

News



Views

May 4, 2011

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Wilmington, NC

Italics indicate non-FCC group

Sunday, May 8

8:45 am Turning Point

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Traditional Worship

3 pm Violin Recital

4-5:30 pm K'Motion

Monday, May 9

12 pm Al Anon

Tuesday, May 10

7 pm Vocal Arts Ensemble

Wednesday, May 11

7:30 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 12

1:30 pm Silver Bees

Saturday, May 14

8-11 am Pancake Breakfast

7 pm Narcotics Anonymous

Sunday, May 15

8:45 am Turning Point

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Traditional Worship

12 pm Board Meeting

5-7 pm Youth

Recent Attendance

8:45 11:00

5/1/11 66 82

May Sermon Series



May 8

God's Forgiveness

May 15

Forgiving Ourselves

May 22

Forgiving Others

May 29

The Healing Power of Forgiveness



Disciples Men

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, May 14, 8:00-11:00 am

All proceeds benefit the FCC General Fund.

y'all come!

Notices and Reminders

Worship focus for Sunday is *God's Forgiveness*; Psalm 103:1-12, Ephesians 4:31 - 5:2.



Lectionary Readings to use in your daily practice of prayer and scripture.

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Acts 2:14a, 36-41
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

Pray for Our Missionaries

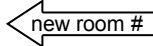


Tim Rose serving in Guadeloupe/Martinique.

Address for Lucille Allen

As she is quite weak, **she has requested no visitors and no calls.** If you would like to send her a card the address is:

Lucille Allen, Room 6321
c/o UNC Hospital
101 Manning Dr
Chapel Hill NC 27514



Use of the Chapel

Recently some things have been left in the Chapel, preventing its use. If you have left things in the Chapel, please put them away.

Due to the abundance of delicious

food which has been brought to various events lately, quite a few dishes are waiting for their owners in the kitchen. This loitering of lonely dishes is crowding the counter, so please stop by to check whether one of them belongs to you. Thank you!



Read the Newsletter Online

Send an e-mail to the church office at fccwilm@bellsouth.net if you would like to receive the *News & Views* online.

A Word from Lance, cont'd

like the Psalmist, following our Lenten practices of attending to the presence of God, our souls continue to long for God in the way a deer pants for water.

Easter is not over either by the way. We are now in the season of Easter as we are building up to our remembrance and celebration of Pentecost when the disciples were baptized with the Holy Spirit, and the church was born. Imagine what it might have been like after the crucifixion. There was no church of Jesus Christ yet. The eleven remaining disciples were scattered at first. Other faithful followers probably still went to synagogue, but must have wondered if things were going to go back like they were before Jesus had come. And so they waited as Jesus instructed.

We, too, are invited to wait this Easter season. While we wait, we celebrate resurrection. We pray and think and allow the surprise and wonder of Easter morning to sink in. While we wait, we ponder what it means that God brings life out of death. While we wait, we review Jesus' life and his amazing compassion and we seek to love that way, too. While we wait, we anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit just as Jesus said and we live with expectation about what God has for us. Glory be to God.

Bring canned green beans and canned peas in May for the Food Pantry. Put them in the Little Red Wagon.



Please do not bring items that have expired or are close to their expiration date. Thank you.

Who, what, where, when?



Summer Camp for Children and Youth

Summer is coming, and there are great opportunities for you to attend camp in June and July! The camp schedule and registration forms are available on the Youth board and on the K'Motion board. First Christian pays ½ the camp fee for church members. Contact Rev. González, if you have any questions.

Children as young as Kindergarten are eligible to attend one of our Regional camps at Camp Caroline. For the youngest children, Uno camp (K-1 grade) is the perfect first-time camp experience. Children attend with a parent and stay one night. Older elementary children have the option of a three day or week-long camp. Camps are also offered for middle and high school students, which include a unique camp for eighth graders.

Please turn in forms and fee (check made out to FCC) to Rev. González by May 15.



VBS Volunteers Needed

Summer is coming soon. First Christian and St. John's Episcopal Church are preparing for our combined Vacation Bible School on August 1-5. We are looking for volunteers to help guide our children through the exciting week at the "Shake It Up Cafe." Please let Rev. González know how you can help:

- **Before VBS:** Pray for VBS, help decorate, help with publicity, prepare craft packages, paint backdrops
- **During VBS:** Lead/help with one of the stations—craft, snack, music, science, recreation, Bible story; take pictures and prepare power point, be a group guide, help with setup, help with cleanup, greet and register participants
- **After VBS:** Help take down decorations



If You See Any of These Folks, Wish Them A Happy Birthday!

Take a few minutes to share your best wishes with the members of our church family who have birthdays this month.

Matthew Adam	Sibyl Lavengood
Barbara Adams	Beth May
Matthew Archibald	Bob Morrison
Maggi Coleman	Jerry Owens
Martha Dineen	Tena Perry
Blake Edwards	Kane Provencher
Maurice Emmart	Wanda Provencher
Harry Griffin	Becky Roberts
Pam Furr	Camdyn Roberts
Ailsa González	Carlotta Smith
Frank Hickman	Peggy Smith
Kathy Jordan	Charlie Vaughan
Austin Koester	David Wrede

If we missed anyone, we are truly sorry. Please let someone on the Membership Team know, and you will be added to the birthday list.



Bicycles to Give Away

A man and a woman's bike are available for anyone that would like to have them. Please call the church office at 762-1389.

Dear FCC Family,

We want to thank you for all your prayers and support during Matthew's deployment. He has returned home safely. Please continue to keep him and Amanda in your thoughts and prayers as their marriage approaches, and their relocation to New Mexico.

With love and Gratitude,
Vanessa King

From the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

Sunday, May 15, is our final General Board meeting of the year! It hardly seems possible that the New Church Year will begin in less than two months.

On Sunday, May first, during 2011's Annual Meeting of the Congregation, those voting at both 9:45 AM and 12 Noon approved the 2011-2012 proposed budget as prepared by the Stewardship and Finance Team and approved by the Board on April 10. The amount, \$356,293, is \$41,299 (10.3 %) less than the 2010-2011 budget. The amount reflects a reduction in the amount of health insurance premiums for Dr. Perry, Rev. Gonzalez and Ms. Dietrick for which the church will be responsible. In other words, First Christian will pay one-half of each one's individual premium. The employees will pay the other half. The church will discontinue purchasing health insurance for employees' family members, altogether. The amount reflects the elimination of one position, that of our groundskeeper, Robert Register, who has done an outstanding job over the years. (The hope is that our members can accomplish the task.) The amount reflects a \$1,200 annual salary reduction for both inside maintenance and maid service workers. Because the church is unable to meet its World Outreach obligation, the decision was made to reduce the pledge from \$28,000 to a more-realistic \$12,000 per year and to be deliberate in paying \$1,000 per month to this important aspect of our ministry.

Clearly, the 2011-2012 budget is not what any of us would prefer, if we had our "druthers". The truth is that we no longer had a choice. Stewardship and Finance had to determine the best possible use of the money that we do

have/expect and to offer a balanced budget. They could no longer borrow from other accounts to pay day-to-day bills. With me, thank this brave group, which includes the Trustees, for taking the hit for us all and making the gut-wrenching decisions that they had no choice but to make.

I do not embrace the "lame duck" theory. My thinking is that, as long as one holds an office, that person is responsible to those whom he/she serves. In First Christian's case, we need to be on the job, in enthusiastic, full-steam-ahead mode, through June 30 – and longer, if the transition is complicated. Hold our feet to the fire!

Bonnie Brown, Board Chair – 791-8360



Global Ministries: News from Japan

Following is an e-mail update from one of our Global Ministries missionaries in Japan, Jeffrey Mensendiek. Jeffrey serves on the *Council on Cooperative Mission where he is assigned to the Emmaus Center in Sendai as director of youth activities*. You can see other updates from Jeffrey Mensendiek and from our other two missionaries, Martha Mensendiek and Casilda Luzares on the Global Ministries webpage.

It's 3pm on Wednesday, April 13, 2011. Our twenty volunteers are out at the coastal town of Shichigo. They went by bicycle which takes 40 minutes one way. When the volunteers return by 4pm they are all tired not only from the hard labor, but from the bicycle ride home. Rev. Taku Noda was the one who helped us to gain a connection with Mr. Sugawara of Shichigo. Rev. Noda values the trusting friendship we have with Mr. Sugawara. He believes that our continued effort to go by bicycle is very important and symbolic of the way we intend to involve ourselves in the lives of the people of Shichigo. Some volunteer groups come in large cars, decked out in matching outfits, advertizing their organization. However, we are a mismatch of individuals who don't want to impose ourselves on the residents of Shichigo. We want to be a very humble presence. We are the servants. Those on the forefront of the recovery process are the victims themselves; people like Mr. Sugawara.

Yesterday we had official visitors from the National Council of Churches of Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong. I was pleased to meet Rev. Andrew Chang from Taiwan. He was the one who acted immediately to send us twenty electric generated bicycles. These we use each day to go out to Shichigo. Rev. Chang told me that Taiwan too has been hit many

times with natural disasters. The Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT) has set up several care centers throughout Taiwan which continue to care for the victims of the disaster. He told me that the government thinks only of building houses and roads. When the work is done in several months they stop their work. However, one survivor expressed his appreciation for the work of the PCT saying; "After three months many organizations pull out. The only one who kept walking with us was Jesus." Rev. Chang invited us in the Tohoku to visit Taiwan to see what they are doing. The Japanese church has no organization which specializes in disaster relief work. It's high time the church in Japan establish a desk for disaster relief.

Mr. Chida is here to prepare dinner for the volunteers. He is a man who lost his home and restaurant to the tsunami. A few days ago he came to the Emmaus Center for supplies. Learning of our activities he has offered to help us in the kitchen. His simple presence fills me with joy. He has lost everything, and yet he has the capacity to continue to give. God's love shines through people like Mr. Chida.

More who, what, where, when?

Carolina Vocal Arts Ensemble,

directed by Stephen Field, presents "Hallelujah For Handel!". CVAE will perform a Chandos Anthem -"O Be Joyful In the Lord" and highlights from *Messiah* accompanied by chamber orchestra and David Heinzman, harpsichord. The soloists for this special event are: Elizabeth Field, soprano; Wes Rickard, tenor; and Benjamin Horrell, baritone. The concert will take place on Saturday, May 14, at 8:00 pm at Winter Park Baptist Church located at 4700 Wrightsville Avenue. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at www.carolinavocalarts.org or by calling: 910-960-SING (7464). Tickets will also be available at the door.



Our **May Book Club** selection is *Undaunted Heart, The True Story of a Southern Belle and a Yankee General* by Suzy Barile. This is the story of Ella Swain, the daughter of NC state governor and UNC President David Lowry Swain. She did the unthinkable: she married a Yankee general at the close of the Civil War. True story. Imagine the upheaval this must have caused! It is written by the great-great-granddaughter of Ella and sounds pretty good, doesn't it?

Our Book Club is now partnering with a new program offered through the New Hanover Public Library called "Book Club in a Bag". Through this, we will have newer, more current publications for our use. Along with the book loans, we are also receiving library information about the book and discussion ideas. So this is a good thing for all of us who enjoy reading.

We will meet on the 4th Tuesday, May 24, at 7:00 in the Church Parlor. Pick up a copy of *Undaunted Heart* during the month to read, and then meet with us. Thanks!

— Ann Respass



*Please Join Us for a
Bridal Shower Honoring
Amanda King
Saturday, May 7, 2011
from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at
329 Azalea Drive, Wilmington*



It's Time to Celebrate!

We would like to invite our church family to a party at the Magelli home



to celebrate

**Mallory's graduation
from Barton College!**

on Friday, May 20, starting at 6:30 pm
1004 West Butternut Court, Wilmington NC
910-793-0138

Additional parking at the clubhouse
by the front gate.

Family Day at Camp Caroline

Gates Open 9am-5pm; Worship 10am

Join us on May 21 for our first Family Day at Camp Caroline. In appreciation for everyone's support throughout the year we have opened the gate and invite everyone to come and enjoy a fun filled day at camp on us. Pack a lunch and load the vans! We'll provide the ants (just kidding), sailboats, canoes and pool. Don't forget to bring your bathing suit and sun screen. The canteen will be open as well. Worship will include a thanksgiving for all of the recent projects undertaken at Camp Caroline and recognition of the many donors who have made them possible. You will also meet Jimmy Elks, our new Associate for Youth and Camping. Come join us!

Prayer Concerns

Long Term Health Care Concerns

Helen Dunn, Rosa Gaylord, Foye Marshburn,
Betty Nash, Betty Snook, Jeanette Wolfe

Our Sympathy to:

- The Nester and Sibbach family upon the death of Kim Sibbach on April 28
- Alen White upon the death last weekend of his father, Jimmy White

In the Hospital:

- Lucille Allen, UNC Hospital/Chapel Hill, undergoing chemotherapy for hemolytic anemia — Lucille has requested no calls and no visitors. Check with the church office for updates.
- Allan Huband, NHRMC, throat surgery on May 3

Church Family

- Mable Cooke, Silver Stream, recovering from shoulder replacement surgery
- Ellie Duckett, participating in a clinical trial
- Jim Lee, undergoing treatment and tests
- Becky Shipton, recovering at home from knee replacement surgery
- Diana Wierse, recovering at home from knee surgery to repair torn ACL

Friends and Family

- Maxey Bunch, Teresa Bullock's father, ECU hospital, recovering from surgeries
- Tami Estep, Jane & Ellie Duckett's granddaughter/niece, breast cancer
- Alison Grimes, Jeff Grimes' wife, recurrence of cancer
- Jeff Grimes, Joanne Stout's nephew, cancer
- Luis Guardiola, Rev. González' cousin, deployed to Afghanistan
- Katie, niece of Nancy & Andy Black, going through a long recovery from a lung infection
- Bill Law, Jane & Ellie Duckett's nephew/cousin, major surgery for esophageal cancer
- Jimmy White, Alen White's father, pancreatic cancer
- Community of Puente Azul, El Salvador
- People of Haiti, Chile, Japan & tornado victims

Serving May 8

11:00 Communion Table Prayers

Tim Whitehead, Russ Smith

Home-Bound Communion: Mike Capps,
Chris Furr, Kathy Jordan

Deacons

Barry Jordan (captain), Jane Coleman,
Brook Hall, Andy Koester, Amanda Koester,
Kenny Morris III, Carlotta Smith, Chris Wrede

Communion Prep

Kenny Morris III, Carlotta Smith, Chris Wrede

Children Worship & Wonder

May 8 Jamie Wrede & Tricia Heath
May 15 Ailsa González & Ron Gore

Turning Point Kids

May 8 Millie Griffin & Joy Roberts
May 15 Bill & Linda Reinger

Minister On-Call Schedule

May 6-7 Dr. Perry 200-9507
May 13-14 Rev. González 395-5594

Greeters

8:45 May 8 Shawn & Michelle Allen
May 15 Steve & Dava Bright

11:00 May 8 Allan Huband
May 15 Sue Hunley

Lay Reader

May 8 TBA
May 15 Bill Boston

Sunday Door Lock-up

May 8 Bill & Linda Reinger
May 15 Maurice & Patsy Emmart

Budget Update

Budget through 5/1/11	\$336,424.00
Income	<u>318,896.13</u>
Income Short of Budget	\$17,527.87

News & Views
First Christian Church
2035 Oleander Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403

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FCC Wilmington

Staff

Lance A. Perry, Senior Minister
Ailsa R. Guardiola González, Associate Minister
of Christian Education and Youth
Stephen Field, Music Director
Travis Price, Turning Point Music Director
David Heinzman, Organist/Accompanist
Myrtle Sanders, Financial Secretary
Tammy Connell, Nursery Attendant
Faith Dietrick, Secretary/Admin. Assistant
John Lanier, Janitorial Service
Tammy Connell, Cleaning Service
Robert Register, Grounds Maintenance
Russ & Carlotta Smith, Spiritual Directors 616-5846

Tel: 762-1389 **Care Line:** 772-9683

E-Mail: Lance Perry: fcclance@bellsouth.net
Ailsa González: fccailsa@bellsouth.net
Faith Dietrick: fccwilm@bellsouth.net

CareNet Counseling Center Partner: 799-1071

Web Address: fccilm.org

A Word From Lance

After taking a week off to rest, relax and be with extended family, I want to express my appreciation for First Christian Church and its value of time away for our staff. I also want to express appreciation to Faith and to Ailsa for keeping things going smoothly in the office with so much happening this past week.

As I sit in front of my computer early on Monday morning, the glory and joy of Easter Sunday is still very much alive in my soul. Maybe it still is for you, too. We did spend a lot of mental and spiritual energy through the season of Lent building up to Easter. That doesn't just go away quickly. I'm guessing that some of us may be continuing our Lenten practices of prayer and scripture reading and I know many of us have taken on the goal of reading the entire Bible cover to cover. I wonder too if

[continued inside]

Draft of March 20, 2011, General Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at noon by Board Chair, Bonnie Brown. Bonnie thanked the Hospitality Team and chair, Jane Coleman, for coordinating lunch. Myrtle Sanders opened the meeting with prayer and a devotion, after which the meeting was turned over to Dr. Perry, the speaker and the Stewardship and Finance Team.

Lance Perry introduced guest speaker, Rev. Mark Opgrand. Rev. Opgrand presented a plan for congregants to read the Bible cover to cover in a year and invited FCC to participate. The plan moves through the scriptures in chronological order, alternating between Old and New Testaments scriptures. There is a children's component, encouraging younger members to read portions of scripture throughout the year.

Board members agreed to contact members who had not responded re. the Consecration Sunday luncheon.

Mrs. Brown reconvened the regular meeting. The January 23rd meeting minutes were accepted as published.

Financial Secretary, Myrtle Sanders, reported that we are currently \$4,772.40 short of budget. A motion to accept the financial report was carried.

Building Fund Treasurer, Jamie Wrede, announced a March 20 balance of \$27,611.99. A question was posed regarding whether the building fund payment is paying more than just interest. The \$4,100 payment is paying some principal as well.

Reports of the Ministry Teams

Worship, given by chair, Becky Shipton
Upcoming events:

- March 9 — Pancakes and Ashes Ash Wednesday service
- March 20 — Service of Healing
- March 27 — Consecration Sunday
- April 15-16 — Prayer Vigil
- April 24 — Sunrise service at Hugh McRae Park
- Sale of Easter lilies to begin on April 1st

DWM, given by Becky Shipton

- DWM packed Valentine boxes for college and graduate students.

Christian Education, given by chair, Jamie Wrede (from written report)

Since the last board meeting, Christian Education held the "Spiritual Life of Children" class, which went, well. They have started a new Young Adult small group that is meeting in people's homes the 4th Thursday of the month. K'Motion is enjoying the new DVD series "Bible Toons" and learning the scriptures. We hope to have some attending camps this summer and K'Motion plans to have a weekend camping trip in July. The Easter Egg Hunt is going to be April 17th at Old McFaye's Farm. Donations of plastic eggs and candy are needed. The Team is also looking at promoting a program on Easter Sunday to read through the Bible. It is their hope that our church as a whole reads through the Bible and learns scripture. Vacation Bible School will be held August 1-5, 2011, again, for the second year, in conjunction with St. John's Episcopal Church.

A question was raised about the age of the young adults group. The group is for those out of college.

Evangelism, given by Trudē Rennick
Now have greeters for both services in place

Draft Board Meeting Minutes con't

Membership, given by Joy Roberts

- Legacy breakfast and Follies were both a success.
- Pictorial directories are ready.

World Outreach, given by co-chair, Kenny Morris, Jr.

- Chicken on a Mission will be held March 25th. Mission team leaders decided that they will:
 - ◆ Encourage members to participate in the event if not going on a mission trip.
 - ◆ Offer all participants financial help if they participate in fundraisers.
 - ◆ Try not to spend all of the mission fund (so that scholarships are available).
 - ◆ Research a domestic adult trip (with ASP or someone else).

For the **Elders**, Dr. Perry reported that a retreat is scheduled for May 7. The Elders have invited a workshop leader to do a Meyers-Briggs type assessment and talk about teamwork and church conflict.

Youth, given by Rev. González

Have started planning Youth Sunday; are visiting different congregations, monthly, and continue with regular meetings; are gearing up for camps and General Assembly trip.

Property - Bonnie Brown stated that the women's restroom faucet is still not working and that such a situation is unacceptable.

CACS, given by chair, Ann Boston

- Looking at taking on local projects (WARM), making FCC's presence in the community known.
- Working with Wilmington Interfaith Hospitality Network to put a storage building at their transitional housing facility (using funds from holiday bazaar).

- Upcoming events are CROP Walk and Belk Charity event.

Green Team, given by Chris Wrede (from written report)

The Green Team had its first meeting, last month, and came up with several immediate, short-term, and long-term goals to make our church more environmentally friendly. One of these goals is a campaign to reduce our use of paper, especially for newsletters and bulletins. They would like to remind the congregation to turn out lights and fans if you're the last to leave the Sunday School room, bathrooms, or other areas. They are participating in the Belk Charity event on April 16th, with a goal to raise at least \$1000. Proceeds from the sale will help fund green improvements in various departments, including upgrading the lighting for the stained glass window, replacing Styrofoam plates with either a reusable or a more biodegradable option, expanding our recycling at the church, and various energy conservation improvements. The Team will keep everyone up to date on the status of these various projects as they progress. Mr. Wrede thanked everyone for their continued support.

Hospitality, given by chair, Jane Coleman

- The Matthew Dean Benefit Concert for First Christian Church fundraiser raised \$3,200. Mrs. Coleman proposed it as an annual event.
- Hospitality prepared a reception following Wilma Briggs' funeral, and the healing service.
- The Team is looking at doing away with Styrofoam plates & cups in an effort to be 'greener'.

Nursery, given by chair, Linda Reinger
No report

Draft Board Meeting Minutes con't

CMF, given by Harry Jarman

- CMF met on March 24th.
- Camp Caroline work day will be on April 8-9 (youth are invited).
- Men are planning for June 9th Southeastern District meeting which FCC will host.

Stewardship and Finance, given by chair, Mike Brown

Following the January 19 Board meeting at which difficult decisions were made concerning the budget and our staff's health insurance, some members of the congregation requested a meeting with the Team. Following their presentation and a lengthy discussion, Stewardship and Finance passed the following motion:

On February 22, 2011, the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team voted, unanimously, with all members present voting (There was one absentee.), to uphold the January 19, 2011 motion to stabilize the budget, improve cash flow and eliminate deficit spending that was presented to the Board and accepted by those present with one dissenting vote. The Team neither sanctions nor endorses church-sponsored mass solicitation of the congregation for any purpose other than Week of Compassion and the Annual Budget Stewardship Campaign at this time.

Board of Trustees, given by chair, Maurice Emmart

- Board has been meeting with Stewardship and Finance regarding staff health insurance decisions.
- Gifts have been given to the Building Fund and other permanent funds, but these funds can only be spent for the specific purposes designated.

Diaconate, given by Barry Jordan

- Diaconate has recorded nominees for new deacons.

- Carlotta Smith led training for deacon nominees last, week.

Unfinished Business

Report of the Nominating Committee, given by Chair, Lucille Allen

- Nominees for Elder: Mike Brown, Ellie Duckett, Myrtle Sanders, Mike Morris, Becky Shipton, Kenny Morris Sr., Andy Black
- Nominees for Deacons: Matt Archibald, Charles Manning, Julie Furr, Bill Boston, Vanessa King, Alan White, John Reaves, Nancy Black, Jeannie Owen, Thomas Hunley, Sue Hunley, Christie Reaves
- Nominees for Deacon Emeritus: Jim Richardson
- Nominees for Youth Deacons: Erin Bullock, Nicole Holliday, Zach Dean, Lauren Perry
- Nominees for Trustee: Darrell McHaney
- The floor was opened for additional nominations. Lucille Allen moved to accept the slate. The motion carried.
- Nominees will be presented for approval during the April third Called Congregational meeting.

Personnel Committee: No report

Sabbatical Grant Committee, given by Duane Luse

On November 21, 2010, Margaret Jarman presented to the Board an introduction to Dr. Perry's plan for his sabbatical in 2012, and intent to apply for a Lilly Foundation grant. We voted to support our minister and work with him in designing and writing the grant application.

Since then the Board appointed a Sabbatical Grant Committee, consisting of Margaret Jarman, Russell Smith, and Duane Luse, that has worked with Dr. Perry as well as received input from the congregation, and has developed a

Draft Board Meeting Minutes con't

grant proposal that has been approved by the Board. What I'd like to do today is provide an overview of the sabbatical plans. The Lilly Foundation requires Board and congregational support of all sabbatical plans.

First of all, I would like to emphasize that we appreciate the leadership of Dr. Perry and recognize the stress and the need for times of rest, renewal and reflection. The sabbatical is identified to be a renewal program providing for extended time with family as well as time spent alone and in spiritual renewal and listening for God in all its various activities. The purpose is also to provide time away from pastoral duties and preoccupations and provide time with family and God. The sabbatical period has been set for three months commencing after services on June 3, 2012, and resuming pastoral duties on August 27th, 2012. During his absence, pastoral and ministerial duties will be covered by the associate minister, guest speakers, lay leaders, and retired ministers within the congregation.

In Dr. Perry's absence, the congregation will have an opportunity to reflect on what and how it can provide ways for its own spiritual growth and renewal. This time of renewal will begin and end with a weekend of spiritual retreat open to the entire congregation. Also, the sabbatical period will consist of study groups on the subject of spirituality and Bible study, prayer groups led by trained leaders, a weekend of mission in June with a guest preacher on Sunday, individual one on one experiences for persons desiring to work with spiritual directors, and mid-summer retreat day with the May retreat leader.

The twelve weeks begins with a weeklong personal silent retreat at Gethsemane Abbey in Kentucky consisting of prayers in commu-

nity as well as journaling, reading, utilizing lectio divina and meeting with a spiritual director. This is followed with a week of concentrated family time. Then, a middle of June departure is planned to fly to Barcelona and set up here as a base for the next several weeks. This part of the sabbatical will include visits to Madrid and the Pyrenees followed by trips to Rome and Venice. While providing opportunities for sightseeing and getting acquainted with different cultures it will also include visits to several religious sights such as Sagrada Familia, Convent of Teresa of Avila, the Vatican and Sistine Chapel.

The return to the States on July 27th will be followed by more personal recreation time at the beach and with extended family and meeting with Dr. Perry's spiritual Director. On August 17th Dr. Perry will travel to Mepkin Abbey in South Carolina for a four day silent retreat.

I respectfully request that we, the congregation, support these proposed plans and proceed to submit the Lilly Foundation grant proposal.

Duane moved for approval from board. The motion passed. Approval from the membership will be sought during a Called Congregational meeting, April third.

Question was raised about what the back-up plan is if this grant doesn't come through. Lance is also applying for the Louisville grant (smaller amount - \$15,000). He will adjust the above plans if no grant is awarded. Lance will take the 3-month Sabbatical even if grants are not forthcoming.

Constitutional Review, given by Charlie Vaughn

Draft Board Meeting Minutes con't

- The Committee will distribute meeting information to the board at next meeting.

New Business

- Concerning delegates to the July 9-12 General Assembly in Nashville: Lance and Tena have automatic votes due to being ordained. John and Jeannie May and Matt Archibald are attending. The Board voted to approve John, Jeannie and Matt as voting delegates if they will accept the spots. (Addendum: All three accepted.)
- Carlotta Smith suggested that Board members be advised of issues to be considered at Board meetings in advance of the meetings so that they could pray and think about them and form questions, enabling them to make more informed decisions. Mrs. Smith moved that the meeting agenda be sent out ahead of time. Kathy Jordan seconded. During discussion, several recommendations were introduced. Mrs. Smith subsequently amended her motion to ask the Cabinet to consider (given the intricate timing of Team meetings, newsletter deadlines and getting reports to the Board Chair, quickly) the feasibility of notifying Board members, ahead of time, of important pending issues. The motion passed. Mrs. Brown noted that she actually has advised Board members – and the congregation – of issues to be addressed, this year, and is happy to do so through the newsletter and/or E-mail.

Ministers Reports

Associate Minister's Report

- Continues to meet with various ministry teams
- FCC will be working with St. Johns for VBS this year (FCC will host); looking for new people to work with VBS (especially in need of male volunteers)

- Continues to work with cohort group; planning a retreat for the end of May
- Encouraging youth and young people to consider camps this summer

Senior Ministers Report

- Continuing with Pastor as Spiritual Guide training, ends in May
- Spiritual Growth group being held on Monday nights
- Upcoming Discovery class to be held in April
- Cabinet will meet soon to look at mission and ministry
- Noted that this is a stressful time but also an opportunity to come together in faith and look into the future with more intensity

Bonnie Brown thanked members for their attendance; Duane Luse gave a benediction and members closed the meeting with the singing of "Blest Be the Tie" led by Dr. Perry.

Minutes submitted by secretary,
Courtney Young Hickman

[Reports & minutes are on file in the church office.]