

**Gulf Cove United Methodist Church**  
*Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus*  
**Church Council Meeting**  
**May 26, 2015 – 7:00 PM**

**Attendees:**

Doreen Alvarez (Church Council Chairman)	Sandy Doty	Betty Hansell	Jeanne Shrout
Rev. Dr. Bill Fisackerly	Kim Fisackerly	Mary Hilton	Dana Hanson
	John Furtado	Joan Priest	

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle representing Jesus Christ, followed by a prayer by Doreen.

**Corrections to Previous Minutes:** The recording secretary was not notified of any necessary corrections to the minutes of the April 27, 2015 meeting.

**NURTURE**

**Education:** Gretchen Leppla is out of town until early- to mid-June. Doreen has already completed the Sunday School lessons for June.

**Bounce House:** Holly Woods has asked for authority to purchase the bounce house that we borrowed from a family for the Fall and Easter festivals. Doreen mentioned that when it was last used, she noticed several seam tears which would require a special sewing machine because of the heavy-duty material. It is unknown whether the seams were torn when we got the house or if they occurred as a result of our use. After discussion, it was decided we should purchase the bounce house for the asking price of \$150. We can try to get the seams repaired.

After the meeting, the limitations of the bounce house were looked up. It is a smaller house than what we've rented in the past. No more than 400 pounds is allowed inside at any one time. No individual should weigh more than 110 pounds. For average height-weight charts, see <http://www.md-health.com/Weight-Chart-For-Kids.html>. Based on these charts, most children age 13 and under (grade 7 or 8) meet the 110-pound requirement. The bottom line is, if there are 4 middle schoolers in it, or 5 or 6 elementary kids, the bounce house is "full."

**Vacation Bible School:** Like last year, VBS will be held on Wednesdays only, from July 8 through August 5, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm. The theme this year is "Hometown Nazareth, Where Jesus Was a Kid." The children will be grouped into tribes; we are planning on six tribes. They will visit Mary, who will tell them stories about Jesus' childhood. They will go to a marketplace where they can purchase things with shekels which they will be given at the start of each evening. Right now we still need volunteers for just about all positions:

- Pre-VBS Decorations Leader (We'll have one or two workdays prior to July 8.)
- 6 Huddle Chiefs (should be adults) and 6 assistants (1 Chief & 1 Assistant for each "tribe" of children). Chiefs will lead their tribes in discussion at the start and end of each VBS session and guide them thru the evening.

- Friends of Mary for Bible Stories from Jesus' childhood
- Bead Bazaar Shopkeeper
- Synagogue School Rabbi
- Olive Oil Shopkeeper
- Farmer's Field
- Dye Shopkeeper
- Rock Quarry Owner
- Barnyard Superintendent
- Food Market Shopkeeper
- Leader & Assistant for Fun & Games

As of now, the following positions are filled:

- Mary, Jesus' mother - Debbie Pharo
- Carpentry Shopkeeper - Ken Priest
- Mission Leader - Linda Starck (Kids' Needs)
- Liza McDaniel - Music Director
- Dana Hanson - Registrar

Kathleen St. Martin, Rick Starck, and Linda Starck have indicated they will help. (Apologies to anyone else who has recently indicated they would help but are not listed.) Holly has the information regarding each position.

As soon as our online registration program is ready to accept information, the VBS flyers for Myakka River Elementary can be taken to the school, and other publicity will be distributed. Myakka's last day of school is June 5. [The flyers were delivered to the school about a week after the Church Council meeting.]

## **OUTREACH**

**Church Van Lettering:** Alfred Current has indicated that Outreach funds may be used for lettering on the van. A discussion of what should be on the van ensued. It was felt information should be on both sides and the back of the van. It was ultimately recommended that the blue roof logo, Gulf Cove United Methodist Church, Port Charlotte, Florida, and the website (GulfCoveChurch.com, capitalizing each word) should be included on the van. This information will be conveyed to the trustees.

**Nicaró Sister Church:** Betty Hansell reported that at the team's last meeting, it was decided to purchase a new laptop (not used or refurbished) for Pastor Reinaldo (pastor of the Nicaro Church), hopefully at a cost of around \$500. Rev. Bill is trying to contact major companies (Microsoft, Dell, Lenovo, etc.) to see if they would be willing to donate a laptop. Many things need to be considered: telephone line access, high speed, programs needed, operating system

(Windows 7 or going up to 8), purchasing the laptop in Cuba versus purchasing it here, setting it up properly in Spanish. These things will be discussed with Dan Christopherson.

The team will be sending \$1,000 to support a Sunday meal for the Nicaro church's parishioners. Right now, about 60-70 people attend church, and it costs about \$15 to feed them all on Sunday. The Sunday meal money should not only cover their meal cost for a year, but will hopefully provide extra for snacks for children attending Vacation Bible School.

Because of lack of transportation and its current location, it is difficult for the Nicaro church to expand. Therefore, the amount of \$2,500 will also be sent to the church for the purpose of purchasing property for a new, more centrally located church. This amount should cover the full purchase price plus all closing costs and any extra, unanticipated costs. The money to purchase the property will be sent to Dan, where it is placed into a special account and is earmarked for a specific purpose, such as "Nicaro Relocation." The funds would then be transferred to Pastor Isel (district superintendent) who would eventually make the purchase. He later transfers the property to Pastor Reinaldo, who then donates it to the Methodist Church. The property they are currently considering is large enough for both a house and a temple (the church), with additional land available for future expansion. It will likely take a year for the purchase to be completed.

Pastor Reinaldo has already received a bicycle and a cell phone from funds our congregation has donated, and was extremely excited to receive them.

### **WITNESS**

**Worship Design Team:** Kim reported that this new team is being created. Its initial meeting will be held on Sunday, June 14, after Shirley Smith's luncheon. It is anticipated the meeting will start around 2pm. The goal is to meet once a quarter and plan worship activities for six months in advance. Skits, decorations, scripture, themes, music, and other worship-related items will be considered. It is planned that the team will also discuss topics of hospitality, as the Sunday morning experience is an all-encompassing one, not just what happens at the altar. All key staff and all volunteers who work with worship are encouraged to attend. In addition, anybody else who is interested in sharing their ideas is invited to join the meeting.

**New Sanctuary Arrangement:** On Monday, June 15 at 11am, individuals are asked to meet to assist in rearranging the sanctuary (including the seating) for the summer. It was mentioned that IF more chairs have to be removed from the sanctuary, there is a question as to where they will be stored, as all usual storage locations are full. *{Just one more reason why we need the Facilities Expansion Team.....}*

**Acolytes:** It was mentioned that we should have an acolyte training to ensure consistency with what the acolytes do at the three services. This may be a topic of discussion at the June 14 meeting.

**Hospitality vs. Worship:** A question arose as to whether some individuals who volunteer on Sunday mornings should answer to the Hospitality Chairman or the Worship Chairman. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the various Sunday morning activities. The Discipline ultimately leaves it up to the local church to decide how it is organized.

Currently, our website lists the individuals in the core Worship Committee: the overall Worship chairman, and the coordinator(s) of each of the three services (8am, 9:30am, and 11am). It goes on to say the following about our Worship Committee:

#### ***Duties of the Worship Committee***

**Usher and Greeter Recruiting and Scheduling:** Ushers and Greeters are all volunteers. This is a great way to get to meet the people attending your service. Volunteers may elect to serve as little as one week a month or talk to the coordinator and work out your own schedule. Ushers also prepare the attendance pads, take the attendance count and acknowledge first-time visitors by passing out a small church welcome gift.

**Arranging and Training for Communion Service:** The next easy step for a volunteer is to learn what is involved in serving Communion. Doing the Lord's work is always a thrill and this is sure to make your Sunday special.

**Acolytes - Scheduling and Training:** An Acolyte performs the ceremonial lighting and extinguishing of altar candles. The lighting of altar candles is a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Before extinguishing the altar candles, the acolyte relights the "candle lighter" and then proceeds out into the narthex. This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are called to serve. There is no age limit to being an Acolyte and this is another great way to serve the Lord.

The Hospitality website page indicates it deals with welcoming people in the narthex and intimates it involves the time between services. It was suggested that this be discussed more fully during the Worship Design Team meeting on June 14. Linda Starck, as Hospitality Coordinator, will receive a personal invitation to join the meeting.

#### **SUPPORT**

**Finance:** John started by saying, "God is good!" We still have one Sunday in May and, although we are under our \$38,000 a month goal, it appears all bills will be timely paid without pulling on the Reserve Fund. We started the month with slightly over \$14,000 in the checking account. We have already put aside \$3,500 for real estate taxes which will be due in November. The amount of \$25,600 is in the Reserve Fund. The Facility Up Keep balance is \$9,917.

The next scheduled Finance meeting is September 21. If needed, an interim meeting will be held.

All Charge Conference reports are due by October 1<sup>st</sup>. John reminded everyone that budget items need to be submitted to Finance prior to the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. To meet these

deadlines, Dawn will be asked to distribute the necessary budget paperwork to the appropriate individuals by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Trustees:** Skip Messenger has accepted the Chairmanship for several months on a trial basis. *Thank you, Skip!*

Doreen reminded everyone that work orders are in the brochure rack in the Education hallway. They should be completed and put into the Trustees' mail slot in Room 114 (the conference room next to the office).

The Trustees are accepting the bid from Creative Sound to install the new colored LED lighting in the sanctuary. An electrician needs to be found in case one is needed; everyone previously used is now out of business.

Joan and Ken Priest and Jo Ann Hopkins performed the parsonage walk-thru earlier this year. An inventory needs to be made of all equipment and furniture throughout the church.

The trustees are not meeting in June or July, unless a special meeting is called.

**Staff Parish:** Joan advised that Nick Rodriguez has been hired as the new Audio/Visual Technician and he started this past Sunday. He has Tuesdays and Sundays off from his regular job and will be available for staff meetings, Praise Team practice, and Sunday worship services. As with all new employees, he understands he is under a 90-day probationary period.

Joan pointed out that the church's new soundboard was purchased from Creative Sound, the same company that will be installing the new lighting. When the soundboard was obtained, Creative Sound had agreed to come out and conduct more training sessions on the soundboard. Hopefully they can now complete that agreement by providing more instruction to Nick.

SPR is hosting the celebration party for Shirley Smith on June 14.

Annual staff evaluations are due by the end of June. They are being performed on the buddy system established by SPR.

They will be revising job descriptions and the lay employee handbook as necessary.

SPR will be holding meetings over the summer. SPR members will be notified when they are scheduled.

**Nominations:** Rev. Bill provided the following information after the Council meeting was concluded: In the 4/27/2015 minutes, two individuals were identified by an asterisk as considering nomination positions. The Council gave conditional approval of both individuals, assuming their acceptance. After the April Council meeting, Skip Messenger accepted the

position as a Trustee (and as mentioned above, also the Chairman position). The other individual did not feel a calling to serve on the team at this time, so there remains a vacancy on the Facilities Expansion Team.

The Nominations Committee is looking forward to receiving the results of the Spiritual Gift Discovery program which is available through Group Magazine. However, at this time, it requires that each person who takes the survey receive a personal invitation by email.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**At Ease (American Legion):** Rev. Bill advised that John Dorotics is doing a good job getting this new ministry going. The initial plan is to meet one Thursday a month, with the initial visit on June 4. What the team would like to happen is that a group of people will meet at GCUMC at noon on June 4 for prayer. Five or six individuals would go to the American Legion from 1pm until at least 2pm, then return to the church to discuss the ministry. The individuals who do not go to the American Legion would continue to pray at the church, until the others return.

On June 4, the At Ease Veteran's Ministry made its first visit to the American Legion. Rev. Bill advised us of the following:

PRAISE REPORT - "AT EASE" VETERAN'S MINISTRY: Today 7 of us went down to the American Legion in Port Charlotte, while another 7 met at the church in prayer for the ministry. (I don't know how many others were praying at home, but thanks!) We found that the communication was not as clear as we had hoped, so no one came back to the room where we met for our "meet and greet". So, part of the group stayed in the back room to pray and converse about the ministry, and some of the group went out to the bar area to strike up conversations and to be a witness out there. Overall there were around 20 people in the main meeting room (bar). Rev. Bill talked to just about every one of them to introduce us and to let the people know who we were and what we were doing. Overall response was positive; most of them had seen the flyers but not really understood what it was about. Now they know that we are committed to returning at least once a month for the next two years, just to listen to them and find out how the Church can better serve our veterans. Keep this ministry in your prayers!

**Coffee House:** The group forming this ministry will be asked for an update on what is happening.

**Imagine No Malaria:** This is a major project of the UMC. Last fall, GCUMC pledged \$2,500. To start the ball rolling, it was decided earlier this year that part of the Pig Pickin' proceeds would be earmarked for Imagine No Malaria. John's understanding is that regardless of how much money is contributed separately by the congregation, the first \$2,500 will come out of the Outreach funds. Anything over \$2,500 will be gravy.

Rev. Bill informed us of the following. One of our members has a friend who is pastoring in Africa. When our member told the pastor about GCUMC's plans to donate to this project, he emailed Rev. Bill. He said that, since we don't live there on a day-to-day basis, we have no idea

how much of an impact this project will make. He was most appreciative of anything we are able to contribute.

Anyone who wishes to contribute may do so by indicating “Imagine No Malaria” on the memo line of their check (payable to GCUMC). In addition, the Annual Conference in mid-June will conduct the [5K Run](#) in support of Imagine No Malaria. Donations to sponsor Rev. Bill can be made at the following website: <https://www.crowdrise.com/inmflac2015>.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Scholarship Committee:** Doreen advised that the Henry Scholarship was not awarded because there were no applicants who were attending a technical school. If there are no Henry Scholarship recipients for a couple years, the amount available may be available to other applicants. With regard to the Losh Scholarship, there were two applicants. However, because there was very little money available to award, anonymous donors gave additional contributions to enlarge the two scholarships. Kitty Losh (the widow of Andrew Losh) will be invited to attend and present the awards.

**Fundraising:** Mary advised that for some time now God has put it on her heart to hold a fundraising event. What He has not let her in on, however, is where the funds that are raised are to go. We are all asked to pray for a nudge as to where He would like those funds to be used.

**Summer Event:** Kim has also been feeling God’s nudges. She would like for us to hold Church Fun Nights for the whole church, not just for families with younger children. They would be held one Friday evening during each of June, July, and August. Some suggestions are a movie, line dancing, and a game night. Fundraising could also be done by groups handling the concession stand. Those present thought this would be a good idea.

### **ADJOURNING**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm with communion and a prayer by Rev. Bill.

The next Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 22, 2015, at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Hanson  
Recording Secretary