

UMM Minutes – July 9, 2011

Attending: John Christian, president; Peggy Christian, who, with John's help, prepared breakfast; Warren Aldrich; Steve and Luke Davis; Martha Dye, our pastor, and her husband Jim, who delivers the program; Lamar Hamric; Chuck Taylor, treas.; Harold Tarpley; Michael & Nicholas Willey; and Mike Bishop, secretary.

Before we eat, the group, at John's request, lays hands on Peggy and Martha prays for healing for an injured finger on Peggy's left hand, an instance of "mallet finger" requiring her to wear a splint on it to prevent the ligament from breaking again. Martha's prayer encompasses grace for our meal, which consists of breakfast enchiladas in a casserole dish, salsa, bacon, and fresh fruit, coffee and juice.

John notes that recently several members of our church went on a mission-team work trip to Henderson Settlement, Kentucky, to do repairs on the home of a man confined to a wheelchair by Parkinson's disease. His wife, Anita Bowes, Martha tells us, is known throughout the community as a person always ready to help others, and our team of ten youth and nine adults returned that favor by going to Kentucky to help her and her husband.

Jim Dye, one of the adult leaders of the mission team, presented a slide show of the activities of this group, but prefaced the photographs with a declaration of his pride in the willing industry of all our youth on this trip. He noted that the house they worked on was "within walking distance of the house we stayed in," the first time that has ever happened in his many previous work trips to Henderson Settlement.

Jim's slide show depicts our youth and adults at work, play, and mealtime during their week of dedicated labor at this site, handling tools, pitching in to cut, install, and sand sheetrock, to put up gutters, to paint and hang a porch swing, and assisting with many other such projects. Steve Davis observed that they had wasps to deal with and that these insects "grow big" in Kentucky. Some of those participating in the work included Ben and Shannon Emerson, Ronnie Meares, Michael and Nick Willey, Dena and Ellie Schaeffer, Sally and Lace Cobb, Steve and Luke Davis, Sarah Crye, Katelyn Rose and Grant Flynn, and Zach Reddick. (If I've misidentified or left out anyone, as I'm sure I have, forgive me . . . or send corrections. Thanks.) At the end of this presentation, Jim said there's another trip to Henderson Settlement scheduled for Oct. 16-21 and yet another in November, when he and Ron plan to return to finish up jobs that others may not have been able to complete.

After the slide show, John mentions that our men's group has made a commitment to do some work on a nearby pregnancy center. He notes that every man in our church belongs to the United Methodist Men and also that we have purposely stopped calling ourselves a "club," a word that has unfortunate exclusionary connotations. He encourages us to start thinking about the annual Rock Eagle retreat in September and closes our meeting with prayer.

Faithfully submitted,

Michael Bishop, secretary