

UMM Minutes – August 6, 2011

For this monthly gathering, our UMM met for our Saturday breakfast at Edie Mae's restaurant. Since our last meeting, John Christian, who served both faithfully and admirably as our president for three or four consecutive years, resigned his position for personal reasons. He does not plan to drop out of fellowship with us, however, and even intends to provide fresh fruit bowls for future meetings, do the decorations for our Sweethearts' Dinner in February, and assist with many other activities besides. In any case, we here acknowledge his many contributions to our group and to its preservation and rejuvenation when we had fallen to a low ebb; and we wholeheartedly thank him for his guiding hands (literally and metaphorically), inspiring spirit, and proactive organizational, relational, and communication skills he brought to our fellowship. Although he could not attend this month's meeting, he intends to remain a member of the Pine Mountain UMM. Jim Dye has agreed to succeed John in this post, and he effectively chaired our August get-together.

Others attending: Warren Aldrich, Rick Adams, Martha Dye (our pastor), Lamar Hamric, Ronnie Meares, Jesse Saint, Harold Tarpley, Chuck Taylor (treasurer), John Willis, and Michael Bishop (secretary). Jim opened our meeting in the long room on the south side of the restaurant with a prayer and a blessing, and after we had eaten enjoyable breakfasts from the buffet or the menu, he presided efficiently over our business meeting.

Jim outlined our schedule for the coming months. In early December we will send out Christmas cards to widows, singles, and shut-ins. In either January or March, we will hold our annual chili cook-off; in February, our yearly Sweethearts' Dinner; and in April or May, our church clean-up and work on behalf of Noah's Ark fund-raising auction. Our next meeting will take place in the Family Life Center on Saturday, September 3, 2011.

Ronnie noted that we recently gave money to the pregnancy center in Fayetteville; he added that we'd also promised to run interior trim work in this building, but that we now need to put a crew together or notify Square Foot Ministries (SFM) that we won't be doing the work so that another group can tackle the project. However, we decided to meet at the church on August 20 at 7:00 a.m. and to drive to Fayetteville to fulfill our promise. Jim, Ronnie, Chuck, and John all agreed to run trim, but others, including the youth, are also invited to do so. Jim observed that "Square Foot Ministries is for everybody, not just the men." Ronnie also reported that on November 11, SFM plans to build an entire house in LaGrange on Hogansville Rd near the Sunridge apartments for a well-deserving disabled veteran and to do so in 12 hours. Lots of people will be there, including the media. SFM selected a vet to honor because of LaGrange's relative proximity to Fort Benning in Columbus.

Harold brought up tornado damage in Manchester, noting that a pastor overseeing some of its clean-up is "wearing out," as are some of his church members. Could SFM help? Ronnie advised telling the pastor to visit the SFM website to see whom to contact about engaging its people for assistance. Of late, it has done a lot of clean-up in Alabama. Jim, replying to a query of Martha's about Habitat for Humanity, said he preferred to work with SFM because it has Methodist roots, but that both organizations do fine work; if we can not send people or money to HFH, we can still publicize its efforts. John noted that Pine Mtn church members unable to make an SFM workday might be able to make a Habitat workday. Jim mentioned the possibility of our church's framing a house in Manchester; he also noted that during October (16-22) he will again take members to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky to do more work. There are other opportunities to assist there in November and December. Martha suggested consolidating a couple of these trips. Rick asked if there were any way that we could all get a schedule of these various dates, and Jim said that he would send them out soon by email. Warren then asked if we couldn't get more men to attend our meetings and to take part in our projects. He said that if each of us invited a man absent today to our next get-together, we could double our attendance. He urged Lamar to ask a certain absent man (whom Lamar had brought to an earlier meeting) next time. To appreciative laughter, Lamar said, "I will, and if I can't get him to come, I won't come either." Martha asked, "Why not create a list of men to invite and work on these men?"

Chuck, just as we were about to wrap up, asked us to pray for our troops abroad; he specifically referenced a Chinook helicopter that went down yesterday in Afghanistan, killing all 31 military personnel (perhaps Army Rangers) aboard. Both Martha and I mentioned the alarmingly high number of troops in Afghanistan who became double/triple amputees last month by stepping on IEDs made in Pakistan out of ammonia-based fertilizers (for only about \$25 a bomb). This news occasioned both comment and quiet thought. Shortly after, Jim closed our meeting with prayer.

Faithfully submitted,

Michael Bishop, secretary