

**MEETING at FRCC     July 21, 2013, 5:30 PM**

Present: Pastor Chuck, Elders Jane DeWitt, Chris Forte, Doug Sonderfan, Deacon Joe White, and Clerk Liz White. Fourteen people from the congregation were also in attendance.

Purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm potential ideas for fundraising to outside sources to help our financial situation. Meeting was conducted during a pot luck supper.

Meeting was called to order with prayer by Chris Forte.

Chris started the meeting by explaining that we are running at a deficit each month and at the rate we are going, we will soon exhaust our reserve funds.

Ron and Gayle feel strongly that we need to do more advertising and they offered to take on the task as well as donate funding to accomplish it.

Audrey brought an example of an item she received from a friend. They call it "our daily bread" and it is a plastic container filled with 31 inspirational messages. Though these would initially be sold to members of our congregation, they make excellent gifts and often those who receive them want to purchase some for others. This could be an ongoing project at a charge of possibly \$5 each.

A question was asked whether we know the reasons people have left the congregation. A few of the reasons given were -- the church is too formal -- the church is too informal -- worship times were inconvenient for some with children who participate in sports and have games on Sunday.

Kevin and Laurie suggested expanding the yard sale to include more items that could possibly sell for higher amounts.

A project that is in progress was suggested by Lisa. Her sister's church uses gift cards to various places where people already shop where the church receives some percentage of the amount spent. Harris Teeter does this for non-profits, so that is one possibility.

Include raffles when we have the auction. Try to get more members of the community to attend. Some feel that the high bids for food is a turn off to some. On the other hand, it is fun for some of those who enjoy that part of the auction.

Housing a day care was suggested. This is probably not feasible because of various codes and the fact that we do not have a commercial kitchen.

Ask for donations from large corporations.

Provide space for area music programs - as a test area for musicians.

Sell CDs of our choir's music. Doug put together some of those for the last auction.

Be sure not to lose sight of God and be sure we are taking Him through anything we do.

Trust in the gospel.

Find out what growing churches in the area are doing to attract people.

Take advantage of special talents of those in the congregation.

FRCC and CRA are not very well known in the South, so this presents a challenge for attracting new people. There is no infrastructure as with a more well known denomination.

Take a look at the Ridder initiative about church revitalization.

Read “Just Walk Across the Room” a book to teach evangelism by Bill Hybels.

Blow up a layout of the church and place in various areas with “you are here” indicators. Chris said there is a layout in the information for visitors, so it should not be difficult to do that.

Use Craig’s List for advertising.

There is a Community Bulletin Board on News 14 Carolina on Time Warner Cable. Laurie will look into how you get announcements placed on that.

Next step - check into issues that would hinder doing some of the suggested things. Realtors can be a good source for information.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Chris.