

**Port Charlotte United Methodist Church  
Church Council Meeting  
Monday, February 2, 2015**

Bob Burr called the meeting to order. Terry Hixson gave devotions and prayer.

Pastor Brian extended an invitation to everyone to come to the church on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to show appreciation to our wonderful staff and to participate in "Hearing God's Call for 2015." He described it as a fun day. While many of us in leadership are treading water with too much on our plates, there are some wonderful people in our congregation who are dying for someone to ask them to become involved in our church activities, and this is our first attempt to get people to come and pray and begin to work together. We want to get everybody to prayerfully think about listening to God and taking a step. Pastor Brian spoke about an article in the Interpreter magazine entitled "When Prayers Seem Unanswered." As David deSilva mentioned in the article, prayer is primarily about God's desires and being empowered to do what God wants to see happen. Hearing from God in prayer is more important than God listening to us.

The minutes from the January 5, 2015 meeting were approved.

**Old Business**

Bob Burr referred to the eight items in last month's Council minutes which were to be revisited tonight. The first two items pertaining to the effectiveness of the council and committees and ideas for new programs for church growth were discussed in a lively fashion and it was then decided to postpone any further discussion on them until next month. Question 3 referred to how best to reach visitors to Charlotte County and it was suggested that putting information at the Cultural Center might help. Question 4 referred to special programs for recognition of police, teachers, firemen, etc. It was decided we could possibly choose a particular group one year and another group the next year, etc. Question 5 referred to eliminating council meetings and having committees submit monthly reports. It was felt that because we already eliminated Council meetings during July and August no further action was necessary. Questions 6 and 7 referred to musical programs in the community as well as exchanging choirs with other churches. These ideas will be discussed with David deSilva. Item 8 referred to allocating money for particular advertising as opposed to hoping that the newspaper will include our message or program. It was decided that we should definitely do so for special events. Bob stated he will get together with Nancy Bosserdet regarding this matter. All issues will again be revisited in March.

**Salty Service – Chris Burr**

WNO was revisited, including cost cutting measures with Tom Brown. At this point, those requesting take-out meals will be charged \$4.00 with exceptions (those known to be hurting financially). Volunteers are being asked to donate towards their meal

(passing the basket). The WNO committee (Tom and Judy Brown, Sue Ross, Phyllis Crews, Jim Eugenius, and Paul and Sharon Bencivengo) will meet this week after the dinner.

Plans are underway for the Dominican Republic mission trip. Applications are available for those interested in going the last part of June. Students will hold a Vacation Bible School in the mornings and build a bathroom for Connie DiLeo in the afternoons.

Bread ministry – need a volunteer to pick up bread at Publix and take it to the Homeless Coalition on February 17, 20, and 26.

#### **Discipleship – Linda Anderson**

There is a new Sunday School class called Connect 45 after the 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Service and Paul is leading it. Attendance is increasing each week.

#### **Hospitality**

No report.

#### **Staff-Parish**

No report.

#### **Finance/Treasurer – Fred Wagner**

Appreciation was extended to all those who worked so diligently on the 2015 budget. New and better ways to do things have been discovered.

Unfortunately, both December and January income were down from the previous year. We need help in looking at ideas for increased giving. We were able to make some reductions without cutting any programs at this time. It is wonderful that people have stepped forward but there is still some concern.

#### **Trustees – Mike Sniecinski**

Permits for moving the air conditioners are in progress. Walls surrounding the air conditioners will then be knocked down and the area will be graded to show where our new entrances will be.

#### **Worship – Karen Wenck**

Pastor Earl Parker was introduced and will be working with the greeters and ushers.

We will be following the Lectionary this year for our worship services. The theme for Lent is "All Along the Way." The Ash Wednesday service will be traditional with the imposition of ashes. We will be using the Psalter more, singing the responses.

Plans for Holy Week are not yet complete. We are planning to share the Sunrise Service with St. James again this year.

Paul Kisner reported that February 22<sup>th</sup> will be Camp Sunday and it is hoped that the congregation will contribute to send our youth to camp. G.E.M.S. Sunday will be May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Contemporary service continues to grow in attendance.

. The Marti system has been repaired, although we still have minor problems with the 8:00 a.m. service.

### **Men's Ministry**

No report.

### **Women's Ministry – Pat Douglas**

. The Beth Moore event in Tampa will be on June 12-13. Nancy Bosserdet indicated the cost will be \$59 per person. The event is at the USF Sundome across from Busch Gardens. To help pay transportation costs for two buses, it was suggested that \$70 be collected from each participant. Pastor Brian will ask Dustin if she would like to assume responsibility for this matter.

### **Youth Representative – Carol Hansen for Paul Kisner**

. The Youth will begin registering for summer camp in February. Camp Sunday will be February 22<sup>nd</sup> during our morning worship services. The youth will serve as greeters, ushers and liturgists at the 11:00 a.m. service.

. On February 13<sup>th</sup>, the youth will be servers for the UMM Valentine's Dinner.

. Sherri and Glenn White are helping to coordinate a mission trip to the Dominican Republic the last week in June. Registration of adults and youth is in process.

. Seventeen people attended the Family Ministry putt-putt golf outing on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

. Connect45 group at 9:30 a.m. service is increasing in attendance each week.

### **Children's Ministry – Carol Hansen for Dawn Kisner**

. Working on February 7<sup>th</sup> – Hearing God's Call for 2015.

. Working together with Children's Ministry for combining Pre-school Open House and Dinner and a Movie. All kinds of activities are planned.

. Vacation Bible School in preparation stages.

### **Children's Representative – Carol Hansen for Dawn Kisner**

. The disconnect between the CWM program and church has totally turned around. CWM will have its registration event in conjunction with Dinner and a Movie on Friday night, February 20<sup>th</sup>. There will be dinner, movie, clothes swap, registration, face painting, etc., an event for the families of both the church and community and the pre-school and after-school programs.

. The number of dads who came to our Donuts with Dad was a pleasant surprise. Mr. Al was on hand to sit with those kids who weren't able to have a dad with them.

. The teachers are heading to a conference on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

. Fall registration is open for pre-school (3's and VPK) and after-school.

### **Other Business**

Carol Hansen spoke about an exciting event coming up on February 20<sup>th</sup> called THRIVE. The speaker will be Ron Crandall. One topic will be on how to live a Christ-like life in the

community around your church. Lunch will be provided. A bus (or buses) will be leaving from our church at 8:00 a.m. The event starts at 9:00 a.m. at First UMC in Punta Gorda.

Pastor Brian spoke about Katherine sending out a Ministry Directory. Joe Ryan had indicated last month that we had 85 ministries. Pastor Brian is requesting each ministry leader to come up with two or three sentences about his/her ministry, i.e., what it is, its objectives, etc. Would like to have a ministry volunteer card that, after filling it out, could be turned into the appropriate leader who would then make contact with that person to engage them in their ministry. This would be an opportunity to get more people serving in more places.

**Closing**

Rev. Parker closed the meeting with prayer.

Minutes submitted by Joan Sniecinski, Secretary