



1st United Methodist Church

The Heart of Downtown Gainesville 352-372-8523
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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 24, 2009

ATTENDING: Joanna Emerson, Carl Romey, Dr. Harold Henderson, Amy Watson, Randy Stacey, Lawrence Shaw, Jim Emerson, Joan VanWinkle, Muffett Emmanuel, Liz Shaw, Jim Nation, Mary Kilgour, Bill Yeager, Audrey Lewis, Joe Willcox

Mary Kilgour presiding – opened the meeting with prayer

Minutes of October 27, 2009 meeting approved as circulated

NEW BUSINESS

1. Chair of Finance Committee Audrey Lewis presented for consideration the 2010 budget adopted by the Finance Committee 11/17/09, copy attached, totaling \$791,500. The 2010 budget is 3% larger than the 2009 budgeted amount. Following discussion the Council voted for adoption of the 2010 budget as presented.

STAFF REPORTS

1. *Preschool Director – Amy Watson* – Written report attached
2. *Helping Hands Clinic – Randy Stacey* – Verbal report of Monday/Thursday activities
3. *Director of Music – Robert Jackson* – Written report attached
4. *Children, Youth and Young Adults – Frank Ferrerri* – Written report attached
5. *Assistant Pastor – Carl Romey* – Written report attached
6. *Assistant Pastor – Bill Yeager* – Written report attached
7. *Senior Pastor – Dr. Harold Henderson* – Written report attached

There were no further reports but, cueing on remarks made by Dr. Henderson in his report, Mary Kilgour opened discussion and invited continuing consideration of ideas for money-raising activities that would have support and participation from the church family. She asked that we discuss this more broadly in the church and come to the January 26 Council meeting with our ideas.

Closing prayer by Carl Romey

Next meeting January 26, 2010

Note: These minutes and copies of written reports will be available in the church office for approximately 30 days. They are also available on the church website courtesy of Web Master Leon Couch.

Joe Willcox, Secretary

First United Methodist Preschool Report
-presented to the Church Council on November 24, 2009

The Preschool now has in place a Crisis Procedure Plan that has been approved by the Preschool Board and the Board of Trustees. A copy is to be kept in the church office. This is a more extensive plan than what we have had in the past. It will soon be required by the Department of Children and Families, our licensing agency, for all preschools to have a plan such as this. So, we are ahead of the game; we have been successfully practicing the extra drills already with the children.

The Preschool families joined together with FUMC during this season of Thanksgiving to donate items for Gainesville Community Ministries. FUMPers contributed 5 paper grocery bags toward this ministry. Each week as we had Chapel time the children were excited about how the food was spreading down the stairs.

- submitted by Amy C. Watson, Director, First United Methodist Preschool
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First United Methodist Church
Council Report 11-24-2009
Director of Music

I am submitting this report in absentia. As most of you are aware I have been covering my position/ rehearsals as well as the administrative assistant's position since Charlene's leaving, so I am currently taking a few days of needed vacation in preparation as my family arrives in town tomorrow for Thanksgiving. Our new administrative assistant, Sandra (Sandy) McIntosh, will officially begin on Monday, November 30. I have been summoned to jury duty selection that day, and, if selected, will not be available to mentor her in the office during the week.

On October 2-4, members of the Chancel Choir participated in the 24th Annual Festival of Choirs. The festival, under the direction of Gerre Hancock, was held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. In addition to First UMC, other choirs participating included First Presbyterian, Holy Trinity Episcopal, Trinity UMC, Grace Presbyterian, St. Andrews Episcopal and St. Augustine Catholic. The festival concluded with an Evensong worship service and included Gerre Hancock playing the prelude and postlude.

The following weekend I, along with Jenny Eckenrode and Evelyn Jones, attended the Distinctly Bronze event in New Bern, NC. Under the batons of David Weck and Bill Griffin, we spent four days rehearsing and preparing for the final concert on Sunday afternoon. As always this event helps up stretch out abilities while enjoying the fellowship of like minded bell ringers.

Last Sunday culminated the Food Drive for the Gainesville Community Ministries. As I am sure no else will include this information in their report, I'll list it here. We collected 18 boxes and 5 brown paper bags full of food. This far exceeded last year's efforts of 12 boxes. Great job everyone. A special thank you to Tony and Collis for delivering the boxes and bags to GCM.

On Sunday, December 6th, the First UMC will host the Gainesville POPS Community Band, under the direction of our own Chris Sharp, as they present their Christmas Concert. The program will be presented in the Sanctuary at 3:00 PM and will feature members of our bell choir as they ring along on one of the pieces, and myself, as I read "The Night Before Christmas" as the band plays. The program is free and all church members are encouraged to attend.

On Sunday, December 13th, the choirs of First UMC will present a "Festival of Lessons and Carols" at the single service time of 10:30 a.m. In response to my invitation to join the choir for this Christmas program, 8 new people will be singing.

Celebration Ringers will be hosting the second annual Gainesville handbell festival in January 2010. The clinician will be Michael Helman, noted handbell composer and organist/choir master at Cape Coral Presbyterian Church. In March the choir will be participating in the Florida State Festival sponsored by Area IV of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. The event will be held at Lake Magdalene UMC in Tampa. In addition to the choir's participation, I will be serving at the clinician for the Level1-2 groups.

As always, I extend an invitation to all church members to join the musical program here at First Church. There is always room for more.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Jackson

Frank Ferreri -- Report to the Church Council -- 24 NOV 2009

I am submitting this report in absentia this evening because I am attending a service sponsored by the Gainesville Interfaith Forum at Congregation B'nai entitled, "Gratitude: A Multi-Faith Presentation." On that theme, I'm grateful for the work religious people of all faiths are doing in Gainesville (and around the world) to build bridges with one another. And while I don't believe religious differences can be brushed away simplistically, I am confident that God is using people of all faiths for his purposes.

Since we are on the verge of Thanksgiving, I want to present my report in that context, by listing some things in my areas for which I am especially thankful.

I'm thankful that five of our youth were able to join Hal Dell and me for the Crop Walk on Sunday afternoon. As a church, we raised 62 jars of peanut butter that will help feed hungry people in Gainesville. The Crop Walk program is a good example of how we can think locally and act globally, as it raises funds for organizations like Gainesville Community Ministries and St. Francis House and for relief efforts around the world. It was good to be a part of this ecumenical endeavor.

I'm thankful for the new members of FUMC that we've recently welcomed from University Church and Christ Mission. Among those new members, I'm especially thankful for Rebecca Sterling and Amanda Vogt. Rebecca is the daughter of Tim Sterling (who knows just about everyone in Gainesville, I'm convinced) and has plugged in to our youth group exceptionally well. She's a personable, energetic 7th grader who will bless this congregation for years to come. Amanda is the young daughter of Randi and Aaron Vogt and is one of the more loquacious participants of our children's sermon and children's church. On Sunday, Amanda gave me her seal of approval -- after children's church, she approached me and in business-like fashion declared, "I like you" before leaving with her parents. It is a blessing to have her and the entire Vogt family with us. I hope you'll have the opportunity to offer both Rebecca and Amanda words of welcome and encouragement soon.

I'm thankful that Robin Brandon's Sunday school class has finally picked up a bit of steam and a core of young adults are coming together for fellowship and learning. I'm also thankful that N.T. Wright puts together good, interesting curriculum materials.

I'm thankful for a church that is committed to downtown ministry and all that it involves. If you ever want your heart stirred by discipleship in action, come over to Epworth Hall on a Monday evening and watch Jo Brasington in action with the Helping Hands Clinic. At 87, with virtually no vision and reduced physical capabilities, she continues to serve Christ by serving others. Often times, she provides a listening ear to people who feel like no one cares about them, listens to them, or even knows they exist. There's no telling how many people she's ministered to over the years.

I'm thankful for a church that is committed to its mainline heritage in an era when conventional wisdom says to throw out the baby, the bathwater, the tub, and the bathroom in the name of trends and statistics. There are some who subscribe to the idea that all churches have a "life-cycle." That reasoning has become such a sacred cow that it has become self-fulfilling prophecy and mainline churches all over the place are going out of existence because people have talked them to death. Well, that's not us. In the five years that I've been around, the place has gotten livelier due to the faith of those who believe that God has a bright future in store for FUMC and a real calling on us to serve him as a downtown, mainline church.

Respectfully submitted.