

**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 10, 2007**

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."

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Council Chair, Ron Dorenbush was absent due to illness therefore, Pastor Doug Gestwick led the meeting. There were 21 members present. Megan Zahn led a devotion that reminded us to pray and not worry, to mind our own business and to listen to see if God has something for us, because not we, but God, is in charge of our day. Megan closed with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes for **March 13, 2007** were approved with the following correction:
Page 7, item number 4 under Service Ministry should read Tuesday, April 17 instead of Sunday for the missionaries visit to St. Luke's.

OLD BUSINESS / FOLLOW-UP

1. There are still vacancies to lead devotion and provide refreshments for upcoming Church Council meetings, please sign up.
2. Packets with materials from the March meeting are available for those who did not attend.
3. A letter from Susan Sallwasser regarding the York County Food Closet that was postponed from the March meeting was read aloud by Joe Posey. **See Attachment 1.**

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the Building Committee: Request concurrence to move into the design phase with Myler. The approximate expenditure of funds during this phase will be \$50,000. Funds are currently available in the future building account. Building Committee chairman, Blair Ellis, led a discussion which compared the Planning Program Scope developed by Myler (attachment 3) based on the needs presented in the August 2005 Building Committee report to Church Council (attachment 2). Other materials provided were the Building Program Schedule (attachment 4), Projected Church Cash Flow Requirements (attachment 5) and a color diagram of potential building additions and renovations (attachment 6). Following group discussion, which**

APPROVED: May 8, 2007

included concerns about long-range planning and the use of building additions, Pastor Doug invited Church Council members to form a circle to pray and discern God's will before calling for a vote on the motion.

Motion was APPROVED with a vote of 14 approved and 3 opposed.

2. **Motion from the Service Ministry: Request approval to sell tickets for the Annual Kiwanis Club Barbeque. Tickets will be sold in church the two Sundays prior to the event on Saturday, April 28. Proceeds from this event support ASP.**

Motion was unanimously APPROVED.

3. **Motion from the Service Ministry: Request approval for St. Luke's to host a Menchville House fundraiser on Sunday, October 20 at which a good will offering will be collected to support the ministries at Menchville House. This request comes from Menchville House Director, Carol Masser.**

Motion was unanimously APPROVED pending calendar availability.

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

No report this month. The SPRC will meet on Monday, April 23.

Worship Ministry (Kenna Rusk and Brenda Ramsey)

No report this month. The committee did not meet.

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. As discussed in the March Building Committee Report to Church Council, Tom Walker from Myler presented their study to approximately 70 St. Luke's members to include the Pastors, Staff, Building Committee, some Trustees, Finance, and Church Council members, as well as interested laity.
2. After a thorough review of our "vision and stated needs" and a detailed study of our property, the environs, discussions/questions with County and Dominion Power officials, the message from Myler was that we **have enough space on our current site to expand** and do what we feel that God is calling us to do.
3. The Building Committee met in late March and discussed the Myler presentation. We had several questions which have been answered by Myler and are in unanimous agreement that **St. Luke's should move forward to the design phase with Myler**. It is during this phase that the church will be able to work the details of the overall planning that has been ongoing for the last 3+ years. At the end of the design phase, St. Luke's will then have the details of our proposed renovation and expansion with pictures and a 3-D model that will have been assembled by professional planners, designers, and architects. This plan can then be presented to the Church members for them to review and prayerfully consider the next steps.

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

Church Property:

1. **Playground Equipment** – Diana would like us to build a swing set using the 4" x 6" bar that we salvaged from the old set. Trying to find non-arsenic pressure treated wood to complete the set.
2. **Parking on the Grass** – Still a problem. We'll see what happens after Easter.

3. **Emergency Evacuation Plan** – Diagrams of escape routes and procedures for each room in the church need updating. This is an on-going project that will take a few months to complete.
4. **Boy Scout Project** – Headed by Zach Roitz as an Eagle Scout project. Using some of our spare dirt, he plans to build a fire pit with benches. He will remove the dirt not needed for his project.
5. **Lawn Service** – Lloyd Butler will now provide our lawn service. We also plan to improve the condition of our lawn and landscaping.

Castellow Parsonage:

1. **Shed for Clara and Doug** – It is on order.
2. Replaced the **second story heat pump**.

Transportation:

1. **Designated parking** – Parking signs for the van, bus and trailer were purchased and installed. This should minimize the number of parking slots required by the church vehicles. We lost only two slots.
2. We'll **cover other transportation issues as needed**, and we'll address any questions council members might have.

Finance Ministry (Sam Motley)

1. The Finance Committee met on March 13, 2007. The committee discussed various church financial related matters. Highlights included:
 - a) Chuck Harris provided a **detailed financial update**, including monthly financial statements.
 - b) Tom Sayre provided the **Trustee's recommendation** for handling of the proceeds from the sale of the Harwood parsonage.
 - c) A **representative from the Virginia United Methodist Credit Union** made a presentation and answered questions about electronic giving programs.

Treasurer (Chuck Harris)

1. The **Financial Report for March 2007** was provided for information.

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini and Pat Murphy)

1. The Outreach Ministry met Monday, April 2 at 4 p.m.
2. Pat Murphy and Rita Atherton met with Pastor Doug to begin planning for a **Singles Ministry kick-off**. They are working on a survey to mail to singles at our church to find out about areas of interest. There are 483 single members of St. Luke's, including young never-marrieds, "single again" members, and widows and widowers.
3. The Church Library will have a **summer story time program for preschoolers**.
4. **Outreach is planning two opportunities to send out volunteers into nearby neighborhoods** to invite people to St. Luke's. The first will be a smaller effort in May going into Rainbrook Village with about 20 volunteers. The second, in early September before Open House, will include many more people (100?) going into much of the Grafton area. Teams of 2 adults along with an elementary school student or Youth will bring a packet of materials about our church to houses and invite the residents to come to St. Luke's. Our plan is to have participants meet at the church for an hour-long training session by Pastor Doug, go out into nearby neighborhoods for a couple of hours, then meet back at St. Luke's for dinner. More information to come.
5. **New Neighbor packets** are available for check-out at the Hospitality Center.

6. We are nearing moving season, so remember to **welcome new people** in your neighborhood with a packet.
7. The next Outreach Team meeting will be Monday May 7 at 4 p.m.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

Youth:

1. 11 youth and 5 adults participated in a powerful weekend in Ocean City MD for the high school **Impact trip**. Youth made renewed commitments to their faith and Lord.
2. We have **two female youth spots available for this summer's SPLAT** conference.
3. Calendar items:
 - a) **April 11** – Youth Council Meeting at 7:00PM
 - b) **April 15** – U2 Eucharist at W&M sponsored by the Wesley Foundation 6:00 p.m. We may take some youth to this event.
 - c) **April 15** – Youth Car Wash 12:00-3:00 p.m. outside Fellowship Hall
(Donations for SPLAT)
 - d) **April 15** – Flamingo Flocking begins
(Support Stop Hunger, 30hr famine, SPLAT)
 - e) **April 27-28** – Youth 30hr Famine
 - f) **May 6** – Youth Car Wash 12:00-3:00 p.m. *(Donations for SPLAT)*
 - g) **June 1** – Gong Show Fellowship Night Dinner and Fundraiser
(Donations for SPLAT)
 - h) **June 3** – Youth Car Wash 12:00-3:00 p.m. *(Donations for SPLAT)*
 - i) **July 11-15** – SPLAT (Youth 2007) in Greensboro NC

Nurture Ministry (Mary Ellis and Donna Dorenbusch)

1. The **Lenten “Soul Fare”** luncheons were a great time of fellowship and feeding of body and soul. Most had an attendance of 40 or more, and everyone appreciated the good food and the candid and insightful question and answer time with the pastors.
2. All **College Care Packages** have been adopted as of Sunday, April 1. Those filling and sending the boxes have been asked to mail them no later than April 11. Thanks to all who help bring a smile to the faces of our college students!

Service Ministry (Joe Posey and Joe Vallow)

1. Margie Smith will again coordinate the **“Kits for Conference”** effort for St. Luke's this year. She is still awaiting details on specific needs, but will put a descriptive article in the May Church Newsletter.
2. Joe Vallow reported that the **summer ASP trip** preparations are going well under the leadership of Keith Bird. The Kiwanis/ASP Barbeque will be held Saturday, April 28, see an ASP volunteer for tickets or just show up (near Grafton Post Office).
3. The **spring adult ASP trip** to Wyoming County WV still has one vacancy; contact Vallow if interested.
4. Suzi Smith will coordinate a visit to the church by past **missionaries Charles and Patty Maddox** on Tuesday, April 17 with a pot luck dinner at 6:30 p.m. See April Newsletter for more details.
5. Suzi Smith reported that Sunday, May 27 she will coordinate a **Stop Hunger Program** event at St. Luke's. She plans to involve the entire church including children and youth. This is a hands-on project to learn about the problem and package food to be sent to an area in need. Some church groups have already commenced fund raising efforts; see April Newsletter for more details.

