

# Baker Memorial United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting Agenda

April 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the 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** ..... *Pastor Rich French*

**III. Presentation of the Minutes of the meeting of March 16, 2006**

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

**V. Reports of and Items from our Seven Ministry Teams**

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

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

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

**VII. 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*

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

**IX. Review of Action Items**

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

**X. Church Council meeting announcements**

- A. Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall
- B. Thursday, June 15, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

**XI. Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**XII. Closing Prayer**

*Adjournment by 9:00 p.m.*

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# Church Council Update

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

April 2006

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## **From Mark's desk . . .**

*History merely repeats itself. It has all been done before. Nothing under the sun is truly new.*

—Ecclesiastes 1:9, NLT

*And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making all things new!"*

—Revelation 21:5, NLT

Last Wednesday evening, I was sitting at supper in Wiley Hall. Val McPeak, one of the people at the table, asked me if I had liked the ABC Television production of *The Ten Commandments*, which had aired the previous week.

Now for those of you who don't know it (and there are precious few of you), Cecil B. DeMille's 1956 version of *The Ten Commandments* is one of my favorite films. I own two different versions of it, and I developed and taught an adult Sunday School class on the film in the 1990s. (Val was there for all of it. I remember Week 6 of the class, when we finally got to the Red Sea parting, and Val saying, "Now here's the good part!")

***Our next meeting will be  
Thursday, April 27, 2006***

Well, I'm afraid I only saw a few moments of the new version last week, so I can't comment on it. Critics and viewers seemed generally lukewarm, based on the reviews and ratings. I understand, though, the desire to re-make movies and "update" them so they can better reach newer audiences; after all, DeMille himself did that in 1956—he was updating his own 1923 version of the film.

In a very real sense, this year's Holy Week did the same thing. It took the same story that has been told for generations—the story of good and evil, of sadness and triumph—but told in a new way that was somewhat the same, yet somewhat different from the way it was told in the past.

During Holy Week, there were old meals, and new movies. There were familiar liturgies, and new services. And the seats (for not all the services were in a place with *pews*) were filled with long-time members, and first-time visitors. The services told the same story, but made it new.

In the Jewish tradition, each Passover is a time when the faithful must consider anew that they were *personally* saved from Pharaoh and let out of Egypt. And each Eastertide, we need to let Christ make the story "new" again for us.

Your thoughts and comments are always welcome.

## ***Agendas & Packets***

If you wish to have an item placed on the agenda, e-mail it to Mark Armstrong at [mdarmstrong@smartgate.com](mailto:mdarmstrong@smartgate.com) at least seven days prior to the meeting date. Any documents submitted will be included in the agenda packet.

Likewise, if you cannot be present and you wish to make a report, please e-mail it to Mark Armstrong at [mdarmstrong@smartgate.com](mailto:mdarmstrong@smartgate.com) at least seven days prior to the meeting date and it will be included in the agenda packet.

## ***Meeting Schedule***

The meeting schedule for the remainder of the year is as follows:

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

## ***Web Site of the Month***

The Cyber Hymnal (<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/>) is a source of data for more than 5,600 Christian hymns, no doubt including your most favorite songs, and probably the ones you least like as well. For each hymn, you can read the text and hear the tune; for many of them, you can also read how the hymn came to be written.

And if you want to waste a little time, try a fun game called Penguin Smack at ([http://www.funrestarea.com/pages/penguin\\_smack.shtml](http://www.funrestarea.com/pages/penguin_smack.shtml)). See how far you can smack the penguin (let me know if you knock it more than 532 feet, my personal record).

# Church Council Stewardship Training

## Lesson Four

### “Keys to Developing a Strategy”

(From *Creating a Climate for Giving* by Donald Joiner)

The solution to the financial problems of local churches can be summarized in 3 common statements often heard from financial leaders:

1. If people were just more committed...
2. If we give people the right information...
3. If we just had the right program...

Nothing is solved in 3 easy steps. Each statement has a degree of truth, but no one solution by itself will solve a church's financial problems.

#### If people were just more committed...

Committed to what? How do you judge that?

