

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

May 13, 2008

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 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 sign up to lead devotions or provide refreshments for upcoming meetings.
2. June Devotions: **Ken Engebretson**
3. June Refreshments: **Debbie Fullhart**
4. The next Church Council meeting: **Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.**
5. Sam Motley thanked Joe Vallow for filling in as secretary for the April meeting.

DEVOTION

Sam Motley led a devotion taken from a recent Sunday School lesson entitled "*Multiply and Divide.*" This lesson beginning with Ephesians 4 tells us about Unity with God—*Live a life worthy of the one you received*; 2 Thessalonians 3 tells us to keep away from people who are idol—*Keep busy doing God's work*; and Philippians 3 tells us to press on toward the goal—*Forget the past and live for the future.* What are we doing that multiplies God's work? What are we doing to divide God's kingdom? Sam closed with prayer.

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Outreach—Just recently the church opened its doors and provided a service for a community youth who took his own life. Along with his family there were about 25 youth who attended this service. A response from a family member was received in which thanks was expressed to Pastor Doug for his message and visits, to Martha's Ministry for providing a reception and to the congregation of St. Luke's for being a church to a family who did not think they needed a church or God. Pastor Doug challenged each of us to reach out to someone that may be missing God's church in their lives.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the **April 15, 2008** Church Council meeting were **approved with the following changes**: Action item 1(a) should read . . .*Service Ministry co-chair* instead of chair.

DRAFT: May 28, 2008

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the Staff Parish Relations Committee: Request approval to hire a Business Manager.** At the recommendation of the Finance Committee the SPRC has discussed the position with the duties outlined in the attached position description. This description combines the duties of the volunteer Treasurer and the banking, investments and credit card authorization duties. This will be a full-time position with a proposed salary range of \$30,000-\$35,000 with an estimated start date of early August. The total compensation including benefits will be \$40,000-45,000. A called charge conference will be needed to approve a budget increase. The requirements for office space and equipment are under assessment.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

2. **Motion from the Service Ministry: Request approval to host a “We All Sing 4 Menchville House (WAS4MH) Concert” in the church sanctuary.** Set up would begin at 5:30 p.m. for the 6:30 p.m. program. A Love Offering will be collected. Possible dates for this event were verified as available on the church calendar and presented in order of priority: *1st choice: July 26 2nd choice: August 2 3rd choice: June 28*

Motion was unanimously APPROVED for Saturday, July 26, 2008.

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

1. **Education Ministry will now meet the first Thursday of each month at 4 p.m.** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 5
2. **Sunday School**
 - a) The Education Committee will be sending out a letter to all parents of children currently enrolled in Sunday School. This **letter will invite parents to become more involved in the SS process as teachers or room parents.** We will be looking for a team of teachers for each grade level. A team approach will give everyone a sense of unity in what is done and how. We really want to encourage this consistency for the children like we have for the middle and high school youth. Consistency of teachers has encouraged steady growth in the youth classes. We will also attempt adding a room parent for each class to help the teachers out as needed – similar to a regular school room parent.
 - b) The **new partitions have arrived** and will allow us to move 4 Sunday School classes to the fellowship hall. The initial plan is to move the 3 HS Synago classes to fellowship hall and add another Synago class. Some people are raising issues with the privacy of the Synago classes with only partitions. We recommend that now that the partitions are here, we should immediately test how they work and go from there. There may be further need to add rugs to each area and maybe sound dampers on the wall, but we won't know anything until we test them.
 - c) **The move of the Synago classes will open up 3 classrooms** that can be used for new classes including:
 - New adult class
 - College student class for summer led by David Butler – considering the book “Messy Spirituality”. The class will meet in James’ office the first Sunday and then relocate after the use of the partitions has begun.

- Possibly a “typical” Sunday School class for HS if the need is there
 - Others as necessary
- d) **Synago leaders will meet on Monday, May 19** to discuss Synago issues, readjust classes, and assign new leaders as needed. We will also look to add a 4th Synago class aimed at the younger HS youth.
- 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 does not meet. James Pace will use this time during the summer to teach a class on Worship.
- 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) **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.
- 6. **Confirmation 2007-2008**
 - a) Friday, May 16 – **Field trip to synagogue** in Williamsburg.
 - b) Wednesday, May 28 - 6:30pm – **Practice for Confirmation.**
 - c) Sunday, June 1 – **Confirmation at all three services with a reception from about 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** All are invited. Sunday School teachers, mentors and families of the confirmands are strongly urged to come congratulate them.
- 7. **Confirmation 2008-2009**
 - a) Put info in blurbs and newsletter about **new class in September** for anyone 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.

Youth Ministry (Katelyn Cianelli and Justin Torres)

May 2008 Youth Council Report

1. **High School meets Thursdays** from 7-8:30pm
2. **Middle School meets Sundays** from 5-7pm and includes dinner
3. **NO Middle School youth at High School youth and vice versa** – unless the youth have a specific planned purpose to be there and it has been cleared with the youth director
4. Youth Director wants to **encourage parent involvement:**
 - a) Parents meetings (June 8, Sept. 7) – tell them what the plan is, what the structure is, what the purpose is – be sure youth, parents, and Youth director are on the same page.
 - b) Parent volunteers – we should *expect* parents to volunteer – they should *want* to be involved. We should ask every parent to volunteer at least once during the year and explain that without parent volunteers, it doesn’t work
 - Events
 - Lock-ins
 - Weekly youth gathering
 - Weekly youth meals

5. Summer Youth Group – **Sunday and Thursday Youth Group meetings will continue** as scheduled
6. **Summer Youth Activities** will be scheduled for Tuesdays to possibly include trips, swimming, movies, beach trips, games, etc. These activities are currently being planned by the youth director and the youth council.

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini and TBN)

1. The **Outreach Team met on Monday, May 5.**
2. Our hoped-for permission to participate in the **Yorktown Market Days** was denied. We had planned to give away refillable water bottles, but this was deemed a duplication of effort by a sponsor. We may try to do something similar for the Yorktown 4th of July celebration.
3. Carol Comstock is working on the **bus ministry to Grafton Station Apartments for VBS.**
4. The ministry team decided that instead of doing our **next TV commercial** at Advent, we will do it in September during Open House month. I have written the proposal for the matching grant money from Igniting Ministries.
5. The **next Outreach Ministry meeting** is scheduled for Monday, June 2 at 4 p.m.

Nurture Ministry (Donna Dorenbush and TBN)

1. **Martha's Ministry served two funeral receptions** at the church; one in April and one in May.
2. There will be a **Spiritual Retreat** this Saturday, May 17 and another in October

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

1. **The deadline for the June newsletter is Tuesday, May 15.**

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. **UMMen met for breakfast and fellowship on April 20.** The program was given by members of “Teen Challenge” that gave testimonies on life before coming to Teen Challenge.
2. UMMen held the **2nd 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. 16 men attended and were lead by a leadership team with a theme of “A Man and His World.” The closing ceremony included communion and a gift of a wooden cross to remind each man of the event. We plan to continue this annual tradition again next year.
3. The **next UMMen Fellowship Breakfast will be May 18** 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 **District General Meeting** was held on April 28, 2008 at First UMC, Hampton. Dinner was followed by a program on Heart Havens by Ms. Jae Benz, Executive Director of Heart Havens.

2. March 29, 2008 - **Leadership Training Day** was held at Shady Grove UMC, Richmond. This event was attended by UMMen leadership and other men interested in the UMMen. There were many different interesting classes offered and great opportunities for fellowship and faith sharing.
3. The **Annual Conference UMMen Breakfast** will be held on June 17 at Thrasher UMC, Blackstone.
4. 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 half price for \$2.50. Advance sale orders are being coordinated with Brent Musgrove of Central UMC after May 17. More information to follow.
5. 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.
6. 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.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

1. **See Action Item #1 on page 1.**
2. The **search for a Nursery Director** continues to move forward.

Worship Ministry (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

1. **Discussed Prayer Ministry.** Looking for additional Prayer Service. Exploring the idea of setting up a classroom for prayer.
2. Looking at a date for **recognition of our refugees.**
3. **Upcoming dates:**
 - a) May 18 – **Acolyte Recognition** with a pizza party
 - b) June 1 – **Confirmation Sunday** with reception beginning at 11:00
Communion will be June 8 due to the number of youth being confirmed
 - c) June 8 – **Graduates Sunday** with reception
 - d) June 15 – **UMW Sunday.** Annual Conference Begins

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. **Bus Payoff** – We paid the first half of the bus payoff and plan to make the second and last payment around July 2008. Also, the back seat of the bus was removed to allow easy access to the emergency exit. The bus now has a 21 seat capacity instead of 25.
2. **Trailer** – The new logo is on the trailer, and it looks great.
3. **Recycling** – We have done fairly well but have a ways to go for "total green." We have found regular garbage commingled with recyclable items. Please pass the word to your Sunday School classes to be careful with garbage.
4. **Boiler Conversion** – We're getting proposals for converting to a gas fueled system.
5. **Down Spouts** – We plan to adjust the down spouts next Saturday at 9 a.m. We need some help, so if you can spare a couple hours Saturday, please join us for this necessary work

6. **Parsonage Fence** – We plan to replace the fencing around the sides and back of the parsonage property.
7. Tom **thanked the youth for the yard work** performed during the 30-hour Famine.

Service Ministry (Ron Dorenbush and Susie Small)

1. **FOGG ASP** - 10 adults traveled to Jonesville, VA to help make two homes warmer, safer and/or drier.
2. Kathryn Budzik working the **overseas mission plan for 2009**.
3. **6th – 8th grade mission trip planned** for August 22-24 at Westview on the James. Cost is \$96/attendee with \$25 deposit at sign up.
4. **UMCOR Medicine Box** to be completed this month with over \$500 donated so far.
5. **Kits for Conference** info being distributed now to be complete for Annual Conference in June.
6. **A Day to recognize Refugees** is being planned for sometime in July or August.
7. The **Good Samaritan Fund** for March 2008:
 - a) Receipts: \$895.00
 - b) Expended: \$2,693.77
 - c) Balance: \$12,989.74

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. A small number of Building Committee and Finance Committee members (*Pete Prindle, Bo Walkley, Tom Lyon, Chuck Harris, Pastor Doug, Sam Motley, and Blair Ellis*) **met with two financial planning/capital campaign companies** (TLC Ministries and Cargill Financial Services) in early May in order to learn more about these types of companies and to get a good feel for how they view Capital Campaigns, how they set them up, and then run them. Additionally, we were looking for their perspective on how much they think that the church can afford to build based on our current budget, assets, a capital campaign and fund raising. Both TLC and Cargill gave professional and somewhat similar presentations. Costs were fairly equal as well.
2. On May 27, a similar **group of St. Luke's members are scheduled to meet with RSI**. Following this meeting the committee will prioritize these companies in order to determine which one we might wish to use as we continue our planning process.
3. A **Building Committee meeting is scheduled for June 3** to discuss in detail Duane Potts' feasibility study on the St. Luke's site and what steps now need to be completed in order for Duane to finish this portion of his site study.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Jean Henley)

1. We received **\$182 in donations at a recent bake sale**.
2. The **April Unit meeting was very successful** with several outside participants helping with our program on "The Green Church."
3. **United Methodist Women Sunday** will be June 15. Our speaker for all three services will be Dr. Linda Driver Rae from our United Methodist Family Services.
4. We will help **provide a reception for our graduates** on June 8 in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

Treasurer (Tom Lyon)

1. The **Financial Report for April 2008** was provided as information.
2. Tom addressed the **highlighted entries** on the report which indicated those lines that are over budget and those that have exceeded the 50% mark for the year.

3. He **encouraged ministry chairs and leaders to keep on top of their spending.**
4. **The report was approved as submitted.**

Green Church Initiative (Joe Posey)

1. **Joe thanked the United Methodist Women for their wonderful “Green” program and Pastor Clara for standing in for him.**
2. The placement of **motion detector switches in the church restrooms** is being considered. This will save electricity if the lights only come on when the facilities are in use.
3. Joe is currently attending a **NASA seminar which sets the standards for becoming a “Green Building.”** This information will help with determining what level of green building St. Luke’s can become.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. The **annual Helping Hands event held in Richmond has made cut backs to the program** due to the changes being made to the building in which the event is held. St. Luke’s will host a local session the first week in August with mission projects and activities.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. Two Thursdays in July and August will be designated as **“Family Fun Days.”** Families are invited to join in for simply fun and fellowship. More details to come.
2. The **Worship Class is half way through.** The first lesson was about a church adding a service to reach new people. This is what St. Luke’s is looking at too and the question we ask ourselves is—*How do we call the body of Christ and make disciples?*

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. The **Nominations Committee is seeking volunteers** for the following vacant positions: Nurture and Outreach co-chair and Lay Leader.
2. **Lay Leader Thomas Lane will be St. Luke’s third representative at Annual Conference.**
3. **St. Luke’s will not have the opportunity to sponsor a Calling 21 intern this summer.** There are not enough students in this year’s program.
4. **A covered dish supper** is planned for Thursday, May 29 in the Fellowship Hall to hear about this year’s trip to the Holy Land.
5. **Another trip to the Holy Land is being planned for 2009.**
6. **Pastor Doug will be on vacation next week.**
7. **Pastor Doug was nominated to serve on the Judicial Council.** Even though he was not elected it was an honor to be nominated.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
2. **The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.**

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Secretary