

First Methodist Church
Church Council Meeting
September 27, 2023

The Church Council of the First Methodist Church met on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Members present were Powell Osteen, Sarah Williams, Patrick Whaley, Shanna DuMont, Dykeman Baily, Loretta Baily, John Civils, Mary Day, John Floyd, Larry Hughes, Fletcher Poulk, Joe Kirk, and Parker Morris.

We were opened in prayer and Fletcher presented a devotional. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July meeting. It was seconded and all agreed.

Finance Committee: John Floyd

- Review of August Financial Report
- Report of Audit progress
- Deeds have been transferred from FUMC to FMC
- Working with Rogers CPA to find a way to make financial report small/more efficient

Trustees: Dykeman Baily

- Plaster repair in Sanctuary is complete, but not painting yet
- Still looking for tile person for 3rd floor shower
- Still working on a 50 amp plug for food trailer
- Completed outlets in kitchen and exposed wire outside
- Adding lighting in Fellowship Hall (in the back)
- Secured insurance for Mundine property, cleaning up the deed and then will place on market to sell
- In communication with someone to repair gutters
- Water softener was installed in admin building (not confirmed)
- In process of appraising our properties and will likely need to increase our insurance. Possible that we will use Earl Jones.
- Agreed to paint 2nd floor of Wallace building
- Large elm tree on Bridges Street lot needs dead branches to be pruned. May talk to an arborist to help save tree. Parker Morris' friend (an arborist) may evaluate it this weekend.
- Agreed to purchase 5 iPads for Sunday School and Sunday evening security
- Agreed to update/replace sound system in Sanctuary, approx. \$25k

Staff Parish Relations: Parker Morris

- Conversations about adding an "executive pastor" to assist our current pastors, to handle operations like HR, facility, admin type work. Need job description and figure out what we can offer in terms of salary and benefits. Looking at mid 2024
- Parker's company will offer service for hiring process

- Katie Dixon resigned
- Ralph Wade will retire Dec. 31 – party for him for serving 36 years!
- Working on Staff review procedures
- Staff appreciation committee was developed from SPRC to recognize staff birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
- Staff Christmas party at Osteen's house
- Staff going to church (other than FMC) so they can enjoy service without working, possibly during Lay Sunday, twice a year
- Oct. 7, 10:00 a.m., at Crown Theater in Fayetteville – Annual Conference and Ordination!! Yay Sarah!

Worship: Larry Hughes

- Service of One was postponed due to WCHS auditorium issue
- No Journey to Bethlehem this year, may alternate with Family Advent
- Advent schedule was released

Other Business:

- Oct 22 Fish Fry Fellowship 4:30 – 6:30 at The Silos in Newport. Fat Fellas will staff, cater. Parker Morris' company will cover cost of food! Donations will be accepted for missions.
- Second Rise Service will start Dec. 3, 8:30

Shanna DuMont:

- Sunday School numbers are great, need volunteers. Sunday nights are back and have lots of volunteers. Working on 2nd Rise, Trunk or Treat, Advent and Christmas

Patrick Whaley:

- Please let us know if there is anyone in the hospital. Another bereavement class will be offered.

Sarah Williams:

- HS youth has grown a lot. All County Youth Night on Oct. 1 at 7:30 Fellowship Hall, Middle School Youth Retreat Nov. 18 at Busch Gardens, HS Youth Retreat at Wintergreen in January.

Powell Osteen:

- SYATP at all schools is going great, GMC is progressing, The Chosen 3 small group will start in Oct, Owen Starling's baptism on Sat, Sept 30 at 3:00 has moved to 20th St.

Sarah Williams closed in prayer. Next meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 25.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Day (for Sandra Norris)