



THE EPISTLE

St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

May 2018
Volume 53 Number 11

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

A Message from our Pastor

“I Am The Vine”

Have you ever noticed that Jesus positions Himself in the middle - between us and God. He says:

“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me.”

In other words, if we as Christians are to live spiritually productive lives, we must maintain a spiritual connection to Jesus. Without that connection, we will never produce any spiritual fruit. Without that connection, our lives will come and go without ever meaning anything significant.

Alistair Brown tells of walking past a massive oak tree. A vine had grown up its trunk. The vine started small, but over the years had grown taller and taller. By the time Brown saw it, the vine covered the lower half of the tree; its creepers a solid mass that reached a little higher every day.

The tree had been in danger. The vine had been choking the life out of the big oak. But the grounds keepers had seen the danger. They had taken a saw and severed the trunk of the vine - one neat cut through the trunk of the vine.

The vine was still clinging to the oak, but it was dead. Its leaves were turning brown. The spread of its tentacles was arrested. The vine remained attached to the tree; but no longer threatened to spread further. It carried no power to choke anything. No longer connected to the source of its life, it was dead.

Jesus said: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.”

St. Luke's family, Jesus is the vine. We are the branches. Only as we maintain our connection to Him can we ever expect to accomplish anything significant in the spiritual realm. Faithfully,

Worship at St. Luke's
All are Welcome

Worship on Sundays
8:30 and 11:00am

Sunday School Classes
For all ages - 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship in Hospitality Hall
10:30 a.m.

May 6, 2018
Communion Sunday
Golden Cross

May 13, 2018
Mother's Day
Honoring Graduates

May 20, 2018
Pentecost Sunday

May 27, 2018
Trinity Sunday

St. Luke's Staff

Jim McKinney, Pastor
Harry Colter, Pastoral Assistant
Terri Theil, Music Ministries
Wes Kirkpatrick, Organist
Beth Ryan, Youth/Young Adult Ministries
Amy Turman, Day School/PDO
Amy Lee, Challengers
David Day, CLC/Recreation
Tim Taylor, Facilities
Vickey Hobbs, Finance



Mission Statement

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



As of this writing, Forward in Faith has not yet met in April. We're meeting on Thursday, April 26th. We've reached out to those serving in leadership with the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts. We look forward to brainstorming with them and finding out ways St. Luke's can help the Scout leaders and their program grow, connect with the community and continue to enhance the lives of the families they serve.

Thank you, Megan

A Way Forward for St. Luke's

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Sunday school presentation and luncheon with Helen Ryde. A special debt of gratitude is owed to all those who provided soup and to Clancey Patterson and Jenny McKinney for the grilled cheese sandwiches. The decisions regarding human sexuality facing our denomination and our congregation are important. It is imperative that all voices are heard and all opinions considered. Please take advantage of the upcoming opportunities for education and conversation around the choices that we may be asked to make. If you were not able to attend the meetings with Helen and are interested in the work of the commission, please check out this website: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>, or ask one of the members of the St. Luke's Reconciling committee, chaired by Ann Bowsher. We will keep the congregation posted on our progress and on any future events in each upcoming Epistle.

The "13 in 13" Challenge

Golden Cross Senior Ministries serves the needs of approximately 2200 seniors residing in the 29 Wesley Living affordable housing retirement communities of West Tennessee, Jonesboro, AR and Murray, KY. One of our most pressing and rewarding initiatives is our provision of remedies for homeless seniors.

The H. W. Durham Foundation has issued the following challenge grant to Golden Cross. During the next 13 weeks, Durham will match every Move-In Kit donated with a Move-In Kit. When you, your group or Sunday School class donates a Move-In Kit, 2 homeless seniors are positively impacted. The challenge began on Monday, April 23rd. Donations may take the form of actual items or a monetary donation of \$350. The match will occur for the first 13 Move-In Kits donated.

Suggested items for a Move-In Kit ... **Example of Household Needs:** Small trashcan & trash bags; Cleaning supplies like bleach, Clorox wipes, Windex, All Purpose cleaner, Pledge furniture polish, Sponges, Dish washing liquid, Foil, Laundry Soap, Hand Soap, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towels, Laundry basket and Hangers.

Kitchen Needs: Dinnerware set for 4, Silverware set for 4, Set of Pots & Pans, Dish towels, Kitchen utensils (cooking spoons, spatula, can opener, knives), Plastic containers with lids & a Pitcher. **Bedroom Needs:** Pillows, blanket(s), sheet set (twin or full). **Bathroom Needs:** Shower curtain and rings, Bath mat, Set of 2 towels (bath, face, and hand), and a toilet bowl brush. **Personal Care Needs:** Toothbrush & toothpaste, Body soap and Shampoo. **Food Needs for 1 Month:** Canned vegetables, Beanie Weenie's, Beans (can or dry), Canned soups, Canned meats (ham, potted meat, chicken, tuna, SPAM, vienna sausage, salmon), Beef Stew, Peanut Butter (creamy or crunchy), Jelly (grape or strawberry), Tea bags, Instant coffee, Mac-N-Cheese (with liquid cheese packet), Rice, Complete boxed meals, Tuna Helper, Instant potatoes, Cup of Noodles/Ramen Noodles, Spaghetti sauce, Pasta, Canned fruit, Sugar/Substitute, Flour, Oil, Salt & Pepper, Seasonings (All Seasoning/Mrs. Dash original), Cereal, Oatmeal, Crackers, Cookies, Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise), Reusable shopping bags or gift card to grocery store for perishables (\$25).

PLEASE HELP TURN A HOMELESS SENIOR'S SHELTER INTO A SANCTUARY!!!

FAREWELL

To the wonderful people of St. Luke's, Although I was here for just under three years, my time with you all has been filled with joy, growth and friendships. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to share my passions as the Director of Children's Ministry and Community Connections. I pray that my work has inspired new leaders, faith foundational growth in our children and positive change. I am thankful to St. Luke's for supporting me loving me and consistently acknowledging my value. I am thankful for the deep and treasured friendships I share with so many people. I trust God is fully involved in every step of this transition for both me and the church. Please be in prayer as a new Director of Children's Ministry is sought out. St. Luke's has much to share with our community and I will be praying for you as well. Blessings to you all. I'll be seeing you around.

With love,
Megan Warren

CHALLENGERS

It is with a heavy heart that I announce that I will be stepping down as Director after this summer to return to school full time. For the past three and a half years, I have had the pleasure of helping St. Luke's Challengers evolve into the lively and vibrant program that it is today.

Upon reflecting over the last few years, I am proud of our accomplishments. We have expanded two classrooms into five classrooms and even added a homework room. We have achieved the highest star rating possible from the State of Tennessee. Our summer camp has grown exponentially, almost tripling in size. But most of all, I am proud to have helped create - alongside our wonderful teachers and exceptional assistant director - a place that is safe, fun and enriching for the children. It has been such a joy to work with them, and I will cherish the memories I have made long after I have left St. Luke's.

We will begin transitioning to a new director in the coming months. St. Luke's has put together a very capable search committee to find the next director. Please feel free to reach out to Denise Hensley, the chair of the search committee, at challengers.jobs@stlukesumc.org if you know of anyone who might be interested. We hope to have the new director in place this summer so that we can ensure a smooth transition. I will remain at Challengers part-time until July 13th to train the new director and to help facilitate camp.

Thank you for your support and confidence in me throughout the last few years. I look forward to watching the success and growth of St. Luke's Challengers as it moves forward. It has been my privilege to serve you all and be a part of this outstanding church. ... Amy Lee

DAY SCHOOL

It's hard to believe that we are starting to wind down this school year. We have a busy and exciting month ahead! Mark your calendars ... on May 11th from 6 pm to 8 pm, the PTO will be hosting our annual fund raiser. It will be held in the parking lot and on the playground - A Family Fun Night Event with food trucks, auction baskets, a \$500 Visa raffle and much more! We hope that you will attend. May 23 will be our last day of school. We will have our end of the year program and SK graduation in the Sanctuary. Thank you for loving our little ones and supporting the ministry of education in our community.

Amy Turman, St. Luke's Day School Director
S



Spring classes began Wednesday, April 18 and Saturday, April 21 and will run for six weeks. Class times are Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10:00am

Attend one or as many classes as you wish. Classes are in the St. Luke's lounge. Please invite your friends to join us as we learn more rhymes and activities for your babies.

For more information contact Marcy Mittelstadt:
marciam11@att.net

NO FEES - Just come to play and sing with your baby!

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday mornings - 9:30am

The Red Letter Class – Room 106, under the Sanctuary.

Loyal Stewards – Room 215, 2nd floor across from the Library. *Adult Bible Studies*

Parents Group – Room 211 (Church Library) This class provides a sharing of real life challenges for parents of young to teenage children.

Christian Homebuilders - MB 108, (under the Sanctuary)
May 6 - Review of Reconciliation Discussion; May 13 - Sermon by Vic Feisal; May 20 - Josh Spickler, Just City; May 27- Berlin Boyd, Chairman City Council ; June 3 - TBA ; June 10 - Jamey Lee, Jacob's Well

Newman Class - Room 213, Follows the lectionary scriptures to prepare for worship.

Young Adult Class - Meets in the Lounge

Growing Disciples Class - Meets on the 3rd Floor, Room 304 in the Main Building. Video/Book discussions.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10:00 AM - Fellowship Hall (FH)						
11:00 AM - Main Building (MB)						
12:00 PM - Hospitality Hall (HH)						
1:00 PM - Children's Building (CB)						
2:00 PM - Christian Life Center (CLC)						
3:00 PM - Fellowship Hall (FH)						
4:00 PM - Main Building (MB)						
5:00 PM - Hospitality Hall (HH)						
6:00 PM - Children's Building (CB)						
7:00 PM - Christian Life Center (CLC)						

Calendar Room Key
 MB-Main Building; FH-Fellowship Hall
 HH - Hospitality Hall; CB-Children's Building
 CLC-Christian Life Center

SANCTUARY STEWARD OPPORTUNITY

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, 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 327-3962 or email at Virginia.hathorn@stlukesumc.org.

Thanks in advance for your help. Remember, if you are unable to volunteer at this time, it is a big help if you take your worship bulletin with you after services and return

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
 5:45 pm, Lounge, continues thru the end of May.
 Led by Pastor Jim McKinney
There will be no dinner served on Wednesday nights.

Children's Ministries



Click on the link below beginning May 14 to register: <https://stlukesumc.org/ministries/children/vacation-bible-school-2018/>. Be on the lookout in the Hospitality Hall for donation needs and VBS volunteer sign-up. Contact Lynne McAlexander if you're interested in helping this year: 901-550-3091. Looking forward to a VBS worth ROARING about.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

The Prayer Group would like to thank everyone who participated in our 60 Hours of Prayer during Holy Week. We had more than 60 people praying. How awesome! I hope your experience was enriched by the pamphlet. One participant said it was exactly one hour for them to complete the pamphlet during their prayer time. Thanks again for your participation.

Youth & Young Peoples Ministries

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

THIS SPRING ...

HIGH SCHOOL:

Lincoln Caldwell
Virgil Evans
Reed Goebel
Cody Sanford
Kevin Schnadelbach

COLLEGE:

Mary Page Pearson (UT Chattanooga)
Matt Bowsher (U of M)
Michael Wofford (U of M)

MASTERS:

Uziel Contreras

If you know of other graduates we should recognize, please contact Beth Ryan. We will honoring these graduates at worship on May 13th.

FUNDRAISER FOR YOUNG ADULTS

The Young Adults are selling some great looking St. Luke's cups to raise money for Summer activities! They are \$10. Look for Young Adults selling them after worship!

Appalachia Service Project Update ...

Our ASP group is scheduled to leave on June 16th to serve in Lawrence County, KY! We could use the help of our wonderful church family in 3 ways:

1. Provide individually wrapped snacks (chips, cookies, crackers) to supplement our lunches. ASP only provides sandwiches. You can leave donations at the front desk for Beth to pick up.

2. Give a donation to help cover the cost of gasoline. We will travel almost to West Virginia this year and the cost of fuel is on the rise!

3. Pray for our teams and the families we will serve. We plan to have 4 teams this summer. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry. Beth Ryan, Youth & Young Adult Director

NEW SHORT TERM BIBLE STUDY ...

Who: open to all ages and stages

When: Starting Sunday, May 6th at 9:30am for 6 weeks

Where: Youth Dining Room - 3rd floor

Study: **Who is This Man?** by John Ortberg

The unpredictable impact of the inescapable Jesus.

Facilitators: Cindy and George Mullins

If you are looking for an opportunity to meet new friends and study God's word, come join us.

MUSIC NOTES

The **CHANCEL CHOIR** will have an all Men's choir on Sunday, June 10th and a Women's choir on Sunday, June 17th. All are welcome!

WESLEY BELLS will be on hiatus until August. Please let me know if you would be interested in joining us in the fall.

MEMPHIS CHILDREN'S CHORALE, a city-wide auditioned choir for grades 3-8 will have their spring concert at St. Luke's on Tuesday, May 15th, in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. For more information visit -

www.memphischoralarts.org.

MUSIC MINISTRIES CALENDAR

SUNDAY: 10:30 am, chancel choir warm up for worship.

WEDNESDAY: 6:30 - 8:00 pm, Chancel Choir rehearsal

If you would like more information or would like to contribute to the Music Ministry of St. Luke's UMC through a memorial or a separate donation, please contact Terri Theil; terri.theil@stlukesumc.org or 901-452-6262, extension 103.

Sport Shorts from the CLC/Recreation

REMINDER ***** Your Fitness room is open. Monday thru Friday, 7 am - 6 pm. Come and work on your temple. God demands that we keep our body in shape as well as our hearts and minds.

T-Ball sign up starting Wednesday, April 25th, forms are available in the Hospitality Hall and in the CLC lobby. Cost is \$55 dollars. We will meet on Saturday mornings from 9 am to 10:30am from May 19th thru June 23rd.

Upcoming ... I am working on having a Square Dance and Trivia night later this summer. Details coming soon!!!!

Remember **HIM** always,
Coach Day

United Methodist Men

Join us for our **Prayer Breakfast** on Wednesday mornings at 7:15 am. On the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall. A full breakfast is only \$3. The 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays of each month, we meet at Perkins Restaurant on Park Ave.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S NEWS

The Taste of St. Luke's

Thanks to everyone who supported, attended and helped with the Taste. A special thanks to Shirley Robinson, Doey Barrar, Phyllis Gay, Barbara Caldwell, Betty Carter and Roland Bullock.

General Meeting - May 1st at 11am. Bonnie Carter with Blue Buckets will be the speaker followed by lunch. Please sign up at the Hospitality Hall Desk. Ms. Carter will be promoting reading for young children. She was part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

UMNC Awareness Day will be May 16th at Covenant UMC. Registration is 10 am with Program by Jamey Lee from Jacob's Well at 10:30 am followed by lunch. Lunch is provided by Key Women. Come and enjoy!

Methodist Women's Auxiliary is asking for sweat pants and shirts. Gently used clean clothes are okay. Please put in the UMW Room 104 in the clear bin.

Golden Cross list can be found on the table in the UMW Room 104 as well. Please place items in the green bin.

Book Club - The United Methodist Women will be sponsoring a Book Club this summer. A special thanks to April Carpenter for putting us in touch with Patricia Bradley. She is the author of cold case mysteries set in Memphis. We will be reading her book **Justice Denied** which is set at the Pink Palace. She will be at St. Luke's Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm on June 27th to give the review. We will have light refreshments and begin the review at 6 pm. The children will have a Movie Night and the nursery will be open so the entire family can come and enjoy the evening. The book is \$10. The second book is J. Ellsworth Kalas', **I Love Growing Older But I'll Never Grow Old!** This review will be on July 18th at 5:30 pm for light refreshment and the review will begin at 6 pm. The children will also have Movie Night and the nursery will be open. Kalas' book is \$5. See Pat Anderson for the the books or you can order from Amazon. We look forward to seeing you (everyone is invited) at our Book Club this summer.

Dining for \$\$\$... Mark your calendar for the 2nd Dining for \$\$\$ (take home meal) on Saturday, Dec 1st at 10 am for pick up. More to come.

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SCOUT NEWS

You are invited to attend the Blue and Gold Ceremony of Cub Scout Pack 40. Join us as we celebrate 13 scouts who have earned their new rank and as we celebrate **Adrian Acree, Riley Bruce, Ramsey Hall, Owen Kearney and Brady St. Gelais** as they receive their Arrow of Light and cross-over into Boy Scout Troop 40. It will be on Friday, May 18th in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm.

This is pot luck so please RSVP to Lisa or Jonathan St. Gelais at stgelaisfamily@gmail.com or 901-230-9174 so we will have enough food.

Jonathan & Lisa St. Gelais

Cub Masters Pack 40 St. Luke's UMC

RECORD OF GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR APRIL 2018

\$72,517.59 ... Thank you for your support

GIFTS IN MEMORY:

CAROLYN ERVIN from Vic & Carole Feisal, Harry & Bette Colter, Vickey Hobbs, Hal & Betty Padgett, Bob & Janie Hendrix

MILDRED FIELDS from Deborah A. Sanders

DONNIE HOFFMAN from Hal & Betty Padgett

DEBORAH RICHARDSON WALKER from Vickey Hobbs, Bob & Janie Hendrix

GIFTS IN HONOR:

PAT ANDERSON from Deborah A. Sanders

OUR GREAT SECURITY OFFICERS AND TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS from Sarah Jane Tice.

OUR SYMPATHY TO:

The family of Anne Upchurch who passed away on May 2, 2018. She is April Carpenter's aunt.

The family of Emma McCarter who is the sister of Opal Hill

The next Epistle deadline is May 21, 2018