

First Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting

1-29-25

In attendance were Sarah Williams, Alan Leary, Jen Hill, Fletcher Poulk, Joe Kirk, Larry Hughes, Matt Richie, and Mary Day.

Sarah opened in prayer and Fletcher gave the devotion about making decisions based on who and what we know, not based on our feelings.

A motion was made, seconded, and all agreed to approve the minutes from last month.

We recited the mission statement.

Finance Report: Ended 2024 with abundance; line items now match; capital expenditures were high, operating fund in great shape; pledging remains to be heavy for operating; Mundine house is under contract (approx. \$210-220,000 profit).

Budget for 2025 was reviewed, a motion given and seconded, all agreed to approve.

TV Broadcast ministry was discontinued and has gone over just fine. Most people were already using a different streaming service.

Sunnie Gale Ballou starts with us next week as new organist.

We are missing a male voice in the Rise – this is an item on SPRC meeting next week. Phil is aware and fills in when he can.

Nominations were discussed for committees; holes still exist and we are working on that.

Trustees Report: Still working on parking lots (Bridges St has a prelim drawing, still working on Arendell lot); Storage downstairs is being cleaned out to make room for other storage; working on a solution/drawings to help with humidity / dripping issue; replacing the Fellowship foyer door next to elevator (just need to find a company to do it as it is a custom door).

SPRC: Still on a pastor search. The pool is small and we have high standards. 😊 Have discussed in interim pastor to help with a transition; voted to have Pastor Powell sit in on meetings for now; will send letter to congregation to update everyone.

Missions: Carteret Long Term Recovery – less than 20 projects left from Florence; Need new person to oversee Habitat for Humanity lunches; Extended Table was at Martha's

Mission today; Mountain Mission Feb. 26-Mar. 2 for 8-16 ppl in the Asheville area, working with Cabins for Christ to build tiny homes; PMHC will be June 16-18; Project Christmas Cheer served 51 families, 6 senior citizens; Costa Rica Mission Project has a handful of opening left; Backpack Blessings has 60 active children (\$13.25/wk each); Family Promise is going well; Hospice House – Pat Willis will continue to oversee; Rise Against Hunger and Diaper Drive to be discussed at next meeting.

Worship: need meeting to prepare for Lenten lunches / Easter; Ash Wed is March 5 (no 545 that week); Service of One – working on it; Palm Sunday is April 13.

Lay Leaders: Rise: 8:30 has been less attended (poss due to weather); 9:45 continues to be full; 2 confirmations last Sunday; variety of ages attending.

Fletcher finished in prayer.