



Sharing Our Faith

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

3080 Okatie Highway, between the back gates of Sun City on Hwy 170

"Praising and Serving God Thru the Ages"

Volume 11, Issue 10

OCTOBER 2018



September seems to have been a very stressful and chaotic month for many of us. We all waited and watched as Hurricane Florence churned

toward the east coast of the United States, wondering where and when the storm would hit. We waited and waited wondering about the intensity of the storm that was approaching. Some scrambled to evacuate while others waited for the mandatory evacuation orders to be issued; only to be rescinded and maybe being issued again. There is a very simple story that relates to chaos in life and the source of peace we have:

A Father wanted to give his daughter something to do and there was a picture of the world on a sheet of paper. He tore it into smaller pieces and told her to see if she could put the pieces back together correctly. The little girl agreed. Five minutes later, she showed her father the pieces put back together perfectly. He was stupefied. When he ask her how she had done the task so quickly, she said, "Oh, on the back was a picture of Jesus and I figured if I got him right, the world would fall into place." Our worlds are in chaos because we aren't focused on getting Jesus right first. (Tony Evans Book of Illustrations, 66)

Our lives, our church, our community and our world fall in place and we find peace when we get Jesus right first!

Grace and Peace,
Brian



I was watching the news today and noticed that the journalists were wearing light jackets as they spoke about a news topic from NYC. It won't be long before we dive into our closets and pull the plastic bags from our own fall jackets stored there since last year.

Fall is a time of change but I think it's also a time of reflection. Revered by many as the most favorable of the four seasons, autumn brings us a little closer to year's end and the wonderful holidays that are part of it.

It's also a great time to take a deep breath, relax, and reflect on our past accomplishments. While there are many sermons on how to be a better Christian, God also smiles down upon us when we do things that are pleasing in His eyes. Sometimes we focus on the negatives when we should take some time and give ourselves a little pat on the back. When we dwell on our accomplishments, we accentuate the positive and a 'feel good' aura surrounds us. We feel good because we did something that pleases the Lord. We can then spend the time to see if we can improve on those accomplishments for the next time. Give yourself some credit. Smile. Feel good about yourself. Enjoy those autumn leaves as they start to fall. Enjoy this colorful and beautiful time of year.

Happy Autumn!

—Ron Pozsonyi, Lay Leader



Thoughts

The end of the year can offer some unique opportunities for those of us who have IRA's and are over 70. You may be required to take a RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from your Individual Retirement Account. Recent gains in stock values may have provided us with an IRA balance greater than we had expected. We have the opportunity to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) (gift) directly from the IRA without paying any taxes on it (the gift is not reported as earned income). The donation must be delivered directly from your IRA account custodian to have this tax treatment. The lower reported income can favorably impact marginal tax rates, Social Security benefits and Medicare surtax.

Our opportunity is to provide greater support to St. Luke's without impacting available living funds.

Your gifts can be directed to the general fund, or to designated funds like the PPI or Endowment.

Your financial adviser can give you all the details.

Call me with any easy questions.

—Rob Clark, Finance Chairperson

On Sunday, Sept. 23rd, St. Luke's held its annual Charge Conference. This is our formal "legal" meeting for the year which was led by Rev. Thomas Pearson, District Superintendent. Our church received a commendation letter from the Conference for meeting 100% of our apportionment obligations in 2017.



One of the key agenda items is adopting the fiscal budget for 2019. Following is a summary of the adopted budget.

INCOME (all sources) \$175,700
EXPENSE : (total) \$176,789

Expenses breakdown:

Local Church Programs:
 (includes apportionments) \$34,883
 Pastoral Ministry:
 (includes housing and PAC) \$102,406
 Missions and Benevolence:
 (Charitable giving) \$17,150
 Operations and Facilities:
 (buildings, utilities, etc.) \$22,350

Cemetery operations are budgeted separately:

Cemetery Income: \$14,000
 Cemetery Operations Expense: \$15,650

Anyone wanting all the details, please contact Rob Clark.



Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, has delivered 157 million shoeboxes to boys and girls around the world. We praise God for so many children whose lives have been transformed because of a simple gift.

Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has partnered with local churches around the world to deliver 157 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to children in need in 160 countries. Each one—packed full of fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items by a family or individual—is sent with prayer that the child who receives it will experience God's love through their simple gifts.

These shoebox gifts are an opportunity to share the Gospel and "declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples" (Psalm 96:3).

"It Changed My Life"

One Christmas, an 8-year-old girl named Felisha on the island of Trinidad received a shoebox gift packed with a doll, stationery, colorful socks, and a teddy bear.

"I didn't know anything about Jesus because I had never been to church before, so I was really curious," Felicia said.

Felisha (pictured at age 17, now 25) and her entire family accepted Jesus Christ and worked to plant a church in their town.



As a result of her shoebox gift, she began attending church in a neighboring village with a friend. When her sister received a shoebox gift a following year, her father said, "I was amazed at the love I saw in those boxes."

Since then, each member of their family has accepted Christ as their personal Savior. Together, they worked to plant a church in their hometown—aptly named Hardbargain.

Felisha knows that her shoebox was more than a collection of toys and useful items: "It made me learn about God, it helped start this church, and it changed my life."

Felisha is among countless children whose lives have been changed forever through the power of God's love, demonstrated through simple gifts.

St. Luke's has the opportunity once again to participate in this wonderful mission. Instructions, box labels, and materials are available in the Fellowship Hall. It's amazing what you can manage to fit into these boxes of love. Select a boy and/or girl and age group. Suggestions for various ages are listed along with items not allowed. We do NOT wrap the individual items. You may cover the bottom and tops of the boxes. Get your friends and clubs involved.

Boxes may be brought to our Fellowship Hall anytime through Sunday, Nov. 11th. Please see Lois Willig with any questions; 843.304.1086 or willigwp@hotmail.com.

THE SUNSHINE LADIES

What an honor to help our own JW Harper celebrate his 91st birthday on Sunday, September 2nd.



Mrs. Joy's flowers are pictured at the left. They were in honor of the Preveaux's grandparents on Grandparent's Day. We also have a Flower Fund from donations made to the Sunshine Ladies. These monies are used to purchase flowers dedicated to the Glory of God on Sundays when there are no special arrangements placed by individuals. Anyone wishing to donate to St. Luke's Flower Fund may do so through the Sunshine Ladies. Just write "Flower Fund" on the memo line or on an envelope containing a cash donation.



These flowers were dedicated to the Glory of God on Sept. 2nd.

Ellie & Bob Antoine donated the arrangement to the right in memory of Bob's parents who were married on Sept 16th. It was also his father's birthday.



Not only do you continue to support our long-standing First Sunday Food Mission, but your donations surpass those of previous months. What a blessing as the need also increases. We also appreciate those who sign up to deliver our food pantry items. Last month Gene and Fran Dolan had a

full vehicle for Bluffton Self Help.

THANK YOU...



August 15, 2018
Dear Friends:

You are so good to your neighbors! Thank you for taking the time to donate to the missions of Bluffton Self Help and our food distribution program. Please know that every item donated will directly impace a person or family in need.

On behalf of our clients, volunteers, staff and board of directors, we would like to thank you for your very generous donation of canned goods and non-perishable food items! Thank you for providing these families with precious nutritional items. Your contribution helps us achieve the mission of feeding the hungry residents in our community!

With an average of 2,500 non-perishable items being distributed every week - a donation like yours is a blessing to receive! Thank you for your kindness and generosity, and thank you for being a part of the bigger picture! Thank you for your continued support!!

Thank you!

Julie

Julie Jones
Assistant Executive Director
(843) 757-8088





Our Walmart baker, Marcia, was so excited to express herself with all the fall colors! If you get to the Hardeeville Walmart bakery, stop and say hello. Happy birthday to all 18 from St. Luke's who celebrated September birthdays!

While you are in the Fellowship Hall dropping off any items being collected or for "Coffee", please notice this container for any loose change you might care to deposit. The Sunshine Ladies work off of your generous donations. Thank You!



Also in the Fellowship Hall you'll find St. Luke's Cookbooks available to purchase at only \$8. They include 200 delicious recipes from friends and members of our congregation. They are also full of St. Luke's history and helpful household tips. To go along with a cookbook, we have aprons with an image of the church on the front which are also a mere \$8.



THE ST. LUKE'S MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP WILL MEET AT THE OKATIE CLUBHOUSE at 8:00 AM. Contact Dave Disney, disneydw1@gmail.com

for more information.

Mr. Al E. Gaytore visits St Luke's. He wants a name tag!



(This photo is curtesy of Dave Disney who was very surprised when he saw Al E. Gaytore recently in our pond.)



WE WERE TREATED TO A SPECIAL SERMON SEPT. 23RD.

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Thomas Pearson delivered the message. It was titled "Is the Lord Your Shepherd?" based on Psalm 23 v.1.



If you were not in attendance and would like to hear his sermon, it is posted on our website. Go to:

<http://stlukesumc-okatie.org/>

SEPTEMBER's POT LUCK

St. Luke's September Fifth Sunday PotLuck saw 24 having as much food and fellowship as if the number were doubled!!!



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



On September 7th, we received a Letter of Transfer from Adnah UMC, Rock Hill, SC for Sarah Smith one of our new members!

On September 30th, we also welcomed Terri & Wes Reutter as new members. They came to St. Luke's from the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Wilmington, DE.

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members!!





MUSIC

The Chancel Singers surprised Pastor Brian on Sept 9th (his birthday!) by singing *Happy Birthday*.



Does he appear to be a little embarrassed? →



After he recovered, he thanked the Chancel Singers!



Then, they sang *Come Thou Fount (I Will Sing)*



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Tommy Wilkerson
- 03 Judy Corley
- 05 Mary Mullen
- 08 Barbara Mainey
- 09 John Hubbard
- 09 Sharon Makarick
- 11 Sally Strickler
- 16 Jane Disney
- 16 Doris Heck
- 18 Julie Bascom
- 18 Bill Halstead
- 19 Loretta LoMonaco
- 22 Haigler Woods
- 23 Judy Watkins
- 27 Nancy Adkins
- 27 Steve Klapp
- 29 Jerry Wick
- 30 Linda Bardoni



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Debbie & Paul Tomasi



Condolences and prayers go out to Al Gibson on the passing of his wife, Addie, Sept 6, 2018.



Condolences also to Jennifer Bernhard on the passing of her brother-in-law, Ken Bernhard.

Let us remember with visits, cards, and prayers...

Nancy Adkins, 49 Heron's Bill Drive, Bluffton 29909.

Doris Boskey, Sonata Viera, Rm; 208 - 3325 Breslay Dr, Melbourne FL 32940

Doug & Jean Corkern, PO Box 3230, Bluffton 29910

Elnora Ekholm, 173 May River Rd., Bluffton 29910

Marcia & Ron Garner, Ron is at Veteran's Victory House, 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro SC 29488

Ethel Lollis, 268 Argent Place, Bluffton 29909

Carolyn Ransier, 3035 Okatie Hwy, Apt. 2104, Okatie, SC 29909

Jane Slayton, 47 Fenwick Drive, Bluffton 29909

Shirley Wisman, Bloom at Belfair, 60 Oak Forest Rd, Apt 129, Bluffton, SC 29910



Bluffton United Methodist Men's Club
Order Form ~ Golden Kernel Pecans

PHONE ORDERS: BUMC CHURCH 843-757-3351
 Or

Pat Simmons 843.384.9739
patsimmons@hargray.com
st.lukesumc.hw170@gmail.com

The BUMM'S are once again selling Golden Kernel Pecans from this year's crop. Your orders will be available for holiday baking and gifts in mid-November. Pecans may be frozen and keep well for about a year. Your **final date to order: Monday, Nov. 5, 2018!**

Please complete your advance order for Church pickup or delivery when announced in early November (usually the 2nd week). Please **prepay now to save time and avoid possible confusion** at delivery. Make checks payable to: BUMM's or Bluffton UM Men.

Fancy Jumbo Halves	___ 1 lb. bag	@ 11.00 =	_____
Fancy Large Pieces	___ 1 lb. bag	@ 10.00 =	_____
Butter Roasted Bucket	___ 2 lb. bucket	@ 25.00 =	_____
Honey Roasted Halves	___ 14 oz. bag	@ 12.00 =	_____
Chocolate Covered Halves	___ 1 lb. bag	@ 13.00 =	_____
Dark Chocolate Covered Halves	___ 1 lb. bag	@ 13.50 =	_____
Sugar Free Chocolate Covered Halves	___ 1 lb. bag	@ 15.00 =	_____
Praline Pecan Halves	___ 14 oz. bag	@ 12.00 =	_____
TOTAL =			_____

Name _____
 email _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____
 Paid _____ Check # _____ Cash _____
 Salesperson ___ Pat Simmons _____
 Del. area _____ Church Office _____

Our charities: Bluffton Self Help, Bluffton Meals-on-Wheels, Bluffton Boys & Girls Club, Council on Aging and Hospice; also, Backpack Buddies and Family Promise. BUMC Youth and BUMMS Scholarship. We are proud to serve and thank you for your help.



It's time to update our Church Directory. We have many new faces attending our services and would like to put a name with a face.

We include visitors as well as members!

Please see Pat Simmons in the Fellowship Hall between the worship services to have your photo taken. It only takes a minute of your time!

Has your information changed? If you have a new address, email, cell phone or if you have cancelled your home phone land line since the last photo directory was published, please email Pat Simmons with your new information. patsimmons@hargray.com

Acolytes are now included in our worship service. In many Christian denominations, an **acolyte** is anyone who performs ceremonial duties such as lighting altar candles. If you would like to be an acolyte, contact Jane Disney, 843.707.1764 or email: jabdisney@gmail.com



Greeters, Readers, Acolytes & Communion Servers

There are various opportunities to greet and/or be a gospel reader or acolyte, and participate in serving communion at our services. Please see the sign-up sheet on the back board, or contact Angie Harting, 843.705.0917. Acolytes contact Jane Disney, 843.707.1764.



NEED A "NAME BADGE"? Please indicate on the attendance sheet and one will be made for you. These badges are magnetic...so, if for some reason you cannot wear a magnetic one, we also have them with pins.



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S

There are "Invitation to Membership" forms in holders on the back of the last pews. Fill it out and place it in the offering plate. If you're a member of another church, we will write for a transfer of membership. You will be contacted to schedule a date for joining.



Visit Our Website!!

<http://stlukesumc-okatie.org/>

You can view past bulletins and newsletters and even hear recordings of the sermon that you may have missed.



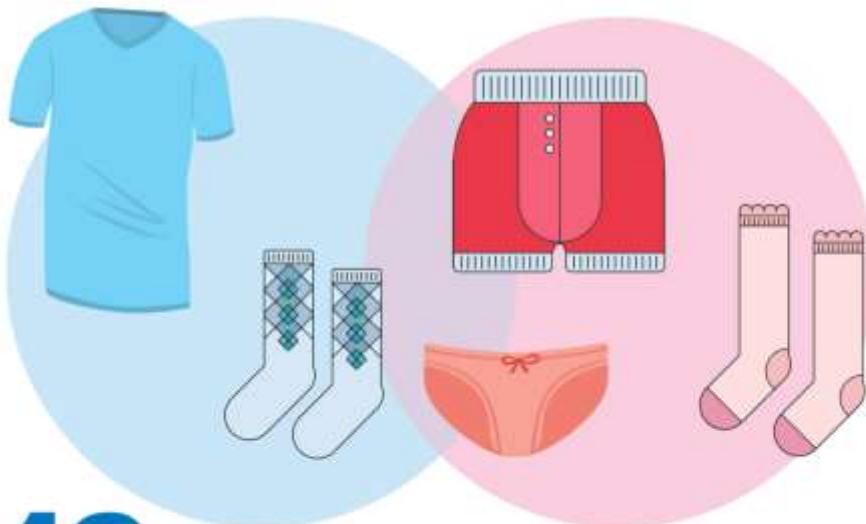
Show You Care - Give a Pair
UNDERWEAR & SOCK DRIVE
OCTOBER 1ST - 31ST

UNDIES & T-SHIRTS

- Toddlers – sizes 2T-5T
- Boys and Girls – sizes 6/7 and 8/10
- Women – sizes 6 – 12
- Men – sizes M-XL

SOCKS

- Toddlers – sizes 4-7
- Boys and Girls – sizes 8-13
- Women – size 9/11
- Men – size 10/13



Our donation basket... underwear & socks for Family Promise in the Fellowship Hall.

10 Years
Family Promise of Beaufort County

Unsure of what to purchase? Let us do the shopping with your donation of a Walmart Gift Certificate. Donations can be dropped off at our Day Center any day between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Old Town Bluffton | Magnolia Business Park
181 Bluffton Road, D101 | (843) 815-4211

We wanted to make you aware of our newest campaign entitled *Show you Care ~ Give a Pair* which officially begins on October 1 and runs through month end. I have attached the flyer with all of the info. For you to share and possibly create your own drive on our behalf at your congregation, in your office, where you workout, etc. New underwear and socks are items we can't get at a thrift store ☺ and are always needed by the children and their parents when they enter the Shelter Program. For those who don't like to shop, we are always happy to receive gift cards for Walmart and we can then do the shopping based on the specific needs of our families.

Decorate a box or laundry basket, laminate the attached flyer and have fun with it. Be sure to share pictures of what you are doing!



Three religious leaders (a rabbi, a priest, and a minister) were all discussing how they divide up tithing income between themselves and God. The minister said, "I draw a line in the sand, throw the money up in the air, and what lands on the left side of the line goes to the good Lord and what lands on the right side goes to me." Then the priest said, "I draw a circle on the ground, throw the money up in the air, and what lands inside the circle goes to the good Lord and what lands outside goes to me." Then the rabbi said, "You got it all wrong! I throw the money up in the air and what the good Lord catches is his and what lands on the ground is mine."

Jesus, Moses, and an old man go golfing. The first one to tee off is Moses. He smashes the ball and it is heading right for the water hazard before the green. Moses raises his club, the water parts, and the ball makes it to the green. Jesus gets up to swing, cranks it out, and it is headed for the water hazard. Jesus closes his eyes and prays. The ball skips across the water and lands on the green two feet from the hole. The old man's turn comes and he drives the ball. The ball looks like it is going to drop directly into the water. A fish jumps from the water hazard swallowing the ball, as an eagle drops from the sky, grabbing the fish. As the eagle flies over the green, a bolt of lightning strikes the eagle, making it drop the fish. As the fish hits the green, it spits out the ball and the ball falls into the hole, making a hole in one. Jesus looks at Moses and says, "I really think I'm leaving Dad at home next time!"



One night a lady came home from her weekly prayer meeting, found she was being robbed, and she shouted out, "Acts 2:38: 'Repent & be baptized & your sins will be forgiven.'" The robber quickly gave up & the lady rang the police. While handcuffing the criminal, a policeman said, "Gee mate, you gave up pretty easily. How come you gave up so quickly?" The robber said, "She said she had an axe and two 38's!"

Late one night, a preacher was driving on a country road and had a wreck. A farmer stopped and said, "Sir, are you okay?" The preacher said, "Yes, I had the Lord riding with me." The farmer said, "Well, you better let him ride with me, because you're gonna kill him."



Every ten years, the monks in the monastery are allowed to break their vow of silence to speak two words. Ten years go by and it's one monk's first chance. He thinks for a second before saying, "Food bad." Ten years later, he says, "Bed hard." It's the big day, a decade later. He gives the head monk a long stare and says, "I quit." "I'm not surprised," the head monk says. "You've been complaining ever since you got here."

Two nuns are doing their grocery shopping. As they pass the cooler full of beer, one nun says longingly to the other one, "A cold beer would go down great tonight!" "Indeed," the other nun replies, "but how can we show up with beer at the check-out counter?" "Don't worry, I have a plan," the other nun answers. "Grab a six-pack." The cashier is surprised when he sees the beer, but the one nun is ready with an explanation. "We use the beer to wash our hair" she says. "At the convent, we call it 'Catholic shampoo.'" Without hesitation the cashier bends down, grabs a package of pretzels, and throws it in one of the nuns' groceries bags, saying "The curlers are on the house."

