

BAMA MINUTES – MARCH 10, 2010

The Bristolville Area Ministerial Association met Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at West Farmington United Methodist Church. Present were host pastor Jim George, Ron McIlvaine, Jody Baker, Jim Gardiner, Roger Norton, Rich Whipkey, Tal Lewis, Fred Keener, and a guest, Ken Weeks, representing the Bristol Area Food Ministry.

Host pastor Jim George opened the meeting with the sharing of a video by Max Lucado about our tendency to sin, and that it can only be resisted through Christ who strengthens us. God has given us the ability to choose, but it takes place on a moment-by-moment basis.

Following prayer, the minutes of the February 10, 2010 meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Jim George reported that we have \$3,378.07 in the treasury.

Ken Weeks of the Bristol Area Food Ministry was present to share a 2009 financial report from BAFM (attachment provided). He said that at the beginning of 2009, BAFM was serving 35-40 families, but that number increased to 60 families, representing 150-160 people. Ken emphasized the faithfulness with which churches and individuals continue to donate funds and canned goods, with special mention of \$4,600 provided through Make a Difference Day, and a canned goods drive by Bristol High School. Ken also appreciates those from our churches who are involved with the monthly distribution of food. Not all churches can deliver the food, however, and the problem was discussed of those individuals on the distribution list who are unwilling to come to the local churches to pick up their monthly groceries. It was noted that this problem exists in other areas as well. Ken emphasized the need for younger people in our congregations to start becoming involved in the ministry of BAFM. Ken mentioned that giving to the Trumbull Food Coalition is down. He said that while Second Harvest sells donated goods to food pantries for 10 cents/lb., Trumbull Food Coalition gives away all of their food.

In Old Business, regarding the collection of computers and other electronic equipment and parts (except TVs) for refurbishing by Ret3 Job Corp Inc. in Cleveland, Jim George suggested that we extend the collection time to April 15. He said he will send us a flyer/bulletin insert this week. Items are to be taken to Jim, who will then transport them to Cleveland. Fred mentioned that TVs may be taken to Best Buy, which charges \$10, but then gives the donor a \$10 gift certificate.

Regarding this year's Lenten services, it was noted that the best attended service was the first. Offerings seem to be holding up well. Services still to come are as follows:

March 14 – Greene Community Church – Chris Furl (6 p.m.)

March 21 – North Bloomfield U.M.C. – Duane Hennen (6 p.m.)

April 2 (Good Friday) – West Farmington U.M.C. – Tennebrae service coordinated by Jim George (refreshments 6 p.m., service 7 p.m.)

Jody reminded us to continue encouraging people to become part of BAMA's Facebook page. Discussion ensued about how much more open some people are on a social network like Facebook, and that with some folks, it's the best if not the only way to reach them. Jim George said some of his people are using it as a tool for

evangelism. It was agreed that Facebook, like a lot of other things, has pros and cons, but certainly has much potential as a tool for outreach and for keeping people connected.

Regarding the possibility of school assemblies this spring with Cleveland pastor Dan Smith of Momentum Church, Jody reiterated information that had been shared prior by way of e-mails—Chris Furl had found that the proposed assembly date of May 5 will not work for Maplewood, and Dale had shared that Bristol's principal didn't feel the presentation would go over well at Bristol. It was felt that Dan needs to have some actual footage from one of his assemblies to be able to use as a promotional tool in areas where he's not as well known. At any rate, Jody is still working on bringing Dan and his band to Bloomfield High School May 5. The principal there is open to hosting 2 assemblies—one each for junior highs and senior highs—as well as a comeback program in the evening. Jody isn't sure of the cost yet, but will work to try to obtain financial support from the community. Jim George felt that BAMA should help with the cost, along with encouraging all of our youth to attend the evening concert. Rich said that the young people who go to hear Dan may bring pressure on schools like Bristol to open their doors to him at a later time. Provided that it works out, Tal moved that BAMA give \$600 to support the Dan Smith assemblies and concert at Bloomfield. Jim George seconded the motion, which then passed unanimously. Fred encouraged Jody to appeal to Dan to lower his price, under the circumstances, from the original offer of 1,700-\$1,800. Jody said pizza will be served at the evening concert.

It was noted that a couple claiming to be homeless, Dean & Brenda Losch, have received help from a number of our churches (mainly fuel and food). There seems to be some uncertainty regarding their story, and Roger encouraged us to exercise caution.

A few announcements were made, such as Ryan Hetzer's retirement this year, and the Christian rock band "Fireflight" in concert tonight at Rock of Grace starting at 6:30. Tickets are \$5.

Closing prayer was offered by Roger Norton. Our next meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 14 at North Bristol Christian Church, with Dale Briggs as host pastor. Those who can meet for prayer at 8:30 a.m. are invited to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Keener, Secretary

Bristol Area Food Ministry 2009 Year End Report

Dec.31, 2008 Balance on hand	\$3,276.32
Donations 2009	<u>\$15,070.62</u>
	\$18,346.94
Expenses	<u>-\$12,233.74</u>
Dec 31,2009 Balance on hand	\$6,113.20

EXPENSES

Save-A-Lot (Ken Weeks)	\$2,026.83	groceries
Country Neighbors	\$7,696.41	groceries
Edna's Market	\$1,192.00	groceries
Trumbull Food Coalition	\$100.00	dues 2009/2010
Amerigas	<u>\$1,218.50</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$12,233.74	