



THE EPISTLE

St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

August 29, 2011
Volume 46 Number 47

480 S. Highland
Memphis, TN 38111-4302
901.452.6262
www.stlukesumc.org

Carrying the Cross *Joyce Rupp*

Jesus, grant us strength to carry our cross:



- † On those days when life seems too demanding with all its cares, burdens, and concerns...
- † When we experience great loneliness deep inside and the pain of separation fills our spirits...
- † When we feel the pain of our world and unite in compassion with the Earth's suffering people...
- † When we struggle with decision-making and the time comes to make good choices about our lives...
- † When we are with others in their physical pain or when we vigil with one who has a terminal illness...
- † When we are asked to go the extra mile, to be generous with our time and our presence...
- † When we feel weary and worn out, when it seems like all of our energy has been drained away...
- † When we are challenged to risk our security and to accept new growth in our relationship with you...
- † When we experience the effects of aging or extended illness on our bodies or our minds...
- † When we feel discouraged, desolate, and depressed and want to withdraw from others...
- † When worries and concerns choke our peacefulness and leave us with anxiety and fear...
- † When we harbor old wounds and are called to offer or to receive forgiveness...

Crucified Jesus, help us to take up our cross day by day. Through these crosses we can grow closer to you. Help us to lean on you and to learn from you. May we not give into self-pity or self-doubt. Rather, let us trust in your presence which strengthens us. Encourage us on our tomb-like days. Remind us of your resurrection. Help us to keep our vision focused on life and growth. *Amen*

MISSION STATEMENT

"We are becoming a faithful community of disciples striving to share the heart, mind and hands of Jesus Christ."

Pastor Mark's Epistle

Dear Friends,
TESTIFY!

What do you think of when that verb comes up? an old Perry Mason episode? swearing to tell the truth? something you might dread, like you are "on the spot?" Well, I'd like to stimulate our thinking toward a positive St. Luke's attitude toward testimony. You might want to find a synonym. You might like to write it down rather than speaking it aloud to someone, much less a big group! But the great thing is, personal testimony can be a truly wonderful thing. We experienced it the other night in session one of "Fruitful Living." Two of our newest members simply shared from the heart about what God is doing in their lives and how much the St. Luke's family means to them. Friends, if a picture is worth a thousand words, I do declare to you that a good testimony is worth a thousand sermons!

We are moving toward a dynamic October that will focus on Extravagant Generosity in our stewarding of all God has given us, not just money. I request that YOU think and pray about what your own testimony might be. If you are a "private" person, keep it between you and God. If you are willing to write it down and give it to a Pastor, please do so. If you volunteer or get called upon to share it "out loud," please consider that, too.

Great days are surely ahead for St. Luke's! Part of that future will be like a paved road for us with heartfelt, genuine, Christ-centered testimonies!

In service, Pastor Mark

Charge Conference

Sunday, October 30, 5:00 p.m., Chapel

All members of St. Luke's are invited to attend.

Join us in Worship

Sunday, September 4

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50

"Love Train"

Romans 13: 8-10

Pastor Mark Matheny

Sunday, September 11

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50

UMW Sunday

Rev. Dianne Harrison

"The Top Six"

Matthew 25: 31-46



the element

Sundays 6:00pm,
Fellowship Hall

Sept. 4: Music - Food for the Soul
Psalm 100

Sept 11: Picking Up the Pieces
Romans 12

On September 11, the United Methodist Women plan to recognize and celebrate all First Responders in our church community. This includes firemen, policemen, Emergency Medical Technicians, Red Cross, responders to Katrina and flood victims.

If you know of people in these occupations, past and present, invite them to church and give their names to the church office or Gwynne McKenzie. Thank you.

Together We Grow....

Wednesday Dinner and Activities

Study

5 Practices of Fruitful Living
Led by Pastor Mark, Lounge

Service

Hands Activity - CLC 103
8/31 - Assemble College Bags
9/7 - Make "plarn" for plastic mats
Prayer Shawl Ministry - Parlor

Creative

Writing, Advent Devotional Book - MB 211
Media team - MB 304

Wellness

Cooking with Coach, MB 310
Walking or Fitness in the Gym
Yoga - MB 213

Come see how your faith can GROW on Wednesday nights.

Fellowship Meal

Salad Bar available every week.
August 31: Pork Chops, Cornbread, White beans, turnip greens, Pudding
Sept. 7: Chicken Tetrizzini, Spinach, Rolls, Cherry Cobbler
Chicken nuggets available for children.

Please help us to prepare the correct amount of food by making reservations by noon on Tuesday. Baked Chicken is available each week if requested when making reservations.

HELP OUR YOUNG ADULT GROUP!



Did you know that we have a faithful group of College-aged people that meet for dinner and time together each week? Our budget is small, so if you can help feed us, we would greatly appreciate it!

A casserole for about 12 would be perfect. If you can donate a casserole that can be put in the freezer to be used as needed (please include cooking instructions), it would help this ministry tremendously!
Contact Beth Ryan for more information.
beth.ryan@stlukesumc.org

YOUTH NEWS

Hey guys! Here's what we have going on over the next couple of weeks:

Wednesday, Aug. 31

5:45 - Dinner

6:30 - "Together We Grow"

Sunday, Sept. 4

9:30 - Sunday School (*Helper- need one!*)

No Evening Activities

Wednesday, Sept. 7

5:45 - Dinner

6:30 - "Together We Grow"

Saturday, Sept. 10

Noon - Kickball Team Game

(at Hope Pres. Baseball Field #2)

3:30 - Youth Girls prepare Saturday Supper

Sunday, Sept. 11

9:30 - Sunday School (*Helper- Karen Wilson*)

5:00-7:00 - Dinner (*Diane Chick*) and Youth

We will begin our new group of lessons about making good decisions about media!

Peace, Beth

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Big Change! We will meet on Tuesdays (at least for this semester) Here's our schedule for the next couple of weeks:

Tuesday, August 30 - 6 p.m. - Meet at church for dinner and discussion on [Banned Questions About the Bible](#).

Tuesday, Sept. 6 - 6 p.m. - Meet at church for dinner and Movie Night

Peace, Beth

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

KICKBALL LEAGUE

Come support the youth kickball team.

First game is Sept. 10, Noon, Hope Pres. #2

New Zumba Class

Tuesdays, 7:00, \$5.00 per class

Free Yoga - Two opportunities each week to strengthen your body and mind. Wednesday nights with April Carpenter at 6:30 and Thursday nights with Kelly Gardner at 6:15.

Basketball sign-ups have started.

Registrations forms are available at the desk.

Remember Him Always, Coach Day

Congregational Support

GIFTS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:

Giles Colbert from Nancy Thomason, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Dow, Jr, Marjorie Porter, Mary Lou Cushing, Jo Ann Shelton, Chancel Choir, Ed & Nita Barlow, Your Longstreet Friends, Deborah Patrick, Mr. & Mrs. Royce Bullock, Patti Robinson, Renee & Carl Iannazzo, Paul & Joyce Burrow, Ben Burrow, Jr., Sandra & Joy, Dan & Cindy Burrow, Keith Munday, David & Lois Barth, Ethel McCaughan;

Elliott Puckett from Mary Lou Cushing

Carl Seiffert from Valerie, Hazen, Alison & Jim Cowan

GIFTS RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:

Pastor Mark from Maureen Pera

Eleanor New from Mary Lou Cushing

PRAYER CONCERNS OF OUR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY

Deborah Lewis

Minnie Grabowski

Marty Cobb

Tom Curry

Hugh Simpson

Lily Smith

Jean Hastings

Virginia Lawson

Our missionaries,

David & Lorie Persons

Radio Broadcast

WREC 600 AM, 8 - 9:00 a.m.

The service from August 21 was broadcast on August 31,
paid by St. Luke's UMC

The service from August 31, broadcast on Sept. 4, is
dedicated to the Glory of God in memory of

Charles Lynn, Jr.

by Rev. Shirley Lynn

For hospital and prayer concerns, call our "What's Happening Line" at 901-327-0006, updated by noon Mon. - Thurs.

Welcome back, Pastor Bee!

We welcome Bee and Niels back from vacation and lift up their daughter, Hanna, and son, Fletcher. Blessings!

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Katherine Lambert-Pennington, daughter of Larry and Elaine Lambert who received the Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty.

Katherine is the Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Memphis.

I Want to Surrender

Sam Keen, "To a Dancing God"

God, I want to surrender
to the rhythm of music and sea,
to the seasons of ebb and flow,
to the tidal surge of love.

I am tired of being hard,
tight, controlled,
tensed against tenderness,
afraid of softness.

I am tired of directing my world,
making, doing, shaping.

Tension is ecstasy in chains.
The muscles are tightened to
prevent trembling.

Nerves strain to prevent trust,
hope, relaxation....

Surrender is a risk
no sane man may take.
Sanity never surrendered
is a burden no man may carry.

God give me madness
that does not destroy
wisdom,
responsibility,
love.

CHARITABLE GIFT PLANNING

Stocks and bonds are excellent means of making a gift to your Church. You can be entitled to an income tax deduction, if you give securities during your life time. Under current laws, appreciated securities and real estate can be deductible for federal income tax purposes at their current market value. In most cases the appreciation is not taxed at all. Consider using such outright gifts to make your gift larger for current ministries, special gifts, or the church endowment fund.



MUSIC NOTES

It's Not Too Late...

...to sign up for Cherub or Chorister Choirs. Each group begins at 6:25.

Cherubs (ages 3 through kindergarten) meet on the 1st floor, Masters Children's Building. Children learn songs in a fun, engaging atmosphere. They participate in group rhythm activities and games and crafts. Cherubs sing monthly for Sunday morning services and other special events.

Choristers (grades 1-5) rehearse in the Choir Room. Choristers begin to "read music" as they learn anthems and service music incorporating various percussion instruments and handchimes. This choir shares in worship services once a month.

Feel free to contact Jay (452.6262 or Jay.Walker@StLukesUMC.org) for more info. Come and join the fun of music at St Luke's.

Senior Choir

We're just about the laughin'est, grinnin'est group of golden oldies that you will ever meet. Our senior adult choir sings a lot of different styles of music but specialize in old gospel favorites. We perform at local nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and sing occasionally for the 8:30 and 10:50 services as well as other church events. There are no particular age requirements though most of us are over 25. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 10:15 until 11 am in the choir room.

No auditions for great musical ability but you must absolutely have a happy heart!



United
Methodist
Women

It's time to start back with our monthly UMW general unit meetings. The first of this year will be **Tuesday, September 6**, at 11a.m.

Will You Be There?

If you answered yes to this question and you plan to eat lunch, *please, please, please* make reservations by Sept. 1. The program will be "World Thank Offering" presented by Naomi Circle. Bring your offering to the meeting or to your circle.

Our executive board meeting will be at 9:45 before the Sept. 6 unit meeting.

Are You a Good Driver?

The **transportation ministry** is in need of more bus drivers on Sunday mornings. The only requirement is that you must be at least 25 yrs of age with a valid driver's license; no experience required, and training will be provided. This is a vital ministry in the life of St. Luke's and its members who need transportation to and from Sunday School and church. The time required is approximately an hour before Sunday School or an hour after the 10:50 church service. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact the church office (452-6262), Mary Lou Cushing (428-2812), or Warren Morrison (323-7446). Please prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry.

Young at Heart Trip to Jackson

On Tuesday, September 27, the Young at Heart will attend the Memphis Conference Older Adult Ministry's fall seminar. We will leave the church at 7:30 am and return about 4:00 pm. Speakers include Dennis Neenan who will talk on "Staying Connected", ideas for our members who can't go to many of the Young at Heart activities. We will also hear from Jane Nuckolls who will tell us about "Eating for Vitality." Her talk will include food interactions with medications, nutrition pointers and how to store food for safe eating. Make your reservation now and enjoy the entire day, including snacks, lunch and travel for only \$20. The deadline to signup is Thursday September 15. Please turn in your check when you register to Betty Green, Virginia Hathorn or Vicki Hobbs.

The United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men

are cooking up a special treat for you on **October 16th**. An Italian spaghetti luncheon, with a secret recipe (lots of meat), garlic bread, salad, and those wonderful homemade desserts.

Tickets are \$6.00 each, with a family max of \$15.00. They'll start serving at 11:00, and you can eat there or take it home.

Um-um, I'm hungry already!

Sherwood Elementary News

Many thanks to you for your wonderful response to the request for school supplies for Sherwood . We were able to provide tote bags filled with supplies for the fifth graders with many supplies left over. A special thanks to the UMW for the bake sale to raise money and for the many who helped fill the tote bags with the supplies. The fifth graders were able to get off to a good start at school and were very appreciative. School supplies are needed throughout the school year so you may continue to bring them and put them in the Sherwood box in the 1st floor elevator lobby.

If anyone would like to volunteer to tutor, please contact me. Thanks, Barbara Caldwell 323-0919

Connectional September Opportunities

- Rally with new **Bishop Ben Chamness**, Sunday, September 18, 6 p.m. First UMC, Jackson. St. Luke's bus will depart at 4 p.m.
- **Call to Action Lay Training Event** McKendree District and the Asbury District. Thursday, September 15, 2011 at 6:30 pm. Our host will be Colonial Park UMC, 5330 Park Avenue, Memphis, TN 38119. (*Corner of Park and Estate*).
- Installation of our new District Superintendent, **Dr. Cynthia Davis**. Sunday, September 25th, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. at Emmanuel UMC in Memphis. St. Luke's bus departs at 2 p.m.

A bus reservation list for these events will be at the Hospitality Desk beginning Sept. 6.

"Tear Down the Walls!"

Coming up on **Thursday, September 8th** at 7:00 p.m. is a special rally focusing on Public Education in Memphis/Shelby County. It will be held in the Rose Theater at U of M, Rabbi Micah Greenstein and Rev. Steve Montgomery along with others will lead a dynamic program, and we of St. Luke's ought to be supportive.

NOTE: St. Luke's will provide "shuttle bus" service to and from the meeting, from CLC "carport" and back, starting at 6:15 p.m. and then returning for as many times as needed afterward. The event is supposed to conclude at approximately 8:30 p.m. Do your part and come on out!

HANDS MINISTRIES

Hands Committee Meeting

Monday, September 26, 6:00 p.m.

Put this on your calendar and plan to attend.

Wednesday Service Opportunity

The Hands committee will be assembling different types of bags on Wednesday evenings. We need your help to supply some of these items.

- **College Student Bags:** Microwave popcorn, single serve snacks, single serve powder drink mix, post-it notes, notecards and stamps, single use detergent and dryer sheets, quarters.
- **Shut-In Bags:** Pocket Kleenex pkgs, hand/body lotion, body powder, lip balm, emery boards, baby wipes, devotion books, notecards and stamps.
- **Hygiene Bags:** Travel size soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, mouthwash, deodorant, nail clippers, emery boards, feminine hygiene products.
- **Emergency Meal Sacks:** Bottled water, Vienna sausages, cheese/peanut butter crackers, fruit cups, cookies.



Please bring your items to the elevator lobby on the first floor. We also need plastic grocery store bags (no newspaper bags) which will be used in a creative way to make waterproof mats for our homeless neighbors.

The schedule for the Wednesday night hands activities are:

Sept. 7 - Cut plastic bags for waterproof mats

Sept 14 - Prepare casseroles for yourself and our homebound members.

Sept 21 - Assemble angel bags for homebound.

You are invited to sign up for these activities in the Hospitality Hall, contact names are on each sign-up sheet.

St. Luke's Calendar: August 31 - September 15

Wednesday August 31

- 6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
- 5:45pm – 7:20pm Fellowship Dinner & Activities - FH
- 6:25pm - 7:35pm Children's Choir and Activities
- 7:30pm - 9:00pm Chancel Choir - MB Choir Rm

Thursday September 1

- 9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
- 9:15am – 10:00am Day School Chapel - Chapel
- 9:30am – 12:00pm Food Pantry - CLC 108
- 6:00pm – 8:30pm Stephen Ministry Training - MB 106
- 6:00pm – 10:00pm Jesus Is Lord Adult BB - Gym

Friday September 2

- No Scheduled Activities

Saturday September 3

- 4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH

Sunday September 4

- 8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast and Sunshine Service - FH
- 8:30am – 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary
- 9:30am – 10:30am Sunday School
- 10:50am – 12:00pm Worship - Sanctuary
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm Youth Handbells - MB, 207
- 4:30pm – 5:30pm Youth Worship Arts - Choir Room
- 4:30pm – 6:00pm LIFE Group - MB 106
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm Wesley Handbells - MB, 207
- 5:00pm – 7:00pm Youth Dinner & Activities - MB, 3rd Fl.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday September 5

- Offices closed for Labor Day Holiday

Tuesday September 6

- 9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
- 10:00am – 11:30am Staff Meeting - MB 310
- 11:00am – 12:00pm UMW Luncheon - FH
- 6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - Kitchen 310/311
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm Trustee's Meeting - MB, 106
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm Zumba - CLC, gym
- 7:00pm – 8:30pm Boy Scouts - Scout Hut

Wednesday September 7

- 6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
- 10:00am – 12:00pm American Sewing Guild - CLC 105
- 5:45pm – 7:20pm Dinner & Activities - FH
- 6:25pm – 7:35pm Children's Choirs & Activities

Thursday September 8

- 9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
- 9:15am – 10:00am Day School Chapel - Chapel
- 9:30am – 12:00pm Food Pantry - CLC 108
- 10:00am - 12:00pm LIFE Group - MB 211
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Day School Advisory Board - MB, 211
- 6:00pm – 8:30pm Stephen Ministry Training - MB 106
- 6:00pm – 10:00pm Jesus Is Lord Adult BB - Gym
- 6:15pm – 7:30pm Yoga - Lounge

Friday September 9

- 6:00pm – 7:00pm Wed. Rehearsal Haggard/Davison - Sanct

Saturday September 10

- 4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH
- 5:00pm – 7:00pm Tony Jenkins Birthday Party - Lounge
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm Wedding Haggard/Davison - Sanctuary

Sunday September 11

- 8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast and Sunshine Service - FH
- 8:30am – 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary
- 9:00am – 10:00am Blood Pressure Check - CLC, 104
- 9:30am – 10:30am Sunday School
- 10:50am – 12:00pm Worship - Sanctuary
- 1:30pm – 5:00pm McKendree UMW District Mtg - Sanc.
- 4:00pm – 4:30pm Youth Handbells - MB, 207
- 4:30pm – 5:30pm Youth Worship Arts - Choir Room
- 5:00pm – 6:00pm Wesley Handbells - MB, 207
- 5:00pm – 7:00pm Youth Dinner & Activities - MB, 3rd Fl.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday September 12

- 9:30am – 10:00am Staff Prayers - Chapel
- 10:00am – 11:00am Veterans - FH
- 10:30am – 2:30pm Loyalty-Fellowship Ladies - Lounge
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm Grief Support Group - Parlor
- 5:00pm – 8:00pm Program Ministry Team - Lounge
- 7:00pm – 10:00pm Monday Night Basketball - Gym

Tuesday September 13

- 9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
- 10:15am – 11:15am Senior choir - Choir Room
- 6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - Kitchen 310/311
- 6:30pm – 8:00pm Naomi Circle UMW - lounge
- 7:00pm – 8:00pm Zumba - CLC, gym
- 7:00pm – 8:30pm Boy Scouts - Scout Hut

Wednesday September 14

- 6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
- 5:45pm – 7:20pm Dinner & Activities - FH
- 6:25pm – 7:35pm Children's Choirs & Activities

Thursday September 15

- 9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
- 9:15am – 10:00am Day School Chapel - Chapel
- 9:30am – 12:00pm Food Pantry - CLC 108
- 10:00am - 12:00pm LIFE Group - MB 211
- 6:00pm – 8:30pm Stephen Ministry Training - MB 106
- 6:00pm – 10:00pm Jesus Is Lord Adult BB - Gym
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm Yoga - Lounge

MB-Main Building, FH-Fellowship Hall,
CLC-Christian Life Center, CB-Children's Building



Look for us on Facebook! "St. Luke's UMC, Memphis" and "St. Luke's Kids and Families." Spread the word and keep up with what's happening in our family.

Are You Ready for something fresh and exciting?

St. Luke's new website will be going live Sept. 1. Check out our fresh new look!
stlukesumc.org

For the most current calendar information
visit our website - www.stlukesumc.org

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PERIODICALS
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MEMPHIS, TN

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Want to get connected? - Contact Pastor Bee

Registration is now open for St. Luke's Church-wide Fall Retreat

October 1 and 2, 2011

St. John's Retreat Center, Nelson Woods

Take the opportunity to worship, study,
play, and relax together as we enjoy
the wonders of God's creation.

This year's theme is
"It's Your Move."

Using popular games as a metaphor
for our temporal lives, the sessions
will help us sort out what is fleeting
and what is permanent in God's reign.
Being master of the board is not the
point; being rich toward God is!

Look for registration forms this Sunday.

See you around the coffee pot at the
retreat center, where good stories, games,
and laughs abound.



Top 10 Reasons YOU should Tithe:

#7: Parking meters are going to be installed in the parking lot.

#6: The offering plates are going to be sold and replaced with ice cream buckets.

What is your top reason for tithing?

RECORD OF LOYALTY

<i>Sunday School Attendance - 8/21</i>	187
<i>Sunday School Attendance - 8/28</i>	226

Worship Attendance - August 21, 2011

<i>Sunshine Service</i>	72
<i>8:30 a.m. - Worship</i>	58
<i>10:50 a.m. - Worship</i>	314
<i>Element</i>	41
<i>Total</i>	485

Worship Attendance - August 28, 2011

<i>Sunshine Service</i>	68
<i>8:30 a.m. - Worship</i>	69
<i>10:50 a.m. - Worship</i>	316
<i>Element</i>	32
<i>Total</i>	485

Gifts & Tithes Received

August 21, 2011	\$6657.00
August 28, 2011	\$6680.60

The next **Epistle** will be published on Monday, September 12. **Please have any articles for publication turned in by Sunday, 5:00pm, September 11.**