

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

July 11, 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 July 2006 Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. There were 28 members present.

Megan Zahn brought our devotion centered on St. Luke’s youth and their recent trip to Washington, DC. She described her experience as the middle school young people helping her with her faith and witness. She feels the youth are very mature. Megan has been helping out James Pace with the middle school youth in Sunday School and is also looking forward to getting back to her church (Providence UMC) and adults.

**May Minutes:** The minutes were approved as submitted with the correction from 68 weeks to 6-8 weeks in reference to Church Sign under Outreach Ministry. Please make pen and ink correction.

**Annual Conference Report:**

Betty Brummer and Suzi Smith provided the following report as our lay delegates:

Virginia Annual Conference Report

Did you know that in the Virginia Conference?

- There are 1,210 local churches
- Total membership 341,346
- There are 18 Districts. Nine Districts showed membership growth in 2005. But not our district. (Arlington, Ashland, Eastern Shore, Lynchburg, Rappahannock, Richmond, Roanoke and Winchester.)
- 1,719 joined by profession of faith
- 900 joined by transfers from other UMW
- 1,387 transferred from other denominations.
- 16 were Ordained as Elder. (Mike Mayton)

That at the Lay Speaking Ministries training meeting held in February they had 391 students with 125 being Basic Class students, which was a record.

Scouting Ministries reported a continued growth and stated we are one of the leading conferences in the nation in the number of Scouts and leaders. There are 408 UM Churches, which charter Boy Scout units. (St. Luke’s is a chartered unit.) There are more than 28,000 youth registered, led by more than 15,900 registered adults in support of the ministry. (Cub Scouts Packs, Boy Scout Troops and Venture Crews.) (Page 42)

The Board of Ordained Ministry reported that in cooperation with three other UM Agencies (Children's Initiative Committee, Life Span Children's Council and the United Methodist Family Service), a three-hour training event about how to report child abuse and neglect are being presented on each district. All clergy and church professionals are expected to attend this events.

The Bishop's Task Force on a Conference Facility was instructed to continue to study the future requirements of the Virginia Annual Conference for a conferencing facility and to determine if the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center (VUMAC) in Blackstone is the appropriate facility to satisfy the requirement.

The reports concerning Clergy and retired Clergy regarding salaries, pensions, health plans and others are too numerous to cover. If interested you may borrow my book.

A few of the Annual Conference Special offerings that were approved:

- Christian Education Sunday to be observed during September-October with an offering. (Page 87).
- The United Methodist Family Services (UMFS) designated December as the UMFS offering month. (Page 92)
- The Virginia United Methodist Homes, Inc. offering to be from Mother's Day, May 13, 2007 to Father's day, June 17, 2007. (Page 93)
- February 2007 to be Heart Haven Month and an offering during that time. (Page 94)
- Older Adult Sunday changed to the first Sunday in May. This is a special recognition Sunday to be supported without a conference offering. (Page 118)

The Virginia Annual Conference will meet in Roanoke for the next two years. (June 10-14, 2007 & June 15-18, 2008). Then Conference will meet in Norfolk in 2009/2010.

Suzi said Conference was a wonderful experience and she appreciated ability to vote on resolutions. They brought handouts and books to share with our congregation. "We are One With Each Other" celebrated 50 years of clergy rights for women. Conference focus for the second year was on "Common Table of Vitality". Not enough members are coming by profession of faith and goals were set to grow churches.

Peter Story, Duke Divinity School, spoke at the Dinner on Social Action. He covered these four global objectives:

- Wealth vs. Poverty
- Separation of Church and State
- Violence vs. Peace
- Inclusion vs. Exclusion

St. Luke's UMC needs to take this to heart.

### **OLD BUSINESS** -

Columbarium Report – Chuck Harris

At the last council meeting, we gave a rather lengthy presentation on a columbarium as part of the currently on-going building plan. I had the impression that it was generally favorably received, but since it was so new to most of us, the council wanted/needed (and correctly so) more time to digest the recommendations. Since that time, we have posted more Information on the Columbarium proposal on our web site. Chuck thought it would be good to have

Church Council vote on who was in favor and who was not to get an idea of where this proposal was really going. Discussion was held on that idea and determined that voting should be to the church office. Voicing your opinion or voting will be announced on the web for everyone to share his or her thoughts and ideas. The church council vote will be taken in September after announcements in the newsletter and bulletins are made and comments from the web site evaluated. Karen Berardini said she'd heard some negative comments from the children. The need to clarify legal issues was mentioned.

The Columbarium Committee members may visit various small groups – UMM, UMW, Sunday School, etc. to explain what a columbarium is and answer questions.

## **REPORTS**

### **Building Ministry** - Blair Ellis

Since we last presented an update to Church Council, the Building Committee has had 3 meetings. On 1 May, Chuck Harris gave a presentation on Columbarium's – similar to the presentation that he gave you all here at Church Council.

As you may recall we met with Myler Corporation (a design/build company) in April and Tom Walker gave us his company's presentation at that time. We were able to schedule and meet with Century Builders (Henry Kohllefel) on Monday, 5 June. This was the second Design/Build Company that has given a presentation on their capabilities.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 18th with Courthouse Construction Company (Mr. Hogge), a third Design/Build Company. This company is located in Gloucester, VA and we look forward to his presentation.

Other items: Megan Zahn has provided us a "shell" for a Building Committee Web Site – we've almost finished populating the site and will give the info to Megan who will upload and then the web site will be available on the St. Luke's web site – will be kept current and evolve as we move forward in this process.

There is a meeting scheduled with the Pastors on Thursday to provide them more detail on this building project.

Following the meeting with the Pastors and the meeting with Courthouse Construction, the Building Committee will assess where we are and come back to CC with our recommendations for the next steps to be taken.

**Education Ministry** - Melissa Koch & Rich Ziemet  
Below in DDM Report.

**Worship Ministry** - Kenna Rusk  
No Report. A meeting is scheduled for July.

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

- Church Sign

The sign was delivered July 3rd. The Trustees are working on arranging installation. We have received \$1560 in donations and Outreach Ministry has allotted \$1000 toward the \$6230 total cost to the church (meaning that we're short \$3670.)

- **District Evangelism Priority**

Our covenant was presented at the June 4 Pentecost celebration. The District will take the covenants and use them to provide resources to assist district churches in evangelism.

- **Newcomers Seminars**

The ministry areas made presentations to the prospective members who attended the seminar on May 21. Several of us stayed for the dinner afterwards, which gave us a chance to get to know the new people and for them to ask questions. The next seminar will be in September.

- **Church Library**

Two shelves have been built for the library, which will be in Room 17. A few hundred books have been donated to date, and we've ordered about 150 more from Cokesbury and other sources. These books were selected or approved by DDM James Pace. There will be a meeting on Wednesday, July 26 at 10 a.m. for people interested in volunteering. The Grand Opening will be in September.

- **Reading Ministry**

This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Reading tutoring at Grafton Bethel. Volunteers are being recruited for fall. Ronna McLane and Laura McKinney are the leaders.

- **New Neighbor Packets**

We plan to introduce the packets to the congregation at the end of July. The packets will be housed at the Hospitality Center for checkout. Karen showed the council a sample of the design and contents of the New Neighbor Packet and we all thought they were great.

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

- **Fellowship Dinner** – Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

A great success! Julie Lapointe coordinated, and Spirit and Truth SS Class hosted the dinner. The program was a presentation highlighting the UMCOR hurricane relief work that has had “hands-on” support from members of our church family. A love offering covered the cost of food, with \$52.00 above cost going to the mission fund.

*Many thanks to all who made possible this time of fellowship.*

- **Travelers** –

- ❖ June – Tangier Island trip had 19 participants
- ❖ September/ October – planning a day trip
- ❖ Nov. 28-30 – Lancaster, PA for “Miracle of Christmas”.

- **New Pictorial Directory** -

Photographers will be at church on **Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup>** from 1:30 – 3:30 and from 5:00 – 9:15 to accommodate folks who have not yet had their pictures taken for the directory.

Work continues on the picture selection and layout for the ministry pages.

- **Red Cross Blood Drive** – **Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> / 4 – 8 PM**

Sign-up sheets for blood donors and canteen helpers will be in the narthex for the next three weeks. Coordinator: Margie Smith

- **Martha's Ministry** – (Bereavement)

Two families have been served thus far. The goal is to have six teams of volunteers with each team on call to serve for two consecutive months. Recruiting continues.

- **Fellowship Minute** –

Will continue through summer. Check out the nifty new cart!

- **REQUESTS FOR CC APPROVAL:**

- ❖ **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY AND FELLOWSHIP** – Currently meeting twice a month for the purpose of knitting prayer shawls to send to folks with prayer needs. Great fellowship is an additional benefit of this ministry.
- ❖ **CARD MINISTRY** – Volunteers will send cards (“thinking of/ praying for you”, “get well”, “new baby”, and “sympathy”) to those with current prayer/ card needs. Cards will be signed “from your family of friends at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church”. Appropriate scripture may be added and a list of suggestions will be available. Needs will be determined by contacting Joyce Wilson at least once per week. Coordinator: Susan Sallwasser

Church Council approved both of the above requests.

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

- Service ministries meet 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 7 p.m. There was no meeting in July due to the holiday
- Provided copies of 2005 annual report on service ministries to incoming pastors for their information, and to Megan for help in communicating to the congregation.
- Refugee resettlement ministry continues high level of activity with many finding refuge here from Russian oppression. Meanwhile still providing various forms of support for our Sudanese family. Mary’s mother and sister have been reunited with her, but her son, Deng, still remains in Africa.
- Kits for Conference totals are not as plentiful as in past years, apparently due to donor fatigue after tsunami I the Indian Ocean and the Gulf Coast hurricanes. Although fewer kits were given at Annual Conference, our donations were higher cost items such as flood buckets and bedding packs, as well as many school kits and a few health kits and layettes.
- Hurricane relief ministry continues to serve needs in Gulfport, MS. We researched cost of purchasing an equipment trailer for relief work with estimated cost of \$3,000. I am planning on including this item in next year’s budget.
- ASP mission trip to McDowell County, WV was completed in June with 53 people going and many others providing support. Grafton Kiwanis provided \$2,800 from proceeds of barbecue sale.
- Relay for Life has concluded for 2006, with 3 teams from St. Luke’s raising over \$71,000.
- The Easter Egg project is complete and proceeds are being distributed within the community.

- A Volunteer is needed to lead collection of back-to-school gift cards in August. These will be distributed to need families through York-Poquoson Social Services.
- St. Luke's has been committed to staff the PORT shelter on 4 nights this winter, and assist as backup on another. William Sutton is point of contact and coordinator.
- St. Luke's has a covenant relationship with 3 missionary positions, but one (Cambodia) has been vacated. Service Ministries will provide Church Council with a recommendation for replacement.

### **Communications Ministry** - Ken Engebretson

- Communications Ministry team will meet two weeks from tonight.
- Ed Brummer reported on our radio ministry. Our 11 o'clock Sunday services have been broadcast for the last 8 years over WLRT 1490 am at a cost of \$4,800 per year, which amounts to about \$92 per week. The station has notified us of a cost increase beginning in August, to \$125 per week, which represents an annual cost of \$6,500.
- Ed moved: That we continue the broadcast at \$125 per week, beginning in August, and that we ask Ken Engebretson and the Communications Ministry to conduct an evaluation of the need and effectiveness of our broadcast at the \$6,500 yearly cost. That evaluation is requested to be completed and presented at the October council meeting including inputs from our new pastors.

Church Council approved this motion.

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

The reception welcoming our new pastors and family was enjoyable and very successful. The transition is closing and we're now on track. Bo thanked Pastor Doug and Ron Dorenbush for their cooperation and help.

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

The Board Meeting is the first Wednesday of August at 8 a.m.

### **Lay Leader Council** - Blair Ellis (for Melissa Koch)

Blair met with the Pastors last Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. There was good discussion all around including district evangelism goals. Natural Church Development will be focus later.

### **Finance** - John Masten

- We need to redo signature cards at the bank. John Masten, Ron Dorenbush, Helen Hughes and Betty Brummer are authorized to sign checks. A letter will be drafted to the bank and must be signed by the Church Council Secretary, Faye Keenan.
- The Budget Call will go out next week. Submissions are due in August.
- \$2,000 gift from Schwab Funds will arrive in August.

### **Treasurer** - Chuck Harris

- Church structure is paid off.

- Organ is paid off.
- Conference offering was \$2,290.
- We currently have a negative cash flow of almost \$13,300.

**United Methodist Men** - Rich Ziemet

William Sutton reported there was no meeting on Father's Day nor in July due to vacations.

**Trustees** - Joel Church

Church Building:

- Fallen tree in corner of back lot removed. Thanks to Ron Dorenbush.
- Nursery phone line partially installed. Action to purchase new phone and complete installation.
- Side Fellowship Hall door thumb lock does not work. Please lock with key until replaced.
- Installation of ramp for food closet use being investigated as possible Eagle Scout Project. Ramp will be installed at rear entrance to sanctuary.
- Annual carpet cleaning scheduled to take place after VBS.
- New antibacterial soap dispensers installed in kitchen, classroom, and restroom sinks with exception of the parlor restroom. Action to repair existing dispenser in parlor restroom.
- Handrail to choir loft repaired. Thanks to Tom Sayre.
- Various roof leaks. Action to meet with roofing contractor this week to investigate.
- Anti-skid strips installed on pull-down stairs to loft behind sanctuary. Thanks to Kathy Everhart. Action to install it on pull-down stairs to attic near Fellowship Hall.
- Sink in women's restroom across from Room 21 unclogged and a new grid strainer installed.
- Two parking lot lights are out. VA Power has been notified to repair.
- The new church sign was successfully delivered Monday July 3rd. Thanks to all who helped unload the sign from the delivery truck. The sign is currently staged in the parking lot next to the church van. The existing foundation was not structurally suitable for the new sign. Quotes from contractors received to date range from \$1,500.00 to \$2,600.00. Action to install suitable foundation via contractor or volunteer team.

Castellow Parsonage:

- Successful workday held June 24<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to all who participated. The following was accomplished: Painting, mulch removal, closet lock and door stop installation and repair, bathroom faucet repairs, porch ceiling repaired, kitchen lighting improvements, bricks reset in steps, stair handrail repaired, deck railing tops replaced, split rail fence sections replaced, windows cleaned, front door threshold and storm door handle replaced, new smoke detectors installed, towel rack reset, dryer vent cleaned and repaired.
- PHA replaced the upstairs air handler the week of June 25<sup>th</sup>.
- New kitchen table and chairs purchased.

Harwood Parsonage Disposition:

- Trustees currently working to identify all practicable uses of the Harwood property including but not limited to selling, renting, out-of-town guest use, mission use, refugee family use. Trustees will make their recommendation to CC at a future meeting. Kathy Everhart commented that Crooks UMC went through the renting process in 2002 and it did not go well.

#### Other

- Recommendation to modify Board of Trustees policy regarding borrowing of church tables. Policy currently states, "Church furnishings are for use at the church. (Only folding tables and chairs may be borrowed.)" With no objection, action to modify policy to read, "Church furnishings are for use at the church. (Only folding tables and chairs may be borrowed. Tables stored in shed shall be first borrowed.)" This recommendation made to reduce wear and tear on the new lightweight tables used throughout the church. Church council approved this.
- Action to cut back overgrown area around St. Luke's sign on Rt. 17 southbound between Wendy's and the trailer park to improve sign visibility. Or move to a more visible location (check with VDOT).
- William Sutton asked if additional exterior signage was being considered for improvement for September newcomers during Open House. Karen Berardini said the county would not let us put up signs that could be seen from the highway. Our signage is limited since we are located in a residential area. The county would assess a big fine for noncompliance. Greeters in the parking lot might be used.
- Trustees Next Meeting  
Tuesday July 18, 2006 @ 7 PM

#### Youth – Megan Zahn for Paul LaPointe

- There were 15 youth and 7 adults on the trip to Washington, DC. The Fourth of July celebration was great! The youth and their leadership thank the church for their financial support and mainly for their prayer support.
- Four young people led the entire year of ASP! They are fantastic youth! Joe Vallow and Ron Dorenbush are very proud of our youth at St. Luke's.

#### Communications Coordinator – Megan Zahn

- The deadline for the newsletter is Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Organizations and groups are requested to give her information for addition to the web site.

#### Director of Discipleship Ministry - James Pace

- Helping Hands to Richmond on July 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Vacation Bible School was a tremendous success with about 130 attending. There were 40 adults, 30 youth and 50 Preschoolers. Our resources were tapped to the top.
- Power Express, Second Session is scheduled for Summer Sunday School.

#### **Church Partner in Mission** – Ron Dorenbush

Chris Cunbiss would like us to be a church partner for St. Rock UMC in Waveland MS. This church structure was ruined in Katrina. Only a slab remains with a tent on it. They have a

new pastor. They want prayer to get ready to rebuild. They need a prayer partner and helpers. Please start praying for St. Rock's. It is a small church in Waveland MS.

**Pastor Clara** - She is enjoying getting to know our activities and us. Thanks for a warm welcome.

**Pastor Doug** – Thank you to the 56 folks who came out to their welcoming dessert function at Second Street. He loves the energy and future plans. We are a fun and loving congregation. Thank you for welcoming the pastors and family at St. Luke's.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting: August 8, 2006 at 7:30 PM**

(Devotion – Suzi Smith; Refreshments – Suzi Smith)

Submitted by Faye Keenan, Church Council Secretary.