

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHESTER, VA  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 8, 2011**

**Devotions:** Don Smith

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Rich Finck

**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, Joe Hudgins, Jean Hudgins, Dave Long, Jennifer Wayne, Pete Adler, Pete Burke, Dick Reese, Don Smith, Pastor Rich Finck, Jennifer Wayne, John Philipkosky, Trish Riggs, Bob Dunn and Debbie Walwer.  
Guest: Bob Dunn.

**Directors' reports:**

**Director of Finance, Dick Reese, and Financial Report:**

The January financial report was distributed to council members. (The report is filed in the library with Council meeting minutes.)

We finished the year with a surplus of \$17,000.00.

Pete moved to accept the financial report, it was seconded and approved. The district recommends that we use the Ablaze funds in another ministry item unless we are going to use the Ablaze funds for the Ablaze program.

We are using the cell tower proceeds for a restricted fund in order to keep track of the funds. Dick suggested that we move the cell tower funds to general unrestricted savings fund and use them as needed. John Philipkosky moved to approve the January financial report, it was seconded by Pete Adler and council voted to approve the report.

**Planning Committee Report, Bob Dunn:**

We have time to do planning for the future. We have several committees in the structure of the planning committee.

Planning Committee members:

Family Life and Youth-Bob Eley

Education-Sandra Marr

Worship-Bob Merrill

Fellowship-Pete Burke

Finance-Larry Grimes

Fine Arts/Furnishings-Peggy Gordan

Music-Sandra Marr

Memorials-Dave Long

Administration and Facilities-Rob Eley

Prayer-Pastor Rich Finck

Advisor-Reade Shook

Subcommittees developed wants/needs/wish list.

The Planning Committee created a savings account with Lutheran Church Extension.

We have \$13,221.02 in the planning fund savings account.

A Tour of Good Shepherd was taken by the committee.

An architect was hired to do a conceptual master plan for expansion. We have a CD of the plans. We need to educate the congregation to develop understanding and support.

We have not experienced the growth we expected with the growth of Chesterfield

County.

Bob Dunn suggested that 50% of the cell tower funds go towards the fund to expand.

To move forward the planning committee needs council to pray for guidance on our future construction and to keep the Planning Committee informed of concerns brought to them from the congregation.

**Church Calendar:** The calendars were presented for February

Feb 13, 2011 9:30 Chester Village Women's Club

February 13, 2011 Nashville Mission Trip week

Feb 20, 2011 during Sunday School Mission Presentation by the Crawford's (the Cimas' parents) will present information about the Cima's mission in Vietnam.

February 27, 2011 Pastor Finck will be with the Youth on their Ski Trip.

March 8, 2011 Shrove Tuesday, Council Meeting

March 11, 2011 9:30 Chester Village Women's Club

March 12, 2011 A wheelchair ramp will be constructed.

March 13, 2011 Daylight Savings Time begins

April 9, 2011 Clean Up Day

April 16, 2011 Fisher Wedding

May 20-21, 2011 Leadership Retreat

May 29, 2011 Fifth Sunday

Town Hall Meeting: March 20, 2011 after the second service

Congregational Meeting: March 27, 2011 at 9:30 during the Sunday school hour

Congregational Meeting: May 1, 2011 at 12 noon, (Director's reports)

Mother's Day: May 8, 2011

Don Smith reported that the AEDs have been checked in January and February and are operating.

**Community Ministries**-Pete Adler: Eight Days of Hope Gulf Coast Mission Trip. Members will be repairing houses that have been flooded out. The inside of the volunteer house will be painted.

Mission Trip: (Pete Adler) A mission trip to Nashville, TN, will take place on February 13-20, 2011. Flood Relief, drywall, flooring, and electrical repairs will be made to home damaged by flooding. Pete thanked the congregation for their support financially for the Mission Trip to Tennessee.

**Correspondence:** Thank You note from Michael and Carey Winberry.  
Thank You note from Larry and Deby Welty for Reade Shook's reception following his memorial service.

**Pastor's report:** Pastor Finck presented the January Pastor's Report; a copy is filed in the library with the February Council Meeting minutes.

**Property Committee Chairman, Dave Long:** Dave researched the idea of incorporating the church after the Trustee's report in December brought up concerns for our liability. The deacon's are not responsible for the wrongdoing that may happen in the church as far as liability. Volunteers are exempt from liability. Our lawyer said that there would be no benefit for us to be incorporated.

Ron Fisher reviewed our insurance policy and suggested we increase our coverage. Dave will look into how much liability insurance we need. Dave has increased our property coverage on the organ and other property.

Rental Property has incurred problems. We had new pipes installed as roots had to be removed from the pipes. Bathrooms were repaired. We need to plant trees to hide the home's deck from the road.

The church basement needs new tiles. The estimated cost is \$2500.00.

The heating problems in the church have been resolved.

The Memorial Garden has approximately \$10,000.00 in its fund.

**Outreach,** Tricia Riggs: Souls4Soles, we received a thank you note for our contribution.

**Finance,** Dick Reese: There is a district finance meeting coming up in the future and Dick will get input on the incorporation issue. We need to make sure we have counters here each Sunday.

**Deacons, Pete Adler:** We need to find a few more members to serve as deacons.

**Financial Review,** John Philipkosky: The financial review team will meet in the next few weeks.

**Community Ministries,** Pat Lalonde: The youth made cards for children who have suffered critical health issues and treatments. Pat asked about the toilet in the Youth Room area be repaired and reminded council about her concerns that the Youth Room needs sprucing up. Pat is working on nursery roll packets for children new to our church.

**Outreach**, Jean Hudgins: Jean suggested that visitors be given a carnation or a ribbon that they can wear so other members will be able to identify visitors. The coffee that was put out in the vestibule was well received.

**Vice President of Missions**, Janet Arnold:

Ablaze Movement, Janet Arnold: The Ablaze movement has been active for 3-4 years. Greg Gross is ready to lead the church to move forward in the Ablaze movement. The Ablaze movement is about building relationships with others to spread God's word. (check website or last months minutes for details). Small groups within the church membership will be visited to explain the Ablaze movement and guide them in the tools to help them with this effort.

### **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 February's financial report and Pastor's report will be filed in the library.

**Council President**, Don Smith: Suggested that the congregation use their email to check the website and Grace Vine to keep up with church activities and responsibilities.

**Closing with prayer:** Pastor Finck

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Walwer  
Director of Communications