

SUMC Committee Highlights Report for the Third Quarter of 2024

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Church Council Highlights

Contact: Jim Talbert

Highlights

- The Council is preparing for the annual Charge Conference on November 5.
- We have begun work on the 2025 budget. Parts of it need to be completed before the Charge Conference. Our goal is to have a balanced budget complete by the end of this year. At this point, there is a significant deficit. We pray that the upcoming stewardship campaign will close the gap.
- Another special safety and security training will be held for Ushers, Greeters, teachers and staff on active violence incidents by the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office on Saturday, November 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This training will provide information about active violence incidents, law enforcement actions and how we should react in such situations.
- The Council has formed a 150TH Anniversary Task Force to plan how we will celebrate the anniversary next year. The members are Pastor Bert Cloud, Marlene Cavaiola, Donna Meyer, Debbie Myers, Sharon Rosenfeld, Jim Talbert, Joan Talbert, and Faye Vibbert. You may direct ideas and questions to these members.
 - The objectives of the celebration will address our mission of "Inviting and nurturing others to a relationship with Christ. The Objectives are:
 - Provide events that inform and celebrate the history and milestones of SUMC from 1875 to 2025.
 - Provide events that convey a sense of accomplishment and pride for *what God has done, is doing and will do through SUMC*.
 - Inspire us to help create the future of SUMC as God leads.
 - Spend the allocated funds in a responsible way that ensures event success and avoids budget deficits.
 - We will celebrate throughout the next 12 months with the culmination of events on October 19, 2025.
 - We have invited guest speakers including Bishop Sue Halpert-Johnson on October 19, DS Kirk Nave on October 12, and former pastor Randy Duncan on October 5.
 - Pastor Bert has announced a campaign urging members to do 150 acts of kindness, encouragement and witness during our 150TH year.
 - We are considering producing an oral history video of various members' memories and hopes for the future.
 - We have discussed fund-raising ideas, mementoes and souvenirs.

Next Meeting: To be determined

Board of Trustees Highlights

Contact: Mike Brooks

Highlights

- Replaced and repaired heat pump/air conditioning units in KUC and another location.
- Updated areas that the Fire Marshall cited which included two emergency Exit lights and contracted to have the door to the upstairs ramp repaired by Baldino's Lock & Key for \$851.70. Trustees approved the use capital improvement funds so this will not to affect the overall church budget.
- Several lights were updated in the altar area of the sanctuary.
- Our application for the FEMA Nonprofit Security Grant Program was not approved.
- Glass Replacement versus total window replacement is being reviewed for the older part of the building.
- Several church keys have been returned. To secure the church building we highly recommend using the alarm system beginning October 1, 2024, every night.
- We recommend that KUC teachers should not come into the church building and in their rooms unless the church is open. We will request that they let the office or whoever is in the building know they are in the building to prevent the alarm going off after it has been set. The Director and assistant director of KUC have the alarm code to open the building when needed.
- Many rooms in the building needed thorough cleaning and we had a few members help to accomplish this. We thank them for taking one room at a time.
- One heating/air conditioning unit in the choir room was repaired by a contractor. The Capital Improvement Fund paid for this.
- A floor buffing/waxing machine was purchased for SUMC. We thank Curt Christiansen for cleaning KUC rooms and Gallihugh Hall floors.
- Reviewing deadbolts to put on doors to better secure rooms.
- We are waiting to hear back from **Whereipark** regarding the potential to rent 25 parking spaces at SUMC between 6 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. This would provide our church with additional income.
- The renter of the former parsonage contract is being released due to medical issues. We will advertise for a new renter.
- Discussion of extending the rental agreement of the former parsonage to 2 years. Currently, it expires on May 31, 2025. The Trustees would rather use May 31, 2027, as the extension date. Dates will be discussed with the property management company.
- There will be a slight rent increase on the rental property to help the budget and ensure we have funding when needed.
- A recommendation was made that we withhold money for taxes before using any rental money paid. All present agreed with the approach.
- With a phone system replacement, should phones be in every classroom? Marlene indicated that not all cell phones work in the church building in certain areas. We need to ensure that if an emergency exists, someone can call for help.
- Discussed that the security report suggested that we lock certain doors to hallways for safety reasons as in KUC areas. The Fire Marchall recommended we do not since that would hinder response in an emergency.

- Discussion to look for a replacement door for Jacobus basement to patio area. The current door is falling apart. Will check Restore for a replacement.
- Consider what and when we should have a church workday. The tiles in Gallihugh Hall need to be replaced. Please look around and make a list of what we need to do. We need church members to help.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Room 107.

Discipleship & Education Committee Highlights

Contact: Laurie Morris

Highlights

- Had another successful Parents Night Out for KUC parents on Friday, October 18. This event is growing in popularity. There were 17 kids in attendance. More help will be needed for future events.
- Participated in Sterling Fest on Saturday, October 12.
- Hosted a Youth Group outing to King's Dominion on October 13.
- Hired Sierra Chris to fill a vacancy for the position of Childcare Assistant.
- The Sunday Bible study group led by Linda Budzinski will be finishing their current study on October 27.
- The Wednesday Night Bible Study Group led by Jim Gallihugh continues.
- The Monday afternoon Joanna Bible Study Group led by Careen Hunt continues.
- Truck or Treat will be on Saturday, October 26 at 2 pm. We need volunteers and candy.

Next Meeting: To be determined

Fellowship Committee Highlights

Contact: Donna Meyer or Marlene Cavaiola (Co-Chairs)

Highlights

- Set up and served for the District Superintendent's luncheon with clergy on September 3, 2024.
- Helped with the Funeral luncheon on September 6, 2024.
- Helped with the Celebrate Recovery (CR) breakfast and lunch on September 7, 2024.
- A signup genius was created for Trunk or Treat donations for approximately two hundred.
- Fellowship will prepare hot dogs wrapped in crescent rolls to look like mummies.

