

LATHAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BOARD OF STEWARDS

JANUARY 31, 2012

MINUTES

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Board of Stewards of Latham United Methodist Church was held on Tuesday evening, January 31, 2012, in the Choir Room of Latham United Methodist Church.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mari Adams, Amma Barnes, Bill Barnes, Don Beaver, Catherine Beck, Ben Bentley, Ginny Bentley, Buddy Bishop, Rosemarie Bishop, Cal Blevins, Faye Cook, Judy Gillespie, David Gore, Tim Hastings, Jackie Langhout, Sam Lasseter, Cairenn Martin, Marty Martin, Judy Moore, Phil Patterson, Carolyn Peters, Dale Peters, Edith Pickens, Charles Rowden, Gerald Smith, Jane Smith, Ken Stephens, Paul Stutts, Bernice Sutton, Leisa Teed, Chris Terry, Howard Trowbridge, Jim Williams, Betty Willis, Roy Willis, Liz Hall Zeman

STAFF PRESENT: The Reverend Dr. Hughey Reynolds, Anita Banks, Chris Klaus, William McRae, Susan Terry

ALSO PRESENT: Jack Matheney attending in the absence of Jeff Langhout to present a report from the Trustees Committee

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Board of Stewards, Marty Martin, at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Martin welcomed members to the first meeting of the year. Rev. Hughey Reynolds began the meeting by lighting a candle as a symbol of God's presence in this place and to shine upon the group and the decisions made. He read from John 8:12: **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.** The candle was then lighted as a symbol of God's presence.

Mr. Martin reminded the Board members that as plans are made for this coming year, we should remember that it is Christ whom we are serving.

Mr. Martin advised that one of goals for the Board this year is to improve communication between board members and the rest of the congregation. A link will be provided for Board members to review the minutes of each meeting.

MINUTES: The minutes of the meeting held on December 1, 2011 had been provided to all members and a copy was also available at this meeting for members to review.

ACTION: Tim Hastings moved that minutes of the meeting held on December 1, 2011 be approved

as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

MINUTES: The minutes from the Charge Conference held on December 6, 2011 had been provided to all members prior to this meeting. A copy was also available at this meeting for members to review.

ACTION: Tim Hastings moved that the minutes of the Charge Conference held on December 6, 2011 be approved as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

Mr. Martin announced that in an effort to make certain that the business of the Board flow as smoothly as possible, motions to be made should be sent to the secretary of the Board of Stewards one week prior to the Board meeting. These will be forwarded to all members in order for the entire Board to be prepared for the motion to be discussed.

No motions were received for this meeting.

Mr. Martin asked that each member introduce himself/herself and give their position on the Board of Stewards.

REPORT OF FACILITATORS:

GROWTH: Jackie Langhout reported that chairs or representatives from all ministry teams, committees and groups met on January 24, 2012 to begin planning for the year and placing events on the church calendar. Teams were encouraged to seek ways to integrate their activities for greater emphasis

REACH: NO REPORT

EMPOWER: Phil Patterson advised that he is the facilitator of Empower and would have a report at the next Board meeting.

STAFF PARISH: - no report

LAY LEADERSHIP: Rev. Hughey Reynolds reported that the Staff Parish has requested that he lead the Lay Leadership Committee to simplify the leadership structure.

FINANCE: Buddy Bishop reported that the Finance Committee met on January 26, 2012. At that time, the Operating Budget had 188 pledges for a total of \$642,917. The Capital Budget had 131 pledges for \$666,107.

Anita Banks has developed a tentative 2012 Operating Budget based upon these pledge results. Copies of this budget were distributed to all Board members. Budget requests received from Committee/Commission Chairpersons for 2012 total \$903,853 against an expected income of \$744,485. The revised budget will include an estimate of \$116,000 loose offering for 2012 as expected income. The Finance Committee requests that all Committee Chairpersons review prior budget requests for 2012 and "scrub" wherever possible. Input from Committee Chairpersons should be submitted to the

Finance Committee through Anita Banks no later than February 27,2012. The Finance Committee will meet on February 29, 2012 to develop a revised 2012 Budget for submittal to the Board of Stewards at the April meeting. Rob Terry, a member of the Finance Committee and a CPA, has taken on the task of looking at the church's capital debt and running an analysis to see if it makes " good business sense" to refinance. This decision will be reflected in the next report to the BOS from the Finance Committee.

