

**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

April 11, 2006

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.”

The April 2006 Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM. There were 23 members present.

Karen Berardini brought our devotion based on Romans 6:3-4: "*Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*" This scripture reminds us we are dead to sin and alive in Christ. Karen closed the devotion with prayer for the Easter Season.

March Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS - Ron Dorenbush, Church Council Chair, cited that the Columbarium Ministry Team consists of Blair Ellis, Chuck Harris, Liz Tragle and Paul Roth. They will meet on May 13th. The Church Council approved this ministry.

REPORTS

Building Ministry - Blair Ellis

The Building Committee met with Myler. Blair thinks it is a good to hire Myler or someone like Myer to help with details and plans. The committee will meet with two or three additional companies and will present results to Church Council at a future meeting.

Education Ministry - Melissa Koch & Rich Ziemet

Updates on the Children's Ministry:

Sunday there will be an egg hunt

There are two training sessions scheduled for Vacation Bible School staff.

Rotational Sunday School will be in effect again this summer. The great variety worked great last summer.

Confirmation Classes end April 30th.

Adult Ministry update: Lenten lunches went great. Another survey will come up in May.

Worship Ministry - Kenna Rusk

• **Holy Week**

- ❖ Worship services are on schedule. Communion will be served at the Maundy Thursday service as well as all 4 services Easter morning.

- ❖ Sunrise Service will be held in the sanctuary rather than the grove this year due to the uncertainty of the weather.
- ❖ We still need people to sign up for the Prayer Vigil that begins following the Good Friday service & ends at the Sunrise Service. James Pace put together a wonderful prayer guide that leads us on a tour of the church building praying for the different groups that meet within our building.
- The **Altar Guild** is moving along – I've had several people offer to serve in this ministry area.

Outreach Ministry - Karen Berardini & Pat Murphy

- Work on the District Evangelism Priority continues. On April 2, adult Sunday School classes discussed the things that are keeping us from fully participating in the reign of God. Notes from these discussions were used to write a prayer of confession for Palm Sunday. These notes will be used further in the development of a covenant that will have specific objectives for more effective evangelism. On Sunday, June 4 local churches will present these covenants of renewal at a district-wide celebration.
- The Hospitality Center is now in place and is being staffed at each service.
- The Families of Faith Sunday School class have taken on the leadership of the Fellowship Hosting on Sunday mornings. They are putting together a schedule.
- We are in the process of putting together the New Neighbor packets. These should be ready in the May/June time frame.

We have 2 requests:

- First: As mentioned at last month's meeting, Outreach would like to replace the main outdoor church sign with one that has changeable letters. This type of sign would allow us to put up Bible verses, make announcements, highlight special activities, and make our web address better known. Trustees have approved this change. We do not have the money for this in our budget for this year, but feel it is too important to wait till next year. The cost of this type of sign through Cokesbury is \$5750. Outreach could cover a small portion of this cost, but we will need at least \$5,000. We have spoken with the Easter Egg project people, and might, possibly, get some money from them. We could also ask for special contributions for a sign fund. We request for Church Council to allocate the rest of the funding for a new sign.

Discussion of Sign Proposal: Megan Zahn thought this was a great communication tool. Betty Brummer is for it. She said when the sanctuary was built the architect ruled against a sign of this nature. Pastor Mark said it was what we needed and felt we should do it now. Let's fund it now and do a special offering call. Chuck says it is not in the budget, but could come from a reserve account. Ed Brummer requested Outreach folks to be sure vandalism guard is on the lighted sign for protection. Many favored new sign. Joe Vallow recommended we do special offering appeal. Church Council approved for Pat and Karen to proceed in obtaining prices to purchase the sign. There is about an 8-week time from order to delivery. Cash Reserve is authorized to use Line Item 1003 for \$5,000 plus or minus to obtain the sign. York County allows us 40 sq. ft. A 20 Amp 110 Circuit line is already in place.

- Second: We ask permission to begin plans for a new church library. We would put up shelves in a Sunday school classroom. We have \$1600 in our budget for this, and plan to have a “book shower” to add to our purchases. Church Council approved to go ahead with planning for Church Library. The Library funding is already approved in the budget. A meeting is scheduled for May 2nd.

Nurture Ministry - Mary Ellis & Donna Dorenbusch

- New Pictorial Church Directory - 127 families or individuals have scheduled their photography appointments thus far. We will continue to hold sign-ups in the hallway by the church offices on Easter Sunday, and in the narthex on April 23rd and April 30th. Beginning in May, the directory company will take over and finish the scheduling.
- Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners - Julie Lapointe has volunteered to coordinate Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners and the Spirit and Truth Sunday School Class has volunteered to plan and prepare a dinner on May 17th or May 24th.
Nurture Ministry requests approval from Church Council for a Wednesday Night Dinner on May 17 or May 24, 2006 and for additional fellowship dinners - Schedule to-be-determined. If funds are needed to support this activity, we propose that they be made available from Nurture Ministry line item #197 (Congregational Care).

Church Council approved the Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners.

Service Ministry - Donald Rice/Joe Posey

- Disaster program is being investigated. The District has a disaster plan.
- Margie Smith is again handling Kits for Conference.
- Our covenant missionary relationships are with Roanoke and Cambodia. The Haiti couple moved to Louisiana and is now running Sager Brown Depot for UMCOR.
- The Russian families are doing fine.
- The Jau family is settling in fine.
- Relay for life is coming up.
- Easter Egg Project is in its 28th Year!
- ASP will have a big fundraiser on May 6th with a Barbecue Sale by the Kiwanis.

Communications Ministry - Ken Engebretson

No report this month.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee - Bo Walkley

No report this month.

United Methodist Women - Deann Posey

- The quarterly Unit Meeting will be on April 27th, 7-8:30 p.m. with Rev. Edward Wright speaking on the death penalty.
- Our visit to the United Methodist Building in Washington DC was great. Six Iraq professional women spoke at lunch regarding the situations with the war, their positions and families in Iraq.
- A card with thoughts on getting rid of poverty was distributed.

- On May 7th, UMW will have a Bake Sale to raise funds.
- The Wesley Foundation asked for money for Operation TACO on last day of William and Mary College year.

Lay Leader Council - Blair Ellis

We will meet on the first Thursday of each month. We need two more members. Communication is for inside and outside of the church. William Sutton is a part of the Lay Leader Council since he is lay person at the district level.

Finance - John Masten

No report this month.

Treasurer - Chuck Harris

- We currently have a negative cash flow of almost \$10,000. We've experienced extraordinarily high early 2006 expenses of a one-time nature, so hopefully the cash flow will improve soon.
- Current giving is about \$1,000 below what was given each Sunday last year.
- Our current mortgage will be paid off in May.
- In 2004 we had \$36,000 to add to cash reserves after meeting all our obligations.
- In 2005 we had zero (\$0) to add to cash reserves after meeting all our obligations.
- We are draining our cash reserves and need to give as much as we spend. Pastor Bill comments that we need to share with folks that church giving should be part of our household budgets. We all need attendance and giving to go for the Glory of God.
- Chuck said he'd been through 4 building programs with St. Luke's and always could cite increased attendance and increased giving impact on church. We can't do that now for a building program.

United Methodist Men - Rich Ziemet

- Camp Rainbow program went very well.
- Heart Haven House coming along. They need someone on property in prayer for the venture. June 18th is SLUMC week to support this effort.
- Easter Breakfast is scheduled for after Sunrise Service.

Trustees - Joel Church

- Please put a note in the Trustees mailbox when a problem first starts.
- We had a fluorescent light that fell and broke in Room 23. No children were present or injured. Some bulbs are currently exposed and will be covered.
- Both bathrooms in Harwood home are near completion.

- ASP doing lots of work around the church. Thank you!
- Tom Sayre did lots of little repairs around the church - blinds, back steps, etc. Thanks!

Youth - Jenn Wilcox

- The April Carwash raised \$659.46. Thanks to everyone who contributed. The next carwash is May 7th in the grove.
- The Middle School will be having a lock-in May 12th and the High School will be having one May 19th.
- We will start taking Flocking orders after Spring Break. Get your orders ASAP.
- Easter Sunrise is happening in the Sanctuary at 6:30 AM. Hope to see everyone there Sunday morning, we have been working hard to put it together and it should be a great service.
- Gong Show is June 2nd. See LP if you would like to be part of the show. Reminder: you will not be gonged unless you volunteer. So you have no excuses to not come up with an act 😊.
- The ASP BBQ is May 6th so when you get the BBQ and your cars get muddy you can bring your cars back to the church on Sunday and the youth can wash them. And no matter what Pastor Mark says we will not be putting mud on your cars so don't worry. But come out to both. See anyone going on ASP to buy tickets.

Director of Discipleship Ministry - James Pace

- Please sign up for the Easter prayer vigil.
- The prayer labyrinth is in the Narthex.

Pastor Mark

- Lent is busy time preparing for Easter...a time of reflection.
- He enjoyed usher classes with AED. CPR & First Aid classes to follow.
- This coming Sunday is new member's class.
- Appreciates the bathroom renovation a lot.

Pastor Bill

- There is lots going on as we've heard from so many during this meeting.

- We should use the **F.R.A.N.** plan to pray for:

Friends

Relations

Acquaintances

Neighbors.

- He thanked the church body for the love and support in the sudden passing of his Mother and would like us to continue to pray for his family.
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The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Council members brought praises and concerns, and Pastor Mark offered the closing prayer.

Next Meeting: May 9, 2006 at 7:30 PM

(Devotion – Suzi Smith; Refreshments – Donna Dorenbush)

Submitted by Faye Keenan, Church Council Secretary.