



Sharing Our Faith

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

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

Volume 16, Issue 6

JUNE 2021



Dear Church Family,

As all of you know by now, I will soon be departing St. Luke's as Pastor to receive a new pastoral appointment in Mullins, SC. Joy and I are saddened to be leaving so many friends, yet at the same experiencing excitement over this new appointment. My last Sunday leading worship at St. Luke's will be June 27th and the new pastor's first Sunday will be July 4th.

You will soon have a new pastor who will have the privilege of being involved in the lives of this great congregation in so many ways. I ask that you open your hearts to welcome this new pastor, while being gracious during the transition phase and process of beginning your new season of ministry together.

Change is difficult for so many, but change is so much a constant in life. Change, while difficult, brings the opportunity for growth and new possibilities. I fully believe God is at work in the midst of changes here and that St. Luke's best days are still in the future. I am praying for this congregation and the new pastor during this time of transition, as I ask for your prayers for me and Joy as we transition to our new appointment.

This may seem to some to be an end, yet with God there is no ending, but only new beginnings. Seek God in the midst of this new beginning being strengthened through God's presence, God's power and God's peace knowing that "Greater than the power that is holding you down, is the power that lifts you up."

Grace and peace,

Brian



Farewell!

You are cordially invited to a Farewell Reception for Brian and Joy. This reception will be held immediately following our 9:15 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 27th at 10:00 a.m.

In the event of inclement weather the reception will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us in celebrating Brian and Joy and wishing them well. on their new appointment.

Thank you!

Marilyn Pozsonyi,
PPRC Chair

Welcome Spring

Spring has sprung, the weather is beautiful, and most of us are out and about. I said “most of us”. It’s Memorial Day weekend and it’s a time to reflect on those who made the supreme sacrifice so that we can enjoy our freedom. Thank you fallen comrades!

God has a special place for you, I’m certain.

While most of us are out and about there are some of us reluctant to dip our toe in the water. The water is fine, trust me. As we approach the half-way point in the calendar year we wait with anticipation to meet and greet our incoming pastor Chris Thompson. He is excited about joining St. Luke’s and can’t wait to get here. We will all participate in a revival to re-acquaint ourselves to worshipping in the sanctuary once again. It’s a long time coming!

First big thing happening is a going away get-together the last Sunday in June. This is our opportunity to say “farewell” to pastor Brian and Joy. Light refreshments will be served and it is a great opportunity to visit with your church family. We haven’t seen many of you for many months, so don’t be a stranger. Come out of the moth ball filled closet and join in the festivities.

I would be remiss if I didn’t remind everyone that there are great opportunities to volunteer a few hours of your time each month and serve St. Luke’s with your talents. We’ll all be sorry to see Jim Seymore depart our church due to health issues. As you all know Jim has served fervently as our trustee chairman for many years. We will be diligently searching for a replacement for that position. If interested, please let myself or pastor Brian know of your wishes.

Good luck and God speed Jim and Jane!

Blessings,
Ron Pozsonyi, Lay Leader



Who's Wealth?

As the Council enters the annual budget process, we all need to consider where this money is coming from.

Most is from you! Individual donors make up most of the assets we have to distribute in the budget.

Ask yourself: Who's wealth is it? Many believe that all things come from God. If this is within your system of belief, then consider how much you are giving back to St. Luke's to carry on God's work. Each Christian must decide how much to hold for pleasure, hold for your children, hold just in case, or to give back to God the wealth given freely to you. Your church strives to "do God's work" both through ministry and supporting local mission needs. Each of us must consider how much of God's bounty that we have been granted should we return to do God's work.

Rob Clark, Financial chair

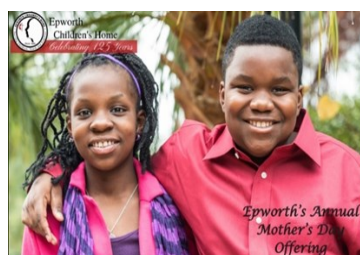


Fellowship Hall Update

I spoke with the architect yesterday afternoon and there's not very much progress to report this month. We don't have the updated budget pricing from the contractor yet. All the contractors seem to be backlogged with work and don't have time to do gratis work for us. The architect and I will continue to work with the general contractor to update the budget price.

Jim Seymore

A special thanks to all who contributed to Epworth Children's Home for the annual Mother's Day collection. We were pleased to send \$1,085.00 in support of this United Methodist Mission.



HISTORY CORNER



I Love to Tell the Story

Since our last newsletter, I have had our dining room table full of church records that had been stored in Pastor Brian's office and some other church members had given me. I was anxious to see what I would find. What I found was a hodge podge of information including:

Financial statements, Church Council meeting minutes, church bulletins, committee members for various years, committee members' responsibilities, some church publications (some of which we have available in the Fellowship Hall, e.g. church history), Chrismon Tree information, Cemetery and Columbarium information, etc. The years with the most records were the decades of the 1980's and 1990's. No records were available until 1968. A few were from the 1970's. The records are few and far between for 2000 to the present. Many records had duplicates, in fact, several duplicates and I kept only one each. There were also some miscellaneous receipts, a few pictures, a few letters, and a few newspaper articles which I will put in a notebook much like The Chrismon notebook we already have.

I have reviewed my job description to help determine what historical records are recommended to keep. These include: church bulletins, special event flyers and photos, financial records, committee minutes, Council minutes, pamphlets, audiovisuals, maps, etc.

You may be wondering why I went through those records? Several reasons, really:

1. I agreed to take the Council position of Church historian and I assumed that this was a good place to start. From there I could get a better picture of how to proceed.
2. What records were available and what, if anything, was missing?
3. Could I trace the history and timeline of St. Luke's from those records and update the history and timeline?
4. Where should each type of information be safely stored?

Just plain old curiosity!

So what did I learn? First, our record keeping needs to improve. I am not casting aspersions on anyone. I view church history as the responsibility of us all. So again, I am not pointing fingers. But it is impossible to get a good overall historical perspective without complete minutes of the Council meetings. Those provide the only means to understanding how projects or concerns or triumphs developed. And they are the primary source of information to trace what was done in the past on a topic that the Council may need to revisit. Financial records need to be complete as well.

The good news is that our website is great and it contains fabulous information - information that certainly belongs on our website, and tells a wonderful, inspiring story about us. But not everything should be included there. For example, financial records and Council minutes certainly don't belong on the web. But we do need a record of them—either in files or scanned on a thumb drive (Dave Disney has one for the web page which he updates when needed).

No doubt you are all familiar with the old hymn, “I Love to Tell the Story”. (Just FYI, it was written as a poem by an English evangelist, Kate Hankey in 1866. It was set to music by William E. Fischer and published in Methodist Episcopal Book Room (Philadelphia, PA) in 1869).

Religion “comes alive” through story. That’s why Jesus taught in parables. People don’t simply want to hear data and dates. They want to hear stories “that satisfy...longing as nothing else can do”. We all want to be inspired.

I did find some stories among the records. This story is one that our own John Hubbard told a newspaper reporter for the Hardeeville Today paper in August 8, 2009:

The former Hardeeville mayor said “this is like home for me.” During the hurricane of 1939 or 1940, his family found themselves in the church for a family reunion when the winds started whipping. “We just huddled in here,” he said. “People would watch outside and somebody would say, ‘That tree’s falling’ and we’d go outside and move cars and sure enough that tree would fall”.

I hate to be trite, but it does indeed take a village to collect and maintain a church’s history. What is missing from the records are the real heart of our church—stories of our members. So as we move forward, let’s work together. Here are some ways I think we can do that and please add any you would like to see us do:

1. From this point forward, I will make sure I have as many Council minutes as possible and transfer them to a thumb drive. I will do the same with the financial reports.
2. If you have any pictures, documents, flyers about events, etc., will you please share them with me? I can scan and return the originals to you. Pat has an excellent pictorial archive of what we have done, but there are others who may have some as well.
3. Each of you has a piece of St. Luke’s story. As we feel more comfortable about closer physical contact, I would love to sit and talk with you all about your favorite memories of being a member at St. Luke’s. I am bouncing ideas around in my head about the easiest and most enjoyable way to do this. It may be fun to gather in the Fellowship Hall over a cup of coffee and just chat. Please share with me any ideas you have.
4. Finally, I will explore sources such as Bluffton Historical Preservation Society, Historic Beaufort Foundation, Heritage Library, the Wofford website, *The Mark*, *The Advocate*.

Please share any other ideas with me as well.

Thanks—Pam Hoel, Historian



FIRST SUNDAY & THIRD MONDAY FOOD MISSION DRIVE IN JUNE

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. Thus far this expanded effort has proven to be very successful, reflecting the generosity of our congregation.

Specifically, for June 2021, please drop off your contributions in the back-parking lot at the church on *Sunday, June 6th*. We will be loading before and after the service. You can now also drop off at the church on the third Monday of the month, *June 21st* from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. 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 June 6th, we will be at the church parking lot on Monday, June 7th 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

843.395.9002

Below is a Thank you letter from Bluffton Self Help for the food we take them each month.

May 13, 2021

Rick Hoel, St. Luke's UMC



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 05/04/2021 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

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
Sherry & Rob Clark, 50 Star Flower Dr, Bluffton 29909
Linda Batten, 17 Alston Bay, Bluffton 29909
Norm Stark, 44 Summerplace Drive, 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

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy and prayers to the friends and family of Marilou Bryant, who passed away on May 16, 2021. She was a former member of St. Luke's UMC.



FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS

Roland and Vivian Smith, 297 Landing Lane, Bluffton 29909
Hannah Nystrom, friend of Marie & John Baldauf
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
Andrew and 3 daughters, son & granddaughters of Mary Buzzie
Peter Steffen and family
Charlene Cooler, sister of Ouida Dell
Carol, Lois Finch's daughter
The Russell Family, friends of the Hamilton's
Donny Sanders, friend of Nancy Sariscak
Police officers
Mongin and CJ Smyly, parents of Joy Preveaux
Gina and Bob Reardon, cousins of Joy Preveaux
Michele, sister of Nancy Sariscak
Andrew, son of Mary and Jim Buzzie
Heather, friend of Addie Bobbitt
Marge, sister-in-law of Mickey Ewing
Nation of Israel
Paulette, sister-in-law of Nancy Sariscak
Sharon, friend of Nancy Sariscak
Friend of Elaine Stermer

PRAISES

Karen Phillippi, sister of Ouida Dell, is feeling like herself again
Virus numbers are down
No masks required for outside worship
Another beautiful day for worship

Happy Birthday!



New Address!



June Birthdays

- 04 Jane Cook
- 07 **Dave Clements***
- 07 Rick Hoel
- 13 Andy Makarick
- 13 Shirley Stark
- 13 **June Dorsey***
- 17 Jon Watkins
- 22 Ruth Dolan
- 23 Marie Baldauf
- 24 Joan Ruffino
- 25 Jane Wick
- 27 Verna Crosby

June Anniversaries

- 04 Linda & George Batten
- 12 Jane & Dave Disney
- 14 **Anita & David Leming***
- 14 Andy & Sharon Makarick
- 15 Loretta & Paul LoMonaco
- 15 Vivian & Roland Smith
- 24 Leslie & Greg Richards
- 25 Tom & Ruth Dolan

***Change of Addresses:**

Dave Clements
1137 Sturbridge Drive
Medina, OH 44256

June Dorsey
2443 Masonic Drive
Sewickley, PA 15143

David & Anita Leming
113 Cheshire Dr.
Griffin, GA 30223

JULY - Birthdays

- 06 Diana Hamilton
- 03 Karen Robinson
- 07 John Baldauf
- 07 Russell Smith
- 11 Carol Conway
- 12 Elizabeth Vance
- 12 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

JULY -Anniversaries

- 01 Chuck & Judy Watts
- 06 Sheryll Ingram & Bill Halstead
- 20 Doris & Bob Heck
- 25 Beth & Bob Peters
- 25 Pam & Rick Hoel
- 27 Elizabeth & Archie Vance

***Change of Addresses:**

David & Anita Leming
113 Cheshire Dr.
Griffin, GA 30223

Don Leonard
2994 Meadowlark Way
Gaylord MI 49735



OR WATCH "ON-LINE" AT OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL—St. Luke's UMC
YouTube Channel

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCj_gXL78wJ24jkL6HMBp02g

Thank you for "mailing" your donations!

The mailing address is:
St. Luke's UMC
PO Box 2779
Bluffton SC 29910



Let Us Remember

*Memorial Day
We remember all those who gave
Their lives for freedom
Let us also remember Christ
Who died so all might be free*

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

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