



THE EPISTLE

St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

November 28, 2011
Volume 47 Number 4

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



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.

Advent Services

A Festival Service of Lessons and Carols

Featuring Chancel Choir, Wesley Handbells, Choristers and guest instrumentalists.
December 11, 4 pm—Sanctuary.

Longest-Night Service

December 21, 6:30 pm--Sanctuary

Christmas Eve, Saturday, Dec. 24

4 pm - Kid Friendly Service, Sanctuary
11 pm - Candlelight Communion Service, Sanctuary

Christmas Day, Sunday, Dec. 25

10:00 Potluck Breakfast
10:50 Christmas Worship, Sanctuary

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,

Here we are, journeying through the season of Advent together! I hope you'll get a copy or follow by email the Devotional booklet that Ann al-Chokhachi put together for us.* They also contain some fantastic artwork by some of our St. Luke's children. That's a nice way to make every single day of the season count.

Also, our Worship will reflect a stirring progression drawn from Memphis native Jim Moore's book, "CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT WON'T BREAK." We celebrated the Gift of Hope on November 27th with a Lighthouse representing our constant guiding light of hope in JESUS. Our next three emphases leading up to Christmas will be Love, Joy, and Peace. Why not be present and also invite a friend to take part in these celebrations?

Please be aware, too, that we are in a crucial time in our St. Luke's ministry. We need your help very much right now in the financial side of things. Please bring your regular commitments current and consider special holiday gifts that will help St. Luke's finish 2011 strongly and look forward to a 2012 of continued progress.

In all things, carry that expectant heart with you that is the essence of Advent and the coming of the Babe of Bethlehem...

Love to All, Pastor Mark

* **Advent books** are available in Hospitality Hall. A \$1.00 donation per book would be greatly appreciated to offset the cost of printing. The daily devotions will also be sent out through email to those who receive the Epistle by email.

Join us in Worship

Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
Luke 2: 15-20
"God's Gift of Love"
Celebration of Holy Communion
Pastor Mark

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent
Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
Matthew 1:22-25
"God's Gift of Joy"
Pastor Mark



the element
Sundays 6:00pm,
Fellowship Hall

Setting the Scene for Christmas

Dec. 4 - Miracle on 34th Street

Dec. 11 - How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Dec. 18 - It's A Wonderful Life

(No Element on Dec. 25)

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our 2011 Charge Conference is **this SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th, 4:30 p.m.** in the Chapel. Please plan to come by - it is open to all St. Luke's members. We welcome our District Superintendent, Dr. Cynthia Davis! 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

Study

Two studies to choose from in November

30 - Serving from the Heart, Betty 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 study in the Lounge

30 - "New Perspectives on Advent"

Service

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Parlor

Wellness

30 - Cooking with Coach - 3rd Fl. Kitchen

Walking or Fitness in the Gym

Community

30 - Board games with a purpose - 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. 30 - Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Green Beans, Rolls, Sherbet; Salad Bar;

Dec. 7 - Turkey/Dressing traditional dinner.

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.



Wednesday December 7 INTERNATIONAL Christmas Celebration

This will be the last Wednesday night fellowship activity this year and you

are invited to come get a taste of how Christmas is celebrated in the Scandinavian Countries, Italy, Philippines, Germany and France. We will sing Christmas Carols, make a Christmas Tree decoration and be blessed by the Children's Choirs. **Please be sure to make your dinner reservations by noon on Dec. 6** so we can have enough food and material for everyone. Glaedelig Jul!! Betty Jo Masters and Pastor Bee

YOUTH NEWS

Hello all!

Here's what we have going on soon:

Wednesday, Nov. 30

5:45 - Dinner

6:30 - Together We Grow Activities

Friday, Dec. 2

6:00 - 9:00 - **Junior High Christmas** gathering - Pizza and Laser Quest!

Saturday, Dec. 3

5:30 - Fruit Delivery **Unload Truck!**

We need EVERYONE'S help for this!

Sunday, Dec. 4

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

9:00 - 12:30 - Fruit Pick-Up

4:00 - Handbells and Creative Worship

5:00 - Dinner (*Taylor*) and Youth

Wednesday., Dec. 7

5:45 - Dinner and Christmas Celebration

Sunday, Dec. 11

9:30 - Sunday School (*Helper - Mark Green*)

5:00 - Dinner (*Wilson*) and Youth

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! Please make every effort to pick up your fruit between 9 a.m. and 12:30 that day. If you won't be able to pick up then, call or email me, beth.ryan@stluke-sumc.org and we will make arrangements.



YOUNG ADULT GROUP

You did such a great job on the yard clean up and handicap ramp for Mrs. McFarland! A huge THANK YOU to Mark Wofford for lending time and expertise to this project! We have a few little things to finish up, so stay tuned for when we need a little help!

Tuesday, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6

6 pm - Dinner & Discussion

Peace, Beth

Congregational Support

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

Audrey Alley in the loss of her sister, Doris Humphreys, in Ebenezer, MS
Carol Stephens on the death of her sister Karen Densen, in Sedro, Washington.

GIFTS RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:

Marty Cobb from Alison Merritt
Shirley Barber from Ed & Nita Barlow

GIFTS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:

Wayne Holifield from Rorie Read, John & Marilyn Sadler, Carolyn Galloway;
Mildred Goodwin from John & Marilyn Sadler, Mary Lou Cushing
Lois Simpson from John & Marilyn Sadler, Mary Lou Cushing
Virginia Lawson from Mary Lou Cushing
Betty H. Pyeatt from Wayne W. Pyeatt

PRAYER CONCERNS OF OUR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY

James Fike	David Mills
Rico Jenkins	Stephen Ministry
Deborah Lewis	<i>Our missionaries,</i>
Brooke Hall Henderson	David & Lorie Persons
Trudy Ellis	Sue Porter

Radio Broadcast

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

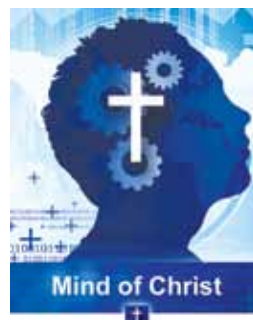
The service from Nov. 20, broadcast on Nov. 27 was dedicated to the Glory of God in honor of
Martin Rocket, for his 58th Birthday
from Deborah Gibson;

The service on Nov. 27 will be broadcast on Dec. 4,
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.

PLEASE HELP DELIVER GIFTS BAGS TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS!

Will you help brighten our Homebound Members Christmas? Gift Bags will be available for pick-up in the Hospitality Hall on Sunday Dec. 4 both before and after the 10:50 service. Thank you for being the hands of Christ this Christmas for our Homebound members. *The Congregational Care Committee.*



Adult Sunday School

Opportunities for Advent

Faith & Friendship

Advent study - Gifts that Won't Break

Growing Disciples

Advent study - The Journey
Video series by Adam Hamilton

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

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.



MUSIC NOTES

The Music of Christmas A Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 11, 4 pm

Celebrate Advent and the coming Christmas season with A Festival of Lessons and Carols. Based on the historic King's College service of Lessons and Carols, the service will include music by the Chancel and Chorister Choirs as well as Wesley Handbells and instrumentalists. Don't miss this opportunity for scripture and beautiful music detailing the wonder, mystery, and joy of Christ's birth.

Prelude music will begin at 3:40 pm.

A nursery will be provided.



United Methodist Women

The December general meeting of the United Methodist Women will be December 6 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, followed by lunch. The

program will be given by Pastor Bee. Everyone is invited. If you plan to stay for lunch, PLEASE make your reservation the week before, so Shirley will know how many to plan for.

There will be an Executive meeting at 9:45 in the UMW room. Following lunch, the Program Planning Committee, of which all officers are members, will meet to plan next year's programs.

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.



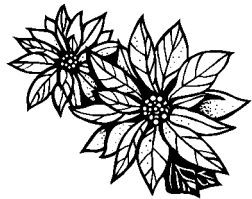
Please let us know what you can do, or are willing to try. Cards are available in the Hospitality Hall asking for a little information about your skills and what you are willing to do (or willing to try). An exhaustive list will be available very soon detailing many things that need to be fixed, cleaned, 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!*

Poinsettias

are placed in our Sanctuary as a symbol of love for the advent season.



There is still time to purchase one in honor or memory of someone special, please fill out this form 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.

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

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

Stephen Ministers Commissioned



On Sunday Nov. 20, St. Luke's commissioned 6 Stephen Ministers during the 10:50 AM worship. Stephen Ministry, Christian lay caring ministry for those in need, is a vital part of our congregation's mission. Those commissioned have gone through 50 hours of training to become a Stephen Minister. and are now ready to begin their service. Stephen Ministers are here for our congregation as well as people in our neighborhood who are hurting or experiencing personal crises. Brochures are available that give more information and provide a form to request a Stephen Minister. Pray for our Stephen Ministers and our Leaders, Pat Anderson and Suzanne Ragsdale.

If you are interested in knowing more about Stephen Ministry please contact Pastor Bee by sending an email: pastor.bee@stlukesumc.org or call 452-6262 ext. 124

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 through Dec. 4th.

Cold weather is here!

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

Stepping UP in Service

Thank you to everyone who filled out the "Stepping Up in Service" survey forms. We appreciate your willingness to serve on one of the ministry teams and you will receive calls from the team leaders in the very near future, if you have not already.

We realize that several members may have missed one or two of the Sunday's we did the surveys and we would like to make sure everyone in the congregation has an opportunity to fill out a form. Therefore, the forms will be available for you at the Hospitality Desk until December 15. Please be in prayer about where God is calling you to be the Heart, Mind or Hands of Christ here at St. Luke's

If you have any questions about the survey please contact Pastor Birgitte 452-6262 ext. 124 or via email: pastor.bee@stlukesumc.org

St. Luke's Calendar: November 30 - December 13

Wednesday November 30

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
 5:45pm – 6:25pm Fellowship Dinner - FH
 6:30pm – 7:30pm Fellowship Studies & Activities - 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 9/10th boys - Gym

Thursday December 1

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
 9:00am – 1:00pm AARP Safe Driving Course - Lounge
 9:15am – 10:00am Day School Chapel - Chapel
 9:30am – 11:00am Day School Open House - HH
 9:30am – 12:00pm Food Pantry - CLC 108
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice 1st/2nd Boys - Gym
 6:00pm – 7:00pm Day School Advisory Board - MB, 211
 6:00pm – 10:00pm Jesus Is Lord Adult BB - Gym

Friday December 2

6:00pm – 9:00pm Jr. High Youth Christmas Party, MB 310

Saturday December 3

9:00am – 7:00pm ESCRA Youth BB Games - Gym
 4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH

Sunday December 4

8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast and Sunshine Service - FH
 8:30am – 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary
 9:30am – 10:30am Sunday School - Lounge
 10:50am – 12:00pm Worship - Sanctuary
 1:30pm – 3:00pm Bball Practice 11/12th Boys - Gym
 3:00pm – 4:30pm Bball Practice 9/10th Boys - Gym
 4:00pm – 5:00pm Youth Handbells/Worship Arts - MB 207
 4:30pm – 6:30pm Charge Conference - Chapel
 5:00pm – 6:00pm Wesley Handbells - MB, 207
 5:00pm – 7:00pm Christian Homebuilders Party - Off Site
 5:00pm – 7:00pm Youth Dinner & Activities - MB 3rd Fl.
 6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday December 5

9:30am – 10:00am Staff Prayers - Chapel
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice 5/6th Boys - 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 December 6

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
 9:45am – 11:00am UMW Exec. Committee - MB 104
 10:00am – 11:30am Staff Meeting - MB 310
 11:00am – 1:00pm UMW Lunch Meeting - FH
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice 7/8th Boys - Gym
 6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - MB 310
 6:30pm – 7:30pm Trustee's Meeting - MB, 106
 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 December 7

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
 10:00am – 12:00pm American Sewing Guild - CLC 105
 3:00pm – 5:45pm Stephen Ministry - MB, 106
 5:45pm – 6:25pm Fellowship Dinner - FH
 6:30pm – 7:25pm International Christmas Celebration

6:25pm – 7:30pm Children's Choirs & Team Grow
 7:30pm – 9:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room
 7:45pm – 9:15pm Bball Practice 9/10th Boys - Gym

Thursday December 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
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice 1st/2nd Boys - Gym
 6:00pm – 10:00pm Jesus Is Lord Adult BB - Gym
 6:15pm – 7:15pm Yoga - Lounge
 7:00pm – 8:30pm SPRC - MB, 211

Friday December 9

9:00am – 11:00am Day School Program - Sanctuary/FH
 7:30pm – 10:30pm The Med/Police Dept. - Gym

Saturday December 10

9:00am – 7:00pm ESCRA Youth BB Games - Gym
 12:00pm – 2:00pm Veteran's Christmas Party - FH
 4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH

Sunday December 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 – 3:00pm Bball Practice 11/12th Boys - Gym
 3:00pm – 4:30pm Bball Practice 9/10th Boys - Gym
 4:00pm – 5:00pm Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary
 5:00pm – 7:00pm Youth Dinner & Activities - MB 3rd Fl.
 6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday December 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
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Univ. District Hub. Mtg. - MB 106
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice 5/6th Boys - Gym
 6:30pm – 8:00pm LIFE Group - MB, 211
 7:00pm – 10:00pm Monday Night Basketball - Gym

Tuesday December 13

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
 10:15am – 11:15am Senior choir - Choir Room
 10:30am – 11:30am HARC Board Meeting - Parlor
 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice 7/8th Boys - Gym
 6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - MB 310
 6:30pm – 7:30pm Pack 40 Cub Scouts - CB, 213
 6:30pm – 8:00pm Naomi Circle UMW - lounge
 7:00pm – 8:00pm Zumba - CLC, gym
 7:00pm – 8:30pm Boy Scouts - Scout Hut
 7:00pm – 9:00pm Pack 40 Meeting - FH

Wednesday December 14

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
 7:30pm – 9:00pm Chancel Choir Christmas Party
 7:45pm – 9:15pm Bball Practice 9/10th Boys - Gym

MB-Main Building, FH-Fellowship Hall,
 CLC-Christian Life Center, CB-Children's Building
 For the most current calendar information
 visit our website - www.stlukesumc.org

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PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PD
MEMPHIS, TN

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Extravagant GENEROSITY

The Heart of Giving

One of the five practices of Fruitful Congregations is Acts of Generosity.

As of Monday, November 28, we have received
173 commitments totaling \$688,633.72.

Have you turned in your estimate of giving to St.
Luke's? As a church that strives to be the Heart,
Mind, and Hands of Christ, it is important that we
support the ministries of God.

At this point we are about 45% short of our
goal. Please help by turning in your commitment
as soon as possible. Thanks!

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

MED Foundation Basketball Game

Friday, December 9, 7:30 p.m. A charity game will
be held here at St Luke's to benefit the Med Foun-
dation. The game is between the Med Foundation
Allstars vs the Memphis Police Department. The
Med volunteers will collect donations at the door.

Thank you to Scout Troop 40, Melissa Gal-
loway and Jeanne Fly for helping with Mary
Clyde McKnight's yard sale. She still has
several items left which are posted on the Scout
website: troop40memphis.com

Loyal Stewards' Ladies will meet for Bridge
Club on Monday, Dec. 12, 10:30am in the Lounge.

RECORD OF LOYALTY

Sunday School Attendance - 11/20 153
Sunday School Attendance - 11/27 164

Worship Attendance - November 20, 2011

Sunshine Service 53
8:30 a.m. - Worship 67
10:50 a.m. - Worship 245
Element 26
Total 420

Worship Attendance - November 27, 2011

Sunshine Service 59
8:30 a.m. - Worship 63
10:50 a.m. - Worship 210
Element 31
Total 421

***Gifts & Tithes Received**

November 20, 2011 \$6127.00
November 27, 2011 \$5562.00

*As a part of the financial disclosure request during
the Union Ave. Funds disbursement hearings, the
Finance Committee is notifying the St. Luke's
congregation that a \$10,000.00 withdrawal has been
made from the cash flow assistance funds to be
repaid as Gifts & Tithes Received increases.

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