

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

August 12, 2008

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 p.m. by Council Chair, Sam Motley. There were 19 members present.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

1. **Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster.**
2. **September Devotions:** Ginny Potts
3. **September Refreshments:** Debbie Fullhart
4. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
5. **Annual Charge Conference:** Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.

DEVOTION

Blair Ellis began his devotion reminding us that we are fast approaching some interesting times as the Building Committee continues to prepare its presentation for the congregation. Looking at our Vision Statement and looking back on two of Pastor Doug's sermons we understand the challenges and decisions approaching us and how to face them. One message from these sermons was "without God we can't, without us God won't." Another was "don't let what's happening around you distract you; keep your gaze on Jesus." As we look at making changes to our ministries and church building we need to discern God's will, be ready to serve and keep our focus. Blair closed with prayer.

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Mission and Vision Statement—Pastor Doug discussed the need to change St. Luke's Mission and Vision Statements to something short, sweet and concise, something that every adult and child can remember and recite with ease. Pastor Doug reminded us that St. Luke's does not have a mission, God has a mission and he has commissioned us to do his work. Just as Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:19, "Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples." We come to God to learn and we go from God to teach and to serve. Pastor Doug asked all to consider adopting the following statements:

Mission Statement —***Called as Disciples, sent as Apostles***

Vision Statement —***Every member in Ministry***

APPROVED: September 9, 2008

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the **July 8, 2008 Church Council** meeting were **APPROVED with the following changes**: Under Building Ministry item #2 it should read . . . *meet with Mr. Miller* instead of Mr. Mason and under Treasurer item #2 it should read. . . *There were no new over-spent areas* instead of no over-spent areas.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the Building Committee: Requests approval to contract with RSI and Buddy Miller to begin the Capital Stewardship Campaign.** In May the Building Committee met with three faith-based capital campaign companies with the purpose of gathering information and learning how these companies organize and conduct capital campaigns, discovering who their company representatives will be, and getting a sense of the advantages of paying for the services of a capital campaign company. Following a second meeting with RSI (Resource Services, Inc.) of Dallas, Texas represented by Sr. Executive Consultant Rev. Buddy Miller, it was the consensus of the committee that RSI would provide the services that St. Luke's require.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

2. **Motion from the Finance Ministry: Request that Chuck Harris be approved as a Counter for counting Sunday offerings.** Now that Chuck is no longer serving as Treasurer there is no conflict of duties.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. **No additional report.**

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini and TBN)

1. The **Outreach Ministry did not meet in August** so there is no report.
2. The **next meeting** will be Monday, September 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. **Church and Parsonage Property Insurance** – Based on discussions with Tom Tragle, we evaluated whether current insurance levels for both facilities were adequate. We based the new levels on input from a local builder for the parsonage and the Myler company for the church. The new levels were based on replacement costs. We concluded that we were under insured. Replacement cost for the parsonage would be about \$125 per square foot (builders estimate) and the church about \$175 per square foot (Myler Company estimate).
2. **Janitorial Services** – We are currently revising the statement of work for the service. We will put the janitorial contract out for bid when we complete the statement of work.
3. **Boiler Conversion** – We're still evaluating which system to buy. In conjunction with a new heat-pump system, we would like to use the oil as a backup until the oil we now have on hand is used up. Then we can convert to a gas fired backup system.

4. **Annual Facilities Budget** – We estimate an increase of 5 to 6% over the 2008 budget.
5. **Parsonage Fence** – We plan to replace the fence around the parsonage with a pressure treated 6 ft wooden fence. Cost of materials will be about \$3,000. The work will be done by volunteer labor.
6. **Parsonage Tree Removal** – Mike Ramsey and his crew removed two unwanted trees from the parsonage property.
7. **Green Initiatives** – We are considering the feasibility of changing from using paper and plastic products (plates, plastic ware and Styrofoam cups, etc.) to washable dishes, flatware, glasses, cups, etc. Some things to consider are: Cost of additional dishes, storage space for dishes, and labor for clearing and cleaning the dishes. Smaller groups such as UMM breakfasts are easy to go green, but larger groups such as Advent dinners and Martha's ministry may not be quite so easily changed.
8. **Restroom Shelving** – Phil Mixon installed shelving in the restrooms for everyone's convenience.

Service Ministry (Ron Dorenbush and Susie Small)

1. The **Service Ministry did not meet in August** so there is no report.
2. The **next meeting** will be Tuesday, September 2.

Green Church Initiative (Joe Posey)

1. Joe Posey **thanked the Board of Trustees** for their support.
2. It was discussed that the best way of **letting others know that St. Luke's is a green church** is to lead by example rather than posting signs which waste resources.

Worship Ministry (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

2. **Homebound Communion Kits** will be picked up at the end of each service during the closing hymn.
3. Lay Readers have **three new youth readers**.
4. Recruiting for more greeters. There is a concern that the back door is not covered at all times.
5. **Upcoming dates:**
 - a) August 24 – David Hampton will be preaching while Pastors Doug and Clara will be out of town
 - b) September 14 – St. Luke's Open House

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. The **UMMen Fellowship Breakfast was held July 20** in the Fellowship Hall and our program was about the "Coast Guard Auxiliary." Members in our church that are involved in this much needed organization were the presenters. Men and women were invited to attend this breakfast and program.
2. The **next UMMen Fellowship Breakfast** will be August 17. We gather at 8:00 a.m. and serve breakfast at 8:15 a.m. This will be a great time of food, fellowship and discussing the business of the UMMen. All men are encouraged to attend.
3. St. Luke's UMMen will hold a **Craft and Treasure Sales Bizarre** on Saturday, October 3, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Space and tables are available for \$ 25.00 each and you keep the profit from your sales. Crafters are always welcome. The money received will benefit the mission projects of the UMMen. Contact William Sutton for registration forms.

4. St. Luke's is scheduled to **host the final General Meeting of the District UMMen for 2008** on October 27, 2008. We serve dinner and provide space to hold the meeting and program that follows. **All men are encouraged to attend since this is a home event.** Our goal is to have 100 men attend this event in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the UMMen this year.

Peninsula District:

1. The **District UMMen continue to sell paving bricks** to raise money for the Heart Havens home called the "Morrison Home." Bricks sell for \$ 75.00 each and can be engraved with names for recognition. Forms are available at St. Luke's each Sunday through September.
2. The **District UMMen's Annual Prayer Breakfast** will be September 20, 8:00 am, at St. James UMC., Hampton. Our guest speaker will be Myrtle Hatcher, District Superintendent, Peninsula District. We have an exciting program planned for this event. Tickets are \$10.00 and women are invited as well. Contact William Sutton, 865-0704 or e-mail katerer1@verizon.net for tickets.
3. The **VA Conference UMMen's 31st Annual Spiritual Retreat** is November 7-9, 2008 in Blackstone, VA. All men are encouraged to attend this great time of renewal and fellowship.
 - a) **Youth Scholarships are available** for any high school or college young men who desire to attend this event. The cost is \$ 139.00 but that fee will be paid by the UMMen of St. Luke's to encourage young men to attend this great event. This is also a great opportunity for a father and son to attend together at half the price. Transportation will be provided for all desiring to attend. Registration forms must be sent in now to assure lodging in Blackstone. **Do not hesitate.** Contact William Sutton, 865-0704 or e-mail katerer1@verizon.net for further details and forms.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Katy Jones)

1. Jean Henley reported that the **United Methodist Women will hold a unit meeting** on Thursday, September 11 at 12:00 p.m. It will be a potluck lunch and all are invited to attend. United Methodist minister Dr. David Hindman of the College of William and Mary's Wesley Foundation will speak about Israel and Palestine.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

1. **A new Youth director** will begin on September 1. Nathan "Nate" DeHart has been on staff at Camp Overlook for the past several years and is currently the Director of Sports.
2. Resumes are coming in for the **Business Manager position** and the committee will focus on this now that the youth director position has been filled.

Nurture Ministry (Donna Dorenbush and TBN)

No Report.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

No Report.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

1. Pastor Clara reported that this year's **Vacation Bible School and Road Show was very successful.** The elementary and preschool ages were divided this year and the number of children attending was increased.

Finance Committee (Bo Walkley)

1. **Templates for preparing ministry budgets** have been sent out to ministry leaders with the request to have them to be returned by August 17. Anyone who did receive the template should contact Bo Walkley or Bob Dye.

Treasurer (Tom Lyon)

1. The **Financial Report for July** was provided as information.
2. **Tom discussed the areas highlighted in red** which indicate those budget lines that are over-spent.
3. The report was **APPROVED** as presented.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. Pastor Clara reported that **Spiritual Foundation Surveys** are still available. These forms are being used to determine the interest for Bible Studies and small Groups being offered and to get new ideas. All are encouraged to complete one of these forms.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. Only six beds left for the **Women's Retreat**. Please sign upon the board by the Associate Pastor's office.
2. **September is Open House month** in the United Methodist Church grant was received for a commercial to run on various TV stations in September. Open House for St. Luke's will be Sunday, September 14. This year's theme is "All Aboard."

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. Pastor Doug noted that he is **glad to have Nate DeHart coming on as the new Youth Director** and that this process is coming to a close.
2. **The Gestwick family will begin their vacation** following worship on Sunday, August 17. They will travel to Buffalo to celebrate Pastor Doug's mother's 75th birthday. The family will return on August 25. Dave Hampton will preach that Sunday.
3. The **Annual Charge Conference** is scheduled for Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.
4. Pastor Doug noted that this is **Thomas Lane's last week at St. Luke's**. Doug thanked Thomas for his time and commitment, especially with the Youth Program. Thomas thanked the congregation and church leaders for their support and for always treating him as an equal. Council members responded with a round of applause.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary