



THE EPISTLE

St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

February 13, 2012
Volume 47 Number 9

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

Through
the **WILDERNESS**

**A LENTEN
JOURNEY**

**Sunday Worship
8:30 and 10:50 a.m.**



A LENTEN JOURNEY

Join us in worship each week
as we embark on a
journey of faith.

Beginning Sunday, Feb. 26 in
Genesis with Abraham and Isaac,
we will explore how God loves us
and supports us as we
**JOURNEY THROUGH THE
WILDERNESS.**

Sunday, Feb. 26 - **ONE SERVICE** at 10:50 a.m.
Recognition of our new St. Luke's Legacy Association

Together We Grow...
Wednesdays
Join us at the table for
Fellowship meals at 5:45pm
Activities at 6:30pm

Feb. 22 - Ash Wednesday Service
6:30 pm - Sanctuary, *(no other activities)*

For Children - Team Grow
Children's Choirs led by Beth Masters
Children's Activities led by Amy Pearson
6:25 - 7:35 - Children's building.

Activities for Youth and Adults

Pastor Mark's Bible Study - Lounge
Feb. 15 - "Preparing for Lent"

Chancel Choir
Now meeting at 6:30 in the Choir Room

Open Gym and Games
Join Beth Ryan and David Day in the CLC for a
variety of games and activities.

Yoga
Kelly Gardner, MB 304, \$3.00 donation

Knitting & More Group - Parlor



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

A Unique Lenten Journey

Dear Friends,

Ash Wednesday arrives as the first day of Lent on February 22nd. Join us for the 6:30 p.m. service in the Sanctuary. You will embark on a journey of faith that includes these opportunities...

- Our ongoing theme for Lent: "Journey through the Wilderness."

Be prayerful, and discover how "God Provides."

- Sunday February 26 is St. Luke's Legacy Sunday, **one service at 10:50 a.m.**

Be watching for a special letter about this.

- Devotional Booklets are on the way; our own Ann Al-Chokhachi will have these ready for you on Ash Wednesday.

HOLY WEEK will be very special! More information will be coming soon.

Faith, Hope, Love,

Pastor Mark

Worship Services February & March

"Pray Then This Way"

Sunday, February 19
Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
Matthew 6: 13-15
"The Most Dangerous Prayer"
Pastor Birgitte T. French

THROUGH THE WILDERNESS

Sunday, February 26
One Worship Service at 10:50 a.m.
"Provision in the Wilderness"
Genesis 22: 9-14
Pastor Mark Matheny

Sunday, March 4
Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
"Lost in the Wilderness"
Exodus 16: 9-18
Pastor Mark Matheny



the element
Sundays 6:00pm
Fellowship Hall
Feb. 19 "Pleasantville"
Lent Series starting Feb. 26
"Dr. Suess"

GOT ASHES?

On Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22 there will be groups of 2 or 3 commissioned to go out to the University of Memphis Campus and in our neighborhood to offer the sign of the cross to our neighbors. If you would like to be part of a team contact Carla Taylor, carla.taylor@stlukesumc.org or Beth Ryan, beth.ryan@stlukesumc.org or call 452-6262. Help us spread the word of Christ in our neighborhood. For a story on this project visit <http://rethinkchurch.org/article/got-ashes-chicago-church-takes-lent-streets>

Notes from Pastor Bee...

Pastor Birgitte's Sabbatical

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has granted Pastor Bee a Sabbatical starting Monday February 27 and returning to Worship on March 25. A Sabbatical is not vacation but it is time away from the office for study, rest, and spiritual renewal. Our bishop has asked pastors in full time appointments to take a sabbatical every 4 years.

My time away from St. Luke's will be spent with some days in a silent retreat, 10 days in Israel and hopefully some time at the ocean. I have been asked by the District Superintendent to write down the process we used at the former Union Ave UMC for the merger with St. Luke's. The Book of Discipline does not give a process to follow for a merger, it only gives guidelines on who needs to sign documents and who may vote. But the process of deciding to merge and with whom is not described in the BOD. I am very grateful for the time given to me to rest, study and be renewed and I ask that you will hold me in your prayers as I will hold you in mine.

God's Peace, Pastor Birgitte

Wednesday Night Dinners

New Meal Options

Pick your meal option when you make reservations.

1. Meal with a side salad \$6 *no sticker*
2. Meat with salad bar \$7 *green sticker*

Baked Chicken option must be requested at reservation

3. Hot Dog meal \$4 *yellow sticker*
(includes fries or tots, carrot sticks, and dessert)

Family Max - \$25

Walk-ins and late reservations must wait until 6:05pm before being served.

Feb. 15: Chicken Tetrazzini, Spinach, Rolls, Cobbler

Feb. 22: Lasagna/Veggie Lasagna, garlic bread, Cobbler

There are sign up sheets at the Hospitality Desk in the reservation book to sign up for a permanent reservation and which meal you prefer. If you would like to change your meal option or cancel please call and change your reservation by noon on Tuesday.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Update: With a generous extra donation, the Youth

collected \$1000 this year at SouperBowl of Caring to help feed hungry people here in our community and abroad!

YOUTH NEWS

Hello everyone!

Here's what we have going on soon:

Wed., Feb. 15

5:45 - Dinner 6:30 - Together We Grow

Sunday, Feb. 19

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

5:00-7:00 - Dinner (*Pam Rose*) & Youth

Wed., Feb. 22

5:45 - Dinner

6:30 - Ash Wednesday Service

Fri., Feb. 24

4:00 - Meet at Church to go to 30 Hour Famine at Lakeshore! You will need a sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, towel, shower shoes, and comfortable clothes.

Sunday, Feb. 26

9:30 - Sunday School (*Helper - Debbie C.*)

3:07 - Youth return from Lakeshore to attend the Eagle ceremony for Thomas!

No evening activities!

Peace, Beth

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Hey guys! Here's what's on our schedule coming up:

Tuesday, Feb. 21 - 6:00 - Dinner and Discussion

Tuesday, Feb. 28 - 6:00 - Dinner and Something fun!

Peace, Beth

Children's Corner

DESSERTS, DESSERTS, DESSERTS!

It's not too late! If you would like to help with the Day School Fundraiser this Thursday, February 16, you can still donate a dessert! Sign up at the Hospitality Desk or contact Amy Pearson. The Children's Department is showing support for the Day School by donating desserts for the event.

ADAM AND EVE AND THE BIRDS AND THE BEES

If you have a child or know a child in 4th - 6th grade, they do NOT want to miss this event. Virginia Burnette will be with us March 2-3 for "Human Sexuality and Christianity." Virginia meets with parents for one hour, then spends the rest of the weekend discussing issues that all kids must think about before they enter the teen years. She is an expert at helping the kids relax so they are able to discuss difficult topics. Cost is \$25.00 and covers cost of the workshop plus snacks Friday night and a light breakfast and lunch on Saturday (scholarships are available). Forms will be available in the Hospitality Hall or contact Amy.

LAKESHORE SUMMER CAMP: The calendar is out for summer camp at Lakeshore! Go on-line at www.lakeshoreuma.com for more specific camp dates. We'll have more information at St. Luke's in the near future, so be on the lookout!

amy.pearson@stlukesumc.org or 452-6262, ext. 116.

Congregational Support

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

Susan Dacus and **Linda Hensley** in the loss of their Grandmother, Evelyn Todd on Feb. 3, 2012;

the family of **Molly O'Kelly** in her death on Feb. 13, 2012, The service is Thursday, Feb. 16, 12:30 p.m., at St. Luke's, Visitation will be at 11:30a.m. before the service.

PRAYER CONCERNS OF OUR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY

Deborah Lewis
Brooke Hall Henderson
Trudy Ellis
Dorothy Sue Lovejoy
Tony Gray

Music Ministry Team
Our missionaries,
David & Lorie Persons
Sue Porter

PRAY FOR CONFIRMANDS AND THEIR LEADERS!

Our Confirmation Class began this past Sunday and we would love to have your prayers for our Confirmands and their leaders! Our Facilitators this year are Rob & Melinda Kaler and teachers are Pastor Mark and Pastor Bee, Zach Ferguson, Larry & Katie Kaler, Bob & Janie Hendrix, Linda Hensley, and Bettye Masters. Thanks be to God for all of the blessings that this group of young people and leaders bring to our church!

Radio Broadcast

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

The service from Feb. 5 was broadcast on Feb. 12.

Dedicated in loving memory of

Lonnie E. Roberts, Jr.

for his Feb. 3rd birthday from Jean Roberts

The service on Feb. 12 will be broadcast on Feb. 19.

Paid by St. Luke's UMC

Keep our Radio Ministry On the Air

Help St. Luke's minister not only to our homebound community but also to the entire Memphis community. Our weekly radio broadcasts are heard by many people in our community including our own Mayor. For



\$225 each week you or a group of people can help by sponsoring a broadcast in memory or in honor of someone special. Contact Vickey Hobbs for more information.

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



United
Methodist
Women

A BIG THANKS
to the church wide
congregation for
such an outpouring

of love for the United Methodist Women's Social Action for February. The First Steps Program Coordinator, Ms. Simpson, came to the Unit Meeting on Tuesday and shared her story. She was so pleased with the car load of "goodies" for her teen moms. Again, thanks for your generosity. We will continue our Social Action plan for this year with household items for a new transitional house for the homeless in March. You are welcome to bring new or gently used twin sheets, blankets, pots and pans, paper towels, toilet tissue, detergent, anything that can be used to set up a house. Please place donations in the UMW box in the first floor elevator room. Call Pat at 489.3757, if you have a large item or if you have questions .

Congratulations!

Jeffrey Cargile for being a published writer! One of Jeffrey's poems (entitled Winter Camping) is being published!

Madison Petri for being awarded 1st place for digital art and 3rd place for drawing in the West Tennessee Regional Art Center competition!

Mary Page Pearson for her performance in the musical "Chicago"!

Ben Taylor for his performance in "Into the Woods"!

Sarah Jenkins received the Director's Choice at the Allie Awards for her performance in "Father Knows Best"!

KeKe and RayRay Dorsey have received full scholarships for college next school year!

We have such talented young people around here!

*Do you know someone we should be proud of? Please let us know so we can recognize them!



MUSIC NOTES

I wanted to write a brief word of **thanks** to you the church family of St. Luke's UMC. I arrived here yesterday (*Wednesday, Feb 8th*) and I must say that I feel like one of the family already.

The initiation, tour, worship planning meeting, dinner, and choir rehearsal were all fantastic. It's going to be a lot to absorb over the coming months but I am excited about the opportunity to work with all of you! I appreciate the honor you've given me in being able to musically lead you each Sunday and it's a responsibility I'll not take lightly. I'm happy to be here and I know that God has great things in store for us as we work together for the Kingdom.

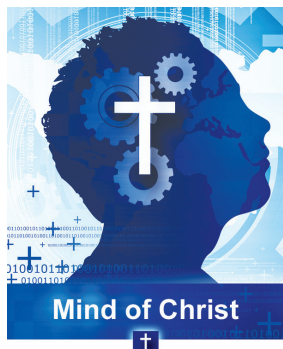
In closing this wouldn't be a complete choir director's blog if it didn't include a "call to service" in some form so let me say that if you've been on sabbatical from choir or have always thought about joining, now is the time!! We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30. Handbells will likely also start back soon as well. Please email me at jeremy.warner@stlukesumc.org for any questions or musical interests you may have -- and again thanks for making me feel so at home already!

Jeremy

Young at Heart Day Trip Belz Museum and Majestic Grill

February 28

We will leave St. Luke's at 11:00 am for lunch at the Majestic Grill where you will be able to choose from a menu of five items. After lunch we will ride the trolley loop and then visit the Belz Museum where a docent will give a tour of the collection. We will return to St. Luke's at approximately 3:00 pm. Cost for everything is \$20. Please make reservations by Sunday, Feb. 26.



★ *Is your Sunday School class a star class?*

Congratulations to:

- ★Loyal Stewards
- ★Growing Disciples

These classes average attendance for January 2012 exceeded that of Jan. 2011. Your class could be next.

St. Luke's Living Healthy Lives

Did you know that John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist Church wrote a Medical Book. Well maybe he did not write it but he collected medical advice when he traveled around the country preaching in the villages. For example, How to cure Baldness; "Rub the part morning and evening with onions til it is red; and rub it afterwards with honey. Or electrify it daily." or how to cure a bleeding nose Wesley writes; "Drink very largely, every morning and eat much of raisins" or "put the arms and legs in cold water." Wesley's medicine book named: "Wesley's Primitive Physick 1791" has many good suggestions for many illnesses, some of which I actually used while I worked at Samuteb Hospital in the middle of nowhere in Congo, Africa.

I share this story because the Hands team is inviting all medical personnel to attend a meeting to discuss how we can support our congregation in living healthier lives. For example, do we need a support group for those of us who have diabetes, and how can we help educate each other with healthy eating habits, what kind of vaccinations are out there for our children, how to prepare for surgery, or help in understanding what the doctor said.

We will meet **Monday February 20, at 5 PM** in room 106. If you are interested in being part of this group but unable to attend the meeting please contact me email: pastor.bee@stlukesumc.org or call the office 452. 6262 ext 124.

The Mind Ministry Team presents

a special Lenten Series,

24 Hours that Changed the World,

by Adam Hamilton.

This six week series will start on Feb. 26 and end on Easter Sunday, April 8. We will meet during the Sunday School hour, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. There is a short video lesson from Adam Hamilton each week and then discussion will be led by a variety of our favorite teachers from within our congregation. As part of your Lenten Journey please join us in room 106 for this special series.

Walk with Jesus on his final day.

Sit beside him at the Last Supper.

Pray with him in Gethsemane.

Follow him to the cross

Desert him. Deny him.

Experience the resurrection.

SPRING 2012
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join us Tuesdays in the Church Library
"James, Mercy Triumphs," by Beth Moore.
The group will meet weekly on Tuesday mornings
from 10:00-12:00 with childcare available as re-
quested. Cost will be \$20.00 for study materials.

Please consider this wonderful opportunity for
study, fellowship, and spiritual growth.
Contact Susan Dacus (756-8290) with questions.

Scout News

Since our last news-o-gram the troop has been on a city adventure where the scouts learned how to get around town using the Bus System. We got off the trolley at the Fire Museum to tour and take part in the exhibits. We got close to real fire trucks both new and extremely old ones. Then back on the Riverfront Trolley Loop and then we took a bus to the Airport and back, learning bus schedules, routes and directions.

Seven Adults took classes at the University of Scouting with 400+ other scouters. We had a great Family night where over 40+ badges were awarded and 6 rank badges were presented.

Thanks for your support, Burges

Eagle Scout Ceremony

Thomas Wilson
Sunday, February 26, 3:07 p.m.
St. Luke's UMC

Lakeshore Summer Camp 2012

"Secrets of the Kingdom"

Applications for summer camp are available in Hospitality Hall or you can go online to lakeshoreuma.com for an online application and more information.

Camperships will be highlighted soon in worship so watch for more information about how you can help send a young person to camp.

Last year for Advent and Pentecost we had people bring candles that represented their family. As we were tidying up the candle closet this past week we realized that many of the candles were never picked up. If you would like to have your candle, please pick it up from the Hospitality Desk by March 15.

HANDS MINISTRIES

Memphis and Shelby County has one of the highest per capita hunger rates in the United States. In an effort to combat this growing problem, many years ago, St. Luke's UMC began a feeding program that provides a meal on Saturday evening (Saturday Supper). A second meal on Sunday morning (Sunday Breakfast with Sunshine Service) was added a few years ago. In 2011, approximately 7,786 people were served 12,537 meals at a cost of \$0.47 per meal. This is equivalent to a weekly grocery budget of \$9.87 for a family unit of one.

Contrary to public belief, the faces of the hungry are not largely those of the homeless but may be of the families who can no longer meet expenses due to job loss or of the elderly whose retirement funds no longer meet their needs or of the students who run out of money by the end of the month. Hunger may also be the faces of the working poor who qualify for little public services.

Did you realize that the weekend feeding programs at St. Luke's UMC are funded through donations only and are not part of a line-item in the budget. Imagine the impact that the members of the congregation would have on "feeding the need" if each member donated monthly the cost of one meal at his or her favorite restaurant. You might think that a few dollars wouldn't make a difference, but when many multiples of those few dollars are added together, it could provide permanent funding for the Saturday Supper and Sunday Breakfast feeding programs. Please place your donations in the "special offering" envelope in the back of the pews and mark it "WEEKEND FEEDING PROGRAMS."

Thank you for your generous donations.

Are you interested in making crafts with recycled products? If so, then please sign up at the hospitality desk. A Wednesday evening time is being suggested. Save your large oatmeal containers for the first project. Contact Mary Clyde McKnight for more information. 274-5025

St. Luke's Calendar: February 15 - March 1

Wednesday February 15

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
3:00pm – 5:45pm Stephen Ministry - MB, 106
5:45pm – 6:20pm Fellowship Dinner - FH
6:25pm – 7:25pm Team Grow & Children's Choirs
6:30pm – 7:30pm Together We Grow Activities
6:30pm – 8:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Thursday February 16

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
5:30pm – 8:00pm Crawfish/Jazz Fest Fundraiser- FH

Friday February 17

7:15pm – 10:15pm Defender Bball League - Gym

Saturday February 18

9:00am – 10:30am Jr. Jammers BB - Gym
2:00pm – 5:00pm Learn to Sew - Lounge
4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH

Sunday February 19

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 – 1:30pm Athletic Ministry Banquet - Gym
5:00pm – 7:00pm Dinner & Youth Activities - MB, 3rd Fl.
6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday February 20

9:30am – 10:00am Staff Prayers - Chapel
5:00pm – 8:00pm St. Luke's Medical Group - MB, 106
5:30pm – 6:30pm U District Memphis - MB, 211
6:00pm – 6:30pm Called Church Council - Chapel
6:30pm – 7:45pm Called PMT - MB, 311
6:30pm – 8:30pm Glad Helpers Prayer Group - Parlor
7:00pm – 8:00pm Coin Club - Lounge

Tuesday February 21

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
10:00am – 11:30am Staff Meeting - MB 106
10:00am – 12:00pm Women's Bible Study - MB, 211
10:30am – 12:00pm Mary Circle - Lounge
12:30pm – 2:30pm Rachel 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
7:15pm – 10:15pm Defender Bball League - Gym

Wednesday February 22

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
5:45pm – 6:20pm Fellowship Dinner - FH
6:30pm – 7:30pm Ash Wed. Service - Sanctuary
6:30pm – 8:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Thursday February 23

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

Friday February 24

4:00pm Youth leave for Lakeshore
7:00pm – 9:00pm Blue & Gold Banquet - FH
7:15pm – 10:15pm Defender Bball League - Gym

Saturday February 25

9:00am – 10:30am Jr. Jammers BB - Gym
10:00am – 2:30pm Reconciling Ministries - Lounge
4:30pm – 5:30pm Saturday Supper - FH

Sunday February 26

8:00am – 9:00am Breakfast and Sunshine Service - FH
9:30am – 10:30am Sunday School
10:50am – 12:00pm ONE Worship Service - Sanctuary
2:45pm Youth Return from Lakeshore
3:00pm – 6:00pm Eagle Scout Ceremony/Reception
5:00pm – 7:00pm Dinner & Youth Activities - MB 3rd Fl.
6:00pm – 7:00pm The ELEMENT - FH

Monday February 27

9:30am – 10:00am Staff Prayers - Chapel
5:30pm – 6:30pm U District Memphis - MB, 211

Tuesday February 28

9:00am – 10:00am Sit & Be Fit - CLC Gym
10:00am – 12:00pm Women's Bible Study - MB, 211
10:15am – 11:15am Senior Choir - Choir room
10:30am – 12:00pm HARC Board Meeting - Parlor
11:30am – 3:00pm Young at Heart trip - Off Site
6:00pm – 8:30pm Young Adult Ministry - MB 3rd Fl.
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 February 29

6:45am – 7:45am UMM Prayer Breakfast - FH
5:45pm – 6:20pm Fellowship Dinner - FH
6:25pm – 7:25pm Children's Choir & Team Grow - CB
6:30pm – 7:30pm Together We Grow Activities
6:30pm – 8:00pm Chancel Choir - Choir Room

Thursday March 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
10:00am – 12:00pm LIFE Group - MB, 211

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
and click on the "events" tab.

THE EPISTLE

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
480 So. Highland Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38111-4302

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PD
MEMPHIS, TN

The EPISTLE (USPS #569-280) is published twice monthly
by ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH,
480 So. Highland, Memphis TN 38111-4302.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The EPISTLE, 480 S. Highland, Memphis TN 38111



Reconciling Ministries Love Your Neighbor 2012 Training event

Saturday, February 25
St. Luke's UMC
10a.m. - 2:30p.m.

Please join us for the Love Your Neighbor Training event hosted by the Reconciling Ministries Network. This event is an opportunity to empower Reconciling United Methodists to identify their stories as to why inclusion matters to our church, and teach people helpful tools on how to use those stories strategically, especially in order to reach out to General Conference delegates. Please visit www.loveyourneighbor2012.org for more information about the campaign! Contact Gheeta Smith (801-232-6646 or gheeta@rmnwitness.org) if you'd like to help spread the word about this event.

Lunch will be provided (\$5 suggested donation). Please call 901-452-6262 to sign up.

Do you need transportation to the Element or Wed. Night program? If so, please sign up at the Hospitality Desk with name and phone number and night of interest. If there is enough interest, transportation will be provided; date and time to be determined. Contact Mary Lou Cushing (428-2812) or Warren Morrison (323-7446) for more information or call the church office.

E-mail Directory Update

Because there was limited response to publishing a church-wide Email Directory, this project has been placed on hold for now. This may be an idea for a future time. Thanks to those who expressed an interest in having this directory.

RECORD OF LOYALTY

<i>Sunday School Attendance - 2/5</i>	199
<i>Sunday School Attendance - 2/12</i>	222

Worship Attendance - February 5, 2012

<i>Sunshine Service</i>	58
<i>8:30 a.m. - Worship</i>	52
<i>10:50 a.m. - Worship</i>	260
<i>Element</i>	22
<i>Total</i>	392

Worship Attendance - February 12, 2012

<i>Sunshine Service</i>	61
<i>8:30 a.m. - Worship</i>	75
<i>10:50 a.m. - Worship</i>	295
<i>Element</i>	19
<i>Total</i>	450

Gifts & Tithes Received

February 5, 2012	\$14,481.00
February 12, 2012	\$6432.00

Finance committee report

The finance committee held its first meeting on January. Our receipts exceeded expenditures by \$6,925 last year, which is impressive considering the size of our budget. The budget approved for 2012 is \$1,031,730 which is \$15,570 less than the 2011 budget.

With funds from the Union Avenue merger we were able to meet 100 percent of our appropriations in 2011. A letter is posted on the bulletin board in the Hospitality Hall from the conference noting that 73 percent of its churches were able to pay 100 percent. Unfortunately, we are budgeted to pay only 22 percent this year.

The next **Epistle** will be published on Monday, February 27. **Please have any articles for publication turned in by Monday, 9:00am, Feb. 27.**