

# Baker Memorial United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting Agenda

February 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

*Baker Memorial United Methodist Church is a welcoming Community of Faith empowered by the Holy Spirit. We seek to Glorify God by:*

- *celebrating His gifts,*
- *helping each other become disciples of Jesus Christ, and*
- *serving His people and Kingdom in Christian Love.*

**I. Welcome**

**II. Devotions** ..... *Sandie Benhart*

**III. Presentation of the Minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2006**

**IV. Stewardship Moment** ..... *Doug Ruth*

**V. Discussion of Mission Statement Project** ..... *Mark Armstrong*

**VI. Reports of and Items from our Seven Ministry Areas**

- A. Christian Education ..... *Meg Bingham*
- B. Evangelism ..... *Sandie Benhart*
- C. Mission and Outreach ..... *Ben Adams*
- D. Parish Life ..... *Loretta Wilson*
- E. Stewardship ..... *Doug Ruth*
- F. Worship and Spiritual Growth ..... *Jean Cole*
- G. Youth ..... *Erik Swenson*

**VII. Reports of and Items from other ministries of our parish**

- A. United Methodist Men ..... *Rick House*
- B. United Methodist Women ..... *Judy Schlarb*

**VIII. Reports of and Items from our Administrative Committees and Boards**

- A. Committee on Lay Leadership ..... *Pastor Ronni Verboom*
- B. Committee on Staff-Parish Relations ..... *Debbie Conterato*
- C. Board of Trustees ..... *John Fell*
- D. Committee on Finance ..... *Biff Staples*

**IX. Additional items from council members, parishioners, and others in attendance**

**X. Review of Action Items**

- A. Selecting a council member to present a devotion at the March meeting
- B. Other action items from this meeting

**XI. Church Council meeting announcements**

- A. Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall
- B. Thursday, April 28, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall (note the change in the date)

**XII. Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**XIII. Closing Prayer**

*Adjournment by 9:00 p.m.*

# Church Council Update

A Monthly Newsletter for the Church Council of Baker Memorial United Methodist Church

February 2006

## From Mark's desk . . .

*Then Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?"  
Peter replied, "You are the Messiah."  
—Mark 8:29, NLT*

Robin Griffith-Jones is an Anglican Priest, whose pastoral work has included some of the poorest—and wealthiest—parishes in London. He is now a professor at Oxford University, and he now occupies the same study once used by John Wesley. In 2000, Fr. Griffith-Jones published a book called *The Four Witnesses*. In it, he examines the person of Jesus through the eyes of the authors of each of the four gospels. The scholarly approach of this work is to show how each of the Four Evangelists wrote his gospel as an answer to the question that Jesus posed to Peter: *Who do you say that I am?* The book is being made into a four-part television series, funded by a PBS station in South Carolina.

***Our next meeting will be  
Thursday, February 16, 2006  
at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall.***

*Who do you say that I am* is a question that is worth asking. For groups like the Church Council, any of our ministry teams, or other bodies, the question might be better framed as, *What do you say they do?*

At our church, if you randomly asked 20 people during the fellowship time, *What do you say that the \*\*\*\*\* Ministry Team does?*, what would their answer be? The eventual answer would tell us much—not only about the individual group, but about the ministry priorities of our church as a whole.

During the next few months, each group in the church will have an opportunity to provide an answer to that question by developing a mission statement and a list of the group's duties and objectives. When completed, the Church Council leadership will develop this into a document that can be used for a variety of purposes, including:

- The Committee on Lay Leadership can use it as it develops the nominations for the next Church Conference
- The Evangelism Ministry Team can provide it to new members so they can be better integrated into the life of our parish.
- The Committee on Finance can use it to improve our budgeting process, in order to better allocate our resources.

I will be approaching the leadership of each group about this activity in the coming six months; I look forward to working with each of you on this task.

**BAKER MEMORIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 27, 2006 7:00 PM WILEY HALL**

Members present: Debbie Conterato, Betty Erickson, Judy Schlarb, Gina Armstrong, Meg Bingham, Rich French, Margie Voll, Sandie Benhart, Biff Staples, Rick Carlson, Rick House, Doug Ruth, Loretta Wilson, Eunbae Doh, Tom Trengove, Mark Armstrong, Ronni Verboom, Jayne Scales, Kim Starr

Members absent: Joan Arteberry Zavitz, Vic Temple, Evan Dutmer, Ben Adams, Jean Cole, Erik Swenson, Joanne Poole, John Fell, and Jan McPeak.

Communion Service was given to all present by Rich French in the Sanctuary.

Mark opened the meeting asking all to introduce themselves and their work area. He announced that no post card reminders will be mailed anymore – e-mail reminders only.

If we want to send info to the Church Office please send to Joanne at:  
[Carillon@bakermemorialchurch.org](mailto:Carillon@bakermemorialchurch.org) or  
Jan McPeak at [info@bakermemorialchurch.org](mailto:info@bakermemorialchurch.org)

Minutes of November 21, 2005 were reviewed and approved.

**Nominations from Committee on Lay Leadership:**

Gina Armstrong for Sunday School Superintendent  
Pam Brekke for Worship & Spiritual Growth Ministries Team (2008)  
Bob Bolz for Committee on Finance (2007)  
Steve Hunt for Evangelism Ministries Team (2008)

All three four were voted on and approved. A new member for Lay Leadership Committee is needed. Please talk to Ronni about any names you may have.

**Stewardship Moment:** Doug Ruth made presentation on the new year-long stewardship Committee. See enclosed hand-outs. To summarize, they will try to move the giving mentality to a creation of Christian Philanthropists. “If we don’t like the results (the often shortfall of budget) then we maybe we need to change the system”. Change the way we see giving – more sacramental giving – celebratory giving.

**Reports of Ministry Teams Areas:**

**Christian Ed.-** Meg Bingham reported that Sue Pelkey will stay on for the transition of chairmanship. VBS will change to a daytime program this summer. Possibly Monday – Friday, with a Friday evening closing for the parents to attend.. Looking at earlier in summer – possibly June. They will work on defining the leadership roles better – Superintendent, Chair and Pastor Doh’s responsibilities. Ronni Verboom suggested that VBS invite those already using the church i.e. Kinder music to VBS. Will meet Feb 13<sup>th</sup>.  
**Evangelism** – Sandie Benhart reported they are finishing up the new Church Brochure. Her committee was congratulated on the new photo directory – a great tool for the church!

**Mission & Outreach** – Ben Adams had a well attended meeting – lots of excitement for the year! They are plotting out the years’ activities. Ronni Verboom spoke of a proposed trip to Senegal for Jan-Feb 2007 for up to 9 people. (Senegal profile: is Muslim, French speaking, desert, can’t feed their own population.)

**Parish Life** – Loretta Wilson reported the **Stuff-the-Turkey** project provided 143 Thanksgiving meals for the needy. **Angel Tree** – all 50 gifts were provided for by the congregation. New Upcoming activities: Mini potluck sign-up coming up, Cougar Game, River Boat, and **Bowling (March 12<sup>th</sup>)**. They meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.

**Stewardship** – Doug Ruth reported a well attended 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Baker Memorial paid its’ Full Apportionment to District in 2005. We had to borrow from this years’ budget – thus we are beginning this year with a \$17,000 deficit. Their committee decided to meet more regularly – to keep the forward energy going.

**Worship & Spiritual Growth** – Jean Cole sent in her report. Did a phone survey of 540 church members looking for Sunday Servers. Results were: 41 Ushers for 9:00 and 20 ushers for 10:30. 75 communion servers for 9:00 and 19 for 10:30. 115 greeters for 9:00 . 29 new people for Coffee Hour. Great response! There will be a training and consecration for these new servers on Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. The next training will be May 7<sup>th</sup> after Sunday services. A picnic for these families is being planned, also. Lenten Devotion for Lent is underway. Many new authors – Mark Armstrong needs about 5 more willing to write one. Worship is trying a Children’s Tote Tree – in an effort to make Sunday services more welcoming to children. These totes will have little activities for the children to have during service. Sunday Night Services have an attendance of 12-20 at this time. Each Ministry Area is being invited to attend and support this service. Judy Schlarb reported that the Easter Lilies will be available for purchase again, soon. The Lilies will cost \$9.50. Last year we sold 70 lilies.

**Youth Ministries** – Rich French reported that the Youth Committee has identified some areas of effort. a) Better communication – update the technology. b) Transportation needs c) someone to help with data entry work. Youth Sunday is this Sunday. The Youth will again host the Interview process for ASP> this involves college age applicants coming for the weekend – and interviewing. Date? All church one day ski trip – February 4<sup>th</sup> – at Wilnot Mountain. Everyone welcome – Gilles Verboom is an instructor there – and wants all to come have a fun day.

**United Methodist Men** – Rick House reported they served 98 Chili dinners at Wed. Night Special. 6-8 men continue to meet 7-8 am Thursday morn for Bible Study. Just finished a 14 week study on the Gospel of Mark and will begin to study “What’s So Amazing About Grace?” All are welcome – they would like to increase their numbers. They will have the golf outing, and continue with Sat Morn tennis. Bell ringing for the Salvation Army netted \$16,000 – all but one of the 250 hours of ringing was filled by parishioners and friends. Great job!

