



# 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 7

JULY 2020



A while back I read a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in the middle of a rural farming area of the country.

The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began.

The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard."

Now the pastor was growing concerned.

Without missing a beat, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour."

The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits.

So, Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing.

It will probably be even better than biscuits Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today.

Stay strong, my friends, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is going to come when HE is done with it.

AMEN

Grace and Peace,  
Brian

#### WE RETURNED TO "IN-PERSON" WORSHIP

On Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> we returned to "in-person" worship in the "back cemetery lot". At this first service, there were about 55 in attendance. We all brought our chairs and did social distancing, plus wearing our face coverings. It was a beautiful morning, not too hot and no insects to bother us. It worked very well. We are continuing to meet "under the large oak tree" in front of the columbarium – unless we are rained out. We will still have only **One** Worship Service at **9:15 a.m.**

- No bulletins
- No passing of the peace
- No passing of offering plates
- No congregational singing due to recommendations from health care officials
- Congregants are expected to wear their masks and will need to bring their own chairs
- Social distancing guidelines must still be adhered to even though we are meeting outside
- In the event of rain, services will not be held  
We look forward to seeing you there!



Yes, if you look close enough, his eyes are open just a bit!

We were blessed to have Anita Leming fill in on the keyboard since Geoff was out of town. David Leming also accompanied her with his trumpet.





Here are some of our friends!



As you can see, it was a beautiful day. Everyone enjoyed being “more or less” together again!

**MAIL IT IN**

Even when we were “shut down”, many of our operating expenses at St. Luke's have continued. Please continue to “mail it in” to support St. Luke's until “normal” times finally arrive. To the many of you who have been supporting your church the past several months – a big THANK YOU!



Rob Clark, Finance Chairperson  
[rclark55@sc.rr.com](mailto:rclark55@sc.rr.com)

**PPI FUND**



**MAINTENANCE**

Our PPI Fund is used to pay for major unplanned maintenance items for our buildings. You probably remember three years ago when the air conditioner in the church had to be replaced. Prior to that the unit in fellowship hall had to be replaced. Those were unplanned expenditures and both were paid for out of the PPI Fund. We now have another maintenance item we need to take care of and our PPI Fund is depleted. The windows in the church are in need repair and paint. Some of them are leaking and the paint is peeling off. We can take care of these now without any major damage. If we wait, we will be faced with replacing rot.

Your contribution to replenish the PPI Fund will be appreciated.

*Jim Seymore*

**FELLOWSHIP HALL RENOVATION UPDATE**

We finally have approval from the District Buildings and Grounds Committee to move forward with the fellowship hall renovation. Brian and I made a presentation to the Committee on June 15 and they unanimously approved our project.

Our building committee members are: Angie Harting, Norm Stark, Bill Metcalf, George Batten, Brian Preveaux and Jim Seymore. This committee met with our architect, Sam McCleskey, June 22 to begin the process of renovating fellowship hall. We discussed the preliminary engineering work required prior to beginning construction. Several county agencies need to approve the engineering plans. The US Army Corps of Engineers will have to approve the location of the building since it is so close to the wetlands area. All of the engineering work related to the site and building location must be completed and approved before our architect can proceed with development of the construction drawings. We have signed contracts with four firms to begin the engineering work.

We are adding 895 sq. ft. or 55% to the size of the building. Included in the renovation are a kitchen, additional storage, two handicapped accessible bathrooms, minister's office, work room and our assembly space will be roughly doubled. The entire facility will be 100% code compliant.

Even though our project has been approved and preliminary work has begun, actual construction will not begin immediately. We estimate that actual construction will not begin prior to November 1, 2020.

We have attached the architect's rendering of the front of the building.

I hope to give you progress updates each month in the newsletter.

*Jim Seymore*  
Trustee Chair



**IT IS HAPPENING!!**

The major remodeling of the Fellowship Hall is finally happening. After months of shutdown, the District finally approved our plans. Now is the time for all of us to help St. Luke's grow with a new facility.

Here is the financial side of the story:

Estimated cost is about \$340,000. Most of it to be spent in 2020.



We currently have about \$82,000 of donations and pledges in cash.

We have outstanding pledges of about \$190,000.

We anticipate taking about \$70,000 from our reserves fund. This will still leave us with adequate reserves.

We will get a loan to cover construction costs and will need to have money borrowed until the remainder of the pledges are received.

The more you can honor your pledges early, the less we will have to pay on loan interest. Many of us have waited for this project to become "real" to start paying our pledges. Now is the time.

If you have had to cancel a vacation due to the pandemic, please consider investing that saved money in the future of St. Luke's.

Thank you all for your generous support of our wonderful little church.

Contact me with any questions about the financial side of the Fellowship Hall.

Rob Clark, Financial Chair  
rclark55@sc.rr.com



**MISSIONS**  
**FIRST SUNDAY FOOD**  
**MISSION DRIVE**



The First Sunday Food Mission Drive is now under the leadership of Rick Hoel, Missions Chair. If you have any questions regarding Missions and the Food Bank in particular, please contact him at 843.295.9002 or rickhoel12@gmail.com

Helping to feed the hungry is an important mission of St. Luke's. Please drop off your contributions in the back parking lot at the church on July 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be loading before and after the service. "Social distancing" will be

observed to avoid any risk of virus transmission. Your contributions are vital as the community needs are extreme due to the pandemic. Feeding the hungry is truly part of us doing God's Work!

NEXT SUNDAY, July 5, (9:00 a.m.) we will have our FIRST SUNDAY FOOD MISSION DRIVE for our local food pantry, Bluffton Self Help. PLEASE help us stock the pantry with the most desired/requested items. These include:

Cereal – Cheerios preferred, dried pasta, pasta sauce, instant grits/oatmeal, dried beans, and rice peanut butter, jelly, boxed or bagged dinner mixes such as: Hamburger Helper, Beefaroni, etc.

Also needed are diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6) recycled shopping bags & toilet paper. Unfortunately, we cannot accept any open, expired or damaged items.

**In case of rain and church services are cancelled,** Rick will be at the church parking lot on **Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 10:00 AM.**

Rick will be delivering the food items to the Food Bank this week. Please remember to show your willingness to be of service by signing up to deliver the food donations for an upcoming month. Thank you.

Here is Lois Finch showing the truckload of groceries St. Luke's delivered to Bluffton Self Help June 1<sup>st</sup>. St. Luke's is certainly a "giving church"!



06/22/20

Dear Friends,



Thank you for your generous support of our mission and the work we do here at Bluffton Self Help. During this unprecedented time, coming together as a community is more important than ever. Every day we see neighbors in need. Hard working neighbors who, despite their hard work, are now struggling to make ends meet. Thanks to supporters like you, we have been able to continue to serve our community and get these neighbors navigate this crisis. Since we implemented our COVIE-19 response in March:

- Families and neighbors received over 103,490 lbs of food
- Over 660 households have been able to rely on BSH to put food on the table every week
- More than 195 local families have received help for the first time

- 403 households were able to make it through a difficult time with emergency assistance from our COVID-19 Family Relief Fund

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. During the COVID-19 pandemic the need continues to grow. 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 gives nourishment and promotes health, allows people to focus on getting back on track, and helps children to learn and stay focused on learning at home. Thank you for doing your part in supporting our neighbors in need and creating a community where there is food for all.

With more than 6,500 lbs of food being distributed every week from our Wellness Food Pantry, a gift like yours is incredibly important and for that, we are grateful.

On behalf of the board, staff and neighbors in need, thank you.

With gratitude,

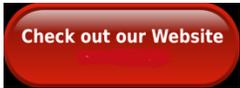


Julia Violi  
Program Manager | Bluffton Self Help



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. LUKE'S** – Please email Pat Simmons at [st.lukesumc.hwy170@gmail.com](mailto:st.lukesumc.hwy170@gmail.com) for an “Invitation to Membership” form. Fill it out and mail it to St. Luke’s UMC, PO Box 2779, Bluffton SC 29910. You will then be contacted by Pastor Brian.

“**Contact Us**” using email. Our church website, [www.stlukesumc-okatie.org](http://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, listen to the “Online Sermons by Pastor Brian,** 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](mailto:disneydw1@gmail.com)



**July Birthdays**

- 03 Karen Robinson
- 06 Diana Hamilton
- 07 John Baldauf
- 07 Russell Smith
- 11 Carol Conway
- 12 Elizabeth Vance
- 13 Reece Woods
- 18 Don Leonard
- 19 Will Ross
- 20 Anita Leming
- 21 Andy Beall
- 21 Gail Rogers
- 22 Bill Harting
- 23 Paul LoMonaco
- 23 Jim Seymore
- 26 Lois Finch
- 26 Eric Woods

**July Anniversaries**

- 01 Judy & Chuck Watts
- 06 Sheryl Ingram & Bill Halstead
- 19 Kathy & Steve Klapp
- 20 Doris & Bob Heck
- 25 Pam & Rick Hoel
- 25 Beth & Bob Peters
- 27 Elizabeth & Archie Vance
- 30 Nancy & Ottice Adkins



**August Birthdays**

- 02 Larry Kellogg
- 03 Ron Pozsonyi
- 04 Archie Vance
- 06 Harry Skinker
- 20 Sherry Lee
- 21 Letty Husson
- 23 Leslie Richards
- 24 Pat Schwartz-Ross
- 27 Bob Lee
- 28 David Leming

**August Anniversaries**

- 09 Angie & Bill Harting
- 15 Shirley & Norm Stark
- 19 Jane & Jim Seymore
- 19 Lois & Wally Willig
- 20 Laura & Andy Beall
- 24 Sherry & Rob Clark
- 26 Kathy & C.J. Strife
- 27 Karen & Phil Mitchell

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
- Jane Slayton**, NHC, 3039 Okatie Hwy, Rm. 331 Okatie, SC 29909; Tel: 843.705.1319

