

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."

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 10, 2008

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Council Chair, Sam Motley. There were 24 members present.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

1. Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster and the signup to lead devotions or provide refreshments was distributed.
2. July Devotions: **Pastor Doug Gestwick**
3. July Refreshments: **Brenda Ramsey**
4. The next Church Council meeting: **Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.**

DEVOTION

Ken Engebretsen led a devotion taken from *"Bouquet of Blessings, Devotions to Delight Your Soul"* entitled *"Blessed: Patience."* 1 Timothy 1:16 tells us that Jesus has unlimited patience as he works to win over those who don't know or trust him as their Savior. Like a gardener we must wait patiently for the Lord to do his work. He forgives our lack of trust, as he reminds us that he doesn't operate on our time schedule. Ken closed with prayer.

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Pastor Doug welcomed Thomas Lapointe and thanked both he and Justin Torres for their work with the Fellowship of Clay. He thanked them for being model Christians and for stepping up and leading both the High School and Middle School youth at a time when it was greatly needed. Doug reminded all that the Bible says don't let them look down on you because you are young; the young can be leaders too. Doug presented both young men with two of his hand-made pens as a thank you for their commitment and in honor of their graduation from High School. Members responded with a round of applause.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the **May 13, 2008 Church Council** meeting were **APPROVED with the following changes**: Under the Board of Trustees report item #1 in the last sentence it should read the *bus has a 24-seat capacity* instead of 21 and under the Senior Pastor report item #2 should read *Student Intern Thomas Lane* instead of Lay Leader. The minutes from the **June 5, 2008 Called Charge Conference** were **APPROVED** as submitted.

APPROVED: July 8, 2008

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the United Methodist Men:** District UMMen Fundraiser—Request approval to share information through bulletin and other material about the fundraising opportunity of purchasing paving bricks for the Heart Haven Home on Harpersville Road. The bricks will sell for \$ 75.00 each and can be “in Honor of” or “in Memory of” someone which will be printed on the bricks and displayed at the entrance to the home. All individuals and groups are encouraged to purchase at least one brick. This will be a good memorial for some and a testimony to others. Currently UMMen are hoping to sell all bricks by end of July.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

2. **Motion from the Service Ministry:** Request approval to plan and go on a foreign mission trip to Brazil in the summer of 2009 for approximately ten days.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

3. **Motion from the Building Ministry:** Request approval to obtain a more detailed study by Virginia Power. Due to the many variables and the complexity of electrical power issues associated with St. Luke’s Building Committee planning at this point in the design phase, a more detailed study by Virginia Power which would work up “ball park” estimates for many of the proposed construction parameters with electrical power needs associated with the current design phase planning is needed. Due to the uncertainty of when this project may begin, Virginia Power would charge St. Luke’s a processing fee and the estimate for this fee is currently undetermined but we expect that it would be less than \$5,000.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. As discussed in both the Church Council April and May 2008 minutes, Duane Potts of A.D. Potts & Associates, Inc. is doing a **feasibility study** on the exterior site requirements associated with building on the current St. Luke’s property. This study is being done in conjunction with our building design phase planning and on June 3, Duane presented an interim report to the Building Committee.
2. Duane’s report lasted approximately an hour and a half and such items of interest as sprinkler system in the new building areas, number of fire hydrants, grease trap requirement associated with kitchen, storm water run-off associated with increased blacktop associated with parking lot, landscaping needs to be brought up to present day county standards (trees/shrubs in the islands) and other electrical power discussions.

Items associated with Virginia Power include such areas as:

- a) Power poles with transformers, can be moved, costs involved in that activity, bigger cost to move power underground with a typical time frame 6 months
- b) Parking lot lighting can be rerouted around new facility and if new lighting is planned for site, old poles removed for free
- c) Other electrical restrictions include a minimum 10’ clearance from electrical wires to any building and larger clearances required from high voltage lines

- d) Power service for building, Virginia Power rep recommends relocating to exterior of building, if left in present location Virginia Power will not service beyond outside of building, Virginia Power also doubts York County would allow main service line under new building
 - e) Construction clearances may be problematic for construction under high voltage lines
3. The building committee feels that it is **time to begin updating the congregation** on the building plans to date but we were waiting until after Virginia Power has concluded its study. It was determined that a newsletter article providing a building committee planning update to the congregation with the comment that more information is forthcoming would be the best approach.

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini and TBN)

1. Plans continue for a **bus ministry during VBS** to Grafton Station apartments.
2. We have submitted applications for **Igniting Ministry matching grants** for both Back-to-School and Advent TV commercials.
3. Ministry representatives are asked to **send a representative to the Newcomer's seminar** on July 13. Please let Joyce know if you can stay to eat dinner.
4. We are looking for a **volunteer to coordinate the September Outreach Neighborhood Visitation**. Please let Karen know if you have any leads on a person who might like to do this.
5. **A coordinator for the Drive-Thru Nativity is needed.**

Worship Ministry (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

1. The committee discussed the **importance of wearing name tags**. We as leaders should make sure to wear ours. William Sutton is looking into the procedure of how to get new members and guests there tags in a timely manner.
2. **Recognized 26 – 27 Acolytes** on Sunday May 18.
3. **Homebound communion has grown in numbers**. We now have 10 servers with 5 substitutes.
4. **Upcoming dates:**
 - a) June 15—UMW Sunday Annual Conference Begins
 - b) June 29—ASP Sunday

Nurture Ministry (Donna Dorenbush and TBN)

1. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** no longer meets during the morning hours. They meet on the second and fourth Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Yoga** - There will be no summer session offered. A Fall class may be offered.
3. **Martha's Ministry** served a funeral reception on June 6.
4. There will be **no Nurture Ministry meeting** on June 17, 2008.

Service Ministry (Ron Dorenbush and Susie Small)

1. **Five adults traveled to Pascagoula, MS** to help build a home to replace the Katrina damaged one. Two adult men from Gloucester joined them.
2. **Grafton Kiwanis/ASP BBQ was a success.**
3. **Money donations are down for the Kits-for-Conference**. William Sutton will deliver them in his van, which is somewhat more costly than driving a small car. Will look to help him financially.
4. **Service Ministry consented to a yes vote** at the Charge Conference to add the Business Manager's 2008 salary to the 2008 financial plan (budget.)

5. **RIS - Latin Dance Group at Ferguson Center.** This event will take place on Saturday, July 19 and the cost is \$40. Some church members and Sunday School classes will have tickets available for sale. Proceeds will go to the English language teaching school for the refugees.
6. **“WeAllSing4MenchvilleHouse” (WAS4MH)** concert plans are in full swing. The **date has been changed to August 2** because it works out better for the volunteers and performers. Plan to attend this very entertaining event to encourage singers and musicians from St Luke’s UMC as well as other local churches. All donations go to help pay for expenses of the Menchville House.
7. **World Refugee Day** will be organized for June 22 by the Service and Worship Ministries.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

1. The **Communications Ministry will meet on June 25 with Audio Ethics, Inc.**, to discuss approaches to aesthetically project/display visual material and further improve audio capabilities in the sanctuary to complement the worship Services and other events held there *(date updated from March CC meeting)*.
2. **Headset microphones for the pastors** were put into use on June 1, replacing the lapel mikes. The new mikes have improved the clarity and quality of the pastors’ voices in the sanctuary, recording, and Internet broadcast.
3. An **E-mail Communication List** is being developed. Members are encouraged to include their e-mail addresses when signing the pew pads on Sundays.
4. The **newsletter deadline is Friday, June 13.**

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. **UMMen met for breakfast and fellowship on May 18.** This was an opportunity to discuss business of the UMMen.
2. The **June 15 meeting of the UMMen has been cancelled** since that Sunday is Father’s Day
3. The **next UMMen Fellowship Breakfast will be July 20** in the Fellowship Hall and all men are encouraged to attend.
4. St. Luke’s has been asked by the District UMMen to **pray on the property of Heart Havens “Morrison House” during the week starting June 15, 2008.** Each UMM group takes turns with different weeks.
5. St. Luke’s is scheduled to **host the General Meeting of the District UMMen** on October 27, 2008. We serve dinner and provide space to hold the meeting. All men are encouraged to attend since this is a home event.

Peninsula District:

1. The **Annual Conference UMMen Breakfast** will be held on June 17 at Thrasher UMC, Blackstone.
2. As part of the Peninsula District United Methodist Men’s efforts to **celebrate this 100 year Anniversary of UMMen in 2008**, we are intentional about doing things in 100’s! The District UMMen have coordinated with the Peninsula Pilots baseball organization to bring at least 100 men and their children and grandchildren to a baseball game at War Memorial Stadium in Hampton on Monday night, June 30. (Rain date is the following night, Tuesday July 1!) Game times are usually 7:05 p.m. The Pilots management will recognize our Anniversary celebration that night and someone may be able to toss the

opening pitch. Tickets will be sold at 1/2 price for \$2.50. Contact William Sutton, 865-0704 for tickets.

3. The **District UMMen are starting to sell paving bricks** to be used to raise money for the Heart Havens home called the "Morrison House." Bricks will sell for \$ 75.00 each and be engraved with names for recognition. Details to follow soon.
4. The **next District General Meeting will be July 28** at Williamsburg UMC. All men are invited to attend. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. with the program to follow.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Jean Henley)

1. The Women will lead, usher and greet on **United Methodist Women Sunday** services on June 15. Dr. Linda Driver Rae from United Methodist Family Services will speak for all three worship services.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

1. Our **new Nursery Director** is Svelana Mastilovic.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

1. **Education Committee will now meet the first Thursday of each month at 4 p.m.**
Note: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 26 due to holidays and vacation time.
2. **Sunday School**
 - a) The Education Committee will be sending out a letter to all parents of children currently enrolled in Sunday School to invite parents to become more involved in the SS process as teachers or room parents. The letter will go out this week and be published in the July Newsletter.
 - b) The Synago classes have moved to the fellowship hall into classrooms created by the new partitions. Some people are still having issues with the new classrooms, but overall the transition has been good. There may be further need to add rugs to each area and maybe sound dampers on the wall.
 - c) The move of the Synago classes opened up 3 classrooms.
 - Classroom 1 – Currently being used by a class for college students
 - Classroom 2 – Will be used by a new adult class
 - Classroom 3 – Currently unidentified
3. **Children's Church**
 - a) 11:00 Service – We want to add Children's Church at the 11 service; however, we haven't had much interest in adult help.
 - b) 8:30 Service – During the school year, we offer Children's choir most Sundays – during the summer, the choir doesn't meet. James Pace will use this time during the summer to teach a class on Worship. This workshop begins on June 22.
4. **Bible Studies**
 - a) Associate Pastor will offer one during the summer during the day.
 - b) Melissa Magowan will be offering one on the Holy Land.
 - c) Considering offering Methodist studies classes in the fall to give the opportunity for all to learn about Methodism – "Confirmation for Adults."
 - d) A variety of classes will be offered in the Fall.
5. **VBS**
 - a) Adult Volunteers and Youth Volunteers are needed. Sign up sheets are available across from the DDM office
 - b) Registration forms are also available on the bulletin board at the "T."

- c) There will be Leadership meetings on June 19 and June 30. Leaders and Shopkeepers are still needed.
6. **Confirmation 2007-2008**
 - a) Sunday, June 1 at all three services we confirmed 55 of our 56 confirmands. (The other will be confirmed when his mom is home from deployment.) We had an outpouring of food provided by the mentors.
 - b) The confirmands also completed evaluation forms for the Confirmation process. With the exception of two, all affirmed the new process and new time.
 7. **Confirmation 2008-2009**
 - a) Put info in blurbs and newsletter about new class in September for any youth in 6th grade or above interested in confirmation – include day and time of class for parental planning purposes.
 - b) Parent's information meeting will be held as it comes closer.
 8. **Mission, Mayhem & You Weekend 2008**
 - a) Friday, August 1, 3 p.m. – Saturday, August 2, 11 a.m.
 - b) Mission opportunity for 3rd thru 6th graders
 - c) Information and Registration forms on bulletin board across from Associate Pastor's Office.

Youth Ministry (Justin Torres and Thomas Lapointe)

1. **Beginning June 29 both Youth Groups will meet on Sunday evenings.** Middle School Group Meetings are Sunday Evenings 5 to 6:30 with James Pace, High School meets Sunday Evenings at 6 to 8:00 pm under the leadership of Pastor Clara. The Middle School and High School will share the mealtime from 6 to 6:30, but will have separate meetings.
2. **Parents meeting** – Sunday, June 8 at 4 p.m. – This gave parents a look at the summer calendar, a chance to fill out annual medical forms and permission slips and a chance for parents to volunteer for chaperoning summer outings, providing dinner on Sunday evenings and generally get involved.
3. **Middle school youth mission trip** – Friday, August 22 – Sunday, August 24, 2008
4. **Summer Youth Activities will be scheduled for Tuesdays**
 - a) June 24 – Play-a-round Mini Golf
 - b) July 1 – Busch Gardens
 - c) July 8 – Pool Party
 - d) July 15 – No outing – Youth will assist with VBS
 - e) July 22 – Go Karts Plus in Williamsburg
 - f) July 29 – Ice Skating
 - g) August 5 – Norfolk Tides Game DC
 - h) August 12 – Newport News Park

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. The Green Church Initiative Committee voted to **install motion sensors in all the restrooms** so that the lights will turn on automatically when the door is opened.
2. It has been proposed that **installing flushing components that would use less water** is also a way of saving. Bob Dye commented that it is often necessary to flush multiple times and this does not save water.

Finance Committee (Bo Walkley)

1. No report.

Treasurer (Tom Lyon)

1. The **Financial Report for May** was provided as information.
2. **Tom discussed the highlighted areas:** Yellow indicates 50% spent; Red is over spent and Purple means there is need for prayer.
3. Tom is attempting to **fix some of the errors** on the report.
4. The report was **APPROVED** as submitted.

Green Church Initiative (Joe Posey)

1. No report.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. The **ReConneting Worship Class ends** with the class in the kitchen making gumbo. It has been a very creative class with lots of thinking outside the box.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. Bishop Joe Powell would say to the clergy “*find a hurt in our community and plan your worship around that hurt.*” One of this year’s confirmands, Trent Moon, asked if he could wait to be officially confirmed until his mother who is serving in the military overseas could attend. We realized that St. Luke’s is a community of military and we will begin reaching out with a **new Military Ministry**.
2. This year’s **Annual Conference theme is *More People for Christ, More Young People for Christ.***
3. **A second trip to Israel is planned for February 14, 2009.** Interested people need to register by July 4.
4. **Brandon Robbins** will soon be ordained and will be the pastor at Chester United Methodist Church in Chester, Virginia.
5. The **Nominations Committee** nominated Jean Henley for Lay Leader Council and she has accepted. The committee will meet again to nominate candidates for co-chair of the Nurture and Outreach ministries.
6. The **Amazing Bible Race** ends this week with a meal. Our High School team is 37th place out of thousands of churches.
7. **Thank you to Theresa Butler** for all her work with the Confirmation Class. We could not have done it without her.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.**

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Secretary