

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

December 9, 2008

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER – Sam Motley, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Council Chair, Sam Motley. There were 19 members present. Sam expressed thanks to all those who served on the Church Council for their hard work and dedication.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS – Sam Motley, Chair

1. Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster and sign up to lead devotions or provide refreshments for upcoming meetings.
2. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

DEVOTION

As her devotion Megan Zahn shared a memory from her youth. She was a fifth grader in a military family living in government housing in Maine. School options were limited so she was forced to attend the local low-income school. For Christmas that year her class did a gift exchange and each child was asked to bring in a gift costing \$5. She excitedly went shopping and after much time and consideration selected the perfect gift. When she opened her gift she was devastated because it was old, torn and dirty. When she got home she showed this to her mother and cried about how she had given a nice new gift but had gotten a dirty old gift in return. Her mother explained that she was sure that this child gave the best that she had and that everyone's best is different. She thinks about this gift at this season of giving remembering that God doesn't ask us to give more than we have, just the best of what we have. Megan closed with prayer.

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Pastor Doug also thanked everyone for serving St. Luke's in ways that are often thankless and seemingly unappreciated. He noted that there had been much discussion about not having this Church Council meeting since traditionally there is a Charge Conference held in the month of December and we forgo the regular meeting. It was decided that it was necessary to meet to recognize and say farewell to a handful of leaders whose terms have come to an end. Pastor Doug expressed a special thank you to these leaders for not only their service on council but in so many other areas of the church and community. We can look around and see numerous ways in which the church has been touched by these members. Those going off Church Council this year are Sam Motley, Chairman; Karen Berardini,

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Outreach; Ron Dorenbush, Service; and Donna Dorenbush, Nurture. In conclusion, Pastor Doug noted that the faces would change but the work of the church will continue.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the **October 14, 2008 Church Council** meeting and **November 20, 2008 Annual Charge Conference** were **APPROVED** as submitted.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from Relay For Life Team Member, Ginny Potts:** Request approval to hold the Annual Super Bowl Sub Sale on Sunday, February 1, 2009 and to promote pre-sale tickets several Sundays prior to the event.
 - a) This is a fundraiser for Relay For Life. The cost last year was \$6.00. All proceeds, after expenses, go directly to Relay For Life.
 - b) The Sunday February 1, 2009 date has been cleared with Joyce Wilson.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

2. **Motion from the Finance Ministry:** Request that the following be approved as Substitute Counters for counting Sunday offerings.
Helen Rouston Ken McCarthy

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini)

1. The **St. Luke's TV commercial for Advent** will air from December 10-20 from 6 p.m. till midnight on CNN, Family, Discovery, ESPN2, Food Network, and Headline News. The theme is diversity and inclusion.
2. The **Drive Thru Nativity** is this Friday and Saturday December 12 and 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Military Ministry (Pete Prindle)

1. The Military Ministry has **published a brochure** about the ministry, and is offering free Wednesday Night dinners to families of deployed military on the first Wednesday of each month.
2. **Families with deployed members will be contacted and offered support** needed during the holiday season.
3. Considering the possibility of a **"Big Brother" program** for families with a deployed parent of an only child.
4. Also considering a **Tutoring Program** which could coordinate with the current reading program.
5. Pastor Doug suggested getting the **adult Sunday School Classes to adopt a family** to help with transportation to church, school, extracurricular activities, appointments, etc. and other needs.
6. Betty Brummer brought to our attention that the **computerized church records do not allow for military status** other than occupation. Also lacking is the recording of full names, nicknames or "goes by" names in the records. Megan Zahn will send out a request to the congregation to obtain accurate name and military status information.

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. The building committee and the Pastors **provided 6 presentations to SLUMC Laity** over the past several weeks with approximately 111 SLUMC members attending the presentations. Feedback thus far has been positive, but we feel that more presentations are needed in order to ensure a larger number of St. Luke's laity get the opportunity to hear and comment on the current status of our planning. The Building Committee plans on meeting on 18 Dec, Thurs at 6:30 in order to go through some of the questions in detail and to discuss the future and tasks that need to be accomplished for planning purposes.
2. A few of us are going to **meet with Buddy Miller of RSI** on Thursday, December 18 at noon. The purpose of that meeting is to discuss current status of our planning and to talk options regarding future activities following additional building presentations to the laity of St. Luke's.
3. We are tentatively **planning on 2 or 3 building committee presentations on Sunday, January 11** immediately following the services. The hope is that we will be able to maximize attendance at these presentations and more than double the number of laity who have seen and commented on our building plan.

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. **December 21 will be the last fellowship breakfast** for 2008 for the UMMen of St. Luke's. We will focus on the election of officers and distribution of mission funds raised this year and plan to continue doing what we are called to be – "Doer's of the Word" - in 2009. We invite all men of the church to come and be a part of this time together. If you regularly attend, please plan on encouraging someone else to attend with you.
2. Our focus in 2009 will be "**Men in Ministry**" with an emphasis on spiritual growth, building relationships, making disciples, and mission support.
3. **There is always a need and always a way you can serve others.** Come be a part of these fine men of St. Luke's.

Peninsula District:

1. The next **District General Meeting** for the UMMen will be held on January 26, 2009 at First UMC, Hampton. All General Meetings are open to all men and pastors of all the UM churches. There will be a dinner followed by the election of officers for 2009 and a program.
2. Our continued focus for 2009 will be on the **Heart Haven's "Morrison Home"** in Newport News which should be completed shortly. We encourage all District UM Churches to plan to participate in furnishing the home and welcoming the new residents. We want them to feel like they are part of our family.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

1. No Report.

Service Ministry (Ron Dorenbush and Susie Small)

1. No December meeting so there is no new business to report.

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. Please take a look at and enjoy **our beautiful courtyard**. Liz and Tom Tragle and Carol Comstock worked long and hard on that space. They did a magnificent job.

2. Our recently **updated and painted parlor** is a space to be proud of. It's certainly a great place to pray in. It's also great for use by marriage parties and grieving families. Thanks again to the Tragles and Carol for their innovative and hard work getting that space squared away and up to SLUMC standards.

Worship Ministry (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

1. Recruiting for 11:00 service for **Acolytes**.
2. Recruiting for **Greeters, Communion assistants and Ushers** for Christmas Eve Services.
3. **Ushers to make sure there is an accurate head count** at Sunday Services.
4. **Upcoming Worship dates:**
 - a) December 21, 7:00 p.m. – Blue Christmas Worship Service
 - b) December 24 Christmas Eve with Communion at all services
 - 5:00 p.m. Children's Service
 - 7:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols
 - 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
 - 11:00 p.m. Service of Lessons & Carols

Nurture Ministry (Donna Dorenbush)

1. The **Advent Dinner** was held on December 7 and attended by over 300 people. Thank you Carol Comstock and Barb Richardson for coordinating this year's dinner.
2. **The Travelers** spent a day in Norfolk on December 4.
3. **College Student Ministry** - Care packages were sent out before December exams. Thank you Elise Seay for coordinating this ministry.
4. **First Aid Kits** have been checked and resupplied. Thank you Elizabeth Lyon.
5. **Wednesday Supper** has been well attended. There will be no supper on December 24 or 31. Come join us on January 7, 2009 for food and fellowship. Reservations required by noon the Monday before the Wednesday Supper.
6. **Blood Drive** - Mark your calendars for February 17, 2009.

Finance Ministry (Bo Walkley)

1. Bo welcomed **Bill Boyer** as the new Business Manager.
2. **Requested approval for substitute counters**—see Action item #2.

Business Manager / Treasurer (Bill Boyer)

1. **The Financial Report for November** was provided as information and Bill Boyer reported that the finances are in good shape for the end of the year.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

1. The **deadline for the January Newsletter** is Monday, December 15.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

Director of Discipleship Ministries, James Pace reported:

1. **New short term studies to begin in January**
 - a) *Holy Land Study* – Pastor Doug Gestwick
 - b) *Wesley's Three Simple Rules* – James Pace
 - c) *Esther* – Sue Hoppe and Deb Wright
 - d) *Genesis*-using the Thru the Bible materials
 - e) One other possibility awaiting leadership confirmation
2. **Also coming up**

- a) *Five Faithful Practices of Fruitful Congregations*
 - b) *Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition*
 - c) *Cultivating Fruitfulness*
 - d) *Social Principles of United Methodist Church*
 - e) Lenten Workshop on Shrove Tuesday – this year in planning: We are looking to make lanterns to let our light shine to the world
3. **Looking towards summer 2009**
- a) Camp Overlook
 - June 21-26 – primarily aimed toward youth
 - July 5-10 – primarily aimed toward children
 - b) Vacation Bible School
 - July 20-24 – *Rome: Paul and the Underground Church*
 - c) Mission and Mayhem Weekend
 - August 7-8

Youth Ministry (Nate DeHart)

- 1. December 23 – **Christmas Party**
- 2. January 4 – **Return to normal schedule**
- 3. January 25-27 – **Ski trip planned**

Green Church Initiative (Joe Posey)

- 1. No Report

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Katy Jones)

Jean Henley reported:

- 1. **A new slate of officers will be installed** during worship on Sunday, January 21, 2009.
- 2. **Five people have been selected** to receive the UMWomen's Special Mission Pin.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

- 1. Please come out to the **Blue Christmas Service** on December 21.
- 2. **College students are invited to the Gestwick home** on Monday, December 22 for dinner and fellowship. Instead of the usual pizza we will cook this year.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

- 1. **The Israel trip is coming up February 4, 2009.** We will also be going to Mount Sinai, Egypt.
- 2. The upcoming **study on the Holy Land is being offered**, primarily for those making the Israel trip.
- 3. An **additional worship service will be offered** shortly following the completion of the Easter Egg Project in the spring. This service will offer alternative worship and music.
- 4. **There were 606 at worship this past Sunday!**

ADJOURNMENT

- 1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
- 2. **The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.**

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary