

The Arden UMC Council met on Monday, March 28th at 6:30 pm in the Family Life Center. The following members were present: Kevin Kelly, Jim Whitacre, Scott Boyd, Rachel Maston, John and Gail Collis, Tom Bryant, Leslie Stilwell, Stewart and Willie McDonald, Doris Fiddler, Ashley Horst, Jack and Anne Deardorff and Pastor Sarah Schlieckert.

Doris Ann shared a list of things “We say” vs. the things that “God says”. An example was: we say: “I can’t do that”, but God says” You can do all things through Christ”. She shared many eye opening truths and it was a blessing to all who were there. She closed with a prayer that we would all listen and do as God directs.

The minutes were approved following the February 3rd meeting by email. Anne distributed hard copies to anyone who needed them. Tom Bryant asked to be recognized as the UMM representative to council instead of Ron Nagley as stated in the minutes.

Administrative Reports

- A. **Trustees – Jim Whitacre** The Whitford property is closed and the trustee’s have netted \$88,898.85. The committee met prior to the Council meeting and proposed the following plans for the proceeds. This is not a final, but represents the projects that have been identified so far:
- Replacing the carpet with hardwood flooring in the church office
 - Resanding all of the hardwood floors in parsonage
 - Heating and ventilation cleaned and re-insulated
 - Use 2 part epoxy paint on walls and floors in basement to brighten and seal.
 - New well for the church – water for church is currently coming from the parsonage well which is low producing.
 - Several trees to be removed
 - Maintenance on spouting
 - Bulbs replaced with LED in sanctuary
 - Upgrade outdoor lighting – with a focus on cemetery lighting
 - Stove in warming kitchen needs repair
 - Lights and speakers in bell tower need attention
 - Cleaning and repair of pews in sanctuary
 - Carpets throughout the church cleaned –
 - Wooden corners added to the kneeling pads at the chancel railing...to add strength and offset fraying at corners.
 - Stained ceiling tiles replaced throughout.

A portion of the proceeds will also be applied to the mortgage. Again, a final proposal is to come.

It was decided that two Saturday work days will be scheduled: May 14 and May 21 from 9AM to 2PM. The focus will be on cleaning and preparing for the UMM Yard Sale on May 28th. The Trustees will create a list of tasks to be done.

- B. **Kevin Kelly Finance** The finance committee proposed a new option for church members to give electronically. The fee is \$20.00 per month. This form of giving would not be mandatory. Kevin moved that we move forward with this and Ashley Horst seconded the motion.

Kevin asked the SPPRC to look at the possibility of adding an administrative assistant to the staff. Part time, full-time, paid, volunteer; many questions to be explored and answered.

In the works is also a campaign to accelerate the pay off of the church mortgage. If each family could add \$12 per week to their giving, we could pay off the debt in 5 years.

- C. **SPPRC – Scott Boyd** indicated that the committee had not met since the last council, but would be meeting soon to discuss the admin position recommended by the finance committee as well as review the nursery staff and welcome new committee members for 2016.

Ministries and Programs

- A. Pastor Sarah – camperships are available and currently there are a few of Arden's youth signed up. Pastor Kathy Spitzer will be coming sometime in June to award the scholarships. Will she also preach???

Clean Closets to fund Camperships is coming soon. Currently some bags of clothing are in the back rooms of the parsonage.

- B. Beyond the Walls – Tom Bryant C-Cap continues to benefit from our collections of nonperishable food items.
- C. Congregational Care - Sherry Whitacre Pastor Sarah reported that there were about 50 in attendance for the sunrise service and that Jim and Sherry coordinated the potluck breakfast following.
- D. Worship – Ashley Horst - This committee met on 3/12/16 and is actively recruiting worship leaders, greeters, ushers and acolytes.

A co-head usher has been identified and will be invited to assist very soon.

Although we do not want to lose the personal sharing of prayer requests and joys, it has been noted that the time to do these things can be a problem. We were reminded that the announcement time of 15 minutes was added to the front of the worship for this very reason, and that it was rare for that time to be overrun.

Other ideas shared were to have special music when the choir is not providing an anthem and to return singing during communion.

- E. Spiritual Growth – Doris Ann and Sue Nagley and Erin Straley – Bible School has been set for July 11 -14 from 6 – 8 pm with the closing program on July 17th during the worship hour.

During the months of June – August, Sunday School will utilize a one-room program to allow the teachers a break. August 28th will be promotion Sunday. The children going into the third grade will receive a Bible of their own . June 5th will be teacher recognition Sunday in conjunction with campership awards.

- F. Youth – Ed Tryon - starting in the fall on the 1st and 3rd Sundays the Youth will gather for meetings, lessons and fun activities. Pastor Sarah will have an active role in this to become further connected with the youth.
- G. UMW – Paint Night for kids will be held on April 11th. The cost is \$20. This is not a fundraiser, but an outreach to kids and youth for a fun night of fellowship and an opportunity to paint a gift for Mother’s Day or some other occasion. Ages 8 and up are recommended.
- H. UMM – Tom Bryant shared the proposed budget expenditures that are planned for 2016. So many recipients of funds for camps (4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church) and more.
- I. Young Adults – Rachel Maston – no news to report
- J. Volunteers in Mission – Family Mission Event is scheduled for June 15-18. The team will be in Southern WV the week of July 9 – 16. Many details yet to work out.
- K. Prison Ministry – Ron Nagley is participating in Kyrios in April. Prayers are needed and appreciated.

Old business – Leslie Stilwell was presented to fill the position of Lay Leader. It was moved by Anne Deardorff and seconded by Scott Boyd to accept her into this position.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 23rd 2016 at 6:30pm in the Family Life Center at Arden UMC.

Pastor Sarah closed with prayer.

Anne Deardorff

Arden UMC Church Council Recording Secretary