



1st United Methodist Church

The Heart of Downtown Gainesville 352-372-8523
419 N.E. First Street Gainesville, Florida 32601 FAX: 352-372-2524
www.fumcgv.org

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 26, 2010

ATTENDING: Mary Kilgour, Dr. Harold Henderson, Leon Couch, Lawrence N. Shaw, Bill Northcutt, Jim Emerson, Randy Stacey, Liz Shaw, JoAnna Emerson, Barbara Kirby, Jeff Cheek, Muffett Emmanuel, Cleo Abbott, Bill Yeager, Tim Leslie, Carl Romey, Joe Willcox.

Mary Kilgour presiding – Meeting opened with prayer by Bill Yeager

Minutes of the November 24 meeting approved as distributed by e-mail

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*

OLD BUSINESS – Committee Highlights

Finance Committee - Jeff Cheek, as chair, presented and explained the attached reports from the Financial Secretary: Balance Sheet December 2009 and Analysis of Revenues & Expenses January to December 2009

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Henderson presented the attached Report on Front Church Office Hours and concluded with a recommendation for the approval of the Church Council that the front church office hours be altered to 9:00am through 4:00pm Monday through Thursday, the front desk to be staffed by (trained) volunteers in two shifts each day 9:00am – 12:30pm and 12:30pm – 4:00pm, the change to become effective from Monday, February 1, 2010.

Motion for approval of the staff recommendation by Tim Leslie, 2nd by Leon Couch. Motion passed.

Reporting on a matter presented at a recent Staff Parish orientation meeting, Tim Leslie presented an idea for a communication link between membership and leadership, a form of suggestion box, as to which he will present ideas for action at the next Council meeting.

Closing prayer by Dr. Henderson.

Next meeting 7:00 pm February 23, 2010

Note: These minutes and copies of all 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 January 26, 2010

The church family was extremely supportive with their financial gifts at Dicken's Inn. Thank you for your help to replenish our Mile O Pennies FUMPers Scholarship Fund.

This fund is in constant use and thus always in need.

The Preschool has supported several service projects this fall. I mentioned at the last Council meeting about the food drive. In addition to that we are involved in the following:

- In December, FUMPers supported Helping Hands Thursday Women's Clinic by providing 2 bags of toiletry items and a bag of handmade jewelry (made by one of our Moms).
- FUMPers has also been collecting gently used shoes during the holidays and will continue through the month of February. These will be donated to Soles 4 Souls an organization that provides for those who desperately need footwear. So far we have 2 crates full of shoes. We are challenging FUMC to match our contribution!

We have 4 new families that will be joining the preschool beginning in February. This is a total of 5 new students which is such a blessing for us as we have had low enrollment this school year. Please pray for these families and the children as they adjust to new friends and a new school setting.

FUMPers will be putting on the "Greatest Show on Earth" for the attendees of FUMC Lunch Bunch and our FUMPers parents this Thursday at 11:45am. This will be our second annual FUMPers Circus. It will be a delight this year to share the talents of the children with the members who attend Lunch Bunch. We hope to continue to plan events that will allow the older generation of FUMC to interact with the children of FUMPers. I invite each of you to join us if you are able.

Registration for 2010-2011 school year begins February 1st for members of FUMC and currently enrolled FUMPers. We give our current students the first opportunity to continue in our program before opening registration to the general public in March. PLEASE promote our quality preschool program to friends and neighbors. Parents of young children respond best to a "word of mouth" endorsement!

- submitted by Amy C. Watson
Director, First United Methodist Preschool
fumpers@fumcgv.org
352-373-0108

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL
1-26-10

HELPING HANDS CLINIC WOMEN'S HEALTH PROGRAM

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. On September 2009, Helping Hands also expanded medical and psychiatric care to Thursday nights, which officially added a second clinic. During the psychosocial component of the Clinic's Women's Health Nights, the program continues to offer access to showers, clothing and underwear, basic hygiene and personal care products, snacks, a healthy evening meal, and a variety of activities like DVD's, crafts, and board games. Further, the program also continues to invite community speakers to talk with the participating homeless women on a variety of women's health and well-being topics. For example, since July 2009, the Women's Health Nights have offered presentations on personal motivation, skin care and makeup, "homeless to work," weight loss, and basic jewelry beading. During the 23 Women's Health Night sessions held between July – December 2009, an average of 25.96 women attended each Thursday (min =18, max = 38). This is a significant increase from the previous six months, when we were seeing an average of 16 women per session. The clinical component of the Helping Hands Clinic's Women's Health Night continues to offer acupuncture, hypnotherapy, RN care, and referrals to receive pap smears, mammograms, clinical breast exams, STD/HIV testing, and pregnancy testing. However, in addition, as of September 2009, it also offers medical and psychiatric care. Since September 2009, the Women's Health Clinic has had 174 total visits by 69 individual women. Within the 174 total visits, there were 105 medical visits, 53 psychiatry visits, and 69 acupuncture visits. Currently, 24 individual women are coming to the Thursday night clinic for their psychiatric care.

Thank you to all of you who volunteer with us or support us financially or through prayer and the donation of in kind items. The support we receive from First Church is tremendous and appreciated very much.

Randy Stacey, MSW

First United Methodist Church
Council Meeting - January 26, 2010

Director of Music Ministries Report

To begin, I will report that my surgery on January 11 was successful in removing a cancerous growth from inside my right lung and I am recuperating as expected. I have been able to return to work on a limited basis starting this week and am looking forward to the time when I can keep

my normal schedule, although I have many friends and co-workers who are keeping a constant vigil to keep me from doing too much too soon. Thus my absence from tonight's meeting.

Since my last report, we have celebrated a truly blessed Advent and Christmas season, including a wonderful holiday concert by the Gainesville Pops and then our own choirs' presentation of *A Festival of Lessons and Carols*; welcomed the new year with a renewal of our Baptism, and experienced a significant milestone in the life of our church and our sister church, Holy Trinity Episcopal just this past Sunday. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Dr. John Lowe for his enormous effort in finalizing the program for last Sunday's service while I was still recuperating. We have already begun conversation about plans for next year.

In December, in consultation with then Staff Parish Chair, Jim Nation, it was mutually agreed by Melanie Yeager, our organist, Jim and myself, that we amend her job description. That amendment is the elimination of her responsibility as choir accompanist. It also includes a slight reduction of her salary for 2010 and allows us to transfer the responsibility of accompanying the choir to a separate individual who could spend more time in preparation. The demands of Melanie's school work and the needs of our choir simply posed to be too stressful for her. She will continue to provide our church with full responsibilities on the organ. We believe this action is in the best interest of both Melanie, who was overwhelmed with her responsibilities for Dental School, as well as the choir which needed an accompanist who would come better prepared. I am grateful to both Joanne Sheffield, who filled in during the Christmas season, and to Lynn Sandefur, who has agreed to accompany the choir for the next few months while we seek to hire a part time accompanist.

Looking ahead, we have several activities lined up. This Saturday, First UMC will host the 2nd Annual Gainesville Area Handbell Festival in the Fellowship Hall from 8:30 am – 3:00 PM. Seven handbell choirs will participate spending the day under the expert baton of Michael Helman, Organist and Choirmaster at Cape Coral Presbyterian Church. Michael is well known for his composition skills in handbell world and in organ music. At 2:30 PM the combined choirs will present a mini-concert of the music they have worked on during the day. The public is invited. The program is free.

On Sunday, February 21st, the Chancel Choirs of First UMC, Gainesville, and First UMC, Reddick, will join together for a service of Praise and Prayer. We are still working on the final details of this service, including the exact time. Please watch you bulletins and listen to the verbal announcements over the next few weeks to get the final info on this special service and make your plans to support both choirs.

The following Sunday, Mr. Peter Lewis, will kick off our 2010 Concert Series by presenting an Organ Recital in the Sanctuary at 2:00 PM. Mr. Lewis, a graduate of Eastman School of Music,

is the Organist and Accompanist at First Presbyterian Church, Bonita Springs, Florida. I first met Mr. Lewis while attending one of my summer music conferences last year, and I immediately knew we had to have him share his talent with us. Please mark your calendars for this opening concert.

Finally I would like to express my deepest appreciation for all the thoughts and prayers, phone calls and cards and 'mothering' I have received from everyone during my surgery and the following weeks. Your kindnesses have made the road to recovery possible.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert W. Jackson.

Frank Ferreri -- Report to Church Council -- 26 JAN 2010

This being my last report to the Council, I regret that I have to deliver it in absentia. However, Heather has asked me to spend the next few days in Jupiter with her and Frankie and so that's where I am.

Some may recall that I missed the last Council meeting in November because I attended an interfaith Thanksgiving event at Congregation B'nai Israel. It was a good event and the Gainesville Interfaith Forum is planning to have quarterly events like it from here on out. I believe the Lord is blessing the Forum's endeavors; it emerged as a response to a completely unhelpful turn of events at a local church. And despite the attempted divisiveness of that church's efforts, the Lord has brought people together through it. I hate to sound smug, but there's a lesson in there about where we place our trust.

This past weekend brought me what may have been the very best series of events I have enjoyed here at FUMC. On Friday evening and Saturday morning, we held a "progressive" lock-in with the youth. Some 24 youth joined Rachael Jordan, Norma Courtney, and myself for events at the homes of the Eccles, Hight, and Jones families before going bowling and returning to the church for late-night (or early morning) fun. It is exciting when the kids are excited enough about our group's events to invite multiple friends to join us. It speaks highly of the bond, fellowship, and spiritual energy that runs through the group. They made me proud this weekend and one of my favorite things is telling people how proud I am of them.

And speaking of pride and excitement, I still haven't come down from the high of our combined service with Holy Trinity. I think the event speaks for itself, but I did want to share how much I enjoyed myself. I'm thankful to say that I didn't spill the chalice during communion, but I did keep a list of the Methodists who bypassed the Welch's for my station. In all seriousness, though, Christian unity is alive and well on Northeast 1st St. Let's pray for more opportunities like Sunday in the future of FUMC as well as the church universal.

Looking to this weekend, I'm looking forward to a special baptism on Sunday -- that of Kaylie Driver. Kaylie (along with her older sister, Jodie) began attending church here this summer because of our VBS. Her mother, Michelle, who is a teacher at Trinity UMC's Stepping Stones preschool, was a tremendous help to our VBS and will enrich our children's ministry with her service, talents, and presence. Kaylie's baptism comes as response to our recent reaffirmation of baptism service. Like most who were in church that day, the Drivers were inspired to think prayerfully about baptism. Kaylie and Jodie are a sweet kids and the Drivers are a great family to have in our church family. I encourage you to get to know them.

Lastly, I want to thank the Council for all of its efforts to make FUMC the kind of church God calls us to be. We have a special calling in downtown Gainesville and I believe the excitement we continue to see here is an affirmation that God continues to work through us. The history of this church proves that we are indeed "surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses" and so we have every reason in the world to continue to "run with perseverance the race marked out for us" (Heb. 12:1).

Praise God, Frank Ferreri Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adults

REPORT TO CHURCH COUNCIL
25 JANUARY 2010
ASSISTANT PASTOR – WILLIAM H. YEAGER

This will be rather random in focus, maybe symbolic of my own spirit in these days. Please continue to pray for our family.

I want to begin as I always should begin with words of thanks. Our bus ministry has begun with service to The Village on Sunday mornings. The cold weather has given us a difficult start, with as few as two and as many as ten on any given week. Thanks go to Frank Farrell and Alberto Azeredo, the first two drivers to complete the necessary qualifications, and to Blair and Mary Nell Reeves for coordination from The Village.

The fall sessions of Wednesday Evening Classes concluded in December. Two of the offerings are being repeated this spring. I wish to thank Harold for his willingness to continue leading discussions on the Sacraments, and the three leaders (David Auth, Jim Nation, and Larry Shaw) for their continuation of Religion and Science. Frank Ferreri did a wonderful job with the short term Disciple Study on Genesis, and Hilda Wiles once again hosted a class in her cottage at The Village.

There are three new classes that began this month. George Barnard, with assistance from Dan Robinson of Trinity UMC and myself, is leading Meditative Communion, Dan and Kay Greathouse are leading Invitation to John, and Carl Romey is presenting Postmodern and Wesleyan?. My gratitude extends to all of these and the participants who are a part of this journey in continuing education.

Care Partners continues to go out to our shut-ins on a monthly basis with Holy Communion. Our minds and hearts are with Linda Blue as she struggles with her own health at North Florida Regional. Linda has been a vital part of Care Partners, and I want to thank Cleo Abbott for filling in on the Team in Linda's absence. Cleo has also joined those who are frequently found at Linda's bedside at the hospital.

Since our last meeting I have been privileged to preach five times and lead or assist in four funerals and memorial services. Life touches us in strange ways and in ways unexpected. One of my first year dorm mates from Florida Southern College has been attending with his wife, and one of our younger son's favorite high school interns has been visiting with his girlfriend. Both were very pleasant surprises! And on a different note, my wife was helping with a recent Helping Hands dinner when a stranger approached her. The woman asked Jayne about where she was from and what schools she had attended. After only a few moments they realized that they had grown up in the same town in northeastern Ohio and were in the same graduating class of the local high school. We never know what life will bring to us or where life will take us. We only hope that it will always be among people such as these of First UMC.

Grace and Peace,

Bill Yeager

Report to Church Council, January 26, 2010.

It's hard to imagine that we are almost at the end of the first month of 2010, but what an exciting month it has been in the life of our congregation.

Perhaps the baptism of twins – the Walters twins – on the first Sunday of the month, indeed of the new calendar year, was an omen of new life and vitality. It certainly was a graced moment not only for the grateful parents, Chris and Valerie Walters, and brother, Ethan, but for grandparents, Rev. Carl and Shirley Romey. As with every baptism, it was a joyful experience for the congregation as we committed ourselves to provide a loving, caring church environment in which the baptized children would be nurtured in the Christian faith and life.

Building on that experience, on the second Sunday the congregation shared together in the re-affirmation of our baptismal covenant to celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. This service is included in The United Methodist *Book of Worship* but had not been observed in recent memory, and proved to be a very meaningful and deeply spiritual experience for all involved. Some significant personal developments have grown out of that service. The initiative for the service arose out of discussion in the Wednesday night class on “The Sacraments” in the Fall Semester last year.

The third Sunday saw an amazing \$6,129 initial response to the Mission Box for the UMCOR Haiti Earthquake Appeal, presented by Peggy Halsey, Chair of our Mission and Outreach Committee. Peggy did so out of her own deep pain at the death of the Director of UMCOR who happened to be on assignment in Haiti at the time of the 'quake and who was a colleague and friend from Peggy's years of service at the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. Subsequently, word was received of the death of a second UMCOR colleague. And more than money was contributed that day – Julie Anne Demers, one of the newer members of our congregation, offered her services as a volunteer nurse in the Haiti recovery effort.

Then, what can we say about the amazing shared worship with Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on the fourth Sunday? The beauty and power of worshipping together in our Sanctuary for the Service of the Word and at Holy Trinity for the Service of Holy Communion, with a procession from the one to the other in between, were breathtaking and will live in our memories for a long time. Somebody said: "It's like Pentecost".

And there's one more Sunday to go – regrettably Frank, Heather and Frankie Ferreri's last with us, at least for now! It will be a memorable day, not least because of the baptism of Kaylie Driver (see Frank Ferreri's report for details).

Of course, the life and ministry of the church is much more than what happens on Sunday but, since worship is at the heart of the life of the church, these encouraging worship experiences can be understood as important symbols of the deep work of God's Spirit day in and day out through the very broad range of ministries by which First Church is privileged to touch and bless people's lives in many deep and meaningful ways.

It all augurs well for us as a congregation as we move forward through another year of challenge and opportunity.

Harold Henderson,
Senior Pastor