

# *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**

**March 11, 2008**

**7:30 p.m.**

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Council Chair, Sam Motley. There were 25 members present.

### **HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS** – Joe Posey, Vice Chair

1. Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster and sign up to lead devotions or provide refreshments for upcoming meetings.
2. There is no one signed up to lead the devotion or provide snacks for the April meeting.
3. The next Church Council meeting: Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

### **DEVOTION**

Megan Zahn shared a devotion entitled "*Wear Sunscreen*," that with both reality and humor reminded us to not worry about the future, enjoy life and to make the best of each and every day. Megan closed with prayer.

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

Every Tuesday morning prior to the staff meeting the pastors gather to

*Imagine, What If? . . .and this is the outcome*

- ◆ Pastor Clara stated that St. Luke's is a very exciting, giving, missionary church
- ◆ What do we do with worship? We have three services that are very similar. How do we add to what we have? Pastor Clara has begun researching the possibilities for alternative worship services by talking to church musicians, looking at ways to utilize church media and developing a study on how to improve and recommit to worship.
- ◆ Expand worship to Lackey community? On site or off site? James and Pastor Clara visited the Lackey community and talked with the Chaplain. A meeting is scheduled after Easter to discuss worship and mission opportunities at Lackey.
- ◆ What are some other worship location possibilities? Theater? School? Warehouse? Strip mall? Where can we go to spread God's story and love?
- ◆ How do we get our children more involved? "The Way of the Child"— Spiritual Disciplines for Children
- ◆ Offer Life Skills such as completing a job application or preparing a resume
- ◆ Start a Drama or Liturgical Dance Team
- ◆ Take Vacation Bible School on the road to a small church or community like Lackey

**APPROVED: April 15, 2008**

- ◆ Offer a Summer Day Camp or other mission opportunities
- ◆ People planning their vacations around church instead of the other way around
- ◆ Having 200 children at church on Sunday
- ◆ More people participating in Bible studies (*100 people signed up for recent studies and not just those led by a pastor which has been a St. Luke's tradition*)

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for both the **January 8 and January 24 Called Church Council** meetings were **approved** as submitted.

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

1. **Motion from the Easter Egg Committee: Request approval of vision/mission statement and Recipients of 2008 funds for which vote was deferred from the January 24, 2008 Called meeting.**

There was no Easter Egg Committee representative present so the **discussion and vote on this motion was deferred** until the April 8 meeting.

2. **Motion from the Board of Trustees: Request approval of an increase of about \$6,300 in the church furnishings budget for 2008.** Approximately \$5300 is needed for classroom partitions for the fellowship hall and another \$1,000 for youth director office furniture upgrade. The original budgeted amount of \$2,000 was used to replace nursery furniture.

- a) Tom Sayre noted that the total may reach \$7,000 with shipping and handling and there is \$8,900 in reserves.
- b) Youth Leader, Katelyn Cianelli raised the issue of privacy with regard to the High School Synago Sunday School classes. She was assured by Tom Sayre that this issue has been addressed and they are considering several options to reduce the voice and noise travel.

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED**

3. **Motion from the Board of Trustees: Request the use of current budget, reserve bus/van funds and other funds, if needed, to pay the bus debt in full.** With the larger gap between current CD rates and our debt interest rate of about 7.5%, it seems prudent to get rid of that debt.

- a) Discussion at the Finance Meeting held prior to the Church Council meeting determined that it would be best to make two installments of 50% each as not to disturb the budget cash flow.

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED**

4. **Motion from the Service Ministry: Request approval to do the UMCOR Medicine Box program at St Luke's UMC in April 2008.** This program will provide essential drugs and medical supplies to countries struck by recent weather disasters, and is in addition to the program planned for October 2008.

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED**

5. **Motion from the Outreach Ministry: Request permission to have a Bus Ministry during Vacation Bible School, targeting elementary-age children in the Grafton Station Apartments.**
- Continue to work on Child Protection Policy, driver and advertisement issues.
  - Question was raised whether or not the church van could also be used for this purpose. Will follow up with Kathy Everhart to make determination.

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED**

6. **Motion from the Education Ministry: Request approval for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class to hold a Car Wash following the 11:00 service on March 30 to raise money for Stop Hunger Now.** The class will travel to the South Hill facility to help prepare food packets.

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED**

7. **Motion from the Gordan Parr: Request approval for the Yorktown Chorale (a local community choir) who will be in concert at St. Luke's on April 27, 2008 to place a collection plate in the Narthex for voluntary contributions following the concert.**

**Motion was unanimously APPROVED**

## REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

### **Communications Ministry** (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

- The Communications Ministry will be **meeting 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.
- Computer and projector replacements and additions** are also underway to improve our educational and support staff capabilities.
- The deadline for the April newsletter is Friday, March 14.**
- A member raised concerns regarding the **web company's reliability** because several attempts to hear worship services were unsuccessful. Ken assured member that these problems were most likely technical issues and not company error.
- It was questioned **rather or not the choir members will be able to see when the media screens are down.** Ken will look into this matter.

### **Outreach Ministry** (Karen Berardini and TBN)

- Our **Igniting Ministry TV commercial** will air 106 times from March 12-15 and March 19-22. It will air on TBS, Lifetime and ESPN. A notice will be posted in the bulletin to inform the congregation.
- We are continuing to pursue a possible presence at **Yorktown Market Days**, giving out water bottles. Their advisory board will discuss it at a March 20 meeting.
- We will be preparing special **Easter mugs** to give out to visitors on Easter Sunday.
- Four **skits encouraging the congregation** to invite people to St. Luke's were presented in February and early March at all 3 services.

### **Nurture Ministry** (Donna Dorenbush and TBN)

- February Red Cross Blood Drive** – Provided 49 pints of blood. Thank you to all who donated and who worked as volunteers. Next blood drive is in August 2008.

2. **SL8 (St Luke's Eight)** – Groups have been organized and will share fellowship during the next four months.

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

1. Easter Preparations:
  - a) Palm Sunday services will have **communion only at 9:45 a.m.**
  - b) **Prayer Vigil** will be in the Parlor after the Maundy Thursday Service. It will be in a garden setting. Everyone is welcome to use this till the Good Friday worship service.
  - c) Donations will be accepted for the **Easter Garden**. Any money not spent will be put aside for a future mission trip.
  - d) The **Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services** will be prepared by the Confirmands.
2. **Brandon Robbins will preach again** on March 30. He is interviewing with churches so this will probably be his last time at St. Luke's before accepting a pastoral position.

### Service Ministry (Ron Dorenbush and Susie Small)

1. **Responded to UMCOR** Sager Brown emergency request to provide bedding, sewing and layette kits urgently needed in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Sent \$2,000 as financial support to purchase these supplies.
2. Responded to a request by the **Refugee Immigration Settlement** for twin beds due to an increase in single adult refugees coming here. Sent \$1,000 to provide 10 twin beds.
3. 10 tentative **FOGG ASP** attendees to go to Jonesville, VA April 20-26.
4. 4 adults went to Pascagoula, MS February 14-21 for Katrina Rebuild.
5. Two more **Katrina Rebuild trips** scheduled to Pascagoula, MS on April 6-12 and May 14-21.
6. An average of 8 **volunteers go to Seaford** each Saturday to provide help rebuilding a home flooded by Isabelle.
7. 3 traveled to rural Zuni, VA to **rebuild home flooded by Ernesto**.
8. **Future Overseas mission trip** in initial planning stage for year 2009.
9. Looking for someone who would be interested in volunteering to be on the **Menchville House Board of Directors**. There are many women volunteers so they are hoping a man will come forward. Ron will get a job description for anyone that is interested.
10. Looking to be a participant with other SLUMC ministries to transport and help **organize/lead a 2-3 day VBS in Lackey, VA** following our week of VBS.
11. **Grafton Kiwanis/ASP BBQ** tentatively moved to May 10.
12. SLUMC 4-night **Homeless Shelter partnerships** were very successful again this year. Church members willingly volunteered their time to make 100+ homeless peoples' evenings quite comfortable and warmer.
13. An application was submitted to participate in a **Middle School mission opportunity** in North Carolina this summer. More info to come.
14. Ron introduced the possibility of St. Luke's **sponsoring the Lackey community with the same concept as ASP—it can be called LSP**.

### Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. **Request that all church areas of responsibility inventory and re-arrange or dispose of as appropriate the items that are stored in the attic.** Mr. Baxter of the Myler Company said that we were violating code by using that area for storage. However, storage is at a premium at St. Luke's, so our alternatives are slim to none. At the very least, we need to keep that area neat and clean, so that the fire Marshall may overlook this code violation.

2. BSA Troop 200 is in the process of **replacing the front porch railing at the parsonage**. This is an Eagle Scout project.
3. Our **recycling program is well under way**. We contracted with the Tidewater Fiber Company to provide us with an 8 cu yd recycling container at a cost of \$35 per month plus an 11% fuel fee. We are in the process of buying small recycling containers for each classroom in the church. Hopefully, we'll have all church folks support and help implement our green effort.
4. We're still wrestling with our **flat roof leakage problem**. Mr. Baxter of the Myler Company gave us some suggestions. We may need to re-cover the entire flat roof. We have asked Peninsula Roofing Company (PRC) to give us a price or suggestions for eliminating the problem at a cheaper cost. We also have a recurring roof leakage problem at the parsonage. It only leaks under certain conditions. We have asked PRC to look at that roof also. PRC is the only company that has responded to our request for roof repair estimates.
5. We plan to have the **church logo put on our utility trailer** in the near future.
6. We had the **van air conditioner repaired** (new compressor).
7. Coxton's body shop **repaired the leaking windshield on our new bus**. They donated the repair.
8. We plan to **upgrade the parlor** to better serve family needs during weddings or funerals.

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

1. On Saturday, March 1 the **Building Committee provided a detailed update** to the Church Council. In addition to Church Council and Building Committee members, two Myler representatives, Harry Baxter and Steve Retorick, were in attendance. Church Council members asked questions and provided both written and verbal feedback. We received 10 feedback sheets and 2 e-mails and only a few were not from core leaders.
2. On Sunday evening, 2 March, Pastor Doug, Bo Walkley, Blair Ellis, Sam Motley, Bob Dye, and Chuck Harris **met to discuss the next steps in examining financing options** for St. Luke's future building plans. The plan is to interview 3 or 4 companies that are well known for developing capital campaigns for churches who are looking at possible approaches to financing a future building and /or building renovations.
3. As mentioned in the March 1 meeting with the Church Council, St. Luke's has contracted Duane Potts of A.D. Potts & Associates, Inc., to do 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. Such things as Site zoning set backs and adjacent zoning/buffer, if any, investigating drainage options with increased parking surfaces, investigating parking requirements based on expansion, are among some of the site items that will be reviewed. Additionally Duane will meet with York County officials for advisement of requirements as well.
4. Over the coming weeks, the Building Committee and Pastors will **meet with as many small groups of St. Luke's laity** as possible in order to update the laity members on current St. Luke's building plans and to solicit their feedback on these plans. The preliminary drawings are at a point to be presented to the congregation.
5. The Church Conference has authority to approve plans, costs and financial funding. **If approved, plans and costs will be finalized to present at Charge Conference.**
6. Karen Berardini raised the issue that **continuing with the current building program would result in more money spent on facilities and less on church missions**. Another asked if the plan would bring in more people and programs. Pastor Doug expressed the need for listening to God and letting Him have His way. He also noted that we as a congregation need to be faithful to the process and pray that church members vote as they are led by God and no matter what vote we should all stand behind the God's plan.

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

### ***Local Church:***

1. UMMen will **meet for breakfast and fellowship** on March 16. All men of St. Lukes are invited.
2. The UMMen will again be preparing the **breakfast for the Easter Sunrise Service** on March 23, 2008. All members of St. Luke's are invited to attend.
3. UMMen will hold the **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Men's Spiritual Retreat** on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at Sandy Bottom Nature Park in Hampton, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. All men are encouraged to put this one on their calendars now and plan 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 **District General Meeting** was held on January 28, 2008 at St. James UMC, Hampton. Dinner was followed by the election of officers and a program on "Domestic Violence" by Rev. Libby Wright.
2. March 29, 2008 - **Leadership Training Day** will be held at Shady Grove UMC, Richmond. This event is open to all UMMen leadership and all men interested in the UMMen. There are many different interesting classes offered. There is no cost for this event. Contact William Sutton for details and ridesharing.
3. The **next District General Meeting** will be April 28 at First UMC, Hampton. All men are invited to attend. Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. with the program to follow.

## Finance Committee (Bo Walkley)

No report

## Treasurer

1. The **February Financial Report** was provided for information. This is Chuck Harris' last report and kudos and a round of applause was given for his years of dedication and service.

## Youth Ministry (Katelyn Cianelli and Justin Torres)

1. We have many **ideas for the upcoming 30 Hour Famine—details coming soon!** Last year almost \$5,000 was raised and this year we are praying for \$10,000.
2. The **Impact trip** for High School youth is March 28-30. Currently there are 12 youth and 5 adult leaders registered to go.
3. The **High School youth will meet on Thursday nights** beginning April 3.
4. The Wednesday night **Amazing Bible Race** is still going strong. The High School team is in 31<sup>st</sup> place and the Middle School team is 60<sup>th</sup> place.

## Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

1. **Bible Study**
  - a) 4 new Bible studies have started with about 90 enrolled.
2. **Sunday School**
  - a) Sunday School classes are bursting at the seams.
  - b) Adult classes are both growing and waning causing us to move them around to accommodate for growth.

- c) 2 adult classes will move this week, other class movement will occur over the next month to accommodate size issues and allow for further growth.
- d) Children and Youth classes are continuing to grow especially upper elementary and youth. Average class sizes (over last 12 months):
 

4 <sup>th</sup> grade – 13	6 <sup>th</sup> grade – 16	8 <sup>th</sup> grade – 13
5 <sup>th</sup> grade – 12	7 <sup>th</sup> grade – 15	High school – 40
- e) The 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class will travel to the “Stop Hunger Now” facility to help prepare food packets like the church did last year in the Fellowship Room.

**3. Confirmation**

- a) There are 57 confirmands.
- b) Confirmation Retreat: 34 went in November; 12 went this past weekend; only 11 were unable to attend at all - we hope to share the greater parts with them over the next couple of months.
- c) Confirmands will assist the pastors with the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.
- d) The only disappoint we have had with confirmation is with the Mentor program. We asked for 57 volunteers to help mentor these youth 1 for each confirmand. We only had 42 volunteers. Luckily we had mentors who were willing to take a second confirmand so each youth was blessed with a mentor.

**Green Church Initiative** (Joe Posey)

- 1. Thanks to Elton Smith, **recycling containers** will be going in all the Sunday School classes and the children and leaders are being encouraged to recycle. There is also a recycling bin located outside next to the trash dumpster.

**Staff Parish Relations Committee** (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

No Report

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

- 1. The United Methodist Women will host a Green Initiative program on April 14 with vendors that will provide information about what we can all do in our home and communities to “go green”.

**Director of Discipleship Ministries** (DDM) (James Pace)

- 1. The Sunday School classes are on the move! Thank you to Families of Faith and Real People who were the first to relocate. We will be making lots of changes so we ask everyone to please be open-minded and patient.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- 1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
- 2. The **meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.**

*Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary*