



Transformation Times

February 2011
Volume 1, Number 2

Sermon Series: "90 Minutes in Heaven"- Continues through February 13 Based on the book by Don Piper

- ◇ Are Angels Real? Hebrews 1:14
- ◇ Does Heaven Change Anything Now? Philippians 1:27
- ◇ Are You Longing for Heaven? Philippians 1:21-23

Responses to this series, 'Seeing life's troubles in a whole new light', have been very positive. Many have shared that they have learned helpful information about heaven, prayer, the will of God and how to cope with tragedy. All are encouraged to read the scriptures before coming to worship. Bring a friend because "heaven is real"!

Meet Our New Church Council for 2011

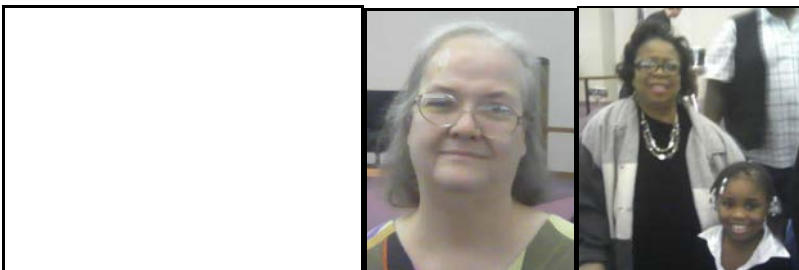
Class of	2011	2012	2013
Staff/Parish Relations	Stacia Childs	Eileen Crabtree	Mandy McConnico*
Trustees	Dan Schmitz	David Odneal*	Chris Waddell
Finance	Frank Stormer*	Andrew Brown	Don Eatherton
United Methodist Youth	*Asterisk denotes chair		Kyra Jones
United Methodist Women			Janet Abram
Men's Group			Carl Gustafson

Additional Church Council Leaders include Lay Members to the Annual Conference Joyce Eatherton, 2011, and Lay Leader Rita Miller, 2013, and Council Chair Garry Kemp, 2011.

The Church Council meetings are scheduled quarterly & will start at 6:30pm in Ragan Hall on the following Mondays: January 24, April 25, July 25, October 24 & December 19. **Everyone is invited & encouraged to attend!** Contact Garry Kemp, Council Chair, with questions.

Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome, Opening Prayer and Scripture
- Our Mission and Vision
- Minutes of previous meetings
- Report of Standing Committees
- Pastors' Reports
- Congregation comments
- Other business
- Adjournment



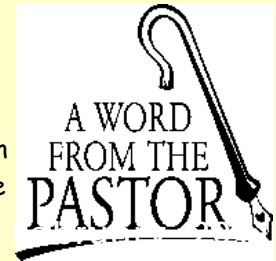
Welcome New Members!

Joined January 9, 2011: Paul Stanley, DeVion Thompson & Henrietta Cloyd
Joined January 16, 2011: Barbara Rankin, Vallerie Cullors & Queen Parnan

Lead Pastor's Page

The Challenge: A Plan to Fulfill Our Vision

What good is a vision without a plan to help you become what you want to be? Focusing on ministries to help us fulfill our mission to make new disciples so that we look like what we envision ourselves to be - this is the challenge of the new year.



A vision plan for 2011-2014 is being shared with the new Church Council, staff and other leaders. Very soon we will be sharing the plan with the congregation. It will take all of us working together to help us look like an inviting, growing and serving congregation. I'm excited about the possibility of a new community ministry to meet the spiritual and physical needs of our neighbors in Hickman Mills and southern Raytown. The excitement grows out of the possibility of initiating, developing, launching and maintaining a higher community profile.

We will have the potential to provide ongoing resources that will show our neighbors that we love them, and will continue to work for transformation, right here on this corner. The possibility of forming partnerships with other churches and organizations breeds hope! What a witness for Christ - God's people working together, pooling resources to serve those in need.

I look forward to discussing the plan, and the positive impact it will have, with you. This we will do in response to our leader Jesus Christ who proclaims, "Greater works shall you do in my name," John 14:12.

Celebrate Leadership

On Sunday, Feb. 20 we will hold a Leader Consecration ceremony to bless those who are serving on the Church Council, Nominations Committee and staff. In addition to taking the Leadership Covenant, we will also introduce our leaders to worshipers at both services. It would be much easier for our leaders to spend more time and effort in other venues. The fact that they are working here in the church speaks to their hopeful character, dedication and loyalty. I look forward to expressing my gratitude with you for these faithful servant leaders.

New Hymnal

The Faith We Sing hymnal supplement has been purchased with monies from the following memorial funds: Betty and Harold Henke, Loy and Glenella Johnson, Joe and Genniel Stoll. Many thanks to those of you who contributed to these funds, and to the families who authorized this use to expand our worship music ministry. We will sing from the new hymnals, and be blessed by special music from additional technology on the organ on Sunday, March 6. Also, thanks to Donis Mosburg for being our long-term memorial funds coordinator.

Finance Team Deserves Our Gratitude

Unless you served on the Finance Team or are related to someone who has, it is impossible to know how many hours these dedicated members work on your behalf. Just recently they spent months closing the 2010 books, producing giving statements, creating computer programs, researching year-end conference data, setting up electronic fund transfers, adding new fund data, generating letters and editing financial reports so they are more easily understood.

All of this in addition to their regular duties such as payroll, paying employee government taxes, counting and crediting pledges and offerings to the correct envelope number, paying bills, reconciling bank statements and providing documents requested by the pastors, etc.

Please join me in thanking the Finance Team for donating their skills and time to the church year after year after year: Frank Stormer, Don Eatherton, Karen Seay, Brenda Henley, Sandy Taylor, Jane Stormer, Ellie Busby, Judy Arnold and all counters. Retired, committed servants Brad (in heaven) and Lois Patton - your service cannot be measured. May God bless you for blessing us!

See you in Church, Pastor Lonia

Congratulations to Elvin & Brenda Henley on a new grandson, Arlo Phillip Henley. His parents are Ryan & Robin.

A **Blood Drive** will be held on February 28 from 1 to 7:00pm at the church. You are encouraged to sign up before and after each worship service on February 13 and 20.



Souper Bowl of Caring to help feed hungry families in our community will begin February 6. February communion offering will support CAC and REAP in

ongoing efforts to help families in need in our community. We will be hosting a food drive all of February to help stock the shelves at the two food pantries. Canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, paper and personal care products are currently in need but cereal, canned meat, boxed meal extenders are always needed. Canned meals, soups, chili, stew are helpful for the cold winter months. Please watch the sales and pick up a few extra items to donate to our Souper Bowl Food drive during the month of February.

Contact Sue Love with questions or for more information.

Donations of new or gently used winter wear are appreciated for local agencies. Please bring coats, heavy sweatshirts, socks, shoes, boots, sweaters and other items. Donations should be left in the collection box in the entry foyer or contact Sue Love.

Celebrate Recovery meets Fridays at 7pm.



Is CR for me? CR is for anyone with a hurt, habit or hang-up.
Anxiety . . . Guilt . . . Pain . . . Anger . . . Addiction . . . Depression

Problems can be stumbling blocks or stepping stones! Childcare provided.

Greeters Needed: Do you have a warm smile and friendly handshake? If so, sign up now for the Greeter Ministry Team. Greeters are needed for both worship services. Contact Sue Kemp at 816-347-0388 for details.

Become a **Facebook Friend**. Just search *St. Luke's UMC-Kansas City* and add us as a friend.

REMINDER: Newsletter articles are due in the office by the 10th of the month.



Our Mission: To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision: Invite, Grow, Serve

Sparkle 2

Have you marked your calendar for Sparkle 2? The date is Saturday, July 23 at Dobbs Elementary.

Sparkle 2 will be the second time our congregation has spent the day fixing up a public school so that students, faculty and staff have a pleasant learning environment. Save the date and plan to celebrate our community service in worship the next day.

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Mozambique Initiative Update

St. Luke's has entered into a covenant partnership with Phembe UMC located 32 kilometers from the village of Homoine, in Inhambane West District of Mozambique Africa. The church has 458 members with an average attendance of 112. The area is very poor with no electricity at the church or in the neighborhood; drinking water comes from open wells. There is no available employment; the people live on income from small businesses in flea markets selling agricultural products. Most women own small plots of land for gardening; unemployment among youth and adults is high.



The chapel has a cement floor with zinc sheets for a roof, with no pews. People bring chairs from home and a table for the pulpit. The pastor, Afonso Zacarias Nhanombe, lives in a two room thatched structure that serves as the parsonage. There is no furniture.

As part of the covenant agreement, St. Luke's provides financial support to the church and pastor (\$300 per year), agrees to communicate with the church and pray for the church and pastor. You will see the name of the church and pastor on our prayer list. Pastor Nhanombe requests prayers for the success of their efforts to spread the gospel in their poor rural area.

If you are interested in receiving emails about Mozambique or corresponding with our covenant church, see Sue Love, Missions Director, for contact information.