

LATHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
BOARD OF STEWARDS
May 12, 2011
MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Board of Stewards of Latham United Methodist Church was held on Thursday evening, May 12, 2011, in the Choir Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Beaver, Catherine Beck, Ginny Bentley, Buddy Bishop, Rosemarie Bishop, Cal Blevins, Marty Bryan, Martha Daniel, John Glaese, Marty Martin, Dale Peters, Lou Rau, Bernice Sutton, Jim Williams,

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Hughey Reynolds, Rev. David Thompson, Rev. Vicki Tonini, William McRea

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Board of Stewards, Lou Rau. Rev. Hughey Reynolds opened the meeting with prayer and lit the Christ candle to symbolize the presence of God in our midst and as a reminder that we do everything in the light of Christ.

Lou Rau welcomed everyone to the meeting. He read from Hebrews 12:1-2.

MINUTES: Copies of the minutes from the Board of Stewards meeting on February 24, 2011 were electronically distributed to the Board members for review prior to this meeting. Copies of the minutes were available at the meeting for persons not receiving them electronically.

ACTION: A motion was made and seconded to accept the Board of Stewards minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rev. Hughey Reynolds and Rev. David Thompson gave a presentation on Lifetree Cafe'. David talked about since coming to Latham, he has been contemplating how our worship services could address not only growing and empowering disciples of Jesus Christ but also reaching the unreached. He and Hughey have been in discussion for some time on this topic. Over the years, David has grown a passion for those who are unchurched. How can we reach folks who have been hurt by the church, who have quit coming, or who have never come to church and have a bad feeling about it? In the Lifetree Cafe' concept, the beginning is that you belong, no matter what you believe. Then you teach them to believe and then they become part of the discipleship out in the community. This is the first step in helping those who attend to become involved in our church ministries. The vision is for Lifetree Cafe' at Latham to become a new body of Christ within the larger body of Christ here at Latham.

A Lifetree Cafe⁶ has a very warm, comfortable atmosphere. It consists of small round tables, seating 3-4 people, with the topic of discussion around the table, not from someone up front talking. Materials are provided to participants so that when they come in, they are aware of the topic. Coffee and light snacks would probably be provided. The Lifetree Cafe⁷ at Latham would be on Thursday evenings at 6:30 PM in the Welcome Center with a video presented at 7 PM. Discussion would follow at the tables. Hughey estimated that 6 tables and 24 chairs would need to be purchased and possibly use some indirect lighting to warm up the Welcome Center. He feels that there are many in the church who would like to participate in this ministry with their time, talents, and monetary gifts.

Latham would enter into a License Agreement with Lifetree, which is supported by Group Publishing. A Projected Budget for Lifetree Cafe⁸ was presented to the Board of Stewards members at the meeting. The budget included First Year Requirements (expenses), First Year Receipts, and Needed Income. The budget also included Second Year Requirements (expenses) and Second Year Receipts. The budget shows that \$15,500 would be needed to finish out the first year requirements. Hughey indicated that possibly some ministry teams could invest some of their budget to Lifetree. A Lifetree grant of \$1500 will be part of the first year receipts as well as an initial donation of \$2500 offered by a member of the congregation. An offering is taken up at the Lifetree gatherings in baskets on the tables. It is anticipated that \$150 a week will be donated and Hughey and David are hopeful that the first year's budget would be fulfilled within the ministry teams. Hopefully in 2012, a Lifetree Cafe⁹ line item would be added to the budget. A copy of the Projected Budget is attached to these minutes. The plan is to launch a Lifetree Cafe¹⁰ at Latham on September 8, 2011.

A discussion and questions ensued among the Board of Stewards members and Hughey and David.

ACTION: A motion was made by Rev. Hughey Reynolds that Latham authorize the establishment of a Lifetree Cafe¹¹ at Latham UMC, entering into a 2 year license agreement with the organization Lifetree Cafe¹² and further steps to initiate a Lifetree Cafe¹³ on September 8, 2011. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A question and answer session, possibly a Reach, Grow, and Empower meeting, will be scheduled in the near future so that those Board of Stewards members who were not able to attend this meeting will have an opportunity to ask questions and understand the details of this new ministry.

FINANCE: Marty Martin reported that the health of our budget to date has been good. We are on target with our operating budget. We are running behind on the capital

-3-

budget, but still managing to make double payments every month. The remainder of our capital debt will be included in our stewardship campaign this fall. Hughey reported that the Nicaragua Mission Team has raised \$2000 over their goal and that \$4600 has been

collected for the tornado relief. Large amounts of tornado relief items have also been collected and delivered to the needed areas.

STEWARDSHIP: John Glaese reported that the team met on March 7th to set up the initial planning meeting with Dale McConnell, an RSI consultant who will work with us on this year's capital campaign. That meeting was scheduled for April 25th, but weather issues postponed that meeting and it is now rescheduled for June 7th.

LAY LEADER: Dale Peters reported that annual conference is coming up.

LUMCCDC: Traci Harris submitted a report. They had a very successful St. Jude's Trike-A-Thon in April, raising \$885 for St. Jude's Hospital. The annual Spring Program was a big success, with all 2-4 year old classes participating through song and movement. There are 16 children currently registered for the preschool in the fall. There will be a 1 year old Mothers Morning Out class offered for the first time this fall. The Summer Enrichment program will run June 7-30 from 9 AM - 1 PM. There will be 5 classes (2 years-2nd Grade) with a total of 32 children. There are 3 staff members leaving for various reasons but they have 3 new hires starting in the next few weeks. There are currently 23 full day children and 7 more students are registered to join in the next few months.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

DIRECTOR, ADULT & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: Susan Terry submitted a report. The children's activities on Sunday nights will end May 22nd with an end of the year cookout. During the 11:05 service on May 22nd, the acolytes will be recognized and the group will go out to lunch afterwards. On May 29th, the 4th/5th grade band, led by Les Johnson, will play at the 5 PM service.

For emergency efforts, we sent emergency supplies to Upper Sand Mountain, Ruth, Arab, and Huntsville Assistance Program. Thanks to Two Men and a Truck for taking 2 big loads and to Tom Parker for taking many smaller loads in his truck all over North Alabama. Collecting supplies has been suspended as of now, but as we hear of needs, we will put out calls for those needs on email and Facebook, as well as Sunday mornings. Breakfast was prepared, delivered, and served last Friday to the Boys and Girls Club in Harvest. Meals were served in the building and then taken out to the community. This Friday we will take snacks to the children of the Boys and Girls Club. While the youth were out of school during the power failure, they thoroughly cleaned the 2nd and 3rd

-4-

floors, including the bathrooms. We are now in a position to receive work crews coming from out of town and the District Superintendent has been informed of this. A work crew was sent to Arab last week and another will go to East Limestone this Saturday. Susan reported that a man commented to her that if this had hit in another part of town and not his, he probably wouldn't have gone to volunteer, but seeing so many people he doesn't

even know coming to help him has definitely changed his mind. That is a witness to others.

DIRECTOR, YOUTH MINISTRY: William McRea, our interim youth director, introduced himself to the Board. He reported that they have 20-25 coming on a Sunday night. Kids are coming back and becoming excited. Their summer calendar has been planned up to the day they go back to school. May 15th will be Senior Recognition Sunday with a youth led Spiritlink service. They have a mission trip planned in July to Alabama Rural Ministries, with 15 youth plus adults going. William also gave information on himself and his family to the Board.

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM: Judy Gillespie submitted a report. The Lenten services went very well this year. There was an increase in attendance at all of the services from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday.

BIBLICAL STUDIES MINISTRY TEAM: Martha Daniel reported the team facilitated a Lenten Study which met for five Sundays during the Lenten season. The study ended with the Meaning of Holy Week. Visitors from Trinity United Methodist Church came on the Prayer Study evening. Attendance varied throughout the study, however, was lower than anticipated. The team will participate in vacation bible school, develop a proposed Alpha study in the fall, as well as ideas for an Advent study.

CHURCH HISTORY MINISTRY TEAM: Rosemarie Bishop reported that their primary goal for 2011 is to spearhead the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the groundbreaking of Latham UMC at our current location. The celebration will take place on October 16th. Ruby Champion's book has recorded the history of the church from 1808 to 1996. The team is putting together stories and history that cover the last 15 years. Former ministers, members, and current members are invited and the team is hoping to include children, youth, and adults in the celebration.

FAITH SHARING MINISTRY TEAM: Jane Smith reported that they have met and addressed issues that were immediate. There are now greeters for Spiritlink and the visitor's bags are current. She believes that the team will be very involved in the Lifetree Cafe'.

LIBRARY: Rosemarie Bishop reported they are working on setting up a second library computer where patrons can search for and check out materials electronically and on updating the list of members. They are also in the process of transferring videos of children's programs, cantatas, and special services to DVD. They have also purchased copies of the books on the Huntsville City Schools Reading List for summer reading and will have those available in the teen center for students to read during the summer and the beginning of school.

UMW: Ginny Bentley reported the UMW had a very successful fashion show in March with proceeds of \$2800 to be distributed to our missions. UMW Sunday was a wonderful day of services. Rev. Melissa Patrick was our guest speaker. A new function will be held on July 22nd with a UMW Birthday Party. This party will be church wide, inviting all to attend and honor a person's/persons' birthday for the year 2011, with a donation to UMW for our missions. We will also be having a fall event, as yet unnamed, on October 22nd to raise funds for our missions.

ELDERBERRIES: Dale Peters reported they are still meeting on the 3rd Thursday each month.

ASSOCIATE MINISTER: Rev. Vicki Tonini reported that she and William McRea had met 2 years ago and went to Licensing School together at Camp Sumatanga. Vicki reported that our church has been very busy with the Disaster Recovery. We have provided breakfast, sent a work team to Arab and Limestone County, and have had numerous volunteers donate their time as we accumulated goods for those who were in distress. Vicki reported that the last couple of months have been a time of transition. She is looking forward to being appointed to another congregation in June. She thanked Latham UMC, its staff and congregation for allowing her to serve and grow in ministry. Bernice Sutton expressed on behalf of Latham a big thank you to Vicki for all that she has done for Latham and served in places that we have needed, especially with our elderly and homebound.

SENIOR MINISTER: Rev. Hughey Reynolds reported attending a meeting of the District about a month ago. At that meeting he learned that Latham had been selected among 9 others, mostly mid-size churches, to receive consultation and coaching, at the District's expense, from Ron Martoia. For more information on this, visit the web site of velocityculture.com. Hughey reported that Latham is considered a mid-size church, not in the 1000 attendance, which is the grading point for a large church. We would not have been selected had they looked at the data from last year, however they looked at data, which included attendance figures, that were in a slow decline. In 2007, approximately 400 average were in attendance over the year. In 2008, a very slight decline, however a larger decline in 2009. In 2010, attendance showed a substantial increase. With this

-6-

increase, the District Superintendent indicated he would have taken us out of the number, but he wanted Latham to have the coaching and consultation. Hughey reported that he and David would be going to Gunter's State Park on May 24th and 25th to meet with the District Superintendent and Ron Martoia and learn how he can assist us to expand our vision and that of the entire congregation. According to Ron Martoia and his experience, medium size churches either get larger or they die. On June 27-30, Hughey, David and our Senior full-time staff will be working with Ron during the day and lay leaders will be asked to join on 2 evenings.

Hughey reported that on the Sunday after the tornadoes, when he made the decision to have a church service, he was so pleased and amazed to see about 100 people come to the

service. It was meaningful to be together and talk about what the needs would be in our community.

Hughey reported he is leaving in 2 weeks for an Institute for Clergy Excellence trip to Ireland. He will be there about 8 days with a group of clergy and their topic is “ending well and finishing strong”, making the last quarter of our ministry the strongest. Sandy will join him after that for a delayed 35th anniversary vacation.

Hughey thanked everyone for their love and support for his family and especially his son, Christopher and wife Kelly. Kelly’s mother passed away on the Monday prior to their wedding on Saturday, May 7th. Hughey has been asked to preside at her memorial service in Montgomery a week from Saturday.

There being no further business, Rev. Hughey Reynolds closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Bentley

Projected Budget for LifeTree Cafe

First Year Requirments	Expense	Second Year Requirements	Expense
Initial License Fee	\$ 1,000.00	Initial License Fee	NA
Annual License Fee	\$ 1,500.00	Annual License Fee	\$ 1,500.00
Training Fees	\$ 1,000.00	Training Fees	NA
Travel & Lodging Tng	\$ 2,000.00	Travel & Lodging Tng	NA
Onsite Evaluation	\$ 750.00	Onsite Evaluation	NA
Furniture, Fixtures	\$ 3,000.00	Furniture, Fixtures	NA
AV Equipment	\$ 410.00	AV Equipment	NA
Matierals Cost	\$ 4,200.00 *	Matierals Cost	\$ 4,200.00
Supplies, Inventory	\$ 1,500.00 *	Supplies, Inventory	\$ 1,500.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,000.00 *	Miscellaneous	\$ 4,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 19,360.00	TOTAL	\$ 11,200.00
	(*1/4 due every 3 months)		
First Year Receipts		Second Year Receipts	
Initial Donation	\$ 2,500.00	LifeTree Grant-October 2012	\$ 1,500.00
LifeTree Grant-October 8	\$ 1,500.00	Budget	\$ 4,000.00
	\$ 4,000.00	LifeTree Offerings	\$ 7,500.00
Needed Income			\$ 13,000.00
Budget	\$ 8,000.00		
LifeTree Offerings	\$ 7,500.00		
	\$ 15,500.00		

May 12, 2011 Board of Stewards