

UMM Minutes – October 1, 2011

Present: Rick Adams, Warren Aldrich, Michael Bishop (secretary), Jim Dye (president), Martha Dye (pastor), Terry Cobb, Lamar Hamric, Bob Swanson, Harold Tarpley, Chuck Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Michael Willey, Nicholas Willey, John Willis, Evan Willis

I arrive at 7:15 a.m. to find that Jim Dye has been busy for at least thirty minutes; he has set up the tables and begun cooking breakfast. Harold Tarpley and I arrive in time to make coffee, and others start to show. At a couple of minutes after eight, Jim offers a blessing for our meal, which consists of scrambled eggs, grits, sausage, ham, bacon, biscuits, a fruit bowl, and coffee and/or juice.

After we eat, Jim presents a devotional from *The Upper Room*, whose scriptural basis is Hebrews 12:1 and its key verse: “*Let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*” The author of the devotional points out that the pronoun *us* in this verse declares that “we are all running this race together . . . so it isn’t over until the last person crosses the finish line.” Jim stresses this point, for we all must work together to reach our goals and to live a fully Christian life. He also notes that as a retired military man, he likes to be in charge, as do many others who serve or have served in the military, and that often our motto seems to be “Lead, follow, or get out of the way,” when we may wish to consider the appropriateness of a listening ear or of intentional cooperation.

Jim then reminds us to keep in mind Rick Adams’s Sunday presentation to the church (5 – 6 p.m.) and his assumption of the role of our church youth leader. He encourages everyone, not just youth and parents, to attend. He then goes on to say that we have mission trips to Henderson Settlement planned for Oct 30 to Nov 5 and for Dec 4 to Dec 10 (or Dec 7 to Dec 10), and that if any of us would like to go, we should attend a dinner at the parsonage in advance of those events. He notes that as part of our disaster-relief efforts, in the wake of last spring’s tornadoes, “we’re building two houses in the Manchester area.” Others who had wanted houses built have apparently grown discouraged and decided to move into mobile homes. Ronnie Meares has volunteered to do some work on a new house requiring a crawlspace.

Wednesday-night suppers: Jim agreed to lead the 3rd-Wed.-night supper of each month, but this month, owing to his travel schedule, he won’t be here until late on the afternoon of Oct 19, and we need someone to take over as leader of this meal. “If no one volunteers to take charge,” he tells us, “then I’m just going to turn this 3rd-Wed. meal over to Christine, who catered last week’s meal for us and did a fantastic job. It isn’t fair to go back and forth on this matter with her. She needs to know if she’s going to have one or two meals to prepare for us each month.” No one immediately steps forward to assume this responsibility, but Jim says that we can ask in church tomorrow, as not all the men in our congregation are present this morning.

John Christian has sent information about a “No Man Left Behind” retreat or seminar in the Atlanta area scheduled for Nov 4-5. Cost is \$149.00 a person, with different rate schedules for pastors, etc.

Returning to the topic of Wed.-night suppers, Jim says “to make sure that you have reservations” if you plan to attend. This information is essential to those preparing the meals and ordering food. Some of our congregants feel picked on if anyone points out that next time it would be helpful if they made reservations rather than simply showing up, sometimes with guests. We may be able to accommodate a few people doing this, it becomes a problem when many more than expected do so, and some with reservations, who arrive later, find our servers have run short of vegetables, salad, or other items.

Chuck Taylor reminds us that last year we agreed to contribute a check to our UMM group in the amount of our age in the month that we celebrate a birthday. He had a birthday in September and just wrote a check, for double his age, made out to our Pine Mountain UMM fellowship. One man noted that some of us are too old to be able to afford doubling our age for the purpose of writing such a check, and Lamar Hamric recalled that last year John Y. Willis told him that he could pay off his birthday check “in installments.” Laughter ensued.

Martha notes that our stewardship campaign begins on the 23rd of October. She urges us all to consider stepping up, just a little, the percentage of our income that we annually give to the church. Warren Aldrich again encourages us to invite a man to next month’s UMM meeting, which would of course double our attendance. Jim then closes us with prayer, and many hang around to clean up after our breakfast meal.

Faithfully submitted,

Michael Bishop, secretary