

Church Council  
Minutes – February 19, 2023

Administrator:  
Ryon Miro

Attendees:

Elizabeth Chamblee  
Weston Cheatham  
Dan Christmus  
Heather Cook  
Jane DeCristofaro

Karen Evans  
Ira Sansolo  
Nikki Shaffner  
Tammie Sloop  
Jennifer Wargel

Absent:

Bob Shaffner  
Larry Griner  
Sylvia Cousin

Ryon opened with prayer.

Minutes from January 12<sup>th</sup> were reviewed for the record.

Reports from the following ministry areas:

Tammie Sloop – Nurture

1. Ann & Charlie delivered candy and poinsettias to people who are unable to attend (“remotes”)
2. About 25 people were expected for Patty Munn’s family luncheon – room was packed
3. Lee Chandler in going to contribute poem for Lenten Book

Heather Cook – Outreach & Witness (see attachment)

1. Backpack Program is running short on Mac & Cheese and Chef Boy R D’s
2. Sent cards to Revolution participants
3. Mailed Valentine bookmarks to “remotes” & Angel Tree families
4. Kay Burgess delivered blankets – still need lap blankets and hats for teens.
5. Working with SVHS on Hunger Project
6. Spring Fling – Melissa suggested:
  - a. Plant pumpkin seeds
  - b. Have table for Killingsworth

Nikki Shaffner – Worship & Lay Leaders – Presented by Bob Shaffner

1. Working on music for Lent and Ash Wednesday
2. Looking for youth to read scriptures during worship

Jennifer Wargel – Lay Leaders

1. Working on Lent services
2. Making connections with different ministry areas in Church

Weston Cheatham – Youth Group

1. Revolution was fantastic
2. Pancake supper planned for this week
3. Confirmation class coming up
4. Youth are going to present Good Friday service

Ira Sansolo – United Methodist Men

1. UMM volunteered to work with youth on Tuesday
2. Looking to attend a baseball game
3. Cooking hotdogs at Spring Fling
4. Next UMM meeting will be a game night

Dan Christmus - Treasurer - See attached

1. No finance meeting in February
2. Down in income in January, but up in expenses – primarily utilities
3. Monthly average needed to keep church running - \$28K
4. February is looking good – offering / restitution are both up – received \$22K so far
5. Dan & Gail attended Zoom class – need to have an audit this year

Nikki Shaffner for Bob Shaffner – SPRC

1. Meeting next week
2. Bob has completed training – working on getting all committee members trained

Nikki Shaffner for Gil Johnson – Trustees

1. Having problems with alarms – Gil and Dale are working to find a solution

Pastor Antoinette – see attachment for details

1. Gave us synopsis of Small Gathering Listening Sessions (attached)
2. 21 Pastoral Care from 12.16 – 02.18 – 21 calls, hospital visits, etc.
3. February birthdays done
4. Adding college students – Christopher & Walker Nurture Care Baskets
5. Confirmation Classes will be March 12 – 16 – Confirmation on April 23.
6. Discussed Ash Wednesday schedule – NEUMC – 7 – 9 am; Adams AME – 5 – 7 pm; Living Springs – 8 – 10 am and 4 – 6 pm. Our service will be at 6:45 pm
7. Met with Kathy James at Epworth – she will be here on 04.13 to meet with UWF to discuss needs in Northeast and 05.21 will share about Foster Care Awareness month
8. Training classes being planned for new members – 3 sessions
9. For Lent
  - a. Shrove Tuesday
  - b. Ash Wednesday
  - c. Devotional booklet – 6 lessons and picture
1. Prayer call every Wednesday morning at 6 am

Ryon closed with prayer.

## 2/7 Outreach/Witness Meeting Minutes

Members present: Jane D, Sharon, Ira, Debbie, and Heather

~Sharon and I delivered a van load of backpack program bags to Sandlapper on Tuesday. As always, she was very appreciative. She did say that she now has 23 kids who receive bags. That means we may need to be packing more bags.

~Kay's email was read out loud regarding the prayer shawl ministry. If you crochet or knit, keep it up!

~Spring Valley Baptist Church is having their 10th Annual Hunger Project this Saturday at Spring Valley High School. They will pack over 100,000 meals. This is a great opportunity to serve our neighbors. If you are interested, you can sign up here. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/svbc-10th-annual-hunger-project-tickets-429487969077> And wear an NEUMC shirt if you have one :)

~The rest of the meeting was spent talking about our Spring Fling coming up on April 22, which we realized is Earth Day so Debbie mentioned possibly renaming it to Spring Fling for Earth Day.

-Melissa gave me her plans before the meeting and I am attaching them to this email. Below are some of the ideas we discussed, but we decided we should probably meet again within the next two weeks to really get moving on this.

-We discussed ideas for music- possibly ask Sean Riley to come for an hour or two, Christian Radio Station, Bluegrass Band, etc. We thought square dancing would be fun, but we have a small budget to work with so maybe the Christian Radio station would come for free.

-Debbie knows someone who has a Bounce House business and she said she would contact them and take care of that.

-Debbie is going to ask the old Woodley's (now B.B. Barns) if they want to set up a table for \$150 since they are a for profit organization. Is that allowed? Maybe we could plant trees or flowers for Earth Day.

-Other ideas of organizations that are nonprofit are Clemson Extension, State Parks, Wildlife Conservation, Killingsworth, Richland Library, Columbia Police, maybe Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts could do an Earth Day booth. Nonprofit booths would be \$10. I think Melissa has a list of contacts already, but may need help calling since she works all day.

-Dale, can you add this event to the Church calendar and create a flyer that we could share on social media?

- Pastor Antoinette, will you advertise it with your groups as well?

## Finance Report 2/18/23

Note: There was no Finance Committee meeting on 2/14/23.

Financial Report: The financial start to 2023 was a little disappointing. Our income was less than anticipated and a few expenses were higher, primarily utilities, so we ended the month about \$2,450 further in the negative than anticipated. Remember that our current budget projects a monthly deficit of a little over \$4,300, with funds on hand at the beginning of the year available to cover any shortfall. On a positive note, we only had to transfer \$1,500 from our Money Market account to the Operating account in January.

Additionally, halfway through February our income from offerings and restitution payments is nearly \$22,000. Our monthly budget is \$28,850.

Audit: Gail and I attended a Zoom class on Local Church Audit's in mid-January. The class was given by our friend Rev. Robert Cox. We will have more information on that in coming days.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you, Dan Christmus



**SMALL GATHERING  
LISTENING SESSIONS  
4Q'2022**



# PURPOSE

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**Gather basic assumptions** about the congregation revealed by the data: important/repeated phrases, images, people, and events that emerge from the stories



**Essential for next steps** in identifying and achieving early wins and moving towards developing a vision and goals

# QUESTIONS

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Remembering your entire experience at our church, when did you feel the most alive, most motivated, and most excited about your involvement?

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What do you value most about our church?

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What activities or ways of life are most important?  
What are the best features of this church?

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Make three wishes for the future of our church.

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What do you hope will remain in the church?

**Remembering your entire experience at our church, when did you feel the most alive, most motivated, and most excited about your involvement?**

Going to a place with vibrant children and youth ministry / VBS

Having Bible studies / small groups / Emmaus meetings at the church

Missions program / Salkehatchie / Kairos

Choir practice / music / being part of the praise team

Being asked to participate / being asked to lead

Church family taking care of one another





# What do you value most about our church?



What activities or ways of life are most important? What are the best features of this church?

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Pumpkin patch

Enjoy not having to dress up—like come as you are. We share our church space with outside groups

Sunday school classes

People who are left are devoted to the church.  
People stepping up

Known for VBS before (used to have 100 kids)

Angel Tree

Backpack program. All of members involved with working together for the community

Youth room and playground

Chancel area  
handmade, paraments –  
labor of love, benches,  
rocking chairs

The Blessing Box

The setting of the church, the beautiful trees, surrounded by nature

Adult Sunday school coming back to life

# Make three wishes for the future of our church

Growth (Spiritual not just numerical)	Church retreat 2023 (locations: Bethel Christian Camp, Lake Junaluska, etc.)	Children and youth ministry to thrive / acolytes / Children's moment	Endowment / financial security	Professional service (i.e., starting on time) / new people on sound board	Serving the community; missionary coming and speaking at the church / more outward
Remain orthodox	Folks in the neighborhood come and feel welcome. Open minds	UMM and UW/inF groups restarted	Ministry opportunities (homeless, step outside of the wall)	Connectionalism (more involved with other churches) / revival with other churches	Friends and Family Day
Adopt a nursing home / Lauri Beth's community	Social media presence (interactive presence)	Follow up with visitors / those who haven't been back in a while	Small groups, i.e., brunch bunch (55+)	Visit sick and shut in for Communion	More diversity in the church (for the church reflect the real world)
	Church time at 11am	Choir (volunteer choir director), children's choir (involved in singing)			

# What do you hope will remain in the church?

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Sunday school

Communion every Sunday

Altar Call

Pumpkin Patch – getting new people involved

Diversity and willingness to accept whomever

# Youth Listening Session

Gaga ball / Zipline / Ice  
cream machine

More instruments in  
service (guitar and  
drum player) / more  
contemporary music

Children's church /  
Children's moment /  
Acolytes

Don't like the taste of  
the wine and bread

Questions with sermon  
/ Reading Scripture  
and acting it out /  
Painting during service  
/ move around

Service in pumpkin  
patch / Potluck once a  
month / Chili cook off

Church trips/retreats -  
White water rafting /  
Carowinds Amusement  
Park

Church picnic  
(Sesquicentennial  
Park)

Winter VBS (during  
winter break)

*Youth Worship Committee: CJ, Emma, Robbie, Nathan*

# What is the Common Thread?



LONG-RANGE  
PLANNING TEAM 2014



RESHAPE MINISTRY  
INSIGHTS



2022 SMALL  
GATHERING SESSIONS

“Objective is not church growth. It is church health.”

### **What can we do now?**

- ✓ Children and youth ministry
  - Intentional and consistent participation in worship service
  - Confirmation and youth retreats
- ✓ Pastoral Care (nurture/disciple care)
- ✓ Connected and Communicating
  - Repetition & word-of-mouth
  - Website/Newsletter/Bulletin/Announcements

### **What can we plan for?**

- ✓ Small groups/Bible studies are essential
  - Planning, development and timeline to relaunch
- ✓ Understanding “Who is My Neighbor?”
  - Mission InSite report

**SMALL GATHERING  
LISTENING SESSIONS**







## **PASTOR REPORT**

February 19, 2023

### **Pastoral Care 1/16/2022 – 2/18/23**

21 Pastoral needs and follow Ups (Calls, cards, hospital visitations, home visits, bereavement care) – Going to visit Gil today at Lexington Medical.

### **Nurture**

- Care baskets for college students (met with Tammie)
- (9 members who are unable to attend)

### **Monthly Birthday Cards**

- February

### **Leadership**

- **Recognition of Leaders during our worship service – Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**

### **Confirmation**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023
  - Eight Confirmands
  - Retreat Weekend (March 3-5)
  - Classes March 12 – April 16
  - Confirmation Sunday, April 23

### **Lenten Season**

- Planning and preparation
- NEUMC 7-9am; 6:30pm
- Adams AME 5-7pm; Living Springs 8-10am, 4-6pm; 6:45pm service.

### **Small Gathering Listening Sessions**

Met with SPRC on **Sunday, Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** to present a summary report of small group gatherings and receive feedback.

### **Worship Youth Committee – (Emma, Robbie, Hannah, CJ, Nathan)**

- Met on Sunday, February 12
- I expressed my hope that they would feel connected, encouraged, and empowered to share and help implement ideas for the worship service.

### **Epworth Children's Home**

- Kathy James, Director of Church Relations – Needs in Northeast Columbia
- Coming to speak with United Women in Faith, **Thursday, April 13**



## **PASTOR REPORT**

February 19, 2023

- Sharing on **Sunday, May 21**, National Foster Care Awareness Month

### **New Visitor Process**

- Welcome bags – will be in the Narthex Sunday morning, January 15th
- Hospitality audit (Connection Team – work in progress)

### **FORMATION – Unable to attend due to sickness**

#### **Duke University Final - Myrtle Beach, SC, Feb 3-5, 2023**

- Plenary Sessions: *Resilience through Resurgence*

#### **2023 Bishop's School of Ministry – SC Conference Myrtle Beach, SC, Feb 7-9, 2023**

### **Luther Seminary, St Paul, MN**

#### ***Relevance to Resonance***

(Two cohorts w/ 12 pastors - \$10,000 stipend to design and implement an initiative in your congregation) – Meeting with worship team and outreach chair

To discern why and how congregational life can provide the context for an alternate way of being in the world—a way of being that is attuned to God and informed by the experience of resonance.

#### ***Experiment of Resonance***

*Winter 2023 • Prepare an experiment in your congregation*

*Spring/Summer 2023 • Implement experiment*

*Fall 2023 • Host a visit of the grant team to interview/observe participants in your experiment*

- *Meeting 3 - February 7-9, 2024, Carefree, AZ*