

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

January 10, 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 January 2006 Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM. There were 23 members present.

Ron Dorenbush, the new CC Chairman, offered the devotion which was based on Matthew 5: 1–12, The Beatitudes. Ron referred to Robert Schuler’s description of these well-known scriptures as the “Beautiful Attitudes,” and commented that at first glance, they don’t sound like beautiful attitudes. The deeper meaning of the scriptures is essential to our understanding of our role as Christian disciples. Jesus taught His disciples and *our* teaching comes from the Bible, from worship, and from study. As active members, being Christ-centered is essential. We need to ask ourselves if people see us as Christian disciples when they visit our church. Ron emphasized that this needs to start with Church Council. He asked, “How are we responding to God’s call? How do we accomplish Christian disciple *attitudes* as leaders in Church Council?” In order for us to become what Jesus was teaching, we must have a passion for God - in worship, prayer, service, Sunday School classes, and fellowship. In closing, Ron reminded us of Matthew 5: 3, “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth”, and also recalled John 13: 1– 7, the scripture that tells of Jesus washing His disciples’ feet, and noted that the person whose feet are being washed is the one who is meek. He ended the devotion by reminding us to live out our passion for God through service, and to enthusiastically do God’s work as leaders who will not suffer “burn-out” with God behind us.

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

**OLD BUSINESS** - None

**REPORTS**

Ron asked that those giving reports give only “highlights” in the oral reports at the meeting, and submit the more extensive reports in writing.

**Education Ministry** - Melissa Koch/ Rich Zeimet  
James Pace included an oral report in the DDM report.

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

- All four Christmas Eve services went very well. 924 people worshipped here. The 5 PM service had the largest attendance (270).
- The Christmas Day service had approximately 150 in attendance.

- Poinsettia donations came to \$1,168; we spent \$441; \$727 will be transferred to the Good Samaritan Fund.
- We are beginning preparations for Lent.

### **Outreach Ministry** – Karen Berardini/ Pat Murphy

- Karen showed a video presentation entitled “***A Tale of Two Churches***” from the Igniting Ministries campaign. In portraying the two churches’ very different approaches to preparing for and welcoming “honored guests” - persons whose identities would not be known to each church when they arrived for worship on Sunday morning - the video provided a great basis for understanding that *every member is part of a church’s hospitality and outreach team.*
- Our focus will be on evangelism and hospitality.
- Pat is ordering “First Time Visitor Parking” signs for 4 parking places by the sanctuary.
- We have drawn up plans for a Visitor Welcome Center in the corner of the narthex beside the main door. The Center will be manned and Welcome Packets will be available.
- Karen has updated the Shepherding Ministry packets.
- We are assembling an Outreach Ministry Team. The first meeting of the group will be Thursday, January 19 at 7 PM in Room 21. We hope to have representatives from every adult Sunday School Class and group.
- District Evangelism Launch will be at St. Luke’s on February 5, 2006.

### **Nurture** – Donna Dorenbush/ Mary Ellis

- Tri-District Training - Donna Dorenbush and Mary Ellis participated in the *Small Group Faith Formation* seminar at the Tri-District Training Event in Portsmouth on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.
- New Church Directory - Donna and Mary met with the representative from *PCA International Church Directories* on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Photography for the new directory for St. Luke’s is scheduled for June 6-10, June 13-17, and if additional dates are needed, photographs will also be taken on June 20 and 21. Materials should arrive in early April so we can begin the information and sign-up process. We will be recruiting coordinators and helpers for this project. Based on the assistance that PCA pledges to provide, we expect fewer difficulties than have been encountered in the past.
- Blood Drive - We should soon have information from the Red Cross on the date and time for the February Blood Drive.

### **Service Ministry** - Donald Rice/Joe Posey

- Joe recognized the Prindles for their outstanding job with the refugee resettlement efforts. He noted that Mary Jau’s mother and sister will arrive on January 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Ron Dorenbush will make two more trips to Mississippi. The first will be from March 23-30 and the second will be right after Easter - from April 17-23 - which will offer the high school students an opportunity to be a part of this mission.

### **Communications Ministry** - Ken Engebretson Megan Zahn gave an oral report.

- The Christmas brochure went over very well. Four more brochures will be done this coming year.
- The Website is in the process of being updated.

### **Staff-Parish Relations Committee**

Betty Brummer gave an oral report which is covered in the written report from Bo Walkley which follows:

To Church Council:

I am unable to join you for the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting due to a business travel commitment. I am, however, providing some notes on the first SPRC meeting, held on January 5<sup>th</sup> last week.

All members of the SPRC were present at our first meeting, and we welcomed new members Vince Berardini, Pete Prindle, and Vicki Stover. In addition, Dennis Crocker joined our committee as the LLC representative, and Betty Brummer remains as the Lay Delegate. Both Pastors Bill and Mark were also in attendance.

We conducted routine business, assigned lay staff liaisons for 2006, and updated the SPRC handbook for all members. I also re-stated the traditional reminder on the confidentiality of all SPRC discussions, as required by the Discipline. We also decided to do as we did last year, and invite each of the lay staff to attend one of our meetings to meet us, discuss their background and professional interests so that we can learn more about them and their work activities.

We then heard remarks from Pastors Bill and Mark about their ministries at SLUMC. This was followed by each of the SPRC members providing feedback they had received from congregation members who had provided input. Pastors Bill and Mark then left the meeting, and SPRC continued discussions of the needs of SLUMC and the Pastors' roles and performance in meeting those needs. We then voted on our recommendation to the District Superintendent regarding our pastoral leadership. Separate votes were made for each Pastor, and all members of the SPRC signed the District form indicating their presence and vote at the meeting. I then discussed the results individually with the Pastors, and subsequently mailed the recommendations to the District Superintendent.

Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be the first week in April.

Bo Walkley  
Chair, SPRC 2006

**United Methodist Women** - De Ann Posey

- DeAnn expressed her thanks to Faye Keenan for taking on the task of compiling the UMW Directory Handbook for St. Luke's unit of the UMW.

**Lay Leader Council** - Pastor Bill

- LLC will hold its first meeting of the year on Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Finance** - John Masten

- The first Finance meeting was tonight.

**Treasurer** - Chuck Harris

- Referring to page 13 of the Financial Report for December 2005, Chuck reminded everyone of some "basics" for understanding the Financial Reports: The church's cash assets total \$342,951 as shown on page 8. The Accounts Summary on pages 7 & 8 show in which category the assets belong. All assets are tracked through four-digit accounts. Account

#1001 is the Current Budget Account which is further broken down on pages 3-6.

- It was noted that the mortgage balance (see page 2) should be paid off in April.
- Ron Dorenbush reminded us that if anyone would like to assist with hurricane relief, checks may be made to St. Luke's with "Hurricane Relief" noted on the memo line. This money will go into Account #8021 (Missions Support). He said that Trinity UMC in Gulfport, MS really appreciated the money they received. About 40% of Trinity's membership has returned, but their bills are very high for heating, air conditioning, etc. There are people who have lost everything and have nothing to recover with, so our help and prayers are still needed.
- Pastor Bill noted that the total amount given to Conference this year by St. Luke's was \$144,558.50, part of which is for apportionments. This is a very good record.

**United Methodist Men** - William Sutton gave an oral report.

- The District UMM meeting for officers was held on January 9<sup>th</sup>. The district president gave out packets to each UMM unit which contains a wealth of information on the UMM and their goals of fellowship and service.
- The St. Luke's unit meets for breakfast and a program at 8:15 on the third Sunday of every month. ALL men at St. Luke's are automatically members.

**Trustees** - Joel Church

- Harwood Bathroom Repairs Update:  
Two proposals have been received and are currently being reviewed. In addition, a proposal from a third contractor is expected before January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Choir Room Shelves:  
New shelving was added in the choir room for storage of future music files. Thanks to Bill Price for building the shelves.
- Church Mulch:  
20 yards of mulch was used to top off the beds around the church before the New Year. The Boy Scouts did this work as a service project. Note that the cost of the mulch (\$200 plus) was also donated. Thanks to Garnett Knabe and Scouts.

**Youth** - Jenn Wilcox gave an oral report.

- The youth are looking for more participation in the DCLA trip. Fund-raising will be done in April, May and June, and will include "flocking" (flamingoes) and car washes.
- Cindi Rader has a babysitter list for anyone attending Relay for Love.

**Director of Discipleship Ministries** - James Pace

- Sign-up for Faith Weavers classes is now being held. Studies include the following: *The Jesus I Never Knew, Living Beyond Yourself, Revelation Study, and Serving from the Heart*. A complete schedule listing class times and facilitators is available in the narthex and on the board outside the DDM's office.
- The "Faces of Jesus" Exhibit will be in the Fellowship Hall from January 15-22.
- Thanks to William Sutton for driving the church van to the Tri-District training.
- Ron Dorenbush commented that Dan Dick, the keynote speaker for the Tri-District training, gave an excellent presentation entitled "What Are We Doing Here?" (See attachment to the December CC minutes.)

**Pastor Mark** - attending Convocation

**Pastor Bill** -

- The District Evangelism kick-off event will be held at St. Luke's on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> from 3 – 6 PM. This event will emphasize the theological foundation for evangelism. Churches will provide teams, and there is no limit on the number of laity that may attend. All are encouraged to participate.
- Pastor Bill thanked everyone for their help during Advent and Christmas seasons. He noted that there have been great demands for our financial assistance in this country and in the rest of the world, and encouraged us to remain faithful in our giving wherever help is needed.
- With regard to warming up the atmosphere of “welcoming” here at St. Luke's, Pastor Bill reminded us that hospitality and evangelism begin first in our hearts, and then we extend that hospitality outside the church.
- Spread the word into the community about St. Luke's Faith Weavers studies!
- Pastor Bill wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked all for a year well done.

**ASP** - Jenn Wilcox

- A workshop will be held on February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The Poquoson work is not over, but the relief work “organization” is ending. ASP is looking for work.

**CC Vice-Chair** - Brad Perry

- Brad thanked the pastors for the wonderful Christmas Eve experience and told everyone that he is looking forward to a productive year ahead.

**NEW BUSINESS** - None

Ron Dorenbush closed the meeting by saying that, as CC Chair, he is here to serve us.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

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

**Next Meeting: February 14, 2006 at 7:30 PM**  
(Devotion - Brad Perry; Refreshments - Brad Perry)