

First Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
August 23, 2023

The Church Council of the First Methodist Church met on Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 7:00pm. Members present were Dykeman Baily, Loretta Baily, John Civils, Mary Day, John Floyd, Larry Hughes, Alan Leary, Sandra Norris, Fletcher Poulk, Patrick Whaley, and Sarah Williams.

Patrick opened the meeting in prayer and Fletcher Poulk presented a devotional. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June meeting. It was seconded and all agreed.

Finance Committee: John Floyd

- John reviewed the July 2023 financial report.
- Current assets are \$1,298,000

Trustees: Dykeman Baily

- The church closed on 906 Bridges St. which it purchased for \$345,000. The current tenants will be allowed to remain until the end of October. Because of the shortage of affordable housing in our area, a motion was made to return to the tenants their September and October rents less management fees. It was seconded and all approved.
- When 906 Bridges becomes vacant, it will be demolished for additional church parking. The church will hopefully pave both parking lots at that time.
- There are ongoing HVAC repairs. Two new units will be installed in the fellowship hall. ● Plaster repairs in the sanctuary are now complete. Painting is scheduled for next week. ● Getting quotes on painting the interior of the Wallace Building.
- Getting a 50 amp plug for the new food truck.
- The new church van has arrived. There will be a check in/check out list. ● Looking at adding new cameras to increase campus security.
- Looking into enlarging the outdoor storage area.

Staff Parrish: Sarah Williams

- Lisa Kittrell has accepted the full time position as director of ELC.

Worship: Larry Hughes

- September 17 is the Service of One at 10:30 am at West Carteret High School auditorium. Lunch will be served after the service.
- The church is considering offering a second Rise service at 8:30.

Sarah Williams

- Sarah reported that Nelson Koonce, a part time pastor to several Down East churches suffered a collapsed lung. His congregations are holding a fundraiser to help with his medical expenses. A motion was made to donate \$10,000 from abundance toward that fundraiser. It was seconded and all agreed.
- The church is purchasing a new sound board with blue tooth capabilities. Church members with blue tooth hearing aids will be able to hear the service through their hearing aids. There will be other hearing apparatuses offered to hearing impaired members at the church services.

- The Costa Rica mission had 19 volunteers, some of which were new church members.
- VBS had members, visitors and guests who volunteered.
- Many small groups will be starting in the Fall.
- Church attendance is averaging 600 each Sunday.
- Kids Ministry kickoff is Sunday, September 10 beginning at 5:00 until 6:30. K through 5th grade are invited to attend. Dinner is included.

Sarah Williams closed the meeting in prayer. The next meeting will be September 27.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Norris