Lou Raul and Gerald Smith have agreed to review the church's current financial procedures.

A copy of the minutes of the Finance Committee will be given to the Church Secretary to go in the MESSENGER. A complete copy of the report of the Finance Committee is attached to the record copy of these minutes. A copy of the tentative 2012 Operating Budget is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

Mr. Martin encouraged leaders of each ministry team to consider alternative ways to perform duties so that work can continue even if funds are reduced.

STEWARSHIP: This committee has not met this year but will do so before the next Board meeting.

TRUSTEES: Jack Matheney made the following report from the Board of Trustees:

1. The flat roof on the west side of sanctuary has been repaired.
2. New blinds have been installed in the education building.
3. Progress is being made on the installation of a coffeemaker in the kitchen.
4. Three lights have been replaced in Farley Hall.
5. Work to be done: Pot holes in parking lot will be fixed as soon as possible. Bulbs will be replaced in the parking lot. The Church Bell will be repaired.

LAY LEADER: No report

LATHAM CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER: Cairenn Martin thanked Catherine Beck for updating the Development Center's website. Mrs. Martin advised that the Center needs a printer/copier that is compatible with its computer. The Center currently has 22 preschool and 28 full-day students. Registration for 2012-2013 will begin on February 6, 2012 for current LUMCDC families; registration will be open to the public on February 13th.

OFFICE: Thanks to the efforts of Peter Loveman, public WiFi is now available at the church.

DIRECTOR ADULT AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES: Susan Terry reported that directors from other churches in southeast Huntsville are looking for ways to pool resources for such activities as Vacation Bible School. At the next BOS meeting there will be a discussion on continuing the pumpkin patch. She encouraged BOS members to go back and discuss with their group about continuing this project. A study, SIMPLY RELEVANT, is being planned. This study will connect young moms with older women

who can act as mentors. The study will last for six weeks.

DIRECTOR YOUTH MINISTRY: William McRae reported that the Youth Department is busy with many activities. The focus for the year for the youth is: if Latham wasn't here, what would happen to this community. The Youth Department is looking at participating in community activities such as the CASA Garden. On February 6, 2012, the Latham Youth will host a Super Bowl Party with youth groups from other churches. Plans are being made for fundraisers to help with the trip this summer to New Mexico. Mari Adams has started teaching a Sunday School Class for middle school youth. A youth group from Kingston, TN will be coming to Latham to spend time with our youth in June. The staff is in the process of finding youth who will serve as leaders of the this group. Mr. McRae challenged the BOS members to serve as Wexamples for the youth. A complete copy of Mr. McRae's report is attached to the record copy of these minutes.

DIRECTOR MUSIC MINISTRY: Chris Klaus reported that the Chancel Choir will be participating in a Tenebrae Service at Trinity United Methodist Church. The Handbell Choir will be participating in the Tennessee Valley Handbell Association "Area Festival". During this festival, the choir will be working with a guest clinician and performing with other Handbell Choirs from across North Alabama. The Handbell Choirs will perform in concert at Trinity United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 14, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM(TRADITIONAL): No report.

WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM (SPIRITLINK) David Gore reported that the Spiritlink services have moved back to Farley Hall . There will be some visual and atmospheric changes in the service. Those attending will see more of a worship center than a gymnasium. The following changes will be taking place:

1. The altar from the Bride's Room will be moved into Farley Hall.
2. Plans are being made to build an altar for the Spiritlink Service.
3. Lower half of the Farley Hall walls will be painted on March 3, 2012 pending approval from Trustees; plans are to paint over the cross. At some point in the future, a wooden cross will be added.
4. After painting, other enhancements will include kneelers, stage lights, covering for the upper windows.
5. Skirting around the stage has been located. More will be provided.

Although not submitted as a motion at this time, it was also recommended that we have separate Worship Committees for Spiritlink and Traditional Services.

MISSIONS: Lisa Teed reported that the Missions Ministry Team is in the process of implementing a method to communicate information regarding the mission activities at Latham which receive financial support. This will include making information available to all Latham families regarding the mission

opportunities at Latham.

FAITH SHARING MINISTRY: Jane Smith reported that this team met on January 15, 2012 addressing the following items:

1. Greeters for all worships services.
2. Scheduling visitation teams. These teams will be notified by the church Administrative Assistant on Monday if we have visitors who should be visited. Visitor bags are now located in the Narthex and in Farley Hall.
3. Developing a visitor brochure containing information on all the different programs and ministries of Latham. This would eventually replace the visitor bags.
4. Displaying a new member bulletin board in the Welcome Center which would have pictures along with names of new members who join at each of the three services.
5. Lifetree Cafe' buget is being supervised by this Ministry Team. A careful account of all expenditures is being kept.
6. An ad for the Lifetree Cafe' will appear in the OLD HUNTSVILLE MAGAZINE beginning in February. The expense for this ad has been covered for 2012 by generous donations.
7. Lifetree Cafe' has an average of 25-30 people attending each week.

Mrs. Smith announced that the Faith Sharing and Fellowship Ministry Teams will meet together on February 5th.

CARING COMMUNITY MINISTRY: Faye Cook reported that this ministry team met on January 17th. At present there are 30 members on our homebound visitation list. The team will attempt to visit these individuals at least once a month. Phone calls in between physical visits will be encouraged. The ministry team will meet every other month on the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on February 14, 2012.

BIBLICAL STUDIES: Liz Zeman reported that the Biblical Studies Team is in the process of selecting a spiritual development and a topical (marriage, child rearing, etc.) series. All studies being offered in the Spring will be put in a data base for distribution on bulletin boards, MESSENGER, Sunday bulletin, etc. Mrs. Zeman also presented an overview of the enhanced in-reach effort that is being undertaken. The three-pronged approach (expanded care-giving, increased fellowship and specialized ministries) is being reviewed by various committees and teams in order to see where they may help implement new programs.

CHURCH HISTORY - no report.

MUSIC MINISTRY - no report.

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY TEAM: no report

ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM: no report

CHRISTIAN UNITY MINISTRY TEAM: no report

LIBRARY: Rosemarie Bishop reported that the books recommended by the United Methodist Women are in the church library and she encouraged all members to use this list in choosing books to read during the year.

UMW: Ginny Bentley reported that the first General Meeting for 2012 will be on March 7th at 9:00 a.m. in Farley Hall. Rev. Cheryl Blankenship will be the guest speaker. UMW members and non-members are invited to attend. The annual Spring Fashion Show will be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012. More information will be available in the following month.

UMM - no report.

ELDERBERRIES - Bill Barnes reported that the Elderberries is in its 24th year at Latham. This group which is open to members and non-members meets every third Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in Farley Hall. Lunch is served followed by an informative and/or entertaining program. In addition the Elderberries sponsors the Jo Walton Literary Society which meets on the second Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. The Elderberries also participate in one-day trips. Mr. Barnes asked that members of the Board of Stewards assist in contacting individuals who might be interested in this group.

LATHAM SCHOLARSHIP: Ken Stephens reported on behalf of Genette Stephens that a Latham Scholarship will awarded again this year .

BUCHANAN SCHOLARSHIP - Tim Hastings reported that a Buchanan Scholarship will be given this year.

RECEPTION/HOSTESS: no report.

YOUTH COORDINATOR: Sam Lasseter thanked William McRae for allowing him to be a part of the youth group.

Mr. Martin announced that the next meeting of the Board of Stewards will be on Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

PASTOR REPORT: Hughey Reynolds reported that Latham's membership grew from 807 to 812 this past year. The church staff will be working with Ron Martoia, Leadership Coach , to build some core objectives for the coming year. The meeting will be held February 23rd at Latham. In addition to staff, three to five lay persons will attend.

Dr. Reynolds closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Amma H. Barnes

