

Staff, Ministry Teams Coordinating Ministry Report – Introduction - Rev. Gene Derryberry, Interim Pastor

There is a perceived need in the congregation to coordinate the ministries of the church and to keep the Interim Pastor and the Administrative Coordinator updated regarding ministries. In the past there was a “Coordinating Committee” or “Committee of Committees”. We are trying to update everyone without another meeting. We invite you to share “future work – what is coming up”, calendar, and perhaps a success or two. These reports will be cumulative – updates – added to the month before; generally due the Wednesday before the Executive Board meets the second Sunday of each month. This will make your “Annual Report” easier to produce because you will have this cumulative narrative. *The “Newsletter” and the “First Focus” generally share the week ahead so hopefully this “Coordinating Ministries Report” will **share the month and/or quarter ahead.***

Please, share your suggestions concerning how to best coordinate our growing ministry offerings.

Thank you so much!

Staff

Admin

Kathleen Stigmon 2/8/23

I continue to receive inquiries about renting space at the church. I added two nonprofit meetings (2x/week) at \$10/hour and two for profit at \$25/hour. One of the for-profit groups may be a one-time deal or could become ongoing depending on the response to it. The June wedding that was scheduled has been cancelled by the couple. We still have one scheduled in April. Overall, room rentals have increased. The MailChimp email listing was reduced by 40 emails for Members & Friends. We are charged based on the number of participants and most of those deleted had resigned their membership. I worked with the Transition Team to create the online survey in MailChimp as well as creating the paper version of the survey and assisting with processing the results.

Youth

Andrew Hoots 2/8/23

The youth had a fairly active January. The first Sunday of the month was New Years Day, which meant we skipped any youth activities because of the holiday. The second Sunday, January 8th, was a day of service at Fiesta Laundromat to make up for the December Laundry Love; Laundry Love typically falls on the last Sunday of each month, but the last Sunday in December was Christmas Day. Five teenagers were escorted by Renee Taft to the Blowing Rock Conference Center during the weekend of Martin Luther King, Jr. for the annual Winter Youth Retreat. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend because I was sick with COVID-19. The following blurb was written by Mars Taft (and published in the January 20th newsletter) about their experience at the retreat:

“First off, I want to start off with a thank you. Thank you for providing us with the funds and information for this fantastic retreat. I know the other youth, and I loved every second of it and am incredibly grateful for this fantastic opportunity. This retreat focused on thinking and working on ministry outside the box. We did a lot of “getting to know each others” and worked on taking leadership and bonding with the other kids. The worship was terrific, with some original songs from the worship leader and great, quick sermons. Plus, the food was amazing. Thank you for this opportunity!”

Sunday, January 22, was the FCUCC annual meeting. Staff were asked to be present should there be any questions from congregation members, which meant we did not have youth. I asked the youth to be present for part of the annual meeting so they could see and hear what the church was going to spend money on this year. Finally, January 29th was our regularly scheduled Laundry Love where we served 25 clients.

Maintenance

Doug Williams 2/8/23

The new heat pump will be installed on 2/10, which will make the A/C work once the weather gets warmer (and will also be more efficient and cost-saving). Still working on the Nursery bathroom, which should be done this week. Room 204 is in the process of being streamlined and rearranged to make more room and less clutter. Since it is the only room that has a Zoom set-up, this is important for scheduling room usage. We are also looking to install speakers for the chancel choir and pastor so that they can hear the service and the music.

Music See music ministry below

Teams

Hospitality Team (Dennis McLain, David Turner, Lynn Lewis)

Dennis McLain: 2/8/23

The Hospitality team hosted a potluck lunch and provided beverages and some desserts for the Annual Meeting on January 22nd. We utilized an online Potluck sign-up that Joanne Roudebush discovered for us. It worked very well and we will use this going forward in addition to paper sign-ups.

We are still actively seeking help with set-up and clean-up for the weekly Friendship Time and have sign-up sheets posted in the Hall. We provided a luncheon on February 5th for the Transition Team Survey meeting. The last Sunday of the month will continue to be Brown Bag Sunday, and people are encouraged to bring their lunches and the Hospitality team will provide beverages. We are implementing a changeover to our church dishes and silverware to reduce the use of plastic and paper.

Music Ministry (Chuck Taft, Eric Fricke, Betty Dillashaw)

Chuck Taft: 2/8/23

The Music Ministry at FCUCC is off to a great start! Our Choir Rehearsals, Handbell practice, Chiming-in Time, as well as the regular rhythms of meetings and practices are all well underway. New music has been ordered and planning and rehearsing has begun for the many Spring feasts and Worship upcoming. Look for special musical guests to join us during Worship as well as musical offerings occurring all around our building. FCUCC values music and we do our best to encourage and support its continuation and growth both within and outside our walls.

Betty Dillashaw: 2/8/23

During January 2023, seven different children / youth have been in attendance for the Chiming In programming during FCUCC's Sunday morning worship service. Two of these children spent their worship time in the church nursery on the two Sundays they attended. Of the other five children / youth, two attended for two Sundays, one for one Sunday. Only two were present every one of the Sundays other than MLK Sunday.

Those attending have begun to learn a customized chime arrangement of "Holy Spirit, Breathe on Me." All who have been present even once for Chiming In time have their chime parts assigned and their music in notebooks ready for rehearsal. My hope is that this piece can be presented as a part of Sunday worship sometime within the next several weeks, as all learn more about note reading and music rhythms while rehearsing. That presentation, however, will have to be dependent on attendance of children / youth.

Deacons (Jim Canty, Sandy Clark, Nancy Kniffin, John Mercer, Margaret Perkins, Diane Reid, Ann Marie Woffindin)

Jim Canty: 2/8/23

Our last meeting January 12th we met in person at the church. Due to weather not all were present. We reviewed the Deacon policy and the website information to correct and make information read the same on each.

Our meeting tomorrow Thursday February 9th we will meet at the church again and those that aren't able to make can view the meeting on zoom. We will review all corrected paperwork and make any other changes.

Laundry Love (Joanne Roudebush, Linda Burke, Andrew Hoots)

Joanne Roudebush: 2/8/23

Laundry Love had two service Sundays in January. On the 8th the number of clients was low and about \$150 was needed for laundry services. On the 29th we had 25 clients and spent \$400 for laundry services.

The last few months we have been transitioning our communication methods due to the Morrel's no longer being here as of May. We have a Facebook page, LaundryLoveAVL where we post service information and message clients. We have also created a GoogleVoice account where clients can call us to request transportation and get service updates.

The LL team is going to meet in late February to discuss what is needed to continue to provide this service. Our most pressing need is to have one or two other adults provide transportation on LL Sundays. We continue to need money to support the cost of washers and dryers. Donations of dryer sheets and 30 gallon trash bags are also welcome at this time.

Occasional helpers: Sandy Clark, Wes Sharpe, and Linda Poss

Health Advisory Team (HAT) (Kay Garner, Danna Park, Mary Hawkins)

Danna Park: 2/8/23

Over the past year, we have been more "virtual", continuing health information and wellness outreach for FCUCC via our weekly "blog" in the church online newsletter.

We continue to actively talk with other ministry groups at FCUCC about collaboration on appropriate topics such as social justice, climate change/ recycling, Earth Team, etc.

Weekly contributions to the newsletter that goes out church-wide and is posted on the public website include topics such as:

- climate change planetary effects on agriculture and health,
- benefits of vegetarian/vegan diets and relation to the Earth,
- selected health topics,
- mind-body wellness, stress reduction and resilience and more!

Usually, a healthy recipe is included as well.

Racial Justice Team (Alice Martin-Adkins, Bonnie Schell, Bev Reddick, Donna Miller, Horace Hunt, Sandy Clark, Penny Silverman, Dorri Sherrill and Peggy Grant)

Alice Martin-Adkins: 2/8/23

9 people attended the Martin Luther King Breakfast - with gratitude to Joanne R. for providing a table.

Plans were made for Faith Formation classes in February as one way to bring attention to Black History Month.(Feb 5, Feb 19 and Feb 26)

Work continues on a Land Acknowledgement Statement.

Members are encouraged to see "Abraham and Uncle Tom in the White House" and promoted various events in our community highlighting racial justice.

Benevolence Team (Peggy Grant, Beaver Wyatt, Kathleen Busby, Margaret Perkins, Linda Burke)

Peggy Grant: 2/8/23

The Benevolence Team met for the first time on Feb. 1st. 2023. All members were in attendance either in person or online as well as Pastor Gene.

The only activity to report for January is that 3 members of the team attended the Sunrise Community for Wellness and Recovery Open House at their new home in Westgate Plaza. That event was highlighted in the newsletter.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 22nd

Faith Formation/Exploration (Submitted by Kathleen Stigmon)

Faith Formation/Exploration classes started up again in February with a series by the Racial Justice Team (and reported above under the RJT report). A 5-week series will begin March 5th and run through Palm Sunday, April 2nd. The sessions will be led by David Ourisman and will explore the four gospels and the distinct portraits of Jesus that emerge from them.

Mar 5 Gospel of Mark

Mar 12 Luke - Acts

Mar 19 Gospel of Matthew

Mar 26 Gospel of John

Apr 2 Making Sense of the Diverse Gospels (and a bonus look at 2 apocryphal gospels).

Book Discussion-Ron Martin-Adkins is leading a 5 week book discussion on Huston Smith's "Why Religion Matters: The Fate of the Human Spirit in an Age of Disbelief. (Feb 16-April 13)

Faith Formation Classes beyond Easter Sunday, have not yet been developed. Ideas and/or suggestions?