

2019 PASTOR REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE CHURCH

Charge Conference -October 16, 2019

1st United Methodist Church Winnsboro

Pastor Debbie called the Charge Conference to order at 6:30 PM. She welcomed everyone, especially guests who were interested in the business of the church and explained that only members could vote. The purpose of the meeting: “We come together work TOGETHER toward enriching the lives of the people INSIDE this church, in order to do what we’re called to do ... make disciples OUTSIDE this church.”

Thanks to our leaders rolling off their committees: Don Beaty Church Council, Penny Boice, SPRC (who will be the new Worship Chair), Judy Beaty, Nominating and Vic Spivey, Endowment

NOMINATING/LEADERSHIP REPORT: see attached

The nominating committee recommended the following people for positions in 2019:

- Ted Haynes, Church Council and Staff Parish Relations Committee
- Mike Ewert, Nominating Committee
- Craig Bevil, Endowment Committee

There were no nominations from the floor and as this recommendation came out of committee it did not require a motion. VOTE unanimous to approve all 3 new candidates.

TRUSTEES: our BIGGEST physical assets are our buildings, land and contents and upgrades in Asbury Hall, Pot Luck class, new quilting and crafting room along with storage maintenance closet, helped maintain some of our spaces. This year the big projects were the new roof and the upcoming choir room renovations. For an aging building our grounds are beautiful and our buildings have been brought up to GREAT SHAPE with AMAZING diligence in bringing our utilities WAY down

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS: no raises were approved for our custodian, pianist, office manager who got raises last year. Pastor Debbie did NOT get a raise last year but got an almost 3% raise this year. We have also approved hiring Paige Baber through DECEMBER this year and in hopes of Children’s Church continuing, we have added a budget to cover her salary, \$25/wee (2 hours)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN have submitted their report and while they are dwindling in numbers they are STILL raising money for local and regional charities, still working at Christmas in the Park and STILL fulfilling their mission to be a group of women committed to knowing God.

LAY SERVANTS: A unanimous VOTE APPROVED CONTINUANCE for Carla Chitsey

FINANCES:

- Our 2019 budget called for \$164,520 in income JAN-SEP ... and in 2018-2019, JAN – SEP, it was down 1%; this trend seems to *also* be directly related to our aging population (Our giving from 2017-2018 JAN-SEP was down 4% so we’re improving.)
- Our 2019 budget called for \$167,561 in expenses, JAN-FEB, and in 2018-2019 expenses are down 12%. This is due to the fact we have not paid a music director (saving \$6,500) and have not used the parsonage or church maintenance budgets (saving \$4,500). We have also cut utility costs by \$1600 YTD (Our expenses from 2017 – 2018, JAN – SEP were down 4%)
- Our ONLINE GIVING MINISTRY has increased from 7% to 17% over the last 12 month period. Of the \$31,704, 65% comes from NEW members/visitors this year and 14% is NEW giving from people who have attended a long time but did not give before
- Our 2020 budget has been approved by the Church Council to be \$224,086 an increase in only 2%. Expenses break down as follows (available on request): Salaries: 57% (Pastor, Office Manager, Custodian, Pianist, Music Minister) Trustees: 15% Administration: 13%
- Utilities: 8% Programs/Evangelism/Worship/Missions: 8% (Up 3% from 2018)

As this recommendation came out of committee it did not require a motion. VOTE unanimous to approve the budget.

ENDOWMENT: \$206,868 (Down from \$208 in January but we watch this closely)

A RECAP OF 2019 ... is some GREAT news and some disappointing news

- Worship attendance was flat this year, decreasing in 2019 over 2018 2%. Mostly due to an aging congregation and circumstances related to this:
 - JAN – SEP 2018 ... 93 pp per week average, up 19% from 2017
 - JAN – SEP 2019 ... 91 pp per week average, down 2% from 2018
- Our Facebook FRIENDS are up 20% in last year, from 423 to 527; impressions are up 5.7% and link clicks up 325%.
- WEBSITE visits up in last year 25% (15,404 to 19,891); return visitors up from 3.7 to 5.5.
- We had 210 audio sermons downloaded from the website and 378 video sermons watched on Facebook. (On Facebook, we divide the number of minutes viewed by the minutes in the sermon to try to get a fair picture of how many people actually watch the whole message. No DONATE button has been added to the broadcast but it's something we'll consider.)
- A community PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB group has brought new FACES into our building and 1 new couple into our church
- We started a MISSIONS TEAM who have set out an annual plan for giving in our community and world
- A new adult Sunday School group was started, Coffee and Conversation ... this means that we have apx. 70 adults connected to a small group class which is a remarkable to have 78% of our regular attenders find value in the small group learning environment.
- A new Children's Church was started and a Confirmation class
- 2 members attended a Walk to Emmaus
- 3 "Pie with the Pastors" were held in the Pastors home with 16 visitors attending so far this year

Pastor Debbie reported she is very honored to be connected to the community by:

- Receiving the KEY TO THE CITY as an advocate for the City
- Co-hosting the National Day of Prayer in Winnsboro
- Serving on the CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICT BOARD where we accomplished a 10 year designation as one of 40 cities in Texas to receive such an award
- Volunteering regularly on community events at the Winnsboro Center for the Arts
- Writing a monthly article for the Community Chronicle
- Also serves connectional on the NTC Board of Ministry and Land and Building East District Committee

Pastor's Education: Attended an Excellence in Preaching Texarkana, SMU

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Baptism - 3 (2 infant and 1 youth)

New Members – 9 (1 profession of faith, 1 restored, 3 from other UMC, 4 from other denominations)

Active visitors: 40

Active children 0-5 ... 0

Active children K-5 ... 5 (includes 4 grandchildren who come occasionally)

Active middle school youth ... 1

Active high school youth ... 6 (Newton, Deaton)

Members removed by death: 3 Mike Zachary, Pam Turrentine and Kathryn Clark

Coming out of a Church Council vote, 21 inactive members, those who have been unable to be reached or have been inactive in their vow to maintain relationship with the church in their prayers, presence, gifts, service or witness were approved for removal in 2019. Members called for 1st reading ... 7

Total current members: 151 (not including the 21 removed from 2nd reading)

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020: (These are edited notes)

Our primary focus continues to be MAKING DISCIPLES for Jesus Christ and we can do MUCH BETTER! I realize that being engaged and active in the community is NOT enough ... we need MORE people engaged and active in the community because studies show that people who attend a NEW church most often attend because it's convenient or MORE IMPORTANTLY because they had a relationship with someone who offered a place and a reason to BELONG.

While most church leaders are frantically spending research dollars and energy looking to attract the MILLENNIALS, our empty nesters and retirement folks are slowly disappearing from church too! They often leave the church for reasons similar to, but also different from, millennials. Like millennials, this older generation is going through a significant life transition: their kids have left home, and their connection to church had been, for quite a while, tied to their *children's* participation.

Often older adults drift away, but not immediately after their children leave home. There seems to be an interim period. Then something happens; they start traveling to college and university events or begin care-giving for older parents; they become disillusioned with church; they get tired, etc. — and then they're gone. What begins as frequent absence slowly becomes a permanent one.

This is VERY exciting for us, especially in Winnsboro, because we not only have a large retirement community, but we have people who have come here SPECIFICALLY in what started out as 2nd homes and are now becoming their primary homes.

In the bulletin recently I shared with you our demographics service, MissionInsite, reports that the average age of residents in the 15-mile radius of our church (which doesn't include Sulphur Springs, Mineola or Mt. Vernon) is 15% higher than the state average. Interestingly enough, there are 4,901 kids age 14 and younger in this demographic (high school is the tail end of the Millennials so they appear in that much sought after group of 15-37 year-olds.) But guess what? The Baby Boomers & those born after 1946 total 9,967!

Also ... of the 40 regular visitors we have, only FOUR are under 65! Of our 151 members, appx. 27% of adults are under 65 (guessing) ... so where can we create like spaces for people to connect with this large group? Our focus for 2020 will CONTINUE to be in creating new spaces for new faces but we will zero in on a NEW focus of evangelism and we will focus a lot of our evangelism on the new Senior Ministry in 2019.

What will it look like? Be part of the brainstorming Friday night 10/25 ... we'll dream about what building a COMMUNITY might provide for people who want to gather together for a specific focus on building relationships through fun activities and learning opportunities, offering senior adults educational, cultural, and social opportunities through programs, outings, movies, RV trips, games, day trips or travel and more.

We'll explore how a new LIFE GROUP, people doing life together can grow into a FAITH community of people who LOVE Jesus and want to SERVE others together!!

DISTRICT CHARGE CONFERENCE WESLEY GREENVILLE

November 10, 3-5 PM, Wesley UMC Greenville

Debbie Lyons, Pastor

1st United Methodist Church Winnsboro , 10-16-19