

LAITY COUNCIL MEETING
July 30, 2007

Members Present:

Pastor Molly Warren
Pastor Bill Holleran
Nancy Trinchitella
Paul Cross
Bill Bowmar
Phyllis Klock
Richard Adams
Shirley Ashley
Deborah Taylor
Hillary Swengel
Amber Smigielski
Terry Richardi
Paul O'Dea
Joan Kessler
Carla Smith
Yvette Pond
Glennie Burns
Jerri Rickard

Special Guests:

Bruce Snyder
Paul Schumacher
Phil Pastore

1. Pastor Molly opened the meeting with prayer.
2. The minutes of the Council's April meeting were approved.
3. Phyllis Klock, Chair, pointed out the updated Laity Council membership list that was attached to the meeting agenda.
4. Nancy Trinchitella spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee. Due to shortfalls in giving thus far, current cash flow is tight and current spending is only for what is absolutely necessary. The anticipation is that giving will increase soon, and the Finance

Committee will monitor the situation carefully. Nancy reported that approximately 19 families use the auto-draft withdrawal option each month. The new e-giving program thus far has been adopted by 7 families (allowing some of them to give regularly even though they were out of town). This is very encouraging! In response to a question about the fees for this new service, Nancy indicated that there is a \$49 monthly fee and \$.15 per transaction.

5. Paul O'Dea, Chair of Staff-Parish Relations, reported on the resignation of Denise Edwards and that Carla Smith has "come out of retirement" to be the interim part-time Director of Children and Family Ministries. He also reported that the Committee is considering various options, including the establishment of two part-time positions (one would be for Children's Ministries and the other to coordinate Special Events).
6. Paul Cross, Chair of Trustees, gave an update on current Trustee projects, including the following:
 - a. Landscaping: Tree trimming and moss removal, as well as checking tree limbs, needs to occur. Bids are currently being taken. The Trustees intend to pay for any landscaping with funds from hurricane reimbursements, not from the general church budget.
 - b. Pastor Scott wants all the A/C systems reviewed, and this information is being gathered now. The units that service the Sanctuary will not be able to be removed if a new system is put into place. Yvette Pond and Carla Smith raised concerns about the A/C in the office that they share. Paul will investigate this situation.
 - c. New directional signs are being made. They would be similar to the signs for the Student Ministry area. Yvette asked about signage for the Preschool, especially noting a desire to include the Preschool on the church's sign on the corner. Paul shared the difficulties of working with the City on signage, but he will investigate what we can do to make the Preschool's existence more evident. Paul asked Council members to please snap photos of any effective Preschool signs we see in the community and share those photos with him..
 - d. Screens for the Sanctuary are being researched.
7. The Council next discussed various communication efforts, especially through "The Rider." Bruce Snyder shared that he has been taking ideas provided to him for the "Did You Know?" feature and adding information from websites where appropriate. Articles can include both text and photos. Bruce urged Council members to provide him with ideas. Nancy also reminded us that we need to share our

activities with the Florida Conference for possible inclusion in their publications.

7. Phyllis asked Council members about reactions they had heard from the implementation of the vision statement displays now in the Narthex. Most of the responses were positive. Many people have wanted to know what happened to the photos of past and present Asbury pastors. (Once the photos are framed, they will be displayed in an area near to the Church Office). Visitors have commented that the vision statement displays catch the eye and are a good idea. Information about the displays has been presented in the worship bulletins, and Bruce will be doing a "Rider" article on them as well.
8. Richard Adams reported on our "Honoring the Badge" event to be held on September 8 from 11:00 am until 2:30pm to honor Maitland police and firefighters and their families. We will have a special service (location to be determined) to hand out the books purchased by the UMM, a flag-folding ceremony, "Taps", and special music. Pastor Pik will be helping Tom Russell and Pastor Scott coordinate the memorial service. The service will be followed by a cookout. All of the hotdogs, hamburgers and buns have been donated, and the cooks are set. We will need the congregation to donate side items to supplement those already donated by Publix, desserts, and drinks. The idea of a dessert "bake-off" was raised. The fire and police chiefs already have alerted their officers to the date for the event, and Bruce has designed a formal invitation to be mailed to each officer with an RSVP. The Council discussed having a printed program similar to those used for the Artistry Series, listing all our activities, programs (particularly the Preschool) and worship services and including site maps. Congregation members are asked to wear red, white and blue and their name tags and to bring their own lawn chairs. We will need simple decorations and balloons. Games may be included if there is a sponsor. There will be a fire truck and police cruiser on display. Other churches have been asked by Pastor Bill to participate with us. We hope to build on this event in upcoming years.
10. Richard reported also on "Chain Reaction," which will take place on Sunday, August 5th at 5:00 pm at Tinker Field. Darrell Scott, whose daughter Rachel died at Columbine High School after saying "Yes, I believe in God," will speak. Pizza has been donated. Listen to Z88.3 fm for details. Anyone interested in having dinner with Mr. Scott, the mayor and others should contact Richard.
11. Pastor Molly reported that Celebrate Recovery has 40-50 people

weekly. This is a place where people can experience Jesus Christ, unlike in many other 12-step programs. Many individuals have given their lives to Christ through this program; healing is taking place; home lives have been changed; and people feel strong support and friendships. A group from the VA attends Celebrate Recovery each week. Molly especially thanked Terry Richardi for cooking for this program each week.

12. Lou Williams was unable to attend to meeting. Council members will pray for all those who will step forward as Stephen Ministers and undergo the training.
13. Paul Schumacher reported that there have been increasing requests to Widow's Might. Anyone in need of help (female or male, widowed or not) can request their services. If the project is outside of their scope, Widow's Might volunteers will try to direct and advise. All requests go through the Church Office. Paul then contacts his team (currently over 20 people), and they respond. Paul indicated that it's not too late to volunteer and encouraged Council members to do so.
14. In his report on IMPACT ministry activities, Pastor Bill stated that 22 youth attended Surf Camp and that 40 Bibles were distributed. He would like the students involved in Widow's Might and/or other service projects. This will bond the generations as Reggie McNeal had urged. Bill cited Amber Smigielski as an example of this already happening. Youth Week will be August 13-19, and their service project will be to the Dream Center in Sanford. The Dream Center helps children who are being raised by one parent while the other is incarcerated or who are being raised by their grandparents when both parents are incarcerated. Dream Center, which focuses on trying to improve reading skills, has a building and materials but needs help to get started. Bill also reported on a play written by one of our students that will be presented in all three worship services on Youth Sunday.
15. Several members of the congregation wrote letters of appreciation to the teachers of four of our local schools (Hungerford Elementary, Dommerich Elementary, Lake Sybelia Elementary, and Maitland Middle School). Asbury will be adopting Hungerford Elementary this Year. Many of the Rainbow Readers attend Hungerford, and this school does not have the same level of parental support as do some of the other local schools. We plan to support and encourage the faculty by helping with room set-up and to serve lunch and/or breakfast to the teachers on one day during their preparation week.

16. Paul Schumacher and others will be preparing a Welcome Center desk at the request of Pastor Scott. More information about this project will be presented at a later time.
17. Phil Pastore reported on the Education Committee. Twelve Wednesday Night Live offerings have been planned. Bruce will list these in the next "Rider," with a possible bulletin insert. Jerri Rickard suggested listing any costs also. Carla stated that all Sunday School and WNL curriculum will be from the United Methodist Publishing House. WNL for children will be 6:10–7:45 pm. Nursery care will be provided for those classes that last longer.
18. There will be another Reggie McNeal Follow-Up meeting on August 1st at 7:00 pm to discuss the Hungerford Elementary project and other actions to take throughout the year.
19. Jade Andersen was unable to attend, but Phyllis presented Jade's idea for an E-Directory of church members who own and/or operate businesses. Council members are generally favorable towards this idea but had a considerable number of questions about details. Phyllis will work with Jade to develop a more complete proposal to address these issues.
20. Bill Bowmar reported that UMM will have five minutes this week to speak about the Leesburg retreat as August 15th is the deadline to register. He also indicated that UMM will hold their annual Golf Tournament fundraiser in the fall.
21. Carla reported that as of September 2nd Children's Sunday School will return to the 9:30 am timeframe, and Children's Worship will move back to 11:00 am.
22. It was reported for Pastor Pik that there were 20 4th-6th graders attending the Ultimate Sports Camp. Terry commented on the encouragement they had received from one mother. Rick Richardi and Pastor Pik are hoping for 100 participants next year.
23. A 2008 pictorial directory is being considered.
24. Yvette shared concerns that we continue our emphasis on our children and youth.
24. Pastor Bill closed the meeting with prayer.