

BAMA MINUTES - JANUARY 9, 2008

The Bristolville Area Ministerial Association met Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at Wildare United Methodist Church. Present were host pastor Tal Lewis, Ron McIlvaine, Ryan Hetzer, Rich Whipkey, Dale Briggs, Jim George, Roger Norton, Jim Gardiner, Fred Keener, and Ken Weeks representing the Bristol Area Food Ministry.

Tal Lewis shared opening devotions about the importance of partnering with others to accomplish the impossible, and challenging us regarding the things we or our churches may be saying are not possible.

Following prayer, Ken Weeks was given an opportunity to share an update about BAFM, the Bristol Area Food Ministry. He distributed a financial report for 2007, as well as a report of contributions from the BAMA churches. He plans to e-mail a schedule of when each church is assigned to help with packing of food items this year. Packing and distribution takes place the last Tuesday of each month, with the packing taking place around 9:15 or 9:30 a.m., and pick-up at 10. It was suggested that Ken communicate important information to us by e-mail. He said he would also be willing to visit BAMA churches to share in person about the ministry of BAFM. Ken may be contacted at 330-889-3282, or by e-mail: kkweeks@earthlink.net. When Ken is not available for emergency food needs, Claude Richman may be contacted at 330-889-2308, or Frank Sutliff at 330-889-3759. Paper products and other dry goods are needed by the food bank, and churches are encouraged to help provide these. It was suggested that Ken e-mail us monthly as to what non-food items might be needed at any given time.

The minutes of the November 14, 2007 meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Jim George shared a report, noting that \$200 is to go to BAFM, as approved several months ago.

In Old Business, plans are still underway for the spring school outreach with Lee Hood, probably on May 2, with assemblies at Bristol, Bloomfield, and Maplewood, and an evening concert at Maplewood. Dale will contact Lee to make sure that date suits him, and also Bloomfield to make sure they are willing to have an assembly on that date. Dale will have Chris check to see if Maplewood is available for a concert that evening. Dale also mentioned that a sound system will be needed.

We continued to discuss the Lenten schedule, assigning speakers for each of the services. The schedule is as follows:

February 10	Wildare U.M.C.	Ryan Hetzer
February 17	North Bristol Christian	Ron McIlvaine
February 24	North Bloomfield U.M.C.	Tal Lewis
March 2	North Bloomfield Assembly of God	Fred Keener
March 9	West Mecca U.M.C.	Jim George
March 21 (Good Fri.)	Mecca Community	Dale Briggs

Each service begins at 6 p.m. (except Good Friday at 7 p.m.), and host churches are reminded of their responsibility to lead the worship, provide special music, and provide refreshments afterward.

We briefly discussed the possibility of holding our BAMA meetings on another day or time, but decided to keep the meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 9 a.m.

Roger raised the question as to whether individuals who call with needs are to be cleared through the Warren Salvation Army or the Cortland unit. It was felt that either unit probably has access to the same records. The Warren unit may be contacted at 330-392-1573, and the Cortland unit at 330-637-6312 (Bazetta Christian Church).

The meeting was adjourned around 10:20 a.m. Our next meeting will be held at MECCA COMMUNITY CHURCH Wednesday, February 13 at 9 a.m., with Chris Furl as host pastor.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Keener