



# ***The Epistle***

Volume XXXXII

January 2, 2007

Number 30

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## **SAINT LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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web site: <http://www.stlukesumc.org> (view and print the E-PISTLE and bulletin from web site)

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## **BLEST EPIPHANY!**

(Saturday, January 6)

*Worship at St. Luke's....*



SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

COMMUNION Services

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17

Meditation: “Why Was Jesus Baptized?”

Pastor Mark Matheny

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CHURCH COUNCIL meets at Noon Sunday, January 7.

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FELLOWSHIP DINNERS resume Wednesday, January 17.

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### **Mission Statement**

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

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## PASTOR MARK'S EPISTLE

Dear Friends,

New Year's resolutions are a sort of "cliché" thing, so often associated with the turning of the calendar as to lose meaning or to be taken for granted. However, let's take a fresh look at this tradition, concentrating on the word "resolution"...

The verb "to resolve" has as one of its meanings "to determine to do something." Since we are called to be determined, dedicated followers of Christ, maybe there is only one resolution needed: **FOLLOW CHRIST, KNOWING THAT ALL ELSE WILL FALL INTO PLACE IF WE DO THIS ONE THING -- FOLLOW CHRIST.**

There's an old chorus many of us learned "way back when" and perhaps its words can be a theme for us now:

*"I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
No turning back, no turning back."*

...Pastor Mark

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### Plan **NOW** for a Pilgrimage

**Emily** and I will lead a group next November 2-14 to Greece and Turkey for a "Paul's Missionary Journeys" cruise. Please call me right away for a copy of the brochure.

A representative of Educational Opportunities, Rev. Earl David, will be at St. Luke's on Wednesday, January 24, 5 p.m. in the CLC Lounge. Come by if interested or even just *curious*. ...Pastor Mark

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### DISCIPLE BIBLE STUDY -- New Testament

Two class options are yours for in-depth study over a 9-week period. Sign up at the table in the hallway near our Information Desk. *Choose...*

Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m., beginning January 17

Thursdays, 10:30 a.m., beginning January 18  
at Highland Heights UMC.

"Professors" **Bettye Jo, Emily and Mark** thank you for your interest.

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**SYMPATHY:** The members of St. Luke's extend sincere sympathy to the family of JOHN W. STEPHENSON who died December 30, 2006; to John Sadler on the death of his son, Jeff Sadler of Memphis, who died December 31, 2006; and to Dawn Kimble on the death of her sister, December 27th.

## UNITED METHODISM FOR NEWCOMERS

quarterly class will be Sunday, January 21, 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor. A continental breakfast will be available at 9:15 a.m. **Rev. Lynn** will teach. *All are welcome and no reservation is required.*

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**LOYALTY FELLOWSHIP LADIES** will meet Monday, January 8, in the CLC Lounge at 10:30 a.m. **May Gordon** will serve as hostess, 323-4257.

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### *Have you noticed anything different about the hallway in front of the Chapel and Parlor?*

Thanks to our talented and creative **Beths (Mac and Ryan)**, the hallway has a brand new look. First, they wanted to lighten and brighten the hall. Fortunately, just changing the covers to the existing lights was all it took. Then they began the project of creating a visual story with art work and photographs. It was clearly a labor of love and after many hours of tedious work, the story is ready to be viewed, read and enjoyed.

Please personally thank our creative duo next time you see them. *Thanks, Beth and Beth!*

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A precious note was recently received from **Clara Dee Eppes** who celebrated her 90th birthday on December 15th. Below is a portion of the note.

*"... Half of my 90 years were spent as a member of St. Luke's and I have great memories and much love for St. Luke's. I don't feel "special" -- I just feel grateful."*

*Love to all, Clara Dee*

Many at St. Luke's have been blessed by knowing you and **Bill**. You are loved.

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The following email was received by **Marcy** on Christmas Eve:

*"Merry Christmas and happy new year to you and God bless you. The best wishes from China. Please remember me to Church and Chancel Choir." Your friend: Xianglin Zhou*

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## SCOUT NEWS

The hearty scouts of Troop 40 just returned from winter camp at Kia Kima, just outside of Hardy, Arkansas. All worked on merit badges, keeping warm and keeping dry!

Thanks for your aluminum cans. We turned in 290 pounds. Please keep saving your cans for us.

St. Luke's leaves are still in need of removal. Sponsor an area and the scouts will clean the area. Sign up sheets are on **Vickey's** office window. *Thanks.*



*Notes from Marcy...*

**Organ Fund Update**

Have you checked the Organ Fund thermometer lately? As of 12/19/06 we have \$174,860.75 raised for the rebuilding of the sanctuary organ! We need a total of \$220,650. We are very close to completing our goal!! Is it time for you to join the many faithful donors to help us achieve this dream? The organ will be rebuilt this summer and we are planning to have all of the funds needed long before then.

**Chancel Choir and Wesley Bells**

Well, Christmas vacation is over and it is time to get back into the habit of rehearsals. The **Chancel Choir** will return to rehearsing on January 3 at 6:30 pm and the **Wesley Bells** will start back on Sunday, January 7th at 5 p.m. We are accepting new members in both groups. (*Wesley Bells only requirement is a minimal skill in music reading and a sense of humor.*) You will be welcomed with open arms.

**Lectio Divina - Praying the Scriptures**

We are very pleased to announce a new opportunity for study. Lectio Divina presents a Christian tradition of prayer that through reading, reflecting, responding and resting in the Word of God one's relationship with God is nourished and deepened. Join us as Contemplative Outreach of West Tennessee and Saint Luke's presents an: Introduction to Lectio Divina (Praying the Scriptures) Program on Saturday, February 10 from 9 am to 3 pm and Mondays, February 12,19,26, March 5,12 and 19 at 7 pm.

Do you seek the small, still voice of God? This program will help you find the God within, and hear the ear of the heart. At this 6-week Introduction to Lectio Divina Program, you will learn about prayer as relationship, the simple method of Praying the Scriptures, and how the fruits of this practice are manifest in your life.

The cost is \$40 per person, which includes the workshop and six follow-up sessions and a copy of the book "Too Deep for Words" by Thelma Hall. To make reservations for this workshop, please fill out the forms at the registration table in the hall by the reception desk and return with your payment to the reception desk or to **Marcy**. We will need all reservations no later than **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28**. Any questions call Marcy at 452-6262.

See you in the Loft,

....Marcy

**YOUTH NEWS**

Hey guys!

Here's what's on the schedule this week:

Sat., Jan. 6th

5-10 p.m. Epiphany Party - Progressive Dinner

Sun., Jan. 7th

9:30-10:30 - Youth Sunday School

3:00 - Youth Instrumental Ensemble

4:00 - Youth Choir

5:00-7:00 - Dinner & Youth Activities

Happy New Year! I'm praying for you guys!

Peace...Beth

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**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

Parents, don't forget to put Thursday, January 11 on your calendar for the clean-out day. The new year is always a good time for organizing! If you have some time during the day, please let me know and I will be glad to have your help. Nursery available!

X-B.O.A.T. begins a new unit called "David: the Boy" this week. We will study the old testament story of a young shepherd boy with special gifts who becomes a king!

See you at church,

...Beth Mac

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**SPORTS SHORTS from The Jack H. Henton  
CLC / Recreation Ministries**

*Welcome Back to 2007!*

**JUNIOR JAMMERS BEGINS** January 6th.

Age 4 to 6 years of age. Cost is \$55. We teach the fundamentals of basketball and team play. It starts at 9:00 a.m. and finishes at 10:30. Register your child today!

**REMEMBER HIM ALWAYS!**

...Coach Day

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**Seeds Ministry Mission**

**Dr. Gene McKenzie** will be leaving January 6th for a Seeds Ministry medical mission. Gene will be in Nagpur, India for 2 weeks providing medical services to the people there. I know you will want to keep Gene and his colleagues in your prayers during this time.

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**NAOMI CIRCLE, Stella Day**, leader, will meet Tuesday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

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**Welcome Our New Member**



Debra Johnson, 400 S. Highland #920E, 38111, united with St. Luke's by transfer from another denomination on December 24, 2006. Janie Hendrix will serve as her Covenant Companion.

# CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, January 7, 2007

- 8:30 am – Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:15 – 9:45 am – Adult Coffee Fellowship (Lobby)
- 9:30 am – Sunday School
- 10:50 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)
- 12:00 Noon – Church Council Meeting (Chapel)
- 2:00 pm – Church Day at Lady Tigers Game  
(U of M Field House)
- 3:00 pm – Youth Band (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)
- 4:00 pm – Youth Choir (Choir Room)
- 5:00 pm – Wesley Bells (207)
- 5:00 – 7:00 pm – Youth (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

MONDAY, January 8

- 8:30 am – Senior Walking & Fitness (CLC)
- 10:00 am – Veterans (FH)
- 10:30 am – Loyalty-Fellowship Ladies (CLC Lounge)
- 1:00 pm – Hospice (Parlor)
- 2:00 pm – Trezevant Meeting (CLC Meeting Room)

TUESDAY, January 9

- 8:30 am – Senior Walking & Fitness (CLC)
- 9:00 am – Sit & Be Fit (CLC)
- 6:00 pm – Education Meeting (211)
- 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts (Children's Building)
- 7:00 pm – UMW Naomi (Parlor)
- 7:00 pm – Boy Scouts (CLC)
- 7:00 pm – Finance (211)

WEDNESDAY, January 10

- 6:45 am – Men's Prayer Breakfast (FH)
- 8:30 am – Senior Walking & Fitness (CLC)
- 11:00 am – King's Daughters Meeting (CLC Mtg. Room)
- 6:30 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY, January 11

- 8:30 am – Senior Walking & Fitness (CLC)
- 9:00 am – Sit & Be Fit (CLC)
- 9:30 – 12:00 Noon – Clean Up Day (Nursery Available)
- 10:00 am – Archives Work (213)
- 11:00 am – Small Group (211)
- 5:30 pm – Vision Team Meeting (Parlor)
- 6:00 pm - Ministry of Love (211)

FRIDAY – January 12 (CHURCH OFFICES / CLC CLOSED)

SATURDAY, January 13

- 9:00 am – Lay Visitor Training (Parlor)
- 9 am – 1:00 pm – HARC Meeting (Buntyn Pres.)
- 10:30 am – Greeter Training (Parlor)
- 4:30 pm – Soup Kitchen (FH)

# SUNDAY PULPIT

January 7, 2007

*Sacrament of Holy Communion  
at 8:30 and 10:50 services.*

## MUSIC:

10:50 “God So Loved the World” Stainer  
Chancel Choir

## ACOLYTE REMINDER:

1/7 Matthew Bowsher & Katie Taylor  
1/14 Ethan Fesmire & Madison Walker  
1/21 Aoife Shanley & Cameron Caldwell  
1/28 Raina Smallwood & Madison Walker

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RADIO BROADCAST - KWAM 990 AM

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 7, 2007

In appreciation of St. Luke's Ministries

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## RECORD OF LOYALTY - December 31, 2006

### Attendance

Sunday School	<u>254</u>
10:50 Worship	<u>325</u>

### Pledge Update

Budget received	N/A
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At the recent Lifeblood HOLIDAY CHURCH BLITZ blood drive held on December 10th, St. Luke's had the largest number of blood donors! *Way to go.*

On a Sunday in the near future, you will have the opportunity to donate at St. Luke's. *Details soon.....*

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### SAINT LUKE'S STAFF

Dr. R. Mark Matheny, Minister  
Dr. Marcia Mittelstadt, Coordinator of  
Worship Arts and Programming  
Beth Ryan, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries  
Cathy Cooley, Day School Director  
David Day, Director of Recreation & Outreach Ministries  
Beth Masters, Director of Children's Ministries  
Dawn Kimble, After-School Director  
Rev. Shirley Lynn, Minister of Evangelism  
Jay Walker, Assistant Director of Music  
Wes Kirkpatrick, Organist  
Candy Williams, Print Secretary  
Rorie Read, Scheduling Coordinator  
Vickey Hobbs, Business Manager

## The EPISTLE

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