

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHESTER, VA  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 14, 2010**

**Devotions and Opening Prayer:**

Don Smith

**Mission:** The Mission of Grace Lutheran Church is to enthusiastically serve God by believing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and sharing it with the community through our daily lives and service.

**Members Present:** Janet Arnold, Pat LaLonde, Pete Adler, Pete Burke, Dick Reese, Don Smith, Pastor Rich Finck, Jennifer Wayne and Debbie Walwer.

Council welcomes Jennifer Wayne who has agreed to serve as VP OF Administration position on council.

**Trustee's Presentation:** Ron Fischer: The church's insurance policy (Sanford – Brotherhood Mutual) has been studied and reviewed with the insurance company. We need to take an inventory of our furniture and keep a digital record. Important papers should be kept in a safety deposit box at a local bank. The amount of coverage for the organ needs to be increased and we need to purchase coverage for the art work. We need to go through our filing cabinets and locate insurance files and papers and organize them correctly to be sure they are safe and available when needed. Our furnace is covered by the insurance policy that covers repairs; we have paid for repairs in the past that are covered by the insurance. The insurance company representative recommended that we take steps to become incorporated so we are protected from litigation. Most churches in Chester are incorporated.

Increase Insurance Policy (to \$1,000,000.00)

Organize important paperwork

Create a digital record of furnishings and property (including artwork)

Rent a safe deposit box to keep important paperwork there

Dick Reese made a motion to have the trustees and or property director, Dave Long increase the insurance policy to cover the artwork, property and organ. The Trustees are responsible of seeing that we are adequately covered.

Cost per year for artwork-\$30.00, organ \$118.00, total increase is \$148.00.

The motion was seconded by Pastor Finck.

The motion was voted on and carried.

Pete Burke recommended that we accept the corrected minutes; this was seconded by Jennifer Wayne.

The AED has arrived and is in place.

**Pastor Finck's Presentation:** *Why Ablaze-Why the LCMS?* The goal of Ablaze is to reach out with the Gospel to a 100 million unreached or uncommitted people. Gospel Contacts: Membership needs to make Gospel Contacts and report them to the church so they may be added to the prayer list. The goal is to reach 100 million by October 31, 2017. Council approved our participation in the *Ablaze* program. Janet Arnold suggested we find a champion (Chairman) to organize the Ablaze program. Council suggested a goal for Gospel Contacts of 500. We need an Ablaze section on the website with information of the program. Debbie will contact Holly about adding an Ablaze section on the website.

### **Directors' reports:**

**Director of Finance, Dick Reese, Financial Report:** (filed in the library with Council meeting minutes)

The net worth report:

All of the old memorial funds have been combined to create a Memorial Account and moved all of them into the one account, Miscellaneous Missions Fund.

10% has been taken out of cell tower receipts and put into the Miscellaneous Missions budget. Dick recommended we disperse funds into this account quarterly.

**Community Ministry:** Motion was made to write checks to Jail Ministry, VIP Care and Apple of his Eye ministries. Motion Dick Reese made the motion, seconded by Pete Burke. Financial report was approved.

Financial review will be done by: Kurt Turner, Jeff Rowell, and Eleanor Shook.

**Church Calendar:** The calendars were presented for December and January, (copy is attached)

December 9, 2010-Chester Church Tour

December 15: Soup Supper will be held at 6:15 with Advent Services following at 7:00 pm.

December 19: Chester Church Tour (Peggy Gordon) and Christmas Party- will be held at Grace, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

December 21, 6:30 PM: Bad Girls Bible Study Christmas Party will be held at Marge McAllister's home.

December 24: Christmas Eve Services will be held 6:30 PM and 11:00 PM.

January 2: 12:00 noon: Assistant Minister training will be held.

January 6: Commissioning of the Nashville Mission Trip Workers at both services.

January 9: 12:30 noon, Nashville Mission Trip Planning meeting will be held.

January 9, 16, and 23: First Communion Instruction will be held.

January 9: Children's Pageant will be held.

January 17: Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Service held at 2<sup>nd</sup> Baptist Church in Chester.

January 30: Fifth Sunday and new member reception.  
Events for February, March and April were reviewed.

**Community Ministries**, Pete Adler: Eight Days of Hope-There is an Eight Days of Hope event in Nashville, TN in November, Pete plans to attend this to possibly prepare for the February Mission to Nashville, TN in February.

**Mission Trip:** (Pete Adler) Nashville, TN, February 13-20, 2011, more information will be announced. Flood Relief, drywall, flooring, and electrical repairs will be made.

Janet Arnold: Soles4Souls has finished collecting shoes for the needy.

Janet visited a church that included sign up sheets for activities and responsibilities to be collected during the service during the taking of attendance or included in the worship folder.

Janet read a book, "When Helping Hurts." Janet would like to keep *Friends of Barnabus* alive at Grace. The monthly teams would like to shift focus on repeat visitation to villages and empower the communities. Janet asked for \$1,456.00 and would receive matching funds. Janet moved that the first miscellaneous mission fund be donated to the Friends of Barnabus. Motion was seconded and approved.

**Deacons:** Pete Burke, no report.

**Family Ministries:** Pat LaLonde

Pat has been working with the Youth. A study of the prayer list will be done. Pat Lalonde will lead participation of the Youth Group to support those on the prayer list with notes, craft projects and other support.

**Christmas Party** is Sunday, December 19 from 6:30-9:00PM. Set up for party Saturday at 2:00 PM

**Correspondence:** St. John's Episcopal Church: Thank you note for allowing us to hold the Community Thanksgiving Service at Grace.

**Pastor's report:** filed in the library with the December Council Meeting minutes.

**Don Smith:** We have been given an electronic piano; however we need to give them a statement of worth or valuation. Council agreed the worth is the responsibility of the donor to determine the worth of the donation. We can provide documentation of receipt of the piano.

### **Areas of Emphasis:**

**Spiritual Growth:** Members of Grace are growing strong in the Word, regular in prayer, and active in worship.

**Youth:** Youth are joyfully and actively involved in the ministry of our church family

**Outreach:** Members of Grace are motivated, trained and actively reaching out to the community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Copies of December's financial report and Pastor's report will be filed in the library.

**Closing with prayer:** Pastor Finck

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Walwer  
Director of Communications