- Fellowship will prepare the ‘Trunk or Treat Café’ with drinks and snacks. We will serve outside, weather permitting.
- Special Coffee Fellowship for Blue Grass Sunday, October 20, 2024.
- Briefly discussed potential upscale coffee fellowship or brunch next October 2025 celebrating SUMC's 150th anniversary.

Next Meeting: Monday, November 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Finance Committee Highlights

Contact: Linda Budzinski or Curt Christiansen

Highlights

- September 30 is the three-quarter mark for the Church annual budget. Final numbers were not ready as of the writing of this report, but preliminary calculations indicate SUMC remains in sound financial condition, again with thanks to the staff, leadership, volunteers, and all members of the church for serving as responsible financial stewards and for their generous giving.
- Preliminary figures indicate that to date, gross profit is at about 74 percent of the full year budget while expenses are just over 72 percent. The surplus is due in large part to a much appreciated \$50,000 gift from Kids Under Construction Preschool.
- The Committee is working with the Church Council and its committees to develop and finalize the 2025 Church Budget. Next year's budget presents some challenges for the church due to a continuing downward trend in giving and some new Virginia UMC Conference policies that will go into effect as of January 1 that will impact the budget.
- Our annual Stewardship Campaign, this year titled “The Generosity Challenge,” will begin in November. The Methodist Book of Daily Prayer offers a devotional that states: “Generous people ... are filled with love, joy, expectation, and hope. They don’t spend their time gate-keeping, determining worth, or counting against others. Generous people understand the economy of God in ways that people who live with a scarcity mentality do not understand. They understand that generosity begets generosity. They understand that the harvest of generosity is God’s abundance.” We look forward to learning what scripture tells us about generosity and how we can apply that within our church and in our daily lives.
- The Finance Committee looks forward to working with our new Finance Assistant Melinda Wiggins and wishes to thank Curt Christiansen for his efforts covering the role during the search process.

Next Meeting: To be determined

Missions Committee Highlights

Contact: Jim Jochems

Highlights

- Grace Ministries for September served 292 families and 1,665 people.
- Grace Ministries for October 2024 served 285 families and 1687 people.
- We plan to distribute clothes in October and November and give leftover clothes to Sterling Middle School to distribute during PEP. We are taking donations of winter clothes to supplement what we got from the rummage sale, which will be placed in collection center bins for Sharon to communicate.
- The next Missions Game Night in Gallihugh Hall is on Friday, November 22, 2024, from 6 pm to 9 pm. Missions team provide games to play and refreshments.
- We were contacted by Centreville UMC to participate with them in the Appalachian Service Project (ASP) next summer, July 13-19, 2025.
- Missions will support the youth and church for this mission project.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 6:30 PM

United Women in Faith Highlights

Contact: Faye Vibbert

Highlights

- There was no UWF meeting in August 2024.
- The District UWF Secretary for Program Resources provided information from her suicide survivor perspective of how the thought process progressed and about learning preventive techniques. We are all important and need to accept our limits and use our talents for our Lord.
- Joyful Grace Reader group met and discussed “The First Ladies” by Marie Benedict and Victoria Murray on September 27, 2024. The group is scheduled to read and discuss “The Women” by Kristin Hannah on October 25.
- Busy Hands continued to double bag plastic bags and make netting bags for Grace Ministry to use for bagging food items and wrapping plastic ware for receptions.
- Busy Hands assembled approximately sixty personal hygiene kits at the September 26 gathering. Kits will be distributed to Mobile Hope, Women Giving Back, and LAWS.
- Busy Hands stuffed heart shaped pillows for the Mended Hearts Chapter of Fairfax Hospital at the October 10 gathering. Nancy Craner will complete the sewing of the pillows.
- Busy Hands will be packing the goodie bags for Trunk or Treat at our gathering on October 24.
- UWF provided breakfast and lunch for Celebrate Recovery (CF) Regional training on September 7.
- UWF donated \$300 to Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women in September 2024.

- UWF donated \$200 to Hurricane Helene Relief - UMCOR, and \$300 to Missions for flood bucket items for UMCOR in October 2024.
- UWF is coordinating a Bake Sale to be held on November 2 during the Master's Crafters show from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Proceeds will go toward items for the "Christmas Cheer" bags to be given out to each family during the December Grace Ministry food distribution.
- UWF is coordinating gathering items for "Christmas Cheer" bags for distribution during the December Grace Ministry food distribution.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Worship & Outreach Committee Highlights

Contact: Debbie Myers

Highlights

Our Special Sundays included:

- Backpack Blessing and recognition of Kindergarteners.
- Presentation of Bibles to third grade students.
- Introduction to collaboration with the Sterling Middle School and the Loudoun Literacy Council to teach English to school parents next year. Please consider becoming a volunteer teacher.
- Changes in the Sunday Morning Worship Service were shared.
- The "DO UNTO OTHERS" sermon series (Blue & Red make Purple) was our emphasis.
- Introduction to the 150 ACTS OF KINDNESS Challenge.
- World Communion Sunday
- Pet Blessing Service
- World Suicide Prevention
- Bluegrass Sunday
- A special training was held for Ushers, Greeters, and any others who wanted to attend a de-escalation presentation with the Loudoun County Sherriff Office. This training provided information about skills and tactics for recognizing situations relating to the safety and security of our church and congregation. A presentation on active violence incidents will be held on November 16.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 7:00 PM