

## UMM Minutes – November 5, 2011

Already in the church, well before 7 a.m., were Larry and Betty Parrish; Larry's sister, June Johnson; and Ronny Roberts, busy preparing breakfast, which ultimately consisted of blueberry pancakes, breakfast casserole, sausage (sliced links as well as patties), bacon, ham, French toast, and juice and coffee. Shortly after John and Peggy Christian arrived with a fruit bowl. Four pots of full-strength coffee and one of decaf awaited attendees on the coffee making machine and hot plates at the west side of the Family Life Center.

Others attending included President Jim Dye, Pastor Martha Dye, Secretary Michael Bishop, Treasurer Chuck Taylor, Warren Aldrich, Terry Cobb, Franklin Cox, Steve Davis, Lamar Hamric, Harold Tarpley, and the morning's speaker, Tim Turco. We also hosted six visitors from Snellville United Methodist Church, in our area on a mission trip, headed by Stuart "The Man" Scruggs and including Mark Arnold, Ted Larson, Dale Stevens, Ken Wiley, and Ann Wright.

President Jim Dye opened our meeting with a prayer and a devotional and invited our visitors from Snellville to proceed through the serving line first. We had four long tables set with red or red-orange tablecloths, flower-filled vases, sturdy and colorful paper plates, silverware, and several types of pancake syrup, including maple from a company in Ontario, Canada. The breakfast was an exceptional one.

Tim Turco, a member of our church and a Christian marriage counselor, presented a program called *Six Battles Every Man Must Win*, based on a book by Bill Perkins, a pastor in Oregon and the founder of A Million Mighty Men. He used plastic swords bearing the legends of each of his major headings—"Your Identity," "Personal Holiness," "Your Family," fighting "Through Pain," "Your Friends," and "Strong Faith"—as well as selected Biblical passages from both the Old and the New Testaments to organize his talk to his and to illustrate and/or support its most significant tenets. Tim periodically called upon men in attendance to read some of these verses aloud.

Under the heading "Your Identity," Tim noted that we must know who we are and cited a *Far Side* cartoon by Gary Larson in which a Golden Retriever introduces itself by saying, "Hello. My name is No-No-Bad Dog." Tim observed that we must define ourselves rather than allow others to do so, but that we need not let our bad past experiences go on to define us forever. He cited Moses, Joseph, and Peter as Biblical men who did not allow poor past choices to prevent them from later doing significant work to advance the kingdom of God.

The remainder of Tim's well-organized presentation offered equally apt examples for each of its other five headings. In these, he touched on developing a relationship with God and staying in the light; supporting our wives and our children through different types of daily affirmation; fighting through pain caused by lost relationships and the deaths of important figures in our lives as well as by resisting temptation; finding friends who are good listeners, affirmers (not discouragers), and takers of brave rather than foolish risks, and being that kind of friend for these people in turn; and, finally, winning through to a strong faith in God by trusting in Him wholly and letting Him walk beside us whatever our goals and whoever our adversaries. Tim concluded by noting that the theme of Perkins's book, *Six Battles Every Man Must Win*, is simply "God + Me = Victory." His presentation elicited heartfelt applause.

Afterward, Steve Davis noted that we should help Bob Swanson, a member of our church and a decorated military man, recover after the tornado that hit our region, and his farm, last spring. He suggested that we help fund and build three 3-sided wooden shelters, on skids, for his ponies, which will need them this winter. The cost is approx. \$450 for each such shelter. Stuart Scruggs, the U. S. Missions Coordinator for the United Methodist Men of the North Georgia Conference, told Steve that he would contribute and also seek help for Bob and us from other men's groups and volunteers within our conference. Jim affirmed that we would undertake this project at Bob's. Steve also asked that we each sign an annual calendar on display in the FLC on our birthdays and use that day—the first, the seventeenth, or whatever—during *every month of the year* to pray for our pastor, Martha Dye. We were then dismissed with prayer, to help with cleanup.

Faithfully submitted,

Michael Bishop, Secretary