

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2007

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.”

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Council Chair, Ron Dorenbush. There were 23 members present. Ron asked those present to observe a moment of silence in remembrance of those who lost their lives, in sympathy for those who lost a loved one, in honor of those who served and in prayer for those who terrorized on September 11, 2001.

DEVOTION

Karen Berardini presented a devotion from an article entitled “*Vision—Fulfilling God’s Dream*” written by William Willimon, Bishop in an Alabama United Methodist Church. The article based on Genesis 23:12-13 reflected on how often we are tempted to lose sight of the larger picture God creates and keep narrowly focused on the daily nuts and bolts. As Christians we should be reminded what a joy it is to have our little lives caught up in something bigger than ourselves. Karen closed in prayer asking God to guide us, particularly as we begin planning for next year’s budget, that we remember the big picture so our church will be a blessing to others.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for **August 14, 2007** were approved as submitted.

OLD BUSINESS / FOLLOW-UP

1. Members sang Happy Birthday to the Service Ministry co-chair, Joe Vallow.

ITEMS REQUIRING DISCUSSION FOR ACTION / APPROVAL

There were NO ITEMS FOR ACTION OR APPROVAL

REPORTS / ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Outreach Ministry (Karen Berardini and Pat Murphy)

1. The **Outreach Team did not have a committee meeting this month**, but did **participate in the neighborhood visitation** of the Grafton area on Saturday, September 8. The group met at church, had a training session, then went out into the area to give out information packets and invite people to St. Luke’s before returning to St. Luke’s for dinner and debriefing. Thirty-one people in blue St. Luke’s polo shirts took part in the effort and nearly 800 packets of information were distributed.

APPROVED: October 9, 2007

2. Sign-up is underway for the **Reading Tutoring program** at Grafton Bethel.
3. The **Drive-Thru Nativity** is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 7 and 8. The committee met September 6, and plans to make some improvements from last year, including having actors for the last scene which depicts Easter morning. Sign-ups will begin in September for Actors, Scene Managers, Hospitality Workers, Traffic Controllers, etc.
4. We are planning a **TV ad campaign for the Advent season**. We have spent less than expected for the church library, so have the funds remaining to do this. We plan to do it again in 2008, both at Lent and Advent. We will be using the professionally done commercials from Igniting Ministry.
5. The **next Newcomer's Seminar** is Sunday, September 16. Ministry representatives are invited to do a brief presentation at 5:30, and then stay for dinner to meet the newcomers. Let Joyce know if you plan to eat dinner.

Worship Ministry (Kenna Rusk and Brenda Ramsey)

1. **Brandon Robbins will preach** at all three services on October 14.
2. **Homebound Communion Outreach Ministry** is looking for substitutes to assist. The dedication of this ministry originally scheduled for Sunday, September 9 has been postponed.

Nurture Ministry (Mary Ellis and Donna Dorenbush)

1. **Christian Yoga** – New 10-week session begins September 13 from 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall.
2. **SL8 (St. Luke's Eight)** – New fellowship groups will form this fall. Further information will be available soon.
3. **Women's Breakfast** – Participants will be joining the United Methodist Men on Sunday, September 16 at 8:15 a.m. for breakfast and a program presenting information about the Lackey Free Clinic. There will be no Women's Breakfast meeting on September 23. Regular meetings will resume in October.
4. **St. Luke's Travelers** – Next trip is to Lancaster, PA on October 22 – 23. Twenty people have signed up.
5. **Martha's Ministry** – Teams have been called upon frequently in the past months to serve our church families who have lost loved ones. Thanks to all who have extended practical love to grieving families by providing meals and comfort.

United Methodist Women (UMW) (Chris Cianelli)

UMW participates in **Special Mission Recognition** by honoring a special person by giving a gift for mission in her/his honor and presenting them with a certificate and gold pin. We ask all St. Luke's members to nominate someone you think has made, or is continuing to make a difference in the life of the church. Please pick up a nomination form from the church office and write their name and why they should be considered and place it in the designated box in the church office. Nominations are accepted throughout September. The UMW Executive Board will determine recipients at their October 3rd board meeting.

Local Church:

1. Representatives for the **Welcome Desk** on September 16 will be the LIFT Circle before all church services.
2. **3rd Quarter UMW Unit meeting** – September 10 – Devotion will be a Candle Burning, Program, led by James Pace, about being a "Green Church" here at St. Luke's.

Peninsula District:

1. Peninsula District's **Hands on Mission Day** For United Methodist Women is on September 15
2. **District Executive Meeting** at First UMC on September 19th
3. UMW has been asked to **assist with greeting and ushering** at the District Revival "*Extreme MAKEOVER You Edition*" on September 28 – 30 held at Woodside High School.
4. **Children's Sabbath Service** will be held at St. James UMC on October 14th

United Methodist Men (UMM) (William Sutton)

Local Church:

1. The UMMen of St. Luke's have **not met for breakfast during the summer** but will resume this tradition on September 16 with a terrific program about the Lackey Free Family Clinic. This organization donates over \$1 million dollars a year in services and medicines to serve the uninsured and less fortunate individuals in our area. The fellowship breakfast and program are open to all men and women and we expect to have a good turnout. Our joint meeting in January was attended by 75 people.
2. The **men of the church have not been idle this summer**. Men served in ASP, Katrina Relief, working around the church, Bible study, Sunday Schools, and serving others throughout the community. There is always a need and always a way you can serve others. Come be a part of these fine men of St. Luke's.

Peninsula District:

- a. All men are invited to the **Annual District Prayer Breakfast** to be held on Saturday, September 15 at Crooks Memorial UMC., Yorktown starting at 8:00 am with a program to follow. Tickets are \$10 with proceeds to Heart Haven. Contact William Sutton.
- b. The **District UMMen will be cooking the food** for the upcoming Walk-A-Thon to be held on September 29 as part of the "*Extreme MAKEOVER You Edition*" weekend. Need details or to help, contact William Sutton.
- c. The **next District General Meeting** for the UMMen will be held on October 22 at St. Luke's UMC. All General Meetings are open to all men and pastors of all the UM churches. Let's have a great turnout from St. Luke's men since this is on "home turf."
- d. **Put the weekend of November 2–4 on your calendars now** for a time away on a Spiritual Retreat for the UMMen. This annual event will be held at Blackstone and has been a great moving experience for all those that have attended. More details will follow soon.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) (Pete Prindle)

No report.

Education Ministry (Theresa Butler and Betty Jane Turner)

1. Director of Discipleship Ministries, James Pace reported that teacher enlistment went remarkably well and all **lead teacher positions are now fully staffed**. Help is still needed with 3 and 4 year-olds and a few other holes. Interested persons are asked to contact James.

Youth:

1. We had a nice **6th grade orientation** event on September 6. The new class is very energetic and eager to participate!

2. A couple of our youth have been participating the in planning of the 2:00 p.m. “*Extreme MAKEOVER You Edition*” worship service scheduled for September 29. Kirsten Koch has even written and filmed a skit that will be shown at the event.
3. **Calendar Items:**
 - a) Friday, October 5 – **High School Lock-in**
 - b) Friday, November 9 – **Middle School Lock-in**
4. Ron Dorenbush **welcomed Youth Council co-leader, Justin Torres.**

Finance Ministry (Sam Motley)

2. The **Finance Committee met in August** to review the financial reports and discuss financial matters of the church. Major topics of discussion were the need to have the 2006 financial data audited and considerations for a Stewardship campaign.
3. Ministry leaders are reminded that **budget data should be submitted** to Sam Motley or Bob Dye by the end of September.

Communications Ministry (Ken Engebretson and Walt Baskin)

1. **Audio Ethics, Inc., re-wired and replaced the Sanctuary mixers and amplifiers** August 28-31. Their professional approach and attention to detail provides us with an audio system that increases the clarity and quality of our in-Sanctuary sound as well as our Internet-based streaming audio program.
2. We will be **replacing the pastors’ wireless lapel microphones** with headset microphones and adding an ambient microphone to gain the congregational responses and singing for the streaming audio broadcast.
3. The **sanctuary sound system is being tweaked** resulting in noticeable improvements. Please let Ken Engebretson know of any concerns.

Building Ministry (Blair Ellis)

1. In mid-August we went on another visit to Warwick Memorial United Methodist Church in order to see **Warwick’s new Celebration Center**, a recently opened \$3.5 M addition to their church which includes a high school size basketball/volley ball court, a new, large kitchen, an entry hall and a couple of offices.
2. Additionally we **completed our review of Myler’s June drawings** and have forwarded our revisions back to Myler (Steve Retorick) on 27 August. Special thanks is expressed to Megan Zahn, other members of the church staff, and building committee members for their additional work in helping to revise the drawings. Mr. Retorick has acknowledged receipt of the proposed changes and is the Myler design experts are re-working the plans to reflect our proposed revisions.
3. In addition to changes to the building drawing, the **following recommendations were passed to Myler** for their incorporation and planning for the updated drawings:
 - a) Please draw in parking spaces on the side of the church north of the detention pond, so that we can get a better feel for number of possible parking slots in that area under the power lines.
 - b) There are a number of folks who are not too thrilled about putting parking in front of the church – please keep that on the drawing – but it may go away.
 - c) We’d like you to look how we might be able to put the covered drive through on the side of the church vice in the front.
 - d) We’ve removed the additional entrance that was added in the center of the church on the front side.
 - e) We’ve moved the old kitchen to what is now the food closet and want to retain the large space currently in the fellowship hall vice making that an office area.

- f) Note we've moved the food closet and food closet storage to the room next to the fellowship hall.
 - g) We've put the kitchen next to the stair/elevator area and want to look at options to make it bigger, as shown in the drawing.
 - h) Showers have been added to the world outreach center area
 - i) Admin and staff offices have all been moved to the corner of the building near the sanctuary.
 - j) Pre-school rooms have been moved to the hall where the offices currently are
 - k) Do we want to keep the current, old oil furnace or get rid of it and replace with gas?
 - l) Assuming we get rid of oil furnace – we still have to do something with the oil storage tank location which is currently in the playground area of the proposed new building.
 - m) Additionally there are several A/Cs which we assume will need to be put on the roof.
 - n) We talked with you about fixing the flat/leaking roof behind the sanctuary
 - o) We talked with you about putting stairs to access the attic storage areas behind the sanctuary and near the fellowship hall.
 - p) We're concerned about sprinklers and code – although cost is an issue certainly – we're also concerned about sprinklers in the pre-school area ... we think they should probably be there either way.
 - q) We remain concerned about parking.
4. After receiving the next set of the revised drawings, we will **plan to hold meetings with the St. Luke's laity** in order to bring them up to date and to get input from the general membership.

Service Ministry (Joe Posey and Joe Vallow)

1. **Reviewed 2007 budget expenditures** to date and drafted a proposed budget for 2008.
2. Reviewed status of St. Luke's connection with and support of **3 missionaries, to be continued in 2008.**
3. William Sutton reported that the District had signed a contract to begin the **Heart Havens construction** on Harpersville Road in Newport News. St. Luke's has been supporting this effort for several years.
4. **Heard reports** that the recent blood drive and the recent back-to-school fund drive had been successful.
5. **Discussed the use of the St. Luke's utility trailer** purchased earlier this year. It was used on the big ASP trip and on a trip to take campers to summer camp. In both cases it was very useful in carrying large amounts of sleeping bags and luggage. We are considering outfitting it with some sort of tool racks or shelves, but are going slow on this until we get guidance from the Conference on how to best do this.

Board of Trustees (Tom Sayre)

1. The "**Chandelier Cleaning Party**" is this Saturday, September 15 at 9:00 a.m.

Director of Discipleship Ministries (DDM) (James Pace)

1. Confirmation kicked off this past Sunday with 44 in attendance and as a result the reservation numbers for the planned retreat will have to be increased.
2. Plans are underway to reintroduce the mentor process to the confirmation program. James asked all to please pray about being a mentor.

Associate Pastor (Clara Gestwick)

1. The **report from ASP** critiquing St. Luke's over all participation and performance was remarkable.
2. October 13-14 is the **United Methodist Women's retreat**. The cost to attend is \$125 and there are still spaces available. Please sign up by Thursday. Scholarships are available.

Senior Pastor (Doug Gestwick)

1. A **HUGE thank you is expressed to Ken Engebretson, Megan Zahn and the Communications Committee** on all the work put into the new sound system. There are still some more "tweaks" to be done, but the response from the congregation has been outstanding.
2. A **HUGE thank you is also expressed to Karen Berardini and the Outreach Committee**. 31 people from St. Luke's visited 800 neighbors and invited them to worship with us!
3. **We are embarking on a critical juncture with our building program**. The vision will need to cast and re-cast before the congregation a number of times and ways.
4. Formation of a **study group to evaluate St. Luke's mission statement** is planned.
5. Formation of a **study group surrounding St. Luke's worship** is also being planned. A number of people are asking for a service that is more "contemporary." At the size of St. Luke's this type of service should currently be offered. This service will be new and will not, under any circumstance, replace any of the existing services.
6. **44 youth are registered for confirmation!**
7. **Our heartfelt thanks are expressed to Paul and Julie Lapointe** for 8 years of dedicated service as youth director and the wind beneath the wings of youth director. This news was followed by a round of applause and a standing ovation from all those present. Pastor Doug reported that St. Luke's is embarking on a nationwide search for a new youth director, and have had applications come in from as far away as India.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Karen Berardini opened discussion regarding whether or not the **property located next to the church that is for sale** could be purchased by the church. Consideration has been made however issues such as: cost of the property, proposed use of the land and/or building, codes and zoning requirements, just to name a few. It was suggested that a committee should conduct a study to determine feasibility in order to make an educated decision regarding purchase of the property.
2. Ron Dorenbush reported that the **church that the St. Luke's assisted with hurricane recovery in June has made little progress** do to frequent rain and lack of volunteers.
3. **Next Church Council meeting:** Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.
4. **October Devotions:** Ken Engebretson
5. **October Refreshments:** Debbie Fullhart

ADJOURNMENT

Council members brought praises and concerns, and Pastor Doug closed with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Fullhart, Church Council Secretary