

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

August 11, 2009

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Church Council Chair Tom Lyon. There were 18 members present.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

1. Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster.
2. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Devotions: Ginny Potts
Refreshments: Bo Walkley
3. **Annual Charge Conference:** Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.

DEVOTION

Mary Ellis shared a journal entry from the on-line class that she, along with Pastor Clara, Ginny Potts, Theresa Butler and Karen Berardini have been participating in over the past several weeks. This class is a requirement for St. Luke's to be paid the matching grant money for which we have been approved from United Methodist Communications for two TV spots that will air from August 31 to September 13 as part of the new Rethink Church media campaign. The course is called *Welcoming 101*. In the first module, they read **Genesis 18: 1-8**. In this scripture Abraham welcomed the Lord and hurried to get help preparing food and drinks for his visitors and stood near by while they ate and rested. As part of the assignments, it is required to keep a personal journal. Based on the Genesis scripture Mary's journal entry answered the question:

What does it mean to welcome someone as if welcoming Christ?

*It means recognizing the person and interacting with him or her as if he or she is an "honored guest." As a lay reader in worship, I read aloud the story of Abraham in Genesis 18:1-8 one Sunday and had almost memorized it by the time I did the reading. It is such a wonderful picture for me, and from this study, I now see more clearly the welcoming lessons here. I have to laugh at myself when I think of my first thoughts about Abraham running into the tent to tell Sarah to make cakes (or bread) - **quickly!** Of course it was a way of "involving others" in the hospitality, but my first thoughts were more along the lines of "**Hmmph!**" This is such a lesson for me, though, because sometimes*

APPROVED: October 12, 2009

*I don't do well with spontaneous "requests" like that. Sometimes I would rather be a servant on my own terms. I think one of the keys to welcoming as if welcoming Christ is that it's not about "my terms" or "our terms." It's about a genuine desire to honor, care for and serve. My favorite part of the Abraham story is the end: "and he **stood by them** under the tree while they ate." Part of his welcome was to show his guests with his presence that they were important to him throughout the time they were there with him.*

Mary closed with prayer.

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Pastor Doug took this opportunity to inform council members about a recent situation in which he is fighting a subpoena requesting that he divulge giving and attendance records for a member the church. Pastor Doug feels that this is an unrealistic request and has refused to provide this confidential information. He wanted to make the Church Council aware of this situation in case the mandatory request to comply with the subpoena escalates into more serious legal problems.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the **June 9, 2009 Church Council meeting** were **APPROVED** as submitted.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the Service Ministry** : Request approval accept \$75 Wal-Mart gift cards, donations and for the 5th grade Sunday School class to have a Bake Sale at either the T Junction or the courtyard on Sunday, August 30 to benefit the Back to School Mission Project.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. **All Sunday school rooms have been painted except for room 6.** The boy scouts completed rooms 25, 28 and 29 on Saturday. That was Jonathan Harvey's Eagle Scout project.
2. Peninsula Heating **installed our new heat pumps.** The boiler is no more. We are working on emptying the oil tank.
3. A contractor is in the process of **refinishing the fellowship hall stage area.**
4. The **new stove and the fire suppression system** are operational.
5. **Carpet is in** and looking good.
6. Tom presented a chair that was purchased from Sam's Club and donated by Liz Tragle to be used as a **replacement for the red folding chairs** currently used in the Fellowship Hall. Advertisement will begin requesting donations from the congregation for \$25 per chair for the purchase of 150 chairs. Tom will check with Sam's Club to verify if there is a purchase limit.

Military Ministry (Pete Prindle)

1. We have been advertising this “**rest and reconnection**” opportunity for military families in the bulletin and newsletter:
Sandy Cove Ministries (www.sandycove.org) at the head of Chesapeake Bay in North East, MD has created Operation Oasis to thank our military for their sacrifices. Military personnel returning from deployment, including Reserve and National Guard, can enjoy Sandy Cove for free with their families to relax and reconnect in a Christian atmosphere. For more information, call 1-800-234-COVE (2683), or email operationoasis@sandycove.org.
2. The Prindles depart this Saturday for a week-long conference on “**Helping Military Families**” in Colorado. With representatives from Canada, the Caribbean, and the US, including churches, chaplains, and para-church organizations, the conference will focus on how these various groups can work together to minister and pray more effectively for military families as they cope with repeated deployment, combat trauma, and rising suicide rates.

Worship Ministry (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

1. **Acolyte fall training** will be on September 27. They will also have a bowling party in the afternoon.
2. Planning under way for **Advent Season**. We will be having an evening worship service on Wednesday December 2 “Hanging on the Green”. This service will be geared towards preparing the church for Advent.
3. Recruiting for a **leader for the Homebound Communion Ministry**.

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. As mentioned in the Building Committee’s June report to Church Council, St. Luke’s **Building Committee Chair sent a letter requesting release from our contract with RSI**. Mr. Kevin Lloyd, Senior VP for RSI acknowledged receipt of our request and stated that we would not be held liable for the remainder of the contract. Additionally he stated that RSI would not return any part of our initial \$5200 deposit. Per the addendum to our 21 August 2008 agreement, St. Luke’s had until 1 Jan 2009 to cancel our contract; otherwise our 10% deposit would not be refunded. Mr. Lloyd also stated that RSI would be happy to support St. Luke’s in any future Stewardship or Capital Campaign.
2. The Building Committee has met twice since June and is **in the process of finalizing revised plans for the building** by meeting with the different staff members and ministry areas to ensure that our planning is as complete as possible for this stage of planning. The most recent meeting discussed specifically the Choir Room, Bell Choir, Men’s Choir, and Children’s Choir. Also included in the discussion was the design of music library storage, design of the choir robe storage area, and office of Music Director.
3. A **meeting for Building Committee, Finance, and Church Council members will be scheduled in the very near future** in order for a wider audience to hear Mr. Jim Klote’s Capital Campaign presentation.

Finance Ministry (Bo Walkley)

1. The following members are **authorized to sign checks on the SunTrust account** on the behalf of St. Luke’s United Methodist Church by vote of the Senior Pastor, Finance Committee Chairman and Church Council Chairman. **Vote was unanimous.**

Tom Lyon

Kenneth “Bo” Walkley

Betty Brummer

Karen Berardini

Robert “Bob” Dye

2. Copies of the **draft budget for 2010** were distributed and each ministry area briefly explained any changes or additions to their area. There are some figures that are temporarily place holders and some figures have not yet been confirmed. It is anticipated that there will be a 4-6% or \$40,000-60,000 increase for 2010. The final budget approval is anticipated at the October meeting.

Financial Report (Bill Boyer, Business Manager)

1. **The Financial Report through the end of July was provided as information.**
2. **We had another good month** with 52% income and 54% expenses with a negative cash flow of only 2%.
3. **Some contributing factors to the increased expenses include:** three payroll periods, additional funds for VBS, and added nursery costs.
4. **Some line items are over budget** but do not present any serious concerns.
5. **The Financial Report was approved as submitted.**

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. The UMMen **Fellowship Breakfast** was held on Sunday, July 19 in the Fellowship Hall and everyone enjoyed a time of food, fellowship and a program led by an Army Chaplain from Fort Monroe. The Chaplain has served for over 30 years in ministry and encouraged “Men to be Men in following and sharing Christ with others”.
2. We continue our focus on “**Men in Ministry**” with an emphasis on spiritual growth, building relationships, making disciples, and mission support. Tom Sayre, of the Church Trustees, requested UMMen volunteers paint some of the rooms at St. Luke’s. The UMMen and the men from God & Grits painted three rooms on Saturday, August 1. Thanks for the help guys.
3. The UMMen are scheduled to **mow the grass and clean up the yard at Heart Havens’ “Morrison Home”** on Saturday, August 8. There have been a good number of men responding to help.
4. Our **next Fellowship Breakfast** will be August 16. There is no program scheduled, but we will share information on upcoming events for the UMMen.

Peninsula District:

1. The **Heart Haven’s “Morrison Home”** in Newport News has new residents and staff living in the home. The District UMMen has been scheduling the maintenance of the grounds around the property with those fellowships that feel a connection and a desire to help. We encourage all District UM Churches to participate in welcoming the new residents and help them feel like they are part of our family.
2. The District UMMen **helped set up and promote a “Faith Night”** on July 7, for a baseball game by the Pilots at the War Memorial Stadium in Hampton. Churches from all denominations were encouraged to come with families and enjoy this event. The President of the District UMMen, William Sutton, was asked to give an opening prayer on the field before the game started.
3. On July 27 the **UMMen’s General Meeting** took place at Zion UMC, Yorktown. The meeting was open to all men and their pastors. Several pastors attended including one woman clergy and she was introduced and welcomed by the men. It was a great time to fellowship. There was a dinner followed by a program on “Clown Ministry”.

4. September 19 is the **District UMMen's Prayer Breakfast** at St. Mark's UMC, Hampton. Tickets are only \$10.00 each and spouses and pastors are invited. There will be a great program and a guest speaker and the theme is "The Power of Prayer".
5. The **final General Meeting for the District UMMen for 2009** will be on October 26 at St. Luke's, UMC. We hope that the men of our church will support this event by attending.
6. The **32nd Annual Spiritual Retreat for the UMMen** is scheduled for November 6-8 in Blackstone. Each year 450 men come together for a great weekend of spiritual renewal. Men that attended last year from St. Luke's are already registering. Men should contact William Sutton for forms and details on this event now. We will carpool again this year with other churches.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Katy Jones)

1. The **Graduation Reception** hosted by UMW went very well honoring our graduates in June.
2. We will support the **Wesley Foundation at the College of William & Mary** on August 20 with lemonade and cookies as the students return to school.
3. The **Krazy Quilters** resumed work today making quilts for the homeless in the Newport News Local Interfaith Network.
4. The **Book Club and Circle Meetings resume** in September.
5. Everyone is invited to attend our September 14 covered dish supper at 6 p.m. **Angelo Maker, one of "The Lost Boys" of Sudan will speak** to us about his hopes and dreams for Sudan and his efforts in Sudan Action Leadership Team, sponsored by the Virginia Conference. Mr. Maker witnessed the killing of his two brothers and Mother in 1987 at the age of seven. This is our 3rd Quarterly UMW Meeting for 2009 and has emphasis on the School of Christian Mission. A flyer on this program is attached.
6. Thank you to everyone who participated and made Kits for Conference successful again this year.
7. On October 11 we will have a **Buckeye Sale** at "The T" between services.

Outreach Ministry (Ginny Potts and Mary Ellis)

1. **Budget Line Items**
 - a) Increased Fellowship Hosting to \$500
 - b) Added a line item for Community Outreach Activity (carnival) \$1,500
 - c) Kept money for reading ministry - purchase St. Luke's shirts
2. **Bread Ministry**
 - a) We need two more bread makers
 - b) Leftover bread should go to food closet
3. **Hospitality**
 - a) Work on finding "guest guides" (out to narthex before benediction) to greet newcomers after they have visited the hospitality center.
 - b) Look into "parking lot greeters".
 - c) Look at getting new signage for children's Sunday school rooms (talk with James).
 - d) Getting new signage for guiding people to the Fellowship Time between services (sign will be portable).
4. **New Comer Mentoring Program** – need a coordinator, the next seminar is on Sunday, October 4.
5. **Drive-thru Nativity** – Melissa Koch agreed to coordinate with help from Julie Lapointe, as well as Debbie Frecker and Debbie Fullhart.

6. **Community Outreach Carnival** – September 20 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We will have several games/activities from Big Top, plus other carnival type games. We are serving hot dogs, chips and lemonade/tea (at no cost). We hope to have a band to perform for about 30 to 45 minutes. The committee will be meeting again August 18 at 6:30 p.m. We still need volunteers to oversee activities.
7. **TV Commercial**
 - a) Run dates: 8/31/09 – 9/13/09 (2 weeks) “Back-to-School”
 - b) Times: Mon - Sun, 6 p.m. – 12 midnight
 - c) Networks: Discovery, TLC, and ABC Family
 - d) Total Spots: 96 (16 per week per network) – 2 different spots
 - e) Cost: \$2,418 (We have been APPROVED for a Matching Grant from United Methodist Communications which will pay HALF of this amount once we complete requirements*). *Additional costs: customization (“St. Luke’s UMC invites you. . . etc”) and tax.*
 - f) See the ads on the www.RETHINKCHURCH.org website: “Economy” and “Prove with Our Lives” are the two we chose.
 - g) Requirements for Matching Grant money to be paid to us:
 1. Online Welcoming Training Course: Pastor Clara, Ginny Potts, Karen Berardini, Theresa Butler, and Mary Ellis are currently enrolled
 2. Welcoming Certification with Documentation.
8. **The Rule of 3** – We are currently looking at ways to expand on “The Rule of 3” (for three minutes after the worship service, talk with visitors or people you don’t know) in an effort to make St. Luke’s a more “welcoming” congregation.
9. **Our next meeting** will be on Tuesday, September 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Nurture Ministry (Della Shelton and Betty Brummer)

1. The **Nurture Ministry held a meeting on July 30**.
2. **Budget recommendations were discussed** for all nurture items for which representatives were present.
3. Karen Kern attended the meeting and has agreed to assist with **Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners**. We discussed different ideas and possibilities associated with that effort. Della has made initial contact with Sysco foods to explore the possibility of having some food delivered to the church. We will be considering different alternatives in organizing the event and are open to suggestions. There will be a more focused meeting just for this topic later in August. The first Wed night dinner will be September 16.
4. We continue to explore the possibility of a more focused **ministry for older adults** in our church. Della is going to draft a short survey and coordinate that with church leadership to see if it can be distributed through Sunday School classes, etc. to try to obtain feedback on interest in this area.
5. We are **considering having another meeting in September to discuss fall events** and any necessary coordination and effort for those. Otherwise, our next regularly scheduled meeting is October 29.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Eric Cooper)

1. **Sunday School 2009-2010** – 27 current teachers were contacted in May, and at this time we have received feedback from all. Known vacancies at this time are 3 and 4 year old class needs a teaching partner, fifth grade needs a teaching partner, and 11th and 12th grade needs a teaching partner. Teaching partners rotate which Sundays they will be the lead for the class, thereby allowing folks to still be involved in adult classes as well.

Some of our teaching team partners rotate monthly, others by unit of study. Sunday School Teacher training is scheduled for Thursday, August 27. The new Sunday School Year will start Sunday, September 13.

2. **Proposed 2010 education ministry budget submitted** – Next year’s proposed education budget has been submitted, and represents approximately a 3.5% increase over the 2009 budget.
3. **Camp Overlook 2009** – St. Luke’s had 20 campers attend Camp Overlook in Keezletown, VA, during the week of June 21 with Nate, 29 campers attend the week of July 6 with Pastor Clara.
4. **Vacation Bible School 2009** – St. Luke’s 2009 Vacation Bible School was a huge success! Many thanks to all the volunteers and staff who devoted their time and energy to this year’s theme, “Paul and the Underground Church”. We had 156 children registered and over 70 volunteers. We were also able to collect around 18 bags of school supplies for York County Social Services and 19 large boxes of stuffed animals to be sent to Gleaning for the World – an organization that collects and distributes items of need to various poverty stricken, war torn areas of the world.
5. **Missions and Mayhem** – Mission, Mayhem, and Me was held the weekend of August 8th. We had 16 of our St. Luke’s children (3rd to 6th grade) and 5 adults participate in this overnight event. Thanks to all who participated in making this a successful occasion.
6. **Confirmation 2009-2010** – Confirmation class for youth 6th grade and above will begin Sunday, September 13. This first meeting is a combined informational meeting for students and parents.
7. **New Adult Studies are being planned for fall.** Beginning in September, we will be offering Disciple 1 on Wednesday nights, Disciple 4 on Sunday evenings, Short-term Disciple on Wednesday morning and evening, a Matthew Study on Thursday evenings, a ladies only study on Sunday evenings, and conversations with Pastor Doug on Wednesday evenings right after dinner. Other studies coming up this fall include a Wesleyan study, and a two session study on “Praying in Color” Information brochures will be available August 23 and on the St Luke’s web site.
8. **The committee is in need of a replacement for Theresa Butler.** Recommendations should be made to the Nominating Committee and with an anticipated election in October.

Service Ministry (Susie Small and Kathryn Budzik)

1. **Brazil Team** on a risk taking mission: *Anthony and Kathryn Budzik, Elton and Suzie Smith, Nate DeHart, Jillian Berardini, Carmen Guardia, Valerie Gleisberg, Taylor Gestwick, Clara Gestwick, Linda Rody, Betty Brummer, Kathie Murphy, and Ron Dorenbush* will be returning on Sunday, August 17, hopefully before the end of the 11:00 worship service.
2. **ASP-FOGG Fall 2009 Trip** – September 13-19 at year round Guyan Valley Center in Brenton, WV. Two positions available-contact Joe Vallow at 898-3912.
3. **Mission for Women Only** – November 12-15. Paper work needed by the end of August. One to two positions available, contact Barb Ripley at ripley-family@verizon.net or 865-6546.
4. **Kits for Conference** totaled 153 and included 5 birthing kits, 38 health kits, 12 layette kits, 70 school kits, and 28 sewing prepared by Margie Smith.
5. **Refugee Family** – donations given for bus pass (6 months for single mother’s work transportation) and \$75 each for three children’s school clothes (\$525 total).

6. **Easter Egg Project Fund** – Committee formed and is accepting applications which can be obtained from Joyce Wilson. Announcements will be placed in church bulletins and monthly newsletters to inform congregation of the availability of funds and procedures for application.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson)

1. The **deadline for the September newsletter** is this Friday, August 14.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. **A big thank you is expressed to Tom Sayre and the Board of Trustees** for all their hard work in making this church so beautiful and welcoming.
2. This year **156 children attended Vacation Bible School**. Thank you to James Pace and all the volunteers that made it a successful and memorable week for everyone.
3. Thank you to the congregation for **helping our Calling 21 intern John Brennskag have a great experience**.
4. The **Brazil team is having a great time**. Be sure to check the church website for Clara and Nate's photos and blogs.
5. Advent is just around the corner. This year instead of the traditional decorating by the Worship Ministry, there will be a **congregational "Hanging of the Greens."** There may also be an opportunity for members to bring their favorite manger scene to be displayed in the church.
6. A **trip to Greece and Rome is being planned for 2010**. If interested in going, check flyers for additional information.
7. The **Virginia Annual Conference approved a motion** I made challenging the way the General Board of Pension does business. The Judicial Council will be rendering its decision on this motion during their fall meeting in Durham October 28-31, and they have requested I come and make an oral argument.
8. **Clara and I will celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary** on August 19. On Sunday, August 23 immediately following the 11:00 worship service, unbeknown to Clara, I will ask her to marry me again. Providing she says yes, a ceremony which will include our children, Clara's father to give her away and a few of the original wedding party members will begin. All are invited to witness this occasion, but please remember it is surprise.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary