volunteering at the Bread of Life on 4th Wednesday nights.

The mission trip this summer looks like we will be going back to John's Island, SC. We may have some big trip, perhaps international, in summer 2009.

Mieke Benepe, Chair, Weekday Children's Program

Mieke submitted the following annual report for 2007 and reported from it:

The Weekday Children's Program has had a very successful fundraising fall with flower bulbs, school photos and, now, Christmas wreaths. The children have been busy with field trips to Pisgah Forest, the Transylvania County library, and visits from the dental nurse at the T.C. Health Department.

Several members of our staff just returned from the Western North Carolina Weekday Children's Conference where we listened to two wonderful keynote speakers and learned much in the workshops attended which applies directly to the children we serve. Each year this is a truly inspiring experience for us!

We are preparing for our annual Christmas Program which will take place Wednesday, December 19, 11:15 am, in the sanctuary. We have a new music teacher, Margaret Kinnerly, starting after Thanksgiving, after a year without formal music instruction.

Our annual Hat and Mitten Tree will be put up in the back hallway after Thanksgiving and the proceeds will be delivered to Sharing House and the Children's Place before Christmas.

Further discussion: Joe: Do you have an Ingles campaign this year?

Mieke: We do have an Ingles campaign this year and if anybody has not registered their Ingles card with us, I encourage them to do so.

Mike Jordan, Senior Pastor

It is very exciting to be here. For example, this morning at the invitation of Max Sipe of the Salvation Army I went to a meeting at Sharing House. Names from our church kept coming up: Paige Blackman, Becky Alderman.

We appreciate all the work Phyllis is doing in getting ready for the golden anniversary on January 6.

We are blessed to be in this country and to have food.

We will have three Christmas Eve services. I'm looking forward to the Love Feast. Then we will have a service at 11 or 11:30 for people who want to be out by midnight.

We do have charge conference Thursday, November 29 at St. Timothy UMC.

Mike - Let's brainstorm for a few minutes...what would you like to see happen in 2008?

Ray - We need to continue what we are now doing.

Hal - It is encouraging to see new and younger families in the church. We need to see what it is we can do to pull young families in.

Mike - If you do good job keeping care of people, Stephen Ministry, etc., and care for people outside the church, then everything else will pretty much fall into place.

Kerry - The new 20-30's class by Mary and Steve Arnaudin has been a big help. They do a lot of work.

Carol - Have church leaders come together and develop a mission for the church. It would help church members to have an identity with the church.

Mike - One of the things I've had at other places is to have work areas meet at the same time. Then the COM comes together and shares. Maybe Sunday afternoon.

Mark - I have a vision of making the church more accessible. We need an accessible vehicle.

Mike - The long-range facility planning group met today.

Mieke – We also have accessibility issues with the small children, going down stairs, etc.

Phyllis – We have our medical closet. I think it would be neat to have a “Gram’s attic” to loan out cribs, high chairs, strollers, car seats, etc.

Mark – We need storage areas. The Boy Scouts have used some of our storage. Some churches give away baby stuff.

Joe: Meeting dates for 2008 will have to be set by the new chairperson, Mary Arnaudin.

Joe: Ray, you asked for some money. We have \$2,300 left in the COM Jenkins fund. Who needs moneys?

Ray: We have a little bit of money left over. We buy tickets for 2008 before Christmas to get them at half price. The trips have to pay for themselves.

Kerry: I would like to see us set aside \$500 for a COM leadership retreat.

After discussion, the Council allocated \$1000 of the Jenkins fund to Adult Ministries and \$500 to be set aside for a COM leadership retreat.

Phyllis: Is there any way we can get the results of the nominating committee so we know who is on our committees. Some people don’t know if they are still on committee and when they are due to rotate off.

Kerry: We will send something out on this.

A discussion of the need for a church bus followed.

Kerry: If we were to do an all day leadership training event, would a Sunday afternoon and evening be better or would an all-day Saturday be better?

After discussion it was decided that Sunday, January 27 was a “maybe” and we would leave it to Mary Arnaudin, incoming COM Chair, to coordinate a final plan.

Appreciation was expressed to Joe Ownbey for serving as Chair.

In lieu of Mike leading the group in the Doxology, Kim Dodson closed with a benediction.

Meeting ended about 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Hayward

Bob Hayward, Secretary