

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

March 14, 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.”

The March 2006 Church Council meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM. There were 27 members present.

Faye Keenan brought our devotion entitled "The Bountiful Giver" centering on Luke 6:38 *Give, and it shall be given unto you...* We were reminded whenever we give with the love of Christ to others, gifts come back to us in abundance from our loving God. We always receive more than we give when our gifts are offered in the spirit of love. Faye closed the devotion with a prayer of gratitude for the gift of Christ and our salvation.

February Minutes: The minutes were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS - Ron Dorenbush, Church Council Chair, cited that Chuck Harris and team would meet and report on feasibility study of a columbarium for the church next month.

REPORTS

Building Ministry - Blair Ellis

St. Luke’s Building Committee Vision Statement

God’s Work, Done God’s Way, will not lack God’s Support!

St. Luke’s Building Committee Mission Statement

Where there is no vision, the people perish (Proverbs 29:18)

St. Luke’s has heard God’s call to enhance and expand our ministries. God has blessed us with a sustaining faith, and to better share that faith and serve our neighbors, we should expand our physical plant. We therefore accept God’s call to “arise and build,” so that we can more effectively advance His kingdom, both within our church family, and in Christian outreach to the surrounding community.

“The God of Heaven, He will prosper us. Therefore, we his servants will *arise and build.*” (Neh. 2:20a, KJV)

Summary from Aug 2005 Report: In general, the Building Committee survey results & all interviews indicated a definite need for more classrooms, larger fellowship hall/kitchen, upgraded nursery, relocated & larger Food Closet, more space for the Music Dept. & Preschool and more storage room for all areas. These would all greatly enhance St. Luke's

mission "Christian Disciples called to transform our community and world through God's love." Although church and Sunday School attendance has decreased the last several years, the monetary & voluntary mission giving both for the budget as well as local & world needs has remained strong and fruitful through God's blessings.

In August 2005, the Building Committee presented their report to the Church Council with the following list of "needs."

1. We need a larger fellowship hall and/or gymnasium with stage and audio visual equipment as well as partitions for several classrooms for Sunday School & various meetings to serve and accommodate:
 - 100-300 youth four times a month
 - Seat 400-500 for Advent dinner & celebration, wedding receptions, etc.
 - Seat: 200-300 for Easter Breakfast; 250 for a single gathering for VBS & Sunday School; 200-300 for musical productions, plays, fashion shows, etc.
 - Accommodate UMM, UMW morning meetings & breakfasts & other meals; as well as serving District & Conference meals for meetings & training one to two times per year.
 - Provide more room for youth indoor activities as well as walking & exercise venue for older youth and adults.
2. We need a larger modernized kitchen to serve and accommodate activities in item 1 above with industrial sized freezer and refrigerator, icemaker, steam/warming stoves, dishwasher, sinks and storage. It should be a user-friendly and safe kitchen to match the capacity of groups stated in item 1.
3. We need a modernized nursery with at least two adjacent rooms located closer to the sanctuary with changing tables, sink, Ootties for children, and a nursing mother room and alternate outside access.
4. We need the Food Closet to have two adjacent rooms; one for storage and one for check in/check out located farther away from the pre-school area. They should be located near an outside access for easy entrance/exit and deliveries.
5. The Music Department needs dedicated rooms for bell choir, children's choir, adult choir and instrumental orchestra. Also need a dedicated storage room for music.
6. The Education Department needs several more classrooms for Sunday School Meetings, Bible Studies, Confirmation Classes, resource room, and media storage room as well as curriculum storage.
7. Worship Department needs more storage space for paraments, robes, etc.
8. We need more parking for elder and handicapped members and guest located closer to the sanctuary with handicapped access. We need a covered-transfer area for use in inclement weather near the handicapped access ramp.
9. Misc. Needs requested are a private money-counting room, wider hallways for smoother traffic flow with larger gathering areas to eliminate choke points in traffic flow. Everyone wants storage, storage, storage.

10. Pre-school needs two more classrooms and additional indoor activity space.

Results of August 2005 report: The Church Council concurred with the recommendations of the August report presented by Ron Dorenbusch.

Recommendation: The Church Council appoint a Building Committee to select and hire a designer/architect to design a facility that will economically fulfill the above stated needs at St. Luke's UMC. Top priority should be given to fulfilling the need for more room in the fellowship hall/gym/stage area whether to raze the eastern end of the present building or to extend the present facility to the south. Next priority is the modernization of the kitchen, locating it close to the Fellowship Hall.

Current Status: The Building Committee resumed meeting again in January 2006 and is meeting approximately every 2 weeks.

Membership on the current St. Luke's Building Committee includes the following: Rob Anderson, Bob Dye, Blair Ellis, Ken Engebretson, Kathy Everhart, Debbie Frecker, Betty Miller, Pete Prindle, and Joel Church (part time).

Road Ahead: The good news is that the majority of the members of the building committee have been part of this initiative since the Ad Hoc Committees were formed.

- We are reviewing the specific areas mentioned above in more detail and coming to consensus on our recommendations.
- Meeting with Myler again, tentative meeting is scheduled for 3 April.
- Article in St. Luke's monthly newsletter
- Website Page
- Before committing funds, we will come back to CC with more specifics regarding recommended changes and with proposed architect or general manager, such as Myler
- St. Luke's will need to work a strategy for funding the building project

Education Ministry - Melissa Koch & Rich Ziemet
James Pace brought the following report:

- The Educational Ministry Group met on Thursday, March 9, 2006.
- The focus of our meeting was our need for additional teachers and class leaders to meet current staffing as well as allow for future growth in starting new classes.
- The group feels a need for ministry descriptions as a key to leadership enlistment and the DDM will be developing these for a future meeting.
- We also discussed the need for additional Sunday School Superintendents. Same discussion as to ministry descriptions as above.
- Rotational Sunday School for children is returning for the Summer at St. Luke's.
- Vacation Bible School is underway with leadership enlistment now ongoing.
- We will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30.

Worship Ministry - Kenna Rusk

- Ed Brummer reported that the 11 a.m. worship service was not broadcast on Feb. 19th due to a problem at the radio station. The appropriate amount was deducted from our monthly payment.
- Usher training for the 11 a.m. service was held on Feb. 22nd. Approximately 17 people attended this training session. Special thanks to Pastor Mark for the first aid and defibrillator training.
- Lenten/Easter:
The worship and event schedule was mailed out several weeks ago.
An article will be put in the April Newsletter concerning memorials and honorariums for the Easter Garden that will be set up in the sanctuary and narthex.
- Concerning the Easter Garden donations: In the past, any remaining money that wasn't spent on flowers was donated to the Good Samaritan Fund. Since the money is being given for flowers, the Worship Ministry would like to ask permission to place the unspent funds into an account to be used for altar flowers during the coming year.
- The Worship Ministry would also like permission to establish an Altar Guild. The primary functions of this group would be to change the paraments, launder communion linens, assist the communion stewards with set-up/clean-up, co-ordinate the altar flowers.
- Laura McKinney, my Worship Ministry co-chair, has had to resign due to family obligations, but she will continue to work behind the scenes in the Worship Ministry area.

Outreach Ministry - Karen Berardini & Pat Murphy

- We have new leaders for Shepherding Ministry (Rita Atherton) and Hospitality Center Ministry (Jeanne Coates.)
- Trustees gave approval to new directional signs, visitor parking signs, Hospitality Center in the narthex, and replacing the outdoor main sign with a lighted sign with changeable letters. The last will need special funding and will cost in the \$4,000-\$5,000 range. These signs are a terrific evangelism tool which would allow us to get our message out to hundreds (or more?) of passers-by on a daily basis.
- We still need a leader for the New Neighbor Packet Ministry. As someone new moves in to a church member's neighborhood, that member can pick up a St. Luke's New Neighbor Welcome Packet from the church. The packet will include a church information magnet, church brochures, a map, area information, and a package of light bulbs. The church member can deliver the packet to the newcomers (and maybe take the opportunity to introduce themselves and talk about the church) or just hang the packet on their doorknob.
- Outreach would like to see the Newcomer's Seminars expanded to more than one session. The additional meetings would allow ministry area representatives to discuss opportunities at St. Luke's and provide time for a spiritual gifts assessment. Involving

more church members in the sessions will help with that “getting acquainted” step which is critical in new member assimilation.

- The next step in the District evangelism program is small group information gathering. Within the next 2 weeks, we will begin these thirty-minute sessions in existing small groups of the church. The groups will be asked:
 - What are the things I have not done and should have done to further God’s purposes?*
 - What can I do now that will benefit the Kingdom of God and help the church grow?*The responses are to be of the brainstorming type, not problem-solving. Respondents will be asked to answer each question as it pertains to them personally to avoid “finger-pointing” and placing blame on others. The responses will be recorded (without names.) Then the Outreach Ministry Team will use them to form a statement to be used in our Act of Repentance on Palm Sunday.

Nurture Ministry - Mary Ellis & Donna Dorenbush

Request for Approval of Martha’s Ministry

It is the recommendation of the Nurture Ministry that there be a committee called “Martha’s Ministry” that would reach out to the grieving members of our church community. The purpose would be to provide a reception in the church fellowship hall or in the home following the funeral/ memorial service. This ministry would respond when notified by the church office and/ or pastor.

The Martha’s Ministry would have one person as chair. Under this chair there would be six teams of approximately 6 to 8 members per team. Each team would serve for two consecutive months.

Funding could come from the current Nurture Ministry “budget” for 2006. The Nurture Ministry would submit a request for a line item for 2007 for the Martha’s Ministry. If approved, the Nurture Ministry will submit at a later date the guidelines for Martha’s Ministry.

Church Council approved proceeding with the Martha's Ministry.

- Red Cross Blood Drive was held on February 27th
 - There were 43 successful donations.
 - We will request more Red Cross staff for the August 8th drive in hopes of alleviating the long waiting time for donors.
 - Many thanks to all who gave blood, prepared food, and worked in the kitchen and at the registration desk!
- New Church Directory committee is forming and will meet with the representative from PCA in early April.
 - Please see calendar for scheduled photography dates.
- College Care Packages will be in the narthex and available for “adoption” on Sunday, March 26th and Sunday, April 2nd. They should be mailed out right after Easter.
- Coffee Time Fellowship will gather in the courtyard as long as weather permits.

- Martha Brewer is now doing attendance recording for Sunday School. Beginning in May, Marian Thome will also be working on this. Betty Brummer is recording worship attendance, and she will be recruiting others to assist.
- St. Luke's Travelers' next trip is scheduled for March 27 – 31. Ten people will be traveling to Savannah, Georgia and returning via the Carolina coast. They are currently planning the fall trips.

Service Ministry - Donald Rice/Joe Posey

- ASP is a year round ministry at St. Luke's. 58 individuals are scheduled to go to McDowell County, West Virginia on June 17th for one week.
- Easter Egg Project is planned for full steam ahead the next four weeks.
- Heart Haven has land to build house. St. Luke's UMM donated \$400 for this effort.
- PORT - Our church furnished support to Newport News churches on four occasions over the winter of 2005-6. Last Monday evening we served about 109 homeless in the inner city.
- Refugee News - Bunk Beds are needed for a new Afghan family of eleven.
- UMCOR - Three more trips to the Gulf Coast are planned. Obtaining a trailer is being investigated.

Communications Ministry - Ken Engrebretson

No report this month.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee - Bo Walkley

No report this month.

United Methodist Women - Jean Henley

- This month we began a 8 a.m. Breakfast Board Meeting.
- The annual District Prayer Breakfast was held on March 10th at Pointe Plaza. This year's theme is *Peace - Piece by Piece*. Nine ladies from St. Luke's unit enjoyed this program.
- On March 22nd the District Board of UMW will meet at St. Luke's at 7 p.m.
- On March 30th several UMW will travel to Washington D.C. to the United Methodist Building for informative seminars, lunch at the Everett Dirksen Senate Office Building, and a tour of The Museum of the American Indian.
- On April 27th, The quarterly St. Luke's UMW meeting will be a 7 p.m.

Lay Leader Council - Melissa Koch

There are two vacancies on this council. We met on March 2nd and discussed district activities and future plans.

Finance - Treasurer - Chuck Harris

- Audit committee is forming this month.
- We are spending more than we are taking in.

- Our cash flow is a minus \$10,000 and we're watching it carefully.

United Methodist Men - Rich Ziemet

- Rich is in Iowa due to passing of his mother.
- Men's breakfast to coming Sunday will have Alan Langford speaking on Camp Rainbow.
- Heart Haven House coming along. They need someone on property in prayer for the venture. June 18th is SLUMC week to support this effort.
- Easter Breakfast is coming up -- busy times.

Trustees - Joel Church

- Harwood Bathroom Refurbishment Update:
The hall bath is complete and work on the master bath is scheduled to begin March 20th.
- Fellowship Hall Light Switches:
As a safety measure (limit access to stage – trip hazard) the switches for the fellowship hall perimeter lights have been relocated the wall adjacent the hallway entrance. Switches for the stage spotlights remain on the stage. Note that breaker #4 (in the Fellowship Hall breaker panel located on the stage) operates the night-lights. Thanks to Fred Sawin for leading this effort. And thanks to Tom Sayre for installing new caution tape on the stage steps.
- Transportation Needs:
Trustees continue their investigation in support of purchasing a new church van/activity bus. Please contact Phil Comstock at philcomstock1@cox.net with your thoughts.

Youth - Jenn Wilcox

- On May 6th we'll have the Kiwanis BBQ near the Post Office in Grafton.
- DCLA is July 1-5. In the fall we raised \$600 in car washes. We will begin having car washes at 12:30 p.m. on first Sundays to raise funds for DCLA.
- Flocking with pink flamingos is another fundraiser. LP will take orders. 2 flocks are \$25 (same location) and 1 flock is \$15.
- On June 2nd, the youth will sponsor their 4th Annual Gong Show.
- ASP Meeting is at 4:01 p.m. on Sunday. At last month's meeting, six from Mechanicsville visited our ASP Meeting and are going this summer to West Virginia with us.

Director of Discipleship Ministry - James Pace

Our Lenten Luncheons got off to a real good start last Wednesday. Wednesday's topic included a discussion about how to develop a Lenten Rule of Discipline – not necessarily giving up something for Lent, but taking something on – such as a different Spiritual Discipline. Other Wednesdays will include topics submitted by those in attendance. See you then.

Pastor Mark

Lent is busy time preparing for Easter...a time of reflection.

He enjoyed usher classes with AED. CPR & First Aid classes to follow.

This coming Sunday is new member's class.

Appreciates the bathroom renovation a lot - helps with family life with two basins.

Pastor Bill

- There is lots going on as we've heard from so many during this meeting.

- We should use the **F.R.A.N.** plan to pray for:

Friends

Relations

Acquaintances

Neighbors.

- He thanked the church body for the love and support in the sudden passing of his Mother and would like us to continue to pray for his family.

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

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

Next Meeting: April 11, 2006 at 7:30 PM

(Devotion – Karen Berardini; Refreshments – Kenna Rusk)

Submitted by Faye Keenan, Church Council Secretary.