

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

February 14, 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.”

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The February 2006 Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. There were 17 members present.

Brad Perry brought our devotion "Formula for Personal Growth" based on James 1: 22-25. *"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does."* In this scripture, James instructs us to be doers of the word. We should all be involved in the evangelism and outreach of Christ's Church. The District Evangelism kickoff on February 5<sup>th</sup> encouraged all of us to look at what we can do to be more vital and inviting, thus witnessing to everyone. We must center on Christ to be strong.

**January Minutes:** The minutes were approved as submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**REPORTS**

**Education Ministry** - Melissa Koch & Rich Ziemet  
Committee did not meet in January.

**Worship Ministry** - Kenna Rusk & Laura McKinney

- Usher Training for the 11 a.m. worship service will be held on Wed., Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. Pastor Mark will be doing defibrillator training at this session also. Anyone who ushers at 11 a.m. is encouraged to attend; pizza will be provided.
- 2006 is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Full Clergy Rights for Women. We plan to contact the former female pastors from St. Luke’s and invite them back to preach on specific Sundays.
- Lenten preparations continue (more details next month)
- Ash Wednesday is March 1<sup>st</sup> – the church will be open early that morning & there will be a service at 7 p.m.

### **Outreach Ministry** - Karen Berardini & Pat Murphy

- Outreach had their first team meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Our second meeting will be Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. This month's meeting will focus on developing a discipleship plan for newcomers.
- We have been advertising for, but have not yet found, leaders for the Shepherding, Welcome/Hospitality Center, Fellowship Hosting, and New Neighbor Packet Ministries.
- Karen is making Outreach awareness announcements at the February services. The first two were on welcoming and understanding evangelism.
- We are putting together a proposal for the Trustees' Meeting regarding signs and the Hospitality Center.
- Thirteen people from St. Luke's attended the District Evangelism Launch on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Nurture Ministry** - Mary Ellis & Donna Dorenbush

- Red Cross Blood Drive - will be held on Monday, February 27 from 4:00 – 8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Margie Smith is the general coordinator. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex for blood donations, kitchen help, registration help, and food contributions.
- Bereavement Committee - a new congregational care initiative; Donna Dorenbush, Betty Brummer, Joyce Wilson, and Joan Comeaux have met to prepare resources intended to serve the congregation's bereaved and those who are called upon to assist with funerals and funeral receptions. The resources that will be made available will include lists of food suggestions and a guide to locating everything from tablecloths to the light switches in the Fellowship Hall.
- St. Luke's Travelers - Information for the Travelers is always available in the newsletter, on the website, and on the bulletin board in the hallway by the offices.
- New Church Directory - We are in the process of building a team for the new pictorial directory. (Photography will take place in June.)

### **Service Ministry** - Joe Vallow

- Our Russian and Sudanese families are doing really well with jobs and homes.
- ASP is helping at the church.
- Margie Smith will work on our church doing a medicine box for UMCOR again this summer.
- PORT: Our last assignment for this winter is in East End of Newport News one supper through breakfast period between March 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>. William Sutton is the POC.

### **Communications Ministry** - Ken Engrebretson

- Megan Zahn, our Communications Coordinator, manages the recently re-established St. Luke's website through E-zekiel at a cost of approximately \$600 per year. This includes an on-line calendar with multiple sorting capabilities that provides a concise picture of groups and the times they meet at St Luke's throughout the year. This web presence can be an effective tool for us to attract area residents to programs and classes that we offer

at St Luke's. All ministry areas are encouraged to talk with Megan about using this capability to publicize and inform our congregation and potential visitors about the things they are doing "to respond creatively to God's call to welcome, love, and care for others." Paul Lapointe handles the Youth program portion of the website. The website can be reached at [www.stlukesyorktown.org](http://www.stlukesyorktown.org).

- More data, such as Sunday School membership and attendance, is being entered into our church database (a program called "Church Windows") that will increase our ability to more efficiently and effectively communicate with our congregation regarding focused program offerings or follow-ups after multiple absences, etc. Many thanks to Betty Brummer for spearheading this monumental effort. All ministry areas are also encouraged to talk with Megan about how the Church Windows program might be able to help with your efforts.

#### **Staff-Parish Relations Committee** - Bo Walkley

The Lay Council Representative to SPRC, Dennis Crocker, had to change since Teresa, his wife, is a St. Luke's employee.

#### **United Methodist Women** - Deann Posey

- Our first quarterly meeting was held last Sunday. Joyce Wilson, our Spiritual Growth Coordinator, led the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial. The program highlighted *Preserving Property, Serving People*.
- March 11<sup>th</sup> is the District Prayer Breakfast with speaker, Doris Bird, Pastor of St. James UMC. Many from St. Luke's will be attending that morning at Crown Point Plaza.
- We are continuing with an information table in the Narthex on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.
- The District United Methodist Women will hold its board meeting at St. Luke's on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m. Our unit will provide refreshments.
- We will hold a Bake Sale on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- In September we plan to begin our Christmas Ornament sale.

#### **Lay Leader Council** - No Report

#### **Finance** - Ron Dorenbush

Our 2006 giving is behind approximately \$500 each Sunday compared to Budget needs.

#### **Treasurer** - Chuck Harris

- The first 6 weeks giving are about the same as 2005.
- We have a \$14,082 positive cash flow.

#### **United Methodist Men** - Rich Ziemet

#### **Trustees** - Joel Church

Harwood Bathroom Refurbishment Update:

- A contract to refurbish the hall and master bathrooms at the Harwood Parsonage has been awarded to S&D Home Improvements. Work began on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to the Appalachian Service Project Team:

- A special thanks to Keith Bird and the ASP Team for helping accomplish various facility related tasks over the last several weeks. The ASP Team replaced weather stripping on doors, replaced damaged ceiling tiles, reset floor tiles, assisted with electrical work, helped with grounds clean up, removed a tree and several overgrown shrubs, and cleaned gutters at the church and both parsonages.

**Youth** - Jenn Wilcox  
No Report.

**Director of Discipleship Ministry** - James Pace

James is absent due to the passing of his father. Betty Brummer commented that the Sunday School Classes need to be reminded to put their Roll Books outside the door each Sunday.

**Pastor Mark**

- Nell Sorrells passed away on Monday.
- James Pace's Father passed away suddenly last Thursday. He & his family traveled to Louisiana for the services. Staff and Lay Leadership are helping to keep things going with Pastor Bill away at retreat and James away on family emergency.
- Evangelism is our relationship with God reaching out to others. Karen and Pat are doing a great job.
- The surveys on where our church is now we submitted and we are waiting for scores from Virginia and District. Computer glitches have delayed this.
- This is a busy time at SLUMC with Lent coming. The new members are a joy. Garnet Knabe and the Scouts were wonderful last Sunday.
- SPRC sent recommendations to the District for staffing. We need to pray for our District Superintendent and Bishop for personnel placement.
- Volunteers in Mission & UMCOR are alive and well -- doing great. The Stephens ministry is on hold right now. There will be 3 more trips to Gulfport MS to assist with Katrina recovery:
 

April 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	6 folks
April 17 <sup>th</sup> - 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8 folks
May 16 <sup>th</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup>	TBD

There will be a meeting on Sunday March 16th at 11 a.m. to provide further information.

**Pastor Bill** – Attending Annual Retreat.

**Church Council Vice-Chairman** - Brad Perry

We will have a sign in sheet in place for the next CC Meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The sign up sheet for devotions and refreshments at meetings is going around. Debbie Frecker has set up a coffee time between worship services.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Chuck Harris cited that cremation was becoming more popular and he wasn't getting any younger, thus recommended a feasibility study of a columbarium for the church. Joe Vallow said we should form a small group to study what other churches are doing. Chuck Harris would be on the committee and will ask Paul Roth, Tom Kelly and 1 trustee to be on the committee also.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

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

**Next Meeting: March 14, 2006 at 7:30 PM**

(Devotion – Faye Keenan; Refreshments – Brenda Ramsey)

Submitted by Faye Keenan, Church Council Secretary.