

**Church Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, Jan 14, 2009**

Kit Thomas opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

Devotion was read by JoAnn Stephens

*Tracy Langley, Recording Secretary*

Reports:

- Chairman of Finance, David Harrill reported that this will be a very tight budget year.
  - Original budget was \$1.576 million dollars. After thought and discussion the budget has been reduced by \$250,000.
  - This is the first time in memory that we have a budget that is lower than the previous year and lower than our actual receipts of the previous year.
  - All committees and work areas have been asked to reduce their budgets for 2009.
  - We received 94.3% of our pledges. We did well compared to most churches.
  - Pledges for 2009 fell slightly. (7% lower than 2008).
  - Actual pledges for 2009 is \$1,319,000.00.
  - There will not be any budget requests that are not deemed an emergency will not be approved!
  - Hopefully we can make the budget but if the economic situation worsens, more extreme cuts will have to be made.
  
- Trustees – Report by Bruce Jones
  - Work on the basement has started. As the dry wall was removed you could see why we had the water problems. Over the years there have been many nail holes put in the walls. This will not happen again.
  
- Faith in Action – Report by Cindy Jarrell
  - Family Promise is going well. They have purchased queen sized blow-up mattresses for the hosts to sleep on. This should help make their night's rest much more pleasant.
  - There is new leadership for Family Promise and other churches are getting involved. These are both seen as positives for the program.
  - There will be a fund raiser on May 15. It will be a quilt auction.
  - Cindy has served as the Coordinator for Family Promise for three years and is looking for someone to take this on next year.
  
- Pastors' Reports –
  - Bruce Jones – The Mexico mission trip has been put on hold. It is too dangerous in this area of Mexico for us to go there.
  - Karen Western and Bruce will plan an alternate trip.
  - Two new Trustees were introduced:
    - Mike Wilson
    - Alan Ridge
  - Dale Tedder – Asked everyone to take a look in their bulletin at the list of small groups that are currently meeting each week or month at our church. He pointed out that while we take this a little for granted, it is not the norm in most churches.
  - Question was asked about not having a "Single Adults" class. Some suggestions were proposed. Dale then stated that we cannot be all things to all people. We have periodically tried to establish a class for this group but it has proven to be a very tough area for SUMC.
  
- Staff Parrish – Chairperson Bill Langley –
  - All staff positions are filled.
  - Sarah Troup has hit the ground running and is doing a great job.

- We are currently working on rolling out a new computer program – Selby Software and Church Management System. Eventually it will enable us to do much more online.
- Bill also thanked Patti Price for her work to update the churches data bank.
- Goals are to update the Employee manual and work on a procedure manual.
  
- Church Staff Report – Sarah Troup
  - Thanks all and especially Sissy Moore for the support in her new position.
  - Children’s Ministry is going well.
  - Acolytes are adding to their number. (chaired by Angie and Karen Feltman)
  - Dr. Thomas Shoue will be at SUMC next Wednesday (Jan. 21) before Wed. Night programs.
  - Scholarships are online and due Feb. 20 at 5:00. Please let interested students know about them.
  - Youth Ministry is also building with an average attendance of 70 each week. SOS was well received by all who attended.
  - Preschool – classes for next year are filling up. We will accept VPK students this year.
  
- Worship – Kit Thomas
  - Some of the Chrismons will need some TLC this year. The Chrismon group will take care of this need.
  - Karen Feltman is the new worship chairman.
  - Christine Heinrichs is chairing Acolytes.
  
- UMW – President - Katie Woodbury
  - UMW is organized for missions.
  - These women in our church actually pray for all Methodist Missionaries around the world.
  - UMW gave \$3,100.00 to local mission projects.
  - She invited all interested women to join UMW.

Bruce reported to make some \$, he would be selling sermons. The amount of \$ given will directly impact the length of the sermon.

After a good laugh, the meeting was closed with prayer.