



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 13, Issue 3

MARCH 2020



I received a calendar for Christmas titled: *God's Got It...so you can Praise.*"

This particular calendar has inspirational sayings or scripture for each day of the week to remind me that God can and does handle all my problems when I finally decide to let go of them and let God handle them. One of the sayings for one day last week was to remind me to smile in each day, no matter the things that were happening in that day.

The saying for the day was, "Smile by faith when you can't smile by feelings." There are often days when it seems as if we are being kicked by life, people, or both and we have a hard time smiling. Yet this little saying is just a reminder that we can smile each day, for the love and presence of God is with us in each day, while reminding us that nothing in our day can overwhelm God's love for us.

So as we travel through Lent, make each day a day of smiling recalling God's love for us in spite of ourselves, the things we say and the things we do, and especially how powerful God is when the world begins to kick us around a little bit. So, keep smiling if only by faith, for it takes more muscles to frown than to smile and smiling doesn't cause worry lines and wrinkles!

Grace and Peace,
Brian



Lenten Decision

While we enter the Lenten period, I am always perplexed by the decision to give up something

during the next several weeks. As a child and being raised catholic, we always gave up candy. On top of that, the nuns would hand out a "mite" box to every student. A mite box you ask? What the heck is a mite box??



So, this was a cardboard box about the size of two packs of cigarettes. On the top of the box was a coin slot. The purpose of the device was quite simple. If you earned or received money, instead of spending the money on a Clark Bar or Hostess Twinkies, you would place the money into the mite box. A true act of self-denial. At the end of Lent, we would return the mite boxes to sister Mary Margaret and she would open them with her holy pocket knife and count the money. The monies collected would be donated to the missions.

Toward the end of Lent your mite box became a real temptation. All those days and weeks of saving lent its way to an anxious temptation to shake some of the coins out of the coin slot and buy a Three Musketeers bar. Only one problem...the coin slot was rigged with a spring-loaded flap. You could put money in, but you couldn't get any out unless you cut the box top off. Rats! Foiled again.

There was an upside, however. It was that wonderful joy we experienced when Easter Sunday came. There we were at the kitchen table eating jellybeans, yellow marshmallow chicks, and bunny ears at 5:45 a.m. (Kids have cast iron stomachs). As the contents of our Easter baskets was depleted over the next several days, the memory of the mite box faded into oblivion. I made it through lent. And some kids in the mission had something to eat. I was happy. I did well. I wonder who invented that spring-loaded flap. Think it was a nun?

Blessings,
Ron Pozsonyi, Lay Leader



BUILDING FINANCES

It is the first of March and it looks optimistic that we can receive enough pledges to move forward with the Fellowship Hall Refurbishment. Thank you to all who have pledged, and please keep those pledges coming. We have not heard from all of you, so, please return your pledge card (even if you cannot pledge). We need your pledge commitments now in order to continue forward.

I will now try to answer a few questions and explain how we intend to finance this great project. When construction starts, we will not have enough cash to pay for it but must demonstrate that we have enough commitments to pay the full amount. We expect to draw on the reserves that St. Luke's has saved over many years to pay for a portion of the project. Since the pledges are expected to be paid over a period of a couple of years, we need to borrow from a bank in order to pay the contractor and then we will repay the loan. While we cannot get anything like a long-term mortgage, we can get a short-term loan for the construction by using your pledges as evidence that we can repay the loan.

Question: When will we start building? **A:** If enough of the pledges keep coming in, we hope to then start in two or three months. It takes that long to get approval from the UMC District and then get approval from Beaufort County.

Question: How soon do we need the pledge money?

Answer: The sooner we can get the pledges paid in, the sooner we can pay off the loan and avoid additional finance charges.

Question: Where is the money held? **Answer:** All church assets are held in either a local bank or in a money market account with a brokerage firm. Your donations to the building fund are tagged as "dedicated funds" and cannot be used for any other purpose.

Question: What if I donate stock? **Answer:** The stock will be liquidated and deposited as cash and tagged as "dedicated".

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at rclark55@sc.rr.com. I can review any church finance issues with you.

Rob Clark, Finance chairperson



At our last Church Council meeting, we welcomed our new Organist/Director of Music, Geoff Borgelt. We are so pleased to have him with us.

We also welcomed Pam Hoel to serve on the Council as our Historian. Thank you Pam for agreeing to take this position.

MISSIONS

At our last church council meeting, all voted to approve Rick Hoel as our Mission Chairperson. We look forward to Rick heading up this important committee.



Each month, we receive a thank you letter from **Bluffton Self Help** for the food we donate the first of the month.

02/05/2020 Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of our mission and the work we do here at Bluffton Self Help.

Every day we see neighbors in need. Hard working neighbors who, despite their hard work, struggle to make ends meet. Thanks to supporters like you, we have been able to serve our community and these neighbors for 33 years. Because of you, just last year:

- Families and neighbors received over 403,000 lbs of food
- 467 neighbors attended workshops, GED classes and hiring events
- Over 670 families received clothing
- 227 households were able to make it through a difficult time with emergency assistance

We know that helping individuals meet their basic needs first is essential in finding personal success and breaking the cycle of poverty.

We rely on our community to keep our Wellness Food Pantry shelves stocked all year long. Your donation of food helps to ensure no child goes to bed hungry and no neighbor has to worry where their next meal is coming from. Your gift not only provides food to neighbors in need but provides hope. It provides nourishment and promotes health, allows people to focus on reaching their goals, and helps children to learn and stay focused in school. Thank you for doing your part in supporting our neighbors in need and creating a community where there is food for all. A gift like yours is incredibly important and for that, we are grateful.

With gratitude,


Kimberly Hall
Executive Director | Bluffton Self Help



Pastor Brian welcomes Girl Scouts

IN WITH THE NEW... Be sure to notice our new sign!
 Last week, Bill Husson, one of our trustees, was seen taking down the old "Memorial Gardens" sign. And this past Friday, the new one was installed.

Today, Saturday... there again was Bill Husson working in the bushes along the highway (behind the fence, of course). When asked why he was clearing out the brush, he replied... "So our new sign can be seen by cars going past."



8:30 introduction of Troop 4000



Thank you Bill for your hard work!



8:30 Greet



10:00 introduction of the Troop

HAPPENINGS IN FEBRUARY...

Scout Sunday



February 9th was Scout Sunday at St. Luke's

Since we have a Troop that meets at St. Luke's we were agreeable to have them sell their delicious cookies to the congregation. It was a great time! The Scouts setup their tables with choices of cookies in the Fellowship Hall. After each service, many of us took advantage and bought lots of cookies. Check out the photos of that day.



Cookie sales going great!



Choosing cookies!!



More cookie sales!!

More Scout Photos...



Daisy's handing out thank you cards



Pastor Brian helping cookie sales!



Mary Buzzie talking with a Brownie scout



Russell Smith in the picture quilt.



Bill Harting talking to a Daisy Scout



Thanks to the Scouts!!



Thank you everyone who supported Troop 4000 on Sunday, February 9, 2020 – Scouting Sunday!

We learned these young girls have a busy 2020 calendar starting off selling their infamous cookies to help support their adventure trips like spending the night at the Charleston Aquarium. Their missions are to help those staying at The Ronald McDonald house by collecting can tabs. They also do their part in being green to help save our beautiful lowcountry community by collecting plastic bottle caps, from water bottles, juices, sodas, etc. They go out to clean up the beaches for their recycle project. They plan to make a mural out of the bottle caps for an art project.



Troop 4000 has a wish list and we at St. Luke's UMC can assist. They need the following, please help by collecting:

- **Plastic bottle caps** (place in jar in Fellowship Hall)
- **Can tabs** (place in Ronald McDonald House box in Fellowship Hall)

Can the Scouts assist in any outreach we may have? For example, **Serving St. Luke's UMC** by helping our ministries; assist in the clean up of the cemetery, place flags, flowers, etc.

Volunteers! Do you have a talent God has blessed you with in which you can share? Like... crocheting, knitting, painting, sketching, writing, sewing, flower arranging, music? The list is endless! Contact Pastor Brian or Jim Seymore for Troop Leader, Monique Thomas' contact information to schedule with the troop.

Troop leaders, Monique and Jennifer are inspirational to these young girls in helping them to change the world one girl at a time with projects and learning to build community, faith and sisterhood. This troop will succeed along with our partnership with them.

Working together is a ministry and outreach we cannot afford to miss out on and to receive blessings in abundance. Everyone is encouraged to continue showing love and support for them by helping 2020 to become the best year for Troop 4000!

In Christ,
Pastor Brian
Preveaux





"They Will Know Us By Our Love".

On February 22, the ladies of St. Luke's gathered at Oak Terrace restaurant in the Rose Hill community for lunch, fellowship and great conversation. Thirty-four ladies, five of whom were guests, spent time getting to know more about each other than can be discovered during coffee hour on Sunday morning. The theme was "They will know us by our love" and anyone peeking into the room that day would have seen love and caring in abundance! Love becomes a natural expression when we are in relationship with each other and when Christ is present where two or three... (or 34!) are gathered in His name. We look forward to future opportunities to come together and express our love for each other as sisters in Christ.



Name Tag & favors



Getting to know each other!



"RED" was the color of the day!!!



A GREAT time was had by all. The lunch was delicious, and we are looking forward to the next "Ladies Luncheon"!



FELLOWSHIP – Between the services...

You are invited to stop by the Fellowship Hall between 9:30 & 10:00 AM to spend time with other church friends, catching up and enjoying refreshments.



Coffee Fellowship

Drivers are needed to deliver the food collected at our First Sunday Food Mission Drives to our local food pantry, Bluffton Self Help. If you can help with this important ministry, please see the sign up sheet located in Fellowship Hall. Thanks!!



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Do you like good fellowship, conversation, and food?

Then the Men's Breakfast,

Friday March 6, 2020, 8 AM, The Clubhouse at Okatie Creek, Sun City, is for you! Ride sharing, directions, and/or Sun City passes are available, just email information@stlukesumc-okatie.org or call 843.705.3022 and we'll email you a Sun City gate pass that can be used at any gate, or a will-call pass can be available at the Sun City South main gate - see you there!



COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICES will be held at 12:00 Noon as listed below. A guest pastor from the area will share the message during the 30-minute service. Offerings received as part of the service will support missions and ministries selected by the host church. A light meal will be served after the service.

Wed.	Host Church	Host Pastor	Proclaiming Pastor
March 4	Bluffton UMC	Rev. Richard Smith	Rev. Daniel Burbage
March 11	St. Andrew -Bluffton	Rev. Daniel Burbage	Rev. Joey McDonald
March 18	Church of the Palms	Rev. Pete Berntson	Rev. Stephanie Dion
March 25	Lowcountry Pres.	Rev. Chris Herrin	Rev. Bennie Jenkins
April 1	St. Luke's UMC	Rev. Brian Preveaux	Rev. Dr. Jon Black

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH



ONE HOUR AHEAD BEFORE
GOING TO BED



Let us remember with cards, and prayers...

- Nancy Adkins**, 49 Heron's Bill Drive, Bluffton 29909
- Doris Boskey**, Sonata Viera, Rm; 208 - 3325 Breslay Dr, Melbourne FL 32940
- Elnora Ekholm**, 173 May River Rd., Bluffton 29910
- Ron Garner**, Veteran's Victory House, Hospice Care, 2461 Sidneys Road, Walterboro SC 29488
- Carolyn Ransier**, The Palmettos, 3035 Okatie Hwy, Memory Care, Rm. 102, Okatie, SC 29909
- Jane Slayton**, 47 Fenwick Drive, Bluffton SC ,29909

Happy Birthday

March Birthdays

- 02 Elnora Ekholm
- 02 Amy Erickson
- 06 John Sariscak
- 08 Ellie Antoine
- 11 Tony Ferrara
- 14 Joan Nations
- 15 George Batten
- 27 Kathy Klapp
- 31 Janet Jacoby



March Anniversaries

- 26 Marie & John Baldauf

April Birthdays

- 03 Roland Smith
- 09 Kathy Strife
- 11 Vern Conway
- 11 Bryan Metzger
- 14 Wally Willig
- 17 Beth Peters
- 30 Judy Watts

(Looks like no one married in April)



LET ME TAKE YOUR PHOTO! – If you are attending St. Luke's United Methodist Church, we would like to have you in our Photo 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!**

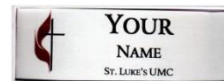
Please see Pat Simmons in the Fellowship Hall between the worship services to have your photo taken. It only takes a minute of your time! AND, it's painless!

FLOWERS

If you would like to donate flowers on a particular Sunday, please sign up on the Flower Sheet in the Fellowship Hall. You may arrange your own flowers, or give a monetary donation and they will be purchased for you. Please contact Jane Disney with any questions (jabdisney@gmail.com).



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.

Greeters, Readers, Acolytes & Communion Servers

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 Julie Bascom, 317.403.1577. Acolytes contact Jane Disney, 843.707.1764.



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. You will be contacted.

"Contact Us" using email. Our church website, www.stlukesumc-okatie.org is a valuable tool to attract people, share information and create interest in St. Luke's. To enhance capabilities and provide a foundation for the future, a collaborative effort is underway that changes some website organization, layout, content and navigation. For example, "Weekly Bulletins" are now under the Worship link and Newsletters are available through the "About Us" area. For more information or assistance using the website, please contact Dave Disney, 706.372.2178 or disneydw1@gmail.com

