

ST. JUDE'S MCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 9, 2024

Board Members Present: Tim Corbett, John Lankford, Carol Leininger, Beth Hultberg, Sandy Maddox, Judy Hill

Members attended: Ardith Taylor, Pete Muenzen

OPENING PRAYER: Reverend McLaughlin

COMPLIMENTS AND CONCERNS FROM MEMBERS:

Pete Muenzen complimented Reverend John on the Sunday September 8th Anniversary Church Service and praised Reverend John for his impactful sermon. Tim Corbett noted and expressed appreciation that all board members attending the Anniversary Sunday service remained and visited during the brunch with the membership and visitors.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTION ITEMS:

AGENDA: The agenda was reviewed. Tim Corbett made a motion to approve the agenda and Carol Leininger seconded with the motion being passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: August minutes were approved via email.

PASTOR'S REPORT BY REV. JOHN MCLAUGHLIN:

- **Worship Service**
 - Our online presence continues to grow. Sunday online average (Facebook + YouTube) ~ 400. Additional Facebook posts include the Choir, Donna Offertory, and Sermon.
 - Sunday in-person average for July was 74. It was noted that attendance for the Anniversary Sunday (9/8) was 84.
- **AV – Internet Broadcast System**
 - Additional AV operators are being trained by Glenn – Nick has been trained, Gary is currently being trained.
 - Facebook and YouTube external problems continue.
 - Equipment and software upgrades will need to be made next year.
- **Congregational News**
 - New Member Class – scheduled for Sunday, September 15th at 11:30am. Board members requested to attend if possible. Pete Muenzen asked if there was a list of the responsibilities of each board member. Pastor John said he was not aware of an existing list, but would be willing to provide a list with this information.
 - Bible-in-a-Year Study Groups ~ 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:15pm Good group with new folks joining!
 - Soul Matters ongoing series related to personal spirituality and growth. Next session scheduled for September 18th at 2:00pm.
 - Elizabeth Dunn's funeral service was well attended and the larger crowd was accommodated well.
 - Neighbors in Conversation held at St. Jude's on 8/25 was very well attended with over 30 joining in the conversation and learning. Next session will be held at St. Jude's on December 8th.
- **St. Jude's 'Brand' – easily communicating our mission and vision**
 - **Discover. Grow. Feed.**
 - **Discover** the life you were meant to have. (John 10:10) Abundant life
 - **Grow** in faith, spirituality, and personal awareness. (Romans 12:2) Transform
 - **Feed** body, mind, soul (Matthew 5:1-10; 25:34-45) Sermon on the Mount; Least of these (John 6:1-14) Feeding the 5,000

- **NHC Endowment Fund**
 - **Mid-Year Review**
 - Food Ministry Programs on track to use grant money by end of 2024. Approximately \$35,000 out of \$40,000 spent through August.
 - Food Pantry serving consistently around 70 people.
 - Lunch bag deliveries Wednesdays and Saturdays total 220 per week.
 - Showers & Breakfast – Approximately 70 clients are served every Friday. This program has resulted in increased cooperation with other agencies/service providers to get services to our clients and to find housing. Through this collaboration, we have helped 22 individuals find housing – some through our own members providing temporary shelter or permanent housing with rent.
- **Homelessness Strategy Workgroup**
 - St. Jude's MCC is a permanent member of the NHC Unsheltered Homelessness Strategy Workgroup
 - Pastor John participated in the September 5th joint session of the NHC Commissioners and Wilmington City Council to address pressing issues related to homelessness.
- **Memorial Wall**
 - \$11,000.00+ raised and contract signed for \$5,000.00 with installation expected when weather permits.
 - Final name sign off was confirmed on September 9th.

Beth Hultberg made a motion to approve the Pastor's Report, seconded by Tim Corbett and unanimously approved.

FINANCE REPORT:

- August was a very favorable month for the church. Tithes were up over prior months to \$21,079. Tithes are now equal to August 2023 tithes and the gap between actual and budget reduced to a deficit of \$3200. Facebook donations also yielded \$644 in August, also closing the gap for non-designated fundraising to under \$400. As a result of the increase in tithes, the church had a gain for the month of \$4,400 and has a positive gain of \$5,100 for the YTD.
- **Expenses:** Expenses remain under budget on a YTD basis by \$8,800.
- **Accounts:** The new interest earning bank has earned \$2,689 YTD.
- **Expansion Fund Use:** Discussion was undertaken about the use of the building expansion reserve fund and it was determined that this fund was intended to be used to address various projects that are necessary to support the repairs within the existing building to ensure that it is maintained adequately for intended use post-expansion.

Beth Hultberg made a motion to approve the Finance Report, John Lankford seconded and it was unanimously approved.

BUILDING & GROUNDS:

- Judy Hill made a report on the new ceiling panels and vents in the dining room which look 100% better. The question was raised by Pete if the vents/grills in the Sanctuary could also be cleaned and painted as they are black/moldy and need to be addressed.
- Judy also shared that 5 cameras have been installed (4 outside and 1 inside) to assist in monitoring activity and serve as deterrent for break-ins and damage. There is a monitor in Lonnie's office and the system can also be accessed by phone. Judy will be having the system loaded on her phone first. The system is capable of recording all activity in the event of an incident.

- Tim asked if we would still need the patio chain with the installation of the cameras and it was decided to forego the chain. Judy did request that a wooden **No Trespassing** sign be made to be posted at the entrance to the patio. Pete was recruited to build the sign.
- Judy noted also that a downspout will be acquired to add to the existing gutter on the sanctuary side of the building to direct water coming off the roof away from the building.
- Judy will investigate getting the cracked window in dining room repaired.
- Judy also will be checking to see if the dining room floor can be buffed and waxed to improve its appearance.

FUNDRAISING:

- The Yard Sale will be Saturday, Oct 5. (Riverfest Weekend)
- The Oyster Roast will be Saturday, October 19. John Lankford would like to meet with the committee next Sunday the 15th after Sunday service is concluded.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

- **Feeding Ministries:**
 - Food Pantry remains a strong outreach into our community. Food distribution occurs every other Tuesday with 70 -75 families served each of these days.
 - Bagged Lunch Program - Weekly delivering 220 bags to those in need.
 - Numbers continue to grow with 100+ plates served during Friday breakfast and showers.
- **Expansion Update:**
 - Received approval from city to begin construction with landscaping/drainage plan. The construction release and the landscape and drainage plan have been received from the city/county. Sandy Maddox is awaiting a detailed bid from Steelcraft Builders and will present to the board when received in mid-September. This bid will include construction of the proposed 30X40 building, grading, drainage and implementation of the required landscaping to include the addition of 22 new trees and shrubs on the property.
- **Bathroom Upgrade:**
 - The current bathrooms in the church are not ADA compliant. Bids have been requested for renovations to meet these requirements.
 - A company, Zen Terra, provided two estimates for the project. There were some questions about what the bids included and the total expected cost so the board has put this item on hold until Judy Hill has a chance to provide clarity to the board about the details of the submitted bids.
- **SOPPs – Review and revision:**
 - In follow-up to last month's board meeting, the SOPPs need to be reviewed and revised and this is a Board of Directors task. Pastor John provided all Board members with the latest draft of the SOPPs for their review. It was suggested that the Board come together and go through these and make needed revisions/updates. The Board decided to meet on September 23rd at 10am to begin this process. In addition, minutes will need to be reviewed to ensure all policies that have been voted upon have been updated in the SOPPs.
- **MCC Clergy Retreat:**
 - Pastor John will be attending Oct 28 – Nov 20. Pastor Appreciation month is coming up in October and the Board supported suggesting to the congregation, should they choose to show their appreciation, that they consider a monetary gift to assist Pastor John in offsetting the cost of the trip.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Trash Problem:**

- The City of Wilmington is instituting a new trash pickup system which will utilize trucks with arms to lift and dump waste. This will require that cans be put to the road and be set three feet apart and the lid must be completely closed. We currently have 4 waste containers and in order to manage the waste as needed we would need to add two more cans.

Discussion ensued about the use of an onsite dumpster with weekly pickup at a cost of \$135/month. Potential dumpster placement etc. was discussed and ultimately the board was not in favor of an onsite dumpster. Until an acceptable alternative solution can be determined, the decision was made to add two more cans to accommodate the trash stream that is currently generated. Pastor John said he would go ahead and order these as the new system begins on Sept 23rd.

An additional issue was discussed in that Fred Knapp handles the trash and cleaning out cans. While others can transport the cans to the road in his absence, the major issue was the cleaning of cans. The board is to determine if there are other options to consider to meet the changing system and address the cleaning of cans.

- **Internet backup from AT&T:**

- We have been having some internet connectivity issues and AT&T suggested we consider purchasing internet backup capabilities at \$65 per month. Pastor John shared that he was uncertain how this would benefit us since the problem exists with external and supply capabilities of AT&T so the board did not approve purchasing internet backup services.

- **New Well and Electrical Work:**

- To meet the required landscape plan for the expansion project, Pastor John investigated the renewal of an irrigation system to include a water source (well) and pump etc. A proposal for a new well and electrical work for the well was received from Michael and Sons at a total cost of \$10,019.00. A portion of this cost will be offset by a grant from the Cape Fear Garden Club (\$7,000). A motion to move the project forward with Michael and Sons was made by Beth Hultberg and seconded by John Lankford and unanimously approved.

CLOSING PRAYER

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.