

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Monthly Church Council Meeting  
May 8, 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 seeing through worship, prayer, service, education and fellowship to respond creatively to God’s call to welcome, love, and care for others.

Ron Dorenbush, Church Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. There were 24 members present

Suzi Smith led our devotion from a portion of The Sisters in Christ UMW Circle’s Study Book, “*If God is Love in an Ungracious World*”. She told us that it was not in winning or losing, but how you play the game. Spiritual life on earth is a competitive game where the winners go to heaven. Our goal is how we get to the end of our eternal destiny. God is with us in our perils with His love and support. Suzi closed in prayer.

**Minutes** for April 11, 2006 will be revised to add Communication Coordinator, Megan Zahn’s report, and correct the decision on the new outside sign in Outreach Ministry.

OLD BUSINESS

Columbarium Committee – Chuck Harris

- Chuck Harris provided an informative briefing on columbariums in the local area. A **columbarium** is a place for the respectful and usually public storage of cinerary urns (i.e. urns holding deceased cremated remains); a vault with niches for urns containing ashes of the dead. The average size for a container of deceased remains is 5”x5”x8”. There are many columbarium configurations being used – interior, exterior, plain, fancy, multiple shapes & materials (wall, circular columns, brick, wood, concrete, marble, glass fronts, brass, etc.).
- Peninsula Memorial Park is offering columbariums for sale for \$5,000-\$6,000 for two spaces constructed of brick with a closed front. There are many columbarium configurations at cemeteries and churches throughout the area – gardens-elaborate & simple; interior & exterior-glass, wood, brass plaques, brick, etc. Parklawn Cemetery has glass-fronted niches and a lovely chapel with niches and crypts. One church has an internal configuration with wooden niches.

They sold to church members for about \$150-\$300 and to outsiders for \$700. This is a very popular concept as the population grows and land available diminishes.

- If SLUMC decides to build a columbarium there are several spots for internal and external niches, however, none are ideal & careful planning is needed. Bo Walkley questioned the relative laws applicable for York County and Virginia. Ed Brummer questioned the security of the external niches. Melissa Koch and Faye Keenan had concerns over not being able to visit the niche in an interior columbarium when the church wasn't open.
- Recommendation was made that the Building Committee includes an interior columbarium and meditation area in the design for new building. Joe Vallow agreed. Karen Berardini would like us to table this recommendation for a short while so others can be informed and we can absorb all this information. Mary Ellis and others agreed to defer action for a couple months. Betty Brummer said we needed to find out if the congregation is interested. Is this something we want or not? Esther Balser is in favor since she's seen columbariums and it is a beautiful thought being in church. Megan Zahn, Communications Coordinator, will put Chuck's presentation on our web site for others to review and give feedback.
- A complete set of Chuck's Word Charts is attached as part of these minutes.

**Education Ministry** – Melissa Koch/Rich Zeimet

Plans are underway for the rotational Sunday School during the summer months and Vacation Bible School July 17-21<sup>st</sup>. Volunteers are needed for both programs.

**Worship Ministry** – Kenna Rusk

We haven't met yet this month due to a scheduling conflict, but there are a few things to report:

- Easter services went well. The worship attendance total was a little over 1000 for all 3 services.
- \$550 was contributed for the Easter garden; \$188 was spent on plants so we have over \$350 that will remain in our Altar Flower account to be used during the year.
- Mothers' Day is this Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – carnations will be given to mothers at all worship services.
- Acolyte training will be held Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, after the 11 a.m. worship service
- The brass advent candle stand is in need of repair (the base is very wobbly due to, I think, stripped threads). I will be sending it to The Kerry Collection later this week and they will let me know the estimated repair cost before repairs begin.

- Many years ago, Adois Fitchett gave St. Luke's a brass music stand. I'm not sure if it was ever used much, but I do know that the stand hasn't been used in a very long time because it is too small and doesn't adjust for different heights. After discussion within the Worship Ministry and with Trustees, I spoke with Jon Durfee and he agreed to be the temporary custodian/steward of this gift. Jon was close to Adois & is a gifted musician, so we thought he'd appreciate & take good care of the music stand.

### **Outreach Ministry** – Karen Berardini/Pat Murphy

- On June 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. covenants from the Peninsula District United Methodist Churches will be celebrated at First UMC in Hilton. All are urged and invited to attend.
- The following is our St. Luke's covenant:

In response to God's continued grace, claim, and call experienced throughout Biblical history, nurtured by the Holy Spirit, culminating in Christ, and the establishment of the Church as God's continuing incarnation, and the discovery of how we have broken covenant to fully participate in kingdom-building, we the people of St. Luke's UMC covenant to:

1. Overcome our fears and selfishness. Be bold about praying for others, seeking opportunities to speak to them about Christ and to invite them to St. Luke's.
  2. Keep evangelism and hospitality at the forefront of our minds and our ministries, helping every member of our congregation to recognize that each of us has this responsibility.
  3. Welcome all who enter our church in Christ's name, having open minds and open hearts.
  4. Put God's will first, above our own purposes. Be accountable and avoid blaming others.
  5. Strengthen our own faith and commitment to worship, study, prayer, fellowship, and service so others may see Christ in us.
- The church sign has been ordered through Stewart Signs. A deposit of \$2,500 was sent with the order. The remaining \$3,280.50 will be due when the sign arrives in 68 weeks. Forms for making contributions toward the sign's purchase are available in the Narthex.
  - We are making plans for the church library. James Pace is working on a list of books we'd like to order. Book donations will be accepted. We will have a "book shower" in July.

- The youth will help with the planned "drive thru Nativity" at Christmas. Scenes from the Christmas story will be set up in the parking lot. Cars will receive a CD with narration from scripture and Christmas music as they enter the parking lot, and a bag of Christmas cookies and church service at the end. All ages are welcome to help with this effort.
- Ministry area representative will speak at the Newcomer's Seminar on May 21<sup>st</sup> sharing information about opportunities for getting involved at St. Luke's.

### **Nurture Ministry** – Mary Ellis/Donna Dorenbush

- New Pictorial Church Directory - 239 have signed up for photography. The appointment sheets will be mailed to PCA tomorrow, along with a purged roster of current church attendees. As of now, PCA will be responsible for the remainder of the scheduling. The toll free number for PCA scheduling **(1-866-802-4452)** will be published in the bulletin, in the June newsletter, and on posters in the hallway. Members may use this number to make appointments or to change existing appointments.
- Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner - May 24<sup>th</sup> - Dinner will be served continuously between 5:30 and 6:30 PM. Coordinator: Julie Lapointe/ Hosts: Spirit and Truth SS Class. Our speaker will be Courtney Allen, UMCOR Representative for Trinity UMC, Gulfport, MS. She will bring a program on the efforts of churches including St. Luke's UMC Yorktown in assisting with Hurricane Katrina Relief.
- Adult Sunday School Attendance - James Pace has provided a ministry description to assist Nurture/ Care Leaders for adult SS classes with follow-up for attendance. A similar ministry should soon be in place for worship attendance follow-up.
- Seminary Student Financial Support - Checks will be sent to Brandon Robbins and Mary Ann Buscher.
- St. Luke's Travelers - See newsletter/ website

### **Service Ministry** – Donald Rice/Joe Posey

- Easter Egg Project for 2006 is over. Final report will be given later.
- Relay for Life Yard Sale is on May 20<sup>th</sup> in Running Man at Berardini House.
- ASP Barbecue Sale was very successful.
- ASP in McDowell County, West VA begins June 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Gulfport MS Mission Trip for Katrina recovery is next week.
- School of Christian Mission will be holding 2 sessions this summer.
- Kits for Conference literature is in Kiosk – Margie Smith is leader. School Kits, Bedding Kits and Flood Buckets are needed by UMCOR plus monetary donations.

### **Communications Ministry** – Ken Engebretson

The Communications Ministry area met on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

- Megan Zahn was authorized to purchase and install Microsoft Publisher® updates on Joyce's computer and also to reformat Megan's old computer and swap that one with Gordon Parr's computer for the music program, reinstalling software as appropriate with Philip Morris' assistance, as needed.
- Computer Exchanges:

<u>Old</u>	<u>To become</u>	<u>Work needed</u>
Megan's	Gordon's	a) Erase Megan's old files b) Transfer Gordon's files & Church Windows®
Gordon's	Volunteer	a) Erase old files b) Load MS Office® & provide access to Church Windows®
Donated (Gateway)	Volunteer	a) Erase old files b) Load MS Office®

- An uninterruptible power supply (UPS) should be purchased and used for the computer running the Church Windows® program. Additional UPS systems will also be considered for other staff computers.
- Philip Morris, Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin will determine if a wireless or wired capability will be installed to the Fellowship Hall and possibly a classroom or two.
- Walt and Philip will be researching and presenting possible changes to the capability of the sound system in the sanctuary (coordinating closely with Ed Brummer). Additional audio/visual research will also be done.
- Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

#### **Staff Parish Relations Ministry** – Bo Walkley

- There will be pastoral changes this summer. Our SPRC Chairman will make announcements on May 21<sup>st</sup> in each of the church services.
- On June 18<sup>th</sup> there will be a farewell get together for departing pastors.
- On July 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be a welcome get together for arriving pastors.

#### **United Methodist Women** – Esther Balsler

Our Bake Sale for UMW went very well and proceeds will help establish seed money for our Christmas Ornament Sale this fall.

### **Lay Leadership Council**

- Pastor Bill talked on lay leadership and process of evaluation will continue after pastoral change. It is very important to give positive and negative feedback to SPRC on pastors and staff.
- The June 4<sup>th</sup> Pentecost will be exciting with music and covenants in UMC. This event should be a blessing and we are encouraged to attend at First UMC in Hilton at 3:15 p.m. on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Our covenant will be presented with others.

### **Finance Committee** – John Masten

Report will be included in Treasurer's report by Chuck Harris.

### **Treasurer** – Chuck Harris

- We have a negative cash flow of \$7,008.63.
- Our 2006 Lenten Offering totaled \$4,631.
- Our May mortgage payment of \$787.80 will pay off our church facility **IN FULL**.

### **United Methodist Men** – William Sutton

- Our monthly Men's Breakfast will be on May 21<sup>st</sup>. All men are United Methodist Men at St. Luke's and are invited.
- During the Annual Conference, June 11-14<sup>th</sup>, at the Hampton Coliseum, we need some men to sign up to usher. Point of contact is William Sutton.
- There will be a ground breaking for The Morrison House on Harpersville Road on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. All are invited to attend. We are on schedule to pray for this facility on site June 18-24<sup>th</sup>. Please call William Sutton to sign up and he will go with you.

### **Trustees** – Joel Church

- The trustees did not meet this month.
- The bathroom renovation project at our Harwood parsonage is completed.
- Trustees have done a few minor repairs lately.
- Liz Rowe at York Lighting donated lighting outside of the Fellowship Hall.
- Liz Tragle did a wonderful job of planting around our church. The trustees and church thank her very much for our beautiful landscaping.

### **Youth Ministries** – Megan Zahn

- Megan brought the youth report in Jenn's absence.
- There will be car washes on May 21<sup>st</sup> and also June 4<sup>th</sup> in the area beside the fellowship hall following the 11 a.m. worship services.
- The Gong Show is coming up on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please make reservations. Sign up capability is on the web site.

### **Communications Ministry** – Megan Zahn

- Web site was updated with a link to sign up for nursery.
- Web site was updated with a link to *The DeVinci Code: A Novel*.
- Design work continues on the UMW and Nursery Brochures.
- Monday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m. is the deadline for the Newsletter.

#### **Director of Discipleship Ministries** – James Pace

- Rotation Sunday School needs volunteers for the summer.
- Vacation Bible School is looking for teachers, assistants and helpers.

#### **Pastor Mark**

- The Annual Virginia Conference information is on our web site.
- “Book of Reports” is available on the web in PDF format from the Virginia Conference Web Site.
- The Natural Church Development questionnaires we completed were scored after a delay of a few weeks. The results will be reviewed and discussed after our new pastor arrives.
- Pastor Bill and Pastor Mark are leaving in June. Transition time is very busy. Staff Parish Relations Committee provides information to the Conference based on input from the congregation. Always remember to state positive as well as negative opinions and input.

#### **Pastor Bill**

- Transition with pastors is similar to military rotation. In 2000 when he arrived, St. Luke’s needed improvement in connectivity. He thinks SLUMC is a healthier church in 2006. John’s gospel tells us to bear fruit. Numbers not entire story – mission, nurture and enrichment are all part of the story. “Be about the faith…” like St. Paul told us. Positive encouraging posture is his wish for us as we past the 40-year mark in our history. The pastors are appointed and sent. Thank you for your support.
- The Annual Conference Offering goal is \$250,000. It will be distributed as follows: \$100,000 for Brazil for the mechanical soy protein milk equipment; \$50,000 to Mozambique; \$50,000 for seminary support in Russia; and \$50,000 for Children’s Camps in the Virginia Conference. He will send a letter outlining the Conference Offering goal and distribution plan. Several members commented that knowing where the money was distributed and those purposes made our giving more real.
- Pastor Bill thanked all who are the ministers at St. Luke’s UMC.

Ron Dorenbush, Church Council Chair, said God told many to go and do and our appointments are all God blessed. He thanked both pastors for their support and ministry to us.

Our June CC meeting is cancelled due to absence of much of the leadership. This will give us time for the transition of pastors and to gather additional information for issues covered in this meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ed Brummer provided information on our sound system difficulties. John Masten and Ed are in charge of the church's sound system. The Saturday before Easter Ed noticed a bad hum on the system. Two microphones were causing that problem. Bose system speakers top of the line and we installed our speakers based on Bose directions. Our acoustics are really poor due to shape of walls and sound movement bounces and that's a problem. Our master mixers have two outputs – one to Bose amplifier and one to an old amplifier installed when the church was built. Old one serves nursery, parlor, narthex, tape recorder, and radio. We'll get it fixed and repaired. Please bear with us through this process.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. Pastor Mark led us in praises and concerns and closed in prayer.

Next Church Council Meeting will be on July 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.  
(Devotion: Megan Zahn; Refreshments: Megan Zahn)

Respectfully submitted: Faye Keenan, Church Council Secretary