6. Kathryn Budzik contacted **Enterprise Alabama** to see if we need to organize a tornado recovery trip to that area. They are taking work teams only from that immediate area and do not need outside teams, but they do need monetary donations.
7. The **Eastern Shore Agape outreach center** is still operating. Margie Smith is to contact them to see how things are going and to see if there are any specific needs there.
8. Joe Posey reported that **Menchville House** is still struggling along month to month. He will make arrangements to pay them the amount that St. Luke's has budgeted for them soon. He also said that Menchville House will be putting on a community concert on or about April 21; details to be provided.
9. Kathryn Budzik reported that the **Egg Project** had made about 8400 eggs this year.

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. **For April:** UMMen prepared the breakfast for the Easter Sunrise Service on April 8. UMMen will meet April 15, with the program by the Boy Scouts of Troop 200. UMMen will meet on May 20 before the summer break.

Peninsula District:

1. The UMMen held their Virginia Conference Leadership Training Day on March 31 in Richmond. It was well attended by officers from the local churches and districts and conference and was a good spiritual renewal for the men.
2. The **next District UMMen General Meeting** will be at Crooks Memorial UMC on April 23, starting at 6:30 p.m. with dinner, followed by a program. All men are encouraged to attend.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Chris Cianelli)

Local Church:

1. The **UMW will staff the hospitality Desk on April 15** prior to all 3 services.
2. **Book Club** will meet next on Monday, May 7 and discuss "*Pigs At The Trough*" by Arianna Huffington
3. **Green Church training** is on Saturday, April 28.
4. **Stop Hunger Now Project** is Sunday, May 27.
5. St. Luke's will host a **Fund Raiser Luncheon** on Thursday, May 31 for the Peninsula Historical Society.
6. UMW would like to send two young women to the **Young Women's Retreat** at VUMAC in Blackstone in August.

Peninsula District:

1. **Peninsula District Green Church Initiative Event** – Saturday, April 28 at Warwick Memorial UMC.
2. **Meet our Mozambique Sisters** – Saturday, April 28, Warwick Memorial UMC, Sunday, April 29, First UMC, Monday, April 30, Williamsburg UMC
3. **Most needed kits** for Conference are Sewing and Layette. These will be taken to Conference in Roanoke June 10-14
4. **Retiring Missionaries from Sager Brown** will be at Wesley UMC on Sunday, April 15 at 6 p.m. for a potluck dinner.
5. **Bus trip to Ferrum College Day** – Friday, June 1 and Saturday, June 2. The trip will include a stop at Henry Fork Center
6. **Hands on Mission Day** is Saturday, September 15, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Wesley UMC. Knitting instructions for prayer shawls will be given.

7. **Young Women's Retreat** is Friday, May 4—Sunday, May 6. Scholarships are available.
8. **Write cards and make cookies for Kairos (prison ministry program) weekend**, Thursday, May 3—Sunday, 6, 2007.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. Vacation Bible School preparations are going well. This year's event will be an interaction program for both children and adults. There will be a leader's meeting this Sunday, April 15 at 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are still needed.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. **What a joy it was to celebrate Easter at St. Luke's.** The many extra events, from the eggs to the worship services were well supported and attended. Thank you, members for your faithfulness.
2. I have often said that there are three seasons in the church year – Christmas, Easter and **Vacation Bible School**. Now that the first two are past, we focus on the summer events. I would encourage persons of all ages to participate in this summer's **Galilee by the Sea** VBS program. It is truly an experience for all ages. James Pace and the Education Committee have begun plans. Volunteers are being recruited and props collected. Another introduction and training is April 15, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.
3. Also looking toward summer, we have 32 children and youth attending **Camp Overlook** this summer. I was overwhelmed by the response! These young Christians will have a wonderful time in the mountains experiencing Christ. If you didn't turn in your registration form, you can still send it directly to Camp Overlook (discounts and scholarship won't apply). Children are attending July 8-13 and some youth June 17-21.
4. I am enjoying getting to know many of you as **I visit in your homes or at the hospital**. Please help me stay informed of needs by leaving me a note with some detail. In a church this large, it is hard for one person to keep up with who is where and in need.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. Thanks are expressed to Staff, Laity and Clergy for the celebrations of Holy Week. The attendance for Easter Sunday was 911.
2. At all three services on Sunday, April 22, Alpha Christian Tours representative, Betty Ann Buckley will speak briefly about the Israel trip planned for February 11-20, 2008. Additional details will be provided at a 6:00 p.m. meeting that evening. St. Luke's will be able to control the bus and itinerary if at least 30 people attend.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Next Church Council meeting: Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.**
2. **May Devotions: James Pace**
3. **May Refreshments: James Pace**

ADJOURNMENT

Council members brought praises and concerns, and Pastor Clara closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned by Pastor Doug at 8:45 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary