

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Our Vision Statement

"Christian disciples called to transform our community and world through God's love."

Our Mission Statement

"We, the members of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, are an inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith seeking through worship, prayer, service, education and fellowship to respond creatively to God's call to welcome, love, and care for others."

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING Minutes

**April 14, 2009
7:30 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Council Chair, Tom Lyon. There were 28 members present.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

1. Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster. The sign up to lead devotions or provide refreshments for upcoming meetings was passed around for signatures and was completely filled for the remainder of the year.
2. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, June 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

DEVOTION

Megan Zahn read a devotional about a volunteer of a charity golf event who admitted she knew little about the game of golf but was very willing to help as needed. As she watched the members play a team game she saw people cheering for one another and especially encouraging the beginners as they got to move their balls to a better spot on the green. This team game helped the less-experienced golfers feel more at ease. There were probably a few golfers who didn't really care for the team game and would have preferred to claim the glory for themselves. How many of us consider ourselves good team players in life? A good definition of a team player includes not being out for yourself and being able to share ideas and pitch in and work toward a common goal, and also noticing when someone on the team may need a little extra help. The precepts below can be applied in our professional lives, around our kitchen tables, within a circle of friends and of course our church committees—everyone benefits from teamwork.

- Recognize that so much more can be accomplished when we involve the whole group
- Be aware of the variety of strengths in the team, and use them to full advantage
- Share ideas and opinions, but once the team has a plan, embrace it
- Encourage teammates
- Pull a fair share of the load and, at times, even more than what's fair

Megan closed with prayer.

APPROVED: June 9, 2009

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Continuing with the “Fruitful Congregation” theme Virginia Conference will implement a new program developed by a team of pastors and laity from several healthy, fruitful congregations. The program is called **5 Talent Academy** and is based on the Parable of the 5 Talents . . . *The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more.* There are five goals to this program that will challenge us to be faithful, fruitful servants and help our church multiply its God-given talents. Pastor Doug provided the following data which shows that over the past several years St. Luke’s has done just that.

#1	Ministry with the Poor	Goal: 10% of annual operational budget
	Food Closet, Good Samaritans Fund and other programs	\$163,265 15.21%
	2009 Budget	\$1,073,650 Meets FTA
#2	Worship	Goal: 5% annual increase in worship attendance
	Average attendance to date	563 9.74%
	Average attendance last year	513 Meets FTA
#3	Faith Development	Goal: Small Group participation = 50% of average attendance
	(with Sunday School alone we are over goal) Sunday School	300 Meets FTA
#4	Stewardship	Goal: 10% annual increase in giving
	2007 Plate and envelopes	\$833,664 6.51% increase
	2008 Plate and envelopes	\$887,939 Not FTA yet
#5	Evangelism	Goal: Professions of faith = 10% of average attendance
	2008 Professions of faith	66 12.87%
	Average attendance	513 Meets FTA

St. Luke’s in the ONLY church in the Virginia Conference over 10%

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the **February 10, 2009 Church Council** meeting were **APPROVED with the following changes:** Under Action Item #1 the vote should read . . . **APPROVED** with a vote of 13 Approved and 3 No instead of 3 Abstained.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the Service Ministry:** Request approval of disbursement of funds from the Easter Egg Project effective May 2009.
 - a) A review of the funding was requested by the Easter Egg Committee.
 - b) The committee held three meetings to review and define Christian Mission Project and based on Matthew 25:35 which define Survival Needs Categories as Hunger/Thirst, Stranger (widows/orphans), Clothing/Shelter and Sick/Imprisoned.
 - c) The Service Committee suggests the funding be divided up to 25% for the following projects currently in existence:
 1. York County United Food Closet (*Hunger/Thirst*)
 2. Riverside Regional Convalescent Center Pastoral Care (*Stranger*)
 3. St. Luke’s Preschool Scholarship Fund (*Stranger*)
 4. All God’s Children (*Sick/Imprisoned*)
 5. Lackey Free Clinic (*Sick/Imprisoned*)

6. 75% for individual recipient applicant. This goes back to the original Easter Egg Project policy—*make a difference in the lives of individuals*.
Also
 - d) The individual recipient(s) will be decided by a committee of three (Easter Egg Committee-2; Service Ministry-1) and pastoral advisor in place when called to assist.
 - e) Individuals will fill out an application form (see attachment) and submit to the church office.
 - f) Organizations that will not receive direct funds (unless an individual has a need that pertains to a defined area-request will be evaluated) are American Heart Association, Families of Autistic Children, Menchville House, Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, and Seminary Support.
 - g) The committee will hold a meeting to determine criteria for applicants.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

2. **Motion from the Lay Leadership Committee and Pastor Doug: Request approval to join the Virginia Conference “5 Talents Academy” and to meet Doug’s challenge to double the funding amount of \$1,126.**

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

3. **Motion from the United Methodist Women: Request approval for 4th and 5th grade Sunday School classes to hold a Stop Hunger Now Car Wash on Sunday, April 26 following the 11:00 worship service to help reach the goal of \$2,500 to package 10,000 meals here at St. Luke’s on May 3.**

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

4. **Motion from the Service Ministry: Request approval to clean out the attic of unused/unwanted items and sell it at a yard sale on Saturday, April 25 with proceeds benefiting the Brazil Mission Trip.**

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. Our February 15 Fellowship Breakfast meeting was well attended by the men and the program was on “**Camp Rainbow**” lead by Allen Langford and Ron Rumsey, from the District UMMen. The men were encouraged to attend training in April and become volunteers for the “campers” in Blackstone this year.
2. Our March 15 **Fellowship Breakfast meeting** was held in Room 21 due to the Easter Egg Project in the Fellowship Hall. We used this opportunity to discuss upcoming events for the men.
3. The **UMMen will provide breakfast again** this year for the congregation members that attend the Easter Sunrise Service on April 12. Usually there are about 200 that attend. All are welcome to attend.

4. The UMMen will meet again in the Fellowship Hall on April 19 and enjoy a time of food, fellowship and updates on future events. Our continued focus in 2009 will be **“Men in Ministry”** with an emphasis on spiritual growth, building relationships, making disciples, and mission support.
5. The **3rd Annual St. Lukes UMMen Spiritual Retreat** will be held in May at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. All men are encouraged to attend this event and have your spiritual battery renewed. Our theme is **“Oh, Brother! Walking Together in Faith”**.

Peninsula District:

1. The **Heart Haven’s “Morrison Home”** in Newport News is nearing completion with a dedication and open house scheduled for 2-4 p.m. on April 19. We encourage all District UM Churches to participate in furnishing the home and welcoming the new residents. We want them to feel like they are part of our family.
2. The **next UMMen’s General Meeting** is scheduled for April 27 at Crooks UMC, Yorktown. This meeting is open to all men and it is a great time to fellowship with men from other churches on this district. There is a dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a program.
3. The **Wesleyan Building Brothers “Male Leadership Experience”** will take place in Blackstone, April 28-30. There is still time to register for this event. This event will be lead by Dan Schaffer, the author of the book, **“Spiritual Fathers”**.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Katy Jones)

1. **First Quarterly Unit Meeting** was held on February 10 with 33 attendees & staff enjoying a wonderful covered dish lunch hosted by the Gertrude Carmines and Sarah Sudduth Circles. A program skit was presented - **A Call to Prayer & Self-Denial: Creating Communities through Information Technology**. Prayers were offered for our missionaries and local concerns and blessings. An offering of \$197 was accepted for UMW Missions.
2. Nine individuals attended the **Annual Prayer Breakfast** at Chestnut Memorial and enjoyed a wonderful breakfast & the fellowship of over two hundred thirty fellow Methodists in the district. We donated many juice boxes for the Wesley Community Center in Portsmouth, VA. Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten, President of Ferrum College, was our dynamic speaker.
3. **Homemade Valentine and Carmel Sale** by the 4th and 5th grade Sunday School Classes on February 8 and the UMW Bake Sale on March 22 were fundraisers for Stop Hunger Now Project. Thanks to the generous folks of St. Luke’s, we are about half way to our goal!
4. **Hunger Calendars and Collection Boxes** were distributed on Sunday, February 22 with an educational and devotion focus for St. Luke’s families during Lent for Stop Hunger Now. The collection boxes will be collected on April 19 during the worship services.
5. **ALL women of St. Luke’s are invited to attend** the Book Club, Circle Meetings and Quarterly Unit Meetings – members and non-members are welcome always.
6. **Upcoming May Events are:**
 - a) Sunday, May 3
St. Luke’s Stop Hunger Now Program; 9:30 am, Fellowship Hall
 - b) Thursday, May 14
St. Luke’s Second Quarterly Unit Meeting, “UMW Reading Program”
DeAnn Posey (Hosted by L.I.F.T. Circle) Pot Luck Salad Lunch; 12 Noon

Nurture Ministry (Della Shelton and Betty Brummer)

1. The **Nurture Ministry held a meeting on January 29**. The next meeting is scheduled for April 30 at 6:30 p.m.
2. **College Care Packages** – Care packages were in the narthex on Sunday, March 15 for spring care packages. The next time we will see them is Sunday, October 25 for fall care packages.
3. **Newcomers Seminar** – The next newcomer seminar is scheduled for April 19 at 4 p.m.
4. **Wednesday Night Suppers** – Suppers will begin again this Wednesday, April 15 and continue until June 10. Reservations are required and the weekly menu is in the bulletin as well as the monthly newsletter.
5. **Travelers** – Kathleen Murphy is coordinator for the 12 ladies going on the trip to New York City. They will be leaving on May 2 and returning on May 3.
6. **Women's Retreats** – June 6 there will be a day retreat for Mother's and Daughters or Mother's and Grandmothers (adoptions encouraged) at the church. An article with more info is forthcoming in the newsletter.
7. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – The group will continue to meet through the summer months (2nd and 4th Thursday evenings) as they enjoy both the knitting and the friendship.
8. **Christian Yoga** – Ms. Beth Mahood has resumed yoga on Monday and Tuesday mornings.
9. **"We miss you" Correspondence** – The ministry has restarted an initiative to send "we miss you" letters or postcards to members that haven't signed the church pew pads within the last several Sundays. We're looking for volunteers to assist with the mailing efforts.

Worship Ministry (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

1. **Additional training for Acolytes** is planned with possible instructions to assist with communion such as getting extra bread.
2. Four new members to assist with **Homebound Communion**.
3. **Special Services** coming up:
 - a) Earth Day April 19
 - b) Mother's Day May 10

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Eric Cooper)

1. **Stations of the Cross** was available during Holy Week in the Narthex.
2. **Sunday School Teacher Appreciation** to be celebrated on April 26
3. **Confirmation Sunday**, May 31 at two or three Services as TBD by pastors
4. **New Spring Bible Studies**
5. **Hebrews** beginning April 23 (Ron Dorenbush)
6. Possibly **"Conversations with Doug"** on Wednesday nights right after dinner (Pastor Doug)
7. Possibly **parenting young children** - daytime aimed at preschool parents (James Pace)
8. Workshop on **"Praying in Color"** (James Pace)
9. **Vacation Bible School** July 20-24 on www.stlukesyorktown.org for registration, info, volunteer information and sign up
10. Already **looking for new Sunday School teachers** – 9th and 10th grade
11. **New Young Adult Class Sundays** at 11:00 a.m. (Nate DeHart)
12. **Library Team to be formed** – we are currently working on team description and team of people to process, shelve books, and act as host/hostess/librarian when the library is open. This team will be composed of adults and youth (5th grade and older)

Youth Ministry (Nate DeHart)

1. In February, the youth attended **Winter Jam 2009** (a Christian concert in Norfolk). Everything went well and I'm particularly happy to report, everyone got in.
2. February 24 the youth held their annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Fundraiser**. We raised almost \$500 dollars towards the DCLA event this summer. We are very grateful to all of those who came out in support.
3. On Saturday, March 7 we had a **bowling outing** to the local AMF.
4. Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29 the high school youth attended the **IMPACT** event in Ocean City, MD.
5. **April events include:**
 - a) Youth led the Easter Sunrise Service.
 - b) The Seniors OBX Retreat has been rescheduled for this weekend (April 17 – 19)
 - c) The 30 Hour Famine (April 24 – 25)
6. Looking ahead, the **Youth Gong Show** should be returning at the end of May (May 29)

Finance Ministry (Bo Walkley)

1. Bo Walkley reported that **financially the church is doing very well**.
2. **Bill Boyer is doing a great job** and this new process is working magnificently.

Financial Report (Bill Boyer, Business Manager)

1. The **Financial Reports for February and March** were provided as information.
2. To date **22% of the budget has been expended** which is less than this time last year.
3. There are currently no budget line items in danger of overspending.
4. **Considering the economic situation the church is doing well** and doing better than last year at this time

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. This is a **quick list of planned initiatives** for St Luke's. Most will be completed in 2009. Following is a list of current projects.
 - a. **Repair fascia and soffitt and replace the gutters** around the exterior of the sanctuary. This has already been completed. Cost – \$10,905.78.
 - b. **Convert boiler heating system to heat pump systems**. Approximate cost – \$30,000 to \$35,000.
 - c. **Replace hall carpeting**. Project has been approved and should be completed by July. Cost – \$12,000.
 - d. **Renovate and paint fellowship hall** (in preparation for contemporary services). Approximate cost \$5,000.
 - e. **Repair brick and concrete work around the church** (safety issue). Estimated cost \$4,000.
 - f. **Replace kitchen stove, fire suppression system and alarm system**. Approximate cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000.
 - g. We plan to **change color schemes throughout the church**, excluding the sanctuary and Narthex. All hallways and classrooms will get a facelift and a fresh and exciting look. Hopefully we can get the labor portion done by volunteers. Cost of materials will be about \$2,000.
2. Following is a **list of future projects**. We must contribute annually to our reserves to cover these projects.
 - a. **Replace air handling systems on the flat roofs**. These will need replacing in the next year or two. Their life will be about 20 years. They are now about 17 years old and deteriorating. Approximate replacement cost is \$32,000.

- b. **Replace church roof.** Estimated life is about 45 years. We had a contractor give us a replacement estimate of \$250,000. We thought that was a bit high, so we used \$150,000 as our reserves base line. The roof is about 17 years old into a 45 year life. Based on 45 years at \$3,400 a year, our reserves at this point should be about \$57,800.
- c. **Replace 5 double doors and 3 single doors around the church.** These doors are beginning to deteriorate from water damage. The locking mechanisms are also wearing out. Approximate cost \$13,000 to 15,000.

Note: We have current budget and reserve obligations of about \$188,800. We currently have about \$102,000 in reserve and \$29,000 remaining in this year's budget. Theoretically, we have a budget and reserve shortfall of about \$57,800. Most of that shortfall would relate entirely to a new roof, which is not ultra critical at this time. With a continued \$9,180 or so annual contribution to reserves we should be able to make up the shortfall within the next 10 years or so. Of course, a year after our new addition is completed (warranties will expire), we will need to prorate facility replacement element costs such as the roof and other such replacement needs for the new facility, This also should be added to our reserves at the appropriate time.

3. The **youth will be edging and cleaning out the gardens** around the church on April 25. We need folks to help monitor the work and to lend us some edging tools, rakes and wheel barrows. Please let me know if you can help out.
4. **Bus use.** There have been some questions concerning bus use. Our policy is very liberal. Any group who would like to use the bus can do so if they are affiliated with a church group. Just ask someone to sponsor you, such as St. Luke Travelers, nurture, outreach, service and many more. We want maximum use of the bus. That was why we bought it in the first place. It is really easy to work within the scope of our bus use policy. I can't think of any group of 10 or more folk who can't fit within that scope.

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. As mentioned in our February minutes, the **final tabulation from our January 11 building committee presentations is at 116 SLUMC laity attended.** We have held two building committee meetings since the last Church Council.
2. For your information, we were just recently notified that due to current economic conditions our **architect; Harry Baxter was "laid off" by Myler.** Also, we were notified that our **RSI consultant, Buddy Miller, was "laid off"** as well.
3. **Summary of ongoing actions** from the Building Committee:
 - a) Ron Dorenbush provided an **update on FEMA requirements** and his meeting with Paul Long from York County Emergency Management. The Building Committee wanted to find out how we might adapt to FEMA requirements if desired and feasible cost wise. Ron explained that:
 - *To design for a hurricane shelter the building must withstand sustained winds of 160 mph and hold up to all the debris that the wind would cause to impact the structure. Roof lines cannot exceed 40' in length. This would mean we would be building a very strong "room or command post" and York County would take it over in times of emergency. As presently designed our plan is too large for these requirements.*

- *Ron explained that a “Recovery Shelter” to house out of town relief workers might be a better alternative. This would be similar to some of facilities the hurricane relief and rebuild teams from SLUMC have visited in Mississippi.*
 - *After discussion, Building Committee concurs with the approach the St. Luke’s would be better able to serve as a “recovery shelter” vice trying to redesign so that we might be able to have a FEMA-compliant shelter.*
- b) We asked Myler what **winds our new building would be designed to “withstand?”**
- *Per Structural Design Code the design wind speed for your site is borderline between 120 mph and 130 mph. 140 mph is beyond the coastline. Our structural engineer would make the call. There would be some factor for earthquake design also.*
- c) **Parking garage** – Myler estimated the cost of construction per spot at \$15,000 - \$20,000 versus ground level at \$1,800 per spot. Myler will refine that estimate if a parking deck is allowed by York County Code.
- d) The Building Committee **approved the showers to the outside wall vice next to the stage.** Myler agreed that keeping them on the ground floor and moving next to the outside wall makes good sense. First floor storage space would be contiguous to stage and second floor space would be walled and available as storage. Please incorporate these changes in our drawings.
- *Myler will incorporate into the drawings.*
- e) **Bleachers for Outreach Center basketball court** – Myler said we could add if desired at cost of approximately \$18,000 and seat about 150 peoples in 18” seating spaces. The Building Committee concurred with adding the bleachers and also to changing the basketball court side to the junior sized court (74’ x 44’). Please incorporate these changes in the drawings.
- *Myler will incorporate into the drawings.*
- f) **Ministry Center Foyer** – The Building Committee discussed the open area above the Outreach Center entry foyer. Some members think that it might be better suited to be enclosed and used as a second deck to make more space on the second floor area. Concern was expressed that the resulting 10 - 12 foot ceiling might be too confining for a space that large. In addition to some folks thinking that we would lose the esthetics of the “atrium effect,” the design currently does not have as high a roof over that area, also we would lose the light from that area. Request Myler review this area and discuss pros/cons.
- *Further discussion required.*
- g) **Adding a room over the food closet** – Myler’s opinion here as this would be an easy “add” and would have no effect on the overall design, existing firewall or roofline -- (Myler stated that adding the second story above the Food Pantry could be around \$150,000). This added second floor room would be built over the planned food closet and the hallway below it. The Building Committee voted to add the room. Request Myler add this change to the drawing.
- *Myler will incorporate into the drawings.*
- h) Follow-up: Discussion on combining **3 smaller class rooms and making 2 larger classrooms on ground floor** in the new area of the building was approved by Building Committee. Request Myler make that design change to drawings - 2 larger classrooms on the ground floor on new area vice 3.
- *Myler will incorporate into the drawings.*

- i) Follow-up (No action required by Myler at this time): **Choir Room and bell storage** – Discussed room size, different use groups and their requirements. Room presently has a 12’ ceiling. There was some concern expressed that adding a storage room above it might lower the ceiling enough to impact the acoustics. Building Committee seemed to feel the Bell Choir tables could fit in the planned room easily. Also discussed adding cabinetry to the hallway behind the sanctuary (after the food closet relocates to its new location). No consensus reached or votes taken.
- Action item – Blair and Doug will meet with Gordon Parr and Mark Smeland to discuss choir room and the concept for use both by choir and bell choir.
 - Harry Baxter (Myler) commented that adding the second floor to the Choir Room expansion and enclosing the Mechanical rooms would cost approx \$220,000.
- j) **Covered walkway** – The Building Committee discussed the notion that a covered walkway on the parking lot entry to the church would have more use than the “Sunday’s only” design we have now. If moved to the back, it would serve church customers 24 x 7. Sunday church goers, pre-school children, parents, and teachers, meeting attendees, staff, and others would all benefit by having a covered entry from the parking lot. What about if we kept the original one and added a second and how much would the second covered walkway cost?
- Action item: Blair will address with Myler and this will be a discussion topic for next BC meeting.
 - *Myler - further discussion required to fully understand the question. Which side of the building: east or west? A canopy on the west of the new Ministry Center would be difficult to achieve. The more appropriate location would be on the east side and could be about the same size as the Sanctuary canopy. We estimated the Sanctuary canopy at \$48,000. This canopy has a 10-foot clearance. If we put one across the east drive we should raise it to at least 12 feet to allow a UPS or other delivery truck to pass under. Do you ever get any semi deliveries? That would require a 14-foot height.*

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Jason Hauser)

1. The main focus of the last meeting was the **evaluation of our pastors**. The committee was unanimous in their decision to request that pastors Doug and Clara remain at St. Luke’s.
2. The following **comments from the committee** were based on the Evaluation Categories, *Preaching, Worship, Planning, Leadership, Pastoral Care, Mission/Service, Faith:*
Doug—
 - All around an exceptional Pastor!
 - Doug is an exceptional preacher. He is consistently well prepared and gives sermons that attempt to motivate and challenge the congregation.
 - Preaching and leadership are two of Doug’s greatest strengths.
 - Very strong leader in his role as Senior Pastor. He is balanced and passionate at the same time with regards to his staff and to the congregation.
 - Doug has a particular talent in his ability to lead, teach and Pastor to the congregation and community at large.

Clara—

- Clara has a calming way – you never see a conflict around her.
- Clara is one of the better teachers that we've had at St. Luke's. She leads rather than lectures and provokes study members to be involved.
- Clara seems to be a steadying influence in the Church. She continues to be the nurturing pastor within our congregation.
- Clara is an extraordinary pastor. Her journey with SLUMC has been nothing but inspirational for all she encounters.
- Clara has a particular gift at being a caring, giving and supportive Pastor for the congregation and community at large.

Doug & Clara—

- Doug and Clara balance each others pastoral skills and together are a remarkable pastoral team for the Church.

Service Ministry (Susie Small and Kathryn Budzik)

1. **Funds continue to come in for the trip to Brazil** and we now have 14 planning to attend.
2. Funds were running low for the hurricane relief mission trips but **someone showed up just before the group was leaving for the Katrina trip during spring break and donated \$1,900!**

Outreach Ministry (Paige Glass, Scott Glass, Ginny Potts and Mary Ellis)

1. We have **volunteers for the pre-school story hour** which will be starting this summer.
2. We are working on **calling prospective volunteers to help out** with the current programs with in Outreach.
3. The **Fellowship Time** between the services has restarted and is going very well.
4. The **church bus will be used to pick up children to attend VBS**. Currently working out the details.
5. Our **next meeting** is May 4, 4:00 p.m.

Military Ministry (Pete Prindle)

1. The 2008 General Conference of the United Methodist Church reflected upon **Resolution 268**, which states that “the General Conference supports those who serve in our armed forces.” The Conference then added these words:
2. The Church commits itself to extend its **pastoral ministry to members of the armed forces and their families** during their time of service and after their return, and we call upon our churches to extend a welcome home to persons who return from service and to pray for them.
3. **Proposal:** It is proposed that St. Luke's United Methodist Church, the Virginia Conference, and the United Methodist Church implement Resolution 268 during 2009-2011 through the following actions:
 - a) Support the **“Wall of Prayer”** initiative to pray for United Methodist military and their families.
 - b) Support the **“Helping Military Families”** conference at Estes Park, CO, 17-21 August 2009 by encouraging attendance from VA Conference and other United Methodist churches.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson)

1. **Five LCD Television sets and DVD players have been installed in Sunday School rooms** supporting grades 7 through 12 and one adult class (Spirit and Truth). More installations will occur during 2009.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. **Vacation Bible School is approaching fast.** Everyone is encouraged to go on-line to register or volunteer.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. It's time for spring cleaning and **St. Luke's is doing some Spiritual Cleaning** with both the Men and Women's groups planning retreats. The United Methodist Women is planning an **Intergenerational Retreat** for June 6 here at St. Luke's.
2. Happy to report that the **church bus will be well utilized this summer** for VBS, Camp Overlook, DCLA and more.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. There were **1,061 in attendance on Easter Sunday!** Thank you to the Worship Committee, the Choirs, the Youth and all the "behind the scene" folks for all their hard work making it all happen.
2. This Wednesday-Saturday, Teresa Butler, George Leftwich and I will travel to Atlanta to **meet with the Fund for Theological Education to continue the Calling 21 program.**
3. **Keep in our prayers the families that were displaced from their homes** following the recent fire in a Kiln Creek apartment complex.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sometime in the next few months the pastors, staff, and Church Council Chair will begin to **help organize the days and times of committee meetings** so that the Pastors and others will be able to attend without conflicting with other meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned at 8.55 p.m.**

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary