

Gap Minutes

Monday, Jan 22, 2018 @ 7:00pm

Robinson Memorial - 3106 Union Road, Gastonia

Vision: Gaston Area Presbyterian Congregations working together to serve God

Mission: The mission is to support and facilitate the efforts of congregations in Gaston County in their work to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our hope in doing so is that we transform churches so that their members may find new life and new energy to respond to God's call and others will be attracted to them and their work.

Beth Bolin	First Gastonia	Bill Glover	Southminster
John Stanley	First Gastonia	Jackson Mott	Southminster
Charles Davenport	Long Creek	Joanne Mitchell	Southminster
Ken Unnasch	Long Creek	Charles Sellers	West Ave
James Holeman	Union	Sylvia Sellers	West Ave
Libby Sigmon	Olney	Paula Wallace	West Ave
John Pea	Robinson	Chris Vogado	New Hope
Janet DeWater	Mt Holly	John DeWater	Mt Holly

I. Welcome and Introductions: John Pea

John opened the meeting at 7:04pm with prayer. Everyone introduced themselves. Penny & Darla from Robinson provided us with delicious pancakes.

- Motion to approve minutes of last meeting, Nov 20, 2017 made by James Holeman. Libby Sigmon 2nd. Passed.

II. Presbytery News – Charles Davenport

- Chris Vogado, the new minister at New Hope was introduced. March 4 is tentative date to install him.
- Eddie Deas (pastor of 3rd Street) received 2nd round of chemo last week. He is in good spirits. He is open to visitors and the best time to visit is around 1:00 in the afternoon.
- Several churches in GAP are participating in Pneumatrix.
- Next Presbytery meeting in Lowell on Sat Jan 28. Hosted by Lowell & Union.
- Martha Somers, the new missionary to Malawi, will be at several Gaston County churches over the next few weeks. Anyone is welcome to meet her at the following events:
 - i. Sunday, February 4 at Union during the Sunday School hour at 9:30.
 - ii. Wednesday, January 31 at First Gastonia. Lunch at 11:45-12:20, with a presentation and conversation with Martha beginning around 12:20. If you would like to eat (\$6), please RSVP by Mon, Jan 29 @ 704-864-2651.
 - iii. If other churches would like to invite her to your church contact Presbytery.

III. Other reports and items

- Camp Grier Day – Bill Glover
 - Please hold Saturday, May 5 for GAP day at Camp Grier.
 - Day trip: use fee of \$8/person includes use of trails & canoes at lake. Arrive around 9am.
 - Bill Glover volunteered to gather details. John Pea volunteered to make flyer.
 - Bill said that windows in one of the cabins were recently installed by several Southminster members.
- Christmas Ad in Gazette – John Pea
 - Several attendees did see the ad.
 - Invoice is forth coming
 - Next ad could be Easter (April 1)
- Habitat Update – Bill Glover & Sue Johnson
 - Dedication will be Sunday, Jan 28 at 3pm, 223 Tanner St, Gastonia.
 - Driveway is not completed yet due to weather
- Operation Christmas Child – Jackson Mott
 - About 15 attended for 3 hours. Fun opportunity to help others. GAP – Planning - what will we look like going forward
 - See notes on next page.

IV. Announcements

- Night to Shine – Southminster – Fri Feb 9. Volunteers still needed. Go to <https://southminsterchurch.com/> to register to volunteer. Must attend training session on one of these dates: 10am on Jan 27 or Feb 3 or at 6:30pm on Jan 30.
- Next Presbytery Mission trip will be to West Virginia on May 20-26. More information soon.
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – February 13 at Robinson. 4:30 – 7:30. \$5 – all you can eat & kids free.

Next Meeting – Monday Feb 19 @ 7pm –Place: TBA

GAP Planning for the future

John Pea sent out a survey prior to the meeting to a selected group of GAP participants and all the GAP pastors, asking 4 questions. The results of that survey are on two separate attachments named *SWOT-Laity* and *SWOT-Pastors*. (SWOT means Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Troubles.)

John opened the discussion talking about Adaptive change. (See separate attachment named *Canoeing quotes*.) He referred to the book *Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger. Pneumatrix, which Union & Southminster are participating in, uses this book as a guide. GAP is at the peak of a mountain, needing to reinvent itself.

The attendees broke up into 4 small groups to review the responses and summarize the strengths & weaknesses between the 2 groups of responders'. After 15 minutes we gathered back into one group and the following were noted:

Strengths

- Habitat (2)
- Great fellowship (2)
- Connections for GAP attendees (3)
- Communication (advertising) to others (2)
- Pooled resources
- Cooperation
- Unified for bigger goal
- Aiding Ministry

Weaknesses

- Not really a lot of connections
- Not sharing resources
- Really just doing Habitat
- Lack of consistent leadership (2)
- Few do too much of work
- Repetitiveness
- Lack of variety of projects (2)
- Invisible to churches
- Lack of champions in churches
- Too many meetings
- Habitat – too much energy

It was noted that leadership is a problem, because it changes every meeting. Suggested that a leadership component be added to the Organizational changes that were suggested from the Task Force meeting on 7/12/17. (See attachment *GAP Future Directions Task Force report2017*.) James Holeman, Charles Davenport, Libby Sigmon, & John Pea volunteered to meet prior to the February meeting to work out details of the expectations of the leadership. They will present a proposal to the group at the next meeting.

To: Church Administrative Assistants

RE: GAP Information for Church Bulletin or Newsletter



In an effort to keep churches aware of how they can become involved in a service project or event at another church, please include the following information in your church communication at the appropriate time and as you have room to include. In order for GAP announcements to be easily recognized, please include the GAP logo. Suggested times to include the information are noted in red. Thanks!

Announcement for this week – Jan. 23 - 28

Dedication of the GAP Habitat home will be Sunday, January 28 at 3pm. The home is located at 223 Tanner St, Gastonia. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Announcement for Jan. 23 to Feb 3

Southminster is hosting Night to Shine, a prom style event for special needs persons. Volunteers are still needed. Go to <https://southminsterchurch.com/> to register to volunteer. Volunteers must attend training session on one of these dates: 10am on Jan 27 or Feb 3 or at 6:30pm on Jan 30. The event is Friday, February 9 from 6pm – 9pm.

Announcement for Feb 5-12

Robinson is hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – February 13 at Robinson. 4:30 – 7:30. All you can eat for \$5.00 and kids eat free!

Announcement for anytime in next few weeks, just so church members are aware of the upcoming date.

The next Presbytery Mission trip will be to West Virginia on May 20-26. More information will be coming soon.