- A person's commitment to Jesus Christ and to the values, mission, and vision of the church are important to any giving environment. Financial leaders often assume this is being handled by others. **The work churches do in funding ministry cannot be seen apart from the total life of the congregation.**
- An intentional ministry of developing Christian philanthropists and stewards is necessary. When we assist people to move from an idea of their ownership to God's ownership, from singleness in life to a partnership with God, life takes on a new meaning. **Earning, gathering, and giving take on an exciting atmosphere.**
- Commitment by itself is never enough. Some of the most committed people may be amongst those who give the least to the church. **Commitment without focus and direction does not necessarily produce givers, at least not people who give to your church.**

#### If we give people the right information...

Financial budget information-what do these numbers mean? How will this information change peoples' giving patterns? What kind of information will move people?

- Many don't understand financial reports
- Information without invitation produces informed members, but may not produce any action.
- Key is - Christian commitment plus information plus invitation
- **Commitment, along with the information about the church's vision and mission and its success in responding to God's call, will produce people who may consider your church in their giving plan before giving elsewhere.**

If we just had the right program...

Many changes here over the last 10-15 years, but many churches hang on to what they have done the past 50 years, with decreasing results.

- A campaign or annual commitment program by itself will rarely solve any church's financial problems.
- Members will give elsewhere if the church does not give them an opportunity to respond what they are feeling in their hearts, and does not have a plan to allow them to commit to that heart-felt call in their lives.
- Money is not the issue!

If churches are to reach members of the new millennium and finance the ministries God is calling us to accomplish, it is time to evaluate what we are doing, make prescriptions for change, and develop new strategies for funding ministry. It is time to throw out the old ways that are no longer working and to develop a comprehensive, long-range, faith-based strategy. This new strategy must take into account **developing committed Christians who are informed about the ministries of their church and who are excited about being generous, faithful Christian philanthropists.** Such a plan will focus on:

- Developing a faith community that understands and gratefully grasps the concept of being Christian stewards;
- Sharing ministry with excited Christian philanthropists;
- Providing opportunities to respond in giving;
- Having a ministry that is more interested in caring for members than in how much money the members give;
- Realizing that giving goes beyond the morning offering.

**BAKER MEMORIAL UMC CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**March 16, 2006 7:00 PM YOUTH ROOM**

Members present: Gina Armstrong, Meg Bingham, Rich French, Margie Voll, Biff Staples, Doug Ruth, Eunbae Doh, Mark Armstrong, Ronni Verboom, Jayne Scales, John Fell, Eric Swenson, Tom Trengove, and Jan McPeak.

Others present: Kathy Adams and Dave Wilson.

Members absent: Rick Carlson, Joan Arteberry Zavitz, Vic Temple, Evan Dutmer, Sandie Benhart, Ben Adams, Loretta Wilson, Jean Cole, Erik Swenson, Kim Starr, JoAnn Poole, Rick House, Judy Schlarb, and Jeff Hunt.

<p>NOTE: Please send information to the Church Office by e-mailing it to: Joanne Surratt at: <a href="mailto:Carillon@bakermemorialchurch.org">Carillon@bakermemorialchurch.org</a> and Jan McPeak at <a href="mailto:info@bakermemorialchurch.org">info@bakermemorialchurch.org</a></p>
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Chairperson Mark Armstrong called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Sandie Benhart submitted a devotion titled “Information, please . . .” that was read by Mark Armstrong, who also led the Council in an opening prayer.

The minutes of February 2006 meeting were reviewed and approved with no changes.

**Stewardship Moment:** Doug Ruth spoke about Stewardship Principles for Funding Ministry.

**Multimedia Presentation** Pastor Doh presented a PowerPoint slide show that he developed to show to the new member classes. The Council was very impressed!

**Reports of Seven Ministry Teams:**

**Christian Education (Meg Bingham)** Vacation Bible School and the teachers meeting set up also. The Team is now discussing Summer Sunday School.

**Evangelism** No report.

**Mission & Outreach (Kathy Adams reporting for Ben Adams)** Various projects have been identified to represent the different colors of the Rainbow Covenant – their goal is for Baker Memorial to be a *Rainbow Covenant* Church in its Missions giving. Orange: North Korean famine assistance. Green: United Methodist Homes – Bethany. Burgundy: Senegal and Honduras. Indigo: Senegal and Mongolia. Purple: Shelter Assistance Program. About \$2,500 from the rummage sale went to Rainbow Covenant. Mauricio and family have moved to a safer area of Houston and are well. Rick and Carol Carlson may visit them over Spring Break. Discussion of the Church’s newly vacated apartment came up regarding using it for Lazarus House clients who

are ready to move out, or for a refugee family. Trustees are looking into it. If this is done, it will cost \$900/month – we now have Coleman Realty taking care of the renting. Lazarus House has a new area for Mothers and children. They are looking for community people to volunteer to visit –to play with the children and model/help with mothering skills.

**Parish Life (Dave Wilson reporting for Loretta Wilson)** Lenten Home Small Group Study had to be cancelled due to scheduling problems. Forty-two bowlers came to the family bowling outing – new members and prospective members were there, too for great fun, lots of pizza and pop, and bowlers of every age and stage of life! May 20 will be the Paddlewheel Boat Ride from 6 to 8 pm. June 3 will be the Cougars Game with fireworks and great seats.

**Worship & Spiritual Growth (Mark Armstrong reporting for Jean Cole)** The Prayer Vigil was discussed. It starts Good Friday and runs through Easter Morning, April 14-16. New this year, someone will host in the parlor, so no one is in the Church all alone. Broken into three-hour shifts, 11 people are needed. (The same as the apostles who waited!!!) A sign-up sheet was passed to the council members to sign up for these 11 slots.

**Year-Around Stewardship (Doug Ruth)** They continue to work on forming a “Dream Team” – 5 men and 5 women who will look into the future planning of the church.

**Youth (Erik Swenson)** This team is organizing its function and composition. They want a 2:1 ratio of kids to adults on the council and to make sub-groups to deal with each activity. There will be a meeting March 19 at 11:30 a.m. to inspire kids to put church further up in their priorities list. Spoke of Apprentices inviting a youth to work on a current Mission Team to learn and serve. Any committee was invited to approach Erik Swenson or Rich French to ask about this opportunity. During discussion, it was suggested that confirmands fill out talent and interest survey as new members do as they become new members of the church. Jan McPeak is entering this data into the computer.

### Reports of other ministries

**United Methodist Men** No report.

**United Methodist Women (Gina Armstrong reporting for Judy Schlarb)** Ronni Verboom spoke well of the retreat held last weekend. Eight of our members attended the Cluster Luncheon of area UMWs. Several women went to District Leadership training. Betty Erickson will be serving at the Conference level of the UMW. Craft dates continue; the crafts will be sold at Farmer’s Market this summer.

## Reports of Administrative Committees and Boards

**Staff-Parish Relations** No report.

**Lay Leadership (Pastor Ronni Verboom)** Nothing to report at this time.

**Trustees (John Fell)** The Board of Trustees had a “spirited” meeting this month. Items looked into were the water leak in Baker Hall (working on insurance claims now) and the rental property condition (left with \$6000 in damages from former tenant). The new security system is in, and the church will be re-keyed; the criteria for getting keys is being worked on by staff. The Trustees want to get someone in to give us the “state of the building” report so we can budget for the future needs of the building. It was suggested that a Records and History committee might keep good records of all the work done on the church, and a central repository for all church records including agendas and minutes of all the work areas. Ronni Verboom reported that John Hemingway suggested that we might wait to repair the sidewalk damage (from the water main replacement) until the ground has had time to settle. There is one vacancy on the Board, which was referred to the Committee on Lay Leadership.

**Finance (Biff staples)** Through February we have had a good cash flow. The committee is working to consolidate and interact with different committees to see our assets: Endowment, Trustees and Finance. We will be audited. Biff Staples moved to nominate Kristin Swayze to Committee on Finance; second by Margie Voll; passed by unanimous consent.

### Additional Items

Council members were reminded when distributing their meeting agendas and minutes to e-mail copies to the ministerial staff, Jan McPeak, Mark Armstrong, and Rick Carlson.

Members were reminded to make sure the office has their e-mail addresses so they can get *Carillon* notices. Pastors were encouraged to request e-mail addresses on the Sunday morning attendance sheets. It was reported that anyone can always ask to have Carillon sent by mail.

Pastor Ronni spoke of the recent robberies in the church. She did not mention any names, and asked the Council to do likewise. She encouraged the Council to pray for all those involved and their families, and to refrain from gossip. **All questions about such incidents—particularly those from those outside of our church family, such as the media—shall be referred to Ronni Verboom.**

Pastor Rich French agreed to present a devotion at the April meeting of the Church Council.

### Meeting Announcements

The Church Council will meet on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall.  
The Church Council will meet on Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall.

### **Sharing Joys and Concerns**

Gina Armstrong's mother *does not* have leukemia, as had been feared.

Jan McPeak thanked all for sympathy on her Father's death and asked for prayers she and Val prepare to have her Step-Father come live with them here.

### **Closing Prayer**

Ronni Verboom closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jayne Scales