

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

August 8, 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 August 2006 Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. There were 27 members present.

Suzi Smith brought our devotion based on Luke 13:10-13 The Parable of the Bent Over Woman. The School of Christian Mission inspired her with this devotion. Suzi asked Jenn if she would volunteer as the bent over woman and Suzi placed papers on her back for burdens that bend us over. Individual pieces of paper represented our burdens such as homelessness, loneliness, hunger, bitterness, guilt, hatred, anger, fear, vices and diseases. Examples of St Luke’s UMC healing hands that heal these burdens are ASP, food closet, UMCOR, PORT, Youth Services, prayer, world service, and UNMINS. Suzi led us in prayer.

July Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted with the addition of bank statement under Finance regarding the checking account

OLD BUSINESS -

Columbarium Status – We need to go to the web site and state our desires on the columbarium. A vote will be taken in September at Church Council.

Ron Dorenbush said leaders should send electronic reports and to paraphrase their ministries at the Church Council Meeting so meetings could be shorter.

REPORTS

Building Ministry - Blair Ellis

Current membership on the St. Luke’s Building Committee includes the following: Rob Anderson, Joel Church, Bob Dye, Blair Ellis, Ken Engebretson, Kathy Everhart, Debbie Frecker, Chuck Harris, Betty Miller, Pete Prindle, Pat Murphy, and Paul Robbins

Since the last CC meeting, the Building committee or parts of the bldg committee have met 4 times: Three of us met with the Pastors on the Thurs following the last CC to go over the Building Committee’s work, then on Tuesday, July 18th we met with Courthouse Construction Company (Mr. Corky Hogge) the third Design/Build Company that has provided us a presentation. The company is located in Gloucester, VA and Corky provided a good presentation on their company. On Wed, 26 Jul several of us went to Colossian’s Baptist Church to look at the ongoing construction which Courthouse Construction is completing (a \$ 2.7 M project).

On Mon, 7 August, we met to discuss in detail the 3 design/build companies and to attempt to prioritize which company we liked the most. Some good discussion and we did do some review of the bidding on design/build vs hiring an architect and having a feasibility study done...soon!

Both of our Pastors have attended all the meetings since their arrival and have provided great inputs and thoughts. Two primary inputs are that we need a lawyer from the church either on the committee or a resource that we can request assistance as needed and that we need to look out 15 years vice 3 or 4.

We will continue to work through the Design/Build company prioritization process and advise the CC of our next move, as appropriate.

Megan has our Building Web Site materials and you should anticipate the Web Site up and running in the near future.

Education Ministry - Melissa Koch & Rich Ziemet
Covered under DDM Report below.

Worship Ministry - Kenna Rusk

- We're still looking for an acolyte coordinator for the 8:30 a.m. worship service – Karen Berardini wants to step down.
- Altar Ministry
 - We had our 1st meeting last Thurs., Aug. 3rd. It was a small, but enthusiastic group; we're working on our mission statement & have started filling in volunteer slots through the end of the year. We plan to post this information on the website.
 - "Awesome Altars", an illustrated tool kit that contains a book & "how-to" DVD, was ordered & has been received. The Altar Ministry is looking forward to using this publication to design creative & imaginative altar designs to expand our worship experience.
- UMC 50th Anniversary of Women Clergy
 - We are planning on celebrating on Oct. 22nd (tentatively) by inviting all former St. Luke's women clergy back to participate in the worship services. A church-wide potluck lunch will follow at noon on that day. We are coordinating this with the Nurture Ministry - more details will follow.
- Pastor Doug, Lois Fuhrman & Kenna, reviewed the Wedding Guidelines & Wedding Coordinator Duties this morning. We plan to present the updated policies to Church Council next month for approval.
- The Choirs are on vacation during the month of August; Gordon has arranged for special music.

Outreach Ministry - Karen Berardini & Pat Murphy

- The Outreach Ministry Team met Tuesday, August 1. We spent about half of our meeting discussing assimilation of newcomers. We need to continue to remind our members to be welcoming to visitors and inclusive of new members. Getting newcomers involved in ministry and connected to small groups is the key to making them a real part of the congregation.
- The Trustees with the help of a number of others installed the church sign. People involved from the delivery to the final electrical connection include Joel Church, Joe Vallow, Sam Motley, Phil Comstock, Ron Dorenbush, Lynnda Petersen, Donnie Rice, Robbie Rice, Tom Sayre, Doug Gestwick, Frank Colandrea, Fred Sawin, Johnny Martin, Tricia Church, Keith Church, Wally Church, Barb Ripley, Steve Ripley, Kathy Everhart, Joel Everhart, and Vince Berardini. Ron and Karen thanked all who helped. We have received contributions to cover about half of the cost of the sign. Megan is keeping the schedule for announcements to go on the sign, and we will have invitational messages up when there are no announcements.
- Diane Robbins, who heads up the Hosting for the Fellowship/Coffee time between services, will be contacting Sunday School classes to sign up for a month of hosting duties. The job of the Hosts is to introduce people and be welcoming. (Others handle the food part.)
- The Reading Ministry at Grafton Bethel is gearing up for another school year. We are recruiting tutors. There are applications in the Hospitality Center.
- We will be working with Doug on planning the Newcomers Seminars for fall. It has been suggested that a mentor be assigned to each group to do follow-up contacts and to help the new members get involved in the ministries and groups in the church.
- The New Neighbor Packets are now available for checkout at the Hospitality Center.
- The Library Grand Opening will coincide with the September Open House. We would like to have a Cokesbury Book Fair as a part of this Grand Opening. The church would receive 25% of the sales. Individuals could purchase books for themselves, for Sunday School classes, as gifts, or as donations to the church library. We are now processing books, and Caroline Mellen is heading this up.
- There will be a meeting next Wednesday, August 16 at 7 p.m. for individuals interested in helping with the Drive-Thru Nativity.
- Our next meeting will be Sept. 5 at 7 p.m.

Nurture Ministry - Mary Ellis & Donna Dorenbush

- Prayer Shawl Ministry - Debbie Frecker will coordinate an additional group for this ministry that will meet during the day.
- Fellowship of Eight - Jackie Prindle and Melissa Magowan will coordinate and re-start this program with the purpose of friendship, fellowship, and building community. Each group will consist of eight individuals who will get together once a month for four months. The entire group of participants will meet for a social time in October, and then again at the end of the four-month span. There will be a list of suggested activities for the small groups to plan and enjoy, such as dining out, concerts, game

nights, volunteer work, and Bible study. (Groups may choose to do a variety of these.)
Look for more information soon!

- Church Directory - Photography date is Wed., Aug. 30th from 1:30 – 3:30 and 5:00 – 9:15.

Service Ministry - Donald Rice/Joe Posey

Requesting approval:

- 5th grade Sunday school class bake sale. Church Council's approval is requested for Karen Berardini's 5th grade Sunday school class to have a bake sale on **Sunday, August 27** to benefit the York-Poquoson Social Services back-to-school program (see "Back-to-school supplies", below).

Church Council approved the bake sale.

- Operation Christmas Child. Kathryn Budzik and Sue Hoppe have volunteered to organize St. Luke's participation in this Samaritan's Purse program, and request approval from Church Council. Abstract: *"Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love. This program of Samaritan's Purse provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple, hands-on missions project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas—Jesus Christ, God's greatest gift. Along with shoebox gifts, millions of children are given Gospel booklets in their own language. Last year, we collected over 7.6 million shoe box gifts worldwide and distributed them to children in 95 countries."*

Church Council approved participation in Operation Christmas Child.

Seeking guidance & support:

Shalom, Salaam, Peace. At School of Christian Mission, Elton & Suzi Smith participated in a spiritual growth study of three Abrahamic faiths with a shared tradition of peace. They propose to organize a similar study for the St. Luke's congregation. Which ministry area should sponsor it?

- Abstract: *"Shalom Salaam Peace, three words which mean "peace" from the three "Abrahamic" religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, provide the foundation for our 2006-2007 spiritual growth study. The author, Alison Stokes, and study guide author, Pat Patterson, accompany us as we think about these three traditions, each of which seeks peace. Each tradition has a history of neighbors living at peace with neighbors and urges its followers to seek inner peace. Each tradition has a history of violence, which cries out for explanation. In the name of "Truth" wars have raged."*
- Refugee resettlement. Suzi Smith and Pete Prindle are offering to take the lead in providing resettlement support for a Congolese woman and her family of 13 children, nieces, and nephews. More volunteers are needed for a Refugee Resettlement Committee to provide a support network.

Activity reports: (calendar items in **bold face)**

- Back-to-school supplies. Our Vacation Bible School children donated 20 grocery bags filled to the brim with pencils, paper, rulers, pens, etc. for needy children in our community. Cash donations are now being raised to purchase gift cards from Wal-

Mart so needy children and families can select their own clothes and other back-to-school items. Deadline is **Sunday, August 27**. (Mike Mellen)

- Good Samaritan Fund. In July, the fund began with \$6,313, received \$1,595, and disbursed \$2,309. Year-to-date received \$11,400 and disbursed \$8,173. Ending balance \$5,599. On August 1st, Mike met with the Pastors Gestwick and fully briefed them on the history, purpose and process of the Good Samaritan Fund. (Mike Mellen)
- Kits for Conference. Our congregation provided 166 kits to Annual Conference (compared to 229 last year): 40 health kits, 100 school kits, 21 bedding packs and 5 flood buckets. (Margie Smith)

Communications Ministry - Ken Engebretson & Megan Zahn

- Our committee met and reviewed updating electronics.
- Ministry Areas should have a table representing them at the Open House on September 17th. It is the ministry area or group's responsibility to supply information, set-up the table, and man the table. If an area cannot have someone there they are still responsible for set-up and break down of their table. If they need brochures, flyers, etc Megan will be happy to work with them to design.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee - Bo Walkley

- SPRC has worked with the Trustees and the Pastors to obtain new desks for the Pastors' studies. The previous desks just weren't suitable any longer. The new desks have arrived and will be assembled /installed next week while the Gestwicks are on vacation.
- The YMCA provided complimentary full family memberships to the Gestwicks and to James Pace. These will be renewable each year. St. Luke's helps the Y by allowing them access to meeting facilities at the church. Sandy Young (who is attending St. Luke's and works at the Y) was instrumental in accomplishing this.
- Jenna Rowe has resigned her position in the Nursery. Teresa Crocker will determine the going forward plan, i.e., if a replacement new hire is required. I will send Jenna a thank you for her service to St. Luke's.
- Pastor Dough and Pastor Clara will review the current church policies and procedures to get fresh eyes on what we have and identify areas where revision/improvement may be needed. This action grew out of a discussion of our child protection policy. Policy review will be on a time available basis.

United Methodist Women – Chris Cianelli

- June 4th unit meeting will be rescheduled to September 24th or September 30th.
- Sisters in Christ will be asked to staff the hospitality desk on the 3rd Sundays in September and October at all 3 services promoting UMW.
- The LIFT Circle staffed the desk in July and August.
- The book club meets September 6th from 9:30 am – 11:00 am in the Parlor.

- UMW is requesting nominations during the month of September. Nominees will be voted on at the October board meeting. Pins will be given at a Sunday later in October to be determined.
- MAJOR FUNDRAISER - UMW will be selling Christmas Ornaments at the September 17th Open House.

Lay Leader Council - Blair Ellis (for Melissa Koch)

Finance - John Masten

- St. Luke's received \$2,000 from the Schwab Fund. Church Council approved sending this to the Building Fund.
- Charge Conference will be on November 8th.
- Budget must be done by September 5th.

Treasurer - Chuck Harris

We now have a positive cash flow of \$4,100 and giving is at 2005 level.

United Methodist Men – William Sutton

- United Methodist Men will not meet in August. Meeting will begin again in September and all men are invited and included.
- UMM will have a prayer breakfast on September 16th. James Webb Jones, VDOT Council from Centinery at First United Methodist Church.

Trustees - Joel Church

- Church Building –

The new church sign installation is complete. Thanks to all the volunteers.

Church building exterior doors, office doors, and pastor's studies have been re-keyed. This action resulted from the theft of money and a spare church key from the church office on Sunday July 30th during the 9:45 service.

New desks for the pastor's studies have been purchased and delivered. Next action is assembly.

Carpet cleaning will take place soon. Several companies have provided quotes and are being considered.

Room 25 will be painted on Friday August 18th. Please contact Lynnda Petersen if you'd like to help.

- Castellow Parsonage –

New kitchen table delivered.

Bedroom ceiling fan replaced.

- Harwood Parsonage –

Trustees are scheduled to meet later this week to discuss disposition of the Harwood property.

Harwood parsonage inspection performed August 1st.

Southbound Rt. 17 sign relocated to a more visible location by VDOT.

- Trustees Next Regular Meeting – Tuesday September 19, 2006 @ 7 PM

Youth – Jenn Wilcox

- Jenn thanked the congregation for support of youth fundraisers.
- “Thursdays in Summer” went well. Pool Party, Tides’ Baseball, camping and beach volleyball are some of the social events we’re enjoying.
- Sixth graders welcoming and orientation is on September 8th.
- September 10th is scheduled for Back from Summer Round-up.
- Middle School Lock-in will be September 15th. High School Lock-in will be on October 13th.

Ron Dorenbush thanked Jenn for ASP Leadership.

Director of Discipleship Ministry - James Pace

- Workers for the fall programs are needed. Men are needed for positive role models.
- Worship workshop is planned.
- Bible studies like Faith Keepers are in the planning stages.

Pastor Clara

- When she took Taylor over for Clipper Camp at Grafton Middle School today, a little girl ran up to her and hugged her. This warmed her heart for being remembered from Vacation Bible School.
- She and Pastor Doug do team visits.
- Deann Posey sends greetings to us. She is recovering from hip surgery.

Pastor Doug

- Our church is debt free for the first time since 1963. A note burning celebration will be planned.
- He thanked James and Megan for their support. Joyce is on vacation.
- The pastors will be on Vacation 11-19 August. Rev. Melanie Reuter, United Campus Ministries, CNU will preach on the 13th.

Ron Dorenbush announced comments are due on the columbarium proposal.
Ron mentioned he made six visits on one Sunday as part of our shepherding ministry.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2006 at 7:30 PM

(Devotion – Jean Foster; Refreshments – Kenna Rusk)

Submitted by Faye Keenan, Church Council Secretary.