

## **Georgetown Ministerial Alliance**

Notes on Meeting of November 14, 2007

St. David's Georgetown Hospital

Present: Kevin Bell, George Brightwell, Jack Ender, Debbie Hoffman, Leroy Jones, Paul Partlow, Jim Porter, Bill Powell, Dave Roberts, Joe Ruiz, Jeanie Stanley, and Ron Swain.

Visiting: None.

Jeanie Stanley opened the meeting with readings from Colossians 3:12-17. "Clothe yourselves with love." "Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus." We are bonded as one people through Jesus Christ.

### **Introductions and Sharing:**

Those present introduced themselves and said a bit about their current plans or ministries.

- Debbie Hoffman, Habitat for Humanity: Four house dedications are scheduled in the next few weeks, three at Old Mill Village and one in Round Rock. A Woman's Build is set for spring 2008.
- Jim Porter, First UMC: They are set for the Thanksgiving Festive Meal. They hope to have 100 eat at the McKinney Ministry Center in addition to the meals that will be delivered or picked up.
- Ron Swain, Southwestern U. and Habitat: Southwestern's annual Advent Candlelighting Service is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5. There will be two services: 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm, with a reception following the later service.
- Bill Powell, Georgetown Church of Christ: The Fall Festival held at Annie Purl School was a great success with over 300 children plus adults attending. On Monday, November 19, the church will deliver 160 Thanksgiving food boxes to needy families. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> year that the church has offered this ministry.
- George Brightwell, Wellspring UMC: Our pastor Gary Whitbeck retires at the end of December. He will have surgery on December 28. We await our new pastor the Rev. Debra Crumpton. Pray for these two as they go through significant transitions in their lives.
- Joe Ruiz, St. Helen Church: Their sanctuary is being remodeled. It is strange to worship in their fellowship hall. They are in the midst of staffing changes in their Hispanic ministry.
- Kevin Bell, Georgetown Church of the Nazarene: First time to attend. He intends to become more active in the Alliance.
- Dave Roberts, Grace Bible Fellowship: Dave described briefly the incredible jail ministry offered by his congregation.
- Jack Ender, Grace Fellowship: They are involved in community outreach. One outreach is to say "Thank you" to Georgetown police officers for their service to the community. He stated that the Pregnancy Help Center is in need of volunteers.
- Leroy Jones, Saving Grace Fellowship: Their church is growing and he is busy! He is offering to create maps for delivery of the meals on Thanksgiving Day.

### **Other Business:**

1. **Community Thanksgiving Service Nov 19:** A draft of the worship bulletin was distributed to those present. Come early and help host the service. Contact Jeanie Stanley at [jrsta@aol.com](mailto:jrsta@aol.com).
2. **Community Thanksgiving Meal:** Paul Partlow is doing an excellent job of organizing this event. You can contact Paul by e-mail at [paul@gtxchurchofchrist.org](mailto:paul@gtxchurchofchrist.org).
3. **Long Term Recovery after Disaster:** Debbie Hoffman will report on efforts to create a Long Term Disaster Recovery Committee for Williamson County. Contact Debbie at [debbieh@williamsonhabitat.org](mailto:debbieh@williamsonhabitat.org).

4. **GMA Website Development:** Please check [www.georgetownministerialalliance.org](http://www.georgetownministerialalliance.org). Is your agency or church included? Are there links you believe we should add? Contact the Webmaster on the site at [webmaster@georgetownministerialalliance.org](mailto:webmaster@georgetownministerialalliance.org) or George Brightwell, [brightwg@southwestern.edu](mailto:brightwg@southwestern.edu).
5. **Cross Yard Signs:** These signs are available at \$4.00 each. They will be displayed two week before Easter and one week after Easter. Sample crosses are available to take to your church to stimulate interest in displaying these signs during Lent to give a visual sign of our unity in Christ. Order contact information: Bruce Fogerty, [brucefogerty@gmail.com](mailto:brucefogerty@gmail.com). 214-450-5010.
6. **GMA Outreach:** If you have corrections or additions for our contact list, please contact [sgpc@verizon.net](mailto:sgpc@verizon.net). Please help us reach out to people doing ministry in Georgetown. Invite them to our next meeting. Get their info on our website. Invite them to join our efforts.
7. **Church of the Month for 2008:** Joe Ruiz, [joerui@sainthelens.org](mailto:joerui@sainthelens.org), has information.
8. **No December meeting:** Next meeting January 9, 2008.
9. **Issue Forums in 2008:** Suggestions? The Georgetown Project. Ride On Center for Kids. Homeless in Georgetown.

#### **Issue Forum:**

Dr. Jim Porter offered thanks for our lunch provided by St. David's Georgetown Hospital.

Paul Partlow gave an update on preparations for the meal. He expects to make 300 deliveries. Drivers are needed. The Lord is bringing all the pieces together. Thank you, Paul, for your hard work. (He has already volunteered to lead next year!)

Debbie Hoffman reported on the progress in forming a VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) and a Long Term Recovery Organization (LTRO). These groups will bring together representatives from churches, social service organizations, and the like to be prepared to serve when a disaster strikes, particularly in the aftermath when the rebuilding of lives and physical facilities take months of years. George Brightwell agreed to be the liaison between GMA and these organizations in Williamson County.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

November 19 Community Thanksgiving Service, 7:00 pm, San Gabriel Presbyterian Church  
November 22 Community Thanksgiving Festive Meal at FUMC McKinney Ministry Center  
December 5 Advent Candlelighting Services at Southwestern University, 5:30 and 7:00 pm.  
January 9 Next meeting of GMA. Issue Forum TBA.  
January 21 Martin Luther King, Jr. march and celebration.

**Announcements, etc.:** No meeting in December.

**Closing Prayer** by Jack Ender.

Recorded by George Brightwell