



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 15, Issue 4

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As many of you may have

heard by now, I am being reappointed this year to a new church appointment in June. My last Sunday at St. Luke's will be June 27th. Joy and I are being moved to Mullins in the Marion District outside of the Myrtle Beach area.

While we will miss our many friends at St. Luke's, we are excited about new opportunities in ministry this new appointment brings. We pray St. Luke's will continue to grow and prosper under the new pastor and his wife, while fostering the spirit of mission and ministry that has been the history of St. Luke's in the Bluffton community.

I ask for you to open your hearts and warmly welcome the new minister and his wife at St. Luke's. I know the new pastor and his wife will open their heart to you upon arrival. Be gracious, be supportive and be loving for that is all a new pastor can ask of their new congregation.

This is a time of new beginnings for all of us, but as I have said so often, God is all about new beginnings and when we embrace the new beginning God brings, miracles occur.

Grace and Peace,
Brian

Contact Info for Pastor Brian

Cell: 803.686.0794

Home: 843.707.7991

Email: bpreveaux@umcsc.org



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to you our new incoming minister, Rev. Christopher Thompson.

Chris and his wife Cynthia have a son, Chris Jr, a daughter Rikita, and a granddaughter MaKayla.

Chris is coming to us from the Jeremiah-Mt. Seal Charge—Florence District. Chris attended St. Augustine College and he has a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematics and he also received his Doctorate in Ministry from Gammon Theological Seminary in 2018.

Chris' skills and abilities that he will be bringing to St. Luke's are listening, concern, the ability to mediate and that of teaching. He teaches and preaches in a way that all can understand. He is very involved in his present community. In his words "I look to see where the church can have programs that allows for the community to get involved and to learn more about the church".

Chris is looking forward to his move to Bluffton. He and Cynthia have never been down this way so I think given the beautiful area here, he is in for a treat. He is excited about St. Luke's and has a real vision for our church moving forward.

Chris' first Sunday to lead us in worship will be July 4th. Please extend a warm welcome to Chris and his family!

Blessings,
Marilyn Schum
PPRC Chair



Spring is here, we will soon be in the sanctuary for services, flowers are in bloom and we are looking forward to being a congregation together again. Celebrate! On top of all that, the government has just issued “stimulus” checks to most of us. It is time to share the joy with your Church. Our income is down so far this year as we get used to our annual giving patterns. Our Fellowship hall is finally kicking off to build. Celebrate our lives together by giving freely to the Lord and our Church. You may find it to be the most gratifying celebration of your life.

Rob Clark, Finance Chairperson
rclark55@sc.rr.com

Memorial Flag Installation



Leader

The Trustees are searching for an individual to be responsible for placing and removing flags in the cemetery for both Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day. The flags for Memorial Day are placed approximately the middle of May and remain until just after Independence Day. The flags for Veterans’ Day are placed on or about November 1 and remain through the month of November. This individual will be responsible for securing volunteers to place and remove the flags and keeping an adequate number of flags and holders in inventory. We have approximately 80 veterans buried in our cemetery.



This is not a very time-consuming task. It only requires a few hours work twice a year.

If we are unable to fill this position we will not be placing flags on the graves this year.

Contact Jim Seymore if you are willing to assist us with this position.

Jim Seymore

Fellowship Hall Update



Another month has passed, and we still don’t have our letter from the county authorizing us to proceed. The problem with the county is that no one is in charge and there is no supervision. Most of the employees are working from home and there is no accountability. We just today have provided a complete package of all documentation that has been both requested and discussed by all the various committees. Each committee chair now has a complete package of information and drawings. All committees have agreed that they have all the documentation they need to issue the permits.

I am optimistic that we will now have the permits issued in the next few days. As soon as we get the permits we will go back to the contractor to update the construction costs.

Keep up the prayers and faith.

Jim Seymore

Trustee chair

Finally!!

After six months of delays (thanks pandemic) Beaufort County has approved our Fellowship Hall and we are in final planning stages. Now is the time to honor your multi-year pledges to support the rebuild of the Fellowship Hall. Given recent windfall payments from the government and all that money we didn't spend on vacations in 2020, it is time to increase our giving and, if you had not previously committed to this important project it is time to jump in as part of the St. Luke's giving family. This rebuild will provide a facility so that St. Luke's can truly serve our community in need and expose more people to the grace of God and our humble little church. Please give generously.

Rob Clark, Finance Chairperson

Rob Clark, Finance Chair

Thank you received:

March 25, 2021
Rick Hoel
St. Luke's UMC



FIRST SUNDAY & THIRD MONDAY
FOOD MISSION DRIVE

The First Sunday Food Mission Drive is 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. As you know we expanded our efforts to include two drop offs to provide more opportunities for those not attending Sunday services to participate and for those who can donate more. In addition to our regular drop off on the first Sunday of the month, we added a drop off on the third Monday of the month.

Specifically, for April 2021, please drop off your contributions in the back-parking lot at the church on Easter Sunday, April 4th. We will be loading before and after the service. You can now also drop off at the church on Monday, April 19th from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. "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!

PLEASE help us with our **FIRST SUNDAY** and **THIRD MONDAY** FOOD MISSION DRIVES 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, instant grits/oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, dried pasta, pasta sauce, boxed or bagged dinner mixes such as Hamburger Helper, Beefaroni, etc., dried beans, and rice.

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

In case of rain and church services are cancelled on April 4th, we will be at the church parking lot on Monday, April 5th from 9:00 – 10:00 AM. Please remember to show your willingness to be of service by signing up to deliver the food donations for an upcoming month.

Thank you.

Rick Hoel, Mission chair

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous support of our mission and for making a lasting impact on the lives of neighbors who have no place else to turn. Your 3/10/2021 donation of food will go a long way to ensure every neighbor can put food on the table. Thanks to supporters like you, we have been able to serve our community for 34 years, being there for our neighbors when they need us most.

This past year has reminded us of the power of coming together as a community, and the rippling effects of kindness and generosity. Nearly 2,000 neighbors turned to Bluffton Self Help for support and relief just last year, 40% never having asked for help before. Thanks to your generosity, we did not have to turn any of those neighbors away.

Our actions say a lot about who we are as a community. With you, in 2020, Bluffton Self Help helped 675 families remain in their homes through COVID-19 Family Relief Funds, distributed more than 4,000 gallons of milk and 418,954 lbs of healthy food, put food on the table for 460 new households, and delivered food to seniors and others who were unable to leave their homes. We have done all this safely, while constantly shifting our programs in innovative ways to meet the need.

Bluffton Self Help is committed to combating food insecurity and hunger in our community. We rely on community support to do this through a variety of programs including our Drive-Thru Wellness Food Pantry where neighbors can come pick up weekly groceries including fresh produce, meat, dairy and staple food items such as peanut butter, pasta and sauce. In addition to our drive through, we offer a Mobile Food Pantry delivering groceries to our neighbors weekly. Bluffton Self Help has also partnered with 10 Bluffton area schools, providing free snacks to teachers for students who face hunger throughout the day. This is all made possible because of our community.

With more than 8,000 lbs of food being distributed every week from our 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

HISTORY'S SWEET SURPRISES



As Kurt Vonnegut tells us, “History is merely a list of surprises.” These surprises can be of places, things, people, events of chaos or calm, triumph or defeat, tragedy or comedy, laughter or tears, and through it all, and hopefully, lessons learned. It can, I have found be depressive or uplifting or a combination of both. And yet, “to study history means submitting to it all and retaining our faith in order and meaning” (Hermann Hesse).

I love history. Every time I read history I learn something new or gain a new or different perspective. It makes me imagine “what if” or “what were these people really like” or what’s missing from the historical account. History is, for me, story. Basically, history is people’s stories, and ultimately, God’s story. So, I have decided I will share a few facts and stories about United Methodists in South Carolina.

I was inspired to do so after reading the Summer 2020 issue of *THE MARK*. Joyce E. Plyer, the President of the SC Conference Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, included a survey and requested readers complete and return it. I completed the survey, sent it in and waited for results.

Although not all have been completed, a number of respondents were interested in topics such as:

- Early history of John and Charles Wesley
- Early history of Methodism
- Archeology and design of our churches
- History of stained-glass windows and the stories behind them
- Our theoretical foundations and their influence in our churches today
- Progression of women in South Carolina ministry
- Desire to understand the organizational structure of the United Methodist Church
- The church’s role in social issues
- African American history
- Preservation of our historical Methodist sites
- Early history of early individual churches and the keeping of their archives
- Missions to plantations prior to Civil War
- Missions in general

Keeping church archives and genealogical skills necessary, including where and how to find histories these topics are obviously wide and varied, but they are only the top of the proverbial iceberg. If you have other suggestions do not hesitate to contact me. I will compile and forward these to Joyce Plyer. I will certainly keep you apprised of updates to the list.

In a meeting years ago with Society President Joyce E. Plyer and Secretary-Treasurer Roger M. Gramling, Bishop L. Johnathan Holston suggested the creation of a “heritage trail” in South Carolina which would include information about significant United Methodist sites. The Executive Committee of the Historical Society, in discussion with the Conferenced Commission on Archives and History has developed a tentative list of sites. The project is being coordinated by the Reverend Dr. A.V. Huff, Jr., Conference Historian and Editor of *THE MARK*. I have included three here, all of which are in Charleston. As you venture out a bit more, you might consider a drive to visit these sites I will share others with you as they are made available.

Lewis Timothy Print Shop Site (97 King Street)

Lewis Timothy was sent to Charleston by his partner, Benjamin Franklin, in 1734. He was sent by Franklin to purchase and publish *The South Carolina Gazette*

In 1736, John Wesley traveled to Charleston from Savannah to meet with Lewis Timothy to arrange publication of a *Collection of Psalms and Hymns*, compiled by Wesley during his parish work in Savannah and on St. Simons Island, Georgia. It was published in 1737. Known as “The Charles Towne Hymnal” it was the first collection published by Wesley.

Colonel William Rhett Butler House (54 Hasell Street)

South Carolina is home to the only two existing structures John Wesley visited in America. One is the Mulberry Plantation on the Cooper River, home of Lieutenant Governor Thomas Broughton, visited by both John and Charles in August 1736. More important is the Colonel William Rhett House built in 1712 where John visited Chief Justice Nicholas Trott in 1736 and again in April 1737. Wesley took tea and dined with Trott, who was the author of a commentary on the Psalms (1719) and was at work on a Hebrew translation of the New Testament.

Baker Theological Institute Site (Primrose House, 322 East Bay Street)

Also known as the Baker Biblical institute, the venture represented the efforts of the Reverend T. Willard Lewis and Dr. Alonzo Webster, missionaries of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to establish a training school to prepare newly freed African American men to serve as ministers to congregations of African Americans being organized by the Methodist Episcopal Church. The school was named after Bishop Osman C. Baker. Reverend Lewis was named president and Alonzo Webster taught courses. The school opened in a building on East Bay Street with seven students probably in 1865 or 1867. Among the first students were James Rosemond and brothers James and Abram Middleton. On April 2, 1866, Bishop Baker convened a meeting of Methodist Episcopal missionaries at the Baker Theological Institute to organize the South Carolina Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1864 the Methodist Episcopal Church had approved the organization of mission conferences in the South as areas came under control of the Union Army. Following the establishment of Claflin University in 1869 located in Orangeburg, the Baker Theological Institute partnered with the new school and relocated. In 1883 the incorporation of Baker Theological Institute into Claflin University was formally completed which continued as the theological department of Claflin.

As I close, I want to share with you four points related specifically to my role as Church Historian. First, the General Commission on Archives and History is currently conducting an online training course for local church historians. I will enroll when it becomes available. Third, we live in an area that is committed to history and its preservation. This church needs to be an integral part of that history. I will be exploring ways to make that a reality as we are able to do so. If you could have shared the excitement of the group of Boy Scouts that I gave a tour to last fall, you would be so excited to share this church’s history with others. As I mentioned, history is story, not just facts. As a former professor of Communication Studies, I know stories are our main source of communication. It’s what puts facts into context. Stories are legacy. Stories of this church are the legacy of this church. So, in the next few weeks, I will be sending out a short survey with specific questions important to this church’s history. I hope you will complete them and return them to me. Without them it is hard to record a history of our church in personal, important stories.

Joy in the journey,

On a personal note, the General Commission on Archives and History Historical Society is currently conducting an online training course for local church historians. I am hopeful I can join the next class.

Pam Hoel, Historian

Prayer Requests

You will notice that the list no longer includes the reason for prayer, due to HIPPA regulations. Please email Amy Erickson at amyhousererickson@gmail.com with any prayer requests you may have. If you have loved ones who have been blessed by recovery, peace or grace and may be removed from the list, please provide that information to Amy as well.

Let us remember with cards, and prayers...

CHURCH MEMBERS

Bob Lee and Sherry Lee: 7 Becket Place, Bluffton 29909
Marcia Garner, 3 Devant Lane, Bluffton 29909
Sarah Smith, 111 Spring Meadow Drive, Bluffton 29910
Angie Harding, 33 Knotweed Court, Bluffton 29909
Linda Batten, 17 Alston Bay, Bluffton 29909
Sherry & Rob Clark, 50 Star Flower Dr, Bluffton 29909
John Baldauf, 61 Nightingale Lane, Bluffton 29909

CHURCH MEMBERS IN NURSING HOMES, ASSISTED LIVING OR HOMEBOUND

Elnora Ekholm, 173 May River Rd., Bluffton 29910
Jane Slayton, NHC 3039 Okatie Hwy. Rm. 331 Okatie 29909; Tel: 843-705-1319
Jane and Jerry Wick, 2 Devant Court, Bluffton 29909
June Hamilton, 4 Concession Oak Dr., Bluffton 29909



Sunday mornings



FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS

Roland and Vivian Smith, 297 Landing Lane, Bluffton 29909
Hannah Nystrom, friend of Marie & John Baldauf
Toddler, Iris Duque, and her family, family of Ouida Dell
Hugh and Sue Ross, brother & sister-in-law of Will Ross
Health care workers
Our nation and government
Brooke Hamilton Pittet & family, niece and family of Walker and Diana Hamilton
Sister and brother-in-law of Myree Flannigan
Friend of David Leming
Andrew and 3 daughters, family of Mary Buzzie
Peter Steffen and family
Karen Phillippi and Charlene Cooler, sisters of Ouida Dell
Carol, Lois Finch's daughter
The Russell Family, friends of the Hamilton's
Linda and Louis Young, friends of David and Anita Leming
Donny Sanders, friend of Nancy Sariscak
Marilou Bryant (former church member) would appreciate calls at 843.505.2548 or cards mailed to Sprenger Health Care Bluffton, 60 Okatie Village Dr., Apt. 507, Okatie SC 29909
Family friend of Dave & Lynn Clements

PRAISES

Bonnie Borgelt has family visiting from Ohio
Thanks to Geoff Borgelt for playing all winter during the cold and inclement weather
Worshipping together this year on Palm Sunday – a year ago we were not worshipping in person at all
Welcome to new visitors, Kathy & Jim Smith

Thank you for your "mailed-in" donations!

Please continue sending them to us.

The mailing address is:

**St. Luke's UMC,
PO Box 2779
Bluffton SC 29910**



Happy Birthday!

April Birthdays

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

NO April Anniversaries




May Birthdays

- 03 Beth King
- 09 Rob Clark
- 09 Jane Seymore
- 09 Chuck Watts
- 10 Beth Woods
- 11 Jean Shaffer
- 13 Mary Hettenhouser
- 15 Wes Reutter
- 17 Tom Dolan
- 18 Jim Manning
- 24 Lois Willig
- 27 Nancy Sariscak
- 29 Jerry Vagnier

May Anniversaries

- 14 Elizabeth & Roger Weaver
- 19 Linda & Bill Metcalf
- 20 Pat & Allyn Perdue
- 25 Beth & Eric Woods
- 26 Julie & Paul Bascom
- 26 Dave & Linda Fisher
- 26 Marge & Harry Skinker
- 26 Judy & Jon Watkins
- 30 Joy & Brian Preveaux

 Many of you may not know that we are posting our “backyard” sermons on YouTube. Each Sunday, after 1:00 PM (that gives time to set everything up) you can click on the link below to listen and watch the sermon. **Here is the YouTube link:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj_gXL78wJ24jkl6HMBp02g

The link is also on our website under “Quick Links”: **This is the website address:** www.stlukesumc-okatie.org (If clicking on the link doesn’t work for you, copy and paste it in your browser.)



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF

ST. LUKE'S – Please email Pat Simmons at 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 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

Come Easter Sunday, many people will find themselves scouring their yards for plastic eggs and gnawing the ears off of chocolate bunnies. What possesses us to do such strange things? Pagan rituals and old superstitions, mostly. Here are the reasons behind 11 of our favorite Easter traditions.

1. DYEING EASTER EGGS

The tradition of decorating eggs of all kinds—even ostrich eggs—may go all the way back to the ancient pagans. It’s easy to see why eggs represent rebirth and life, so associating them with spring and new growth isn’t much of a stretch. To celebrate the new season, it’s said that people colored eggs and gave them to friends and family as gifts.

When Christians came along, they likely incorporated the tradition into their celebrations. According to some legends, Mary or Mary Magdalene could be responsible for our annual trek to the store to buy vinegar and dye tablets. As the story goes, Mary brought eggs with her to Jesus's crucifixion, and blood from his wounds fell on the eggs, coloring them red. Another tells us that Mary Magdalene brought a basket of cooked eggs to share with other women at Jesus's tomb three days after his death. When they rolled back the stone and found the tomb empty, the eggs turned red.

2. THE EASTER BUNNY



At first glance, it's hard to imagine what a giant rabbit has to do with any type of religious holiday. But according to *Time*, the tradition again dates back to the pagans. They celebrated a goddess of fertility named Eostre—and you may recall that fertility is exactly the trait rabbits are most famous for. It's thought that German immigrants brought their tradition of an egg-laying hare called *Osterhase* to the U.S. in the 1700s.

3. HOLLOW CHOCOLATE BUNNIES

Now that we know why Easter is associated with rabbits, little chocolate *leporidae* ("those that resemble lepus") (hare) actually make sense. But why are so many of them hollow inside? As it turns out, it's not just to get kids used to disappointment at a young age. According to the R.M. Palmer company, one of the oldest makers of chocolate bunnies in the U.S., the empty

insides are really just in consideration of your teeth. "If you had a larger-size bunny and it was solid chocolate, it would be like a brick; you'd be breaking teeth," Mark Schlott, executive vice-president of operations, told *Smithsonian*.

Of course, there's also the "wow" factor—confectioners can make a larger, more impressive-looking bunny for a reasonable price if there's nothing inside it.

4. EASTER BASKETS

If you squint at an Easter basket, especially one stuffed with faux shredded grass, you can totally see its origins as a nest. Remember the German *Osterhase* tradition? Well, there was more to it. To encourage this mythical bunny to stop by their houses, children would fashion nests for it to come and lay its colored eggs. Over time (and maybe to contain the mess), the nests evolved into baskets.

5. HOT CROSS BUNS



Like the bunny and the eggs, it's difficult to pinpoint exactly when people started making hot cross buns—sweet rolls studded with raisins or currants and marked with a cross on top—during the week leading up to Easter Sunday. It's said the tradition started in the 12th century with a monk who was inspired to mark his rolls to celebrate Good Friday.

The first written record we have of them dates back to an issue of *Poor Robin's Almanac* from the 1730s: "Good Friday comes this Month, the old woman runs, With one or two a Penny, hot cross Bunns."

6. EASTER FASHION PARADES

There's an old superstition that wearing new clothes on Easter means good luck for the rest of the year. You could say it has something to do with rebirth and renewal, but mostly, it sounds like an excuse to go shopping. Either way, fancy new finery deserves to be seen for more than 60 minutes during Easter services, so in the mid-1800s, parishioners in New York arranged themselves into a little post-church fashion show as they left their Fifth Avenue churches. The tradition continues today, though the term "finery" seems to be a bit broader now.

7. SUNRISE SERVICES

As the story goes, Mary opened Jesus's tomb at dawn on Easter morning to find it empty. In honor of the occasion, many churches hold services at sunrise so parishioners can experience the event similar to how it happened. The first one on record was held in 1732 in Saxony (now Germany), by a group of young men. The next year, the entire congregation attended the early-morning ceremony, and soon, the sunrise service had caught on across the country. By 1773, sunrise services had spread to the U.S.—the first was held in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

8. EASTER HAM

Believe it or not, even that juicy ham on your dining room table dates back to pagan rituals honoring spring and the goddess Eostre. The tradition goes back to at least 6th-century Germany, according to Bruce Kraig, the founder of the Culinary Historians of Chicago. Hunters often slaughtered hogs in the forest in the fall, then left them to cure all winter. By spring, pork was one of the only meats ready to go for spring celebrations. As with other pagan rituals, Christianity adapted the tradition for their own needs as the religion spread.

9. GOOD FRIDAY KITES

If you happen to find yourself in Bermuda on Good Friday, you may be surprised to see legions of kites dotting the sky. According to local legend, a teacher once used a kite to give her students a visual of how Jesus ascended into heaven. The analogy quickly caught on, and today, flying a simple kite made of tissue paper and sticks is still a colorful pastime.

10. EGG KNOCKING

Also known as egg tapping or egg jarring, egg knocking is a sport where two competitors tap the pointed ends of their eggs against each other to see which one cracks and which one "survives." The game apparently goes back to medieval Europe, but when it comes to modern-day egg knocking, Marksville, Louisiana, is uncrackable. Since 1956, local families have gathered at the courthouse square on Easter Sunday to battle their eggs. Some families even prepare months in advance, giving their chickens special feed in hopes of producing stronger eggs.

11. OSTERBRUNNEN

The German tradition of *Osterbrunnen*—decorating public wells and fountains with elaborate greenery and Easter egg décor—only began about a century ago. It's said that German villagers wanted to honor both Easter and the gift of water, which also represents life and renewal. Neighboring villages began to compete to see which of them could create the most fanciful fountains, and by 1980, approximately 200 villages were participating in the event. It's even spread stateside—the town of Frankenmuth, a Bavarian-style village in Michigan, has adopted the Osterbrunnen tradition in the month surrounding Easter.