



# 1st United Methodist Church

*The Heart of Downtown Gainesville* 352-372-8523

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[www.fumcgv.org](http://www.fumcgv.org)

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

July 28, 2009

ATTENDING: Dan Greathouse, Kay Greathouse, Elizabeth Shaw, L. N. Shaw, JoAnna Emerson, Jim Emerson, Robert Jackson, Jim Bishop, Rick Vineyard, Carl Romey, Barbara Kirby, Nancy DeLacure, Bill Yeager, Dr. Harold Henderson, Randy Stacey, Mary Kilgour, Leon Couch, Joe Willcox

Mary Kilgour presiding – Opening prayer by Jim Bishop

### STAFF REPORTS

1. Preschool Director – Amy Watson – Written report attached
2. Helping Hands Clinic – Randy Stacey – Written report attached
3. Director of Music – Robert Jackson – Written report attached
4. Children, Youth and Young Adults – Frank Ferreri – 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

### COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

1. Trustees – Verbal report by Leon Couch with security note by Dan Greathouse.
2. Methodist Men – Verbal report by Larry Shaw

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Dr. Henderson called attention to a portion of Frank Ferreri's report concerning the Stewardship Committee proposal for joining the 8:25 and 10:55 services for a combined Consecration Service at 10:30 AM on September 13, to be followed by a catered luncheon, to which he proposed approval. Motion for approval by Kay Greathouse, 2nd by Randy Stacey – Passed.
2. Dr. Henderson called attention to action of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and motion (see committee note dated July 21, 2009 attached) that the Church front office open hours be 9 AM to 1 PM Monday through Thursday and closed all day Friday year-round, with office staff continuing to work their normal afternoon hours. Motion for approval of this change to become effective the 1st of September 2009 by Kay Greathouse, 2nd by Leon Couch – Passed.
3. Dr. Henderson presented a separate report attached entitled Shared Celebration with Holy Trinity in which he reviews the sharing of First Church facilities consequent upon destruction by fire of the Holy Trinity Sanctuary in January of 1991 culminating in a present joint proposal of the possibility of the two congregations sharing in a joint/split service on an annual basis as a commemoration of that shared experience and as an act of witness to the unity of the Church. The proposal has the support of Rev. Louanne Loch and the Holy Trinity Parish Council, our staff and Worship Committee and Dr. Henderson, with a suggested date for the first observance as Sunday, January 24, 2010. After discussion, Dan Greathouse moved approval of the joint proposal and the initial date for the first observance of Sunday, January 24, 2010. 2nd by Leon Couch – Passed.

With closing prayer by Robert Jackson the meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting August 25, 2009 7:00 PM.**

Note: Minutes and a full set 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 Couch.

Joe C. Willcox, Secretary

## **First United Methodist Preschool (FUMPers) Report**

-presented to the Church Council on July 28, 2009

Dear Council members-

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting. I am thankful to Mary Kilgour for making this brief report on my behalf.

The preschool is currently on Summer Break. But, much work and planning is continuing behind the scenes to make sure everything is ready for the children and staff to return!

I will present a more detailed report of summer projects that are taking place at the preschool at the August meeting.

Thank you for your support of this ministry of FUMC Gainesville,  
Amy C. Watson, Director, FUMPers  
352-373-0108  
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### **First United Methodist Church Church Council Meeting July 28, 2009 R. Stacey**

The Helping Hands Clinic operates for approximately 24 hours of service each month – holding two hour clinics every Monday night and four hour Women's Health Programs every Thursday. Further, we operate 47 weeks out of the year. From January 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009, the Helping Hands Clinic served 257 individuals during 847 visits. Of the 257 individuals, 39.7% were female (n=102) and 60.3% were male (n=155). Approximately 63% of all patients served are White, 32% are Black, 3% Hispanic, and the remaining 2% are of another race/ethnicity. The average age for our clients is 42.35 years old. In total, we anticipate serving 450 unique individuals during 2009.

