

# *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."*

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## **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 8, 2008**

**7:30 p.m.**

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Council Chair, Sam Motley. There were 25 members present.

### **WELCOME NEW LEADERS**

Sam Motley welcomed all of the new Church Council leaders and extended a thank you for their commitment to serve at St. Luke's. Sam recommended that new leaders go to the church website and read the Operating Policies on fundraising, reserving calendar dates, scheduling rooms, submitting vouchers, etc.

### **DEVOTION**

Theresa Butler shared a story from her great-aunt's Christmas letter. The story told of a pasture where among the horses were one that was blind and a small one that wore a bell. The blind horse would listen to the sound of the bell to help find his way. As Christians we are a lot like these horses. Some of us are like the blind horse always waiting for others to show the way and some are like the horse with the bell always the one to reach out, to lead or help others. As we prepare for 2008 and look to the vision of St. Luke's we should all listen for each others bells.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for **November 13, 2007** were **approved** as submitted. Karen Berardini questioned the accuracy of the percentage figure given for the increase of worship attendance in 2007. Therefore the minutes for **December 10, 2007** were approved **with the following correction** to item 9 on page 3: *Worship attendance has increased over 2006. . .*

### **OLD BUSINESS / FOLLOW-UP**

1. Members were asked to check Attendance Roster and verify e-mail addresses.
2. Members were encouraged to sign up to lead devotions or provide refreshments for Church Council meetings.
3. **Thursday, January 28 was the date chosen for the Church master schedule/vision meeting. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in room 21.**

**APPROVED: March 11, 2008**

## ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the Easter Egg Committee** (Debbie Frecker): **Request approval to hold fundraiser and determine clarification of Easter Egg Project mission statement.**
  - a) **Request to hold the annual Easter Egg fundraiser beginning Sunday, February 24 was unanimously APPROVED.**
  - b) Debbie Frecker shared concerns that Easter Egg Project may have lost its original purpose and that the committee was having some difficulties devising a mission and vision statement. She also expressed concerns that some of the groups seeking funds may be outside the guidelines, policies or beliefs of the church and requested guidance for the disbursement of the funds. It was decided that a sub-committee will be formed to report disbursement suggestions to Church Council for approval. Only church members will be eligible to serve on this committee.
  - c) The Easter Egg Committee will provide a proposed mission and vision statement and a list of suggested recipients at the next Church Council meeting.
  
2. **Motion from the United Methodist Women** (Faye Keenan): **Request approval to hold the following fundraisers for 2008 which would take place before and after all three worship services:**
  - a) **Bake Sale on April 13**
  - b) **Sell Buck Eyes (peanut butter candies) on October 12**

Motion was **TENTATIVELY APPROVED** pending discussion and date availability at the January 28 calendar planning meeting.

3. **Motion from the Service Ministry:** (Susan Sallwasser): **Request approval to hold the annual Souper Bowl of Caring fundraiser to support the Food Closet by placing a container for monetary donations in the Narthex during all three worship services on Super Bowl Sunday, February 3, 2008.**

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

4. **Motion from the Service Ministry:** **Request to incorporate the Green Church Initiative as a separate Church Council Agenda item. Joe Posey will lead this ministry.**

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

5. **Motion from the Youth Ministry:** **Request approval to hold a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper fundraiser.** This event, hosted by the youth group, will be held on Tuesday, February 5 beginning at 5:00 p.m. Proceeds from this event will be used to support youth programs.

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

6. **Motion from Church Council:** **Request approval to appoint Joe Posey as the Vice Chairman of Church Council.**

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

## REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

### Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. **No report.** The Board of Trustees will meet on Monday, January 14 at 7:00 p.m.

### Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. The building committee received the **revised drawings** of the St. Luke's building plans from Myler in late November and has reviewed the changes that were submitted to Myler from the last review. The building committee chair (Blair Ellis) met with the Senior Pastor and Sam Motley to discuss the "road ahead." Prior to providing a detailed update to the Church Council, it was decided to ask Myler to break the building plan into phases in order to ascertain the cost associated with the different parts of the building project.
2. Following receipt of this additional information, the building committee will work with the Church Council Chair to **set up a meeting** in order to discuss the current planning and drawings of the St. Luke's building program in some detail.

### Finance Committee (Bo Walkley)

1. The Finance Committee met on December 18, 2007. The committee discussed various church financial related matters. **Highlights included:**
  - a) Sam Motley, Finance Chair, **introduced and welcomed Bo Walkley** as the incoming Finance Chair for 2008.
  - b) **Jim Morrison was approved** as a Sunday morning offering Counter.
  - c) **Bob Dye provided an update on the Stewardship Campaign** and indicated that approximately 60% of the 2008 financial plan had been pledged with about 250 pledge cards received.
  - d) The **Finance Committee, SPRC, and/or the Nominations Committee will need to work closely early in 2008 to replace Chuck Harris** as SLUMC Treasurer.
  - e) The **Stewardship Campaign brought in 168 commitment cards** totaling 59% of the budget and many regular contributions without a formal commitment are anticipated.

### Treasurer (Chuck Harris-*through February*)

1. The **end of the year financial report** was provided for information.

### Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

1. **The deadline for the February newsletter is Tuesday, January 15.**

### Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

1. **Adult Education**
  - a) **Introduction to the New Testament classes** with Pastor Clara will resume this week and run through February 6 on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
2. **Youth**
  - a) **Youth director job search continues.** Committee interviews with 2 candidates scheduled for Monday, January 7.
  - b) **Stan Scott continues to serve as interim youth director.**
  - c) **Confirmation classes resume** Sunday, January 6.
    - 1) Parents meeting will be held on Sunday, January 6 to get the parents more involved in the process
    - 2) Letters went out to recruit mentors for each of the confirmands.

- 3) Mentors will be asked to meet with their youth 4 to 6 times before confirmation on June 7. *Everyone in worship and service to Christ would make a great mentor.* Anyone interested should see James Pace ASAP.
- 4) We will be pairing up the mentors with confirmands on Sunday, January 20 at 3 p.m.
- d) **Amazing Bible Race teams** meet at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays with Pastor Doug - Middle and High school students welcome
3. **Sunday School**
  - a) **Simply Christian Sunday School Class** - aimed at young adults, meets Sunday mornings at 8:45 p.m.
  - b) Most of our Sunday School classes have a team of teachers that teach on a rotating basis. This means they only teach once or twice a month. Some of these classes are short teachers, including the first, third and fourth grade, the other teachers are forced to teach weekly and need a break. **More teachers are necessary.**
  - c) We also **need substitute teachers** we can call if needed when other teachers need a Sunday off. **Contact James Pace to volunteer.**
  - d) The **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Sunday School class will sell Valentines** Sunday, February 4 and 11 to raise money for the Stop Hunger Now program.
4. **Coming up**
  - a) **Lenten Workshop and Pancake Dinner** - Shrove Tuesday, February 5.
  - b) **“What Every Person Should Know” Workshop** - Although aimed at teachers, this workshop will be open to all adults in the church interested - February TBD.
  - c) **Being Methodist in the Bible Belt** - February TBD.
  - d) **Vacation Bible School** - Week of July 13.

**Nurture Ministry** (Donna Dorenbush and TBN)

1. **Tabb Girls Ensemble Concert and Reception on December 2** – There was a full house at both the concert and the reception. Thanks to Gordon Parr and the Girls Ensemble for a wonderful concert and to all who helped to make the reception a great fellowship event!
2. **Advent Dinner and Children’s Concert on December 16** – Thanks to Carol Comstock and Wanda Sills for all their work on a very successful Advent Dinner, and to Cheryl Parr and Beth Crispen and the children for the great program!
3. **Nine students attended the College Fellowship at the parsonage on January 4** – Thanks to the pastors and the students for staying “connected” and to Elise Seay for coordinating.
4. **The next Blood Drive will be February 5** – Sign up dates will be January 20 and 27, and February 3.

**Outreach Ministry** (Karen Berardini and TBN)

1. Outreach Ministry **met on Monday, January 07, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.**
2. The **Drive Thru Nativity** took place Friday and Saturday December 7 and 8. About 350 vehicles (including 5 busloads) came through, an estimated 1400 people.
3. We ran a **TV ad campaign** for the Advent season. The Igniting Ministry commercials ran 53 times the week of December 12 on TBS, Lifetime, ESPN, ABC Family, and A&E for a total cost of \$3884.
4. **Outreach’s matching grant proposal** for the Lenten season was approved. This is a grant through Igniting Ministry—we will run 2 weeks of ads and they will pay half.
5. A **survey was mailed to Singles** in our congregation to get their input on starting a Singles Ministry. Return of the survey was light, and we are putting this plan on hold for the time being.

6. The **next Newcomers' Seminar** is Sunday, January 20 at 4 p.m. Ministry area representatives are invited to speak briefly about their programs at 5 p.m., and they may stay for dinner to meet the new folks. Let Joyce know if you plan to eat dinner.
7. Outreach Ministry will be presenting **evangelism awareness messages** during the month of February. We are hoping to do this in skit form this year.
8. The committee is investigating the possibility of a **bus ministry**. We are also looking into participating in the Yorktown Market Days events—possibly giving out refillable water bottles imprinted with St. Luke's information. We are not ready to ask for approval at this time.

**Service Ministry** (Ron Dorenbush and Susie Small)

1. Joe Posey met with Ron Dorenbush on Monday, January 7 to make the **Service Ministry handoff**.
2. The next **ASP FOGG** trip will be April 20-26 to Jonesville, Virginia and there are 14 slots available.
3. Still assisting the **family in Seaford**. About 10 people came out to help with this project the last time.
4. Ron Dorenbush asked for prayers for the "**Katrina Rebuild**" efforts. It is estimated that it will take 20 years to rebuild Pascagoula, Mississippi. The Red Cross has over 20 million dollars that cannot be touched because of paperwork.
5. Ron Dorenbush **lifted up the youth** who during their Christmas break gathered at 4 a.m. to go serve in Gulfport. There are three more "Katrina Rebuild" trips planned.
6. **Green Church Initiative** (Joe Posey)
  - a) A **letter will go out soon** to the congregation to inform them of Church Council's approval of this covenant.
  - b) As the facilitator of this program **Joe Posey will help various ministries go green** and encourage environmentally conscious lifestyle changes.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee** (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

1. SPRC will **meet on Thursday, January 10** at 7:00 p.m.

**Worship Ministry** (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

1. Happy New Year! **Christmas Eve Services brought 1,142 people to worship!** The 9:00 p.m. service was the largest crowd. Last year the 7:00 p.m. service was the largest.
2. Now a new year begins and Lent is right around the corner. **Worship has begun to plan for Lent.** Some of the things to look forward to will be Shrove Tuesday (February 5) Pancake Supper and Lenten Workshop.
3. **Ash Wednesday** there will be two services one at 7 a.m. and one at 7 p.m.

**United Methodist Men** (UMM) (William Sutton)

1. **Gearing up** and looking forward to the planning meeting to present up coming events.

**United Methodist Women** (UMW) (Katy Jones)

1. **December as a busy month for the UMW.** The circles worked on projects raising funds for several mission and service projects.
2. The **LIFT circle purchased gift cards** from Wal-Mart and Target for Heart Havens.
3. The Sarah Sudduth and Gertrude Carmines Circles purchased items and stuffed ten huge stockings for the Salvation Army and also sent excess items.
4. The **Sister in Christ Circle contributed \$72** to the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Angel Tree Project.
5. Our **installation of Officers** will be at the 8:30 a.m. worship service on January 20.

6. **Church Council approval is requested** for the following 2008 fundraisers (see page 2; item 2):
  - a) April 13 – Bake Sale at the rear door of the church (weather permitting)
  - b) October – Buck Eyes Sale
7. The **mission funds for 2007** were disbursed as follows:
  - a) Good Samaritan Fund at St. Luke’s - \$250
  - b) United Methodist Family Services—Henry Fork Center - \$250
  - c) Blackstone Conference Center (bedroom/mattress fund) - \$250

**Director of Discipleship Ministries** (DDM) (James Pace)

1. **Shrove Tuesday Workshop** on Tuesday, February 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
2. Tentative date for “**What Everyone Needs to Know**” workshop is February 19.
3. Tentative date for **Vacation Bible School** is July 14 – 18 with an opening celebration on Sunday, July 13.

**Associate Pastor** (Clara Gestwick)

1. **Camp Overlook**
  - a) **Camp dates: June 22-27** (week Pastor Clara attends) and **July 6-11**.
  - b) Our **church bus/van will drive our children/youth** to camp and bring them home.
  - c) **Registration forms** are located on Clara’s office door and need to be returned to her with deposit (made out to Camp Overlook) by March 1, 2008. The reason we send in the forms together and so early is to receive a discount from the camp and to ensure that all campers get their preferred week.
  - d) Camp is **available to children who have completed third through tenth grades**.
  - e) **Youth in eleventh and twelfth grades are eligible to be counselors in training.** (Call the camp for details.)
  - f) **St. Luke’s gives a scholarship to campers** who are members of the church. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Clara or James.
2. **Lent**
  - a) Lent begins early this year. **February 6, 2006 is Ash Wednesday**.
  - b) Why not **give up something for Lent or add something** like reading the Bible daily to your life as a spiritual discipline?
  - c) **Easter is Sunday, March 23, 2008.**
  - d) **Watch the newsletter and bulletins** for worship dates and special activities.

**Senior Pastor** (Doug Gestwick)

1. A diverse group of **47 will travel to Israel**. There will be two different groups departing from two different airports with everyone meeting in Tel Aviv.
2. Doug **welcomed and thanked all of the new Church Council members** and suggested that the visit the church website for policies and procedures.
3. There will be **three major offerings this year**. Lent, Advent and Conference offering envelopes will be mailed with the seasonal brochures.
4. **Thomas Lane preached** this past Sunday with other college students participating. It was very meaningful and this is what it means to be a calling church.
5. Time and Talent Surveys will be available at the calendar planning meeting for distribution to ministry area leaders.
6. The **Amazing Bible Race** with Middle School and High School teams continues.

7. The **Youth Director search** is coming to a close. The team interviewed six candidates by phone and chose one to do a face to face interview. The team feels very good about this person.
8. **Teresa Crocker resigned as Nursery Director** with a desire to have more time for worshipping. Becky Sherman was hired as an interim and was asked to look at the nursery and determine what changes or improvements are needed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. William Sutton lifted up **District events**:
  - a) Reminder **about District Leadership Training** at Williamsburg UMC at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 12. Doug has the necessary forms or you can register at the event. Cost is \$12 which is covered by St. Luke's.
  - b) **Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration** will be held at Bethany UMC at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 27. Bishop Wood Whit will be the speaker and the focus will be gangs and domestic violence.
  - c) William **thanked the congregation for supporting the homeless ministry** with their donations of coats, hats, gloves and scarves.
2. **Bus drivers are still needed.**
3. The **next Church Council meeting: March 11, 2008.** There will be **no February meeting** due to the Israel trip.
4. **March Devotions:** Megan Zahn
5. **March Refreshments:** Megan Zahn

## **ADJOURNMENT**

1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.**

*Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary*