

The Arden United Methodist Church Council met on Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center. The following were present: Pastor Sarah Schlieckert, Kevin Kelly, Betty Catrow, John and Gail Collis, Willia McDonald, Doris Ann Fiddler, Jim and Sherry Whitacre, Tom Bryant, Ron Nagley, Rachel Maston, Scott Boyd, Ed Tryon, Ashley Horst, Brittany Young, Jack and Anne Deardorff.

In keeping with the sermon series, Doris Ann read a passage from Mathew 4: 18-22. The scripture described the wiliness of the disciples to follow Jesus and listed the sights and wonders they witnessed Jesus perform. She closed with a prayer that our council would be good witnesses in the projects and programs developed.

To confirm that everyone has access to the minutes of each council meeting, Anne will post 6 copies on the bulletin board following each council meeting. This will be done following the email approval by the council.

## Administrative Reports

### **Finance Committee – Kevin Kelly**

Kathy Burcham who handles our accounting was present to help in the discussion of the 2016 budget and the move towards QuickBooks. Using QuickBooks will enable us to see more financial detail than what we have in the past. The changeover will require the routine reporting to Kathy from the financial lead persons in all of our church organizations. This will take some time and training and patience. But, in the end the result will be a more transparent accounting of all funds collected and how they are being used.

There will be another meeting before the end of the year to view the progress of the budget and set-up of QuickBooks framework. For now, we were asked to view the last recorded budget template and suggest changes and updates. The following bullet points came from the council:

- Christian Education will be changed to Adult Christian Education
- Sunday School Supplies (Children's Church) will be separated as follows:
  - Sunday School (with 1,200 budgeted)
  - Agape Village (with 1,000 budgeted)
- The organ maintenance and piano tuning will be budgeted under Repairs/Maintenance.
- Add a line for Nursery Supplies – budget amt: \$200.
- Add Fee: Breeze Membership Data base - \$600.00
- The Youth budget will remain at \$1,000 with the understanding that they will continue to fundraise as is appropriate.
- Looking ahead it may be good to isolate the income and expenses for the FLC
- Employee gifts will be moved to payroll expenses.

### Staff-Pastor-Parish Committee – Scott Boyd

SPPRC met on Wed., Oct 14 and completed the Pastoral and Congregational Evaluation. Scott mentioned that the congregational eval was difficult because there had never been any goals set by the Council. This is an item to be added to the January Council agenda.

End of year gifts were recommended by the SPPRC to the Council and were approved. The distribution with or without taxation was to be discussed further.

Custodian: \$600

Dan Turner: \$500

Pam Thornton: \$100

Kathy Bennett: \$100

The following raises to staff salary were proposed: Kathy Bennett – a raise of \$5 per trip to \$75. All other staff salaries remain unchanged at this time.

### Trustees – Jim Whitacre

The keys to the Whitford property have been turned over and there should be a For Sale sign on the property early November. Eric Butler is the realtor for the sale.

Outside lighting is ongoing.

Doug Miller has viewed the doors in the Sunday School classrooms and will be taking care of the addition of glass to adhere to our safe sanctuary policy.

The duct system will be inspected in the parsonage and decision will be made whether replacement upgrading existing or cleaning is needed.

Discussion was had about the after hours traffic around the church and parking in the back out of sight. Jim will contact law enforcement agencies he has contact with to discuss how to best secure our property.

## Ministries and Programs

- A. Pastor Sarah Schliekert** – We will soon have *internet* in the FLC for use by the Girl Scouts, 4-Hand others. It will not cost anything extra for this and will require a separate network password.

The *Breeze membership* database is continuing to be added to and functionality discovered. *Bishop Mathews will be retiring in 2016*. The annual conference is raising funds to erect an athletic building at Africa University. PS reminded us of our UM roots in the building and sustaining of this institution. Students come from all over the continent to earn degrees in agriculture, leadership, teaching and more. We were encouraged to be thinking about a fundraising event with a sports theme that would support the conference goal.

*Holiday Schedule:*

11/25 at 7pm Thanksgiving Eve Service

12/13 at 9:45 Children's Christmas Pageant in the FLC

12/20 at 10:45 Choir Christmas Cantata

12/24 at 4pm Christmas Eve Service (focus on families with Young Children – but everyone welcome)

12/24 at 7pm Christmas Eve Service (Traditional)

**B. Beyond the Walls – Tom Bryant**

C-Cap donations continue – avg. 10 lbs of food per week.

**C. Congregational Care – Sherry Whitacre** – no report at this time.

**D. Worship – Ashley Horst** – Sports Sunday will be on the Sunday of the NCAA Basketball Tournament..instead of Superbowl Sunday

**E. Sunday School - Doris Ann** reported that the new Adult and children's program was off to a good start.

**F. Youth – Ed Tryon** – A *spaghetti dinner* will be prepared for the congregation following worship on Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>. Funds raised will go towards the trip to ROCK. There are currently 26 persons signed up to go to ROCK. – largest number ever. The youth members will *be providing and conducting the games* for the children who attend Trunk or Treat on 10/31 – followed by a lock in at the church. Wendy Martz is leading this project. *Hard candy making* will start November 27 and 28<sup>th</sup>. A large order of cinnamon has been received from Pastor Kathy Spitzer.

**G. UMW – Elaine Bobo** – Anne read a report that indicated *18 pints of blood collected* at the Red Cross Blood Drive. A meal was served to approx 30 members and chaperones of the *Young Lives* group. *100 Operation Christmas child boxes* had been assembled and will be available for the church members on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Filled boxes to be returned on Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup>. A *\$1,000 donation* was given to the annually conference missions program. A *Paint Night* will be hosted on Monday November 9<sup>th</sup>, seventeen of the forty participants are not from our church membership. Rebecca Circle looks forward to an opportunity to host new faces into our church. The group will be providing two trunks for the upcoming *Trunk or Treat* and have signed up to help provide refreshments.

**H. UMM – Tom Bryant** reports a healthy balance in their checkbook, and will be spending some of it on the Board of Childcare gifts for the residents. They will no longer be leading in the collection of aluminum cans. The work involved for the income is not reasonable.

**I. Young Adults – Rachel Maston** – no report at this time

**J. Family Ministries – Michael and Erica Parello** – the Parellos will no longer be leading this program.

**K. Volunteers in Mission – Brittany Young** – The 2016 Mission trip has been set as July 10 through 16. The location is not known at this time. The group will be setting aside funds to do local /church member projects. There is also an opportunity for a family mission experience at Manidokan. In 2017 Brittany would like to see a network of smaller churches joining with us for a broader scope of mission work.

- L. **Prison Ministry - Ron Nagley** recently spent time ministering to the needs of the guards at the Eastern Regional Jail. He continues to work frequently with the jailed population with Bible study, and other spiritual growth

**New business:**

Be sure to include a 2016 Congregational Goal setting early in 2016

**Next Meeting:**

Monday, November 23, 2015 6:30 in the FLC

Recorded by:

Anne Deardorff  
Council Secretary