As of January 2009, the Helping Hands Clinic increased "Women's Health Nights" from two Thursdays a month to offering the program every Thursday. In addition, the hours were extended from the previous 5pm -7pm schedule to the current 3pm – 7pm offering. The program continues to invite community speakers to talk with the participating homeless women on a variety of women's health topics. However, in addition, the women also have access to showers, a healthy evening meal, haircuts, basic hygiene and personal care products, clothing and underwear, acupuncture, mental health counseling, RN care, referrals to receive pap smears, mammograms, clinical breast exams, STI/HIV testing, and pregnancy tests, and also to a variety of activities like DVD's of popular movies and board games. We have been told by many of the local homeless women that the clinic has been nicknamed "the spa." From January to June 2009, 73 unique women have attended the program making 390 visits. Twelve (12) women were referred for their recommended health screenings, and 75% (n=9) have fulfilled those referrals. This is a great improvement from our initial report where 2 out of 15 women referred (13.33%) completed their appointments. In total, since January 2008, 88 unique women have made 460 visits to the program. In addition, 108 women have completed the "women's health questionnaire," 29 women have been referred to receive recommended health screenings to either Planned Parenthood of North Central Florida or the "Believe in Miracles" program at the Alachua County Health Department, and 16 women (55.17%) have fulfilled their appointments.

The groundwork towards a second medical clinic included creating a safe and welcoming social environment for the women, establishing trust, and reaching out to those homeless women who live outside in tents or on the street. For the 25 Women's Health Programs held in the past six months, we have seen an average of 16 women each Thursday (min = 4, max =27), and in the more recent months, the majority of women in attendance are part of our target population of homeless women who live outside or in other critical living situations. For example, on the last Thursday before this reporting period ended, June 25,

2009, out of the 27 women who attended the WHN, 74% live outside in tents or on the street while 26% of those who attended were either recently housed or at-risk for homelessness.

Based on these promising results, we now hope to implement and offer a second clinical evening for homeless women on Thursday nights within the next 3 to 4 months. We have already made some of the necessary steps towards that goal, including the addition of RN care, and mental health counseling, as well as the continuation of acupuncture. Further, we have communicated our need to expand to Thursdays with the Psychiatry Department of the University of Florida, and the results of those conversations have left us optimistic and looking forward to the future.

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### **Frank Ferreri -- Report to Church Council -- 28 Jul 2009**

Regrettably, I am unable to be at the Council this evening. As this is being read, I will be making my return to Gainesville from Tampa after yet another attempt to pass the Florida Bar Exam.

Though I'd much rather be at the meeting, this does give me the opportunity to address an understandable concern that I've heard from several people that my intention is to leave employment at the church if and when I become barred. That is not my intention nor would I find it desirable. Rather, in consultation with people close to me (especially my wife), I have come to realize that it only makes sense to have the bar under my belt after investing time, money, and hard work into getting a law degree. Though none of us ever knows what the future has in store, I have no plans and have made no efforts to secure employment that would take me away from my work at FUMC.

And that work continues to reward greatly. It has been a busy and productive summer, especially with our children's and youth ministries. As most are aware, we had a successful Vacation Bible School two weeks ago that had an average attendance of 35 to 40 children each day of the program. Additionally, we had an exemplary team of approximately 20 adult and youth volunteers, who were really the life of the program and are the ones to thank for what was a great week for the children. I'm now working to keep in touch with the families from VBS, especially those who don't have a church home or are looking for a new church home.

Soon, the congregation will be hearing much about this year's stewardship campaign. This is my fourth year working with the Stewardship Committee, and it is the best organized that I have seen it. We're praying for a successful campaign and trusting that God will lead us to that end. Stewardship Sunday will be September 13. We'll have a combined service at 10:30 am that day and a catered luncheon afterwards. We are fortunate to have as our guest preacher that day the Rev. Mike Oliver, who has many connections to FUMC and the Gainesville community and is the District Superintendent of the Atlantic Central district. Like we've done since 2007, there will be an opportunity for individuals to consecrate their pledges for 2010 during the worship service on September 13 by bringing the pledge cards forward to the altar area. We encourage this and have found that many have found it to be a deeply meaningful worship experience. However, we recognize that some people may not be comfortable doing this; if that is the case, do not worry, we will always accept any pledge at any time. Still, we hope people will begin thinking early about what portion of their income God is asking them to contribute to the church in 2010 and to be prepared to consecrate the pledge on September 13.

During the week of Aug. 9, the youth group will be participating in a youth week here in town. We have a variety of service and fellowship activities lined up for that week, including serving dinner at Ronald McDonald House, doing some work projects around the church, and spending an afternoon on the Ichetucknee River. We were unable to get our act together for camp this summer, so this is what we'll be doing instead. I am, however, looking into camps/programs that the youth could participate in over their Christmas and Spring breaks during the school year. If any group in the church has work they would like taken care of during the week of Aug. 9, please get in touch with me at your earliest convenience; we might be able to get some of the youth to help out.

And speaking of youth, I think the work of Cortney Powers has demonstrated how talented our youth are and how blessed we are with their presence. As I reported to the Council last month, Cortney has been

doing a summer internship at the church; this has worked out better than the lofty expectations I had coming into the project. Tomorrow is Cortney's last day "on the job," but I am doing all that I can to make sure that she has ample opportunity to grow into leadership roles at the church. For example, Peggy Halsey, Cortney, and I are planning to meet tomorrow to discuss ways that Peggy can mentor Cortney and Cortney can assist Peggy with work on the Missions & Outreach Committee. This has the potential to really benefit a lot of people, with the church being the main beneficiary. I would ask that you keep Cortney in your prayers. She will soon have to make some tough decisions about where to go to college and what to study. She has the smarts, work ethic, and talent to excel at anything she chooses and anywhere she chooses. Still, that doesn't make the process any easier as she tries to discern where God is leading her at this important stage of her life.

Lastly, there are several things developing that I hope will expand our young adult ministries. First, I have planned a series of free lunches for undergraduate and graduate students that will begin August 30. The point of this is to attract students to the church but also to bring together students who are already attending but may not be connected with others. I have no idea how this will turn out, but I hope it helps at least a few students feel more at home here at FUMC. Also, I am planning to lead a weeknight study targeted to young adults entitled "Serious Answers to Hard Questions." The point of this is to work through some of the more challenging questions Christians face in an intellectually open atmosphere. I pray that this will be a way to bring young adults together and allow them a forum for expressing their thoughts and ideas in a meaningful exchange with each other. And finally, I've been in dialogue with Robin Helm Brandon (a young adult who has recently returned to FUMC from Hawaii, where her family has been stationed) about leading a new Sunday school class. Robin was an active and regular participant in Nathan's Sunday school class and has many gifts to bring to that setting. The idea behind this class is to give young adults another option on Sunday mornings, though there are no plans to make it age-restricted in anyway.

Please continue to pray that all of our efforts will be a step toward growing the church in a God-honoring way. We should be thankful for the opportunity to help make and strengthen disciples of Christ through what we do here. The Lord has blessed our discipleship for some 152 years now, and I know he will continue to give us everything we need to share his love with the world well into the future.

Thanks be to God.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frank Ferreri  
Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adults

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### **Senior Pastor's Report to Church Council, July 2009.**

The focus of this report to the Church Council is on "growing the church", a theme I have been emphasizing in recent months in my reports to the Council, in *The Messenger*, among the staff, in some of our committee meetings and, in a slightly different way, in the sermon last Sunday.

I don't want to sound like a cracked record – I do talk about other things from time to time – but I happen to believe that we are at a strategic point in our long pilgrimage as a congregation of God's people. Our pilgrimage has been a lot longer than the wandering of the Israelites in the desert in search of the promised land but it has some of the same characteristics. Movement has not always been forward, the trajectory of our vision has not always been upward, our faith has often faltered but, hopefully, we'll get there in the end as our spiritual forebears did – by the grace and mercy of God – except that I'm not looking to reach any end-point!

What I do look for is continuing growth – not for the sake of growth but because I know there are people out there "waiting to be fed" as we reminded ourselves in thinking about the feeding of the five thousand last Sunday. And, that being so, I cannot stop the words of Jesus to the disciples from reverberating around in my head: "You give them something to eat."

At a staff level, we have tried to take that challenge seriously, and the staff reports you have heard tonight give chapter and verse on some of that. Let me try to summarize the kinds of initiatives we have identified and/or begun to work on that fit into the theme of growing the church:

1. Organize and mobilize our Care Partners program so that every member of our church family who is no longer able to attend our worship services receives Holy Communion once a month as if they were able to attend. We are not there yet – we are probably at once every two months but moving steadily in the direction of our goal.
2. Be positioned to respond promptly to any pastoral emergency.
3. Provide pastoral care for the members of University United Methodist Church, which is in process of closing.
4. Re-establish a weekly Bible study at The Village for members of University Church, who could be supplemented by members of First Church.
5. Recruit six drivers so that our (25-seat) bus can provide weekly transportation for residents of The Village and The Atrium (and maybe other locations) to attend Sunday worship services. Our best estimates are that there is already a busload of potential passengers.
6. Explore the possibility of offering a Grief Share class at The Atrium.
7. Prepare for the intake of new students (local and international) at the end of the summer break with publicity and program, beginning with an informal “Students’ Lunch” after the 10:55 service on Sunday, August 30, with the idea of making this a monthly occasion.
8. Establish new get-together opportunities for Young Adults on Sundays and/or during the week.
9. Continue to explore opportunities for weekday ministry to the working population in the downtown area. The September 11 service Cynthia Hight is organizing (based on the Taize model) in consultation with BJ might provide an opportunity to test the water in this area.
10. Pursue possibilities for establishing a Portuguese language Bible Study for Portuguese speakers in Gainesville (perhaps as an adjunct to the Wednesday night family dinner and classes).

There are other growth possibilities we will pursue. I have attempted to identify here only those in relation to which there has been some specific proposal or action. It is important to understand that the far-sighted decision by the last Church Council meeting to approve the recommendation of the SPR and Finance Committees to extend the employment of Rev. Bill Yeager from half to full-time has provided the stimulus and the opportunity to move in all these directions in the immediate future, keeping in mind that Bill’s full-time employment does not actually begin until September 1, 2009.

This is an exciting time to be alive!

Harold Henderson,  
Senior Pastor

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## Shared Celebration with Holy Trinity

This is a proposal to stimulate our (very positive) relationship with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, by reviving the memory of our shared worship space following the destruction of their buildings by an arsonist. This idea was borne out of the address at one of our Lenten Breakfasts this year by the present Rector of Holy Trinity, Rev. Louanne Loch.

She was not here at the time of the fire on January 21, 1991 but she had taken the opportunity to speak with the (then) Rector, Father David Pittman, and others who were. It was wonderful to hear how moving it was for them that, almost before the fire was extinguished, Rev. Walter Rutland, our Senior Pastor at the time, had offered Holy Trinity the opportunity to share our worship space, involving as it did, a change in our service times to accommodate Holy Trinity's worship schedule. Louanne Loch said that Father Pittman (now retired) was quite emotional as he relived the experience.

It was more than three years later – on Sunday, May 30, 1994 – that the Holy Trinity congregation was able to move back home, initially to the new Fellowship Hall. The occasion was observed by both congregations sharing the first half of the worship service in our Sanctuary (with our (then) Senior Pastor, Rev. Jim Martin preaching) followed by a street procession south on First Street to Holy Trinity where the two congregations shared in Holy Communion together.

Consequent upon Louanne Loch's message at the Lenten Breakfast, the suggestion emerged that we should look at the possibility of our two congregations sharing in a joint/split service in the same way on an annual basis as a commemoration of that shared experience and as an act of witness to the unity of the Church.

I have subsequently shared that idea with Rev. Louanne Loch who reports very enthusiastic support from the Holy Trinity Parish Council. I have shared the idea with our Worship Committee which is likewise supportive of the idea, and I bring it here with the support of the staff and the Worship Committee. The suggested date for the first observance is Sunday, January 24, 2010 that happens to be the nearest Sunday to the destructive fire, but more significantly looking forward is part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the church calendar. This would be a very meaningful way to participate in the observance of that week.

The other alternative – the late May date for the return home of the Holy Trinity congregation – is difficult because of its closeness to Pentecost and the special services both churches hold to observe that occasion and, in our case, because of the closeness to the observance of Aldersgate Day/Sunday.

Harold Henderson, Senior Pastor.  
July 28, 2009