

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

September 9, 2008

7:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 p.m. by Council Chair, Sam Motley. There were 21 members present.

HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

1. **Members were asked to sign in on the Attendance Roster.**
2. **October Devotions:** Theresa Butler
3. **October Refreshments:** Theresa Butler
4. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
5. **Annual Charge Conference:** Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.

DEVOTION

Ginny Potts shared a devotion entitled *"One Another."* Hebrews 3:13 says that we must warn each other everyday so that none are deceived by sin or hardened against God and 1 Peter 4:8-10 tells us that it is most important of all to continue to show deep love for each other; to cheerfully share with those in need; and that God has given each of a great gift that we should use to serve one another. Too often we fall into the rut of serving only those of our church when it is those outside our church that need it most. As Christians we should seek out someone who needs a little of the "one another" and share with them some of what we have here at St. Luke's. Pastor Doug closed with prayer.

VISION CASTING BY THE PASTORS

Pastor Doug noted that in this evening's meeting we will be reviewing the proposed budget for next year. He asked that we keep our ministry areas in mind and ask ourselves the question, *Is this the ministry that God is calling us to do?* Ask ourselves not so much about the what, but the why. Pastor Doug left us with this statement—*God's work done God's way will never lack God's resources.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the **August 12, 2008 Church Council** meeting were **APPROVED with the following change:** Under Senior Pastor item #2 the last sentence should read *Dave Hampton will preach that Sunday* instead of Thomas Lane.

APPROVED: October 14, 2008

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

1. **Motion from the Finance Ministry:** Request approval to defer the proposed budget back to ministry leaders to prayerfully reevaluate all budget lines in an effort to decrease the total budget amount.
 - a) **The Proposed 2009 Budget was provided and each ministry area leader was asked to explain and discuss any increases or decreases to their budget lines.**
 - b) Bo Walkley noted that **the proposed changes would increase the total budget by almost 10%** and on this present course would result in the need of a substantial weekly offering plate increase. It was also noted that if this is what God is asking us to do as a church then our support of the budget is necessary.
 - c) **The committee is not prepared to pursue this course of action** with the Building Plan fast approaching so the above motion was proposed by Bo Walkley.

Motion was APPROVED with 1 OPPOSED

2. **Motion from the Treasurer:** Request approval of the 2008 Stewardship Campaign.
 - a) Tom Lyon presented details of the proposed 2008 Stewardship Campaign.
 - b) **This campaign entitled “Irresistible Invitation” will follow a similar pattern of last year’s campaign** with letters, bulletin inserts and commitment forms with the following key campaign dates:

October	Newsletter article
October 3	Mail Kickoff Letter
October 12	Bulletin insert- “Coming Home to God”
October 19	Bulletin insert- “A Love Like no Other”
October 26	Bulletin insert- “Alive in Christ”
November 2	Bulletin insert- “Fit for Kingdom Living”
November 3	Mail Commitment Letter and forms
November 9	Bulletin insert- “The Home of Grace”
November 16	Commitment Sunday
	Bulletin insert- “Partners in the Gospel”

Motion was unanimously APPROVED

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Finance Ministry (Bo Walkley)

1. **No additional report.**

Treasurer (Tom Lyon)

1. **The Financial Report for August** was provided as information.
2. **Tom discussed the areas highlighted in red** which indicate budget lines that are over-spent and asked ministry leaders to consider revising these areas for next year’s budget.

Worship Ministry (Brenda Ramsey and Kamela Verry)

1. **Help Wanted: Greeters all services!**
2. **Upcoming dates:**
 - a) September 14 – St. Luke’s Open House and Teacher Dedication
 - b) September 28 – Distribution of Bibles to the 2nd grade class will be conducted at the beginning of the 9:45 service.

