



THE EPISTLE

St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

November 14, 2011
Volume 47 Number 3

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

Happy Thanksgiving

HIS COMPASSIONS FAIL NOT. THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING:

great is thy faithfulness.

LAMENTATIONS 3: 22-23



Prepare for...

**Christmas
Gifts that won't Break**

Hope - Love - Joy - Peace

Most of us know both the joy of unwrapping a much anticipated gift on Christmas morning and the agony of breaking or losing that gift a few months later. No matter how much joy and excitement a present gives us, the bliss is temporary.

During this season of advent join us in worship as we experience the everlasting gifts of Christmas that lead us to the ultimate expression of God's love for us, the gift of Christ.



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,

We come now to the Thanksgiving season, a time when dedicated Christians evince an "attitude of gratitude" in acknowledgment that all good things come from God, our Creator and Sustainer.

May travel mercies be with families who go on the road, and if you have family members visiting with you, I hope we will get to see them in Worship at St. Luke's!

Please note there are at least four very tangible ways you can express gratitude and support God's work among us in this season...

- Watch for your Thanksgiving Offering letter and respond by bringing it with you to St. Luke's on a Sunday or by sending it in; we will be supporting World Service, the prime Mission arm of United Methodists globally;*
- Catch up time is nigh!; it's very important that each of us gets up to date in our 2011 giving for the multiple ministries of St. Luke's here at 480 S. Highland;*
- In case you have not yet turned in your Estimate of Giving card for 2012, please do so right away; we hope to finalize our new Budget by the end of this month;*
- Most essential of all, please PRAY for the patient, persevering witness of your beloved congregation during these challenging days; may we always be "harbingers of Hope" in this struggling world!*

Thanks and God Bless, Pastor Mark

Join us in Worship

Sunday, November 20

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
Stephen Ministry Commissioning
2 Corinthians 5: 16-21
"A New Normal"
Rev. Birgitte T. French

Sunday, November 27

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
First Sunday in Advent
Matthew 1: 18-21
"The Gift of Hope"
Pastor Mark



the element
Sundays 6:00pm,
Fellowship Hall

CHURCH COUNCIL TO MEET

Our next Church Council meeting will be on Monday, November 27th, 6:30 p.m., in the Chapel. The 2011 Budget as well as other important items will be our topic of discussion. All council members will need to be present for his important meeting.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our Charge Conference for 2012 is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel. We will have the nominations for the 2012 officers and other business to present. All members of St. Luke's are encouraged to attend.

Together We Grow....

Wednesday Dinner and Activities

Activity Options for October Study

Two studies to choose in November

16, & 30, Serving from the Heart, Bettye Masters

A journey of Self-Discovery and Service

Does your ministry plan match who God created you to be?

God's plan for the church calls each member to play a vital role. This study will help you consider your own spiritual gifts, helping you to serve in an enhanced capacity with God.

Pastor Mark studies in the Lounge

16 - "The Apostle Paul Gives Thanks"

30 - "New Perspectives on Advent"

Service

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Parlor

Wellness

16, 30 Cooking with Coach - 3rd Fl. Kitchen

Walking or Fitness in the Gym

Community

16, 30 Board games and puzzles - MB 311

Children

Cherub Choir, ages 3-6 and Team Grow Activities

Chorister Choir, ages 7- 10 and Team Grow Activities

Come see how your faith can GROW

Fellowship Meal

Nov. 16 - **POTLUCK**

Nov. 30 - Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Sherbet; Salad Bar;

Chicken nuggets available for children.

We are excited about the increased fellowship and attendance of our Wednesday dinners! However, 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.

New Children's Ministry Director

We would like to welcome **Amy Pearson** to our St. Luke's staff. Amy will be serving as the new Director of Children's Ministries. She will start part-time on Nov. 15 and begin full-time on Dec. 1. Please join us in welcoming Amy to the St. Luke's family!

YOUTH NEWS

Hey guys!

Here's what we have going on:

Wednesday, Nov. 16

5:45 - Dinner

6:30 - Together We Grow Activities

Sunday, Nov. 20

9:30 - Sunday School (*Debbie Cargile*)

4:00 - Youth Handbells and Creative Worship

5:00 - Dinner (*Wofford*)

and Youth Activities

Wednesday, Nov. 23

NO Wednesday Activities

Sunday, Nov. 27

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

No Sunday Evening Activities

Wednesday, Nov. 30

5:45 - Dinner

6:30 - Together We Grow Christmas Party

Peace, Beth

FRUIT SALE!!!

THANK YOU so much for your support of our youth programs through the fruit sale!

The fruit is scheduled to be available for your pick up on Sunday, Dec. 4!

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Here's the schedule for the next few weeks:

Saturday, Nov. 19 - 8:00 a.m. - Young Adults

will meet at church to carpool to a home close by where we will be building a handi-cap ramp and doing some yard clean up.

Wear work clothes and bring work gloves, safety glasses and a hammer. Hope all of you can make it!

Tuesday, Nov. 22 - 6 pm

Dinner & Discussion

Tuesday, Nov. 29 - 6 pm

Dinner & Discussion

Peace, Beth

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

Zumba Class

Tuesdays, 7:00, \$5.00 per class

Free Yoga - Thursdays, 6:15 - Kelly Gardner

Basketball sign-ups have started.

Registration forms are available at the desk.

Remember Him Always, Coach Day

Congregational Support

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

John Chick in the loss of his Grandmother, Alma Chick on Nov. 12.

THANK YOU NOTE received from **Elizabeth Hewitt** has been posted on the Hospitality Hall bulletin board.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF OUR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY

George Lovejoy

Stephen Ministry Group

Deborah Lewis

Our missionaries,

Brian McKinley

David & Lorie Persons

Brooke Hall Henderson

Sue Porter

Trudy Ellis

Radio Broadcast

WREC 600 AM, 8:00 - 9:00 AM

The service from October 30 was broadcast on Nov. 6,
paid by St. Luke's UMC

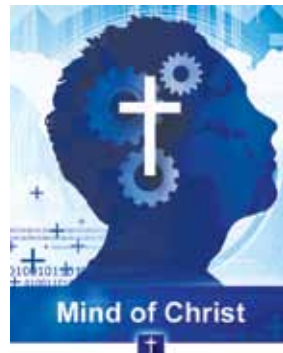
The service from Nov. 6, broadcast on Nov. 13 was dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of

Communion Stewards

from David and Glenda Turner;

The service on Nov. 13 will be broadcast on Nov. 20,
paid by St. Luke's UMC.

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



THANK YOU
to all those who
made our
**Teacher
Appreciation
Luncheon**
a success!!!
Alan

Adult Sunday School Opportunities for Advent

Faith & Friendship

Advent study - Gifts that Won't Break

Growing Disciples

Advent study - The Life of Mary
Video series by Margaret Feinberg

Christian Homebuilders

Different topics weekly

Red Letter Class

Advent study - Gifts that Won't Break

Newman Class

Study of a book by Bonhoeffer

Loyal Stewards Class

International Bible Study

Living Parables

Weekly Discussions



Congratulations to Lynne McAlexander!

Lynne was unanimously selected as St. Luke's unsung hero for 2011.

She was recognized for her devotion in leading Children's Sunday School, coordinating many church-wide events such as our Navigate Conference and our intergenerational celebrations. She is also an active participant in our Small Group Ministry. She exemplifies true Christian servant-hood through her kind and cheerful attitude and willing spirit.

We are proud to honor Lynne!!



MUSIC NOTES

If you love to sing but cannot commit to singing with the Chancel Choir full-time, this is your chance. Join us as we rehearse for Advent and Christmas. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights from 7:30 to 8:30, and on Sunday Nov. 20 following a brown bag lunch after the 10:50 service. Contact Jay for more details so he can have music ready. jay.walker@stlukesumc.org or 452-6262, #103

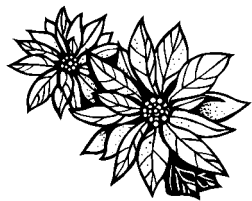
Sanctuary Stewards Needed

Would you consider being part of a group of volunteers who come on a rotating schedule to neaten the Sanctuary and have it ready for worship services each week? This loyal team replaces Bibles and hymnals in book racks, restocks offering envelopes, collects used bulletins for recycling, and sharpens pencils. We currently have enough volunteers that each person's name comes up only every 8 to 10 weeks. If you are already serving in this way and are willing to continue, or if you will be a new volunteer, please call Virginia Hathorn at the church (452-6262) or at 327-3962.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Remember, if you are unable to volunteer at this time, it is a **BIG HELP** if you return your Bible and hymnal to the rack and take your worship bulletin with you or place it in the recycle bin as you leave church.

Poinsettias will be placed in our Sanctuary as a symbol of love for the advent season.



If you would like to purchase one in honor or memory of someone special, please fill out the form below and return it, along with payment, to the church office. They are \$15.00 each.

We will use RED poinsettias for Nov. 27 & Dec. 4 and WHITE poinsettias for Dec. 11 & 18. Please fill in the blank next to color and date you are choosing.

Thank you for your gift of love by sponsoring a poinsettia.

Volunteers! Volunteers! Volunteers!

(That's blue & gray volunteers by the way)

There is always a lot to do around our beautiful campus. We need help with everything from washing windows, mulching flower beds and cleaning chairs in the FH all the way to climbing in the attic to change lamps in the sanctuary light fixtures.



Please let us know what you can do, or are willing to try. Cards will be available by Sunday, November 20 asking for a little information about your skills and what you are willing to do (or willing to try). An exhaustive list will be available detailing many things that need to be fixed, cleaned, removed or replaced.

Everyone's talents are important! No one is too old. No one is too young (although some may need parental supervision). We will find a job for everyone. We do not have a work day planned (yet). We would like to work around your schedule by letting you work when you are available. If there is enough interest, we may plan a work day soon, but we want to give everyone a chance to participate – not for just one day, we want this to be a way for everyone to stay involved. *Yes, we're the church together!*

Poinsettia Order Form

in **HONOR** of: _____

_____ # of RED for weeks Nov. 27 & Dec. 4

_____ # of WHITE for weeks Dec. 11 & 18

in **MEMORY** of: _____

_____ # of RED for weeks Nov. 27 & Dec. 4

_____ # of WHITE for weeks Dec. 11 & 18

Given by: _____

Young at Heart Events

Bingo is Monday, November 28, in the Lounge. Play begins at 10:30. Everyone who wishes to play should bring a sandwich and a prize for Bingo. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

On **Wednesday, December 7**, Young at Heart will hear the Memphis Symphony Orchestra play at Calvary Episcopal Church, followed by lunch at Tugs in Harbor Town. We will leave by bus at 11:00 AM. The cost for the day is \$24. Reservations and payment must be made by Sunday, December 4. You may give your check to Vickey Hobbs, Virginia Hathorn or Betty Green

The AARP 55+ Driving Class will be offered on **Tuesday, Nov. 29 and Thursday, Dec. 1**, to anyone of that age who is interested in brushing up on driving techniques. Classes will be held in the lounge from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Attendees must be present for both days to be eligible for a certificate. The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. Sign up to be a part of this class at the Hospitality Desk. This class is open to anyone who is interested in improving driving skills.

Generosity by Wilson Walker

Our own Wilson Walker, who served as Director of Christian Education at St. Luke's several years ago, is donating back to St. Luke's a beautiful silver service he was given as a farewell present. Join him and family members on Tuesday, November 22 at 2:00 p.m. in Hospitality Hall for a special ceremony and prayer. What a generous gesture by Wilson!

Ministry Scholarships

Many years ago the TRI MU Bible class at Union Ave. UMC created a scholarship for a student at Memphis Theological Seminary. It is still strong and growing today. The 2011-12 recipient is **William Todd Lemmon**. A thank you letter has been received and is posted on the board in the Hospitality Hall.



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 a facebook guru? Do you twitter? If you would like to help St. Luke's connect via the social internet please contact Carla Taylor - carla.taylor@stlukesumc.org.

HANDS MINISTRIES

United Methodist Neighborhood Center

Toy Store

Please join the UMNC in making Christmas special for many Memphis children!

We will be collecting gifts until Dec. 9th for the Toy Store. Suggested items are sturdy toys such as bicycles, dolls, puzzles, riding toys, sports jerseys, radios, electronic games, watches, cosmetics, outerwear and underwear. As always cash makes a great donation.

For more information on the UMNC projects contact Joanne Williams at 681-9175



The Mitten Tree for Sherwood Elementary students will be in the north hall leading to Hospitality Hall starting this week through Dec. 4th.

Cold weather will be coming.

Please help decorate the tree with mittens, gloves, caps, scarves, and new or used jackets. Also, there is a need for underwear (boys' sizes 6-10, girls' sizes 6-10) and socks. Many thanks.

Questions? Contact Barbara Caldwell

St. Luke's Food Pantry was featured in the November issue of *Memphis Magazine* in an article titled, "The Faces of Need" by Marilyn Sadler. St. Luke's was recognized as one of the busiest food pantries in the city, serving 35 to 45 families each week. Beverly Nicholson is quoted as saying, "The pantry is serving more first-time clients. They've never had to ask for help and they're embarrassed. We assure them this is why we're here." Thanks Molly and Beverly and all those who work in the Food Pantry for being the hands of Christ. The article is posted on the Hospitality Hall bulletin board.

St. Luke's Calendar: November 15 - 30

Tuesday November 15

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
 10:00am – 11:30am Staff Meeting - MB 310
 10:30am – 12:00pm Mary Circle - Parlor
 12:30pm – 2:30pm Rachel UMW Circle - Lounge
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice (Kaler) - Gym
 6:00pm – 7:30pm SPRC - MB-211
 6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - MB 3rd Fl.
 6:30pm – 7:30pm Pack 40 Cub Scouts - CB, 213
 7:00pm – 8:00pm Zumba - CLC, gym
 7:00pm – 8:30pm Boy Scouts - Scout Hut

Wednesday November 16

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
 5:45pm – 6:20pm **POTLUCK** Fellowship Dinner - FH
 6:25pm – 7:35pm Children's Choirs and Team Grow
 6:25pm – 7:30pm Wednesday Night Study & Activities
 7:30pm – 9:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room
 7:45pm – 9:15pm Bball Practice (Dacus) - Gym

Thursday November 17

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
 4:00pm – 7:00pm Staff Serve at First Works - Off Site
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice (Mc/Ell) - Gym
 6:00pm – 8:30pm Stephen Ministry Training - Off Site
 6:00pm – 10:00pm Jesus Is Lord Adult BB - Gym
 6:15pm – 7:15pm Yoga - Lounge

Friday November 18

10:30am – 12:00pm Day School Pow Wow & Feast - FH

Saturday November 19

9:00am – 3:00pm Stephen Ministry Training - MB 106
 2:00pm – 5:00pm Skill Builders Sewing Ministry - Lounge
 4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH

Sunday November 20

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
 12:00pm - 2:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Rm
 1:30pm – 3:00pm Bball Practice (Williams) - Gym
 3:00pm – 4:30pm Bball Practice (Abston) - Gym
 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 November 21

9:30am – 10:00am Staff Prayers - Chapel
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice (Kaler) - Gym
 6:30pm – 8:00pm LIFE Group - MB, 211
 7:00pm – 8:00pm Coin Club - Lounge
 7:00pm – 10:00pm Monday Night Basketball - Gym

Tuesday November 22

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
 10:15am – 11:15am Senior Choir - Choir room
 2:00pm – 3:00pm Walker Special Ceremony - HH
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice (Kaler) - Gym
 6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - MB 3rd Floor
 6:30pm – 7:30pm Pack 40 Cub Scouts - CB, 213
 6:30pm – 7:30pm Finance Committee Meeting - MB 211
 7:00pm – 8:00pm Zumba - CLC, gym
 7:00pm – 8:30pm Boy Scouts - Scout Hut

Wednesday November 23 (Church Offices Closed)

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
 7:45pm – 9:15pm Bball Practice (Dacus) - Gym

Thursday November 24

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Friday November 25 (Church Closed)

Saturday November 26

4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH

Sunday November 27

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
 1:30pm – 3:00pm Bball Practice (Williams) - Gym
 3:00pm – 4:30pm Bball Practice (Abston) - Gym
 5:00pm – 6:00pm Wesley Handbells - MB, 207
 6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday November 28

9:30am – 10:00am Staff Prayers - Chapel
 10:30am – 1:00pm Young at Heart Bingo - Lounge
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice (Kaler) - Gym
 6:30pm - 7:30pm Church Council - Chapel
 6:30pm – 8:00pm LIFE Group - MB, 211
 7:00pm – 10:00pm Monday Night Basketball - Gym

Tuesday November 29

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
 9:00am – 1:00pm AARP Driving Course - Lounge
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice (Kaler) - Gym
 6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - MB 3rd Fl.
 6:30pm – 7:30pm Pack 40 Cub Scouts - CB, 213
 6:30pm – 9:00pm Boy Scout Family Night - FH
 7:00pm – 8:00pm Zumba - CLC, gym

Wednesday November 30

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
 5:45pm - 6:25pm Fellowship Dinner - FH
 6:30pm - 7:30pm Fellowship Christmas Party - FH
 6:25pm – 7:35pm Children's Choirs and Team Grow
 7:30pm – 9:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room
 7:45pm – 9:15pm Bball Practice (Dacus) - Gym

Note for Sunday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day

No Sunday School - 10:00am Potluck Breakfast - HH
 One Worship Service - 10:50am - Sanctuary

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

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

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PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PD
MEMPHIS, TN

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Generosity "Last Call" before we call you.

As of Monday, November 14, we had received 160 commitments totaling \$653,573.72. We still have a ways to go so please make every effort to support the ministries of St. Luke's with your generosity. Volunteers are making telephone calls this week, and we need to have our final total as soon as possible. Thanks!

Scout News

We finally got our act together, found all the items that were needed, had a brave soul to climb the ladder, and installed a flag donated to Troop 40 by Doug Huey. The edge embroidery says, "This Flag flew July 4th, 2008, Camp Blackhorse, Afghanistan for St Luke's UMC Scouts."

We are going to get a placard made with the following.

"This Flag was donated to the troop by Mr. Doug Huey. He was thinking about us while serving in Afghanistan. We installed the flag at troop meeting on 25 October 2011. This installation will be used to teach the scouts the proper way to raise and lower the flag."

THANK YOU MR. HUEY

Thanks for your support of Troop 40, Burges

RECORD OF LOYALTY

<i>Sunday School Attendance - 10/30</i>	114
<i>Sunday School Attendance - 11/6</i>	201
<i>Sunday School Attendance - 11/13</i>	192

Worship Attendance - October 30, 2011

<i>Sunshine Service</i>	49
<i>8:30 a.m. - Worship</i>	67
<i>10:50 a.m. - Worship</i>	273
<i>Element</i>	28
<i>Total</i>	417

Worship Attendance - November 6, 2011

<i>Sunshine Service</i>	52
<i>8:30 a.m. - Worship</i>	77
<i>10:50 a.m. - Worship</i>	297
<i>Element</i>	30
<i>Total</i>	456

Worship Attendance - November 13, 2011

<i>Sunshine Service</i>	43
<i>8:30 a.m. - Worship</i>	63
<i>10:50 a.m. - Worship</i>	284
<i>Element</i>	24
<i>Total</i>	414

Gifts & Tithes Received

October 30, 2011	\$17,510.00
November 6, 2011	\$26,430.67
November 13, 2011	\$13,894.00

The next **Epistle** will be published on Monday, November 28. **Please have any articles for publication turned in by Sunday, 5:00pm, November 26.**