

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

February 10, 2009

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Council Chair, Tom Lyon. There were 22 members present. Tom welcomed Lay Leader Council member Randy Eberly.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

- 1. Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster, sign up to lead devotions or provide refreshments for upcoming meetings.**
- 2. Church Council Calendar Planning meeting:** Thursday, February 19, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
- 3. Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. **There will be no scheduled meeting in March.**

DEVOTION

Tom Lyon presented a devotion from an old Upper Room devotional entitled "The Gold Fish", which is based on Psalm 46:2. Gold fish in a bowl have to be removed while their bowl is being cleaned. Although this is necessary for the wellbeing of the fish it fights the process and does not understand that the temporary inconvenience is for its own good. As Christians we often react the same way when events or changes we do not want or understand cause us inconvenience or stress. Even though we trust God to know what is for our own good we become anxious and stressful about circumstances unexpected or out of our control. We need to trust God in all aspects of our live because only He knows what we truly need to survive and thrive. Tom closed with prayer.

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Pastor Doug is still on the Israel trip and Pastor Clara reported that all on the trip are doing well despite the heightened security.

Clara and James presented a video in which Robert Schnase spoke about his book and the five practices of a fruitful congregation. Everyone was given a strip of paper with a homework assignment. The assignment is to walk through the church building as if visiting for the first time. What does our church say to us about Radical Hospitality? Look around and notice what is welcoming, helpful, inviting and also what is uninviting or confusing. Walk through the building from the point of view of a child, a teenager, a mother with a baby

APPROVED: April 14, 2009

and a person with a disability. Clara and James encouraged everyone to invite a friend to come as a “mystery churcher” rate our church’s hospitality. James handed out packets to the Outreach, Stewardship, Education and Service committees with additional information directed to these committees and asked the committee members to Pastor Clara asked everyone to read the introduction and the first chapter by the next meeting and Doug will present a message about Radical Hospitality.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the **January 13, 2009 Church Council** meeting were approved as submitted.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from Church Council Chair, Tom Lyon:** Request approval to modify the Church Council meeting schedule to an every other month venue starting with February. We would designate a month each year as a special meeting to set/deconflict the calendar.

After much discussion the following recommendations were made:

- a) Utilize the church webpage to make it easier to report, archive and search for ministry area events.
- b) Set up webpage to post financial and ministry reports with limited password access.

Motion including recommendations was **APPROVED** with a vote of *13 Approved and 3 No*. The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 14.

2. **Motion from the Nurture Ministry:** Request approval to set up College Care Package tables in the narthex on Sunday, March 15 and Sunday, October 25.

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

3. **Motion from the Service Ministry/Kathryn Budzik:** Request approval to promote two fundraisers to support the Brazil Mission Trip in the newsletter and bulletin. Specifics on the individual fundraisers will be presented to Church Council for approval prior to promotions.

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

4. **Motion from the Outreach Ministry:** Request approval to re-start Fellowship Time in the courtyard between worship services on Sunday mornings beginning February 22 or March 1, 2009.

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

5. **Motion from the Service Ministry:** Request approval to hold fundraiser for ASP Kiwanis BBQ scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 2009.

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Outreach Ministry (Paige Glass, Scott Glass, Ginny Potts and Mary Ellis)

1. **Church library** is moving from Outreach to Education Ministry and is relocating to Room 20.
2. **Reading-tutoring program** at Grafton Bethel Elementary is continuing with 11 volunteers.
3. A letter and ministry info sheet will be sent to congregants who expressed an interest in Outreach on the **stewardship form**. The letter will let them know they will be contacted with a follow-up phone call.

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. **Library change** - the library was transferred from room 17 to room 20. Debbie Frecker and her crew painted room 20 in preparation for the move. Debbie then transferred the books to room 20. She and Tom transferred the book cases to room 20 and anchored them to the wall. Debbie plans on painting room 17 in the near future.
2. **Janitorial service** - we sent out solicitations for bids on janitorial service for the church to three companies. Hopefully, we'll have a new contract by the first of March.
3. **Garbage** - we re-negotiated the garbage contract, reducing the fuel surcharge to 12% of the monthly fee. This will reduce our total cost by about \$5 a month.
4. **Gutter and fascia repair** - we are still in the process of determining the best alternative for replacing the rotten fascia, soffit and gutters around the sanctuary.
5. **Storage** - we continue to work with the heads of some ministries to determine what is stored in the attic by each ministry. We also want to identify items that are not needed and get rid of same. We plan to put some shelves in the fellowship hall narthex for additional storage. The way things look; storage will always be a problem at St. Luke's.
6. **Carpet** - we plan to replace the carpet in all hallways. The carpet is starting to look bad and it is also a safety hazard.
7. **Fuel oil** - we used over 800 gallons between December 14 and January 27. Luckily, the price is down to \$1.9186 per gal.

Worship Ministry (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

1. **Planning to begin for the Lent and Easter Services**
2. **Upcoming dates:**
 - February 22 –Special Guest Choir to be announced
 - February 24 – Shove Tuesday Lenten workshop
 - February 25 – Ash Wednesday

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson)

1. **Communication Deadlines:**
 - Sunday Bulletin—Wednesday at noon
 - Sunday School Blurbs—Friday at noon
 - Newsletter—Friday, February 13

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. The **final tabulation from our January 11 building committee presentations** is that 116 SLUMC laity attended.
2. Per coordination with Pastor Doug and Pastor Clara, **our next Building Committee meeting will be on Thursday, February 26** at 7 p.m. to discuss a number of the questions that were raised during the recent meeting and to plot the “road ahead.”

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Eric Cooper)

1. The **Education Ministry met on January 22, 2009** at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Preschool Board Member Selection** – Our committee is responsible for filling a vacancy on the Preschool Board. The Board is made up of the preschool director, a finance committee rep, an educational committee rep, a trustee chair rep, and two preschool parents and me – so our responsibility is the education chair rep. This board usually meets once per year (maybe twice) to set policy and fees for the preschool.
3. **Lenten Activities** – Together with Nurture (through Family Fellowships), we are planning the Lenten Workshop on Shrove Tuesday evening (February 24). Debbie Frecker and James met right before Christmas and talked about a family friendly project of making lanterns so we can be the light of the world during the Lenten season. We will be asking for donations of tin cans to help with this project.
4. **Lenten Luncheons** – Usually on Wednesday during Lent - Mary Ellis and Kenna Rusk James has contacted Mary Ellis and Kenna Rusk to be the chefs for the Lunches and they have agreed. Lunch is usually soup and salad. The Spiritual side is usually a devotional thought, game, focus moment etc led by one of the clergy. Dates: March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1. Attendance in years past has been around 20 to 25 each Wednesday.
5. **Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations** – Council Members and Lay Leader Council now reading. Beginning with February Council meeting, each of the five ministry areas will be given a workbook to work through to guide them in an exercise to examine what we do and how we can improve. During the Sundays of Lent, we are asking all adult Sunday School classes to utilize the book Cultivating Fruitfulness as a basis for their Sunday School discussions during lent. Each week, class members are to read the devotions with a discussion each Sunday on one of the five practices. Books to be distributed February 22 with Radical Hospitality being the discussion on Mar 1, Passionate Worship on March 8, Intentional Faith Development on March 15, Risk Taking Mission and Service on March 22 and Extravagant Generosity on March 29. Nate is looking at the possibility of utilizing the Schnase materials for youth group on Sunday evenings.
6. **Vacation Bible School** – Planning meetings need to be scheduled, leadership enlisted, materials gathered, staging, drama folks, etc.
7. **Discovery Kids** – Finishing up on The Lord’s Prayer study on February 18 – beginning a six week study on The Three Simple Rules for Children which will run through Easter. After Easter we are looking at a study called J.W. and Friends – about John Wesley.
8. **Confirmation** – Confirmation needs mentors – Tom Lyon suggested contacting Church Council members. Theresa will contact them by email. Confirmation Sunday is May 31 – We are responsible for the reception.
9. We have begun discussions surrounding a **Sunday School Teacher Appreciation** event in May or June.
10. We have begun to develop our **Sunday School Teacher Enlistment Plans** for the fall 2009-2010 School year.
11. **Summer dates:**
 - Camp Overlook – June 21-26 (Nate)
 - ASP – June 27 – July 4
 - Camp Overlook – July 5 – 10 (Clara)
 - DCLA – Youth – July 10 – 13
 - VBS – July 20 -24
 - Mission, Mayhen and Me – Older Elem/Jr High Mission – Aug 7 – 8
12. Our **next meeting** will be February 12 at 7 p.m.

Youth Ministry (Nate DeHart)

1. The **youth ski trip** went extremely well last month. All 29 participants had a wonderful time and returned without injury (thanks be to God).
2. This month we will be having our **usual activities** on Sunday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.
3. We will be taking the youth to **Winter Jam** (a Christian Concert in Norfolk, VA) on February 22.
4. We will be having a **Pancake dinner fundraiser** here at the church on Shrove Tuesday (February 24) in order to begin raising funds for our DCLA trip this summer.
5. The **Senior's of '09 OBX retreat** has been postponed (most likely to a date in April).
6. Tom Lyon pointed out that in the past **youth representatives** have attended Church Council and other ministry meetings and as the majority of those present feels that this is an excellent way to get the youth involved and to take ownership in the happenings of the church. Youth Director, Nate DeHart will look in to recruiting possible candidates.

Nurture Ministry (Della Shelton and Betty Brummer)

1. The **Nurture Ministry met on January 29**.
2. **Advent Dinner** – The annual dinner is scheduled for December 6. Planning will begin in the last quarter of the calendar year.
3. **Blood Drive** – Reminder that the next blood drive is scheduled for February 17.
4. **Newcomers Meeting/Dinner** – The next newcomer event is scheduled for February 15.
5. **Martha's Ministry** – Memorial Service reception for Nancy Leonard was hosted in December by the Real People Sunday School Class.
6. **Wednesday Night Suppers** – The event is serving an average of 80 people each Wednesday. There will be no Wednesday Night Supper on the following nights:
February 25
March 11, 18, 25
April 1, 8
Suppers will begin again on April 15 and run through June 10.
7. **Travelers have their next trip** scheduled for May 2-4 to NY City.
8. James Pace is **collecting approximately 100 tin cans for the Lenten fellowship**. They need to be turned in by Sunday February 22 with all cans cleaned and washed (no labels). Cans need to be medium sized, such as 32 oz.
9. **SL8** – There are currently 3 groups. The committee discussed ways of advertising and encouraging participation in the future.
10. **First Aid Kits** – Discussion ensued about the kit in the room off the parlor. Ms. Carol Comstock took information to carry to the Board of Trustees regarding movement of this kit or some other alternative to improve access.
11. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday evening of each month. They currently have 2 baskets of shawls available to members that might request them for illnesses, new births, bereavement, etc.
12. **Card Ministry** – Going strong!
13. At the conclusion of individual group leader discussions, the **Nurture Ministry decided to meet quarterly**, with the next meeting scheduled for April 23.
14. We **discussed a possible program to address financial management issues** and alternatives in light of our current economic environment as well as possible **areas to expand the ministry for our elderly and shut-in members**. Individuals interested in assisting in a ministry to elderly and shut-in members are requested to contact Betty Brummer or Clara Gestwick.

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. On January 13, 2009 Pastor Doug, Dave Campbell and William Sutton spent the day in Richmond at the “**Pastor’s Overview**” for the **Wesleyan Building Brothers**. This event was put on by the Conference UMMen and led by Dan Shaffer, the author of the book, “Spiritual Fathers”. This event was to introduce pastors and leaders in the process of helping men to become better spiritual leaders in the church. This event will be followed by another event for leadership teams called the “Male Leadership Experience” on April 28-30, 2009 in Blackstone, VA. Leaders are encouraged to register by March 1.
2. Our February meeting will be on February 15, 2009 and our program will be on “**Camp Rainbow**”. All men are invited to this opportunity to hear how everyone can help mentally challenged youths enjoy a summer camp experience.
3. Our continued focus in 2009 will be “**Men in Ministry**” with an emphasis on spiritual growth, building relationships, making disciples, and mission support.
4. **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 Cabinet Meeting** for the UMMen will be held on March 23, 2009 at St. Mark’s UMC, Hampton. All Officers of UMMen Fellowships are encouraged to attend.
2. There will be a **District Leadership Training Day and Annual Meeting** of the VA. Conference UMMen on March 28 at Discovery UMC, Richmond.
3. 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.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Katy Jones)

1. We will hand out **Stop Hunger Now** calendars on Sunday, February 22 and Ash Wednesday.

Financial Report (Bill Boyer, Business Manager)

1. The **January Financial Report** was provided as information.
2. In Bill Boyer’s absence Bo Walkley reported that **all is off to a good start in comparison to January 2008**. The monthly collection was \$67,030 compared to this year’s \$71,442. Expenses in January 2008 were %67,026 or 7.3% of the budgeted amount compared to this year’s \$78,820 or 7.8%. In 2008 we had not hired a youth director or business manager. So in both percentage and actual dollar amounts we are doing well.

Service Ministry (Susie Small and Kathryn Budzik)

1. The **monthly meeting was changed** to 6:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month before Church Council meeting. This change will start March 10.
2. The **Refugee Service** reports that the Iraqi women have started jobs in Norfolk and are thankful to be contributing to the family income.
3. The **next ASP adult volunteer trip** will be September 13-19. Excellent response for work teams through the spring and summer has pushed this next trip into the fall. Please contact Joe Vallow with questions.

4. The **Medicine Box Ministry** is in full swing; receiving donations through February and March.
5. The **Easter Egg Committee** is asking the Service Ministry to help decide which Christian Mission Projects will receive the profits from the sales. The decision will be completed by May.
6. Volunteers for **mission trips for Katrina relief** will not be able to support as many trips as in the past due to the need for funding. The donated money from other parts of the USA is dwindling, so supplies and room/board are challenges. The next trip planned is in April for the tornado relief in Georgia.
7. The **Brazil mission trip** is underway with the planning stages starting this month. Kathryn Budzik is the contact person for this event. The dates are set for August 9-17.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. We need 100 large tin cans for the Shrove Tuesday workshop.
2. We are starting a new Sunday School class at 11:00 a.m. for those out of college but under 30 group not yet married or newly weds. There will be a welcome dinner on April 3 and class begins on April 5.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. **All is well with the five practices studies and sermons** and the congregation is excited and active.
2. **Doug sends regards** from Jerusalem and Galilee.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned at 8.42 p.m.**

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary