

BOOK OF REPORTS

March 2009

Pastor's Report

For those who pay attention to numbers, you should be delighted to see three or four increases in several areas worth your review. I didn't have the figures on the year-end budget during my review of the church last month, but our treasurer described that we did not spend more than we took in, which is a credit to those who didn't spend just because money might have been available. Good stewardship.

I commend the work of Martha Tanner and the WEE committee for the numbers currently enrolled in the preschool and what you will read concerning next year's enrollment. More importantly, we are seeing a modest increase with families connecting with us by attendance in church sponsored functions. In addition, the financial numbers appear to be positive. At this point, I want to thank Martha for the endless hours, her compassion for the children, and her zeal to make things work so well for us, when we have not always made a herald of her fine work.

The Sunday School has its own merits, but with the added emphasis and ground level support of members, we are looking at Sunday School numbers not seen in a while. This matches our highest levels for average attendance in Sunday School.

Keeping track of the numbers for worship attendance is not really required, and I wish I could give actual numbers of the last several months, but from what I have observed, we have more in attendance at the 11:00 AM service during the last six months, while the early service remains constant (around 95).

One more number for this report. I received a letter from John Upton (Virginia Baptist Board) thanking us for being number 68 on the list of top giving churches among 1400 Baptist churches in the state for cooperative giving. I know we made the list by a slim margin last year, but this just goes to show how committed we are to mission causes. Keep up the good work, good and faithful servants. --Ed

Sunday School

Since our December business meeting Sunday School has continued to explain the goal of our **G.R.I.P.** theme.

Growth through Bible Study

Reach out to others to share Jesus

Invite others to come to Sunday school

People, our most important mission.

We have also had several Sundays with attendance over 150. For the first 5 Sundays of 2009 our attendance has averaged 143 for the same period in 2008 the average attendance was 122. We are very energized by this great increase.

We partnered with Building and Grounds to clean and reassign resource space for better use of classroom space in the basement. This was important because we need to make our space presentable, usable and age appropriate. This also opened up another classroom we hope to use in the near future for dividing a current class or a space for a special study class.

We are in prayer that we can begin a breakout study open to multiple ages this spring. We are looking for a volunteer to lead "Experiencing God" Sunday mornings. Please see Jerry, Barbara, or myself.

--Brian Hardy

WEE Committee

WEE Committee

Preschool is growing and improving all the time. We now have 32 children enrolled. In January 2008 we only had 20! We are very busy talking to parents, showing the preschool, and enrolling children for this fall, and the four year old class is almost full! I am thrilled that we already have 29 preschoolers enrolled for fall 2009. Most of our new enrollment is due to word of mouth from friends, so we are very thankful that our preschool families are recommending us to their friends. Last year we added a separate two year old class and this fall we will be adding a second three year old class, so that one will meet on Tuesday and Thursday and the other on Mon., Wed. and Fri. The biggest improvement to the preschool for this fall will be that I will be able to devote all of my time to the director work and not teaching. This will benefit the children, the parents, and the teachers in so many ways, as I was having to spread myself too thin trying to do both jobs. It concerned me that I could not do my best at either one because there just weren't enough hours in the day, and too many time conflicts. I am looking forward to being able to minister more to the preschool families and teachers. There are also some new programs I would like to try to begin involving families with young children, such as MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), mother's morning out, and a ladies Bible study and support group with child care provided on a preschool morning.

We continue to enjoy and learn from our monthly Chapel time with Pastor Powell and our weekly library times with Mrs. Bell. The parents were invited to our Christmas and Valentines parties and seemed to really enjoy the opportunity to see their precious little ones participating in their preschool activities and meeting and fellowshiping with the other children and parents. We have such a supportive group of parents who are always willing to send in treats for parties, make play dough, substitute teach, or help in many other ways. They sent in so much for the Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry that I have forgotten how many shoeboxes we filled.

We ended 2008 with our income greater than our expenses. We will have the added expense of more teachers next school year but we are optimistic that the increase in tuition and added enrollment will cover our expenses for 2009. It is a little difficult to predict because our tuition and other income, enrollment numbers, and salaries change based on the school year rather than a calendar year like the church budget.

Music Ministry

Since the last Business Meeting of Bethel Baptist Church, our Music Ministry has participated in many activities.

- Adult Choir and members of our Church presented the Christmas Musical "Celebrate the Gift" in song and in drama.
- Men's Quartet along with the Bell Choir performed on December 7th for both 9:00 and 11:00 services.
- As their Christmas project, the Adult Choir gathered and delivered 109 pounds of food to the Food Bank.
- Our Ensemble has grown in number and have performed for our worship services.
- Praise Singers continue to lead in worship songs for our 9 a.m. service and have also sung for our 11:00 worship service this year.
- Matthew Riley, one of our young men in our church family, performed a violin solo for both worship services on Boy Scout Sunday in February.
- We enjoyed our Men's choir in January for our Brotherhood Sunday.
- We again enjoyed for the second year, a Ladies Choir on WMU Sunday in February.
- We had as our guest for both worship services on March 1, the Fork Union Academy Choir.

Submitted by:

Sharon Laslie, Music Director

Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Team

Quarterly Report Information for October, November, December 2008:

Personal Contacts by Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Team:

• At Church/Community _____	Total: 42
• Phone Calls _____	Total: 56
• Hospital Visits _____	Total: 5
• Home Visits _____	Total: 24
• Nursing Home/Assisted Living Visits _____	Total: 17
• Cards, Letters, Emails Sent _____	Total: 15
• Meals Prepared _____	Total: 4
• Transportation Provided _____	Total: 16
• Blood Pressure Screenings _____	Total: 56
• Height and Weight _____	Total: 15
• Health Consultations _____	Total: 98

Health Education/Classes/Events This Quarter:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic of Health Education/Class/Event</u>	<u>Number Attended</u>
10-19-08	Flu Clinic	65
10 - 2008	Provided food/gas cards/gift cards, & helped with cost of heating oil for "Family in Need"	Entire Congregation
12 - 2008	Memory Tree	45
12 - 2008	Provided Christmas for "Family in Need"	Provider's Class & Parish Nurse Team

Other Activities This Quarter:

- Medical Response Team established
- Adult AED (defibrillator) purchased
- Arthritis Self-Help Specialist Course (2 days) -Arthritis Foundation
 - Mary Camden and Hazel Thomas attended the course and became Certified Arthritis Self-Help Specialists

Tentative Plans for Remainder of 2009:

- Arthritis Self-Help Course for congregation (six week course)
- CPR/FA/AED Course for congregation
- Fall Prevention Seminar
- Pilates/Tai Chi Class for congregation/community
- Health Ministry Course (for two team members)
- Vascular/Glucose/Cholesterol Screening
- Flu Vaccination Clinic
- Phone Message Boards for Shut-Ins/Elderly
- Blood Pressure Screenings and Consultations
- Ongoing Meal Preparation, Visitation, and Transportation Teams

WMU

Thanks to all who packed lunches for the Richmond Friends of the Homeless on December 30. Your work is a blessing during this cold Winter Season.

Women on Mission donated \$50 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as well as paper products to Richmond Friends of the Homeless.

Also Women on Mission donated clothing and household items to their "adopted" Grandmother from the Powhatan Christmas Mother.

WMU gave \$100 to the Eastern Shore Radio Ministry for Latinos,

WMU bought a brick in honor of WMU from the Youth Ministry in January. The engraved bricks are being sold as fundraiser of the youth to finance a prayer garden between the People of hope Center and the Legacy Buildings.

In February, WMU sponsored the Souper Bowl Sunday with proceeds going to the Central Virginia Food Bank, The Souper Bowl collection was \$162.57.

We began making lap blankets and shawls for the Bon Secours Hospice Ministry.

On February 7th, volunteers packed lunches for the bus ministry of the ROC church, an organization that works to prevent gangs, feed the homeless and give inner-city kids hope.

On February 8, WMU ministries were recognized during both church services; and we had a special speaker, Rev. Karen Powell, who spoke about her work as a chaplain and told about the critical needs of the prisoners incarcerated in Virginia.

February 15 was Children's Ministry Day and the children helped create the paper mosquitoes to be used as representation of mosquito netting purchases. Please remember to donate \$ to help prevent malaria in children living in Africa.

Personal Service Team:

Tweedle Richardson and Dee Garland have ministered to seven people for the months of December, January, and February. Anne Smith has sent ten cards.

Jean Redmond will take over for the months of March, April, and May.

Hope all of you are having a good week.

--Aleta Jenkins