**United Methodist Women** – Judy Schlarb reported UMW has \$3600 in the account, and have pledged \$5300 to District – Feb is UMW pledge month. Women are hosting Craft Sessions to make crafts for the Farmer’s Market. Look for times in Carillon. Women’s Retreat March 10-12 – 35 have signed up – more room available. Great speakers will be there! Unit meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> Wed of month – Feb topic is Wellness of Women. UMW provided Christmas gifts for 20 kids from Wredling Jr. High in St. Charles – this need came from the school – last minute – and UMW was able to fill the need. What a joy to provide for our own local people.

**Staff-Parish** – Debbie Conterato made a motion for a budget increase of \$3500.00. Needed to equalize the housing allowance of Associate and Assistant Pastors. During discussion Rich French explained why he made the request. Stewardship noted the facts of the state of the budget. Much discussion took place. The motion was approved with 7 pros – 4 cons – 4 abstentions.

**New Business** –

Finance introduced new Church Wedding Fees. Biff Staples had done research in town – and the new fees will be effective for weddings booked after Jan. 26, 2006. Church Council does not have to vote on this – our Sr. Pastor makes the decision. Mark Armstrong asked that his vehement disagreement to the \$400 fee for Members be reported. The new fees will be available in the office once Ronni Verboom makes her final decision.

Farmer's Market – Ronni Verboom read a report from Rob Murphy – who heads the Farmer's Market. He requested reported a donation of \$3000 to the Youth Program for Sunday Eve Services. He also asked for an added \$1000 to his fee. This \$\$ is available from the profits. Rick Carlson moved we direct \$3,000 to our you ministries and give Rob Murphy \$1000, out of the Market profits. The motion was passed unanimously.

Sandie Benhart offered to do devotions for February meeting.

Mark Armstrong prayed – for VBS, a new needed Lay Leadership member, and for the training session this weekend.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted by Jayne Scales**

# Church Council Stewardship training

## Lesson Two

### February, 2006

## Recognizing financial myths; Moving to a New Mode of operation

Many myths influence church leaders, and steer them in the wrong direction. When these myths become the system or process by which financial decisions are made, churches develop a negative fundraising philosophy.

When the myths are exposed as untrue, and leaders abandon them as the core of their system, then new finance systems moving from fund raising to fund development, from paying bills to giving birth to Christian philanthropists are possible.

#### **Fundraising Myths**

- Ownership in the Individual
- Focus on the Institution
- Focus on Money
- Focus on Budget
- Focus on Member/Obligation
- Focus on Shortfall

#### **Ownership in the Individual – Myth!**

The money people have is theirs, and they can do whatever they want with it. The church affirms that all we have is God's, but act as though they don't believe it. Society's theology dominates.

#### **Focus on the Institution – Myth!**

The most important thing is to show that the church needs people's money. God needs their giving. (Does God need people's money, or do people need to give as a response to what God has done?)

#### **Focus on Money –Myth!**

It's a natural conclusion for leaders to believe this, especially the more involved in financial statements and budget development they become. They see only money issues instead of the overall vision of the church.

#### **Focus on the Budget –Myth!**

If we report on how much it costs, where the money is going, and how much more we need, then people will give accordingly. If we just show the numbers, people will respond. (The truth is that information without invitation moves few to action.)

### **Focus on Member/Obligation – Myth!**

All we need to do is remind people about the commitment they made to support the church with their service, time, talents, and gifts. If we make people feel guilty, they will give.

### **Focus on Shortfall –Myth!**

The money just seems to come in when we tell them we need it. The system that results from this myth gives birth not to givers but to responders who will pay when you ask, and nothing more. Here, the members feel the church is always asking for money. Members give due to loyalty or obligation. They don't give enough; financial crises are frequent. Like a TV evangelist saying "if you don't give so much by a certain date, the church will close." Who wants to give to a church that may close?

These myths give rise to assumptions that control the financial systems of many congregations. These assumptions are accepted as fact, are not tested, and are handed down from one generation of leaders to the next. They are part of the system that discourages giving:

- If people feel sufficiently guilty, they will give.
- People are basically stingy and extremely protective of their money.
- If you tell people the church needs money, they will give.
- Asking for financial commitment will drive people away.
- When people join the church, they are fully committed to giving to the church.
- What people put on their commitment card is the most they will give to the church.
- The church's income is tied to the income of its members.

## **A New Way of Operation**

A new paradigm influenced by an understanding of stewardship focuses not on the church but on the individual. People need to give. Christian stewards want to give. How can church leaders help stewards respond to the call of God in their lives? The new paradigm moves away from fundraising and focuses on funding ministry. Look at the ways the new paradigm is different from the myths that lead to fundraising.

(Fundraising)

- \* Ownership in the Individual
- \* Focus on the Institution
- \* Focus on Money
- \* Focus on Budget
- \* Focus on Member/Obligation
- \* Focus on Shortfall

\* **Funding Ministry\***

- \* God's Ownership
- \* Focus on the Individual
- \* Focus on Ministry
- \* Focus on Results
- \* Focus on Donor Relationships
- \* Focus on Possibilities

### **God's Ownership**

Stewardship with a funding-ministry philosophy will focus (not on our ownership but) on God's ownership.

**Focus on the Individual**

Relationships and spiritual growth are more important (than how much a member can do for the church). People rather than programs are at the center of the church's ministry.

**Focus on ministry**

Focus on ministry, (not on money). The church celebrates faith development over membership growth.

**Focus on Results**

Focus on the results of ministry (not on the budget and how much we need to raise).

**Focus on Donor Relationships**

The focus is on the faithful response of members (instead of members living up to the vows they took when they joined the church). The goal: birthing of Christian philanthropists rather than fulfilling membership vows.

**Focus on Possibilities**

Focus on possibilities, the future, and reaching out (instead of shortfall, crisis, and survival).

### 2006 Church Council Meeting Dates

The Baker Memorial Church Council is required to meet at least quarterly by *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2004*. At the November 21, 2005 meeting of the Council, the third Thursday of each month was set as the normal meeting date. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairperson or the Senior Pastor.

The 2006 regular meeting dates will be as follows:

Thursday, January 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, February 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

(moved from the third Thursday to accommodate the ministerial staff, who will be at a conference on that day)

Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, June 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

No meeting in July.

Thursday, August 17, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, September 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, November 16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

No meeting in December

(a *Church Conference* will probably be held in December; date and time to be determined)

To: Chairperson Mark Armstrong  
and the Church Council

From: Chairperson Jean Cole  
and the Worship and Spiritual Growth Ministry Team

Date: February 9, 2006

Re: Summary of the February 8, 2006 meeting

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My apologies, but we will be out of town for the church council meeting.

Here are the highlights from the February 8 meeting of the worship and Spiritual Growth Ministry Team:

- I. Church Training** Two training sessions were held for the follow up to the volunteers garnered by the phoning that was done in November and December. The first session was held on January 28 for the greeters, ushers and communion servers and was led by Ronni, Rich and Eunbae. There were about 50 people who attended. It generated a lot of interest and support in serving the church. The second session was held February 4 for coffee hour hosts. Eight people attended, and Bob & Elaine Carpenter were thrilled to have more help.
- II. Pew Racks** The Coordinating Selection Committee will be meeting this month to approve the recommended pew racks.
- III. Children's Tote Tree** Approval was given to purchase two trees which will house Children's Tote Bags. Cherie Hunt is working on a prototype bag. Each bag will be filled with crayons, Biblical coloring pictures, possibly an Etch-A-Sketch, and other related items that will welcome children to our services while keeping them busy.
- IV. Postlude** Mark Edwards presented the timing for the incorporation of the Postlude part of our services. The first and fourth Sundays of each month will have a Hymn of Dismissal, wherein the pastors will move to the doors immediately following church services. The second, third and fifth Sundays, the congregation will be asked to be seated, to listen to the music offered to God during the Postlude. The pastors will be seated as well.
- V. Communion** Many people experienced a different way of receiving communion. Communion was served at the altar railing and at 2 stations in the back of the church. These options were offered because some people have difficulty going up steps or taking communion at the railing. Others prefer going to the back of the church. This practice is going to continue for two more months while it is tested out. A great deal of discussion has already occurred regarding traffic patterns and logistics with the staff.

Church Council Membership

**Chairperson**

Mark Armstrong ..... (630) 584-6905 ..... [mdarmstrong@smartgate.com](mailto:mdarmstrong@smartgate.com)

**Vice Chairperson (Lay Leader)**

Rick Carlson ..... (630) 879-8789 ..... [carlson.r@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carlson.r@sbcglobal.net)

**Recording Steward**

Jayne Scales ..... (630) 377-0089 ..... [jmarie55@comcast.net](mailto:jmarie55@comcast.net)

**Members at Large**

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*Youth*

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**Chairpersons of Administrative Committees**

*Finance*

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**Church Treasurer**

JoAnn Poole ..... (630) 584-6987

**President of Board of Trustees**

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**President of United Methodist Men**

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**President of United Methodist Women**

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