



"A multi-cultural congregation that is open to all."

Transformation Times

May 2011
Volume 1, Number 5

Happy Mother's Day

One of the great pleasures in life is the sound of a mother's warm laughter with her children. Will you bring your mother (or nurturer) to church on Sunday, May 8, for love, humor, a gift and worship? The message will feature two very different requests from two very different moms.

Sermon title: Pushy Moms? Sermon text: Matthew 20:20-23 and John 2:1-5. Children's choir at 11am worship.

Welcome to Sue Lueckenhoff who joined St. Luke's on March 27.



St. Luke's Web site (www.stlukeskc.org) recently went through a complete redesign!

To make our Web site easier to read and easier for users to find information quickly, our Web site has been completely redesigned, organized and updated.

As part of this 'remodel', the Web site was moved to a new application that will make it easier and quicker to add, update and remove content and pictures - allowing us to keep the information more current and relevant.

New features and content include:

- convenient links throughout for quick access to useful Web sites including the Missouri Conference, Celebrate Recovery details, The Upper Room and umc.org Movie Reviews for children.
- individual pages with information for all ministries (adult, children, community health, mission, music and youth)
- a full page dedicated to our mission, vision, core beliefs, values and leadership covenant
- a detailed map and driving instructions for visitors

The site is still under construction. Future enhancements could include access to recorded sermons, newsletters (print and electronic), inspirational videos and expanded content.

Check it out and send your comments, ideas and suggestions to me through the 'Contact Us' link on the site. **A message from Angela Fleming, communications coordinator**



A multi-cultural congregation that is open to all.

Children

Sunday School! Classes are provided every Sunday throughout the year for children age 3 through grade 6 at 9:50am. Our goal is to help children grow in faith and discipleship in a loving atmosphere and to participate in missions through service projects to help others.

KID'S CORNER is always available at 9:50am for children under age 3. During the 8:30 & 11:00am worship services children age 4 and under are invited to participate in the nursery class. Age appropriate activities include Bible stories, songs, and free play with toys. Our goal is to provide a safe and pleasant environment for all children as they begin to experience the love of a new family—our St. Luke's Family.

Children's Church is offered most Sundays during the 11:00 worship service in room 104. Children ages PreK - Grade 4 may be dismissed after Kid's Corner. Activities include a Bible story, prayers, and crafts or games. Children's Church does not meet the first Sunday of the month so that the children can participate in Holy Communion.

Reflections from Emonia

Hip-Hip Hooray!

Kneeling Cushions

Jane Stormer, Mandy McConnico and Linda Gunter have agreed to work on getting kneeling cushions for the communion rail. They met with Amanda Brown from Cokesbury, measured, decided on a color and thickness of the cushions. The order has been placed and we expect the cushions to arrive in early June 2011.

This is exciting and we greatly appreciate the dedication of Jane, Mandy, Linda and Amanda. When the kneeling cushions arrive, the changes in the sanctuary will be complete.

Worship Team

Our worship team's purpose is to create an environment where people are invited to offer themselves to God. We use music and other worship arts, such as drama, signing, paintings, video and liturgical dance to express our love to God. We view worship as a response to what God has done through Jesus Christ - dying on the cross for our sins. It is not just an event; it is something that touches our whole lives.

If you have a talent of painting, video, liturgical dance, or drama skills; if you like to decorate or have other creative skill that you wish to share as part of the worship team, please call me and let's talk about it. There is room on the worship team for your creativity to express your love towards God.

Multicultural Training

Saturday, April 16, the Church Council and staff attended training on Multicultural Awareness. Our facilitator was Maggie Finefrock of *The Learning Project*. It was a great learning experience; certainly not what I was expecting from a training on multicultural awareness. God was present throughout the experience, letting us know that He is always present and that he loves *ALL* his children.

This experience will be shared with the congregation. I feel you will learn a great deal due to the loving environment that Ms. Finefrock shared with us. This is something you will not want to miss.

At the completion of this training, all the prescriptions from the Healthy Church Initiative will be completed.

Emonia Barnett, Associate Pastor

What's Going On?

OPPORTUNITIES TO INVITE THE UNCHURCHED

In support of our Mission and Vision goals to make 25 new disciples by the end of the year, the staff has identified and is planning the following activities for us to invite unchurched people to worship and special events. Here's what we have so far, stay tuned for more information and let the invitations begin:



- ✓ May 8 Mother's Day to honor mom and bring her to worship.
- ✓ June 17 Pictures in the Park to watch a good movie with a friend.
- ✓ July 17 Invite parents, helpers and friends to Summer Adventure event.
- ✓ August 21 Back to school recognition for public school employees.
- ✓ September Rally Day for adult and youth Sunday school in parking lot.
- ✓ October 30 Pumpkin Fest for the whole community.
- ✓ November 6 Veteran's Day/Retire the Flags ceremony after worship.
- ✓ December 21 & 24 Christmas Eve and Blue Christmas services.

WORSHIP REQUEST

Our Traditional worship services begin with a Prelude or Introit each week. These musical pieces are carefully and prayerfully selected and practiced. They invite us to turn our thoughts from the cares of the world towards the kingdom of God. When the music begins, all 8:30 worshipers are asked to graciously bring their conversations to a close and listen to what the Spirit has to say to the church. "The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him" Habakkuk 2:20. Thank you.

COME TO THE SHACK -- AND BRING A FRIEND

It's amazing how a book of fiction has helped so many people understand Evil, Grief, Grace, the Trinity, and Faith, but The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity by William Paul Young does just that. We will be delving into these and other themes in a summer sermon series. You may want to pick up the paperback novel and begin reading. This best seller has the power to heal the broken hearted and transform lives. Since *The Shack* is popular in the secular world, our unchurched friends may be interested.

START PRAYING

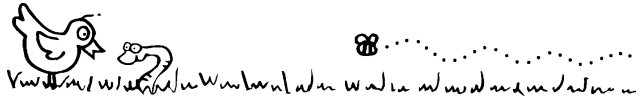
Have you heard about the proposed redevelopment plan for the old Bannister Mall area? In addition to large retail stores, the possibilities include a hotel, townhouses, commercial offices, nice restaurants, small retail businesses and a commuter rail transit system to downtown. If approved, the number of jobs generated would significantly impact our local economy. Let us pray.

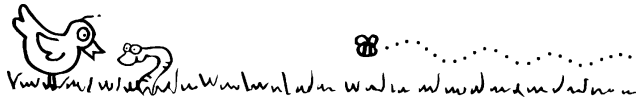
THANK YOU

Our Youth Group has been busy helping around the church in many ways. They served as ushers for the Community Lenten service. They cleaned and waxed the pews and communion rails. They helped Jason Dattilo, youth director, move into his new office location. They put down mulch in the Ragan Park playground. They assisted during Holy Week services as ushers and actors. Where would the church be without our youth? Make sure you tell them how much you appreciate their work for God.

See you in Church, Pastor Londia

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Holy Communion 9:30 Blood Pressure Checks	2 7:00 Community Task Force 7 Rejoice Circle	3	4 Ruskin High School Advanced Placement Tests (here)	5 9:30 UMW Unit Meeting	6 10 Church Women United (here)	7 7-10 Country Breakfast
8 Mother's Day	9 6:45 Staff Meeting Ruskin High School Advanced Placement Tests (here)	10	11	12 1 WOW Circle 7 Susanna Circle	13	14 Mother/Daughter Lunch - Noon
15 9:50 Angel Circle 12:15 Singles Lunch	16 7 LIFE Circle 7 Book Group	17	18	19 9:30 Hannah & Rebekah Circles	20	21
22 9:30 Graduates' Breakfast	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Office Closed	31				



Sunday 8:00 Prayer Group; 8:30 & 11 Worship; 9:50 Sunday School; 5 Youth
 Tuesday 10:45 Contemplative Prayer; 5:30 TNT; 7 Boy Scout Troop 110
 Wednesday 9 Quilters; 6 Wed. Jam; 6:15 Chancel Chimes; 6:30 Gospel Choir, Prayer Group; 7:30 Chancel Choir
 Thursday 7 Devoted Stitchers, Cub Scouts
 Friday 7 Celebrate Recovery

MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

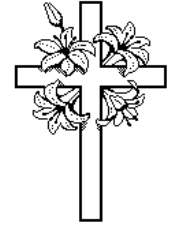
Community Ministry Task Force Open Forum, May 2 at 7pm

Please come to hear the action plans and timelines for these five committees: Community Development Youth Program, Area Job Fair, Summer Feeding Program, School Facelift/Cleanup and Area Medical Clinic. You will have the opportunity to participate in an activity that helps our neighbors. We will meet in Ragan Hall. Contact Garry Kemp at 816-347-0388 for details.

Confirmation Classes

A message from Jason Dattilo, youth ministry director:

Confirmation classes will begin Saturday, May 14, for youth currently in 6th grade and above. Confirmation is a spiritual journey; learning about the church and its history, beliefs and practices, and an opportunity to learn about our spiritual selves. Students will be asked to think about their experiences with the church and their relationship with God and Jesus and how to grow that relationship.



Anyone who has not been through Confirmation is welcome to attend. We have helpers who are strong in their faith to work with us. This year, Bob Cummings, Ed and Sue Burr and Sandy Grider will be sharing their experiences and knowledge.

Donation Station

A Message from Sue Love, missions director:

Wondering where all of the bins and barrels went that sat under the coat rack? Look in the new Donation Station (the previous youth director's office in the hall by the library).

The Mission/outreach collection box, the bins and barrels for ongoing donations have all been relocated to one room. When we advertise an ingathering church -wide food drive, request for Festival of Sharing kits or other donation opportunity, you would leave them in the donation room. There is a list on the bulletin board outside the room of items that are always needed including seasonal items. There is also a card rack with information cards and pamphlets about many of the agencies we help support.

The boxes used for ongoing United Methodist Women (UMW) collection are in the UMW cabinet by the side entry door. The lower cabinet has boxes for Veterans Administration magazines; the upper are for receipts, cell phones, etc.

In honor of all graduates, St. Luke's United Methodist Women will host a breakfast on Sunday, May 22, at 9:30am. If you are graduating from high school, college, vocational/technical school or with an advanced degree please give your name and the name of your school to the church office by May 8.

Thank you for the many anniversary cards received.

Dick & Mary Mattoon



LIFE Circle is hosting a **Mother-Daughter luncheon**, "Celebrating Mothers Around the World", on Saturday, May 14 from 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Pictures will be taken at 11:30 with lunch served at noon. The after-lunch program will include the Della C. Lamb Children's Choir.

Ticket prices are Adult - \$6; four to 12 years - \$4 and under four years free. Watch for ticket sales near the Friendship Room on Sunday, May 1 and Sunday, May 8.

The church office will be closed on Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day.

Reminder that all **signage and communication** should be sent to Angela Fleming at tfleming57@hotmail.com before being used.



Our Mission:

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

Our Vision:

Invite, Grow, Serve.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The St. Luke's Scholarship Committee
is receiving **applications for college
scholarships** through June 30.

This year we will also be receiving
applications for the Ramsey
Scholarships which are designated for
students from a single parent family.
Applications are available at the
Information Center.

Please contact Sandy Grider at
816-524-9390 for additional
information.

SUMMER ADVENTURE/VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Theme: God's Amazing Kids!

Do you have kids ages five to 12? Have we got a summer for you!

Ten weeks of learning and laughter based on weekly themes to develop
Christian character, responsible citizenship and compassion for others.

Week one (June 6-10) through week ten (August 8 - 12):

Monday thru Friday: 9am to 3pm

Before-care Hours: 6 to 9am

After-care Hours: 3 to 6pm

Contact Luvenia Lewis, children's ministry
director, at 816-763-8444 or via email at
luvenialewis@gmail.com.

