

SUMC Committee Highlights Report for November 2023

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Church Council Highlights

Contact: Jim Talbert

Highlights

- Work continues on the 2024 budget. We will have a better idea of how well we can fund next year's programs after the Stewardship campaign.
- There are many events and activities in the planning stage for the upcoming Advent season. All church members are encouraged to participate and invite others.
- The Northern Virginia District Conference was held on November 4th at St. Matthew's UMC in Annandale. SUMC was represented.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Board of Trustees Highlights

Contact: Jim Talbert

Highlights

- Management of the rental property (Parsonage) is running smoothly. Problems with the fireplace and chimney have been resolved.
- We are grateful to have received some additional hand tools from the Missions Committee. They have been placed in the Fire Alarm Control Panel room across from room 111.
- We are still waiting for the results of the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office security survey of our facilities.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Discipleship & Education Committee

Contact: Laurie Morris

Highlights

- The Amplify Media bible study subscription has begun. Hopefully, this will spark new bible studies either in person or virtual.
- The latest Parent's Night Out was on December 1st. This is a successful program that will need more volunteers to continue in the future.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Fellowship Committee

Contact: Marlene Cavaiola

Highlights

- Discussed the December 3 'Joyful Brunch' food items to be enjoyed after SUMC decorating. Setup and prep of food items to be completed on Saturday December 2.
- Each committee member selected food items to be responsible for.
- It was decided not to have a December 2023 meeting.
- The 2024 Fellowship Budget was reviewed with Finance in early November.
- Discussion of 2024 Fellowship meeting dates reviewed and selected.
 - 1/8/2024 at 6:30 PM
 - 2/19/2024 at 7 PM via zoom
 - 3/18/2024
 - 4/14/2024
- Discussion of potential Ash Wednesday supper on 2/14/2024 prior to service.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 8, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Finance Committee Highlights

Contact: Linda Budzinski or Dana Smedley

Highlights

- October represents 83% of the budget year. Expenses are at 82.6% of budget and income is at 80.2%. This means we have a small budget gap of only 2.4%. It has been running at about 3% for several months. So, income is falling behind budget and expenses are basically at budget.
- The Stewardship Campaign is winding down; however, pledges will always be accepted. Pledges are essential for budget planning. Without pledges, we cannot reliably plan for future ministries. As a reminder, there are various ways to give, such as electronic funds transfer (EFT), check, or cash. EFT is the best way as it is an automatic, steady, reliable and dependable source of income for the church.
- As of November 14, the Stewardship Campaign has yielded an increase in new givers and many previous givers have increased their commitments.
- We have a final budget ready for the next Church Council meeting.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 22, 2024 at 6:15 PM

Missions Committee Highlights

Contact: Jim Jochems

Highlights

- October- Diaper Drive was a success! Approximately 1,000 diapers were donated.
- Canned food will be accepted throughout the year.
- Missions Collection Calendar:
 - Grace Ministry is held on the 2nd Saturday of every month
 - December 2023 - gift cards to support Shepherds Run on December 25th
 - January 2024 - Hygiene Kits
 - March/April - Pastel Envelope Collection
 - Next Rummage Sale June 22, 2024
 - July through September - Food Drive
 - October - Diaper Drive
- Mission Trips:
 - Sage Brown 2024 did not show very much interest when the church was queried.
 - Missions will concentrate on local youth missions and keep the food drive as the first priority.
- The Missions Trailer will be sold. We no longer have a vehicle capable of towing it. It was as inventoried on Saturday, October 28th. We determined what to sell and what to keep. There were items added to the supply closet in Gallihugh, Maintenance closet, and the tractor shed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 6:30 PM

United Women in Faith Highlights

Contact: Marlene Cavaiola

Highlights

- Maryann Craig provided information about where the World Thank funds are used. We have two facilities in VA where some funds are used, Henry Fork and Wesley Community Center. Both offer activities, training, and childcare for families in need. The mission is to operate programs and services aimed at empowering the powerless and the poor.
- Thank you all for baking and purchasing items from the UWF Bake sale. Our proceeds were \$514.50.
- Joyce Grace Readers will discuss Identity by Nora Roberts on November 17. December 15 they will discuss Wherever the River Runs by Kelly Minter. They meet on the 4th Friday at 7 PM in room 106 at church unless otherwise scheduled.
- Busy Hands group meets in person every Thursday at 12:30 p.m. for lunch at the church, usually in room 107. All are welcome, just bring your lunch and stop by for fellowship

and to help with a project. In October we double-bagged plastic bags for Grace Ministry, cut 252 cloth circles punched soup/cookie selection cards for Missions' soup/cookie jar mixes, and filled 200 candy bags for Trunk or Treat.

- UWF is using \$300 to purchase some socks, hats, and gloves for Sterling Middle School distribution at their December PEP (Parents as Educational Partners) meeting. Donations will be accepted too.
- UWF is using \$2,000 to purchase 100 coats for Sterling Middle School for December's PEP.
- UWF is collecting individual hot chocolate packs and microwave popcorn bags to add to a 'Christmas Cheer Bag' to be distributed to approximately 300 families at the December Grace Ministry distribution. A donation container will be available in the Narthex.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 4, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Worship & Outreach Committee Highlights

Contact: Debbie Myers

Highlights

- Pastor Bert and the Worship Committee discussed the November Sermon Series: Your Money Story. The series relates Our Story in relation to God's Story and Money. There is a Mandala art project that will be taking place each Sunday of the series and completed by the congregation. Pastor Bert is holding a Zoom opportunity for conversation on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.
- The Advent Series: How Does a Weary World Rejoice?
- Hanging of the Greens, Sunday, December 3rd at 11:15 a.m. with a Joyful Brunch and Cookie Contest. The congregation will be invited to stay after the Sunday Service and help decorate the church together.
- Anonymous donations were given for the purchase of two new Christmas trees in the Sanctuary and the new Bethlehem Star Tree Toppers.
- Our congregation will be asked to participate in making 2023 SUMC Christmas Ornaments which will be given out on Christmas Eve.
- The Longest Night Service (A service for people experiencing loss): December 21st.
- Christmas Eve Morning Services and Christmas Cantata: 10:00 am and 7:00 pm (with candlelight and communion.)

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM