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. The **UMMen Fellowship Breakfast** was held on August 17. There was a great time of food, fellowship and discussing the business of the UMMen.
2. The next **UMMen Fellowship Breakfast** will be held on September 21, 2008. The program scheduled for this event is “**The Four Spiritual Secrets.**” All are invited to attend.
3. St. Luke’s UMMen will hold a **Craft and Treasure Sales Bizarre** on Saturday, October 3, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Space and tables are available for \$ 25.00 each and you keep the profit from your sales. Crafters are always welcome. The money received will benefit the mission projects of the UMMen. Contact William Sutton for registration forms.
4. St. Luke’s is scheduled to **host the final General Meeting of the District UMMen for 2008** on October 27, 2008. We serve dinner and provide space to hold the meeting and program that follows. **All men are encouraged to attend since this is a home event.** Our goal is to have 100 men attend this event in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the UMMen this year.

Peninsula District:

1. The **District UMMen continue to sell paving bricks** to raise money for the Heart Havens home called the “Morrison Home.” Bricks sell for \$ 75.00 each and can be engraved with names for recognition. Forms are available at St. Luke’s each Sunday through September.
2. The **District UMMen’s Annual Prayer Breakfast** will be September 20, 8:00 am, at St. James UMC., Hampton. Our guest speaker will be Myrtle Hatcher, District Superintendent, Peninsula District. We have an exciting program planned for this event. Tickets are \$10.00 and women are invited as well. Contact William Sutton, 865-0704 or e-mail katerer1@verizon.net for tickets.
3. The **District Conference** will be held on Sunday, October 19 at 3:00 p.m. at Temple Baptist Church. We will celebrate 100 years of United Methodist Men and the Morrison Home. Tom Lyon noted that both Temple Baptist and the Morrison Home had recently been vandalized and asked all to keep them in our prayers.
4. The **VA Conference UMMen’s 31st Annual Spiritual Retreat** is November 7-9, 2008 in Blackstone, VA. All men are encouraged to attend this great time of renewal and fellowship.
 - a) **Youth Scholarships are available** for any high school or college young men who desire to attend this event. The cost is \$ 139.00 but that fee will be paid by the UMMen of St. Luke’s to encourage young men to attend this great event. This is also a great opportunity for a father and son to attend together at half the price. Transportation will be provided for all desiring to attend. Registration forms must be sent in now to assure lodging in Blackstone. **Do not hesitate.** Contact William Sutton, 865-0704 or e-mail katerer1@verizon.net for further details and forms.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

1. The **deadline for the October Newsletter** is Monday, September 15.

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. The **Building Committee will meet on September 18** to discuss several items of interest and review the building planning presentation update that will be give the St. Luke’s laity over the coming weeks.

2. **Buddy Miller from RSI is assisting us in our final preparation** of the update presentation.
3. **Scheduling is ongoing to meet with adult Sunday School classes as well as laity** who attend the 9:45 Sunday service.
4. **We hope to complete presentations to the church members** by no later than the middle to end of October.

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini and TBN)

1. The **Igniting Ministry TV commercials** for St. Luke's began airing last week, Wednesday through Saturday from 6 p.m. to midnight, and will repeat on those days again this week. They are showing on 6 local cable channels. Several members mentioned that they have not yet seen the commercial so Megan Zahn will send out an e-mail with the link to Igniting Ministry to view the commercial on-line.
2. **Neighborhood Visitation** is taking place this week in the Kiln Creek area. Approximately 600 packets will be distributed.
3. Outreach will handle the **refreshments for the Open House Sunday**.
4. The **next Newcomer's seminar is September 21**. Ministry representatives are invited to attend and talk about their ministries. Please let Joyce know if you will be staying for dinner.
5. The **Drive-Thru Nativity** is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 12 and 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Many volunteers will be needed. Watch for sign-ups in late October.

Nurture Ministry (Donna Dorenbush and TBN)

1. **The Blood Drive in August was a great success.** A total of 55 pints was donated. Thank you to all who helped.
2. The **St. Luke's Travelers** have a trip to Annapolis, Maryland and the Baltimore Inner Harbor scheduled for SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2008. Contact Betty Brummer at 898-8031 for more details.
3. **St. Luke's Eight (SL8)** has registration in progress. Contact June and Patrick Pope at 223-5331 for more information.
4. **College Students** - Please pass the word to keep the office aware of new addresses of college students.
5. **A special thank you to Mary Ellis** for designing and putting up Nurture Ministry's, "Get On Board Express" display. Your talents are greatly appreciated.
6. The next Nurture meeting is October 2, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.
7. **Wednesday Suppers** will begin on September 24, serving from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Reservations will be required by noon on the Monday before the dinner. Reservation forms will be available in the pew racks and the kiosk. Permanent reservations can be made for the month with the understanding you are required to cancel through use of the reservation card. The fee will be as follows:

Adults - \$5.00 Children (12 and under) - \$3.50 Family - \$15.00

Green Church Initiative (Joe Posey)

1. Sunday, October 12, Douglas Dwoyer, formerly of NASA Langley Research Center will speak on ***"The Effects of Global Warming on Hampton Roads."*** The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. following a covered dish supper at 5:30 p.m.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

1. The **search for a Business Manager continues** in earnest.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Katy Jones)

1. This Thursday David Hindman will speak about Israel following a covered dish luncheon.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

1. Children and Youth Sunday School

- a) September 7 was Promotion Sunday
- b) Our Sunday School classes are FULLY staffed. We also have back-ups and subs available.
- c) Sunday School Teacher training was held on Wednesday, September 3. This session was used to familiarize the teachers with the Education Ministry, one another, and SLUMC policies and procedures. A handbook was given to each teacher along with their curriculum materials.
- d) We have revamped the high school classes to be Bible focused. There is a class for 9-10 graders and one for 11-12 graders.
- e) Boxes will be mounted in each classroom to hold child protection forms, accident reports, visitor forms and registration cards.

2. Child Protection Policies

- a) We need to ensure all volunteers who work with children and youth have completed background checks.
- b) Sunday School teachers: Child protection policies were covered at the 9/3 meeting and each volunteer was confirmed to have completed a background check or filled out a form authorizing such a check.
- c) Youth volunteers: Child protection policies will be covered at the parents' meeting and each volunteer will be confirmed to have completed a background check or filled out a form authorizing such a check.
- d) Confirmation Mentors: Child protection policies will be covered at the mentor training and each volunteer will be confirmed to have completed a background check or filled out a form authorizing such a check.
- e) A class/refresher training will be held for all volunteers who work with children and youth this fall.

3. Confirmation

- a) Confirmation Meeting was held on September 7 for parents and youth as a kick-off for the new class. There are 22 in this year's class.
- b) Mentors are needed for this class. Mentors will be assigned in October.

4. Adult Studies

Name of Study	Day	Dates	Time	Term	Facilitator
Disciple Bible Study I	SUN	SEP 14	4 – 6 :30 p.m.	32 weeks	Anthony Budzik
Disciple Bible Study II	THU	SEP 25	7 – 8:30 pm	32 weeks	Kathryn Budzik
Jesus in the Gospels	WED	SEP 24	10 to Noon <i>or</i> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	30 weeks	Clara Gestwick
Reconnecting Worship	WED	SEP 24	6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	9 weeks	Doug Gestwick
Genesis: A Short-term Disciple Bible Study	TUE	SEP 23	10 to Noon	10 weeks	John Dunning
Gospel of John	MON	SEP 22	7 – 8:30 p.m.	TBD by class	Ron Dorenbush
What Does it Mean To Be A United Methodist?	THU	OCT 2	10 – 11:00 a.m. <i>or</i> 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.	5 weeks	James A. Pace

5. Curriculum Approval

- a) There have been several instances of groups using books and materials developed outside the UMC. Although this is often fine, once in a while a controversial material will come up and members of the group and/or church will be upset by it. To make this situation less troublesome for the group and the church, we have developed a new curriculum approval procedure.
- b) According to SLUMC Operating Policies as specified in the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline, materials used in the church educational programs for children and adults will be UMC or UMC approved curricula including, but not limited to, any material available through the Cokesbury Catalog, The Director of Discipleship Ministry, the Pastors and the Education Ministry will maintain oversight over curriculum materials used, drawing from the UMC guidelines and Virginia Conference Resource personnel. If any group or class at SLUMC wishes to use any non-UMC curricula, a curriculum approval form must be completed. This includes all UMW, UMM, Book clubs, adult Bible studies and Sunday School classes, and children/youth classes.
- c) Curriculum Approval Form is available through the Education Ministry and the DDM. This form is designed to provide the committee a chance to review the material before use. The form asks the submitter to provide the name of the curriculum/book, its author/editor, what class/study it will be used for, and why this particular curriculum/book was chosen. The committee will review the material and let the submitter know if it is approved for use, an explanation of the decision and other curriculum/book recommendations as necessary. These forms will be maintained by the DDM in case any questions arise.
- d) This process is NOT designed to censor, only to protect the groups, individuals and the church.

Youth Ministry

1. This past **Sunday was Nate DeHart's first Sunday and a total of 80 Middle and High School youth attended.** It was a great first day!
2. The **Parent's Meeting** is scheduled for this Sunday, September 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Service Ministry (Ron Dorenbush and Susie Small)

1. **The ASP 2009 date of choice, which will be requested on the application, is June 27-July 4.** This date should avoid overlap of High School graduations and celebrations. The second choice is June 20-27.
2. The **Women's ASP Retreat** has one team of seven (complete number) attending in Jonesville, VA on November 6-9. The leader for this event is Barb Ripley.
3. **The WAS4MH was a success** with the last singer bringing emotional tears to most eyes.
4. **The Latin Ballet received donations totaling \$8,000+** for the Refugee Resettlement.
5. **Disaster Initial Responder training** is scheduled for 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 13 at Harmony UMC in Hamilton, Virginia. The training covers measures to ensure that areas are safe, sanitary and secure before other responders begin to work.

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. **Bicycle Rack** – Carol and Phil Comstock purchased, assembled and installed a bicycle rack at the northwest corner of the playground in the interest of our *green initiative*—encourage use.

2. **Leaking Roof** – We have two roof leaks – one in the food closet storage area (this leak has occurred off and on for several years) and one around the thermostat at the organ end of the choir loft. The trustees would like any suggestions you might have to help us alleviate this problem.
3. **Termite Damage** – We have termite damage adjacent to the food closet storage door. Active termite service treated the area. We will now assess and repair the damage.
4. **Kitchen Dishwasher** – The kitchen dishwasher is not working properly. We have contacted Crest Kitchen Equipment Company for a replacement cost for the machine.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. James reported that there is a **full slate of adult studies** and asked all to consider participating. The updated brochure includes the registration form which should be turned in to James.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. Pastor Clara reported that she excited that there will be 44 women and one man, the bus driver, going on the **Women's Retreat** in October. There is still room for 8 more.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. The **Annual Charge Conference** is Thursday, November 20 at 7:00 p.m.
2. Pastor Doug put in a **plug for Nate DeHart**. His first Sunday night youth group meeting was a great success with 46 Middle Schoolers and 35 High Schoolers attending. He was given the night off but will be joining us for next month's Church Council meeting.
3. Pastor Doug **applauded those present for a great budget discussion**.
4. There are several qualified applicants for the Business Manager position.
5. To date we have received **94 new members** and there will be 100 by the Charge Conference.
6. The **Staff Retreat** will be Sunday, September 28-Tuesday, September 30 at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs, Virginia.
7. There are **22 youth in Confirmation**. It is great to see these young people learning to be Christians for themselves and not being dragged here by mom and dad.
8. Pastor Doug received a note requesting that an article be written about the way in which St. Luke's handles Lay Leader Council.
9. The **attendance for this past Sunday's worship services was 533!**
10. Pastor Doug was **asked if the church has a disaster plan in place**. A plan that would for example have a person or persons contacting shut-ins or preparing the church building in the event of a natural disaster. It was discussed that perhaps it is necessary to put together a group that would develop and carry out a disaster plan.

ADJOURNMENT

1. Church Council members lifted up **Praises and Concerns** and Pastor Clara closed with prayer.
2. The **meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary