

# *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 13, 2009**

**7:30 p.m.**

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### **CALL TO ORDER – Tom Lyon, Chair**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council Chair, Tom Lyon. There were 26 members present. Tom welcomed the new members and both old and new members introduced themselves.

### **HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS – Tom Lyon, Chair**

- 1. Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster, sign up to lead devotions or provide refreshments for upcoming meetings and verify current e-mail addresses.**
- 2. Next Church Council meeting: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.**

### **DEVOTION**

Tom Lyon presented a devotion entitled *“Daily Walking Close to Thee.”* With the arrival of a new year we begin to think about resolutions. Most people make them but rarely follow through. A resolution usually means that we want to resolve to improve or better ourselves and bettering ourselves as Christians means bettering our relationship with God. Resolving to be closer to God day by day rather than annually gets the job done in a better way. The words from the old hymn *“Just a Closer Walk With Thee”* describes daily walks with God or we can take our cue from David. The Scriptures refer to David praying daily, knowing the benefit of God’s daily blessings, praising God daily and learning that he needed to rely on God daily. Resolving to live better for God day by day will bring us closer to Him this year and all the years to come. Pastor Doug closed with prayer.

### **VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS**

Pastor Doug began by noting that St. Luke’s is like a cruise ship—it can be turned around but not quickly—and St. Luke’s is turning around in the right direction. In 2008 St. Luke’s received 111 new members of which 67 were by Profession of Faith. Of all the Methodist churches in Virginia 75% did not receive a new member by Profession of Faith.

In 2009 we will strive to make St. Luke’s a “Fruitful Congregation.” This Lenten season we will focus on the “Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation” using the book of the same name by Bishop Robert Schnase through sermons and devotions. Additionally, all adult Sunday School classes will be asked to use this as their study for the Lenten season. The five practices are: *Radical hospitality; Passionate worship; Intentional faith development; Risk-taking mission and service; and Extravagant generosity.*

**APPROVED: February 10, 2009**

The last word of the topics are the description of the practice but what is really important is the adjective that precedes it, not just hospitality but *radical hospitably!* We will focus, as a congregation, on learning how to “do” these adjectives. Pastor Clara presented books to ministry leaders and encouraged all to read and study it as a committee, particularly the sections that pertained to individual ministry areas. There will be a follow-up discussion at next month’s council meeting.

### **MISSION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

Church Council chairman, Tom Lyon provided a hand-out which covered an overview of the purpose and mission of the Church Council, Tasks of the Committee, and Organization and Relationships within the council. Tom charged all of those present to take a look at their individual committees over the next 6 months to determine if the current Church Council falls within these guidelines. Tom also provided copies of the Interest Area List compiled from the recent stewardship campaign in which members indicated the areas within the church that they would like to volunteer. Tom encouraged committees to call those listed, get them involved, invite them to committee meetings and help make them part of the work of our fruitful congregation.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the **December 9, 2008 Church Council** meeting were approved as submitted.

### **ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL**

1. **Motion from Ken Engebretson/Relay For Life:** Request approval to have the annual Brunswick Stew Relay For Life Team fundraiser on March 1 with ticket sales on February 15 and 22. This will ensure no conflict with the afternoon set-up for the Easter Egg project.

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED**

2. **Motion from Debbie Frecker/Easter Egg Project Committee:** Request approval to change the date of the Easter Egg Project in order to be completed prior to Holy Week. This year’s project would begin on Monday, March 9 and end on April 3, the Friday prior to Holy Week.

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED**

3. **Motion from Suzi Smith/United Methodist Women/Stop Hunger Now:** Request approval for the following fundraisers to support the Stop Hunger Now event scheduled for May 3:

- a) **Homemade Valentine and Carmel Sale by the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School Classes** to be held at the T-intersection between worship services on Sunday, February 8.
- b) **Hunger Calendar and Collection Box** to be distributed on Sunday, February 22. The Sisters in Christ Circle would provide calendars, bearing the Stop Hunger Now symbol, with an educational and devotion focus for St. Luke’s families.
- c) **UMW Bake Sale** to be held at the back door between worship services on Sunday, March 22.
- d) **UMW Buckeye Sale** to be held at the T-intersection on Sunday, October 11.

**Motions were unanimously APPROVED**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Tom Lyon reported that the **District Training Day** will be held on January 31, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Williamsburg UMC. This event is not just for leaders but also for those simply inquiring about a particular ministry area. Please advertise this event to you committees, *everyone is welcome*. . Please RSVP to Tom if you plan to attend.

**REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

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

1. Christmas Eve Services went very well. The following is the attendance broken down by service:  
5:00 **351**    7:00 **540!**    9:00 **228**    11:00 **177**    **For a grand total of 1,296**  
**Many Thanks to all that helped with these services!**
2. **2008 new members 111 and 67 by profession of faith.**
3. **Alternative worship service** to start up sometime after Easter.
4. **Upcoming dates:**
  - a) February 8—Scout Sunday
  - b) February 23—Shrove Tuesday Lenten workshop
  - c) February 24—Ash Wednesday

**Nurture Ministry** (Della Shelton and Betty Brummer)

1. **SL8** – There are 3 teams currently meeting.
2. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Starting back up after the holidays and should have their next meeting on January 22 at 6:30 p.m. They will continue to meet every second and fourth Thursday evening.
3. **College Student Ministry** – December activities went well. Nothing new to report at this time.
4. **Martha’s Ministry** – Held a reception for Nancy Leonard, wife of Ted Leonard, on December 28.
5. **St Luke’s Travelers** – Planning a trip to NY City May 2-4.
6. **Wednesday Suppers** – Reconvened on January 7 after holiday break.
7. **Blood Drive** – Coming up February 17. Announcements will be made 3 weeks prior.
8. **Many thanks for all the wonderful support** for those helping with various areas under the Nurture Ministry. Contact has been made with the leads for the above, and they all plan to continue their support this year. Phone calls will be made to POCs for Easter, Lent, Card Ministry, Advent, and Newcomers Orientation by the end of the month. We hope to have a Nurture Ministry meeting with all leads by the first week of February.

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

***Local Church:***

1. William Sutton and Pastor Doug spent this afternoon in Richmond at the **“Pastor’s Overview for the Wesleyan Building Brothers.”** This event is new to the conference and focuses on Men’s Ministry. There will be a follow-up event sometime in April in Blackstone, VA. More information to come.
2. January 18 will be the **first fellowship breakfast for 2009** for the UMMen of St. Luke’s. We will continue our work on distribution of mission funds raised in 2008 and plan to continue focusing on what we are called to be – “Doer’s of the Word”. 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.

3. Our **February meeting** will be on 2/15/09 and our program will be on “Camp Rainbow.” We plan to invite both women and men to this opportunity to hear how everyone can help mentally challenged youths enjoy a summer camp experience.
4. Our **focus in 2009 will be “Men in Ministry”** with an emphasis on spiritual growth, building relationships, making disciples, and mission support.
5. **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. St. Luke’s own William Sutton will be installed as the President of the Peninsula District Men for 2009. The program for the evening will be lead by Rev. John LeGualt of First UMC, Newport News. He will be discussing the “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations.”
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.

#### **Building Ministry** (Blair Ellis)

1. The Pastors and the building committee chair have **presented 3 more presentations to the laity** – through January 11. The final tabulation is not in but we had approximately another 116 church members attend the presentations on Sunday. Many thanks to Chuck Harris, Phil Comstock, and Megan Zahn for their direct support for these presentations – as well as many thanks to those building committee members who attended the presentations and also provided support by telling the congregation at the last six church services about the upcoming presentations.
2. **Feedback was positive** and we will assess when/if we need to do any more presentations. We will also assess the questions from our latest presentations and move forward with the consolidation of changes and seek any assistance from Myler and RSI that we might need.
3. Ron Dorenbush and George Leftwich are **researching pros and cons of a FEMA – compliant worship center.** There are concerns about additional cost and ramifications of being part of the county/state disaster shelter plan during the actual hurricane/storm.
4. Finance (Bo Walkley) is **taking a more in-depth look at financing options for the current building plan** – to include a review of our reserves, etc.
5. At this point, we have **not decided upon a definite date for a called church** – wide vote on this building plan.

#### **Communications Ministry** (Ken Engebretson)

1. The Communications Ministry area **will be meeting on a quarterly basis.**
2. **How to communicate it. . .**
  - a) **Sunday Worship Bulletin deadline:** Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.
  - b) **Newsletter deadline:** 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month—*if the 15<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or holiday the deadline is the Friday prior*
  - c) **Sunday School Blurbs deadline:** Fridays at 12:00 p.m.

- d) **Calendar Reservations:** Submit requests to Administrative Coordinator, Joyce Wilson to verify availability; notify Joyce if group/committee will not meet on a holiday, etc. or if group is no longer meeting
- e) **Van/Bus Reservations:** Submit requests to Administrative Coordinator, Joyce Wilson to verify availability, reserve well in advance
- f) **Brochures/Flyers:** Contact Communications Coordinator, Megan Zahn as needed, plan ahead

**Finance Ministry** (Bo Walkley)

- 1. We **welcomed several new folks** to our committee this year.
- 2. We will begin to **focus on five different areas:**
  - a) 2008 Audit
  - b) 2007 Audit Follow-Up
  - c) Finance Committee Procedures
  - d) Investment Strategy and Philosophy
  - e) Building Campaign \$ Reserves

**Financial Report** (Bill Boyer, Business Manager)

- 1. The **December Financial Report** was provided as information.
- 2. Communication will be made to ministry area leaders on the **proper procedures for spending and authorizing budget line items**
- 3. The year ended with a **positive cash flow of \$68,577.80 and a remaining \$105,199.48**
- 4. There were **no major areas of concern or over-spending**, a good year over all.

**Military Ministry** (Pete Prindle)

- 1. **Continuing to work on various programs** with a good response in these areas.

**Education Ministry** (Theresa Butler and Eric Cooper)

- 1. The **committee will meet** in James Pace's office on Thursday, January 15 at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. This year **Vacation Bible School** will be July 20-24.

**Youth Ministry** (Nate DeHart)

- 1. Last month, the youth group went **Christmas caroling** to our church's shut-ins on Sunday, December 21.
- 2. We also had our own **Christmas party** here at the church on December 23.
- 3. The **youth meetings were briefly interrupted for the Holidays**. However, we resumed our normal weekly meetings on Sunday, January 4 and our Wednesday night Bible-studies, Thursday night Synago meetings and Sunday Night Youth Groups have all been resumed.
- 4. Last Friday and Saturday (January 9 and 10) we had the **High School Lock-In** here at the church.
- 5. Coming up at the end of this month, we will be going on the **annual ski trip**. This year we have made the ski trip available for both middle and high school youth and currently have over 20 youths participating in the event.
- 6. **Next months events will include:**
  - a) Kathie Murphy's retreat for the High School Seniors—February 13 – 15
  - b) Winter Jam '09—February 22
  - c) Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner Fundraiser—February 24

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

1. **Dates for 2009 events:**

- a) September 12—Neighborhood Visitation
- b) December 11 & 12—Drive-Thru Nativity. This year's event brought in 300 cars. Adult Sunday School classes will be asked to plan Christmas parties around this event and all will be encouraged to participate.

**Service Ministry** (Susie Small and Kathryn Budzik)

1. The **Brazil Mission Trip** is tentatively scheduled for August 9-17. These dates have been previously approved. This trip will consist of construction and Vacation Bible School. To date there are 5 people committed to attend.
2. The **ASP** dates this are June 27 – July 4
3. The **FOGG ASP** will be planned sometime in April.
4. Seventeen people attended the last **Katrina trip**.

**Green Church Initiative** (Joe Posey)

1. Joe Posey gave a brief **background of the Green Church Initiative** for new council members and encouraged all to contact him to participate with individual ministries to learn way to go green.

**Board of Trustees** (Tom Sayre)

1. **Utility Trailer** - A person (unknown) either backed the trailer into some obstacle or ran into the trailer door with another vehicle. We ordered a replacement door at a cost of \$193. Our insurance deductible is \$250.
2. **Squirrel Problem** - We have squirrels getting into the ceiling above the sanctuary. The space between the roof and the ceiling is only about 8 inches and the insulation is 6 inches thick. Consequently, the exterminator wasn't able to trap the varmints in that small an area. Evidently a squirrel died in that area and the smell of decay was evident. The exterminator thought that the odor somehow got into the ventilation system, thus, the smell in the workroom and in Clara's office. Once the varmint's carcass dries up, the odor should dissipate. The trustees are in the process of getting bids to repair the fascia and soffit where apparently the squirrels entered the ceiling. We will also replace the guttering which must be removed to accomplish the repairs. The cost will be between \$12,000 and \$15,000.
3. **Carpet** - The carpet in all of the hallways is wearing out and needs to be replaced. We have contacted carpet people for bids on that project.
4. **Storage** - We have a critical shortage of storage for the various church ministries and functions. We have ideas on increasing the area that we now have. But first, all ministries need to look at their stuff in the attic and get rid of anything that isn't needed.
5. **Heat Conversion** - We plan to convert the existing oil burner to a heat pump/electric backup system. The cost will be about \$30,000. We also need to empty the fuel oil tank and fill it with foam or sand, whichever meets York County code. The tank capacity is approximately 1,000 gallons.
6. **New Stove** - Several people have asked that we get a new stove for the existing kitchen. The oven in the existing unit doesn't work properly and is too small for our purposes. We plan to look into an electric stove (we don't have a gas source for the kitchen) and possibly a convection oven for cooking and keeping food warm. We are looking at Warwick Memorial UMC for some ideas. The cost may be around \$5,000 to \$8,000.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee** (SPRC) (Jason Houser)

1. We **welcomed five new members** to the committee.
2. We **discussed the appointment of clergy** and will make recommendation to the district office to reappoint the Gestwicks as St. Luke's clergy.

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

1. Representative Suzi Smith **requested approval for upcoming fundraisers**. See Action item #3.

**Associate Pastor** (Clara Gestwick)

1. The **Blue Christmas Service** was attended by about 40 people and seemed to meet a need for both church members and folks from the community.
2. The **College Student Dinner** was so much fun and also well attended. It was a great time of fellowship.

**Senior Pastor** (Doug Gestwick)

1. Pastor Doug **encouraged Church Council members to get their reports submitted** and on the agenda prior to the meeting to limit the meeting time.
2. There will be **14 people making the trip to Israel** even as the war continues in Gaza. Please keep this trip and those traveling in your prayers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.**

*Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary*