



THE EPISTLE

St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

January 3, 2012
Volume 47 Number 6

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

Worship Services January

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of the Lord
Installation of our Lay Leadership
Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
Mark 1: 4-11
Pastor Mark

Sunday, January 15

Human Relations Day
Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
Romans 12: 1-5
Pastor Mark



the element
Sundays 6:00pm,
Fellowship Hall



MISSION STATEMENT

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

A Prayer for the New Year

Stand at the crossroads and look, ask for the ancient paths; which was the good way? Take it and you will find rest for yourselves. Jeremiah 6:16

The Road of Life

Another year is coming to an end.
I can feel her tug at my calendar;
I can sense her insistent movement.
I can hear her call to cross over.

Outside my window the trees are empty
and the air has the ripeness of snowfall.

I cast an inward glance to the past
and feel a deep desire to catch its glow.

Something in me wants to hold on,
to gather all the good things close to me.
A part of me that yearns for security
keeps encouraging me to grasp it all.

Then a tiny thimble full of light
moves its way through my insecurity;
it weaves a thread of courage, sending
sparks into the dark.

Up and up it rises through my spirit
until it meets my controlling grip.

The firefly flickers of God's grace
are enough to embrace the unknown.

A surge of powerful surrender
takes over all my looking back,
and ever so gently and hopefully
I risk the road of another new year.

Joyce Rupp

"May I Have This Dance"

Pastor Mark's Epistle

Dear Friends,

My friend Joseph Shelton, commenting on the courage of the Magi who came to Judea to see the Christ-child, said, "Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts."

As we begin a new year, I hope we look back on 2011 not with complacency or regret, but with the realization that we can learn from both success and failure. In these challenging times, we are called to have the courage to continue on the faithful journey God always sets before us.

Join us in Worship this coming Sunday as we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, remember our own, and dedicate ourselves to the leadership and followership we need to make St. Luke's what God intends.

Also, Thank You for your response in completion of our Stewardship emphasis. On December 18th, the Church Council approved a balanced budget for 2012 that reflects urgent priorities as well as sensible austerities. With the "courage to continue" we shall have a faithful and effective year!

In Service, Pastor Mark

Notes from Pastor Bee...

Thank you so much for all the wonderful Christmas Cards, home made cookies and thoughtful gifts. You made the Christmas Season very special for me and my family.

Pastor Bee

Transition in Music Ministry

Our prayers go with **Jay Walker** following his resignation, effective 12/31/11. We will be lifting up Jay as well as Tricia, Ellie and Mattie Walker in these new days ahead.

Meanwhile, our new Music Ministry Team meets on January 5th and will have the charge to plan and enact new directions in this vital area. We thank Joanne Shelton for agreeing to serve as interim Chancel Choir Director during January. The Chancel Choir will be meeting on Wednesday's in January at 6:30 PM. Please come support this vital ministry of our church.

Examples of Generosity

Joey and Ellis Huey donated the money, about \$60, to St. Luke's that they earned from the sale of mistletoe. Thanks Hueys!

Scout News

Happy New Year! Get ready for Christmas there are only 365 days left... Ten scouts attended winter camp and had a great time - No bugs!

On Tuesday, January 10, 7:07 p.m., Troop 40 will have an Eagle Scout ceremony for two of our scouts - Blake Acree and Hunter Fly. All are invited.

Thanks for your support of scouting, Burges

Leadership Commissioning, lunch and training.

If you serve as a chairperson of a Ministry team or administrative committee, this information is for you. This coming Sunday, **January 8, 2012**, we will celebrate your leadership in a Commissioning Service. After Worship we will have lunch together and a short training session.

Please sign up at the Hospitality Desk or contact Pastor Bee to let us know if you are coming what you will bring. This is an important event you would not want to miss. God's Grace and Peace, Pastor Bee
Email: pastor.bee@stlukesumc.org phone: 452-6262 ext 124

In addition to our lunch and training - All interested committee leaders and members are invited to the annual Mckendree District Training Event. It will be on Sunday, January 22nd, 2-4 p.m. at Crossroads UMC, 9315 E. Shelby Drive in Collierville. We will have more information at the lunch on Sunday for those who would like to attend this event.

Young at Heart Events

Monday, Jan. 30, 2012

Fellowship Hall at 11:30

Come hear **Steve Mulroy**, County Commissioner.

If you are an adult, parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, this session is for you!

The Young at Heart welcomes all to hear Steve give updates on the public school merger, the impact of proposed special municipal districts might have and his sponsoring a proposal for vicious dog clarification. Questions are encouraged. Please make reservations for lunch by signing the reservation book at the Hospitality Desk. Payment for lunch at the door.

Congregational Support

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

the family of **Deborah Gibson** who passed away on Dec. 20, services were Thursday, Dec. 22.

the family of **Edith Ayers** who passed away on Dec. 28, services were Friday, Dec. 30, 2011.

the family of **David Setterlund** who passed away on Dec. 26, services were Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jeanette Nunis on the birth of her great grandson, **Tristand Lane Alvarez**, on Jan. 2, 2012.

GIFTS RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:

Shirley Barber from Ray & Fay Weatherly

Our Pastors from Bill & Barbara Caldwell, Kathy McAllen

St. Luke's Staff from John & Helen Wofford, Kathy McAllen

Virginia Hathorn from Gwynne McKenzie,

Shirley Robinson from Ray & Fay Weatherly

Betty Jo Masters & Shirley Lynn from Rita Richardson

Mary Palmer from Rita Richardson

(partial listing to be continued in next Epistle)

PRAYER CONCERNS OF OUR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY

Deborah Lewis

Music Ministry Team

Brooke Hall Henderson

Our missionaries,

Trudy Ellis

David & Lorie Persons

Phyllis Bailey

Sue Porter

Radio Broadcast

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

The service from Dec. 18 was broadcast on Dec. 25 dedicated to the memory of **Ruth Gibson** on the anniversary of her death.

The Service of Lessons and Carols was broadcast on Jan. 1. *paid by St. Luke's UMC.*

The service on Jan. 1 will be broadcast on Jan. 8 dedicated to the memory of **Ruth Gibson** on what would have been her 90th birthday.

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

Thank you from The Parables of Jesus Class: Thank you so much for your contributions to our class. The caps, scarfs, and gloves have been so needed and are appreciated. The coats and jackets also! THANKS AGAIN

CONGRATULATIONS TO Mary and Grover Bowles who received the Leading Age Tennessee Volunteers of the Year Award for 2011 and were subsequently chosen to be included in an exhibit featuring 50 amazing seniors across the country at the October National Leading Age convention in Washington D.C. This energetic and dedicated duo has volunteered in a number of capacities at Trezevant Manor and in the greater Memphis community as well.

YOUTH NEWS

Happy New Year!

Here's what we have going on soon:

Sunday, Jan. 8

9:30 - Sunday School (*Helper - Shelly Goebel*)

5:00 - Dinner (*Debbie Cargile*) and Youth

Sunday, Jan. 15

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

5:00 - Dinner (*Need someone!*) and Youth

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon!

Peace, Beth

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Hey guys!

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

Tuesday, Jan. 3 - No meeting

Thursday, Jan. 5 - Winter Retreat

Leave at 3 pm. We will return on Saturday, Jan. 7 by 6 pm.

Tuesday, Jan. 10 - 6:00

Dinner and Discussion

Tuesday, Jan. 17 - 6:00

Dinner and Something fun!

Peace, Beth

Children's News

I am so excited about the New Year! It is a time to begin afresh and see the many possibilities for our children at St. Luke's.

We are working on a new Children's Directory. Children's birthdays, correct addresses and e-mail addresses are what I need from each family. We have forms in Sunday School, or information can be e-mailed directly to me.

Believe it or not, Vacation Bible School will be here before we know it! Mark your calendars now for June 11-15. In the next month, we will begin planning for a great summer experience. Contact me if you would like to be a part of that planning team. We will also begin plans for Easter events. Be on the lookout for opportunities to serve in that area.

As always, I am eager to hear your ideas about reaching our children and the children in the sphere of our influence.

Blessings, Amy Pearson
Director of Children's Ministries
amy.pearson@stlukesumc.org,
or 452-6262, ext. 116.

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**For the most current calendar information visit our website
www.stlukesumc.org or check the bulletin board in the
Hospitality Hall for the current weekly Calendar.**

Thursday January 5, 2012

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
9:30am – 12:00pm Food Pantry - CLC 108
6:00pm - 7:00pm Music Ministry Team - CLC 103

Saturday January 7

9:00am – 10:30am Jr. Jammers BB - Gym
4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH

Sunday January 8

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
12:00pm – 2:00pm Church Leader's Training - Lounge
5:00pm – 7:00pm Dinner & Youth Activities - MB, 3rd Fl.
6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday January 9

9:30am – 10:00am Staff Prayers - Chapel
10:30am – 2:30pm Ladies Bridge - Lounge
6:00pm – 7:00pm Day School Advisory Board - MB, 211
6:30pm – 8:00pm LIFE Group - MB, 211

Tuesday January 10

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC 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
6:30pm – 7:30pm Children's Council - MB, 211
6:30pm – 8:00pm Naomi Circle UMW - lounge
7:07pm – 9:00pm Eagle Court of Honor - Sanctuary/FH

Wednesday January 11

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
6:00pm – 9:00pm Program Ministries Team - Lounge
6:30pm – 8:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Thursday January 12

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
9:30am – 12:00pm Food Pantry - CLC 108

Saturday January 14

9:00am – 10:30am Jr. Jammers BB - Gym
4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH

Sunday January 15

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
5:00pm – 7:00pm Dinner & Youth Activities - MB 3rd Fl.
6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr's Day
Church Offices Closed

Tuesday January 17

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
10:00am – 11:30am Staff Meeting - MB 310
10:30am – 12:00pm Mary Circle - Lounge
6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - MB 3rd Fl.
6:30pm – 7:30pm Pack 40 Cub Scouts - CB, 213
6:30pm – 7:30pm Finance Committee Meeting - MB 211
7:00pm – 8:30pm Boy Scouts - Scout Hut

Wednesday January 18

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
6:30pm – 8:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room

RECORD OF LOYALTY

Sunday School Attendance - 12/18 181
Sunday School Attendance - 1/01 134

Worship Attendance - December 18, 2011

Sunshine Service 48
8:30 a.m. - Worship 61
10:50 a.m. - Worship 256
Element 22
Total 387

Worship Attendance - December 25, 2011

Sunshine Service 52
10:50 Worship 174

Worship Attendance - January 1, 2012

Sunshine Service 48
8:30 a.m. - Worship 50
10:50 a.m. - Worship 222
Element 19
Total 339

Gifts & Tithes Received

December 18, 2011 \$15,916.00
December 24/25, 2011 \$29,272.00
January 1, 2012 \$8,557.00

**The deadline for the next Epistle is
Tuesday, 9:00am, Jan. 17.**