

# *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**

**April 13, 2010**

**7:30 p.m.**

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### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Church Council Chair, Tom Lyon. There were 23 members present.

### **HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS**

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1. Members were asked to **sign in on the Attendance Roster.**
2. **The Sign-up for Devotions and Refreshments is full. Thanks to everyone who volunteered.**
3. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.  
**Devotions: Jean Henley**  
**Refreshments: Jason Houser**

### **DEVOTION**

Ken Engebretson led the devotion on the topic "Living in the Present." He talked about how he had been living his life in the past dealing with illnesses, deaths and other major events that seem to keep many of us caught up in where we have been instead of where we are. He talked about church member, Brian Denny and his current battle with medical conditions from an accident that left him paralyzed. He read the following excerpt from the journal of Brian's wife, Jessica.

When we arrived at Shepherd, someone gave us this piece of advice and it stuck with me: "*Plan for the worst, and hope for the best.*" If you take a moment to think about that, really soak in what that looks like in real life, it's like *straddling two worlds.*" Plan for the worst, and hope for the best." How can I plan for the worst and still hope for the best? How do I accept today's realities for Brian, deal with those realities... and still have real hope that things could improve? One thing I'm doing to adopt that piece of advice is to believe that what I see today is *not necessarily all there is to the story.* There must be more to the story! My hope is not in what I see. My hope is in the Lord. So I choose to do today what makes sense for today, knowing that God has a bigger plan, a bigger picture for our future...and there is no way I could plan for the future because I don't know what

**APPROVED: June 8, 2010**

the future holds. I'll plan for today, but I'll hope and trust that God has more of our story to write! And he does... *"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11. God has the plans... we don't. We'll never ever know what the future holds and so often as believers in Christ we are *straddling two worlds*... the bottom line is, in which world do we place our trust? This one or the next? I choose the next!

Ken closed with prayer. Tom Lyon encouraged all to read more about the Denny family from Jessica's journal by going to <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/briandenny>. Doug informed us that a donation was made to help offset the costs of running the website by him and Clara on behalf of St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

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

Pastors Doug, Clara and James had a lunch meeting to discuss pushing St. Luke's into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the coming weeks you will hear more about using more technology in worship, enhancing our website and other technology resources. These changes will open opportunities to utilize the talents and skills of our Communication Coordinator, Megan Collins and utilizing volunteers to cover phones and visitors.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes for **February 9, 2010** meeting were **APPROVED** as submitted.

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

1. **Motion from Nurture Ministry:** Request approval to hold a Prayer Shawl Retreat at St. Luke's UMC 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 30. This event would be open to the community with a possible invitation to all district United Methodist churches.

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

2. **Motion from Mike Mellen (Good Samaritan Fund):** Request approval for Vice-Chair, Margaret Mason to sign vouchers for the fund and that this change be added to the church policy upon review.

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

3. **Motion from Service Ministry:** Request Budget line item #376 "Volunteers in Mission/International be changed to an 8000 roll over account number so the funds will be available from year to year as needed.

**Action:** Send request to Bo Walkley for set up.

4. **Motion from United Methodist Women:** Request approval to conduct a Cook Book fundraiser with funds to benefit missions.

**Discussion:** Most felt that this type of fundraiser may lose money rather than make it and it may be best to take preorders to determine if product will sell. It was suggested that research be done to determine such factors as cost estimate to produce, up front costs, is there a minimum print requirement and can UMW float the start up costs.

**Action:** Follow up and report back to UMW and Council.

## NEW BUSINESS

Tom Lyon provided a list of policy review assignments based on the Church Policy table of contents. He requested that the assigned people review the Church Policy from a committee prospective to determine if policies are current and relevant, and to submit ideas for change. Tom will need all input by September 1 to have Church Council approve at the October meeting but not later than the December meeting. Tom will work with a small group consisting of the Senior Pastor, Betty Brummer and Jason Houser to consolidate input into a final document for Church Council review and approval.

## REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

### Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Jason Houser)

1. The committee unanimously recommended the **reappointment of both Doug and Clara** for 2011.
2. A recommendation was also made for **Kathryn Budzik to move forward with her desire to enter the ministry**. Members joined in by laying hands on Kathryn as Clara said a prayer.
3. Doug gave an **update on Thomas Lane**. Tom Lyon asked that we keep Thomas in our prayers and to keep in touch with him.

### Nurture Ministry (Della Shelton and Betty Brummer)

1. **Meetings** – The Nurture Ministry held a meeting on March 15. The next meeting is scheduled for May 17 at 7:00 p.m.
2. **College Care Packages** – Care packages were distributed in the narthex on March 14. The next date we will see them is October 24. *(POC – Elise Seay)*
3. **Wednesday Night Suppers** – Wednesday suppers took a break from the Fellowship Hall for the Easter Egg project. They begin again on April 14 and will continue in the 5:30 to 7:00 pm time slot through May 26. We are actively looking for a third helper for next year to rotate supper responsibilities. In addition, we still need help with cleanup each Wednesday. Look for articles in the Bulletin, Blurbs, and Newsletter coming soon. *(POCs – Karen Kern, Michelle Hurst, Donna Dorenbush)*
4. **Travelers** – There is a trip planned to see the musical *Joseph* at the Sight & Sound Millennium Theatre in Lancaster, PA. The group will depart on April 14 and return on the 15. At the time of the Nurture meeting, there were 15 to 17 signed up. *(POC – Betty Brummer)*
5. **Prayer Shawls** – Five ladies from our ministry attended the Good Shepherd UMC Prayer Shawl Retreat on February 13, 2010 and had a wonderful time. So much so that they would like to scheduled a similar retreat at St Luke's on October 30 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. – **See Approval Item #1 on page 1.** *(POC – Joan Comeaux)*
6. **Women's Retreats** – Blessings Lodge is reserved for October 8-10. A Day Retreat is tentatively planned for May 15. The location is TBD. *(POC – Clara Gestwick)*
7. **Martha's Ministry** – The ministry hosted two receptions in February and none in March. They have added some new volunteers to the teams and have updated the guidelines book. *(POC – Donna Dorenbush)*
8. **Blood Drive** – The last blood drive was held on February 9 and collected 39 pints of blood. We are looking at the possibility of August 17 for the next blood drive. *(POC – Margie Smith)*
9. **Homebound Ministry** – A list of names and addresses has been finalized. Claire is currently developing guidelines. The tentative plan is to visit individuals once per quarter. More to come. *(POC – Clara Gestwick)*

10. **Homebound Communion** – Communion continued to be provided on the first Sunday of the month or within the first week of the month to homebound individuals. (*POC – Betty Brummer*)
11. **Caring Card Ministry** – Elizabeth Lyons continues to prepare and mail cards to members of our church family that need encouragement, healing, or support. (She also continues to keep the first aid kits stocked!)
12. **Church Vote Reception** – The church vote reception was successfully hosted on February 21. Many thanks to all the wonderful folks that baked or bought delicious cookies. Leftovers were provided to William Sutton to deliver to the homeless shelter.

#### Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. The trustees are in the process of **buying chairs and tables** to replace the hazardous yellow chairs and the soiled and bent pink chairs. The new chairs cost about \$20 each and the folding tables about \$50 each (much cheaper than the rigid tables).
2. The **courtyard was cleaned up and primed in time for Easter**. The trustees headed by Liz Tragle, and with the help of some volunteers and several boy scouts and their adult leaders did the job. Thanks for as great job.
3. The **outside grounds and gardens were cleaned up and primed** by our youth under the able leadership of Phil Mixon. We're on a roll for keeping our church looking pretty.

#### Military Ministry (Pete Prindle)

1. **The Norfolk Airport Authority has asked the director of the Armed Services YMCA to set up a chapel at the Airport**. The Y requested assistance in gathering the necessary materials for the chapel, and Doug sent out a ClergyNet e-mail which garnered several responses. The Military Ministry will fund a number of Pew Bibles advertising St. Luke's as a military friendly church on the Peninsula, and may provide additional materials as needs are identified. We're following up with the Newport News Airport to investigate the feasibility of a similar chapel there.
2. We recently attended a **Spiritual Resiliency Conference for Chaplains at Fort Bragg**, and a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Military Ministries at Fort Benning. At these meetings, we met some Methodist chaplains, and shared with them the resolution on a "*Call to Prayer for Military Families*" which we'll present at Annual Conference in June.
3. We're planning to **honor our military families with a reception after all three services on 16 May**, the Sunday after Armed Forces Day. At it, we'd like to have displays of memorabilia from those who have served to keep us free. Contact us if you'd like to share anything about your time in service to our country.

#### Worship Ministry (Kamela Verry and Cheryl Guardia)

1. This last couple months has been very busy for the Worship Ministry. Since the middle of February we have been very involved in several **worship services for Lent and Easter**. St. Luke's has a variety of worship services to offer its parishioners this time of year and we have seen a wonderful at each service.
  - a) **Ash Wednesday Services** – We had two services this day with 35 in attendance at the 7:00 a.m. service and 102 at the 7:00 p.m. service.
  - b) **Palm Sunday** – On this Sunday the congregation processed in with Palms. We also asked the confirmands and their parents to help arrange the palms in the pots at the front of the church. There were a total of 614 people in attendance on this Sunday.

- c) **Maundy Thursday** – The confirmands put on this service and did a wonderful job! We had the hand and foot washing stations again as well as communion at the railing. We had 154 people attend this service.
- d) **Good Friday** – This service was also performed by the confirmands. We had 191 people attend this service.
- e) **Easter Sunday** – We offered 4 worship services to include a sunrise service. Our confirmands served communion at the 3 later services and the youth group ran the sunrise service. The attendance was as follows:

<u>6:30</u>	<u>8:30</u>	<u>9:45</u>	<u>11:30</u>	<u>Choir</u>
98	271	258	258	26

- 2. **Each service was wonderfully done and very meaningful.** The confirmands did an amazing job. On Easter Sunday and Palm Sunday Garnett Knabe and his group of youth and men helped direct traffic. This is a valuable service we depend on every year and they always do a terrific job!
- 3. **In March** we also dedicated our “ugly quilts” and prayer shawls. We also honored our Girl Scouts on that same Sunday.
- 4. The Worship Ministry is now **looking into May** with UMW Sunday, Mother’s Day, Armed Forces Recognition Day and Confirmation all on the calendar.
- 5. Anthony Budzik reported that due to his relocation the committee will need to find **someone to takeover organizing Scripture Readers.**
- 6. Following the Christmas Eve services it was noted that along with chairs in the Narthex, **Bibles and hymnals are also needed.**
- 7. Mark Smeland will bring in an **expert to check the organ.**

**Communications Ministry** (Ken Engebretson and Aaron McMichael)

- 1. Ken reported that there is now a **big screen with remote control** for the Fellowship Room which will be in place soon.
- 2. There will be work soon on **enhancing the sound in the Narthex and Parlor.**
- 3. **Communication Deadlines:**  
     Sunday Bulletin—Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.  
     Sunday School Blurbs—Friday at noon  
     Newsletter—15<sup>th</sup> of each month

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

- 1. UMW will sponsor a **Bake Sale** on Sunday, April 18 between services to help fund Stop Hunger Now.
- 2. **Special Mission Recognition pins** will be given during the worship services on Sunday, April 18.
- 3. UMW will participate in the District Event “**Sudan Day**” on Saturday, April 24 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Chestnut Memorial UMC.
- 4. The 2nd Quarterly Unit Meeting will be on Thursday, May 13 at noon in room 21 with a covered dish lunch. The program will be “**Attracting New Members**” by Loretta Sutton.

**Building Ministry** (Blair Ellis)

- 1. The efforts of the committee are on the **Capital Campaign Kick-off.**

**Financial Report** (Bill Boyer, Business Manager)

- 2. **Financial Report through March 31, 2010** was provided as information.

### Finance Ministry (Bo Walkley)

1. We are enjoying **incredibly strong giving** in this church with receipts exceeding expenses.
2. Committee chairs with **line items over budget** will be contacted to verify spending.
3. **Funds designated for Klote are near depletion** and payments will now be made from the Cash Reserves line #1003.

### Service Ministry (Kathryn Budzik and Linda Rody)

1. The **Annual Kiwanis Barbeque** which benefits ASP is Saturday, April 17 next to IHOP on Route 17.
2. The **Easter Egg Project** will meet May 11 to report on the success of the 2010 event. There were **9000 eggs made** and all but 56 were sold.
3. The **Katrina Recovery Team** experienced a blessed Spring Break in D'Iberville, Mississippi.
4. **Many volunteers assisted with PORT's event** last Thursday night.

### Outreach Ministry (Ginny Potts and Mary Ellis)

1. **Mystery Guest Audit** – We will be using the “Mystery Guest Audit” form provided by United Methodist Communications/ Igniting Ministry as a tool to help our church identify its welcoming and hospitality strengths and limitations. Our mystery guests will come from outside our congregation, and will be asked to share their experience of hospitality when they attend our worship services.
2. **Parking Lot Greeters** – To strengthen our welcoming presence for people coming to our worship services (particularly for those who are unfamiliar with our church) we would like to have greeters in our parking area on Sunday mornings. We are working on details and looking for a coordinator and for greeters.
3. **Signage** – If approved by Trustees, we will order additional signage for the **outside** of the building - again as a way of strengthening our welcoming presence to those unfamiliar with our church. We also plan to have a “portable” sign directing people to the **Fellowship Minute** on Sunday mornings.
4. **Reading Tutoring** – We are in the planning stages of expanding our reading tutoring program. In addition to the current ministry at Grafton-Bethel Elementary School, we hope to start up a similar program at Yorktown Elementary during the 2010-2011 school year. Ronna McLane will continue to coordinate the GBES program, but we will be looking for more volunteers and a separate coordinator for the Yorktown program.
5. **Requests for After Prom contributions** were received from Tabb HS and Grafton HS, and we will make contributions to those events.
6. **Newcomer Mentoring** – Doris Eagle is our new coordinator. Next seminar and dinner will be held on Sunday, April 25 at 5:00 pm.
7. **Fall Outreach Event** – Sunday, September 12 is the date for our second annual St. Luke's Community Outreach Carnival. Megan Zahn will coordinate.
8. **Old (but GOOD) News** – In December of 2009, St. Luke's received its official Welcoming Congregation certification. #1, #2, and #3 in the above report reflect some of the ways we hope to use the tools and ideas we acquired in the certification process to live into our name as a Welcoming Congregation.
9. **TV Advertisement** – There will be no ads for the Lenten season. School ads will come out in late summer.

### Education Ministry (Eric Cooper and Liz Rowe)

1. **Vacation Bible School** – Our website registration and information is up and running. Individuals can now register children, learn more about our VBS and VOLUNTEER on line. The day we went live, five children were registered!
2. **New Class** – Pastor Clara will lead the class “What it Means to Be a United Methodist” starting the end of April. More information and sign ups are on the bulletin board outside the DDM office.
3. **Lenten Luncheons** – A great hit! Thank you to those who helped with the set up and take down each week and especially to the wonderful cooks.
4. **Confirmation Leadership** – The Good Friday and Maundy Thursday worship services went very well under the leadership of our confirmands. Both services were well attended.
5. **Confirmation Class Trips** – The confirmands will visit Bruton Parish Church for worship this Sunday to explore our Episcopal Heritage. They will meet with the church’s Youth Director, Elizabeth Langford. They will visit Temple Sinai on May 7 to worship with our Jewish friends and explore our Jewish Heritage. The Rabbi will meet with the confirmands prior to the service for proper instructions of worship.
6. **Confirmation Sunday** – Students will be confirmed on May 23 at all three worship services.

### Youth Ministry (Nate DeHart)

1. The Youth Group attended **Winter Jam** on March 3.
2. We had a successful Seniors OBX Retreat March 5-7.
3. We had a **Youth Easter Vigil** on the evening of April 3 so that youth could prepare for the sunrise service and the event would be easier parents.
4. The **youth led the Easter Sunrise Service** the following morning.
5. Six of our youth and I participated in the **Mission Trip to D’Iberville, Mississippi** on April 5-10.
6. The **30 Hour Famine Lock-In** event for Middle and High School will be **April 23-24**.
7. **Nate is completing his Adolescent World class** (the first of five classes towards certification in youth ministry) at the end of this month.
8. Both Middle and High School will be having a lunch **cook-out in the park on May 1**.
9. We will be having our first **Youth Camping Trip May 28-30**.

### United Methodist Men (UMM) (Dave Campbell)

1. There was no report from the United Methodist Men however, it was commented that the United Methodist Men are basing their programs on the Bishop’s pastoral letter.

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

1. We are **getting in the Vacation Bible School mode** and we are looking for volunteers to be Shop Keepers. This year we will make blankets at a Linen Shop for World Vision. Follow the VBS link on the church website for promotions and to sign up to attend or volunteer. VBS will be Monday, July 19-Friday, July 23.

### Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. Pastor Clara highlighted this year’s **Confirmation Class**. We have an incredible group of 29 children. They are an astute and active bunch and very willing to participate. The class will organize and host some of the worship services for Lent.

2. There are currently **55 applications for Camp Overlook**. This will be an exciting adventure for these children as they experience Christ while taking in the beautiful mountains.
3. Pastor Clara has put her name in the hat to attend the **Virginia Annual Conference mission trip to Mozambique** sometime in August. A ten clergy women team will meet with local clergy women for support.

**Senior Pastor** (Doug Gestwick)

1. Pastor Doug was in Crozet yesterday for the **Calling 21 lead Pastor training** for our summer intern.
2. He will be in Washington, DC next week on Wednesday and Thursday for a **denominational study of shifting trends in the UMC**, and how large membership churches can respond.
3. There are currently 18 people signed up to **“Follow the Footsteps of Paul” on our upcoming trip to Greece and Rome**.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. There was discussion about the need for a church directory with e-mail addresses and the need for an updated pictorial directory. Megan Zahn and appropriate committee will follow up with Administrative Coordinator, Joyce Wilson.

**ADJOURNMENT**

1. Church Council members **lifted up praises and concerns** and the meeting was closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned** at 8:50 p.m.

*Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary*