

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

October 12, 2009

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. There were 21 members present.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

1. Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster.
2. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.
Devotion: Kathryn Budzik
Refreshments: Eric Cooper
3. **Annual Charge Conference:** Tuesday, November 3 at 7:00 p.m.

DEVOTION

Ginny Potts offered a devotion called "One at a Time" from Chicken Soup for the Soul. The devotion told the story of a man who went along the beach picking up starfish that had washed up during low tide. He threw each one that he picked up back into the ocean so that it would not die. Another man came along and questioned why anyone would do that, noting that too many starfish washed up for it to make any difference. To this the first man replied, "It made a difference to that one," the starfish that he had just thrown back. Ginny commented that life can seem overwhelming at times, but this story reminds us that we can make a difference even if it's just to one other person. She ended the devotion with prayer.

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Pastor Doug took this opportunity to inform council members about a situation that has become a major issue for The United Methodist Church. He will travel to Durham, N.C. on November 26 to present an oral argument on behalf of the Virginia Conference requesting a declaratory decision from the Judicial Council. The matter at hand addresses the issue of whether or not the General Board of Pensions has overstepped the boundaries of authority (that should fall under the General Conference and the Annual Conferences of the United Methodist Church rather than the General Board of Pensions) in a decision that would create an unfunded liability for the denomination. If allowed to stand as decided by the Board of Pensions, the cost to the Virginia Conference alone would be \$5.5 million in one year. Pastor Doug rehearsed his oral argument at the council meeting and requested feedback from council members.

APPROVED: December 8, 2009

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes for **August 11, 2009** meeting were **APPROVED** as submitted.

BUSINESS CONDUCTED OVER E-MAIL

1. **Motion from the Board of Trustees: Request approval to hire James D. Klote & Associates to lead St. Luke's building campaign.**

- a) Members of the Building Committee, Finance Committee and Church Council met with Jim Klote on August 17 to hear his presentation on how his company approaches a Spiritual based building and stewardship campaign.
- b) As recently reported in Church Council, St. Luke's has officially severed its contract with RSI and we are now free to negotiate with other firms.
- c) Just so you are aware of the timeline we would like to pursue, I offer the following:
 1. *On or about the first week in October we would have a full time person from Jim's company on board.*
 2. *We would then run a 4 week feasibility study across the congregation.*
 3. *Based on the feasibility study report, we would have a called Church Conference prior to starting a combined Stewardship (annual operations budget) and Building Campaign in early January.*

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

2. **Motion from the Board of Trustees: Request approval to rent a 720 square foot warehouse for storage purposes and funding for the rental for the remainder of 2009 (about \$1,200) and include \$5,000 rent in the 2010 budget. A new budget line will need to be established for the storage rental. The facility is located on the corner of Oriana Road and RT 17 behind Rose Brother's Heating and Air. It is as close to St. Luke's as any like facility we could ask for. Mr Rose offered it to us for \$400 per month with a 12 month lease and gave us a \$75 per month discount because we are a church. The facility is needed for the following reasons:**

- a) The storage available on-sight at SLUMC is extremely limited.
- b) We have too much **stuff** stored in the church attic. We had two firefighters go into the attic a few weeks ago and they said "don't let the Fire Marshall see this space." Obviously it is a real fire hazard up there and getting worse as folks store more **stuff** up there.
- c) Some ministries do not have space to store their props and other large items. The nativity folks and VBS are prime examples. They are looking for storage for their large props. Some props and equipment were stored outside and were affected by the weather. It is expensive in cost both for labor and materials to rebuild props. If properly stored, the props can be reused from year to year. Christmas decorations are stored behind the stained glass blocking the doors leading to a communications closet and the two doors to the stained glass compartment.
- d) The storage building adjacent to the playground will be raised when we start our building addition. The items in that shed will have to be located elsewhere.
- e) It remains to be determined if adequate space for storage will be available in the addition. If not, we may need to keep this facility after construction.
- f) The trustees will develop a church policy to cover off-sight storage. We plan to maintain tight control over access and use.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

3. **Motion from the Service Ministry: Request approval for the participants of the ASP Women's Weekend to collect winter coats, hats and gloves for the residents of Wyoming County, West Virginia and to advertise for the event.**
- a) A group of 17 adults recently returned from Wyoming County, WV after working on repairs to three homes.
 - b) Three of the women on this trip will be returning to the same center along with several other women and teens to participate in Women's Weekend, November 12-15.
 - c) The staff expressed concern that many residents in the Wyoming County area served by this center will be without warm coats this winter.
 - d) The center will soon be collecting new (or very gently used) winter coats of all sizes to be given as Christmas gifts to school-aged children. They will also be accepting donations of hats and gloves.
 - e) We hope that when the group returns in November they will have many coats to take back with them.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the Outreach Ministry: Request approval to work in the church building after normal hours on the night of Thursday, December 10 in order to begin set-up for the Drive-Through Nativity.**

Motion did not require approval. (Someone will need to have a key to lock up.)

2. **Motion from the Board of Trustees: Request approval to begin negotiations to sell the parsonage to the Gestwicks. If an agreement is reached, we will seek Charge Conference approval to sell the property at the negotiated price.**
- a) As Chair, Tom Sayre addressed this motion, stating that the Board of Trustees feels that the church should give our pastors the opportunity to own a home. In the Virginia Conference, 40% of churches offer a housing allowance instead of a parsonage.
 - b) Pastor Doug mentioned that there are tax advantages, as the pastors' housing allowance is excluded from tax, and the mortgage payment is tax deductible.
 - c) The Board of Trustees has obtained an appraisal of the current parsonage/property, and at Tom's suggestion, the Gestwicks would do the same. The upshot is to come to a negotiable price.
 - d) Michael Ramsey and Phil Mixon will represent the Board of Trustees and the church in the negotiations.

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

3. **Motion from the United Methodist Women: Request approval the following fundraisers:**
- a) Bake sale in the spring
 - b) Buckeye sale in the fall

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

4. **Motion from the United Methodist Women:** Request approval to hold the Stop Hunger Now production in the Fellowship Hall on May 2, 2010. This event will be sponsored by UMW Sisters in Christ and fourth & fifth graders.

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

5. **Motion from the Senior Pastor:** Request approval to adopt a new church wide endeavor, one big “Christmas Miracle”, which will encourage families to consider bringing to church on Christmas Eve an offering equal to the amount spent on their families’ gifts. The offering, designated for the Good Samaritan Fund, would move us away from smaller group projects, allowing us to have a greater impact in helping the less fortunate in York County and Poquoson.

Motion was unanimously **APPROVED**

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Military Ministry (Pete Prindle)

1. **17-21 August** – the **Colorado Conference on Helping Military Families** was a huge success:
 - a) God brought 320 participants from 17 countries representing 15 Denominations, 19 Chaplains, and 25 para-church organizations, including the Chaplain Endorser for UMC Chaplains
 - b) Inspirational speakers from the Bahamas, Canada, and the US addressed prayer needs for Military Families during pre-deployment, deployment, and post-deployment
 - c) Round table discussions with military families, chaplains, and para-churches provided insights into how churches can best help military families
 - d) 32 workshops on Military Family Ministry issues offered details on coping with some of the situations encountered by military families.
 - e) Working luncheons brainstormed the “Way Ahead” for building a wall of prayer around military families as they sacrifice to defend our freedoms.
2. **10 September** – attended a Navy Chaplain sponsored seminar on Military Ministry at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown on.
 - a) Primary speaker had attended the Colorado Conference, and reinforced the need for churches to use “specific prayer” in ministries to military families.
 - b) Specific military family prayer items are now included in our weekly bulletin.
3. **14 September** – attended Langley AFB Protestant Parish Council.
 - a) Volunteers are needed for The Eagle’s Wing ministry to young Airmen: The Eagle’s Wing, is a “safe haven” for Airmen looking for a place to eat, socialize, attend Bible studies, and interact with others through video games, and Football nights. For more information, call the Langley Chapel at 764-7847.
4. **26-28 October** – Military Missions Network Flagship Conference at First Baptist Norfolk.
 - a) Prindles are presenting on Church / Para-Church/Chaplain Partnerships.
5. **Military Ministry Bulletin Board** is in the hall outside Clara’s office.
6. **Military Ministry added to SLUMC website.**

Outreach Ministry (Ginny Potts and Mary Ellis)

1. **Community Outreach Carnival** – Was a great success. Gave out 640 hot dogs. Had a steady stream of people all day. Have put it on the calendar for 2010 for the 2nd weekend in September.
2. **Drive-Thru Nativity** – The carolers will be singing at Patrick Henry Mall on December 4 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. to help promote our DTN.
3. **TV Ad/Grant** - Received positive feedback from those who saw the commercial. Comments were made by those other than St. Luke's members. Looking to add more TV stations that will carry our next ad at Advent.
4. **Our Next Meeting** – November 2, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson)

1. **New laptop computers** have been installed for Pastor Clara and for James; all data items were transferred to the new computers. Other computer and printer changes will be completed before the end of November.
2. Following a request from the Finance Committee, four-4 GB USB drives are being purchased to **rotate back-up copies of the church financial data** maintained by Bill.
3. **Pastor Doug's recalcitrant wireless head set is being modified** to keep it in place and provide a crisper, clearer broadcast through his microphone.
4. **November Newsletter Deadline** is Thursday, October 15.
5. **A computer will be added to the library for volunteers to use.** It will be locked down.

Worship Ministry (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

1. **Acolyte fall training and kick off party was a success.** Eight new Acolytes joined the team.
2. **Greeters are needed for all three services.** Marjorie Crosswell is the coordinator. Brenda emphasized that there is a **great need for greeters.**
3. Recruiting for a **leader for the Homebound Communion Ministry.** **Betty Brummer** is keeping this ministry going.
4. **Upcoming Worship Services:**
 - a) November 1 – All Saints Sunday
 - b) December 2 (Wednesday Evening) – 7 p.m. - “Hanging of the Greens” Service. Pastor Doug explained that this is a special time for the entire congregation to participate in preparing the sanctuary for Advent and the birth of Christ. (The congregation is also encouraged to prepare their homes in a similarly meaningful way.)

Service Ministry (Susie Small and Kathryn Budzik)

1. **William Sutton is stepping down from Link/Port** –Rich Zeimet has agreed to coordinate this ministry for St. Luke's.
2. **Brazil Team on Risk Taking Mission** – Kathryn and Anthony Budzik, Elton and Suzi Smith, Nate Dehart, Jillian Berardini, Carmen Guardia, Valerie Gleisberg, Taylor Gestwick, Clara Gestwick, Linda Rody, Betty Brummer, Kathie Murphy, and Ron Dorenbush returned August 17. All were greeted by 11am worship congregation.
3. **ASP-Fogg-Fall 2009 Trip** – September 13-19 at year around Guyan Valley Center in Brenton, WV. Had 17 participate giving three work crews. Joe Vallow plans to take group February 21-27.
4. **Mission for Women Only** – November 12-15 Contact Barb Ripley 865-6546, ripley-family@verizon.net. Thirteen have signed up to go including 3 youth.
5. **Back to school mission project**-Supported 30 cards to Wal-Mart at \$75 each.

6. **Refugee family** – donations given for bus pass/6 months for single mothers work transportation and \$75 each for 3 children’s school clothes (total \$525). Also gave \$2,300 toward more bus passes, furniture, and Christmas Party.
7. **Easter Egg Project Funds** – Committee formed and accepting applications which will be available from Joyce. Announcements are in the church bulletin and monthly news letter to inform congregation of availability of funds and procedure for application.
8. **Good Samaritan Fund** – Money total in fund for month of August \$2,900. Social Services is asking for assistance for a special needs single mother with a 12 year-old son. They are in need of a fence for protection from potentially dangerous neighbors. ASP work crews will be contacted for work teams to help. Megan Collins informed the council that the GSF had 20 requests for assistance a couple of weeks ago. Only four of the requests were from people who had received assistance in the past. It is anticipated that there will be greater numbers of requests as the cold weather and the holidays arrive. The additional assistance not only requires more donations, but also requires a lot more time on the part of our staff and the church member who administrates the fund. (*See also Senior Pastor Report – “Christmas Miracle”.*)
9. **Volunteers in Mission** – Ron Dorenbush will be taking volunteers to the Georgia flood response the first week in November. Also a group to help with Katrina relief the week after Christmas is in the planning stages. Five people are scheduled to go to Georgia so far. There is a possibility that a group will go again after the holidays. Additionally, on December 1st, a group will go to Mississippi again, and they are looking for a church down there to sponsor them.
10. ASP will build the fence that was requested by Social Services, using funds from Social Services.

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. **Off-site Storage** – We rented a 720 square foot storage facility located at the Rose brothers business on Oriana Road a short distance from route 17. We are working on an operating policy for that facility. **PLEASE GET STORAGE REQUIREMENTS IN!** Tom asked everyone who needs space in the new off-site storage to give him an idea in the next few weeks of how much space will be needed. He is working on a policy for off-site storage.
2. **New Chairs** – We purchased 203 new chairs for the fellowship hall and other places. We donated the pink plastic chairs to the Warwick Baptist church. They lost all of their furnishings in a recent fire at their church. We have received more than half the amount of money paid for the new chairs in donations. The rolling carts have been adjusted so that they can be used for the new chairs.
3. **On-going and Future Projects** –
 - a. Replace restroom stall doors.
 - b. ASP will install new base molding in the fellowship hall.
 - c. Replace faucets in some restrooms.
 - d. Repair fascia in courtyard.
 - e. Install new electrical outlet in the courtyard.
 - f. Replace some receptacles and light switches in classrooms.
 - g. Build new handicap ramp at fellowship hall main entry.
 - h. Remove old air conditioners from rooms 22, 24 and 26.
 - i. Replace locking mechanism in back entry door and replace other doors as needed.
 - j. Clean light fixtures and chandeliers in the sanctuary.
 - k. Empty the fuel oil tank.
 - l. Replace old classroom chairs that can’t be cleaned or repaired.

- m. Rebuild chair dollies in the fellowship hall.
 - n. Conduct stove operating training - Michael Ramsey will conduct the training on Tuesday, October 20 at 2 p.m.
4. **Pastor Doug thanked the trustees** for the tremendous amount of work they do at St. Luke's.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Eric Cooper)

1. **Sunday School 2009-2010** – We are having a great start to our Sunday school year and have teachers placed for all classes.
2. **Confirmation 2009-2010** – Confirmation classes are in progress for youth 6th grade and above. We now have 30 students enrolled.
3. **Adult Confirmation** – In response to a number of inquiries as to whether St. Luke's offers confirmation classes for adults, a curriculum for adult confirmation is under consideration with a possible class offering to begin spring 2010.
4. **Fall 2009 small group studies** – All of our September start classes are underway and are well attended. We have two classes that will begin in October: "Praying in Color" and "The Bible and Handel's Messiah". Information is available on brochures located outside of James' office and on the St Luke's web site.
5. **November Mystery Dinner and Movie** – On the Saturday before Thanksgiving (November 21st) we will be holding a mystery dinner and movie night starting at 5:00. This will be a family event and is being held in lieu of the Hallelujah Harvest.
6. **Sunday school superintendent needed** – We are in need of a Sunday school superintendent for the first Sunday of the month.
7. **Breakfast with St. Nicholas** – On the morning of Dec. 5 we will be holding a breakfast with St. Nicholas event which will feature a museum-quality exhibit that tells the story of St. Nicholas.
8. **The committee is in need of a replacement for Theresa Butler.** Recommendations should be made to the Nominating Committee.

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. The **UMMen Fellowship Breakfast** was held on Sunday, September 20 in the Fellowship Hall and everyone enjoyed a time of food, fellowship and a program led by Garnett Knabe and Troop Leaders and Boy Scouts from Troop 200 which is sponsored by the UMMen of St. Luke's. They presented the men with a power point slide show of ways the scouts are serving, fellowshiping and growing. The Boy Scouts from the troop helped in the presentation by sharing their adventures and insights.
2. We **continue our focus on "Men in Ministry"** with an emphasis on spiritual growth, building relationships, making disciples, and mission support.
3. Our **next Fellowship Breakfast** will be October 18. The program scheduled for this breakfast will be on Gang Awareness, presented by the Virginia State Police.

Peninsula District:

1. The **Heart Haven's "Morrison Home"** in Newport News has four new residents living in the home now along with staff members to help them make their living together possible. The District UMMen continue to schedule 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 **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.
3. 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.

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. As mentioned in the August minutes, the Building Committee held a **meeting on 5 August to discuss 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. On 17 August at 7 PM, members of the Building Committee, Finance, Church Council, and Trustees met with Mr. Jim Klote of James D. Klote & Associates, Inc. to hear his company's presentation and vision on Capital Campaigns and also on Annual Stewardship campaign planning and execution of a campaign. You are welcome to review Klote's website at www.jdklote.com.
2. There was unanimous concurrence of those attending the presentation by Mr. Klote that **we should proceed with that company as we move toward a capital campaign** in the future. Church Council Chair, Tom Lyon, agreed to obtain a Church Council vote on this subject and on 18 August sent an email asking for CC members to vote in favor of, or against, selecting Klote Associates as our Capital Campaign Company. On 26 August, Tom confirmed that CC members had voted for the Klote Capital Campaign contract.
3. As a result of that vote and further discussion with Jim Klote, a **new contract has been signed with Klote Associates** and a retainer of \$5,000 has been sent to secure their services. Due to the timing of this activity, we have elected to begin the feasibility study portion of the Capital Campaign on 11 Jan 2010. Upon completion of the feasibility study, in mid-February there will be a church-wide vote on the building plan, and assuming a majority vote in favor of this plan, we will immediately move into the Capital Campaign with the ultimate goal of securing pledges from St. Luke's laity so that we can fund the St. Luke's building plan.
4. On **23 September, the Building Committee Chair met with the Church Staff** to go over the plans and update the plans where appropriate. The next Building Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, 19 October at 7 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to review changes to our drawings and to begin planning for the upcoming feasibility study. We will be asking Myler (the design-build company) to make changes to the drawings in preparation for the upcoming Feasibility Study presentations to the SLUMC laity which will start approximately mid-January 2010.

Nurture Ministry (Della Shelton and Betty Brummer)

1. The Nurture Ministry held its last meeting on July 30 and has its next meeting scheduled for October 29.
2. Wednesday night suppers are off to a great start thanks to Karen Kern, Michelle Hurst, and Donna Dorenbusch. We still need volunteers for set-up, clean-up and sign-in/payment table.

3. Barbara Richardson is no longer available to lead the planning efforts for the Advent Dinner. We have several helpers, but no lead planner. If anyone is interested, please give Della a call. The dinner is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 6th. Pastor Doug asked Anthony Budzik to have the Lay Leaders announce the need in the worship service on Sunday.
4. We're trying to get a handle on interest and desire for a more focused ministry for older adults in our church. Feedback on doing a survey is mixed. If there are any thoughts or recommendations, please let us know.
5. Reminder that college care packages are scheduled for distribution on October 25th.
6. Elizabeth Lyon is now doing the card ministry in lieu of Susan Sallwasser.
7. Fall Retreat - Camp Overlook - is scheduled for November 6-8. Details in the bulletins and newsletter. This is a ladies' retreat, with the theme of "The Sweet Life Cafe."

Youth Ministry (Nate DeHart)

1. In September, we began separate **Wednesday Night Bible Studies** for the High School and Middle School groups. I am leading the High School through the Disciple Study: Youth Edition (essentially Disciple I) and Maggie Southerington is leading a separate Middle School Study at the same time.
2. Also in September, **Friday Night "5th Quarter" meetings** began for the High School to give the youth a safe and fun place to gather after High School football games. These will continue until Nov. 20. The gatherings take place from about 9 – 11 p.m. at the church. The group has enjoyed bonfires outside in the nice weather. Last week there were 15 – 20 youth, including several new faces.
3. **October 16 – 18** (this weekend) We will be going on the **Middle School Mission Weekend** to Westview on the James. The Middle School will be given an opportunity to serve others and get an abbreviated ASP-like experience.
4. **October 24** We will be going to the **Corn Maze at Renwood Farms**.
5. **November 13 - 15** is the **VaUMC Middle School Retreat at Eagle Eyre**.
6. **November 21** is **Youth "Pirate" Bowling at Twin-Pin** before returning for the Mystery Dinner at St. Luke's.
7. **December 4 – 6** is the **VaUMC High School Retreat at Eagle Eyre**.
8. **Sunday, December 20** is **Youth Caroling**.
9. **December 22** is the **Youth Christmas Party**.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Jason Houser)

1. The SPRC Chair deferred his comments to the Budget discussion.

Green Church Initiative (Joe Posey)

1. No report.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Katy Jones)

1. We enjoyed our **3rd Quarter Pot Luck Supper Meeting** with Angelo Maker, one of the Lost Boys of the Sudan, and Belinda Gaskins of Warwick Memorial UMC presenting a program on their fact-finding mission trip to Sudan and Kenya. Angelo was able to see his family while in Sudan. He is also working for Christ as the keynote speaker of The School of Christian Missions this summer. Over 40 men and women attended our Unit meeting.
2. We supported the **Wesley Foundation at the College of William and Mary** with cookies and lemonade for their 2009 Fall Semester Welcome for new students.
3. The **Krazy Quilters** are back at work stitching for the PORT Homeless.

4. All four circles are meeting and **studying** mission books, **praying** for missionaries and **setting mission project goals** for the upcoming year.
5. News of St. Luke's UMW has been published in **The Advocate** and District/State Newsletters.
6. November 4 we will have our **4th Quarterly Meeting** led by Nancy Yarborough, Peninsula District Vice President, bringing our program, Jean Henley leading us in a candle burning and celebrating 140 Years of UMW with a birthday cake.
7. At the Annual Peninsula District UMW meeting, St. Luke's received the **Mission Today GOLD** award and a **SIX Star Mission Giving Award**. Thank you to a generous congregation for making these awards attainable. Three members (Clara Gestwick, DeAnn Posey, and Debbie Frecker) read 10 books or more and 17 others read some from the UMW reading list.
8. September 18, 2010 will be the **District Hands on Mission Day**, hosted by US at SLUMC!!!!
9. We made about \$600.00 in the buckeye sale last Sunday.

Financial Report (Bill Boyer, Business Manager)

1. **The Financial Report for August and September was provided as information.**
2. Bill Boyer commented that **St. Luke's is still doing well** in light of the current economic times. The budget shortfall last month was 2%, with 69% of the budget spent/67% income. He said he is anticipating a good conclusion to the year.
3. Bill said that **Line item #156 (Nursery Attendant Salaries) is okay/** not out of line. (See #8 under Finance Ministry.)
4. **Some line items in Youth and Education are over budget.** Line items #326, 387, and 512 are over budget by relatively small amounts.
5. **A line item (#703) was added** to include off-site storage rent in the 2010 budget.

The Financial Report was **APPROVED** as submitted.

Finance Ministry (Bo Walkley)

1. The **2010 budget** was presented for discussion and adoption. *The following comments/explanations were noted during the discussion:*
 1. **Nurture Ministry** – Made slight adjustment since draft budget. The amount for the Fellowship Dinners has been reduced since they are off to a good start.
 2. **Education** – #271 was increased.
 3. **Military Ministry** – new (Doug commented that we are trying to get this ministry publicized.)
 4. **Conference Connectional Ministries** – The Virginia Conference now has no money in reserves, so rather than taking a tiered approach to increases, the increase is happening all in one year, which is why the percentage has gone up so much (10.20%). This should not occur again.
 5. **SPRC** – #505 and #515 (Pastors' housing allowances) will be added if the parsonage is sold to the Gestwicks. #'s 702,761,762,763,764 will be deleted if the parsonage is sold.
 6. **Facilities** – Note that expenses for heating oil no longer apply since a heat pump has been installed, which increases the budget for electricity.
 7. Bo explained that **there are still "overlap" items and contingencies** (e.g. sale of parsonage/housing allowance) in the proposed budget that are unknown at the present time, with the result that we cannot be totally precise until we have more answers.

8. **With adjustments made for an error in #156** (which included Nursery Director's salary in line item for attendants' salaries), and with adjustments mentioned previously by SPRC, the 2010 budget would increase by approximately 6.94 % over the 2009 budget.
9. The question was raised as to **how the church is allowed to use the money from the sale of the parsonage, should that occur**. There are three allowable options: (1) purchase of a new parsonage, (2) housing allowance, or (3) capital improvement. The money from the sale cannot go into the church operating budget.
10. The budget was **APPROVED** for adoption at Charge Conference on November 3rd.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. James gave details on the November 21 Mystery Dinner and Movie - "Swiss Family Robinson." He explained that the theme would be "tropical" and that those who sign up will be told one week before the event what ingredient to bring for the mystery dinner.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. Clara highlighted the **Wednesday Night Fellowship suppers**, saying that we have great attendance and volunteers. There is a specific concern, however, with the difficulty of setting up the Fellowship Hall. This has to be done on Wednesdays after preschool is out at noon. In the bigger picture, there is an overall concern in regard to "setting up" and "taking down" space for other church events and activities. A possible way to solve the issue may be to allocate funds for custodial work.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. **"Christmas Miracle"** – Doug highlighted a new church wide endeavor, one big Christmas Miracle which will encourage families to consider bringing to church on Christmas Eve an offering equal to the amount spent on their families' gifts. The offering, designated for the Good Samaritan Fund, would move us away from smaller group projects, allowing us to have a greater impact in helping the less fortunate in York County and Poquoson. A motion was made to adopt this as a church wide plan (*see Action Item #5 on page 4*).
2. **Bridgewater College Concert** – The group will be here in April and we should consider having the church "house" them this year.
3. **Laity Sunday** – Theresa Butler, one of our members, is moving toward ordination. She will deliver her first sermon to our congregation on Laity Sunday. Anthony Budzik will be assisting with the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Church Council members **lifted up praises and concerns** and the meeting was closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.**

Submitted by Mary Ellis, Substitute Secretary