

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

January 9, 2007

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.”

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by the Council Chair, Ron Dorenbush. There were 25 members present. Ron Dorenbush welcomed all the new Council members and asked all present to sign up to lead the devotion or to bring snacks for the meetings. Ron led our devotion from the “The Book of Discipline” reiterating on the message of District Superintendent, Myrtle France Hatcher that the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus’ words in Matthew 28:19-20 provide the Church with our mission: *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”* Ron closed with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes for **December 12, 2006** were approved as submitted.
2. Ron Dorenbush discussed the need to streamline the agenda and minutes process. In order to shorten the length of the meetings it is planned to discuss only those items requiring action or a vote. Ministry leaders are asked to have reports with items for information and items requiring action to be submitted to the Church Council Secretary by the Wednesday prior to the Church Council meeting or as soon as possible. Any last minute action items should be submitted directly to Ron Dorenbush or the pastors. It is our goal to have all information to be reviewed e-mailed or posted to the website no later than the Monday prior to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

REPORTS

Building Committee (Blair Ellis)

In Blair’s absence on work travel, Ron Dorenbush read the following report:

1. Per Myler’s request, St. Luke’s Building Committee requested that Campbell Survey Company complete a current topographical survey of the St. Luke’s property and structures. This survey was accomplished and Campbell charged \$450 for that service.
2. Tom Walker and a designer from Myler will be at St. Luke’s on Sunday, January 21 to meet with the Building Committee, some of the church staff, and the Pastors. The Building Committee has “completed” the Myler’s 20-page planning document in preparation for the January 21 meeting with Myler.

3. St. Luke's will need to start looking at other aspects of the future building project such as communicating more actively with St. Luke's laity and also begin reviewing future option for building a financial campaign.

Education Ministry (Greta Sharp and Betty Jane Turner)

In the absence of committee members James Pace noted the following upcoming events:

1. Women's Day Retreat—February 17
2. Adult Lenten Workshop—February 18 or 25
3. Lenten Luncheons will be offered again this year with the opportunity to ask the Pastors questions. They begin Wednesday, February 28
4. "Helping Hands," a mission trip for rising 4th through 6th graders will be July 26-27
5. Vacation Bible School dates have been changed due to "Helping Hands." Vacation Bible School will be July 30-August 3

Worship Ministry (Kenna Rusk)

1. The four Christmas Eve evening services went very well – 992 people worshipped here. The 7 p.m. service had the largest attendance (approx. 350).
2. Poinsettia donations came to \$1,840, we spent \$885, \$955 will be transferred to the Good Samaritan Fund.
3. The "Easter Flower" account balance was being used for altar flowers for 2006, \$404 remained as of 12/31/06 & was transferred to the Good Samaritan Fund also.
4. We have asked Trustees for some additional space in the attic behind the Sanctuary for hanging wreaths.

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini, Pat Murphy)

1. We are looking for a new coordinator for the Hospitality Center. Responsibilities are to schedule workers for each service and to keep the materials up to date. Ron Dorenbush encouraged all area ministry leaders to visit the Hospitality Center to see what wonderful church and community resources are available.
2. We would like to have a representative from each ministry area give a brief presentation at the next Newcomer's Seminar on Sunday, February 11. These representatives are invited to stay for dinner as well. Please contact Joyce if you plan to stay for the meal.
3. As church leaders, we need to remember to be welcoming. Introduce yourself by name to people you don't know when shaking hands at worship services. Stop by the Fellowship Minute when your schedule permits.
4. Beginning in February we will have a Library Cart in the Narthex to make it easy for people to check out books.
5. I have ordered the UMVIM Team Leader kit with an eye toward a Summer 2008 International Teaching Mission trip. More later on this.
6. Would Ministry Leaders be interested in meeting at 7 p.m. on Church Council nights to help keep each other up to date on what is going on calendar-wise and to discuss some of our overlap issues?
7. I've talked to Doug about our Summer Intern helping with the kick-off of St. Luke's Singles Ministry. We're hoping this ministry will help us reach out to a new group of people.
8. We're looking at Friday and Saturday December 7 and 8 for the 2007 Drive-Thru Nativity. Put it on your calendars now!
9. Karen Berardini suggested that ministry leaders meet prior to the Church Council meetings to coordinate upcoming events in an effort to avoid the overlapping of event dates. Ron Dorenbush suggested fellowship dinners with a casual atmosphere. Ron will follow up on this matter.

Nurture Ministry (Mary Ellis, Donna Dorenbush)

1. College Students: Party at the Gestwicks' was held on December 22.
2. Directory: Proofbook with our corrections will be returned to PCA this week.
3. Christian Yoga Classes: Scheduled for Wednesday mornings from 9:15 – 10:30 beginning January 10 and continuing to March 21. (Instructor: Beth Mahood)
4. Women's Retreat: Scheduled ("off-site") for Saturday, February 17 for all women of the church.
5. Red Cross Blood Drive: Scheduled for Tuesday, February 20 from 3:30 – 7:30 in St. Luke's Fellowship Hall.

Service Ministry (Joe Posey)

1. **One co-leader position is still open.**
2. **Fair Trade coffee** is now being used for the Fellowship Moment, by the United Methodist Men, and several Sunday School classes. Contact Joe Posey to order your supply.
3. The **Good Samaritan Fund** completed 2006 well in the black with a large infusion of funds from Christmas Eve donations.
4. **Operation Christmas Child** collected 58 boxes in 2006, more that twice as many as in 2005.
5. Ron Dorenbush lead two UMVIM teams to Gulfport, Mississippi during December to continue St. Luke's **Katrina recovery work**. In addition to the many volunteer hours, St. Luke's also sent \$3,500 to defray the cost of materials.
6. The **Congolese refugees** are rapidly learning English and becoming Americanized. Suzi Smith is looking for volunteers to act as mentor to the children, since only one of the 14 refugees is over 19 years-old. St. Luke's has covered two months of rent on the refugees' two apartments.
7. Scott Wade, local coordinator for the **Fellowship of Christian Athletes** attended the January Service Committee meeting. He reported that there are 20 FCA huddles associated with Peninsula schools. These schools include middle schools, high schools, William and Mary, and Christopher Newport. They also fund scholarships to FCA summer camps and provide Bibles to coaches and students. St. Luke's contributes \$1,200 per year to support this work.
8. St. Luke's continues to support the **PORT** (People Offering Resources Together) **homeless ministry** in Newport News, providing dinner, overnight supervision, and breakfast in partnership with host church. The next opportunity to serve is January 30 at the Peninsula Korean Church located on 972 Harpersville Road, Newport News hosted by the Real People Sunday School class. Overnight volunteers are still needed.
9. The **W&M Wesley Foundation** has volunteered to provide programs or speakers for any church organization. To accept their offer, contact DeAnn Posey (890-2869) or Rev. David Hindman (229-6832.) St. Luke's contributes \$1,200 per year to WMWF.
10. **Relay For Life** is entering its eighth year of fund raising for St. Luke's. The next fund raisers will be the Super Bowl Sub Sales on Sunday, February 4 and the 6th Annual Relay for Love Valentine's Dinner Dance at the Marriott of Williamsburg on Saturday, February 10. Tickets for all romantics are available from any team member.
11. Charles and Patty Maddox, St. Luke's **covenant missionaries** for many years, retired on December 31. Our current covenant missionaries are Sharon Michael (Roanoke Community Outreach Program), Dr. Elma Jocson (medical missionary in Nepal), and Jacques Akasa Umembudi (airplane pilot/mechanic in the Congo).
12. Joe Vallow stated that there is a need for nine adult volunteers to do small home repair work at the year-round center in Brenton, West Virginia April 29—May 5.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

1. Communications Coordinator, Megan Zahn handed out “Communication Guidelines.” Contact and deadline information was provided for newsletters, bulletins, the church’s website and other publications and communications. Megan earnestly requested that all do their best to meet these deadlines. A “Publicity Form” was also provided to assist with publicity submissions. This form is currently available on the St. Luke’s website.

Staff Parish Relations (SPR) (Pete Prindle)

No Report

Youth Ministry (Jenn Wilcox)

1. Fund raisers for the upcoming SPLAT trip will include:
 - a) The Gong Show—June 1
 - b) Car washes in April, May and June
 - c) Flamingo Flocking in the spring

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Marian Thome for Chris Cianelli)

1. St. Luke’s UMW Unit is in the process of publishing a 2007 membership roster.
2. St. Luke’s UMW brochure will be updated and copies available at the Hospitality Desk.
3. Our Unit is hosting a District UMW Pep Rally at St. Luke’s on Saturday February 3, from 10:00 a.m. until noon.
4. Tentative dates for the UMW Unit quarterly meetings are:
 - February 8** luncheon – program will be Fasting and Hunger
 - May 14** or **June 11** – possible program on the Child Center by Betty Simmons, Director
 - September** – program emphasizing the Green Team (*district workshop for all Methodists 4/28/07, 9:30 – 3:30, Warwick Memorial UMC, “Caring for God’s Creation*)
 - November 13** – program will be World Thank Offering
5. Installation of UMW Unit officers will be at the 8:30 service January, 14.
6. There will be a combined Men’s and Women’s breakfast on January 21 at 8 a.m.
7. United Methodist Day at the General Assembly will be January 25.
8. The UMW Unit will continue to staff the Hospitality Desk the 3rd Sunday of each month and will usher on the 5th Sundays of the year.
9. As Membership and Nurture Chairperson, I propose there will be a UMW representative at the New Member Orientations.

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

1. The first fellowship opportunity in 2007 will be the joint UMMen and UMWomen gathering on Sunday, January 21 in the fellowship hall. The program will be on Military Ministry and Marriage and will be helpful for both military and nonmilitary couples and singles.
2. The UMM district cabinet dinner meeting and program will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 29 at First United Methodist Church in Hampton. All men are invited to attend.

Treasurer (Chuck Harris)

1. Chuck Harris presented the Financial Report for December 2006 and noted that the 2006 giving was \$39,000 more than in 2005 and that 2007 will begin with \$458,476 in cash assets.

Finance (Sam Motley)

Sam Motley, finance chair, noted that due to changes in church officers St. Luke's UMC needs to submit revised paperwork with the bank to change the signature authority currently on file.

A motion was made to approve the following persons as authorized to sign on behalf of St. Luke's:

Ron Dorenbush, Chair-Church Council

James R. (Sam) Motley, Chair-Finance

Robert Dye, Financial Secretary

Betty Brummer, Member

Karen Berardini, Member

The Church Council membership voted unanimously to APPROVE the motion.

Trustees (Joel Church)

1. Church Building
 - a) Playground Equipment: New playground equipment has been installed. Thanks to Lynnda Petersen for seeing this project through to completion and to Diana Donnelly for coordinating volunteers to remove the old equipment and installation of the new.
 - b) Roof-top AC Sheet Metal Repair: Peninsula Heating and Air replaced badly rusted sheet metal associated with the two roof-top AC units. Work is complete.
 - c) Roof Leak Repair Status: Peninsula Roofing's bid to repairs minor roof leaks has been approved. Repairs are scheduled to begin within the next two weeks.
 - d) Food Closet Ramp: A ramp has been installed as an Eagle Scout Project at the rear entrance to the sanctuary (food closet storage area). Thank you to Aaron Prewitt and all the scouts that assisted with this project.
2. Harwood Parsonage Sale Update: We are scheduled close on or about March 1, 2007. Several inspection contingency items will be addressed by the Trustees prior to closing. The anticipated net sale will be \$280,000 - \$285,000.
3. Transportation: A new 25 passenger van has been purchased. The final cost is \$48,800. Phil Comstock will travel to Chicago Friday night to drive the van back over the weekend. He anticipates arriving here on Sunday afternoon. Cost of driving it back is approximately \$500 versus over \$1,000 to have it delivered. Thanks to Phil Comstock and Johnny Martin for leading the Transportation Committee.
4. Trustees Classes of 2006 and 2009: Thanks again to outgoing trustees Class of 2006 Lynnda Petersen and Johnny Martin for all the accomplishments attributed to them both! And welcome to new Class of 2009 Trustees Jon Austin, Barb Ripley, and Fred Sawin.
5. Next Meeting: Trustees next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2007 at 7 p.m. Election of new officers for 2007 will be held at this meeting.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (James Pace)

1. The "Shalom, Shalam, Peace" study has 92 people signed up to attend with much anticipation that this number will increase. James, Pastor Doug, and others are surprised and excited by the overwhelming interest in this study and look forward to its beginning.

Pastor Clara

1. Pastor Clara reminded all of the Healing Service scheduled for 7 p.m. Sunday, January 14.
2. This summer, June 17—August 10, St. Luke's will sponsor a college intern and be a teaching church for those seeking ministry by participating in the Calling 21 Project.

Pastor Doug

3. Pastor Doug explained St. Luke's obligation for the Calling 21 Project. The church will host an intern this summer, be responsible for \$1,000 towards their stipend, and give them a broad range of ministry opportunities.
4. The cabinet has identified ten churches that lift up youth ministry and St. Luke is one of the ten. Karen Berardini will be St. Luke's lay person representative and Katelyn Cianelli will be the youth representative. Eventually this program will be expanded to 21 churches.
5. St. Luke's has been nominated by the General Board of Discipleship as a Roman's Church. If approved the church will participated in a self-study.
6. Our worship attendance was 399 for the first half of the year, and jumped to an average weekly attendance of 477 for the second half;--if we include the Christmas Eve services then our weekly attendance for the second half was 527.
7. Our budget ended up \$39,000 ahead of last year's collections, which is tremendous, since we were behind year to date the first of July.
8. Pastor Doug reminded all of "Shalom, Salaam, Peace" study beginning the January 15.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The next Church Council meeting will be **Tuesday, February 13**, at 7:30 p.m.
2. The devotion for this meeting will be lead by Pete Prindle and the snacks will be provided by Jenn Wilcox.

ADJOURNMENT

Council members brought praises and concerns, and Pastor Clara closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary