

**ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 8, 2007**

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.”

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council Chair, Ron Dorenbusch. There were 21 members present. James Pace led a devotion that focused on teachers and teaching. James handed out cards and asked all to write down a favorite Bible story, a fear about teaching, a favorite teacher and a prayer for teaching. He asked what it was that made us remember the stories or the teacher or why some might fear being a teacher. Most responded by saying they feared not being prepared, teaching the wrong material or not having the right answers. James reminded us that most of us do not remember the big picture and that teaching is not just about having the right answers. Teaching is a great deal about getting to know your students and making a connection. Matthew 28:18 tells us all to go and teach as Jesus has taught and that God will be with us giving us the strength, wisdom and patience we need to make that teaching connection. James closed with prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for **April 10, 2007** were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS / FOLLOW-UP

1. Members were encouraged to sign up in vacant months to lead devotion and provide refreshments for upcoming Church Council meetings.
2. Packets with materials from the April meeting were available for those who did not attend.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the United Methodist Women: Request approval to have the following fundraisers:**
 - a) **Bake Sale on June 17**
 - b) **Sell Buck Eyes (peanut butter candy) on October 28**

Motions were unanimously APPROVED.

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Worship Ministry (Kenna Rusk and Brenda Ramsey)

1. **Handbell Choir Expenditures**—This item was originally presented as a motion for approval but it was determined by council that no vote was necessary as ministries are authorized to manage their individual budgets. The below is provided as information.
 - a) The Handbell Choir budget line, used primarily for music purchases, will exceed the \$500 budget for the following expenditures as requested by Mark Smeland:
 - 1) Repairs for 3 handbells
Estimated cost—\$645 (excluding shipping)
 - 2) Replacement of pad covers and table skirting (all original items—15+ yrs. old)
Estimated cost—\$1,500 (including shipping and handling)
 - b) Worship Ministry members are fairly confident that although the Handbell Choir budget line will be exceeded, the total Worship expenditures will remain within budget.
2. Holy Week and Easter worship **services were well attended:**
 - a) Palm Sunday 562
 - b) Maundy Thursday 100
 - c) Good Friday 150
 - d) Easter 911
3. **Easter Flower Garden**—\$635 was received, \$427.24 was spent; \$207.76 will be transferred to Mission Support (#8021) to be used for a future mission trip.
4. **Acolyte Recognition** will be held on Sunday, June 3 at the 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services. A pizza party will follow the 11:00 a.m. service.
5. There will be a celebration of and invitation to join the **Homebound Communion Outreach Ministry** on Wednesday, May 23, at 6:30 p.m. at the church.
6. **Greeters are needed** for all 3 worship services – contact the church office or Vivian Edwards, 875-9630.
7. **Mothers’/Fathers’ Day – devotional booklets** will be given to the mothers and fathers worshipping on those Sundays.
8. A note of thanks was expressed to **Vince Berardini** for making a second stand for the Flower Cross.

Nurture Ministry (Mary Ellis and Donna Dorenbush)

1. **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Knitters from both the day and evening groups knitted maroon and orange prayer scarves for the Virginia Tech students from St. Luke’s following the tragedy on April 16. The request was made on Tuesday evening, and the scarves were blessed during worship on Sunday, April 22. Thomas Lane, one of our VT students, took them back to campus with him for “special delivery.” Many thanks to Jill Zahn for coordinating this effort and to all the knitters who dedicated a lot of hours in a short period of time so our church could reach out in “practical love” to our young people at Tech. A traditional prayer shawl will be given to each student’s family.
2. **Fellowship Minute** – Nurture, Outreach, and Trustees are working together to streamline the process for hosting and setting up the fellowship time between worship services.

Finance Ministry (Sam Motley)

1. At the April meeting, **it was decided not to pursue electronic giving at this time.** The primary factor is a perceived lack of interest by members. Other considerations are that members using electronic banking already have electronic giving options; and some feel that giving is a part of the worship service to be practiced by members and viewed as an example by youth and children.

Treasurer (Chuck Harris)

1. The **Financial Report for April 2007** was provided for information.

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. Following approval by the Church Council of the Building Committee motion at the April 2007 meeting, Tom Walker of Myler Corp was notified that St. Luke's wanted to proceed to the **Design Phase of our building program**. Per a recent telecom with Mr. Walker, the designers and architects are drawing up initial plans based on the planning documents and discussions that the St. Luke's Building Committee and staff have provided to Myler. Upon completion of the initial drawings, Myler will notify the Building Committee and we will begin the process of reviewing the drawings and ensuring that what is being placed on paper matches our discussions and planning to date.
2. One area of interest that we are pursuing is the idea of looking at the **easement properties along the power line** behind St. Luke's easement to see if perhaps we could purchase that easement property from current property owners and then move the "detention pond" to that area, thus opening up additional opportunity for parking under the power line on our current property. Per discussion with Myler, Mr. Walker believes that that option is doable, and we are now in the process of gathering more facts from the County.

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini and Pat Murphy)

1. The **Outreach Ministry met Monday, May 7** at 4 p.m.
2. Pat Murphy and Rita Atherton have prepared a **survey to mail to singles** at St. Luke's to find out about areas of interest.
3. The Church Library will have a **summer story time** program for preschoolers with a parent/caregiver on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. from June 12 to August 7.
4. Outreach is planning two opportunities to send out volunteers into nearby neighborhoods to **invite people to St. Luke's**. The date for the first has been changed to June 2. We have also changed the neighborhood target for this first effort. We will go to nearby apartment/condo complexes that have young couples and young families. The second, in early September before Open House, will include many more people (100?) going into much of the Grafton area. Teams of 2 adults along with an elementary school student or youth will bring a packet of materials about our church to houses and invite the residents to come to St. Luke's. Our plan is to have participants meet at the church at 2 p.m. for an hour-long training session by Pastor Doug, go out into nearby neighborhoods for a couple of hours, then meet back at St. Luke's for dinner. Volunteers are needed!
5. We encourage all church members to **be inclusive and invitational in their small groups**. Put announcements in the newsletter and bulletin that indicate newcomers are always welcome to join. Speak to visitors after the service and invite them to come with you to a class or group.
6. The **next Outreach Team meeting** will be Monday June 4 at 4 p.m.

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. The **parsonage has a new heat pump** for the second floor, and Doug now has his shed.
2. We bought **additional mulch** for the playground and the front flower beds at the church. We're working on getting the mulch spread.
3. Liz Tragle acquired **four new trees for church grounds**. Hopefully we will get them planted if we get enough strong-back help. Also, thanks to Liz, the courtyard looks really nice.
4. We're still having **roof leak problems**. This seems to be a never ending problem. We're working on it but don't see much light at the end of the tunnel.

5. Diana Donnelly and I decided to **hold off on the swing set** problem for the pre-school playground. We're not sure if:
 - a) The current playground will still exist after construction.
 - b) A new playground will be similar in size and shape.
 - c) The new playground will have access for mulching, installing new equipment, etc.
6. We're still working on **updating the emergency evacuation plan**.
7. Clara would like some **new shelving put in the acolyte storeroom**. We'll take that up at the trustee meeting next Monday.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

1. The Ministry area members agreed to **change our meeting time** to the first Monday of every other month at 7:15 p.m. Our next meeting will be July 2.
2. The group generally discussed the need for **backing-up files** in order to prevent disaster if the original files were lost, damaged, or unrecoverable. A backup process will be implemented that will take into account file sensitivity and the time it would take to reenter data changes made after the previous backup. Thumb drives and removable/portable hard drives with appropriate backup software are likely candidates for resolving this issue.
3. **Contracts for preventive and remedial maintenance** are desired by the staff for the ten computers (six notebooks and four desktops) currently in operation, as well as select printers. CompUSA pricing and coverage will be compared with another company in May. A decision will then be made to initiate contract coverage so that computer problems can be resolved in an appropriate time.
4. **Problems with getting a response** back from AL & M were discussed. Repeated calls to the Virginia Beach company have still resulted in no reply by the owner, Mr. Tommy Parker. He was to have provided SLUMC with recommendations in January for replacing much of the sound system equipment (not including the main Bose speakers). Megan Zahn and Ken Engebretson will check for other area companies who could provide such services. A potential conflict with the Design/Build program will also be researched.
5. **Pastor Doug's desktop monitor will be replaced** with a 19 - 20 inch model.
6. **Uninterruptible power supplies** were installed on three staff computers.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

1. Our plans for a **teacher appreciation luncheon** are fast coming together. Invitations have gone out, and folks are beginning to respond. Lunch food is already decided along with a special gift of appreciation for each of our teachers. We will have a short devotional thought and thanks.
2. Our **confirmation class** is in their third week of their final class leading to the rite of confirmation on June 3. We will have a rehearsal for confirmation on Wednesday, May 30 at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Confirmation will occur during the 11 o'clock service on June 3 with a reception in Fellowship Hall for the confirmands and their families. The Education committee is heading up the plans for this reception; please see Theresa Butler, Melissa Koch or James Pace for more information.
3. **Vacation Bible School** is right around the corner. Our leadership training continues on May 20 at 5 p.m. Registration began on May 1. Registration forms are available on the hallway bulletin board, the DDM office or online at our website.
4. The inaugural issue of **Path Formations** was distributed on Sunday, May 6. This hopes to be another method of getting the word out concerning our Education Ministries. Look for new issues with the changing of the liturgical calendar.

5. **Children's Rotational Sunday School** will begin on July 1 and run for 8 weeks through the summer. We are in the process of enlisting workshop leaders who will teach the same lesson each of the eight weeks only to a different set of children. Interested? Please let Theresa, Melissa or James know. There will be a workshop leadership training on June 3 at 4:30 p.m.
6. The ***What Every Teacher Needs to Know Workshop*** will be held on August 12 at 5:00 pm. This event will be for all teachers, either returning or new teachers and even for those who may want to just learn more about United Methodism, teaching, making disciples, faith language, etc.

Youth:

1. 27 youth and 6 adults participated in the **30-hour famine**. During the famine the youth studied the hunger and perils that define the lives of children in Uganda. They made a banner of handprints to visually describe the 1208 child deaths per hour. They also made popsicle stick crosses (163) to show the number of children that can survive for 30 days because of the \$4891.31 (and counting) they raised. With the help of Susan Sallwasser the youth also learned about the local hungry and helped stock the food closet shelves. The youth also helped clean up the ASP BBQ worksite.
2. The youth will take **flamingo flocking** orders for May with proceeds going to help the Stop Hunger Now campaign.
3. We have two female youth **spots available for this summer's SPLAT** conference.
4. We will begin **weekly summer time activities on Thursday's** the third week of July for six weeks. We did this last summer and had a good response. Each week we do a different activity (e.g., beach, bowling, Tides game, etc.) This activity does not replace Sunday Nights...those will continue as usual though we will probably have high school and middle school meeting together for the summer.
5. Calendar Items:
 - a) **June 1** – Gong Show Fellowship Night Dinner and Fundraiser
(Donations for SPLAT)
 - b) **June 3** – Youth Car Wash 12:00-3:00 p.m. (Donations for SPLAT)
 - c) **July 11-15** – SPLAT (Youth 2007) in Greensboro NC

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. May 20 is the regularly scheduled **Men's Fellowship Breakfast** and all men are invited.
2. May 26, Saturday, is the **Men's Spiritual Retreat** led by Pastor Doug. Signup will start May 6 during each worship service. All men are encouraged to attend and to invite other men to attend. Registration is required. There is no cost for this event. Check May newsletter for details.
3. **UMMen will not meet** in June (Father's Day), July or August.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Chris Cianelli)

Local Church:

1. The UMW will **staff the Hospitality Desk** on May 20 before all 3 services.
2. **Book Club** will meet next on June 4 and discuss "Rumors of Another World" by Philip Yancy.
3. **Stop Hunger Now Project**, May 27.
4. **CANCELED: Fund Raiser** on May 31 for the Peninsula Historical Society Luncheon here at St. Luke's.
5. UMW plan to send 2 young women to the **School of Christian Mission**.

6. Circles will be doing **Sewing Kits** for the Conference in Roanoke.
7. St. Luke's UWM Unit will **host Graduation Sunday** on June 10.
8. UWM Unit will once again **sell Sun Catchers** – May 13.

Peninsula District:

1. Most needed **kits for Conference** are Sewing and Layette. These will be taken to Conference in Roanoke June 10-14.
2. **District Executive Meeting** – 7:00 pm at Fox Hill Central UMC – May 16.
3. **Bus trip to Ferrum College Day** – June 1 and 2. Trip will include a stop at Henry Fork Center.
4. **Hands on Mission Day** is September 15, 8:30-1 p.m. at Wesley UMC. Knitting instructions for prayer shawls will be given.

Service Ministry (Joe Posey and Joe Vallow)

1. **Appalachia Service Project for Older Guys and Gals (ASP FOGG)** – St. Luke's ASP FOGG first excursion was April 29 through May 5. Seven volunteers (average age 59) worked for a week out of the ASP year around center in Wyoming County WV, making home repairs. We enjoyed the company of other volunteers from Maryland and North Carolina. The projects included electrical safety work, plumbing, and replacement of a bathroom and bedroom floor. While several of the volunteers had previous ASP experience with the St. Luke's summer ASP trips, we found the dynamics of an adult trip was different and enjoyable in its own way. We judged this first trip to be a success, and plan to have some follow on trips. We may go as early as late fall or early winter 2007.
2. **Kits For Conference** – Display of a school kit, layette, and sewing kit has been set up in the narthex. Kits on hand to date are 48 health kits, 42 school kits, 7 sewing kits, and 2 layettes. Children's Sunday School classes will be asked to bring in specific items needed to complete kits. Monetary donations welcome.
3. **Agape Christian Children's School** – My contact for information was Brenda Mason, who serves as treasurer for the school. There are 20 children (the maximum number) who attend the school year round, mainly on scholarships paid by donations from churches or other groups or individuals at a cost of \$3,164 per year. Groups or individuals are also encouraged to Adopt-A-Child, which runs \$260 per month. At present, there are no physical needs in the way of repairs, painting, etc. as a church from Harrisonburg provided those services recently, as well as planting and mulching beds. Barbara stated the most important need is always financial to cover the cost of the scholarships, staff salary, providing the 2 meals a day each child receives, and paper products. Donations of plastic utensils, paper cups, plates, toilet tissue, paper towels, and Clorox wipes are always welcome. Various churches and organizations have also put on entertainment and provided a Thanksgiving dinner for the children. Some other areas which would help meet the needs of the School would be to assist with Vacation Bible School, put on a Health Fair, provide entertainment on a weekend or summer evening, or making generic birthday gifts for the children. Barbara is willing to travel to St. Luke's to discuss the center and its needs. Also, Ed and Libby Wright, who live in Hampton and support the Center, will also come and speak to the needs at Agape.
4. **Good Samaritan Fund** – There was a much needed infusion of funds for the month that saves us from asking for a special offering. We're solvent for the moment, because God is good.

Opening Balance:	\$1,621.82
Received this Month:	\$3,025.00
Disbursed this Month:	\$1,159.81
Closing Balance:	\$3,487.01

5. **Relay for Life Update** – Teams are approaching \$50,000 raised so far. The event is June 8 and 9, and the congregation is invited to the St. Luke's campsites for a free picnic on Friday night to come out and discover more about Relay for Life.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. **May is a very busy month** at St. Luke's. May 20 in particular has something for everyone. Check the on-line events calendar for more details.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. Since a majority of my time is spent administering pastoral care, **my reporting is often limited.**
2. There will be a **Service of Healing** on May 20 at 6:30 p.m.
3. Plans for a **Fall Weekend Retreat** are tentatively set for October 12-14.
4. **Christian Believers** is coming to an end with ten graduates from this program.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. Forty people attended the **information session for the trip to Israel** planned for February 13-22 next year. Talk to me if you would like to go or have any questions.
2. We will have our **Calling 21 intern by this time next month.** Thomas Lane will also be a part of this program.
3. Folks have expressed concerns about the apathetic **congregational singing** particularly in the 9:45 service. I too am aware of this problem and would welcome any suggestions to help improve or change it.
4. The **Annual Conference** will be June 4-15. Delegates will be elected during this time.
5. The **Men's Retreat** will be May 26.
6. The 20-29 year-old age group is missing for worship attendance. A **Bible study for young individuals and couples** is planned for the summer. Brandon Robbins will lead this study.
7. I have completed nine Sundays working with William and Joseph Van Lear on the **Boy Scouts God and Church Award.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **In light of the scheduled Annual Conference the Church Council will not meet in June. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.**
2. **July Devotions: VACANT**
3. **June Refreshments: Debbie Fullhart**

ADJOURNMENT

Council members brought praises and concerns, and Pastor Clara closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary