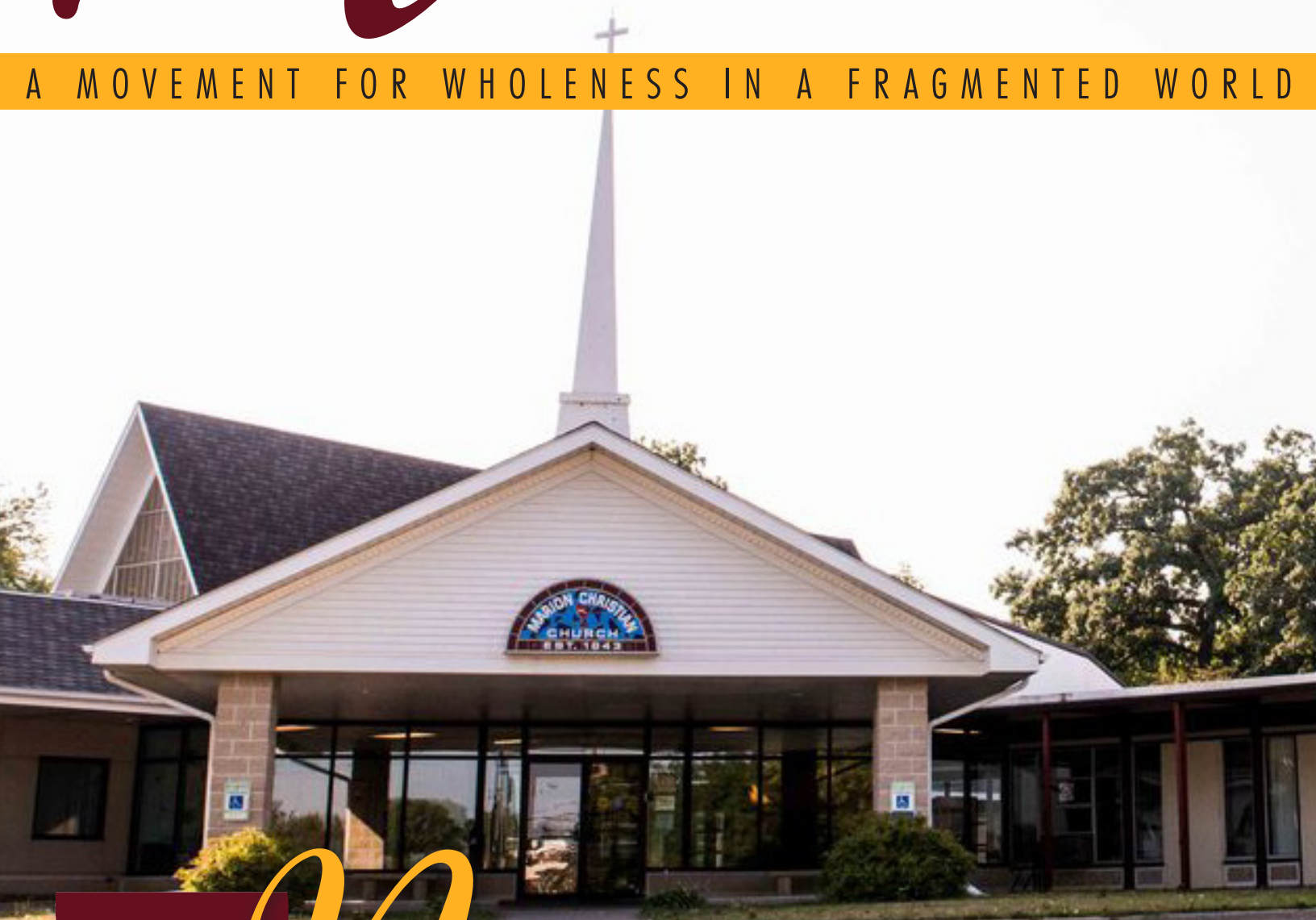


THE *Marion* CHRISTIAN

A MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD



Marion

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

MARION CHRISTIAN STAFF

Gary Sneller
CO-PASTOR OF
INTERIM MINISTRY

**Tammy Cameron
Buseman**
CO-PASTOR OF
INTERIM MINISTRY

Carrie Hendricks
DIRECTOR OF
FAMILY MINISTRIES
carrie@marionchristian.com

Lindsay Sitter
OFFICE MANAGER
office@marionchristian.com

Benjamin Laur
CONTEMPORARY
MUSIC DIRECTOR
ben@marionchristian.com

**Allison WT
Everman**
ORGANIST

Mike Kibler
CONTRACT MEDIA
TECHNICIAN

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youtube.com/Marion Christian Church

Marion Christian Church has entered a new day in our story. We are not the same church we were before the pandemic and 2020 derecho. **There are exciting things happening!** It is important that we continue to pay close attention to the Holy Spirit's guidance and assess the ministries we are doing and programs we are offering. In so doing, Carrie Hendricks, Pastor Gary and Pastor Tammy have been visiting with participants, listening to feedback, as we strive to offer effective, relevant faith education to all ages.

With that said, we are going to try a few different things with our Sunday morning education schedule starting November 26.

Starting November 26, there will not be 9 a.m. educational experiences. Instead, we are excited to announce some important changes and new offerings...

- the **Children's educational experience (pre-school through 5th grade)** will occur during the 10 a.m. worship service. This will bolster the experience for these ages. The children will start in worship with their families and depart to their classes after the children's moment. *The teachers that have been serving at 9 a.m. will shift to alternate and cover this new time slot. Teachers and parents are on board with this shift.*
- The **adult class** that has been offered at 9 a.m. will pause at this time. *After the first of the year we will identify the best placement of an adult study: perhaps that is Sunday mornings following worship or on a weekday or Wednesday evening during Oasis.*

Also, starting November 26, we will offer an educational / interactive experience for ALL ages immediately following worship in the Fellowship Hall (at approximately 11:11 a.m.)

Nov 26 - (Thanksgiving weekend) – Advent Workshop for all ages (supplies to make Chrismons for the Chrismon tree in the sanctuary and advent wreath kits for individuals / families to take home)

Dec 3 – 1st Advent - *Hanging of the Greens* during the worship service – Advent Workshop

Dec 10 – 2nd Advent - Christmas Program during the worship service - reception to follow with hot chocolate bar for all ages

Dec 17 – 3rd Advent - Christmas and Epiphany workshop

Dec 24 – 4th Advent in the 10 am service - **no programs following worship**

Dec 31 - 10 am worship - **no programs following worship**

Happy New Year! January 2024 – continue pre-school through 5th grade education program during 10 a.m. worship (children will start in worship with their families and depart to their classes following the Children's Moment)

Please make plans to join us for these wonderful opportunities! Also, stay tuned for more details about special events and schedule changes for December.

With gratitude and joy to be serving alongside each of you,

Tammy & Gary

Co-Pastors for Interim Ministry

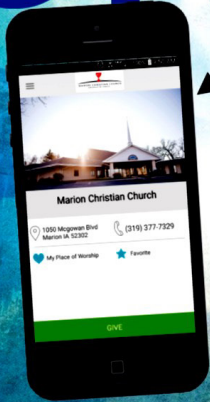
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FIND MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON THE MAP & YOU ARE READY TO GIVE!

UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9AM - UNTIL 11/19
SUNDAY SCHOOL
PRESCHOOL-5TH GRADE
ADULTS

10AM
WORSHIP SERVICE

**AFTER CHILDREN'S
MOMENT**
CHILDREN'S CHURCH
FOR PK-3RD GRADE

WED., NOV. 1
6PM
OASIS

WED., NOV. 8
6PM
OASIS

SUN., NOV. 12
11:00AM
POTLUCK FOLLOWED BY
ALL-CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

WED., NOV. 15
6PM
OASIS

WED., NOV. 22
NO OASIS

THURS., NOV. 23
THANKSGIVING

SUN., NOV. 26
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL AT
9AM BEGINS
CHRISMON DECORATING
AFTER CHURCH

WED., NOV. 29
6PM
OASIS

OFFERING ENVELOPES

We have received the 2024 offering envelopes. Many of you are now paying through automatic bill pay set up at your bank, through Givelify, or mailing in a check to the church. With these changes, I didn't feel that every giver needs a box of envelopes, so the order was placed with a significant decrease in the number of boxes.

If you would like to have a box of envelopes for next year, please call the church office or email me at pwise@ncsei.com

Thank you!

FIND US ONLINE!





THE OASIS

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHT**
PROGRAMMING FOR
**PRESCHOOL-
12TH GRADE**

MEAL AT 6PM | ACTIVITIES AT 6:30PM
REGISTER AT [HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/FC5AONHMWYDLZBZ18VQ](https://forms.gle/FC5AONHMWYDLZBZ18VQ)

MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S
ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH
Congregational Meeting

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

SERVICE AT 10AM
POTLUCK MEAL AFTER SERVICE

MAID RITES & DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED
BRING A SIDE DISH, SALAD OR DESSERT TO SHARE

MEETING STARTS AT 11:45AM

FILLING THE CHALICE

As we prepare to call a new full-time settled pastor, it is very important to welcome our new pastor with strong financial support for the total ministry of MCC which is represented in our annual ministry budget. To fully support the 2024 MCC ministry budget, we need financial gifts totaling \$296,701.00. Together, our gifts of \$296,701 in 2024 will fully support

- the ministry of our new pastor and other dedicated MCC staff members (office, music, and director of family ministries)—\$197,597.00;
- world and local missions (10% of our total giving);
- our church building and all of the ministry that takes place in it (worship, fellowship, Christian Education, Oasis, First Light Christian Fellowship, community meetings/events, etc.)—\$74,604.00.

Now, while \$296,701 may seem like a rather large number, it is an achievable goal for a congregation of our size if we all work together. Currently, we have anticipated giving of \$245,000 from 79 MCC giving units (pledgers and regular givers) averaging \$3101/giving unit. To achieve our goal of \$296,701 and fully support our 2024 ministry budget, we need an increased giving of \$51,701, and this is where we all need to work together!

Some of us may be able to increase our weekly, monthly, or annual giving. For those of us who have been giving to the Capital Campaign over the past three years, we might want to add that money to our annual budget giving once those pledges expire at the end of this year. Others may look at their current level of giving and decide that they are able to take a step-up in their regular giving. Please send an email message to our Financial Secretary Patty Wise (pwise@ncsei.com) or fill out another pledge card to indicate your desire to increase your giving.

Some who are not currently giving regularly may decide that now is the time to join other MCC members/participants in financially supporting our church. Pledge cards are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary and can be placed in the pledge box there or in an offering plate.

Some are giving as much as they are able. Every gift is important; every gift makes a difference and is appreciated.

You will see a graphic of our Disciples of Christ chalice in the church building and in various church communications illustrating where we are in achieving our 2024 Ministry Budget goal. Let's all work together to fill the chalice so that we can welcome our new minister with a ministry budget that is fully supported!

Pastor Gary

Service of Remembrance

Every year on All-Saints Sunday, Marion Christian Church pauses to honor those of our church family who have passed away during the previous 12 months in a Service of Remembrance. This year's service will take place at 10:00 AM on Sunday, November 5th.

This year we remember and honor...

Jan Patschke 12/1/22

Rev. Joe Jones 12/14/22

Mildred Burris 1/19/23

Virginia Beaner 2/4/23

Margaret Doyle 3/10/23

Jim Henderson 6/21/23

Joanie Peck 8/17/23

Shirley Jordan 9/7/23

Bev Lillie 10/23/23

Leora Warrick 10/28/23

While we try to keep updated records, if there is a member of MCC who passed since last November missing from this list, please contact the office at office@marionchristian.com immediately.

As we approach the holiday season, the pantry is in need of funding for the annual hams we offer our neighbors in need.

Please consider a donation to the pantry in your holiday giving. You can donate online on the Churches of Marion Food Pantry page on Facebook, use the QR code or link below, or send your donation to the Churches of Marion Food Pantry at 864 12th St. Marion, Ia. 52302.

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=77S6UZ2DJ3KL

We are grateful for each and every donation. Thank you.

HELP THE FOOD PANTRY PROVIDE HOLIDAY HAMS



PHOTO BOARD



Check out the "Our Church Family" photo board in the Narthex!
Please provide your photo either by
email to Lindsay (office@marionchristian.com)
in the church office or hand a photo to Lindsay or Sharon McIntosh.
If you would like your photo taken at church on a Sunday morning,
please let Lindsay or Sharon know.
Thank you all for helping Congregational Care & Evangelism
complete this project.



SNACKS FOR WILKINS SCHOOL

Please sign up at Information Central to provide 25 prepackaged snacks for Wilkins Elementary Students
Or go to sign up genius and use the link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COC4FAFA92DABFFC34-wilkins2#/>
Each person signs up for 1 or more slots on the date of their choice from the app.
Each slot is 25 pre wrapped healthy snacks. Treats can be left on the desk just inside the door on Monday



MCC Council Meeting

Marion Christian Church Council Hybrid Meeting Provisional Minutes Sunday, October 15, 2023 11:30am

PRESENT: Ryan Wilcox, Gary Sneller, Kari Wilcox, Joyce Talley, April Evers, Tammy Buseman, Jill Law, Sharon McIntosh, Dean Decious, Gloria Waltke, Nikki Kibler, Tim Feldmann, Justin Lightfoot, Becky Clemens, Marilyn Rambo, Erin Wittkowski, Krystal Monawar, Mike Kibler, Susan Boatwright, Darrell Boatwright, Sue Thompson, Patty Wise
The meeting was opened with prayer by Chair Becky Clemens. She announced that the Co-Interim Minister reports and New Business items would be addressed first.

CO-INTERIM MINISTERS' REPORT – Gary Sneller and Tammy Cameron Buseman

Gary reported that they had reached the 6-month point in their interim ministry and they had been working on creating a solid foundation for the church. Phase two is to focus on preparing for our next settled senior minister. Tammy continued that the focus includes realizing that we are not the church we were pre-pandemic. Although our attendance is around 100 now, in contrast to the 200+ before, indications are that we are meeting our needs, we have visitors, and the budget hasn't gone down. Much time and talent was used to get us back into ministry with our completed Christian Education wing, and we need to concentrate on moving forward with that. Our greatest concern is that the 2024 proposed budget is ridiculously lean in the areas of ministry. Marion Christian Church members are heading in the right direction, but some tweaking and pivoting to collectively approach the shortfall needs to be addressed. We need to build on our leadership potential and invite and nurture others into ministries. We also need to strengthen our giving and invite others to do so as the excitement for our future continues.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 Nominating Slate - Justin Lightfoot presented the proposed slate of officers with a few additions (attached). He also presented a motion to amend the Bylaws wording to allow Deacons AND Elders the ability to also hold an appointed position. (**Section III: Officers, both Elected and Appointed,**

under Paragraph B, the last sentence currently reads: "Deacons are eligible for appointment to any of these positions." The change would read: "Elders and Deacons are eligible for appointment to any of these positions.") Mike Kibler seconded the motion. Approved. Justin then moved for the slate to be approved and Krystal Monawar seconded. Approved.

