

Gap Minutes June 18, 2018

Location: Olney Presbyterian Church

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.

Attending were:

Joanne Mitchell	Southminster	Charles Davenport	Presbytery, Long Creek
Jackson Mott	Southminster	John Pea	Robinson
Bill Glover	Southminster	Paula Wallace	West Avenue
Ken Unnasch	Long Creek	Mollie Trosper	West Avenue
Libby Sigmon	Olney	Charles Whitesides	3 rd Street
Beth Bolin	First Gastonia	Elizabeth Littlejohn	3 rd Street
		Starla Littlejohn	3 rd Street

I. Welcome and Introductions:

- The meeting began in the Fellowship Hall of Olney church with fellowship & refreshments. Then we went into the parlor and Rev. Libby Sigmon lead a devotion using the song Grateful by Paul Simon and a children's book illustrations followed by a prayer. Each one present introduced themselves.
- Minutes of the May 21, 2018 meeting were corrected with the West Ave Hymn Sing & Ice Cream social being Aug 26 at 5pm. Motion by Paula Wallace to approved as corrected. Charles Whitesides 2nd. Motion passed.

II. Presbytery News – Charles Davenport

- General Assembly
 - Roger Rizk from First Gastonia is one of our 4 commissioners this week at General Assembly in St Louis.
 - Two women are co-moderators this year.
 - How the denomination will be governed will be on the agenda later this week.
 - You can follow what's going on there at www.pcusa.org.
- Continue to keep Eddie & Gail Deese in your prayers. She was recently in hospital with pneumonia.
- Presbytery meeting is July 31 at Banner Elk

III. Other reports and items

- West Avenue is closing their doors at the end of September. Attached is a List of items available for churches to request.
 - i. Some items are free, others it is suggested to make a donation to West Ave.
 - ii. If your church would like any of these items, please contact Paula Wallace at 704-214-1011 phwgaw@gmail.com or Mollie Trosper at 704-865-1793.
 - iii. Some things available now and others after the last service in September.
- Guatemala – Beth Bolin
 - i. Volcano that recently hit the area is not near our Presbytery. However, the area has had a lot of rain.
 - ii. Presbytery Trip in Fall is full (including Mt Holly & Long Creek attendees)
 - iii. Next trip will be announced in January
 - iv. Bill Glover reported that 6 people from Southminster went May 17. Took kids swimming & eating. Worked with a non-profit to build 2 small cylinder block houses.
 - v. Contributions to Guatemala to help with volcano assistance can be made directly to PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance).

- Presbytery Mission trip to West Virginia
 - i. Joanne Mitchell reported that 5 people from Gaston County were there.
 - ii. Team demolished porch & rebuilt it on one house & in another house worked on kitchen/bath including updating plumbing, which had original terra cotta piping.
- GAP – Report concerning Leadership Component of reorganization of GAP. At the last meeting, the group focused on two items that caused grieving for GAP, West Avenue closing and the Mental Health/Mental Illness so prevalent on our society. (The killing of 2 family members when husband ran car into local restaurant had just happened the day before the last meeting.)
 - i. West Avenue church closing
 - 1. How do we reach out in an effective way to the members of West Ave?
 - 2. Several pastors came up with a suggested one page overview of each church
 - 3. John Pea has sent each pastor the template and asked that each church complete and send to him as soon as possible.
 - 4. Final version of each church would be put on the GAP website.
 - 5. The church overviews would be given to members at West Ave in order to let them know a little bit about each church.
 - ii. Mental Health/Mental Illness
 - 1. Paula Wallace sited an article in the Gazette about Combating Mental Illness (May 2018).
 - 2. John Pea asked how many Gap attendees had asked their churches about their interest in doing something about mental illness. No one responded.
 - 3. Suggestion to ask someone from Gaston Area Mental Health to come speak.
 - 4. In order for a cause to be effective, GAP needs more buy in from churches. Possibly need meeting of Minister & elder from each church to present idea of Mental Health being a cause that GAP would address in the future.
 - 5. Paula Wallace will ask Rev. David Lytle for suggestions.
 - 6. All GAP attendees (those present & absent) are asked to please solicit your church & session members to ask if they think there are issues with mental health & find some champions for this cause. This step is very important if GAP is to move forward.

IV. Announcements

- There will be no meeting in July.
- Camp Grier is doing well this summer. Camper numbers are up.
- June 30 Long Creek is having a Car Wash, Hot Dog, and Yard Sale to help support folks who will be going to Guatemala.

Motion to adjourn made by Jackson Mott. 2nd by Bill Glover. Passed. Closing prayer lead by Charles Davenport.

Next Meeting – Southminster – 7pm - Monday, August 20 and Dan Oedy will preside.

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, 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 now until end of June

On Saturday, June 30 Long Creek Presbyterian Church is having a Car Wash, Hot Dog, and Yard Sale to help support folks who will be going to Guatemala in the Fall.