

## Mount Vernon UMC Church Council Meeting

Monday, May, 19, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Church Council Chair Sonny Morton called the meeting to order, and Rev. Barry Foster led the members in prayer. The minutes of the March 24, 2014, meeting were approved.

Sonny Morton said the congregation has been given additional information about how donations for flowers for the sanctuary are now handled (in response to some members' concerns about the change).

Beth Bauman, for **Children and Youth Ministry**, summarized recent and upcoming events and gave special recognition to our Godly Play teachers (Beth deAristizabal, Leslie Navis, Kelly Long, Ann Hurt, and Rebecca Lutz) for their dedication, and to high school senior Kathryn Waters, who has been active in so many ways in her years at Mount Vernon and will be sorely missed when she leaves for college.

Tim Navis said the **Music Ministry** had an extremely busy April and has plans for a Pentecost worship service with special music, a handbell camp in partnership with West Main Baptist Church in July, and is exploring getting new robes for singers and handbell ringers.

Budge Kent, for the **Trustees**, said Averett University's interest in the parsonage turned out to be only for renting it, which is not on the table now. He outlined the basic duties of the trustees, which include the maintenance and oversight of local church property, and reported that recently the trustees met with insurance agent Rick Banks of Church Mutual and determined the insurance coverage on church buildings is up-to-date and sufficient. This includes the parsonage, which has a \$2,500 deductible for any claims.

Tom Underwood, for **Property**, reported that we have a new lawn mower, new leaf blower, and new source for HVAC and plumbing work (Steve Furr). Details are included in the Property report, on file, along with information about recent repairs and upcoming projects.

David Fuquay, for **Finance**, reported that the financial situation for the year is unfolding, so far, as projected. Council has requested a transfer of \$16,500 from the Dot Rich fund, held by the Mount Vernon Foundation, to church operations (as approved at the March meeting), to cover any cash flow problem in the summer.

Richard Turner, for **Staff/Parish Relations**, said the annual parsonage inspection and pastor evaluation have been done and filed with the district superintendent.

Linwood Wright, for **Worship**, thanked the staff for meaningful Holy Week services.

Dan Waters, for **Missions**, reported that the Lenten offering to support a missionary exceeded the goal, and a partnership with Trinity Baptist for a Stop Hunger Now event is under discussion.

Gary Benefield, for **Evangelism**, said the recent bus trip for dinner at VIR was a success and another trip is being planned, and the committee has decided to continue the coffee/juice/cookies fellowship in the Winn Chapel at noon each week during the summer.

Lin Benefield told Council that the church is replacing the leased printer in the office (worn out in three years) with a new, larger, and supposedly more durable one, with a slightly reduced monthly payment.

Barry Foster summarized a "big spring" at Mount Vernon, with two new families joining the church, five confirmands, and several prospective members. He said Mount Vernon will have a big contingent at Annual Conference this year, with Melissa Herke as our delegate, Beth Bauman and Tobias Lutz as District delegates, and Rebecca Lutz accompanying Tobias. He discussed statistics on things like worship attendance that are now being compiled on Vital Congregations (online, denomination-wide) and showed a graph of Mount Vernon's attendance this year. He concluded "we're on a good path" at Mount Vernon.

**Present:** Budge Kent, Beth Bauman, Tim Navis, Margaret Scott, Martha Jo Hodges, Richard Turner, Catherine Bendall, Gary Benefield, Barry Foster, Pat Maurakis, Fran Ashby, Sonny Morton, Tom Underwood, David Fuquay, Linwood Wright, Dan Waters. **Not present:** Bill Booker, Susan Daniels, Lindsay Payne, Melissa Herke, Leah Cooter, Lewis Williamson, Rosalind Morton  
- Lin Benefield