

# **Baker Memorial United Methodist Church**

Church Council Meeting Agenda

July 2006

*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.*

**The Church Council  
will not meet in July.**

**Our next meeting is  
Thursday, August 17, 2006  
at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall.**

# Church Council Update

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

July 2006

## From Mark's desk . . .

*If you plot evil, you will be lost; but if you plan good, you will be granted unfailing love and faithfulness.*—Proverbs 14:22, NLT

Did you know that the St. Charles garbage dump used to be located a few blocks from the church? It's true! Exactly 100 years ago, the property located at the southeast corner of Main Street and 5th Avenue was a dump. But in 1906, the community decided to fund a permanent library; and thanks to a donation from industrialist Andrew Carnegie, the St. Charles Public Library made its home there. You can read more about the St. Charles Public Library's history at <http://www.stcharleslibrary.org/contact/libraryhistory.htm>.

(Shortly afterward, we became their neighbor; the First Methodist Episcopal Church, as we were then called, moved next door in 1907).

**NO JULY MEETING!**  
**Our next meeting will be**  
**Thursday, August 17, 2006**  
**at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall.**

This comes to mind because my thoughts have been filled with the value of proper planning. For the past eight years, I have chaired the St. Charles Plan Commission. At the end of September, I will resign from the Commission as part of my transition to my new job as Kane County Supervisor of Assessments. And as I reflect on the past eight years, I can see the lessons of *planning* as opposed to *reacting*.

*Reacting* is trying to respond to today's needs with a solution that is immediate and works today, but may not be so good tomorrow. *Planning* is thinking not only about today, but about the next five to ten years (or longer) into the future.

In the case of our community, we *reacted* when a garbage dump was sited at the corner of 5th and Main. Sure, it was in the 19th century, before we really had a good idea about the extent of the environmental damage such a facility can cause; but let's face it, they stunk, even back then. It may have been chosen because it was close to the center of town and the land was available; but it soon became obsolete, and was nothing more than a hole in the ground, filled with garbage, with homes all around.

However, we also *planned* when we placed the library there in 1906. There was already a library in town (in a rented space, where McNally's Pub is today). But by planning for a larger facility and the future growth of St. Charles, we provided for a community need in a way that still works a century later. This past year, the St. Charles Public Library served more than 40,000 patrons, and checked out more than *one million items* (some weeks, it seems like most of them came to our house).

It's clear from the Bible that there are times that planning is not appropriate (Mark 13:11, for instance; however, that verse is hardly an endorsement of *reacting*, either). But most times (such as the plans God laid out in exacting detail in Exodus 25-31), God encourages thoughtful planning for the fulfillment of his wishes.

At our church, we are currently engaged in two efforts where we are now *planning*, instead of *reacting*. One is our budgeting. We used to do it near the end of the year, often running out of time in the process; this year, we are doing this work in the summer, developing a thoughtful budget that plans for the long-term ministry needs of the church rather than reacting to year-end time constraints. A second is our work of developing mission statements for each ministry team and committee, so that we can better coordinate the work of the church.

With your help, we can plan for the future of the Body of Christ, as the Holy Spirit guides us, instead of being buffeted about and reacting to the storms that the World puts in our way.

Your thoughts and comments are always welcome.

## **Agendas & Packets**

If you cannot be at a Church Council meeting and 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.

## **Meeting Summary**

There is no Church Council meeting in July, but that doesn't mean that the work of the church has gone on vacation! Many ministry teams and committees are hard at work, planning for the Fall start of our program year. Two items which should be matters for each ministry team, committee, and board are mission statements and budgeting. See the following items for more information.

## **Mission Statements**

Several ministry teams and committees have turned in their mission statements, and most of the rest have begun to work on this project. Please continue to develop these, so we can review them at the Church Council meeting in September. If you have questions, or just need help getting started, please contact Mark Armstrong at [mdarmstrong@smartgate.com](mailto:mdarmstrong@smartgate.com) or call him at 630-584-6905.

## **2007 Budgets**

Biff Staples, chairperson of the Committee on Finance, writes:

*The Finance Committee is accelerating the budgeting process for the upcoming fiscal year. At this point we anticipate that the Annual Charge Conference will take place in early November. This means that we need to begin our budgeting process earlier than in previous years.*

*We are asking that each committee and work area prepare a budget request by July 31, 2006. Each committee should request funding for the ministries it will pursue during 2007. Please submit your requests with detail for each item. Attached to this memo is a listing of the funds we have spent so far this year. Feel free to add or delete categories as needed for your area.*

*Please complete your budget sheet and return it to Jan McPeak in the church office no later than July 31. If you need help with this process, feel free to contact Jan, Jo Ann Poole, the church treasurer, or Biff Staples, the Finance Committee Chairperson.*

*Thank you for your help in this most important process.*

Please use the attached form for budgeting and return it to Biff no later than July 31, 2006.

## **Meeting Schedule**

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

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 United Methodist General Board of Discipleship (<http://www.gbod.org/>) is designed for "equipping world-changing disciples" and is a good source of information about a wide variety of United Methodist ministries, including Christian Education, Congregational Development, Evangelism, Small Group Ministry, and Stewardship. And if you want to waste a little time: <http://www.apple.com/trailers/> has links to many of the trailers for current movies, plus some upcoming ones, like *Spider-man 3* (scheduled for release in May 2007). *If you have a favorite web site, submit it to [mdarmstrong@smartgate.com](mailto:mdarmstrong@smartgate.com).*



## *Church Council Membership*

### **Chairperson**

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

### **Vice Chairperson (Lay Leader)**

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### **Chairpersons of Ministry Teams**

#### *Christian Education*

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#### *Mission and Outreach*

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#### *Parish Life*

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#### *Stewardship*

Doug Ruth . . . . . (630) 513-9627 . . . . . [dougandcathie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dougandcathie@sbcglobal.net)

#### *Worship and Spiritual Growth*

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#### *Youth*

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### **Chairpersons of Administrative Committees**

#### *Finance*

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#### *Lay Leadership*

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#### *Staff-Parish Relations*

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**Lay Members of Annual Conference**

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**Church Treasurer**

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**President of Board of Trustees**

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**President of United Methodist Women**

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**Professional Staff**

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Pastor Rich French . . . . . (630) 584-5736 . . . . . [rfrench@bakermemorialchurch.org](mailto:rfrench@bakermemorialchurch.org)

*Associate Pastor for Christian Education Ministries*

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*Senior Pastor*

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