

THE DUTIES OF THE PASTOR

INTRODUCTION

- A. The office of Pastor is referred to by four similar terms in the New Testament.
1. "Overseer" (Greek: *episkopos*) = Watchman, Superintendent, Administrator
 2. "Teacher" (Greek: *didaskalos*) = Instructor, Teacher of Doctrine
 3. "Elder" (Greek: *presbyteros*) = Leader, Vision-Caster
 4. "Shepherd" (Greek: *poimén*) = One who ensures that needs are met
- B. Biblical evidence links the office "elders" and "overseers" (pastors or "bishops") as one in the same office; and the office of "deacon" as a second, separate office.
1. In Titus 1:5, Paul says that he left Titus in Crete to "appoint elders (*presbyteros*) in every town." Then, without any break in subject-matter, Paul begins using the term "overseers (*episkopos*)" in Titus 1:7. The clear implication is that "elders" and "overseers" are synonyms used for the same office.
 2. In Acts 20:17, Paul meets with "the elders of the (Ephesian) church." In verse 28 of that same chapter, Paul says that the Holy Spirit has "made [these elders] overseers, to care for the church of God." Clearly, Paul made no distinction between "elder" and "overseer."
 3. The qualifications of "overseers" (pastors) in 1 Timothy 3:1-8 are almost identical with the qualifications of "elders" in Titus 1:5-9. And there is an obvious, unmistakable emphasis on the role of guarding and teaching sound doctrine in both.
 4. 1 Timothy 3:1-13 gives separate sections for the qualifications of "overseers" (pastors) and "deacons" that are clearly delineated.
 5. In the introduction to his letter to the Philippian church, Paul greets "all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons." Another demarcation between "overseer" and "deacon."

THREE DUTIES OF A PASTOR

I. GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CHURCH

- A. Acts 20:28 – *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*
1. Indicates a mutual superintendence among the elders (= bishops/pastors) and the entire *flock* (the entire group of believers).
 2. *has made you* indicates the supreme call of the Holy Spirit to the office. Above everything, it was the Holy Spirit, not the Church, placing these men into office.
- B. 1 Tim. 3:5 – *If someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church?*
1. The verb translated *manage* means "to lead, to rule."
 2. In 1 Tim. 3:3, the pastor is said to rule over his family well, and that manner of ruling is understood in verse five.
 3. The word which is translated *care for* means "to show concern over." This word indicates a general leadership and care of the church of God (not simply preaching) in similar ways as a father gives general leadership and care of his home.

C. 1 Corinthians 12:28 – *God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.*

1. Paul listed seven appointments that God had made in the church.
 - a. It appears that he listed the first three of these in order of importance, and would best be described as “offices.”
 - b. But the last five are listed without indicating any priority and should best be understood as “gifts.”
2. *Apostles* were those who had be personally called into Gospel ministry by Jesus Himself; and also had seen Jesus personally after His resurrection and could therefore serve as an eye-witness to His resurrection. No one alive today can qualify for this office.
3. *Prophets* in the New Testament, like their counterparts in the Old Testament, were instruments of special revelation from God. They were listed beside apostles because their office was also foundational to the church in that, through them, God gave new and fully revelation; much of which became the written New Testament.
4. *Teachers* are of third importance. In the New Testament, teachers were like Jewish rabbis. They studied the Scriptures and taught the church sound doctrine. In Ephesians 4:11 Paul associated the office of teacher with that of pastor. This office is not an office of special revelation, but an office of interpreting special revelation correctly and presenting it clearly so as to preclude any false doctrine.

D. Hebrews 13:17 – *Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.*

1. There is an inherent authority in the office of pastor/overseer, though the authority seems to be tied to the Word of God and not the office itself, since the overseers must also *give an account*. In other words, congregants ought to *obey* and *submit* because God says so, not because the pastor/overseer deserves this.
2. The reason for this prescribed submission? *for they are keeping watch* (to abstain totally from sleep, to watch, wake, be awake) *over your souls*.
 - a. The pastor must be watchful and constantly attentive to spiritual things
 - b. He is the under-shepherd who should “give his life for the sheep” (Jn. 10:14)
3. Those that do not submit to godly leadership...
 - a. Injure themselves by resisting God (and this is certainly *of no advantage to you*).
 - b. Burden their leaders and syphon the joy from their work of keeping watch.

II. GUARDIAN AND TEACHER OF SOUND DOCTRINE

A. A distinct function of pastors or elders is teaching

1. 1 Timothy 3:2 – *Therefore an overseer must be...able to teach...*
2. 1 Timothy 5:17 – *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*
3. Titus 1:9 – *He (an elder/overseer) must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.* This refers to both teaching, counseling, and exhortation.

B. They are to teach the Word, not their opinions

1. 2 Tim. 4:2 – *Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.*

2. Titus 3:9 – *But avoid foolish controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels about the law, for they are unprofitable and worthless.*
- C. Titus 1:9 – *He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.*
1. The work of the pastor is designated as holding firm to the faithful or trustworthy word according to the long-established and accepted doctrine.
 2. The pastor is described as a man who must be able to refute false doctrine and exhort or comfort through the teaching of sound doctrine, even those who are opposed to that doctrine.
 3. He is a man who must be able and willing to reprove (reprimand, admonish, or rebuke) those who speak in contradiction to sound doctrine.
- D. Acts 20:28 – *Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.*
1. Their duty was the general care of the flock. This general care is accomplished primarily, though not exclusively, through the teaching the Word of God.
 2. While “elders” or pastors must be able to teach, not all will do this as their primary ministry. There seems to be a distinction made in favor of those elders whose primary responsibilities are carried out through preaching and teaching. 1 Tim. 5:17 – *Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.*
- E. Ephesians 4:11-13 – *And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.*
1. The Lord Jesus gave pastors and teachers to the Church for the purpose of maturing the Church. Their ability and primary function is to preach and teach.
 2. These can do the best job of preaching and teaching only if there are others (non-teaching Pastors and/or Deacons) in the local congregation who fulfill the other functions, which meet the variety of needs of the flock.
 - a. In 1 Thessalonians 5:12, Paul asks that those who labor and rule in the Lord must be loved especially for their work.
 - b. In Romans 12:6–8, Paul gives the different ministries for which the gifts are given and one of them is that of teaching.
 - c. In Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24, they are called “leaders.” Thus the pastors or bishops must have leadership gifts.
 - d. In Acts 15:6, we find that the Apostles AND the elders/pastors gathered together to discuss the teaching of those who taught the heresy of the Pharisees, demanding that believers be circumcised.
 - e. In Acts 21:18, when Paul and others were received in Jerusalem, it was not only by James but also by all the elders.
 - f. The cooperation of the elders with the apostles is also indicated in 1 Timothy 4:14.

III. GIVER AND DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

- A. While the (Senior) Pastor is ultimately responsible for ensuring that ministry needs are met, no one person is capable of meeting every need in a congregation.
1. The Pastor must “lead by example” in giving pastoral care.
 2. But He must guard against “bottlenecking” pastoral care by talking it alone. One of the major responsibilities of a Pastor is to ENSURE the needs of the flock are met by training other

believers in how to care for one another. Ephesians 4:11-12 – *He Himself (Christ Jesus) gave some to be...pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints (the general congregation) for the work of ministry (meeting congregational needs).*

- B. Pastoral Care includes visiting the sick. James 5:14 – *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*
- C. Pastoral Care includes being devoted to the welfare of others. This is the meaning of *hospitable* (see 1 Timothy 3:2 – *Therefore an overseer must be...hospitable...;* and Titus 1:7-8 – *For an overseer, as God's steward, must be...hospitable...)*

 - 1. This means he is ready and willing to make changes in his schedule to meet needs that arise.
 - 2. This means that he has and expresses a genuine care for the congregation.
 - a. The CAN be expressed in social visits; but it is certainly not limited to social visits. (Social visits are defined here as visits not designed to meet a particular need, but rather to just “checkup” on people.)
 - b. No case can be made from Scripture that social visitation is a primary responsibility of a Pastor. Rather (in Acts especially), fellowshiping “from house to house” seems to be the nature outcome of the congregants loving one another.

- D. Pastoral Care includes leading, feeding, and protecting *the flock of God*. 1 Peter 5:2-3 – *Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.*
 - 1. The command is *Shepherd the flock*.
 - a. Elsewhere in the New Testament, that word is translate an equal number of times as “feed” and “rule.”
 - b. However, the context here seems to emphasize leadership since the opening phrase is qualified by *exercising oversight*.
 - 2. Of major concerning in this passage is the issue of motivation.
 - a. *not under compulsion, but willingly* – The pastor should DESIRE to fulfill this calling. If there is no desire, then perhaps there was never a call to it.
 - b. *not for shameful gain, but eagerly* – The pastor's motivation should never be to make “easy money.” Such a thought pattern shows a selfish heart that will not *shepherd the flock* when doing so becomes difficult.
 - c. *not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples* – The pastor should have heart that always desires what is best for *the flock*. He should not be *domineering* in the sense of setting up his own “kingdom,” but should rather live as an example of Christ-likeness in order to lead *the flock* to maturity.
 - 3. Pastoring takes in all the activities of shepherding.
 - a. A congregation that has weak leadership or a lack of direction will be easy prey for the Enemy.
 - b. A congregation that is not well-fed (spiritually) will be easily led astray into false doctrine, and will be unprepared for victory in spiritual warfare.

Westfield Baptist Church
January Business Meeting

Jan. 8, 2014

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on January 8, 2014. There were 52 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the December 11, 2013 monthly business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Golden Years

Ruth Chilton stated that there were two trips planned for the senior adults: A shopping trip to Tanger outlet in January and to the dinner theater in Wytheville in February, for which 25 reservations had been made. Both trips are open to anyone who'd like to go and sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.

Van Committee

Chuck Chilton reported that we'd been having a lot of trouble with the church's red van and that the committee had been looking for a new van. He gave details of a 2012 Ford E350 15-passenger van that Joe Cook had found. He presented a motion that the congregation authorize the Van Committee to purchase this van for \$23,000 or less, which did not require a second. After a brief discussion, the motion passed. It would be determined at a later date if the red van would be sold.

Finance

Mickey Love asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

Deacons

Mark Oakley, representing the Deacons and the Constitution Committee, directed everyone's attention to a hand-out outlining a proposed constitutional revision. (A detailed copy is on file.) He asked everyone to read and prayerfully consider the proposed revision for the next month and be prepared to discuss it further at the February business meeting. Approval to accept the revision would then be voted upon Sunday, the 16th at the close of both services.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

At the close of the 11:00 service on January 12, 2014, Dan, Becky and Kyle Glynn came forward to unite with our church on the promise of letters from First Baptist Church in Pilot Mountain. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family.

At the close of the 11:00 service on January 19, 2014, Ted and Traci Duke came forward to unite with our church on the promise of letters from Spout Springs Church in Cameron, NC. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family.

At the close of the 11:00 service on January 26, 2014, Allen Duke came forward to unite with our church on the promise of letter from Spout Springs Church in Cameron, NC. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept him into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church

February Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on February 19, 2014. There were 58 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the January 8th, 12th, 19th and 26th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

The church clerk reported that there was no record of Allen Duke being a member at Spout Springs Church and made a motion to accept him on a statement of faith rather than transfer of letter. The motion was seconded by Billie Lowe and passed.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Deacons

Chairman, Mark Oakley, put forth a motion that the church pay for Pastor Joel's airline ticket to Hungary on March 21st. The cost is \$1189 and would be paid from the International Missions budget.

Nominating

Kathy Sutphin directed everyone's attention to a handout listing the members of the new Building Committee and made a motion that the list be accepted as printed. The motion did not require a second and passed.

Finance

Chairman, Mickey Love, reported that one of the church's certificates had been closed and a new van purchased at a cost of \$21,523. The balance of the closed certificate, \$4451.44, was deposited into the General Fund.

He then asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

Old Business

Pastor Joel reminded everyone that the proposed constitutional revision presented last month would be discussed, and then opened the floor for questions and debate; there were none. He then stated that the vote for the revision would be take place at the end of both services on Sunday.

New Business

As a matter of information, Pastor Joel reported that our church fellowship hall would be the new Surry County voting location on May 6th and June 24, July 15 if a second primary was called for, and the general election in November. He explained the details, stating there would be no rental fee charged. However, the church would receive \$100 per day for use of the facilities. There were no objections or questions.

He then referred to a handout outlining an American Red Cross Managed Shelter Proposal, a copy of which is on file. The motion to accept the proposal for our church to become a managed shelter in the event of natural disaster came from the Deacons and did not require a second. The motion passed.

The next steps in the process are training for participating church members as chaperones, as well as final negotiations concerning the duration of the stay, etc., which are to be determined by the church.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator

Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

March Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2014. There were 51 members present. The meeting, preceded by a spaghetti meal prepared by the Baptist Men, was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the February 19th, February 23rd and March 9th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Deacons

Chairman, Mark Oakley, came forward to lead in a prayer for Pastor Joel and his team as they travel to the Roma Bible Institute in Hungary. Pastor Joel updated everyone on current events in Budapest and thanked everyone for their continued prayers. He also thanked the Baptist Men for the night's meal.

Mr. Oakley reminded the Building Committee members of their meeting Thursday at 7:00 in Darrin Haywood's classroom. He also reported that the Baptist Men would be meeting on Saturday, the 29th at 8:00 for breakfast and a workday.

Worship

Suzette Jessup reminded everyone that the group, Holy Obsession, would be leading in a time of praise and worship on Sunday, March 30 at 6:30.

Finance

Chairman, Mickey Love, reported that the proceeds from the sale of the red van would be deposited into the General Fund.

He then asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

As a matter of information, Pastor Joel reported that the Baptist Children's Homes Mills Home in Thomasville had sustained severe damage from the recent ice storm. The cottages were spared and the children remained safe, but the impact of the storm was substantial. However, thousands of dollars were lost in food alone due to power outages. Returning the campus to normal would be an extensive and costly endeavor and Pastor Joel outlined three ways to help immediately:

1. Financial gifts to help to defray the cost estimated into tens of thousands of dollars
2. Volunteering to help with clean up
3. Most importantly, praying for the children, staff, volunteers and others who were impacted by the storm

He also encouraged those in the workplace to utilize their work-related associations where possible.

Westfield Baptist Church
April Business Meeting

April 9, 2014

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2014. There were only 32 members present, which did not constitute a quorum. Therefore, all reports given were for information only and could not be voted upon. The meeting was officiated by Deacon Chairman, Mark Oakley.

Minutes from the March 12th business meeting and April 6th baptism were read.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Baptist Men

Mark Oakley reported that, in lieu of the monthly men's breakfast, there would be a skeet shoot at Chuck Chilton's home Saturday, April 26th, at 10:00 a.m. Hot dogs would be provided for lunch.

Missions

Kathy White reported that the Missions Committee and the Coed 2 Sunday school class were co-sponsoring a rummage sale May 2nd and 3rd from 8:00 to 1:00. All proceeds would go to the middle school backpack project. Darrin Haywood, teacher for the Coed 2 class, explained that there were many children whose families were struggling financially and may not otherwise have food to eat. Backpacks would be filled with food for these children to take home to their families over the weekend.

Building/Grounds

Mickey Arrington reported that the committee was discussing re-wrapping the church's 25 windows with Lexan polycarbonate. They are currently covered with yellowing Plexiglas and the cost to cover them will be \$6694.54. He stated that one window had been completed and encouraged everyone to take a look at it after the meeting.

He also reported that the committee had authorized the purchase of new shrubbery and thanked James Paul Jessup for the tremendous job he'd done planting the bushes around the sanctuary. He also stated that 25 camelias had been purchased and planted around the picnic shelter area, and that several tombstones had been repaired. It was his hope that payment for this could come from the Cemetery Fund.

Some of the committee's upcoming projects include work on the church pews and new mulch in the playground area.

Finance

Chairman, Mickey Love, asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Copies of a proposed change to the bylaws were distributed. The Deacons, with the advice and consent of the Constitution Committee, propose to include a new article in the church's bylaws clarifying our religious convictions concerning social issues facing the Church today. A copy of the proposed change is on file and will be voted on at the May business meeting.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Mark Oakley, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

June

Westfield Baptist Church
April Business Meeting

April 9, 2014

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2014. There were only 32 members present, which did not constitute a quorum. Therefore, all reports given were for information only and could not be voted upon. The meeting was officiated by Deacon Chairman, Mark Oakley.

Minutes from the March 12th business meeting and April 6th baptism were read.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Baptist Men

Mark Oakley reported that, in lieu of the monthly men's breakfast, there would be a skeet shoot at Chuck Chilton's home Saturday, April 26th, at 10:00 a.m. Hot dogs would be provided for lunch.

Missions

Kathy White reported that the Missions Committee and the Coed 2 Sunday school class were co-sponsoring a rummage sale May 2nd and 3rd from 8:00 to 1:00. All proceeds would go to the middle school backpack project. Darrin Haywood, teacher for the Coed 2 class, explained that there were many children whose families were struggling financially and may not otherwise have food to eat. Backpacks would be filled with food for these children to take home to their families over the weekend.

Building/Grounds

Mickey Arrington reported that the committee was discussing re-wrapping the church's 25 windows with Lexan polycarbonate. They are currently covered with yellowing Plexiglas and the cost to cover them will be \$6694.54. He stated that one window had been completed and encouraged everyone to take a look at it after the meeting.

He also reported that the committee had authorized the purchase of new shrubbery and thanked James Paul Jessup for the tremendous job he'd done planting the bushes around the sanctuary. He also stated that 25 camelias had been purchased and planted around the picnic shelter area, and that several tombstones had been repaired. It was his hope that payment for this could come from the Cemetery Fund.

Some of the committee's upcoming projects include work on the church pews and new mulch in the playground area.

Finance

Chairman, Mickey Love, asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Copies of a proposed change to the bylaws were distributed. The Deacons, with the advice and consent of the Constitution Committee, propose to include a new article in the church's bylaws clarifying our religious convictions concerning social issues facing the Church today. A copy of the proposed change is on file and will be voted on at the May business meeting.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Mark Oakley, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

DR. JOEL L. STEPHENS, SENIOR PASTOR

6713 Westfield Road, Westfield, NC 27053

Phone: (336) 351-3311

E-mail: wbcpastor@surry.net

www.WestfieldBaptistChurch.org



Westfield

BAPTIST CHURCH

Christ-centered. Family-focused. Bible-based.

April 9, 2014

SUBJ: Proposed Change to the By-Laws of Westfield Baptist Church

Dear Congregation:

As I'm sure you are all aware, there is an attack on marriage in our nation. The overstepping of a federal judge in any given state seems an almost weekly occurrence. A recent article in the *Winston-Salem Journal* makes it clear that the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, which covers the Carolinas, West Virginia, Virginia and Maryland, will hear potentially ground-breaking marriage cases in the coming months.. In other words, the Marriage Amendment passed by the NC voters in May 2012 may not survive to see its second anniversary.

Most of this recent judicial onslaught is the direct product of the Supreme Court's decision last year to declare parts of the federal Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional on the grounds of discrimination. This decision has given federal judges in lower courts the ground they desired to declare many of the individual state's efforts to protect marriage to be in violation of the federal constitution. The Supreme Court will most likely rule in at least one or perhaps three cases concerning the definition of marriage in May or June. If the high Court continues to ignore the rights of the states and bow to the changing tides of public opinion, then same-gender marriage will likely be legal in all 50 states by the end of this year.

If this happens, it is more than probable that churches like ours will be faced with difficult challenges. In short, if I refuse to do a same-gender wedding, or if we refuse to allow our facilities to be used for such a "ceremony", then our church could be sued on the grounds of discrimination. Frankly, this seems inevitable.

But perhaps there are some steps we can take to protect ourselves somewhat. The Supreme Court still seems to value the Church's "religious freedom" sufficiently to protect us so long as our stance on marriage is clearly stated as "a religious conviction" in our governing documents. Therefore, I recently presented the attached suggested changes to your Deacons and Constitution Committee for their consideration. Both whole-heartedly supported them.

I am fully aware that we have just concluded a Constitutional change. It is not our usual practice to bring so much change so close together. But with the decisions of the Supreme Court looming on the horizon, I do not feel that this can wait. Any legal challenge will most likely come directly on the heels of any decision that the high Court gives later this year while emotions are high and while the opposition has the most momentum.

The language in the proposed changes comes almost entirely from the recommendations of the Alliance Defending Freedom's attorneys. The Alliance Defending Freedom (formerly the Alliance Defense Fund) has been a solid conservative voice in the judicial processes of our country for years. And they have a proven track record of helping churches and other faith-based non-profits navigate these dark waters. Check them out on the web at <http://www.alliancedefendingfreedom.org>

These inclusions - if approved - will NOT prevent us from being sued. BUT they may go a long way to preventing it and/or giving us a leg to stand on if/when we are sued.

As always, your prayer input is welcome. However, I would ask you to be mindful that the language given by the ADF is strategically crafted by those who have legal experience in creating such documents. In other words, I think we need to be careful how much we tinker with it lest we unravel the protection the language offers.

I am saddened beyond description that we have arrived at this place in the country that I love. But I/we cannot allow my/our disappointment and discouragement to blind us to the need to protect our congregation (as much as possible) in these troubling times. Please prayerfully consider adopting these revisions in order to do so.

Joel

We proclaim Him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. - Colossians 1:28

Proposed Change to the WBC's By-Laws

The Deacons, with the advice and consent of the Constitution Committee, move the adoption of the following proposed changes to Westfield Baptist Church's By-Laws. We propose to include a new Article to our By-Laws clarifying our congregation's religious convictions concerning the social issues facing the Church today.

ARTICLE V – STATEMENTS OF RELIGIOUS CONVICTIONS

The following statements seek to clarify with further detail certain religious convictions already alluded to in our Church Covenant.

Section 1 - Statement of Biblical Authority

The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the membership of Westfield Baptist Church – under the leadership of the pastors and deacons – shall be the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Section 2 – Statement of Faith and Doctrine.

While we recognize that no statement of faith written by mankind could exhaust the extent of our faith and convictions, Westfield Baptist Church affirms the Baptist Faith & Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention as the primary declaration of our religious doctrines which are ultimately derived from the Holy Bible.

Section 3 – Statement of Marriage and Sexuality.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexuality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Westfield Baptist Church.

Section 1 - Statement of Biblical Authority

The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the membership of Westfield Baptist Church – under the leadership of the pastor and deacons – shall be the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Section 2 – Statement of Faith and Doctrine

While we recognize that no statement of faith written by mankind could exhaust the extent of our faith and convictions, Westfield Baptist Church affirms the Baptist Faith & Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention as the primary declaration of our religious doctrines which are ultimately derived from the Holy Bible.

Section 3 – Statement of Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexuality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God.

Westfield Baptist Church

May Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. There were 59 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the March 12th and April 9th business meetings and the April 6th baptism were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Baptist Men

Mark Oakley reported that the Baptist Men would leave for Fayetteville West Virginia on Monday, June 2nd to help with the construction of a new house. They planned to return on Saturday, the 7th.

Building/Grounds

Mickey Arrington stated that last month he'd reported that the committee had been discussing re-wrapping the church's 25 windows with Lexan polycarbonate. Even though there weren't quite enough funds in the current budget to complete the job, which would cost \$6694.54, this needed to be done. He then made a motion to this effect, which did not require a second. The motion passed.

Finance

In Chairman Mickey Love's absence, Kathy White asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none. She also reported that the church rummage sale had raised \$1296 for the middle school backpack project.

Old Business

Copies of a proposed change to the bylaws have been available since the April business meeting. The motion would be brought back to the floor momentarily as new business.

New Business

There are three items of new business:

(1) Chuck Chilton thanked everyone for supporting the rummage sale and shared that, because of the Coed 2 Sunday school class's concern for hungry people, they'd partnered with the SEAMS Ministry to address this concern.

He then introduced Jimmy Caparolie from SEAMS, who presented another ministry opportunity for WBC to consider. He thanked us for our support over the years and shared the statistics of the number of people who have received food over the past year.

Mr. Caparolie then explained a summer-long pilot project which would help feed children 18 and under each Friday. This would require a commitment of volunteers and location.

Pastor Joel clarified that this was information-only at this point, encouraged prayerful consideration and asked that anyone interested contact the church office within the next two weeks.

(2) Pastor Joel then reported that he'd been contacted by Rev. Tracey Collins from Collinstown Presbyterian Church about a new food pantry ministry available on Thursdays between 9:00 & 5:00. Rev. Collins shared that volunteers were needed to travel to Winston Salem on Wednesday mornings to pick up food from the Second Harvest Food Bank. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Pastor Joel.

(3) The proposed change to the bylaws was brought back to the floor. The proposal made by the Deacons, with the advice and consent of the Constitution Committee, includes a new article in the church's bylaws clarifying our religious convictions concerning social issues facing the Church today. There were no questions. Ballots were distributed and the proposal was voted on and approved, 58 to 0, with one spoiled ballot caused by a contrived vote to "abstain."

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church
Called Business Meeting

At the close of the 11:00 service on May 18, 2014, Linda Heller came forward to unite with our church on a statement of faith as a candidate for baptism. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept her into our church family.

Joel Stephens, Moderator

Karoline Overby, Clerk

At the close of the service on June 8, 2014, Billy Tilley came forward to unite with our church on a statement of faith. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept him into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church

June ~~May~~ Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. There were 75 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the May 14th, May 18th and June 8th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building/Grounds

Mickey Arrington reported that the window re-wrapping project had been delayed due to the death of the company's owner, but would begin within the week.

WMU

Doris Jessup mentioned *Grace's Closet*, a nonprofit organization that provides free clothing to families in need, and informed everyone that donations of new or gently-used clothing could be brought to the Women 1 Sunday school class and placed in the black plastic bin. She also stated that the organization appreciates monetary donations and any volunteers who'd like to work at their location on 137 Holly Hill Drive in Mt. Airy.

Phil Sutphin spoke up on behalf of the WFVD and thanked the WMU for the appreciation meal they'd provided the previous Sunday.

Finance

Chairman, Mickey Love, asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

Other Business

Kelly Elliott gave an update on the middle school backpack project, stating it was very worthwhile and effective in providing food for children to take home to their families,

Old Business

Pastor Joel reported that there had not been enough interest expressed in pursuing the SEAMS ministry opportunity that Jimmy Caparolie presented at the May business meeting.

New Business

Mark Oakley, chairperson for the Building Committee, came forward with the following proposal:

"The Building Committee moves that Westfield Baptist Church purchase the Westfield Medical Center building and contents, and its property for the purchase price of \$150,000 to meet our need for additional education space. The Building Committee further moves that \$20,000 be set aside from the Building Fund to make the necessary renovations to our present campus and the Medical Center building."

Pastor Joel then began explaining the reason for the proposal, along with all the details, in a Power Point presentation. He then opened the floor for discussion. After several questions and comments, he ended the discussion, stating that the proposal would be discussed again at the July business meeting and then voted on by secret ballot at both services the following Sunday, July 13.

At the beginning of the eleven o'clock worship service on June 22, 2014, the church celebrated the Ordinance of Baptism with April Tilley as she was baptized by Pastor Joel Stephens.

At the beginning of the eleven o'clock worship service on June 22, 2014, the church celebrated the Ordinance of Baptism with Linda Heller as she was baptized by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Westfield Baptist Church
Called Business Meeting

At the end of both worship services on Sunday, July 6, 2014, Pastor Joel Stephens called the church into session to accept nominations for Deacons, Directors and Nominating Committee members. Ballots were distributed and collected, and the meetings were adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator

Karoline Overby, Clerk

At the close of the 11:00 service on July 6, 2014, Brandon Lowe came forward to unite with our church on the promise of a letter from First Baptist Church in York, S. C. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept him into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church

July Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, July 9, 2014. There were 64 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the June 22nd and July 6th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Deacons

Mark Oakley asked that everyone pray for wisdom concerning nominations for Deacon for the next church year.

Building/Grounds

Mickey Arrington reported that the window re-wrapping project supplies had been ordered and work would begin when they were received.

WMU

Doris Jessup reported that the new food pantry in Stokes County gladly accepts fresh produce if anyone had an over abundance in their gardens.

Golden Years

Ruth Chilton reported that 22 tickets had been purchased for the December show at the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater.

Nominating

In the chairman's absence, Pastor Joel presented the names of the 2014-15 Church Council. This comes from a standing committee, requiring no second. A correction was made to the names listed for VBS Directors and the motion was approved with the change.

Finance

Mickey Love asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

Old Business

Pastor Joel recapped the proposal to expand educational space through the purchase of the Westfield Medical Center building as presented by the Building Committee at the June monthly business meeting. He opened the floor for discussion, answering questions and explaining the timeline if the proposal passed. He then closed the floor for discussion. The proposal would be voted on by secret ballot at both services the following Sunday, July 13.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Kargline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

Called Business Meetings

At the end of both worship services on Sunday, July 13, 2014, Pastor Joel Stephens called the church into session for the purpose of voting on the proposal to expand educational space through the purchase of the Westfield Medical Center building as presented by the Building Committee at the June monthly business meeting and then discussed at the July business meeting. Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted with a vote of 148 to 2 in the affirmative.

Westfield Baptist Church

August Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, August 13, 2014. There were 59 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the July 9th and July 13th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Deacons

Mark Oakley reminded everyone that Pastor Joel would be traveling to the Roma Bible Institute in Hungary in September. He presented a motion that the pastor be reimbursed \$1323.60 from the International Missions budget line item for his airline ticket. This motion did not require a second and passed unanimously.

Building/Grounds

Mickey Arrington reported that the window re-wrapping project was complete. Copies of the Building/Grounds Committee 2014 Work Summary were also made available.

WMU

Doris Jessup reminded everyone of the blood drive on September 21, and reported that donations for the Surry Medical Ministry would be collected in September.

Golden Years

Ruth Chilton reminded everyone that tickets had been purchased for the December show at the Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theater and a sign-up sheet with additional information was located on the office hallway bulletin board.

Building Committee

Mark Oakley reported the he had signed the legal papers for the purchase of the Westfield Medical Center building. He also stated that the committee would meet August 28th to continue discussion on the new building addition.

Finance

Mickey Love asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none. Copies of the proposed budget were distributed and would be voted upon at the September year-end business meeting.

New Business

Grace Stewart questioned the leaks in the sanctuary and downstairs classroom, some of which was the result of the large amount of rain we'd recently received. The Building/Grounds Committee has discussed how to correct the downstairs leak and will be addressing the issue with the addition of the new building.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

At the close of the 11:00 service on August 17, 2014, the following individuals came forward to unite with our church: David, Sherry and Kate Margaret Parks by transfer of letters from First Baptist Church Kannapolis; and, Jacob Duke, Nora King, Harrison Parks and Matthew Cagle on professions of faith as candidates for baptism. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church
River Baptism 2014

On August 24, 2014, WBC celebrated the Ordinance of Baptism with friends and family at Flippin Bottom on the Dan River. Ten people were baptized with nine joining the church membership. Assisted by pastors Joel Stephens and Kendall Yarboro, Nora King was baptized by her father, Rodney King, and Jacob Duke was baptized by his father, Ted Duke. Rebekah Crowson, Harrison Parks, Cole Casstevens, Tyler Smith, Trace Simmons, Matthew Cagle and Travis Cagle were baptized by Pastor Stephens and Pastor Yarboro. Jasper Anders was also baptized, but did not desire church membership at this time.

Westfield Baptist Church
Called Business Meetings

At the end of both worship services on Sunday, August 31, 2014, Pastor Joel Stephens called the church into session for the purpose of voting for Deacons, Directors and Nominating Committee members. Ballots were distributed, collected, and counted, with the following results:

- For Deacon - Bob Rosell, Jonathan Sutphin, Mickey Love and Phillip Simmons
- For Director - Darrin Haywood
- For Nominating Committee - Jill Smith, Courtney King

Joel Stephens, Moderator

Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church
Called Business Meeting

On August 24, 2014, WBC traveled to Flippin Bottom on the Dan River to celebrate the Ordinance of Baptism. The following individuals came forward at that time to unite with our church on professions of faith as candidates for baptism: Rebekah Crowson, Cole Casstevens and Travis Cagle. Pastor, Joel Stephens, called the church into conference and a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family. Jasper Anders also came forward to be baptized, but elected not to join the church at this time.

Westfield Baptist Church

September Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its year-end business meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2014. There were 72 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the August 13th, 17th, 24th and 31st business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Deacons

Mark Oakley came forward and lead prayer for Pastor Joel's trip to the Roma Bible Institute in Hungary. He also reminded everyone of Baptist Men's Day on the 14th and asked for prayer as the speaker for that day.

Building/Grounds

Mickey Arrington reported that he believed the leak in the sanctuary had been resolved.

WMU

Doris Jessup reminded everyone of the blood drive on September 21st and reported that donations for the Surry Medical Ministry were being collected through September. She referred everyone to the bulletin where suggested items were listed. She also noted that the WMU regular meeting time had been changed to 11:00 a.m. beginning the first Monday in October.

Finance

Mickey Love asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

Missions

Kathy White reported that the Missions Committee had been approached by a church member concerning a new ministry opportunity and introduced Sue Smith. Sue shared the burden placed on her heart concerning the importance of dental care and the health consequences for those unable to afford it. She then explained the details of the N. C. Baptist Men's Mobile Medical Dental Ministry, which offers mobile dental units to churches in order to provide free dental care to their communities. She would like our church to reserve a dental bus, which would come and set up in our parking lot in the spring or fall of 2015. A \$200 reservation fee is required for the clinic day requested. She has already recruited dentists and dental assistants who are willing to volunteer their time if the congregation approves of this ministry.

Pastor Joel interjected that, as members of the N. C. Baptist State Convention, part of our church's weekly giving has already contributed to this mobile ministry. He then verified that Sue was making this recommendation as a motion. The motion was seconded, authorizing her to make a reservation, with the \$200 fee coming from the Special Missions budget line item. Additional funds totaling approximately \$2000 will be needed for various other related expenses and will be collected through a love offering. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

The proposed budget was distributed at the August business meeting and would be addressed in "New Business."

New Business

Kathy Sutphin, Nominating Committee chairperson, reported some changes to the 2014-15 slate of officers, teachers and committee members, copies of which were made available prior to the business meeting. After the changes were made, she, then, presented a motion for the adoption of the list as presented, with the changes discussed. Coming from a standing committee, the motion did not require a second. The floor was opened for questions or debate.

Doris Jessup asked why Super Church volunteers were not listed. Kathy responded, stating that Jessica and Kendall Yarboro were leading Super Church each week as a team, eliminating the need for additional adult volunteers. Kathy also stressed the need for additional volunteers in the nursery during worship services, and two additional Sunday school teachers for crib nursery. There being no further discussion, the motion to accept the list as presented, with the changes, passed.

Mickey Love, Finance Committee Chairman, referred to the proposed budget, previously distributed at the August business meeting, and made the recommendation, along with the Staff Relations Team and the Deacons, that the proposed budget, minus the salary packages, be accepted. This motion did not require a second. While ballots were being distributed, he pointed out various changes from last year's budget.

Pastor Joel asked if there were any questions pertaining to anything other than the salaries. Proper completion of the ballots was explained. Pastor Joel then turned over moderation of the meeting to Deacon Chairman, Mark Oakley. The pastor and his family, and the associate pastor and his family then left the meeting.

The proposed salary budget was then distributed and reviewed. There was no further discussion; voting ballots were completed and collected. The budgets were approved unanimously, 66-0.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned.

At the close of the 11:00 service on September 28, 2014, Samantha and Brianna Wilmoth came forward to unite with our church on professions of faith as candidates for baptism. A meeting was called by our associate pastor, Kendall Yarboro, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church

October Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, October 15, 2014. There were 47 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the September 10th, September 28th and October 12th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

WMU

Doris Jessup reminded everyone of the November offering for the N. C. Baptist Children's Homes, noting that there would be a guest speaker for both services on Sunday, the 16th.

Golden Years

Ruth Chilton mentioned the Red Bag project, a resource provided by the N. C. Baptist Aging Ministry that makes it easy to store all non-temperature-sensitive medications in one place. The bags are insulated so that temperature-sensitive medicines can be taken to doctor visits or on short trips. She encouraged anyone interested in obtaining one for themselves or a loved one to use the sign-up sheet on the office hallway bulletin board by the end of November. The Golden Years Committee will make these available in December to those who sign up.

Finance

Mickey Love asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

At the beginning of the eleven o'clock worship service on October 12, 2014, the church celebrated the Ordinance of Baptism with Samantha and Brianna Wilmoth as they were baptized by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Westfield Baptist Church

December Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, December 10, 2014. There were 46 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the November 12th, 16th, and 23rd business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building/Grounds

Mickey Arrington reported that remodeling on the office annex was 95% complete. He also stated that the icemaker wasn't working and could be repaired at a cost of \$1300, or replaced with a new unit costing \$3200. Other less-expensive options are being investigated.

WMU

Doris Jessup reminded everyone that the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions is being collected throughout December. She also stated that the LM post office is overflowing and asked everyone to pick up their Christmas cards.

Golden Years

June Tilley reported that there were two tickets available to the dinner theater show on Friday. If anyone is interested in going, please let her or Ruth Chilton know right away.

Finance

Mickey Love referred to the financial statement, noting that, although the checkbook balance was \$11,000, approximately \$5000 is designated, making the actual funds available only \$6000. This is slightly better than last month, even though October and November contributions were still not sufficient to meet the current weekly budget needs. He asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement or his comments; there were none.

He then took a moment to explain in detail how the counting committee determines fifth Sunday offerings based on information shown on contribution envelopes. Any amount listed on the General Fund line will be included in the fifth Sunday offering for the Building Fund, *unless* there is a clear indication otherwise, i.e. circling or highlighting the words "General Fund."

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens Moderator
Doris Jessup, Assistant Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

January Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2015. There were 42 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the December 10, 2014 business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

WMU

Doris Jessup informed everyone that Ladies' Day is Sunday, February 8, and encouraged everyone to wear red in support of the American Heart Association's fight against heart disease in women.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement, explaining some minor changes. He asked if there were any questions concerning the financial statement; there were none.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

February Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, February 15, 2015. There were 47 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the January 13, 2015 business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Benevolence

Sandra Shelton notified everyone that Brenda Oakley had been contacted by someone from Pioneer Hospital of Stokes in Danbury, informing her of their emergent need for liquid bath soap and cornstarch-based body powder. After some discussion, it was decided that baskets would be placed at the entrances for donations of these items.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none. He then asked that, until the general fund increases, committee chairpersons carefully consider the needs and costs before making purchases.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

At the beginning of the eleven o'clock worship service on February 21, 2016, the church celebrated the Ordinance of Baptism with Meredith Fogleman, Carrie Taylor and Kristen Fogleman as they were baptized by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Westfield Baptist Church

March Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. There were 48 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the February 11, 2015 business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent after a correction to the date was made.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

WMU

Doris Jessup reported that the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and donations for the N. C. Baptist Children's Homes Food Roundup would be received in April. She also noted that the Ruritans are accepting applications for their scholarship and that information can be obtained from the high school's guidance office.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none. He then reported that approximately \$10,000 had been spent on the office annex to date and that, per a conversation with Ken Shelton, the church should receive back a portion of the purchase price after the medical center's paperwork is complete and it is officially out of operation.

New Business

Mark Oakley reported that the Building Committee would be updating the congregation at the April business meeting, as they weren't prepared to do so at this time. He notified the committee members of their next meeting on Sunday, March 29, at 2:30.

Brenda Oakley thanked everyone for their generous contributions of body soap and powder for the hospital in Danbury.

Kathy Meyer suggested the possibility of changing the monthly business meeting to a quarterly one. Pastor Joel stated this consideration would have to be addressed by the Deacons.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

April Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. There were 42 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the March 11, 2015 business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Missions

Kathy White reminded everyone of the yard sale on April 17 & 18. Any donated items could be left on the stage.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Old Business

The Building Committee was not ready to give a report.

Pastor Joel reported that the Deacons had reviewed the recommendation made at the March meeting concerning monthly business meetings. They determined it was most advantageous for the church to continue meeting monthly. He also noted that, going forward, he would have a short bible study anytime the meeting ended early.

New Business

withdrew his motion.
Bob Harding recommended and made a motion that the church purchase lessons 1 & 2 of the Rosetta Stone Spanish & Latin American computer program to help educate anyone interested in learning to communicate with, and witness to, Hispanic people. Frank Meyer seconded the motion.

After a lengthy discussion about its effectiveness, location, licensing and cost, Phil Sutphin introduced a motion to table Mr. Harding's motion, allowing him time to gather additional information before bringing the motion back to the floor. This motion was seconded and approved.

Jonathan Sutphin reported that the playground area needed some attention. The recommendation was referred to the Building & Grounds Committee, who accepted responsibility to address the issue. Mickey Love made a motion that funds currently set aside for Playground Equipment be used, which was seconded and approved.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

May Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2015. There were 48 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the April 8 and May 3, 2015 business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Nominating

Kathy Sutphin reported that Chuck Chilton had stepped down from the Staff Relations Team and made a motion on behalf of the Nominating Committee that Frank Meyer serve the remainder of his 3-year term. The motion was approved.

Old Business

Bob Harding withdrew the motion, which was tabled at the April business meeting, that the church consider purchasing Rosetta Stone software.

New Business

Mark Oakley, first of all, thanked the men who had helped build the wheelchair ramp for Dan Beseth.

He then summarized the actions of the Building Committee concerning the construction of a new building. He reported that they believed they were being led in a different direction now that the Sunday school classroom situation had been resolved with the purchase of the medical center building and renovations to the old offices. He said that Bobby Patterson would be present at the July business meeting with a new Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) to remodel the existing sanctuary. He encouraged everyone to attend and be prepared with any questions.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

At the close of the 11:00 service on May 3, 2015, Chad and Pam Davis came forward to unite with our church on the promise of letters from Bethany Baptist Church in Winston Salem. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church

June Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, June 10, 2015. There were 48 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

A letter of transfer for Adam and Tammy Delp and minutes from the May 13, 2015 business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building/Grounds

Mickey Arrington informed everyone of a workday scheduled for Saturday morning beginning at 7:00. He also reported that the old office desks were moved to the picnic shelter and available for anyone who'd like them.

Staff Relations Team

Our custodian will be out of town the weekend following bible school and will not be able to clean. The church family was asked to help with clean-up after VBS ends on Friday night.

Nominating

Frank Jessup asked everyone to please submit ministry opportunity forms, as these are very helpful to the Nominating Committee as they are seeking to fill positions for the upcoming church year. Kathy Sutphin reported that the committee would begin meeting on Wednesday, June 17.

Missions

Doris Jessup made a motion that the \$587.20 in the Food Pantry budget line item be released to the Northern Stokes Food Pantry. The motion was seconded and approved.

Audio-Visual

On behalf of the committee, Joel reported having received some comments concerning the church's sound system; and he said that the front projector had actually just stopped working altogether that very evening. He said we'd received a quote for a new sound system some time ago in the amount of approximately \$5000 and recommended the committee get back in touch with Skyworx for an updated quote, as well as gather multiple quotes to present to the church. He stated that two families had volunteered to help pay for a new sound system. He made no motion for the purchase of a new sound system, but did entertain a motion that the church approve the creation of a special offering to upgrade essential components of the sound system and, possibly replace the front projector, through the month of July. A motion to this effect was made by Lauren Meyer, seconded by Mickey Love and, after some discussion, was approved.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none. He also asked that committee chairpersons submit budget requests to the Finance Committee by June 30.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

At the close of the 11:00 service on June 28, 2015, the Fogleman family came forward to unite with our church: Duane and Trena, by statements of faith, having already been baptized by immersion; Devin, by statement of faith; and, Joshua, by profession of faith, both as candidates for baptism. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church

July Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, July 15, 2015. There were 57 members present. After a meal prepared by the Deacons, the meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the June 10, June 29 and July 5, 2015 business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Nominating

Kathy Sutphin and Jill Smith came forward, Jill reading a letter of resignation from church treasurer, Barbara Lowe. Lists of the Church Council for the upcoming year were distributed. Kathy pointed out that Suzette Jessup had agreed to serve as the new treasurer and presented a motion that the Church Council be accepted as presented. Coming from a committee, the motion did not require a second and was approved.

Website Administrator

Krista Cox gave a short presentation, walking through the various aspects of the new church website.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Representing the Building Committee, Pastor Joel presented a Power Point presentation of the proposed floor plan and renovations to the church sanctuary. WFD firefighter, Jonathan Sutphin, gave a fire report previously done on the existing sanctuary. Mr. Bobby Patterson, the architect working with the committee, was in attendance and joined Pastor Stephens at the front to answer any questions the congregation might have. After several questions and discussion, Pastor Joel reported that a survey from the committee would be inserted in the bulletins for the next two Sundays. He asked everyone to prayerfully consider the survey and return it by August 2.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

On July 5, 2015, Courtney Greeson came forward on a profession of faith as a candidate for baptism, but elected not to join the church at this time. Pastor Joel Stephens called the church into conference and a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept her.

Westfield Baptist Church

August Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2015. There were 51 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the July 15, 2015 business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent. The clerk presented a motion that the church grant a Letter of Transfer for Larry and Brenda Collins, who had united with Victory Baptist Church. The motion did not require a second and was approved.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building Committee

Mark Oakley reported that 105 surveys had been returned and thanked everyone for doing so. He stated that 60% were, 40% were not, in favor of the proposed floor plan for renovations to the church sanctuary presented at the July business meeting. The committee had met and decided to take some time to consider suggestions made on the surveys before bringing back recommendations at a later date.

Nominating

Kathy Sutphin directed everyone's attention to copies of the newly-created Cemetery Oversight Committee job description, and moved that the church approve creating this committee. She noted that the decision to form a committee, which would consist of five people, was made after the passing of Mr. John Kuhl, who'd contacted her several months prior about resigning his responsibilities. Mr. Kuhl, who had been solely responsible for keeping the cemetery records for many years, shared with her that the task had become too much for one individual. The motion to approve creating this committee did not require a second and, after a brief discussion, carried.

She, then, presented the names of the five men who had agreed to serve a one-year term on this committee: Mark Oakley, Wayne Nester, Lane Jessup, Mickey Arrington and Phil Sutphin. The motion was made and unanimously approved to accept these men as the new Cemetery Oversight Committee.

Mrs. Sutphin then shared that a new Sunday school class for young adults, college-age and over, was being offered. Lane and Suzette Jessup would begin teaching the class the first Sunday in September. The motion to form this class was made and approved.

Before leaving the podium, Mrs. Sutphin made everyone aware of a few available opportunities to serve during the new church year, beginning October 1. One helper is needed in the 2nd-3rd grade class, one helper is needed in the K-1st grade class and two substitutes are needed for two adult classes. She asked that members prayerfully consider serving in these areas and contact the church office or a member of the Nominating Committee if led to do so.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none. He then reviewed the proposed 2015-2016 church budget, which would be voted on at the September business meeting.

Mickey Arrington asked the members of the Cemetery Oversight Committee to meet briefly after the business meeting. There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

At the close of the 11:00 service on August 23, 2015, Michael Fogleman came forward to unite with our church on a profession of faith as a candidate for baptism. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept him into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church
September Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its year-end business meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. There were 76 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the August 12th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th, 2015 business meetings were read by Doris Jessup, Assistant Clerk, and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Nominating

Kathy Sutphin thanked all those who had agreed to serve during the next church year. She directed everyone's attention to copies of new Worship Ministry Team guidelines, explaining that many of the responsibilities of the Events Planning and the Worship Ministry Teams overlapped. Therefore, the decision had been made to dissolve Events Planning and revise the guidelines. The motion to approve this action did not require a second and passed unanimously.

She, then, referred to the document listing the Slate of Officers, teachers and ministry team members for the 2015-2016 church year. After corrections were made, the motion to accept this document was made. Coming from a standing committee, the motion did not require a second and was approved. Sandra Shelton asked if the new Coed 4 Sunday school class was only for new members. Dan Glynn, who will teach the class, answered that anyone could attend, but that the emphasis was on getting those not currently enrolled in a Sunday school class to do so.

Baptist Men

Pastor Joel stated that there would be a skeet shoot at Chuck Chilton's home in lieu of the next men's breakfast. It is scheduled for Saturday, October 17, at 9:00 a.m.

Missions

Kathy White reported that, after taking an inventory of the Food Pantry, the food had been collected and given to Pilot Mountain Outreach, because much of it was nearing expiration. In the future, donations should be given to that organization or to the Northern Stokes Food Pantry in Francisco,

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none. He then reviewed the proposed 2015-2016 church budget. He stated that the associate pastor had asked that \$2000 of his salary be redirected to the housing line item so it would not be taxed. There was no discussion and the proposed budget, excluding the salaries, was approved.

Voting ballots for salaries were then distributed and Pastor Joel turned moderation of the meeting over to Deacon Chairman, Mickey Arrington. The pastors left the meeting and the salary packages were reviewed. The Staff Relations Team; the Finance Committee and the Deacons recommended that all salaries remain the same as last year. After voting by ballot was completed, the ballots were collected and counted. The proposed budget passed, with the results as follows: 66 for and 0 against the budget without salary packages, and 64 for and 1 against the presented salary packages.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Doris Jessup, Assistant Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

October Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its monthly business meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2015. There were 45 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the September 9, 2015 business meeting were read by and approved by unanimous consent. The church clerk presented two motions to grant letters of transfer for Jo Ann Lawson and Melissa Jessup. The motions were seconded and unanimously approved.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Baptist Men

Mark Oakley reminded the men about the skeet shoot at Chuck Chilton's home on Saturday, October 17, at 9:00 a.m.

Golden Years

Ruth Chilton reported that there would be a community meal in Pilot Mtn. on November 16.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Building Committee

Copies were distributed of the Building Committee's response to the church's requests concerning sanctuary expansion and renovation; a copy is on file. Mark Oakley reviewed the document, stating it was information for the congregation to think and pray about, and asked if there were questions. Jay Bolen asked if upgrades to the sanctuary would be compatible with future renovations, to which Mark answered, yes, they would. Sandra Shelton asked if there was an alternative to carpeting the front porch. Mickey Arrington replied that tile would be twice as much and presented other issues, making it a less-than-favorable option.

New Business

Sandra Shelton asked if the Cemetery Fund had a treasurer now. As a member of the newly-created Cemetery Oversight Committee, Lane Jessup is handling the financial aspect of the cemetery. The church treasurer, Suzette Jessup, reported that Cemetery Fund contributions should now be funneled through the Counting Committee and General Fund.

Mickey Arrington reminded everyone of Pastor Appreciation Day on October 18.

Joe Cook asked members of the Benevolence Committee to meet briefly after the business meeting.

B. J. Love reported that the organ and baby grand piano had shown signs of being tampered with, though no damage had been done to either. She also noted that the piano in the fellowship hall needed some repairs and suggested that, since it wasn't being used, the church might donate it to a nursing home after repairs had been made. Karoline Overby will contact Aubrey Bullington to get an estimate on the cost of repairs.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

On October 25, 2015, Jack Brightwell came forward to unite with our church on a profession of faith as a candidate for baptism. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept him into our church family.

At the beginning of the eleven o'clock worship service on November 8, 2015, the church celebrated the Ordinance of Baptism with Michael Fogleman as he was baptized by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Westfield Baptist Church November Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, November 11, 2015. There were 57 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the October 14th, 25th, and November 8th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

WMU

Doris Jessup reminded everyone of the offering for the N.C. Baptist Children's Homes, which is being collected through November, and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in December. She also said the LM post office would be open the first of December and encouraged everyone to get their Christmas cards in early.

Building Committee

Mark Oakley reported that the parsonage needs a new septic system and presented a motion that funds up to \$6500 be used from the Building Fund to have it purchased and installed. Mickey Arrington asked about the possibility of damage to the grounds by the heavy equipment and was assured this would not be a problem. The motion did not require a second and passed unanimously.

Golden Years

Ruth Chilton reminded everyone of the community meal in Pilot Mtn. on November 16th.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none. He did note a small change in the line item for Deceased Members Families, stating that the budgeted amount of \$450 was divided between flowers and meals, creating two separate line items.

Old Business

Karoline Overby reported it was Aubrey Bullington's opinion that repairing the piano located in the fellowship hall would cost more than obtaining a new one. A motion was made and seconded that Wayne Nester dispose of the piano. However, the possibility of donating it to a nursing home was suggested, and B. J. Love was asked to play the piano to see if it was worth donating. A motion was then made to table the original motion until next month's meeting, which was seconded and approved.

New Business

Mickey Arrington reported that a Church Safety & Security Seminar was being offered at the Surry Baptist Association on Monday, November 30th, and Tuesday, December 1st. He would be attending the seminar and invited others to attend as well.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

December Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, December 9, 2015. There were 48 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the November 11th business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building Committee

Pastor Stephens reported that repairs to the new septic system were underway and should be completed in a few days.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Old Business

Concerning the old piano located in the fellowship hall, B. J. Love reported that she had attempted to play it, and said it was not playable and beyond repair. Last month's tabled motion that Wayne Nester dispose of the piano was brought back to the floor and passed unanimously.

New Business

Ben Beers did a slideshow presentation of the new bible study he will be facilitating on Sunday nights beginning in January.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator

Karoline Overby, Clerk

At the close of the service on December 13, 2015, Steven Easter came forward to unite with our church on a profession of faith as a candidate for baptism. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept him into our church family.

At the close of the service on December 13, 2015, Travis and Carrie Taylor came forward to unite with our church, Travis by transfer of letter from Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, and Carrie as a candidate for baptism. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church

January Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016. There were 60 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the December 9th business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building Committee

Mark Oakley referred to the "Building Committee's Project Update to the Church" handout that was made available to everyone. A copy of this report is on file in the church office. He noted that the septic system project at the parsonage had been delayed due to all the wet weather. He, then, presented a motion to replace one of the two HVAC units that heat the fellowship hall. This one unit stopped working long ago. The cost to replace the unit is estimated at \$12,000, which will be taken from the Building Fund with any unused portion remaining in that fund. The motion came from a standing committee, which did not require a second. The question was asked whether it would be more feasible to purchase one larger unit to replace the two smaller units that were previously installed to heat the fellowship hall. After some discussion, the motion was tabled to allow Mickey Arrington time to call a representative from Pilot Mechanical. The motion to table was seconded and approved, and Mickey left the meeting to make the phone call.

While waiting for him to return, Mark once again referred to the Building Committee's report and presented a second motion that \$1600 be set aside from the Building Fund to remodel the downstairs bathrooms in the east educational wing (old education building), as well as replace the two exterior doors to that building with new, easy-exit doors that have a panic bar that locks from the outside, but allows anyone inside to exit quickly and easily. It was noted that locking the existing doors while services are taking place does not meet fire code. The possibility of selling the existing doors was suggested. Again, when both projects are complete, any unused funds will remain in the Building Fund. The motion did not require a second and, after a brief discussion, passed.

Mark, then, directed everyone's attention to the third item on the report, which has been moved up to "high priority" due to fire hazard concerns. It is the hope that this item will be presented at the February business meeting. Quotes are being obtained to re-wire the sanctuary and old education building. The report indicates that this will not require new wiring, outlets, fixtures, etc., but Mark asked that the word "wiring" be marked out and clarified that this meant any additional wiring. He reiterated that all the projects on the report are a result of the responses received on the survey given to church members many months ago. These were all items of concern that should be addressed before the church begins a new building program.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Audio-Visual

Grant Overby reported that, for some time, the Audio-Visual committee members had struggled with the sound system working properly. He directed everyone's attention to the proposal that had been distributed, explaining the drawing on the back and noting the quote of \$10,992.03. He reminded everyone that \$6335.00 had been received towards the purchase of new sound equipment and stated that a total of \$6000 would come from the Building Fund, allowing \$12,335 for the project should it exceed the quote. Any unused funds will remain in the Building Fund. Rather than sell the existing sound system, it can be used in the fellowship hall to replace that older system. The new components will be compatible with any renovations made to the sanctuary in the future and the carpenter will design the new sound booth to match the existing beadboard and wood. This proposal met with approval from the Building Committee and was presented as a motion that did not require a second. After several questions and discussion, the motion passed. A copy of the proposal with details is on file in the church office.

Mickey Arrington returned to the meeting, stating that he was unable to reach his contact. Pastor Joel stated that the original motion could be brought back to the floor as presented or it could be amended. Grace Stewart moved that the motion be voted upon, which would then be a motion to call to question and end debate on the motion presented. This required a second and 2/3 majority vote. The vote to call to question and cease debate passed.

The original motion to replace the HVAC unit as presented was then voted on and passed.

New Business

Mickey Arrington directed everyone to the fourth bullet point on the Building Committee's report, stating that, since receiving the estimate of \$1800 for an air conditioning unit for the Women 1 Sunday school classroom, he'd found out this was not an ideal unit for the room. A quieter, more favorable unit to supplement the current heating system would cost \$3300. This was only a matter of information and not to be voted on at this time.

A motion was made to adjourn. There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

At the close of the 11:00 service on January 31, 2016, Meredith Fogleman came forward to unite with our church on a statement of faith as a candidate for baptism. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept her into our church family.

Westfield Baptist Church

February Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2016. There were 41 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the January 13th and 31st business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building Committee

Mark Oakley updated the group, stating that they did not yet have the price for re-wiring the sanctuary and old educational wing, but hoped to bring that information to the March business meeting.

Mickey Arrington reported that the new HVAC unit to the fellowship hall had been installed.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

New Business

Chris Sloop came forward representing the Coed 2 Sunday school class and reported that their class, as well as other individuals, had been financially supporting the Surry County Schools Backpack Program, but because some problems had developed, they decided to stop funding this program. Currently \$1524.32 remain designated for that purpose. The class has decided to reallocate \$750 for the purchase of three \$250 Visa gift cards to give to the families of three children in the Westfield community who have been diagnosed with serious medical illnesses. He presented this as a motion, which was seconded and approved.

A motion was made to adjourn. There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

March Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2016. There were 45 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the February 10th and 21st business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Associate Pastor, Kendall Yarboro, presented a slide show presentation and details of the upcoming short-term youth mission trip to Staten Island, N. Y. The dates for this trip are July 2nd-9th with an organization called Score Domestic Missions. The cost per participant is expected to be \$600, with \$300 being provided by the attendee and \$300 coming from the church budget. Approximately \$4800 is the cost from the budget for 15 participants, but after fundraising events, the cost will be roughly \$2458. To eliminate the cost of flying, the church vans will depart from the church July 2nd, make the 9-hour drive to N. Y., and then return on July 9th after spending one night on the return trip home. Pastor Kendall then made a motion that the church approve taking \$300 per participant from the budget line item, which was seconded. The floor was open for discussion and the question was asked if the trip was limited to 15 individuals, to which Pastor Kendall replied it was not. Two adult chaperones per 7 youth are required by Score Domestic Missions. The parents of youth will be given the first opportunity to act as chaperones, with other willing adults being given the opportunity, if necessary. The motion was approved.

Building Committee

Mickey Arrington updated the group on the issue of re-wiring that the committee had been tasked with at the December business meeting. He reported that, after several weeks, the first electrician that had come to inspect the church's wiring and give an estimate said he was months behind in his work and would be unable to do the job. A second electrician, J. W. Bowman, was recommended by Pilot Mechanical. This gentleman has already done work for our church and comes highly recommended. Mickey met with him and, together, inspected every part of our electrical system. Mr. Bowman stated that our existing wiring was entirely safe, well-insulated, and did not need upgrading to be any safer. Two new outlets, however, will be required for installation of the new sound system, but this work can be done by members of the Building/Grounds Committee. After some discussion, the Building Committee was given the OK to move on to the next project without spending unnecessary money on re-wiring.

WMU

Doris Jessup reminded the group of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in April and asked that everyone in the room please take any Christmas cards still remaining before they were discarded.

Golden Years

Ruth Chilton reported that there would be a Pilot Mountain community meal at the library on Monday, April 25, at 6:00, and that there would be sign-up sheets for volunteers to serve or make desserts.

Missions Committee

Kathy White reminded everyone of the rummage sale youth fundraiser April 1st and 2nd, asking that items be brought to the stage area the last week in March.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement and pointed out that payments had been made from the Building Fund for the septic system at the parsonage and the heat pump to the fellowship hall. He asked if there were any questions; there were none. It was reported that there would be a "flagging" fundraiser in the future.

New Business

Mickey Arrington asked for an update on campus security, to which Pastor Joel replied that the Deacons were investigating ways to keep everyone safe while on the church premises. A report would be given in the next month or two.

A motion was made to adjourn. There being no other committee reports, old or new business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Doris Jessup, Assistant Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

April Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. There were 40 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the March 9th business meeting were read and a correction was made concerning the upcoming youth mission trip to N. Y. The minutes failed to record that the group would also spend one night on the trip to N. Y., rather than just on the return trip home. After the correction was made, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

WMU

Doris Jessup reminded everyone that monetary donations were being collected for the N. C. Baptist Children's Homes Food Roundup.

Baptist Men

Mark Oakley reported that the Baptist Men would travel to Fayetteville, West Virginia on a mission trip, leaving Sunday, June 12th at 2:00 p.m. and returning Thursday, June 16th. Anyone interested in going should contact Mark for more details.

Cemetery Oversight Committee

Mark Oakley reported the names of those serving on this committee. Besides himself, they are Phil Sutphin, Lane Jessup, Mickey Arrington and Wayne Nester. He referred to copies of the Cemetery Oversight Committee guidelines, which had been made available to everyone, explaining changes that were being proposed. A motion to accept the revised guidelines was made by this standing committee and did not require a second. The question was asked of whether the words "Cemetery Fund" should still be included on future checks written to the church, to which the church treasurer, Suzette Jessup, replied it was no longer necessary. The motion to accept the revised guidelines was approved.

Golden Years *Ruth Chilton*

Doris Jessup reminded everyone of the Pilot Mountain community meal at the library on Monday, April 25, asking that volunteers please use the sign-up sheet if willing to serve or make desserts.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement, noting that there was nothing unusual to report. He asked if there were any questions; there were none.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Doris Jessup, Assistant Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

May Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, May 11, 2016. There were 49 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the April 13th business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Baptist Men

Mark Oakley reported that the Baptist Men would help make improvements to weatherize a home on a mission trip to Fayetteville, West Virginia. The group will leave Sunday, June 12th at 2:00 p.m. and return Thursday, June 16th.

Cemetery Oversight Committee

Mark Oakley referred everyone to amended copies of the proposed Cemetery Rules and Regulations. These are to be reviewed for one month and voted upon at the June business meeting.

Building Committee

Mark Oakley reported that the committee was continuing to work through the project list that was distributed to the congregation in January. He, then, presented three motions. Since these came from a standing committee, they did not require seconds. Mark noted that all necessary funds would be taken from the Building Fund:

1. The two exterior doors located in the old educational wing must be replaced with new doors that have a push bar, as these cannot be installed on our existing doors as originally thought. The committee brings this as a motion because the cost will be \$4400, as opposed to the \$800 originally voted upon. After some discussion, a motion to table the original motion until another quote is obtained was made and seconded. The motion to table passed with six opposing votes.
2. The carpet on the front porch will be replaced at a cost of \$5000. This motion passed.
3. The remaining eleven windows in the old educational wing will be replaced at a cost of \$4000. This motion passed.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement; there were no questions. He also reminded everyone that budget preparation time is rapidly approaching and asked that any requests for changes in next year's budget be forwarded to the office or Finance Committee as soon as possible.

New Business

The recommendation was made that a copy of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations be posted on the church website for everyone to review before the next business meeting. A "DRAFT" watermark will be added across the document so everyone will know they have not yet been approved.

Pastor Joel also noted that, unless there was objection, a "DRAFT" copy of unapproved minutes from the business meeting each month would be posted around the campus, so those who were not in attendance at the meeting could read what took place before the minutes are officially approved a month later. There was no objection.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church

June Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. There were 44 members present. In the pastor's absence, the meeting was called to order by Deacon Chairman, Mickey Arrington.

Minutes from the May 11th business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Baptist Men

Mark Oakley thanked everyone for helping support their upcoming mission trip to Fayetteville, West Virginia. He reported that they would be installing drywall, insulation, etc.

Building Committee

Mickey Arrington updated everyone on the progress of the three projects voted on at the May business meeting.

1. The carpet on the front porch was re-measured and will now be replaced at a cost of \$4175 rather than \$5000 as originally thought. Installation will begin on Friday, the 10th.
2. The remaining eleven windows in the old educational wing were to be replaced at a cost of \$4000. However, one additional window was found, so twelve windows will now be replaced at a cost of \$4278. They will be ordered and installed the end of June or beginning of July.
3. As requested at the May business meeting, another quote for replacing the two exterior doors located in the old educational wing was obtained. The second quote states two new doors with a push bar will cost \$4354.90, which is only a slight reduction from the original quote of \$4400. This individual also stated that a push-release pad could be placed on the existing doors after all, and the cost for doing so would be \$648. Mickey will meet with an industrial fire and safety inspector and question him as to whether installing the push-release pads on the existing doors would pass inspection. He also noted that a "Security Team" would be created in the future, which would, most likely, consist of the Deacons. Phil Sutphin made a motion to add the push-release pads to the existing doors, given that the inspector approves doing so, and if he does not, two new doors identical to the ones in the fellowship hall will be installed. The motion was seconded by Mark Oakley and passed unanimously.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement; there were no questions. He also reminded everyone that the 2017 budget would be presented at the August business meeting and asked that budget requests be forwarded to the Finance Committee as soon as possible.

Old Business

Mickey Arrington referred to copies of the Cemetery Rules and Regulations, which had been available to the congregation for the past 30 days. There were no questions or changes. The motion to accept these as written was presented by the Cemetery Oversight Committee and did not require a second. The motion to accept the Cemetery Rules and Regulations was approved.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Mickey Arrington, Moderator

Karoline Overby, Clerk

At the end of both worship services on Sunday, July 10, 2016, Pastor Joel Stephens called the church into session to accept nominations for Deacons, Directors and Nominating Committee members. Ballots were distributed and collected, and the meetings were adjourned with prayer.

July 13, 2016

Westfield Baptist Church

July Business Meeting

Vestfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2016. There were 56 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the June 8th and July 10th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Baptist Men

Mark Oakley reported on the mission trip Fayetteville, West Virginia, and thanked the men who participated.

Building Committee

Mark Oakley reported that the carpet, window and door projects were almost completed. He also presented a motion that the fellowship hall be renovated by painting, installing new flooring, not to include the stage area, new window treatments, new tables and new chairs at a cost of no more than \$38,000, to be taken from the Building Fund. The committee has discussed making a change with the curtain hanging across the stage, but hasn't decided what to do yet. The motion did not require a second and was approved.

Nominating Committee

Kathy Sutphin moved that the 2016-2017 Church Council be adopted as printed and distributed, with the understanding that all vacancies would be filled as soon as possible. This motion did not require a second and was approved. She made a plea for everyone to pray that the vacancies on the Church Council and the slate of teachers and committee members be filled with the people God has chosen.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement; there were no questions.

Old Business

During the May 2016 business meeting, the Building Committee presented a motion to purchase two exterior doors with a push bar. After some discussion, Kathy Meyer moved that the motion to approve the expenditure be tabled until another quote could be obtained. The motion to table passed. At the June business meeting, an alternative motion was presented by the Building Committee to use a much less expensive option. That motion was passed. But the original motion that had been duly tabled had not been dealt with. Since the original motion presented in May was no longer needed, the Building Committee withdrew that motion.

New Business

Pastor Joel made the following two announcements:

1. The children attending Kidz Kamp will be making small bags as a mission project to hand out when they and their families encounter people at stoplights asking for money. These bags will include small personal items, meal cards and tracts, and he asked the congregation to help provide these items.
2. The Senior Adults will take a trip to Fort Caswell October 10-12. The cost is \$149 per person.

Grace Stewart reported that Franklin Graham would be leading a prayer vigil in Raleigh on October 13. Anyone interested in going or needing additional details should contact her.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

Aug. 10, 2016

Westfield Baptist Church

August Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2016. There were 62 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the July 13th business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building Committee

Mark Oakley reported that painting had begun in the fellowship hall. He also stated that there were several jackets hanging in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall; those not claimed will be discarded in one week.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement; there were no questions. He directed everyone's attention to copies of the 2016-17 Proposed Budget he'd placed on the communion table and asked everyone to pick up a copy as they depart.

There was no old or new business, but the following announcements were made:

1. Mickey Arrington stated there would be a meeting of the Cemetery Committee after the business meeting.
2. There are some loose bricks on the steps leading from the parking lot that need to be repaired. The Building/Grounds Committee will take care of this.
3. Mickey Arrington reported that the new A/C unit is being replaced after breaking down three times.
4. Pastor Joel reported that the bugs were almost worked out of the new sound system and asked that everyone be patient with the Audio-Visual Committee members, who are learning how to work a very complicated system.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

During the Prayer Rally on August 14, 2016, our pastor, Joel Stephens, called the church into conference. David and Stephanie Brown had come forward to unite with our church on the promise of letters from Trinity Baptist Church. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family.

Aug. 10, 2016

Westfield Baptist Church
August Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2016. There were 62 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the July 13th business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Building Committee

Mark Oakley reported that painting had begun in the fellowship hall. He also stated that there were several jackets hanging in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall; those not claimed will be discarded in one week.

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement; there were no questions. He directed everyone's attention to copies of the 2016-17 Proposed Budget he'd placed on the communion table and asked everyone to pick up a copy as they depart.

There was no old or new business, but the following announcements were made:

1. Mickey Arrington stated there would be a meeting of the Cemetery Committee after the business meeting.
2. There are some loose bricks on the steps leading from the parking lot that need to be repaired. The Building/Grounds Committee will take care of this.
3. Mickey Arrington reported that the new A/C unit is being replaced after breaking down three times.
4. Pastor Joel reported that the bugs were almost worked out of the new sound system and asked that everyone be patient with the Audio-Visual Committee members, who are learning how to work a very complicated system.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

During the Prayer Rally on August 14, 2016, our pastor, Joel Stephens, called the church into conference. David and Stephanie Brown had come forward to unite with our church on the promise of letters from Trinity Baptist Church. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept them into our church family.

Aug. 28, 2016

Westfield Baptist Church
Called Business Meeting

At the end of both worship services on Sunday, August 28, 2016, Pastor Joel Stephens called the church into session for purpose of electing Deacons, Directors, and Nominating Committee members.

Pastor Stephens announced that a vacancy had occurred on the Deacon Ministry Team. He entertained a motion that the man receiving the fifth highest number of votes on the Deacon ballot would fill the 2-year unexpired term of Roy Terwilliger. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Ballots for the election were then distributed and collected, and the meeting was adjourned.

Joel Stephens, Moderator

Karoline Overby, Clerk

Aug. 31, 2016

Westfield Baptist Church
Called Business Meeting

On Wednesday, August 31, 2016, Pastor Joel Stephens called the church into conference to hear a motion from the Deacons and Finance Committee. Pastor Stephens reported that there were 110 members present and asked Mickey Arrington and Mickey Love to come forward. Mr. Arrington presented a motion for the severance agreement for Kendall Yarboro, upon his resignation as associate pastor. The motion coming from standing committees did not require a second.

The church clerk came forward and read Pastor Kendall's letter of resignation, effective immediately following the approval of the severance agreement. A copy of the letter is on file in the church office. Ballots with the severance agreement were distributed and Pastor Joel reminded everyone that Robert's Rules of Order were being used. As such, all discussion was to be directed to the motion at hand, which was the approval or rejection of the severance package shown on the ballot. He then turned the floor over to Mr. Love, Finance Chairman, who read the points listed on the ballot. A copy of the severance agreement is also on file in the church office.

Pastor Joel opened the floor for questions and discussion on the motion, asking if anyone needed clarification of anything listed on the ballot. The question was asked as to why Pastor Kendall was resigning. There was some discussion, but more information was requested, so Mr. Arrington explained in as much detail as possible how the Deacons had arrived at this decision.

After a very lengthy and emotional discussion, a call for the question was given in order to end debate and proceed with voting. The motion to cease debate was made, seconded and approved by greater than 2/3 majority, with one opposed.

The floor was closed for discussion and voting proceeded on the motion as presented. Ballots were collected and immediately counted by the Deacons. The motion to approve the severance package passed 102 to 5.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator

Karoline Overby, Clerk

Westfield Baptist Church September Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its year-end business meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2016. There were 87 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the August 10th, 14th, 28th, and 31st business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent. A letter from New Hope Ministry requesting transfer of membership for Mr. Billy Tilley was read, and a motion made, seconded and approved to grant the letter of transfer.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance

Mickey Love reviewed the financial statement, noting that there was nothing unusual to report. He informed everyone that he'd spoken to Ken Shelton and that excess funds from the sale of the medical center should be returned to the church's Building Fund in the near future.

Nominating Committee

Kathy Sutphin asked that everyone refer to copies of the final report from their committee, stating that the changes and updates would be more effectively distributed in this way. She moved for the adoption of the 2016-17 Slate of Officers as printed with the inclusion of the changes put forth on the final report that was presented. The motion did not require a second and the floor was open for discussion. There were no questions from the floor, but Kathy directed attention to page 2 and the Sunday school teachers listed, noting that one additional teacher and assistant were needed for the 3-Pre-K class rotation. The motion to accept the printed Slate of Officers with the distributed changes was approved.

New Business

Grace Stewart reported that Pilot Mountain Outreach provides Thanksgiving meals each year and accepts assistance from churches who would like to partner with them. Ruth Chilton reported that the Senior Adult Committee has already committed to helping with this.

Mickey Love returned to the podium for presentation of the proposed budget as presented by the Finance Committee, Staff Relations Team and Deacons. He reviewed the proposed budget, without the salary package, making a motion that it be accepted. The floor was open for discussion of anything other than the salary portion. A question pertaining to the increase in Cooperative Program giving was explained as the fulfillment of a prior commitment to increase the giving to 12%. Mickey reminded everyone that these funds were designated for mission work. Voting ballots were then distributed and everyone was instructed to vote on the budget proposal without the salary package at this point.

Pastor Joel and his family then left the meeting, turning over moderation of the remainder of the meeting to the church clerk. She then reviewed the motion for acceptance of the proposed salary package, noting that a second was not required. The floor was open for discussion. Mickey Love explained that these recommendations were made by the Staff Relations Team and approved by both the Finance Committee and the Deacons. He did note that this was only a budget and could be revised by the congregation in the future should it become necessary. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved to cease debate. The salary portion of the proposed budget was voted on, and the ballots were then collected and counted. The results were as follows: the proposed budget less salaries-70 yes, 13 no; and, salaries-52 yes, 33 no.

There being no other business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

June

Oct. 12, 2016

Westfield Baptist Church
October Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2016. There were 60 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the September 14th business meeting were read and approved by unanimous consent. A letter from Mr. Mark Oakley was read for informational purposes. This letter is on file in the church office.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance

New chairperson, Ruth Chilton, reviewed the financial statement. There were no questions. Mickey Love reported that the Westfield Medical Center account had been closed and the excess funds from its purchase would be transferred back to the church's Building Fund after some final paperwork from Raleigh.

Missions

Kathy White reported that the Missions Committee was partnering with the youth in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. More information would be available at a later date.

New Business

In the absence of the new Media Center Director, Sebrina Mabe, Pastor Joel reported that she had asked for approval to change the name of the Media Center back to "Church Library," and "Media Center Director" to "Church Librarian." A motion was made, seconded and approved to change the names.

Deacons

In response to Mark Oakley's letter of resignation from the Deacon Ministry Team, Mickey Love reported that the Deacons had agreed to fill his unexpired term with the person on the ballot receiving the next highest number of votes, and made a motion to this effect. This individual is Brandon Lowe. Because the church membership is currently 462, even though they are not all actively attending, the church's constitution states there must be three Deacons for every 100 members up to five hundred members. The motion did not require a second and, after a brief discussion, passed.

Mr. Love then read a statement from the Deacons, voicing their unanimous support of the pastor. This statement is on file in the church office.

There being no other committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Joel Stephens, Moderator
Karoline Overby, Clerk

At the close of the 8:30 service on November 6, 2016, Josiah Anders came forward to unite with our church on a profession of faith as a candidate for baptism. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept him into our church family.

At the end of the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, November 6, 2016, the church participated in a Deacon Ordination Ceremony for Mr. Brandon Lowe.

Nov. 8, 2016

Job Description Website Administrator

Principal Function

The Church Website Administrator is responsible for maintaining the church's website and online communication tools. This is a part-time position requiring up to 5 hours per week

Relationships

The Church Website Administrator shall be supervised directly by the Staff Relations Ministry Team and indirectly by the Senior Pastor. He/She shall coordinate with the Pastoral Staff and Church Secretary to determine what information should be published, and when it should go online.

Responsibilities

- a. Coordinate with secretary all account information and domain information
- b. Maintain appearance and content through web design, layout, etc.
- c. Edit and upload weekly sermons to online media libraries (YouTube, Facebook, etc).
- d. Maintain and update prayer requests
- e. Maintain and update the online calendar of events
- f. Help maintain church membership records in the online directory to include photo, address, phone number, birthdays and joining dates
- g. Maintain resource library and manage media resources
- h. Maintain ministry web pages, youtube archives, facebook, and mobile media
- i. Create announcements
- j. Manage email accounts
- k. Meet with Pastor regularly to review website content and strategy.
- l. Stay abreast of developments in communications technology in order to recommend possible expansion of web-based ministry.

Nov. 9, 2016

Westfield Baptist Church

November Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2016. There were 51 members present. In the absence of the pastor, the meeting was called to order by Deacon Chairman, Mickey Love.

Minutes from the October 12th and November 6th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

Staff Relations

Chris Sloop reported that the church's Website Administrator, Krista Elliott Cox, has asked to relinquish the position because of changes with her schedule. She will continue to maintain the website until another administrator is hired and has also volunteered to provide necessary training for that person. Staff Relations intends to hire someone within the congregation, so anyone interested should contact chairperson, Rodney King. Chris referred to copies of the current job description, stating that it had been amended to reflect additional responsibilities added since Krista was hired. The motion to amend the job description comes from a standing committee and does not require a second. The motion carried. A copy of the revised Website Administrator Job Description is on file in the church office.

WMU

Doris Jessup reminded everyone about the Thanksgiving offering for the N. C. Baptist Children's Homes and noted that the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions would be received in December.

Worship Ministry Team

Ted Duke announced the Community Christmas Tree Lighting scheduled for November 26 and encouraged everyone to invite others to this outreach event.

Golden Years

Ruth Chilton reported that a trip to the Mrs. Hanes Cookie Factory is planned for December 6.

Missions

Kathy White reported that the youth had shopped to fill boxes for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry. It is anticipated that approximately 40 boxes will be taken to the collection site. To date, \$815 has been donated for this, but purchases and shipping exceed this amount so additional funds are needed if anyone still wishes to give.

Deacons

Mickey Love reminded everyone of the Deacon Family Fellowship scheduled for November 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Finance

Chairperson, Ruth Chilton, stated that the treasurer, Suzette Jessup, would be presenting the treasurer's report going forward. Suzette referred to copies of the new financial statement, reporting that the accounting option of the Power Church software had been set up and used since the beginning of the year. It has taken several months to get the financial information into the system and the proper reports created, so the decision was made to introduce the new financial reports with the start of the church year beginning in October. The payroll option of Power Church will be put in place beginning in January, thereby utilizing Power Church in its entirety. She reviewed the financial reports line by line and referred to a notebook explaining the funds in greater detail that will be available at each business meeting. This notebook will be placed in the church office after business meetings.

After a brief discussion, Mickey Love commented that, although contributions have been managed by the church secretary in Power Church for 6-7 years, the accounting option has not been used until this year. Doing so will save time and duplicate work going forward.

At the beginning of the eleven o'clock worship service on November 27, 2016, Rachel Brock asked to unite with our church on a profession of faith as a candidate for baptism. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept her into our church family. The church then celebrated the Ordinance of Baptism with Miss Brock and Josiah Anders as they were baptized by Pastor Joel Stephens.

Nov. 9, 2016

Mickey Arrington commented that security experts recommend against posting financial information in the sanctuary, to which Mr. Love responded that perhaps Finance should research this security issue and bring a report back to the church. He also assured everyone that the counters are locked in a room with only one entrance that is protected by a security code. The money is then taken directly to the bank. Generally, money is not left in the church but, should the need arise, a safe is located in the counting room for that purpose.

Lyndsey Haywood commented that it is extremely helpful to the counters when everyone uses the envelopes that have been assigned, as each family has been issued a number that is already in the Power Church system.

There being no other questions, comments, committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Mickey Love, Moderator
Doris Jessup, Assistant Clerk

Dec. 14, 2016

Westfield Baptist Church
December Business Meeting

Westfield Baptist Church held its regular monthly business meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. There were 38 members present. The meeting was called to order by Pastor, Joel Stephens.

Minutes from the November 9th and 27th business meetings were read and approved by unanimous consent.

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

Finance

Chairperson, Ruth Chilton, reviewed information on a handout concerning the copiers, explaining that she'd been talking with the copier provider and discovered we could save money by replacing both of the existing copiers. A copy of this proposal is on file in the church office. She presented a motion to enter into a new contract with Sharp Office Solutions. The motion coming from a standing committee did not require a second. The motion passed.

Suzette Jessup presented the Treasurer's Report, noting that there is now an overage of collections for Operation Christmas Child. This balance can be held until next year. She also commented that the security concerns mentioned at last month's meeting were still being reviewed by the Finance Ministry Team.

Mickey Love briefly commented that he and B. J. had traveled to Boone to work with the distribution of the shoeboxes, reporting that 850,000 boxes had been collected at this one drop-off site. Overall, approximately 11 million shoeboxes were delivered through Operation Christmas Child.

The pastor announced that the 2017 Men's Retreat was scheduled for March 10 & 11. The group would depart Friday at noon and return Saturday evening.

New Business

Darrin Haywood reported that some changes were made by the school system since his Sunday school class first began collecting funds for the "Middle School Backpack Project." He asked that the fund be renamed to "Coed 2 Mission Fund" and made a motion to that effect. The motion was seconded and approved.

There being no other questions, comments, committee reports, old or new business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

At the close of the 8:30 service on January 1, 2017, Peggy Jessup came forward to unite with our church on a statement of faith. A meeting was called by our pastor, Joel Stephens, and a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept her into our church family.

History:

On May 15, 1962, during a storm, lighting struck the church parsonage. The people were unable to extinguish the fire as there was not a fire department in the community at that time. Within a week, plans were made to erect a new parsonage.

History:

On November 12, 1977, Friends of Mrs. Roxie Hunter filled the church as they honored her during a two-hour Sunday morning service. She served the church for more than 40 years as pianist and music director. On behalf of the church, Luther Byrd, a former teacher, coach and Principal at Westfield High School, presented Mrs. Payne with a plaque in appreciation of her service in the church, school and community.

History:

In September, 1978, the church adopted the Confession of Faith and Church Covenant presently used by the church. Bro. J. E. Simmons and T. L. Sarles were chosen deacons and were at once set apart by the Presbytery. Elder Sherrill led in prayer and J. M. Jessup was chosen as clerk. Elder Pinkney Oliver was unanimously called to serve the church as pastor for the next year. The church is to be known as the Westfield Baptist Church. Adjourned to meet on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October. J. M. Jessup, Clerk.

Westfield Baptist Church was started on the first Lords' Day in September, 1879.

On Sunday, October 15, 1978, Westfield Baptist Church celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. Dr. Charles Howell, a former Pastor of the church was the guest speaker. After lunch, Dr. Howell was commissioned by the church to serve as a foreign missionary

History:

A Presbytery consisting of Elders R. C. Haymore, C. C. Haymore, Julius Terrill and Pinkney Oliver met at a stand near Westfield on the first Lords' Day in September, 1878 and were organized by electing R. D. Haymore Moderator and Bro. J. M. Jessup, clerk and proceeded to organize the following persons into an independent Baptist Church. J. E. Simmons, M. O. Hill, T. L. Sarles, W. A. Simmons, J. M. Jessup, J. W. Caudle, Malinda Sarles, M. J. Simmons, L. J. Moir, Ellen Lowe, Laura J. Teder, Della Welch, M. J. Jessup, Mary E. Jackson, Delia A. Jessup, Samira Christian, Jennis King, Francis Caudle, Mandy L. Welch.

Two young men from the church have been ordained to the ministry: Rev. Dale Riddle, who with his wife, Gilda, is now engaged in full-time evangelistic work, and the Rev. Mark Tilley

On the 2nd Sunday in August, 1927, the first services were held in the new church. Service was held in the morning with lunch on the grounds afterwards. In the afternoon, Rev. T. J. Smith made a brief talk and asked for pledges for pews for the new church. Pledges were made amounting to \$15,000. Following this the cornerstone was laid, with services being conducted by Rev. S. F. Morton, pastor of the church assisted by Rev. R. W. George, Rev. Joe Hall and J. T. Smith.

Submitted by J. H. Hunter, Church Clerk

History:

In 1930, because of increased church membership, new Sunday School rooms were added to the church. In 1953, a parsonage was built in order to have a full-time pastor living in the community. The Rev. Reece Kyzer was the first full time pastor. A new Hammond organ was purchased for the church on January 20, 1955. In 1957-58, a new Education Building was built to provide additional space for the growing church and space for additional activities.

New Fellowship Hall & new classroom -
media - 1998 -

History: On Sunday, July 31, 1932, a protracted meeting began continuing three weeks conducted by Dr. J. T. Smith and others. Dr. Smith preached nearly every night resulting in 72 additions, 65 by baptism and 7 by letter, and reviving the church to the extent that it has never been before.

Rev. O. S. Stauser, Moderator, L. P. Pell, Clerk

Saturday, July 2nd, 1904, pastor was absent. No conference was held. On Sunday, July 3rd, 1904, the Westfield Baptist Church met—after the reading of a scripture lesson and some remarks by Dr. J. T. Smith, church called to conference for a business meeting. (1) Pastor being absent, church elected Mr. R. K. Simmons, Temporary Chairman (2) The appointment of delegates to represent our church in the next Association which meets with Friendship Church, S. P. Christian, W. L. Smith, J. V. Hill and R. M. Simmons. (3) a subscription and collection were taken for missions: \$10.00 for State Missions, \$2.85 for foreign missions and \$2.00 for home missions. No other business, conference was adjourned.

HISTORY

In 1930, because of increased church membership, new Sunday School rooms were added to the church. In 1953, a parsonage was built in order to have a full-time pastor living in the community. The Rev. Reece Kyzer was the first full time pastor. A new Hammond organ was purchased for the church on January 20, 1955. In 1957-58, a new education building was built to provide additional space for the growing church and space for additional activities

Sunday, November 22, 1923, was Rev. J. T. Smith's 45th birthday anniversary and he preached to a large congregation of friends and relatives at the Westfield Baptist Church. At the close of the sermon, a loving cup was presented to him by 100 members of the Westfield congregation in loving memory of the faithful service he is providing to our community everyday.

After the benediction, the congregation adjourned to the church yard where the ladies had spread a surprise birthday dinner for Dr. Smith.

The length of the table, the size of the congregation and the spirit prevailing throughout the entire service showed us the love and esteem that everyone in the Westfield Community had for Dr. Smith.

History:

The church adopted the Confession of Faith and Church Covenant presently used by the church. Bro. J. E. Simmons and T. L. Sarles were chosen deacons and were at once set apart by the Presbytery. Elder Sherrill led in prayer and J. M. Jessup was chosen as clerk. Elder Pinkney Oliver was unanimously called to serve the church as pastor for the next year. The church is to be known as the Westfield Baptist Church. Adjourned to meet on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October. J. M. Jessup, Clerk.

History:

Saturday, June 13, 1925, Mrs. Wrenn from Mount Airy met with a few ladies after the church services to organize the first Missionary Society at Westfield. Officers were Mrs. Emma Smith, President; Mrs. Mallie Tilley, Vice-President, Mrs. Roxie Pell, treasurer; Mrs. John Hunter, Secretary. There were 12 charter members.

History:

In December, 1926, the members of the church voted to build a new church to be started in the Spring of 1927. D. C. Cooke, Architect and Contractor from Mount Airy, built the church at a cost of \$12,121.10. The first service in the church was held on the second Sunday in August, 1927 with the Rev. William Simmons from Missouri, a charter member of the church delivering the message. After lunch, the cornerstone was laid with the following ministers taking part in the ceremony. Rev. S. T. Morton, Pastor, Rev. R. W. George; Rev. J. H. Hall; Rev. J. D. Smith and Rev. John Marion.

History:

The sanctuary of the church was built in 1927. The ten (10) years following the building of the church were difficult times because of the severe economic depression. It was not until July 18, 1937 that the church was free of debt. An all day service was held, and Dr. J. T. Smith dedicated the church, which had grown from a membership of 19 in 1879 to 333 in 1937.

HISTORY Saturday before the 1st Sunday in January, 1904, the Westfield Baptist Church met after sermon by Pastor in regular monthly conference. Business transacted was as follows:

1st item—minutes of last meeting read and approved

2nd item—roll call of members present—18

3rd item—J. T. Smith moved to have the roll called every conference meeting at the end of year, 1904, make a report of how many times each member had been present or absent. Motion carried and passed by church

4th item—suggested to have the Spiritual Committee continue and they are to work in connection with the Deacons.

5th item—R. K. Simmons moved that the school trustees be allowed the use of the Church to have school taught—the remainder of the term. Motion carried.

6th item—R. K. Simmons, treasurer of the Church made a report—amount subscribed on Pastor's salary for previous year \$85.50. Amount paid up to January 1st—1904—\$47.10. Balance due \$38.40.

No other business. Conference adjourned to meet again at next regular meeting—1st Sunday, 1904

R. D. Haymore, Moderator

J. T. Smith, Church Clerk

HISTORY Before the first church was built, the congregation met first at Simmons School House and later in 1880 at Shelton's School House. The first house of worship for a small band of believers was a small frame structure that stood approximately on the site of the present sanctuary. The church was heated by a potbellied stove and in later years lighted by electricity from the R. T. Joyce Mill near Asbury.

The first Sunday School at Westfield was organized on Saturday before the third day in March, 1896. J. J. Jessup was elected Superintendent and E. J. Payne,

History:

The first Sunday School at Westfield was organized on Saturday before the third Sunday in March, 1896. J. J. Jessup was elected Superintendent and E. J. Payne, Assistant Superintendent.

History:

In August, 1906, Dr. J. T. Smith held the first of his many revivals at the church. Thirty-four members were added to the church roll. At the close of the revival, Dr. Smith was ordained to the ministry.

HISTORY

Saturday before Sunday in May, 1905, the Church met after sermon by our Pastor, R. D. Haymore, regular conference with business as follows:

- 1) roll call omitted
- 2) Minutes of last meeting read—approved
- 3) Howard Payne and Romney Simmons were secured as sextons for remaining year. Salary \$5.00 each.

J. H. King and wife Annie King were dismissed to join Flat Rock Church by letter.

No other business, conference adjourned.