



THE EPISTLE

St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

December 12, 2011
Volume 47 Number 5

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



Ruth
ALVIN A.

Shirley & Marcellus Moore

Jay

May God's Greatest Gift Shine

Quart

in your Heart this Christmas!

Love from St. Luke's Staff

Virginia

Ann

Amy

Pastor Mark
Janette Nania

Carla

Tom

Robbie

Coach Day

Pastor Brigitte

Tenie Willy

Joany

Vickey
Mary Lou



HOPE LOVE JOY PEACE



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,

PRAY FOR A "BB" - CHURCH COUNCIL AWAITS

In this case, "BB" is a nickname for "Balanced Budget." Crucial meetings this week include our Finance Committee's final session of the year on Tuesday evening December 13.

Then our Church Council gathers at 12:15 Sunday, December 18 in the Chapel. Not only Council members but everyone is welcome. A special THANKS goes out to Rita Richardson, who has faithfully chaired the Committee through very strenuous work on our behalf.

Congrats to our new officers and thanks to "old." We express our appreciation to all who as a result of Charge Conference election are rotating off in the new year as well as for those who continue and those who are brand new. Be sure to be present in worship on Sunday, Jan. 8, for our installation and blessing of our lay leaders.

Blessings, Pastor Mark

Worship Services this Christmas Season

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50

Luke 2: 8-14

"God's Gift of Peace"

Pastor Mark

Wednesday, December 21

Longest Night Service

6:30 p.m., Sanctuary

A service for those who have experienced loss or who suffer from loneliness during this season.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m. - Child Friendly Service, Sanctuary

11:00 p.m. - Candlelight Communion, Sanctuary

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. - Potluck Breakfast, Hospitality Hall

10:50 a.m. - Christmas Worship, Sanctuary

New Years Day

Sunday, January 1, 2012

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50

Matt. 2: 1-12

"The Long Road"

Pastor Bee



the element

Sundays 6:00pm,
Fellowship Hall

Setting the Scene for Christmas

Dec. 18 - It's A Wonderful Life

(No Element on Dec. 25)

Notes from Pastor Bee...

Thank you to all who stepped up to take a leadership role in our congregation and to those who have committed themselves to serve on an administrative or ministry team. We are excited about where God will lead us in the next year and the blessings and miracles we will experience by being faithful. On Sunday January 8th in the 10:50 AM Worship we will commission all of our church leaders. The Methodist Book of Worship has a beautiful "Order for Installation/Recognition of Leaders in the Church" which we will be using. We are looking forward to commissioning our leadership team for year 2012! After Worship there will be a lunch and training session for all church leaders. I invite you to already be in prayer for our leadership team and for God to guide them and equip them for their leadership roll.

A BIG THANK YOU to all our Youth and Young adults who have been part of our Worship during the season of Advent. It meant a lot to us to have you involved in worship during this special season of the church.

Sunday January 1, 2012 we will celebrate Epiphany of the Lord. It is the day we celebrate the coming of the three wise men who brought gifts to the Christ Child. Being the first Sunday in the month we will also celebrate Communion with each other. Plan to be present on this first day of the New Year, 2012.

In Hope, Love, Joy and Peace, Pastor Bee

Children's News

Thanks to everyone who has welcomed me to St. Luke's!

I am still learning names and faces, but every day gets easier. I am looking forward to the new year and the many possibilities for our children.

Make sure your children are in Sunday School. The teachers have planned some wonderful lessons to prepare for Christmas. Also, be on the lookout for a green form. We are updating the Children's Directory and need all parents to fill out the new form. I will be collecting current e-mail addresses and hope to send out weekly e-mails to parents about what's going on.

Finally, I've planned "Pizza with Parents" for Wednesday, January 4, 5:45 - 7:00 p.m. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for an informal conversation about Children's Ministries at St. Luke's. This will be a wonderful opportunity for us to make plans together. Help me by letting me know if you can attend, how many are coming and if you need childcare. The best way to reach me is e-mail: amy.pearson@stlukesumc.org. Don't hesitate to e-mail or call, 452-6262 #116.

Blessings, Amy Pearson

YOUTH NEWS

Hello all!

Here's what we have going on soon:

Friday, Dec. 16

6:00-9:30 - Senior High Christmas Party
Meet at church at 6. We will go to my house to wrap gifts for the family we're buying gifts for, eat dinner and watch a Christmas movie. We will return by 9:30.

Sunday, Dec. 18

9:30 - Sunday School (*Helper - Karen Wilson*)
5:00 - Dinner and Youth

Sunday, Dec. 25 - Merry Christmas!

No Sunday School or Youth Activities
Join your church family for breakfast at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 1

9:30 - Sunday School
No Evening Activities

We will start back with Sunday night Youth Activities on January 8. I pray that each of you have a safe and blessed Christmas!

Peace, Beth

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Hey guys!

Here's what's on our schedule coming up:

Tuesday, Dec. 13

6 pm - Dinner & Discussion

Tuesday, Dec. 20

6 pm - Dinner & Christmas Games!

Tuesday, Dec. 27 - No meeting.

Peace, Beth

NEWS FROM THE CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER

Junior Jammers

Starts January 7th thru February 25th 2012,
9am-10:30am 8 weeks.

Cost \$ 60 Ages-4,5,and 6 years old.

Adult Defender League Basketball

A League-Tuesday Night

Jan 3rd thru March 27th 2012

B/C League Friday Nights

Jan 6th thru April 16th 2012

Athletic Ministry Sunday

February 19, 2012 - Banquet to follow 10:50
am service. Details to follow

Congregational Support

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

Melanie Mahan in the death of her father, James Fike on Dec. 1.

WELCOME WITH PROFESSION OF FAITH

Coming forward in our 8:30 service on December 11th was Dianna Brown. We are scheduling her Christian Baptism for the early service this coming Sunday, December 18th. Friend Robert Hayne is Dianna's sponsor.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Michael & Beth Masters on the birth of their daughter, Josie Edens, on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

GIFTS RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:

Shirley Barber from Martha Hall, Sarah Freeman
Pastor Bee from the Stephen Ministers Group
Eloise Carpenter from David & April Carpenter
Mary Sanford Myatt from Nelie Walker
Tim & Carla Taylor from Joanne Williams
Galen Colbert from Marcia Mittlestadt
Roland Bullock from Marcia Mittlestadt

GIFTS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:

Wayne Holifield from Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Williams;
Mildred Goodwin from Loyal Stewards SS Class, Mr. & Mrs. James McBride, Joan Kelly, Ben Adams, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Tim Smith;
Tom Curry from Dolores Broyles;
Doris Humphrey from Nadine Hicks

PRAYER CONCERNS OF OUR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY

Dorothy Sue Lovejoy	Trudy Ellis
Deborah Gibson	<i>Our missionaries,</i>
Rico Jenkins	David & Lorie Persons
Deborah Lewis	Sue Porter
Brooke Hall Henderson	

Radio Broadcast

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

The service from Dec. 4 was broadcast on Dec. 11
The service on Dec. 11 will be broadcast on Dec. 18,
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.

THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Do not put Christmas away too soon -- keep the joy and the song going for the whole season.

- *Mary Anna Vidakovich*

Sing to the Lord: Devotions for Advent
[Nashville, Tenn.: The Upper Room, 1994, 83-84]

DECEMBER 25 IS ONLY THE FIRST DAY OF CHRISTMAS. The Christmas celebration continues for twelve days, after which we celebrate the arrival of the kings who followed the star to find the holy babe. The awaited event is here! Don't put away the celebration just yet, but instead, follow the Christmas journey all the way to Epiphany.

CELEBRATE THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Brought to you by Pockets magazine

Dec. 25: Memorize this verse: "A child has been born for us, a son given to us." Isaiah 9:6

Dec. 26: Take five minutes to think about three things you enjoyed most about Christmas Day.

Dec. 27: Gather good clothes and take them to your church or a family shelter.

Dec. 28: Use the fronts of old Christmas cards to make thank-you cards for people who gave you gifts.

Dec. 29: Sit down with your family and tell each other what you like about each other.

Dec. 30: Write about one of your favorite Christmas memories. Pack it with the Christmas decorations. You can read it next year.

Dec. 31: Take some time to think about your hopes for the next year.

Jan. 1: Pray for people who are traveling.

Jan. 2: Sit quietly and think about how you hope the world will be different next year.

Jan. 3: Share Joy and Peace!

Jan. 4: Cut out paper stars and put them in the windows of your home.

Jan. 5: Read about the wise men's journey to find Jesus in Matthew 2:1-12.

THANK YOU

To my dear friends at St. Luke's,

As a recent amputee and 82 year old, I want to express my deep appreciation for all the people in the church that have done everything from providing clothing to building me a handicap ramp. I grew up as a child at St. Luke's, and it does my heart good to see how St. Luke's responds to the elderly community.

Thank you again for being so wonderful.

Ms. Mildred McFarland



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CALL to ACTION

“Call to Action” - An Opportunity, Not a Burden

Pastor Mark Matheny

St. Luke's own Avis Foreman and I represented our church back in the Fall when Conference and District leadership introduced “Call to Action” to representatives of churches of the two metro-area districts. Implementation of parts of the plan are due to begin next month, January 2012. Primary in that early start is a way of accountability denomination-wide. Each local church will report weekly giving, worship and Sunday School attendance figures, membership additions, etc.

Much more important than that is the hoped for SPIRIT of the Call to Action. In a way, it is like the Visioning process St. Luke's shared back in 2005-2006. Many of you may recall how that resulted in our mission statement and the structuring of Heart, Mind and Hands ministries. Interestingly, at our 2012 Charge Conference on December 4th, District Superintendent Dr. Cynthia Davis praised St. Luke's... “You are already doing well many of the things called for in the Plan of Action.”

At the same time, it is probably true that something like our 2005-06 visioning be revisited. Pastor Bee and I believe this could be very timely for St. Luke's. It need not be just another task to do in connecting with United Methodism. It can lead to new hope and new heights at St. Luke's.

Beginning in January, we will make copies available of the “Call to Action.” You may also visit the Call to Action website - umccalltoaction.org. We will share the process with the Program Ministries Team, the Church Council and all other leadership groups. We will seek wide dialogue and input throughout the congregation in moving forward with new vision.

Please be in prayer as the new year dawns, and feel free to begin giving your pastors good suggestions for the future.



As part of your New Years plan why not consider joining a LIFE Group.

There are many LIFE groups that meet during the week in several different places throughout the area. It is a known fact that by becoming part of a spiritual support group your faith will deepen and your relationship with God and others will be more meaningful. Become a part of a group to experience that rich spiritual connection. Contact Pastor Bee to find the group that is right for you.

Volunteers! Volunteers! Volunteers!

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.



Have you noticed the **black paint bucket** at the Hospitality Desk? This is how you can let us know what you can do, or are willing to try. Cards are available there at the desk 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!*

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

HANDS MINISTRIES

Thank you to everyone who responded and participated in providing food for the Thanksgiving baskets for UM Neighborhood Centers. St. Luke's filled eleven baskets which I delivered on November 16. I know the food we provided was much appreciated by the families who received those baskets. Again I thank you for your response.

Sincerely,
Joanne Williams
UMNC Key Woman



The UMW Executive meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 9:45 a.m. in the UMW meeting Room.

THE MEMPHIS BOYCHOIR & MEMPHIS CHAMBER CHOIR

24TH ANNUAL
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
SUNDAY DECEMBER 18, 2011
4:00 & 7:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CENTRAL AT GREER
memphisboychoir.org

Scout News

The Scouts of St. Luke's wish all a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year! We are looking forward to winter camp, an Eagle Ceremony in January, and an exciting camping year.

We want to congratulate our newest Eagle Scout - Hunter Fly. Hunter is the first Scout to become an Eagle Scout way before his 18th birthday. (*less gray hair for the scoutmaster - Thanks Hunter!*)

If you missed out on Scout Popcorn please see our Popcorn Kernel, Ms. Melissa Galloway. The troop still has some available.

Thank you all for your support of the Scouting Program here at St. Luke's

St. Luke's Calendar: December 14 - January 5

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

Thursday December 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 .
- 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 .

Friday December 16

- 8:00am – 5:00pm Life Line Screening - Gym
- 11:30am – 1:30pm Loyal Stewards Luncheon - Lounge
- 6:00pm – 9:30pm Sr. High Christmas Party - Off-site

Saturday December 17

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

Sunday December 18

- 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 .
- 12:00pm – 1:00pm Church Council Meeting - Chapel
- 1:30pm – 3:00pm Bball Practice 11/12th Boys - Gym .
- 3:00pm – 4:30pm Bball Practice 9/10th Boys - Gym .
- 5:00pm – 7:00pm Youth Dinner & Activities - MB 3rd Fl.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday December 19

- 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 20

- 9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym .
- 10:00am – 11:30am Staff Meeting - MB 310 .
- 10:30am – 12:00pm Mary Circle - Lounge .
- 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice 7/8th Boys - Gym .
- 6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - Kitchen 310/311.
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm Pack 40 Cub Scouts - CB, 213 .
- 7:00pm – 8:30pm Boy Scouts - Scout Hut .

Wednesday December 21

- 6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH .
- 4:00pm – 6:00pm Parables of Jesus SS Party - Lounge
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm Longest Night Service - Sanctuary
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room .
- 7:45pm – 9:15pm Bball Practice 9/10th Boys - Gym .

Thursday December 22 - Church Offices Closed

Food Pantry-closed

Friday December 23 - Church Offices Closed

Saturday December 24

- 2:30pm – 4:00pm Saturday Supper - FH .
- 4:00pm – 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary
- 11:00pm – 12:00am Christmas Eve Service - Sanctuary

Sunday December 25

- 8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast and Sunshine Service - FH.
- 10:50am – 12:00pm Worship - Sanctuary .

Church Offices Closed Thurs. Dec. 22 - Mon. Jan. 2

Saturday December 31, 2011

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

Sunday January 1, 2012 Happy New Year

- 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 .

Monday January 2, 2012 - Church Offices Closed

Tuesday January 3, 2012

- 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 .
- 5:30pm – 7:00pm Bball Practice 7/8th Boys - Gym .
- 6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - MB 3rd Fl.
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm Trustee's Meeting - MB, 106 .
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm Pack 40 Cub Scouts - CB, 213 .
- 7:00pm – 8:30pm Boy Scouts - Scout Hut .
- 7:15pm – 10:15pm Defender Bball League - Gym .

Wednesday January 4, 2012

- 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 – 7:00pm Parent Meeting with Amy - FH
- 6:25pm – 7:35pm Knitting Group - Parlor .
- 7:30pm – 9:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room .
- 7:45pm – 9:15pm Bball Practice 9/10th Boys - Gym .

Thursday January 5, 2012

- 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 .

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

Together We Grow....

Wednesday Dinner and Activities
will resume on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2012

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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Become a Shining Star for St. Luke's

This is your invitation to be a shining star for the church you love in time of need. Please prayerfully consider these generous ways you can help make Christmas real and beautiful at St. Luke's.

★ Our traditional Christmas Special Offering goes beyond ourselves each year. The envelope will be enclosed in the letter coming to you this week.

★ Honestly, we face a crunch in moving with Hope into the year 2012. There is a gap of about \$40,000 between expected income and expenditures, even after painful reductions and plans for real austerity. Green cards are available now from Vickey Hobbs and will also be enclosed in the upcoming letter. God will bless your generosity. You may go ahead and call Vickey now and confidentially let her know of your pledge or your pledge increase.

★ Prayerfully thinking of others more than self, BE A STAR by giving to St. Luke's in Honor or Memory of someone special to you. Provide us with contact information and we'll gladly let your honoree or family members know of the wonderful present you have given!

Thank you so much for being a St. Luke's Shining Star.

2012 Projected Financial Statement

(This is a much abbreviated statement - more details will be included in the upcoming letter.)

Projected Income:	\$993,000.00
<i>Pledged & Non-Pledged Contributions along with other sources of income.</i>	
Projected Expenditures	\$1,034,021.00
<i>Programming, Facilities, Pastoral, Personnel & Administration</i>	
Difference	41,021.00

2012 Pledge Update: As of 12/13/11 we have received 185 pledges totaling \$725,233.00.
(2011 total pledges: 196 for \$716,590.00)

RECORD OF LOYALTY

<i>Sunday School Attendance - 12/4</i>	196
<i>Sunday School Attendance - 12/11</i>	181

Worship Attendance - December 4, 2011

<i>Sunshine Service</i>	42
<i>8:30 a.m. - Worship</i>	59
<i>10:50 a.m. - Worship</i>	278
<i>Element</i>	24
Total	403

Worship Attendance - December 11, 2011

<i>Sunshine Service</i>	54
<i>8:30 a.m. - Worship</i>	56
<i>10:50 a.m. - Worship</i>	259
<i>Element</i>	22
Total	391

***Gifts & Tithes Received**

December 4, 2011	\$15,667.00
December 11, 2011	\$22,504.67

*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 **second withdrawal** or \$25,000.00 has been made from the cash flow assistance funds to be repaid as Gifts & Tithes Received increases..

The next **Epistle** will be published on Tuesday, January 3. **Please have any articles for publication turned in by Tuesday, 9:00am, Jan. 3.**