

GROW TEAM—HIGHLIGHTS OF GENERAL MEETING ON 11/12/17
7TH REGULAR MEETING SINCE INCEPTION

- Attending the meeting were: Sharon Thurston, Jeff Quesenberry, John Copeland, Robin Harp, Cherry Morgan, and Dennis Coughlin. Several handouts were distributed at the meeting, and all handouts were later Emailed (11/12) to all members. Thanks to Lynne Coughlin for lunch!
- OPENING COMMENTS—each person present was asked to name one good thing that they see happening at our church. Responses included seeing younger and older people getting together; growing CAYA attendance; services with a lot of enthusiasm; so many kids; people joining the church; and members getting to know one another more deeply.
- ONGOING PROJECT—Valda submitted a written report dated 11/6/17 (summarized here) on the **Birthday Card Brigade** project, which she has graciously expanded to include **Children, Youth, and College Age Young Adults**. For Children's cards, from August through November, 66 cards were signed and sent, and 59 signed cards are ready to mail for December, January, and February. For Youth, 15 cards for November, December, and January have been signed and have been or will be sent. For College Age Young Adults, 1 card each for October and November have been signed and sent, and 2 cards are ready for December. Initial difficulties with getting birthdates for the College Age Young Adults group have largely been improved, but birthdates for 8 Young Adults are missing and will be obtained by Cherry and Dennis. Funding for cards and stamps has improved slightly, with a total of \$102 provided last week from the Tuesday Men's Bible Study Group and by Jeff Quesenberry. More funding will be needed, and Grow Team members will canvas for funds on an ongoing basis. For the Youth group, Sharon reported that new members are being added, and she will provide names, birthdates, etc. for new Youth as they join.

There will be 2 birthday card signings in January, and Valda will arrange for advance notice in the advertisements so that we continue to get as many church members to participate in the signings as is possible.

- NEW PROJECT UNDERWAY—Cherry Morgan updated the group on the **College Age Young Adults Outreach** Project. The November 5th briefing of representatives from each Sunday school class and small group was a stunning success, and Cherry provided a copy of the one page briefing document to the Grow Team. As of this writing, 10 of 14 SS classes or small groups have agreed to support this project, with 4 pending. Asked and answered affirmatively was whether or not individual people could be assigned to a Young Adult, so this will occur in a few cases as well. Additional small groups (e.g., knitting group) will be approached for support of this project in the future.

Cherry advised that the assignment of names of College Age Young Adults to each of the supporting classes will be made the week after Thanksgiving, and then the classes can begin their support of their Young Adults. Planning will begin in late November for the Special Valentine's Day boxes for this age group, with support from UMW, elementary age children (via Robin Harp's guidance), and many others in the church.

- **PROJECT ON HOLD**—on behalf of Bill Porter, Sharon and Dennis passed along that Bill reports that the **Youth-Adult Mentoring** Project remains on hold. A schedule was not provided. By consensus it was agreed that the Grow Team would very much like this project to be implemented, as a logical continuation of our Sticky Faith and intergenerational ministry initiatives.
- **SPECIAL EVENT PROJECT ON NOVEMBER 29TH**—Robin and Dennis reported that plans are in place for the **Feeling Emotionally Grounded** Event with Michel Gribble-Dates on 11/29/17 at 6:30 PM (1 hour event), in Fellowship Hall following Café Decatur. At this pre-Advent-season event, simple strategies will be presented for deepening your emotional health by soothing your nervous system, attendees will receive a tip sheet to take home with 8 practices to experience emotional grounding, and 2 of these practices will be conducted by participants during the event. We particularly noted the invaluable assistance of Amy Hoyle in promoting this special event.
- **NEW PROJECT UNDERWAY**—on behalf of Sandy Kruger and UMW, Dennis reviewed the upcoming **Living in a Covenant Community** Event with Reverend Eric Powell that will be presented under the leadership of UMW on Saturday, 2/24/18, between 8:30 AM and 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. This study is especially applicable to our congregation now and discusses covenants and explores God's covenants with Adam, Abraham, Noah, Moses and David. It discusses how each of these covenants builds on the previous one(s) and how they apply to our lives as Christians today. It also explores God's extension of these covenants through Jesus and thus offers the sacraments of Baptism and Communion. Dennis will meet with Sandy, primarily to offer assistance in promoting the event, but in any other areas as well.
- **POTENTIAL PROJECT**—Robin Harp and Dennis introduced the potential project associated with the general subject of **Polishing Sanctuary and Chapel Metal Ware**. Brought to the Grow Team by Jeane Allen, Chair of the Worship Team, this project has the potential to enhance our intergenerational ministry, by possibly including Senior Adults, Youth, older elementary Children, and/or families. There is general interest on the part of Youth (Bill Porter) and older elementary Children (Robin Harp) in supporting this project. In the event that Youth or Children are involved in this project, it represents a great opportunity to combine a work project, possible intergenerational ministry, and the "how to" of polishing brass and silver, along with learning about these metal ware elements-of-the-services, what they represent, how they are used in services, etc. In general discussion, however, it is not clear who would bring the Senior Adults into this potential project. An alternative to that might be to make the polishing a family event, to include Youth, older elementary Children, and Parents. Dennis will meet with Jeane and Sandy Kruger to clarify the structure and plans.
- **ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**—Dennis provided orally a synopsis of feedback from Dalton on their meeting on October 16th, in which the primary subject of discussion was the model presented by Nate Abrams at our last Grow Team meeting entitled, "Adult Education/Discipleship – Structure." In summary, Dennis reported that Dalton views that initial emphasis should be on existing Sunday school classes and that more time will be needed to allow him to help us refine and develop this model further. The next step will be for Dalton and Nate to review and discuss the model one on one. In the meantime, the Grow Team should continue to develop and implement projects for adult education. One suggestion by Dalton is to

use the time immediately following Café Decatur on Wednesday nights as a "Hub" for spiritual development events, presentations, and programs. We will revisit our formal plan at the next Grow Team meeting.

With the idea in mind regarding Wednesday nights as a Hub (and for other days/times) the Grow Team reviewed a list of possible ideas for projects/events/programs that included the following: *Screenagers* event; "Table Talk" Events (Wednesday nights); Small "Service Projects" that are intergenerational in nature (Wednesday nights); Small "Service Projects" that involve families (Wednesday nights); Panel of HS students—what is your "digital life" like? (Wednesday night); Place for those without a SS class during SS time—many variations possible, including coffee and be alone or a "host" mixes with and engages with questions like "How is your faith journey?"; Other classes on modern media and its effects on children; and Sticky Faith add-ons.

From this list, the following were cited as those which should be developed in the coming months:

- Sticky Faith add-ons, including presentations and table discussions.
- Making/prepping the Valentine's Day boxes as part of the College Age Young Adults Outreach project.
- Additional self-care topics from Michel Gribble-Dates, similar to the Feeling Emotionally Grounded event in November.
- Other small service projects, intergenerational and/or family.

Robin will contact possible leads at Candler for speakers, and Dennis will search for additional Sticky Faith constructs.

- SPACE—several project areas were discussed that would require identification of a dedicated SS room or enhancement of an existing area. Dennis will talk with Tracy Frost about these. They included:
 - A Sunday school classroom for College Age Young Adults.
 - A place to gather for those who are in the church during SS hour, but are not members of a SS class.
 - A place to gather for parents who drop off their children for skate nights and wait on site for their children to finish skating.
- OVERALL ELEMENTARY AGE MINISTRY REPORT—Robin provided a brief summary of past, current and future events and activities. Included were the following: the new and improved Fall Festival was a great success; elementary SS attendance in the weeks following Fall Festival was near record levels; planning for 2018 VBS is about to begin, and Grow Team members are asked to help identify adult leaders for VBS; 3rd graders with their new Bibles is a great success; Trail Mix will have a glassblowing outing 12/2, 10 to noon; and additional SS teacher training is planned. The Grow Team would also like to recognize and celebrate the unanimous support by the most recent Charge Conference of the recommendation for Robin continuing as a Candidate for Ordained Ministry from the Atlanta-Decatur-Oxford District of the North Georgia Conference.
- OVERALL YOUTH AGE MINISTRY REPORT—on behalf of Bill Porter, Sharon reported that the middle school age group continues to be very large and growing (40-45 in this age group on

some Sunday nights); the high school age group is starting to see some growth; the recent high school lock-in night was a great success, and a middle school lock-in is coming up; and there is a continued need for parents and other adults to volunteer to teach at a variety of times, provide food, and chaperone.

- OTHER WORK TO DO—items brought up that time did not allow covering today included these items, which we will include in the agenda for our next meeting:
 - How can the Grow Team engage more with the congregation to encourage congregants to bring forth and implement their ideas?
 - How are we (Grow Team) doing? Do we need to revisit our Affirmation from January 2017? How can we improve?

- **NEXT GROW TEAM GENERAL MEETING IS SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST, 2018 FROM 12:30 UNTIL 2:45 PM** (room 209)