- Pastoral Search Update - Becky Clemens reported that the Search Team is looking seriously at one candidate, and if the search continues positively, a settled minister might be in position early in 2024.
- 2024 Budget – Erin Wittkowski presented the Proposed 2024 Budget, indicating areas where cuts were necessary. Patty Wise indicated that some shortfall in the giving is due to older members passing away. She also explained that the PPP funds are not available for the 2024 expenses because they are being saved for a settled minister's travel/moving expenses. Erin explained that, at this point in 2023, if we DID have a settled minister, we would have a \$22,000 deficit given our current giving. Our 2024 pledges are 96% of our 2023 pledges at this point, which would give us a potential deficit of \$51,000 at the end of 2024 with a settled minister.

The Council had an extensive discussion on how to build awareness and invite additional giving among the congregation. Mention was also made that any people who personally donate supplies need to somehow record the monetary amounts so they can be included in budget totals to give a clearer picture of what expenses would actually be if they hadn't donated them.

Mike Kibler moved and Jill Law seconded to approve the Proposed 2024 budget. Approved. Becky tabled addressing STANDING BUSINESS items and the Building Update until the next regular Council meeting. (The Ministry Team reports appear below.)
The meeting was closed with prayer by Gary. Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Rambo, Church Clerk

APPROVED 2024 Nominees for the Ballot - in Bold

UPREACH: Worship, Music/Arts & Media, Elders/Deacons, Prayer Team (Sanctuary Preparation, Ushers, Greeters, Communion, and Prayer Chain)

ELDER: Patty Wise (2 year term)

ELDER: Ryan Wilcox (1 year remaining)

DEACON: Zach Cooper (2 year term)

DEACON: Joyce Talley (1 year remaining)

INREACH: Congregational Care & Evangelism

(Member Care and Support, and Member and Non-Member Care and Support)

ELDER: Alindsey Kramer (2 year term)

ELDER: Sharon McIntosh (1 year term)

DEACON: Lori Law (2 year term)

DEACON: Jill Law (1 year remaining)

OUTREACH: World & Local Missions

(Hands on Mission, Disciples Mission, Ecumenical Mission, and Fund Raising)

ELDER: Susan Boatwright (1 year remaining)

DEACON: Chris Hack (2 year term)

DEACON: April Evers (1 year term)

DEACON: Genny Davis (1 year term)

UPREACH: Spiritual Growth & Formation

(Christian Education, Christian Youth Development, and Support/Resources)

ELDER: Marilyn Rambo (2 year term)

DEACON: Angela Munier (2 year term)

DEACON: Joy Talley (1 year term)

DEACON: Sue Thompson (1 year term)

INREACH: Congregational Guardianship

(Guardianship, Trusteeship, Stewardship, and Congregational Promotion)

ELDER: Mike Kibler (2 year term)

ELDER: David Law (1 year term)

DEACON: Nikki Kibler (1 year term)

DEACON: Dean Decious (1 year remaining)

OUTREACH: Community Growth & For-

MCC Council Meeting

Marion Christian Church Council Hybrid Meeting Provisional Minutes

Sunday, October 15, 2023 11:30am

mation

(Growth Ministries, Support Ministries, and Fellowship Ministries)

ELDER: Kiley Harris (1 year remaining)

DEACON: Deanna Long (1 year term)

DEACON: Krystal Monawar (2 year term)

DEACON: Jana Madsen (1 year term)

OFFICERS:

COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Justin Lightfoot (1 year term)

COUNCIL VICE-CHAIRPERSON: Tim Feldmann (1 year term)

TREASURER: Erin Wittkowski (1 year term)

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Patty Wise (Appointed Position)

CHURCH CLERK: Vanessa Renaud (1 year term)

CO-PASTORS OF INTERIM MINISTRY:

Rev. Tammy Cameron Buseman

Rev. Gary Sneller

[2024 Nominating Committee: Vice-Council Chairperson Justin Lightfoot (Chair), Alindsey Kramer, Krystal Monawar, Jill Law]

The following agenda items were tabled until the next Council meeting:

STANDING BUSINESS:

September Minutes –

September Financial Report & Capital Campaign Report–

Ministry Team Reports –

UPREACH: Worship, Music/Arts & Media – Elders Kari & Ryan Wilcox; Deacons Sue Thompson & Joyce Tall-ey - No report

UPREACH: Spiritual Growth & Formation – Elder Laura Brade; Deacons Jenna Holmes & Tim Feldmann – No report

INREACH: Congregational Guardianship – Elders Mike Kibler & Tom Fuller; Deacons Joe Hamilton & Dean Decious

Scout Trailer transaction completed, MCC received \$500 for trailer. The trailer has been removed from MCC Property

Tom has solicited an estimate for replacement of asphalt for our lot from Pate Asphalt, also an overlay estimate which they do not recommend given the condition of our current asphalt. (Remove & Replace \$174,330.00; Overlay \$129,816.00) Mike would like to see additional competing bids for the work, but does agree that a full removal with inspection of the underlying material and full depth replacement is the better, longer lasting option.

Informal discussion on whether or not to sell off the church van has begun. It was mentioned in the budgetary meeting and also during informal discussion with Gary. This would likely need to be discussed by the entire Council. The van costs us around \$800 each year just to insure and register it. Any routine maintenance not donated by a mechanic would be extra; it is, or nearly is, 20 years old and does not get much use. Tom has made an open query to see if anyone has ideas for options to either make the communion table easier to move for special events, or to have it replaced.

INREACH: Congregational Care and Evangelism – Elder Sharon McIntosh; Deacons April Evers & Jill Law

The Congregational Care & Evangelism team has started to put up photos on the Photo Board in the Narthex. Please provide your photos!

Fellowship time is going very well since Sunday school has started. All Sundays are filled with helpers thru December, which Congregational Care has picked up for December 24th & 31st.

OUTREACH: World & Local Missions – Elders Sue Boatwright & Cathy Fuller; Deacon Gloria Waltke

1. We wrapped up the final warehouse sale with left over items given away with a donation of cash or non-perishable items to the Marion Food Pantry. We donated 5 boxes of food and about \$290. Items left went to the Willis Dady Shelter, Salvation Army, His Hands Free Clinic, and recycling.
2. Marion Cares has advised us of items

needed for their Trunk or Treat. This is handled by us adopting a child and purchasing winter coats, boots, etc. as requested. We have adopted seven students as of this writing. After purchasing, we will determine if we can adopt more based on our budget.

3. We now have a contact system in place to touch base and/or take communion to some of our homebound. Some will receive person contacts, others just a phone call. We coordinated this with Rev. Sneller.

4. We are in discussion with Gary and Tammy regarding families who might be in need of assistance for food for the holidays. Once those are determined, we will be contacting them as to their needs.

5. We will be having a discussion regarding our budget this week and determine the agencies to which we can send some money. This is the time of year when many of their finances get stretched thinner by requests.

OUTREACH: Community Growth & Formation – Elders Gary Sneller & Kiley Harris; Deacons Deanna Long & Krystal Monawar

Here is the final budget accounting for the Community Open House/180th Anniversary celebration weekend:

Budgeted money: \$650--Community Growth and Formation (including \$180 from encumbered fund for Special Events); \$450--Pat Burnett memorial fund; \$200--Congregational Care; \$295--net from t-shirt sales = \$1595.00

Expenses: \$250--face painting; \$150--balloon animals; \$187.50 (half price)--bouncy obstacle course; \$212.69--meal (meat, buns, sauce); \$621--Jim Warren (preaching honorarium, mileage, lodging) = \$1421.19

This leaves us with a balance of \$173.81 for the Special Events fund.

OLD BUSINESS:

Building Update – Darrell Boatwright