

Baker Memorial United Methodist Church

Church Council Meeting Agenda

January 18, 2007 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*
- *servicing His people and Kingdom in Christian Love.*

- I. Welcome**
- II. Devotions** *Rick Carlson*
- III. Presentation of the Minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2006** *Jayne Scales*
- IV. Discussion regarding financial support for the Hassan family** *Pastor Ronni Verboom*
- V. Moving forward with the Youth Program** *Rick Carlson*
- VI. Reports of and Items from our Seven Ministry Teams**
 1. Christian Education *vacant*
 2. Evangelism *vacant*
 3. Mission and Outreach *Ben Adams*
 4. Parish Life *Loretta Wilson*
 5. Worship and Spiritual Growth *Jean Cole*
 6. Year-Round Stewardship *Doug Ruth*
 7. Youth *vacant*
- VII. Reports of and Items from other ministries of our parish**
 1. United Methodist Men *Rick House*
 2. United Methodist Women *Judy Schlarb*
- VIII. Reports of and Items from our Administrative Committees and Boards**
 1. Committee on Lay Leadership *Pastor Ronni Verboom*
 2. Committee on Staff-Parish Relations *Debbie Conterato*
 3. Board of Trustees *John Fell*
 4. Committee on Finance *Biff Staples*
- IX. Additional items from council members, parishioners, and others in attendance**
- X. Review of Action Items**
 1. Selecting a council member to present a devotion at the February meeting
 2. Other action items from this meeting
- XI. Church Council meeting announcements**
 1. Thursday, February 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall
 2. Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall
- 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

January 2007

From Mark's desk . . .

As we confess that vain and rash swearing is forbidden Christian men by our Lord Jesus Christ and James his apostle, so we judge that the Christian religion doth not prohibit, but that a man may swear when the magistrate requireth, in a cause of faith and charity, so it be done according to the prophet's teaching, in justice, judgement, and truth.—Article XXV, The Articles of Religion of the Methodist Church¹

Earlier this month, Keith Ellison became the first Muslim in the United States Congress. Representative Ellison made news because he chose to be sworn in while placing his left hand on a copy of the Koran instead of the traditional practice of placing his hand on a Bible.

The use of a Bible while declaring an oath is an old practice. In American government, George Washington first did it in 1789, and most presidents since have followed suit. There are a few exceptions: John Quincy Adams, a Unitarian, placed his hand on a book of laws. Theodore Roosevelt, our only Dutch Reformed president, chose to not use any book at all. Richard Nixon—and I'm not making this up—placed his hand on *two* Bibles.

**Our next meeting will be
Thursday, February 15, 2007
at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall.**

While it is not heard very much today, there has always been a debate among Christians regarding oath-taking. Some, citing Matthew 5:33-36, have stated that swearing an oath is absolutely forbidden. Others, citing the counsel of St. James (James 3:1:12) or the oath of Jephthah (Judges 11:29-40), hold that only rash and frivolous oaths are proscribed.

John Wesley appears to have subscribed to the latter view. One of the Articles of Religion sent to the Christmas Conference in 1784, was Article XXV, "Of a Christian Man's Oath" (see above); 223 years later, this remains as part of our doctrine, permitting us to take oaths in court, when we vote, and whenever we hold public office.

But what is to be made of swearing on a Bible, or Koran, or some other Holy book? Frankly, I don't think very much of the practice. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said,

³³"You have also heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.'³⁴But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, 'By heaven!' because heaven is God's throne. ³⁵And do not say, 'By the earth!' because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, 'By Jerusalem!' for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. ³⁶Do not even say, 'By my head!' for you can't turn one hair white or black. ³⁷**Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one.**" (emphasis added)

Quite simply, if a man is true to his word, then his simple "yes" or "no" is enough. And if he is a liar, then having a hand on a Bible (or two) will make no difference.

Your thoughts and comments are always welcome.

¹Adopted in 1784 at the founding of our denomination.

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 at least seven days prior to the meeting date. Any documents submitted will be included in the agenda packet.

Meeting Summary

The minutes will be available at the meeting on Thursday. There are two primary items on the agenda:

The ministerial staff recently received this letter; they have asked that the council consider this as an ongoing mission:

From: St. Charles Chamber of Commerce
To: rverboom@bakermemorialchurch.org
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2006 7:13 AM
Subject: St. Charles family needs your help

You may have recently read about a local St. Charles family in the Chicago Tribune. Karen Hassan was murdered November 2 near Powis Road just east of St. Charles as she attempted to deliver a pizza. After being laid off from her job with American Family Insurance, she had only taken the pizza delivery job several weeks earlier.

Her children, four boys, (ages 18 to 25) are struggling to make ends meet. Their father died six years ago after a heart attack and they have little extended family in the area. Due to their ages, they find themselves with little immediate financial or emotional support typically extended to young dependent children. Three of her four sons remain in the family's home on Mosedale Avenue. In addition to coping with the horrible reality of their mother's senseless death, they are overwhelmed with the responsibility of keeping their home and paying bills.

Thankfully, as a result of recent newspaper coverage, the family was contacted by Northern Illinois Food Bank to provide some food. However, money remains an immediate need. A memorial fund has been established at Harris Bank to help defray their mortgage and utility expenses until they can make some decisions for their future. The boys are looking for work while at least one of them (Chris) tries to continue his education at Elgin Community College. Chris hopes to transfer to DePaul when he graduates from ECC.

In the short term, the family could use gift certificates from area grocery stores, general merchandise stores such as Target and Meijer, gasoline gift cards, clothing and shoe stores, restaurants, or services and businesses that deal with their day to day needs (minor home repairs, appliance repairs, haircuts, etc.). Gift cards for entertainment options such as movie tickets and restaurants would permit these young men to enjoy a much needed distraction from the sadness that fills their days. Gift certificates/cards permit the family to supplement donations as their need arises and gives them some flexibility to buy what they want. They would also appreciate any donations of services from home maintenance businesses for plumbing, heating, and air conditioning emergencies; automotive repair businesses for routine maintenance, oil changes or new tires; medical/dental services, and appliance repair businesses.

The family will need assistance for an extended period of time as they attempt to rebuild their lives. If you are able to donate services, gift cards or groceries to assist this family, please contact Jill Humphrey at 630/587-2347 to arrange for pick-up or mail to 3006 King James Avenue, St. Charles, IL 60174. Jill is a St. Charles resident who is coordinating this effort on behalf of the family. If you want to make a holiday contribution to make a difference in the lives of someone in need, please consider sending a monetary donation to: Hassan Family Memorial Fund, Harris Bank, 1 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174.

Through community efforts, the goal is to create a safety net for this family for the next 12 months to permit them to move through their grief while maintaining their family home. These boys need some sense of security and support to face the many challenges that lie ahead. Please help in any way you can. Thank you.

Lori G. Hewitt
Executive Director
St. Charles Chamber of Commerce

The second major item comes from Lay Leader Rick Carlson, who will lead a roundtable discussion regarding the direction of the Youth Program.

Meeting Schedule

This is the meeting schedule for the remainder of the 2006-07 Administrative Year:

Thursday, February 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, April 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in Wiley Hall

2006-07 Church Council Membership

Chairperson

Mark Armstrong (630) 584-6905 mdarmstrong@smartgate.com

Vice Chairperson (Lay Leader)

Rick Carlson (630) 879-8789 carlson.r@sbcglobal.net

Recording Steward

Jayne Scales (630) 377-0089 jmarie55@comcast.net

Members at Large

Joan Arteberry Zavitz (630) 584-0904 jarteber@hotmail.com

Vic Temple (630) 377-3110 ginvictemp@aol.com

Evan Dutmer (630) 584-2031 sosal58rbi@hotmail.com

Margie Voll (630) 377-8120 johnavoll@comcast.net

Tom Trengove (630) 762-0379 tomt@mail.lemont.k12.il.us

Betty Erickson (630) 584-6183 n9yfc@aol.com

Chairpersons of Ministry Teams

Christian Education

vacant

Evangelism

vacant

Mission and Outreach

Ben Adams (630) 377-6912 werbanks@prodigy.net

Parish Life

Loretta Wilson (630) 513-5962 ltreeman@earthlink.net

Year-Around Stewardship

Doug Ruth (630) 513-9627 dougandcathie@sbcglobal.net

Worship and Spiritual Growth

Jean Cole (630) 513-6058 jecinstc@aol.com

Youth

vacant

Chairpersons of Administrative Committees

Finance

Biff Staples (630) 584-5283 bstaples@ats.bwauto.com

Lay Leadership

Pastor Ronni Verboom (630) 584-0441 . rverboom@bakermemorialchurch.org

Staff-Parish Relations

Debbie Conterato (630) 232-7519 dcontera@ballhort.com

Lay Members of Annual Conference

Ben Adams (630) 377-6912 werbanks@prodigy.net
Debbie Conterato (630) 232-7519 dcontera@ballhort.com
Kim Starr (630) 584-1762 dcstarr@ntsource.com

Sunday School Superintendent

Gina Armstrong (630) 584-6905 gmarmstrong@smartgate.com

Church Treasurer

Jean McCabe (630) 208-9210 [jlmccabe@aol.com](mailto:jlmcabe@aol.com)

President of Board of Trustees

John Fell (630) 584-4687 chgosprtmn@sbcglobal.net

President of United Methodist Men

Rick House (630) 262-3921 brhouse@mchsi.com

President of United Methodist Women

Judy Schlarb (630) 584-2181 jlschlarb1939@sbcglobal.net

Professional Staff

Business Manager

Jan McPeak (630) 584-3431 info@bakermemorialchurch.org

Director of Music Ministries

Jeff Hunt (630) 584-4251 mmsdir1@aol.com

Associate Pastor

Pastor Eunbae Doh (630) 444-1799 edoh@bakermemorialchurch.org

Senior Pastor

Pastor Ronni Verboom (630) 584-0441 . rverboom@bakermemorialchurch.org