

UMM Minutes – September 10, 2011

Present: Rick Adams, Warren Aldrich, Michael Bishop (sec.), John Christian, Bob Chrzanowski, Steve Davis, Jim Dye (pres.), Martha Dye (pastor), Lamar Hamric, Dean and Amy Mabry (along with Aria and Isabella), Ronnie Meares, Harold Tarpley, Chuck Taylor, Jay Turner, Michael and Nicholas Willey, John Y. Willis.
Guests: Stephen Soulen and Herman Ward from the Methodist Church in Manchester.

Dean and Amy Mabry prepared a delicious breakfast of bacon, cinnamon rolls, pancakes, juice, and coffee, and Jim Dye, stressing that our emphasis this month is on mission work, gave our opening prayer. Afterward, he mentioned that he and Jay had gone to Molina last weekend to do some repair work in the way of mission activity.

Stephen Soulen, pastor at the First United Methodist Church in Manchester, spoke on missions, citing the Good Samaritan as an example of a wayfarer who acted as a neighbor to the Jewish man robbed and left for dead on the roadside. The Samaritan showed the Jew “mercy,” a quality that Jesus urged his listeners to emulate. Steve spoke of two tornadoes that hit Manchester in April, damaging 160 homes and destroying 40 others, and of the needs that this destruction inflicted on people. He called these events “opportunities for us to show mercy” and told of cleanup operations and of the six houses that their crews will build in that area. Then congregant Herman Ward spoke of how he had come to participate in and enjoy mission work, noting that in every instance that he’d involved himself in mission, he wound up the person most blessed by his labors, primarily because of the relationships that resulted from his involvement. Warren Aldrich asked Steve, “What the most immediate need?” Steve replied, “Cleanup with chainsaws, small repair work, and the six major builds that we have in the works.”

After Steve and Herman’s messages, Jim Dye said that after our meeting he would travel to five different locations to line up repair work. He outlined some of our church’s other local missions, citing the Emmaus House shelter for women in LaGrange, which has two upstairs rooms (storage space for clothes) that need insulation and sheetrock. He pointed out that he and others from Pine Mountain FUMC will return to the Evans house in Kentucky (Oct 30 to Nov 5) to do significant repairs with materials already on-site. A return trip will occur in December, and Jim mentioned a Christmas trip to Henderson Settlement last year, taking and wrapping gifts, etc., and concluded by declaring, “Mission work is my passion.”

Discussion ensued about the need for our men’s group to do at least one Wednesday-night supper a month in the wake of John and Polly Willis’s retirement from their supervisory and heavy-duty cooking role in that outreach. John Y., their son, spoke passionately of his belief that we have men able to help with this ministry, if only we will commit to doing so. Jim pointed out that we needed someone to lead the team. John Y. prevailed upon Jim to commit to that position until the end of the year, and Jim agreed while noting that he may not be present on every Wednesday in question. John also asked how many of those present would volunteer to help with these dinners, when possible, and Mike Bishop, Steve Davis, Harold Tarpley, and Jay Turner raised their hands. (Please correct me if I’ve left anyone out or named someone who did not volunteer.) Dean Mabry remarked that the menu for such a supper need not be complicated: “The easier you make it the better it can be.” Martha asked for confirmation that we had committed to do one Wednesday-night supper a month and received our assent for the third Wednesday of each month. Jim closed us with prayer, we adjourned, and many pitched in to help with cleanup.

Faithfully submitted,

Michael Bishop, secretary