



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 16, Issue 5

MAY 2021



While on vacation, Joy and I ventured into an ice cream shop while visiting some shops on the Island.

While perusing the variety of flavors, the young lady behind the counter offered samples of any flavor we wanted to try.

I have never witnessed anyone that received a sample in an ice cream shop that did not purchase ice cream. The sample is to reveal the goodness and pleasure designed in the flavor of ice cream.



As the people of God, we are to be the "samples" to the world of the goodness and pleasure of living a life in Christ.

So be a "sample" allowing others to see the joy Christ brings to each day. Like ice cream, every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before!

Grace and peace,
Brian



Contact Info for Pastor Brian

Cell: 803.686.0794

Home: 843.707.7991

Email: bpreveaux@umcsc.org

Beautiful days ahead

The month of May is always beautiful. Not too hot, not too cold. We really get into the swing of spring and enjoy celebrating Mother's Day. We are also very fortunate to have Sunday service in the rear cemetery lot.

A third of the year is already behind us and we will soon be focusing very intently on the Fellowship Hall renovation project. Many moons ago we asked for you to pledge dollar amounts as your commitment to the project. Please fulfill your pledge as you planned. Some of us did a one lump sum donation and others have spread it out over two or three years. If you don't remember the dollar amount you pledged, please email our Financial Secretary, Pat Simmons, and she can look up the information for you.

As COVID has come and hopefully almost gone, we will be getting back to normal very soon. Meeting with the new incoming pastor has been exhilarating and yet very comfortable. He promises to be a welcome addition to our fine church. He is very excited to be a resident of the low country and likes the Hilton Head and Savannah areas. Chris and his wife Cynthia are currently scouting for a suitable residence while they will be living in the area.

The Lord has been very good to us here at St. Luke's. He has allowed us to continue with our Sunday worship. Thank you to all those wonderful people we see every Sunday who unfold their lawn chairs, and on chilly mornings, cover their knees with that warm stadium blanket.

The days are warming up. You may want to consider joining us on Sunday morning. If not, the new pastor promises sanctuary services come July. A lot to look forward to!

See you in church!
Ron Pozsonyi, Lay Leader



It seems that our God is giving the world a wake-up call. For the outdoor services, we have great weather and a wonderful environment of trees, birds and flowers. There is talk of planning for when we can all meet indoors again to worship in our historic and intimate church. We look forward to meeting our new pastor who will continue the great St. Luke's tradition of reaching out to the community.

A few things are lagging: our good habits of “mail it in” collections seem to have diminished over the winter and our “plate” giving is no longer keeping up with our expenses. While we finally (seems to take forever) got final county approval to renovate the Fellowship Hall, we now need to settle on a contractor and work the contractual issues.

Now is the time for each of us to look about and recognize the bounty that God is providing and to truly feel the “Joy of Giving” that can accompany spontaneous and generous sharing of our blessing by giving back to the Church that has nurtured us all our lives. Our giving back helps assure that St. Luke's will keep reaching out to the community and sharing the bounty of God's blessings.

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



Fellowship Hall Update

We finally received signed copies of the permits from the county. This is the most positive step we have had in recent months.

The architect has forwarded preliminary specifications and drawings, surveys, and other required information to the general contractor for them to revise their budget price. This is necessary because we were required to change the floorplan because of wetlands setback issues.

I will report back to the church as soon as we get the updated budget.

Keep up the faith and prayers.

Jim Seymore, Trustee chair

FIRST SUNDAY & THIRD MONDAY FOOD MISSION DRIVE IN MAY



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 May 2021, please drop off your contributions in the back-parking lot at the church on Sunday, May 2nd. We will be loading before and after the service. You can now also drop off at the church on Monday, May 17th 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 May 2nd, we will be at the church parking lot on Monday, May 3rd 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

SUNDAY, MAY 9th, WE WILL BE COLLECTING

EPWORTH'S, ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING



What is the history of Mother's Day?

Everyone knows Mother's Day is the day to remind your mom just how much you love and appreciate her.

EPWORTH IS OUR MINISTRY! Did you know that in the last year Epworth Children's Home gave over 200 children a safe and loving place to call home? Each of these children had this opportunity because of United Methodist churches in South Carolina who embrace and provide for this ministry in support of the children and families in our state. We will participate in the annual Mother's Day Offering on Sunday, May 9, 2021, to benefit the children who call Epworth home. Please be in prayerful consideration of what God is calling you to give to this valuable and life changing ministry.

TRANSFORM A CHILD'S FUTURE. Each year, Epworth Children's Home provides care to children in our own communities who have experienced abuse, neglect, and loss. Epworth's care breaks the destructive cycle and encourages children to aim higher in life. The physical, emotional, academic, and spiritual care they receive transforms their lives.

DON'T FORGET YOUR MOTHERS OR EPWORTH CHILDREN'S HOME! Next week is Mother's Day. We will buy flowers, call the mothers in our lives, and remember those mothers who have impacted our lives in the past. Most of the children at Epworth Children's Home will not be celebrating Mother's Day with their mothers. Instead, they will be surrounded by loving staff and volunteers who walk with them daily to provide spiritual, educational, emotional, and physical support. Consider what God is calling you to give to support our church's ministry to the children in South Carolina. Your generous contribution to our church's ministry enables transformation to happen for the children who call Epworth home. Epworth does not receive apportionments from the United Methodist Conference. This offering is our opportunity to support this vital ministry. **Please make checks payable to St. Luke's with "Epworth" on the memo line and mail to St. Luke's UMC, PO Box 2779, Bluffton SC 29910.**

The woman who first proposed Mother's Day in 1870 was the same woman who wrote the lyrics to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." After the Civil War, writer Julia Ward Howe suggested a Mother's Day to recognize peace and protest war. She organized annual events in Boston to honor mothers, but despite her work (and her moving "Mother's Day Proclamation"), nothing official came of her efforts.

Although Julia Ward Howe first suggested a day for mothers, Anna Jarvis (who had no children of her own) campaigned for a national day of observance for moms, in remembrance of her own mother, Ann Jarvis, who had spent years working to provide resources for poor mothers in West Virginia. Mother's Day became a designated holiday in 1914, but within a few years, Jarvis became disgusted with how commercial the day had become and started a petition to rescind the holiday. (That clearly didn't come to pass.)

Anna Jarvis is considered the "mother of Mother's Day" in the U.S.

Jarvis's mother passed away in 1905 and three years later, Jarvis organized a memorial ceremony in West Virginia to honor her mother, and all mothers. She sent 500 white carnations to the service and held her own memorial in Philadelphia. That day, May 10, 1908, is considered the first official celebration of Mother's Day.

Over the next few years, Jarvis campaigned to have Mother's Day recognized by the federal government, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill that designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. The resolution requested that the American flag be displayed that day at businesses and homes "as a public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country."

In the years that followed, Anna Jarvis became frustrated with the commercialization of Mother's Day by flower companies, candy makers, and the like.

"To have Mother's Day the burdensome, wasteful, expensive gift day that Christmas and other special days have become, is not our pleasure," she wrote in the 1920s, according to National Geographic. "If the American people are not willing to protect Mother's Day from the hordes of money schemers that would overwhelm it with their schemes, then we shall cease having a Mother's Day—and we know how."

Jarvis herself never profited from Mother's Day, although she raised dozens of lawsuits over the years to protect Mother's Day as her intellectual property. Despite Jarvis's best efforts to prevent the commercialization of the holiday, people tend to celebrate Mother's Day today by buying cards, flowers, candies and other gifts for Mom.

1. Franklin D. Roosevelt personally designed a Mother's Day stamp in 1934. It featured the famous "Whistler's Mother" painting by James Abbott McNeill Whistler.



- Not everyone celebrates Mother's Day in May. Other countries, including the United Kingdom and Ireland, celebrate Mother's Day on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, and sometimes refer to the day as Mothering Sunday.
- Last year, greeting cards were the most popular item shoppers planned to purchase for their mother, followed closely by flowers and a special outing, according to the National Retail Foundation.
- 31 percent of Americans reported buying fresh flowers for their mother in 2019, according to About Flowers.
- About a quarter of all holiday-related flower purchases in the U.S. are made for Mother's Day.
- The median age at which women become mothers in the U.S. is 26, up from 23 in 1994, according to the Pew Research Center.
- About 68 percent of mothers in the U.S. are married, while 24 percent are solo moms, according to Pew.

- The white carnation is the official flower of Mother's Day. Founder Anna Jarvis compared carnations to a mother's love in a 1927 interview, according to National Geographic. "The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying," she said.
- Carnations quickly became the symbol of Mother's Day (supposedly representing the tears of Mary when Jesus was crucified) when it began in 1914, and soon the floral industry promoted the idea of wearing a red carnation to honor a person's living mom or a white carnation to honor a mother who had passed. Mother's Day is the number one day for floral sales.



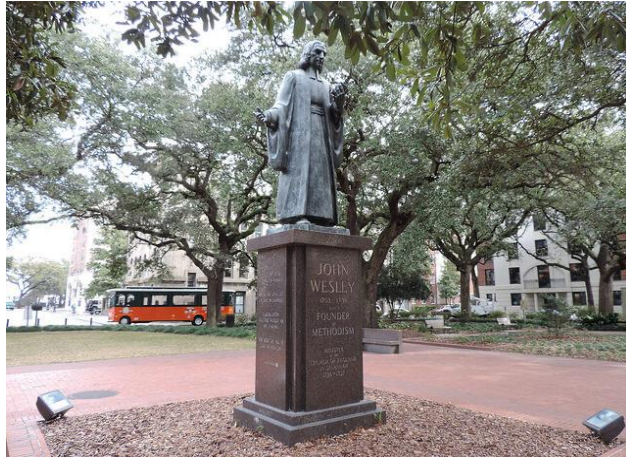
Welcome New Members



We are pleased to welcome Archie and Elizabeth Vance as our newest members at St. Luke's. They transferred their membership from Harvey UMC in West Virginia. Please extend a warm welcome to them!

On another note...Lynne & Dave Clements have gone back to Ohio for the summer. They were taking these photos last Sunday before leaving.





John Wesley statue in Reynolds Square, Savannah Georgia

As you all know, John Wesley, along with his brother, Charles, founded Methodism.

BUT DID YOU KNOW?

1. JOHN WESLEY WROTE ONE OF THE ALL-TIME BESTSELLING MEDICAL TEXTS.

Wesley believed that God is concerned about our earthly life as well as our heavenly one. So, he wrote a medical text for the everyday person titled *Primitive Physick*. The book detailed the current knowledge about home remedies and went through 32 editions, making it one of the most widely read books in England.

Many of his cures remain widely accepted. While some of his advice was wishful thinking, the most important part of his philosophy was his insistence on continual observation to support all hypotheses. Wesley boldly questioned modern doctors — how they sometimes treated humans like machines; that much of their “medicine” lacked merit and they lacked evidence to support its efficacy. However, some of Wesley’s own beliefs needed more supportive evidence. For example, Wesley recommended holding a puppy against the stomach to cure stomach pain. He offered dried and powdered toad pills for asthma. He also enjoyed regular dips in cold bathwater, thought to be a panacea. It sounds strange to us, but many leading minds during Wesley’s time espoused these sorts of folk remedies.

2. JOHN WESLEY COINED THE TERM “AGREE TO DISAGREE.”

Wesley had serious theological differences with another popular pastor named George Whitefield. Though they both argued passionately, Wesley reflected on these differences in his memorial sermon for Whitefield: “There are many doctrines of a less essential nature. ...In these, we may think and let think; we may ‘agree to disagree’ But, meantime, let us hold fast the essentials...” This appears to be the first recorded use of the term. It was a hallmark of Wesley’s way of holding to his convictions while remaining in connection with those with whom he disagreed.

3. JOHN WESLEY RODE FAR ENOUGH ON HORSEBACK TO CIRCLE THE EARTH 10 TIMES.

Wesley rode 250,000 miles! He was convinced that it was important for him personally to spread the gospel through relationships and continue to grow closer to God in those relationships. Asked if he would consider walking instead of riding, he replied, “Nay”. So, it appears he also had a sense of humor!

4. WESLEY HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT HIS FAITH.

Questioning one’s faith should not be discouraged. Doubts are essential to making any belief system one’s own. They do not mean that one will let it go. In fact, even as Wesley questioned, he followed the wise instruction of a mentor who told him to “preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith.” Even as we struggle, we can maintain our hold on the truths we question until we can settle all our doubts.

5. “METHODIST” WAS ORIGINALLY A DEROGATORY TERM.

Though the origins of the term “Methodist” are in dispute, it is clear that it was originally used by outsiders to mock Wesley and his early societies because of their dedication to following a method for growing closer to God. They ended up accepting the term, considering it a positive descriptor of their movement.

6. WESLEY COUNSELED PEOPLE TO “EAT A LITTLE LESS THAN YOU DESIRE.”

Staying slim was far from Wesley’s goal (1), though he did weigh in around 128 pounds. He was not encouraging people to diet. Wesley was encouraging a practice to ensure that people were not ruled by their natural desires but exercising control over them.

7. WESLEY NEVER INTENDED TO SPLIT FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

However, when the revolution happened in the American colonies, most of the Anglican priests returned home. Faced with the fact that none of the Methodists in the colonies could receive the sacraments, Wesley ordained ministers whom he sent to do the same in America (he was practical even when it caused problems). That act was the beginning of the separation that formed the Methodist Church (2) in America. The Methodist Church in England did not officially form until after Wesley’s death.

8. WESLEY NEVER SAID THIS FAMOUS QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO HIM.

It has on the back of many United Methodist youth camp T-shirts: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can.” Though the quote is often attributed to John Wesley and is consistent with his perspective on life, many historians have found there is no record of Wesley ever saying that.

9. WESLEY BELIEVED YOU COULD NOT BE A CHRISTIAN ON YOUR OWN.

Wesley said that we needed to be involved in “social holiness.” He believed we could only grow as Christians in community. In his preface to the 1739 hymnal, he was adamant that “the gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness.”

10. METHODISM GREW FROM FOUR MEMBERS TO 132,000 MEMBERS IN WESLEY’S LIFETIME.

METHODISM (3) began with a group of four men at Oxford. They called themselves the “Holy Club”. When Wesley died in 1791, he left behind a movement with 72,000 in the British Isles and 60,000 in America.

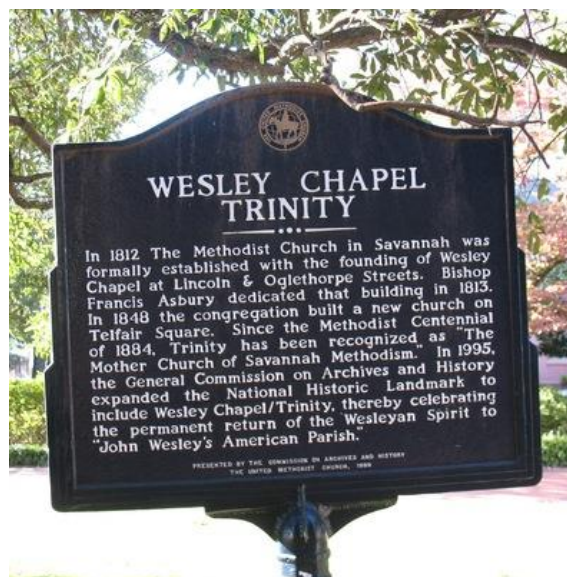
11. WESLEY VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED SLAVERY.

Wesley was inspired to join the anti-slavery movement when he read a pamphlet by Quaker abolitionist Anthony Benezet. He was so moved that frequently preached against the slave trade and authored “Thoughts Upon Slavery”—a pamphlet publicly denying the practice. Wesley’s last letter was written to abolitionist William Wilberforce. In it he wrote: “O be not weary of well doing! Go on, in the name of God and the power of his might, til even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it.” This letter was written in 1791, and 16 years later England’s participation in the slave trade was deemed unlawful.

References:

1. Guarrant, William C. *Organic Wesley*. Franklin: Seedbed, 2015. Page 47.
2. Heitzenrater, Richard P. *Wesley and the People Called Methodist*. Nashville: Abingdon, 2013. Page 320.
3. *ibid*. Page 46.

Pam Hoel, Historian





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
- 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

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
- Karen Phillippi and Charlene Cooler, sisters of Ouida Dell Carol, Lois Finch's daughter
- The Russell Family, friends of the Hamilton's
- 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
- Police officers

PRAISES

Elizabeth & Archie Vance transferred their membership from Harvey UMC, West Virginia to St. Luke's UMC. Welcome new visitor, Allison



Sunday mornings



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!

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

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

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



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



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

Please email Pat Simmons for an "Invitation to Membership" form. at st.lukesumc.hwy170@gmail.com
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

Check out our Website



Many of you may not know that we are posting our "backyard" sermons on **YouTube**. Each Sunday, **after 11:00 AM** (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.)