



Transformation Times

"A multi-cultural congregation open to all."

November 2011
Volume 1, Number 10

Thanksgiving

We will observe Thanksgiving on November 20, the Sunday before the November 24 holiday. Come prepared to show your appreciation to those who work for God and the church.



Advent Study

Travel the Holy Land roads by attending The Journey: A Season of Reflections by Adam Hamilton. This Advent course will be taught on Tuesday nights in November at 6 pm by Rev. Bobbie Stone. Visit Bethlehem, the routes of Mary and Joseph, the Bethlehem stable and the Roman Empire by video.



Turkey Dinner ~ Friday, November 18 ~ 5pm to 7pm

Dine in or carry out. Tickets available in the Friendship Room November 6 and 13 or in the church office. Costs: \$2.00 (toddler - 4 yrs.) ~ \$5.00 (5-10 yrs.) ~ \$9.00 (all others)

Served family style: turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, cornbread dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce, rolls, pie and beverage.

Fall Bazaar ~ Friday, November 18 ~ 10am to 7pm

- Seasonal decorations
- Gift items
- Handmade crafts
- Baked goods

Proceeds from the Turkey Dinner and Fall Bazaar go to United Methodist Women's projects.



Reminders:

Invite your neighbors, friends and family to the **Veteran's Day/Retire the Flags ceremony on Sunday, November 6 at 12:30pm** in Ragan Park.

Daylight saving time ends on November 6. Set your clocks back one hour.



Reflections from Emonia



CHRISTMAS LETTERS; THE MUSICAL

The children are busy rehearsing music and lines for this year's Christmas play, *Christmas Letters: The Musical*. The play will be held, **Sunday, December 18 during the Sunday school hour**. Mark your calendars, invite friends and neighbors to join you to see our children as they present Christmas Letters.

We are in the beginning stages of rehearsals and invite all the children of the church and community to take part in this year's presentation. There are parts for speakers (little or no memorization), and we need children to sing as part of a choir.

It is so exciting to see the enthusiasm of the children as they read lines and learn new songs. I can't help but think of what Jesus said to the disciples: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." I hope, as adults, we can be like children, thrilled at the opportunities that come before us to share the Good News and how it has impacted our lives.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

I'm sure you have already seen Christmas decorations along with the Halloween decorations. The holidays can be stressful and the stress seems to start earlier each year. For some, the holidays are not a time of cheer and joy - rather it can be a sad or depressing time.

We have experienced several deaths in the church recently. Everyone grieves differently and for different periods of time. Sometimes the person grieving just needs a listening ear from a non-judgmental source.

Celebrate Recovery is designed to help people with **hurts, hang-ups and habits**. During the holiday season you may need a safe place to go to share your concerns and fears that can occur during this time of the year. If you are grieving you may need a safe place to cry and share memories about your loved one. *Celebrate Recovery* can meet these needs.

Join us Fridays starting at 7pm. We meet in the Early Education large room in the undercroft. This is a Biblical based, Christ-centered 12 step ministry.



AN OLD CELTIC BLESSING FOR YOU

May the blessing of light be on you— light without and light within.

May the blessed sunlight shine on you and warm your heart till it glows like a great peat fire.

Be blessed and be a blessing,
Pastor E

What's Going On?



NEW LEADERS FOR 2012

"Thank you" to the following members who have agreed to join continuing members in leadership positions on the Church Council next year: Gayle Ledgerwood, Lay Leader; Ross Worley, Finance Chair; Antonio Booker & Ed Howe, Finance Committee; Lois Nolan, Trustee Committee; Kevin Connell, Staff/Parish Relations Committee. Joining the Nominations Committee are Cynthia Copelin, Diedre Ross and Kerri Craven. Joining the staff: Herman Richter, Maintenance and Facilities Coordinator for two years. Please give them your prayerful support. Call me if you are interested in the Missions position.

SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

November gives us an opportunity to express gratitude to those who have worked diligently in the church and community for the Lord. Take a moment during the month of Thanksgiving to "give thanks" to the following leaders have been extravagantly generous with their time and skills for many, many years. Those who are retiring their unpaid positions are:

- Church Council -- Garry Kemp, council chair; Frank Stormer, finance chair.
- Staff -- Sue Love, missions director; Jerry Cornell, maintenance & facilities coordinator.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

So many things come together in the life of the church at the same time: Stewardship drive, Church Conference, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. In the midst of the activities we are also developing the next year's budget. How do we align our budget for Mission and Ministries? It calls for setting priorities, making necessary additions and letting other things go. As I write this article, the stewardship drive is coming to a close. Being an extravagantly generous congregation is one way we show our appreciation to The One who gives all. Thank you for your tithes and pledges. Come to the Monday, December 19 Council meeting at 6:30 to receive the 2012 Budget Report.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We're all planting seeds of faith so God's grace can grow in open hearts. Will you continue to invite un-churched friends or relatives to fellowship and worship? Your participation in reaching our Vision goals moves us yet another step closer to making new disciples for Jesus Christ. Future invite opportunities:

- ✓ November 6 -- Veterans' Day/Retire the Flags ceremony to properly dispose of tattered flags at 12:30 in Ragan Park, led by Jason Odneal and Boy Scouts.
- ✓ November 27 -- Hanging of the Greens during both worship services.
- ✓ December 11 -- Christmas Cantata at both worship services.
- ✓ December 21 -- Blue Christmas at 7pm in the chapel for stress-free reflection on the season.
- ✓ December 24 -- Christmas Eve children's service at 5pm; Candlelight Communion at 6pm.
- ✓ December 25 -- Celebrate Jesus' birthday on his birthday with one combined service at 10am. Lots of festive singing from our music ministries.

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, may your hearts be filled with the joy of the Lord.

See you in Church, Pastor Londia

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION



Just wanted to let you know that a group of St. Luke's women participated in a gift wrapping event at Della Lamb Community Services on Thursday, October 13. Linette Marcotte was the organizer. Linette and friends helped wrap holiday gifts for adults for our Operation Santa Claus event.

Della Lamb Community Services provides gifts and groceries for over 1,500 needy families and volunteers like your St. Luke's group make it all happen. Please convey our appreciation for their hard work.

Nancy K. Kincaid
Director of Volunteers
Della Lamb Community Services

Dear Pastor Wright,

On September 10, 2011, a group from your church graciously conducted a 'spruce-up' project at the Kansas City South Patrol Division at 11109 Hickman Mills Drive. They striped the parking lot, trimmed trees and brush and painted two picnic tables.

I greatly appreciate the time and effort that the group took out of their weekend to beautify our station. It is very important to me that my officers have a work environment in which they can go out and serve the citizens in our community in an effective manner. Your organization's generous contribution has assisted me in creating this type of positive environment. Thanks to St. Luke's United Methodist Church from the men and women of South Patrol Division!

Major Robin Houston
Division Commander

August 27, 2011

First of all, we are greeting our friends and partners of St. Luke's United Methodist Church. We are the people of Pembe and we are all doing alright.

Our parish comprises of 750 members and only 200 actively participate in church activities. Within the community the rest are members because of the membership they acquired through parents who are members of this church.

We have about 100 children from which 80 are engaged in studying catechism junior. We have since been able to build three local church chapels using local materials. Our plans are to roof up the chapel at the Central local church with zinc sheets, and we have since been able to purchase five. We will in the future be engaged in the construction of an office for our pastor. We are in a process of educating our children, youth and adults to understand and know Jesus Christ, our Lord.


Thanks so much to our friends for writing to us. We would like to say that there is a spiritual growth in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Pastor, Afonso Zacarias
Pembe United Methodist Church
Inhambane West District, Mozambique

Letter was translated from Portuguese and edited slightly for readability.



November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 9:30am UMW Unit Meeting	4	5 7-10am Country Breakfast
6* Holy Communion 9:30am Blood Pressure Check 12:30pm Retire Flags Ceremony	7 6:30pm Church Council	8 Polling Site	9	10 1pm WOW Circle 7pm Susanna Cir.	11	12
13 All Saints Day 12:30pm Joanna Circle	14 6:45pm Staff Meeting	15	16 Last LOGOS Session 1	17 9:30am Hannah & Rebekah Circles	18 10am-7pm Bazaar 5-7pm Turkey Dinner	19
20 Thanksgiving Observance 12:15pm Singles Lunch Out	21 7pm LIFE Circle 7pm Book Group	22	23	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25	26
27 8:30 & 11am Hanging of the Greens Services	28	29	30	Notes and Reminders: *Daylight saving time ends on November 6. Set your clocks back one hour.		
Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday	8am Prayer Group; 8:30 & 11am Worship; 9:50am Sunday School; 5pm Youth 7pm Boy Scouts 10:45am Contemplative Prayer; 5:30pm T.N.T. Meal; 6pm T.N.T. Studies; 7pm Girl Scouts 9am Quilters; 5pm LOGOS; 6pm Wed. Night Jam; 6:30pm Prayer Group, Gospel Choir; 7:30pm Chancel Choir 7pm Devoted Stitchers, Cub Scouts 7pm Celebrate Recovery					

MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

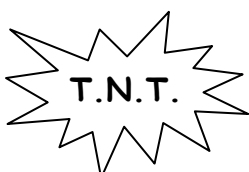
A message from Jason Dattilo, youth ministry director

There were eight Youth and three adults who participated in the 3.5 mile **Crop Walk** on Sunday, October 9. This event helped raise money to fight hunger locally, nationally and internationally. The Youth collected approximately \$400 from members of St. Luke's.

All are encouraged to participate next year in this annual event; it takes place the second Sunday of October.



A message from Sue Kemp, adult ministry director



The 3rd session of Tuesday Nights Together (T.N.T.) will run through November 29 and includes **The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem**, **Serving from the Heart** and the **SMART** Weight Loss classes.

It's not too late to join one of these classes. Call Sue Kemp 816-347-0388 for details.

Don't forget there is a free-will offering meal from 5:30 to 5:55pm to help with hurried schedules. After the last class in November, T.N.T. will not meet again until after the first of the year. Watch for details on 2012 classes.

Don't forget Sunday school! From 9:50 to 10:50am there are nine adult classes for you to visit. Each class is unique and studying various topics. If you haven't been attending a Sunday school class, think about visiting one between worship services. For help in selecting a class, contact Sue.

A message from Donna Gregory, early childhood director

This year in preschool we are focusing on the *Fruit of the Spirit*: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. In September we talked about kindness, and our memory verse was "Be kind...to one another."

Ephesians 4:32

During the month of October our *Fruit of the Spirit* was patience: "Be patient, bearing with one another in love." Ephesians 4:2



We have a large felt fruit basket, and each month we add a fruit (apples in September and oranges in October - our colors for those months). At the end of each month we send home a sheet for parents with questions to ask their child(ren) and Bible stories that illustrate that month's fruit. Pray for our children and staff.



Call Connectors - How can God use you to *Connect* other people to God's story?

"How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim God? How are they to proclaim God unless they are sent?" Romans 10:14-15

The Hannah Project - thecalltoministry.org

God calls. God calls people. God calls people to various tasks.

As Christians we are all called to be ministers in the world. Some people are called to ministry as a vocation.

"Call experiences" differ from person to person. One common ingredient in many call stories is how God uses other people to help prepare the way for the call or help in discernment after the call.

Who in your church might better notice, name and nurture those God is calling to ministry as a vocation? We invite you to learn more about "call connectors."

To learn more, you are invited to attend a free "Call Connector" meeting on Monday, March 5 at St. James United Methodist Church (5540 Wayne Avenue) at 6pm. If you plan to attend, please register at www.moumethodist.org/events/calendar.

MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

A message from Sue Love, missions director

For many, November means the holidays are coming closer and they wonder how they will provide food and shelter for their family during the cold winter that is soon to follow. While some may plan a large meal for Thanksgiving and make plans to shop on "black Friday", others struggle to simply make ends meet and find that many Fridays are dark because the weekly income does not cover the expenses.



Several opportunities exist in November and December to help ensure that members of St. Luke's, as well as families in our community, have the chance to have a holiday meal, presents for Christmas, warm clothes, food and assistance to help them celebrate the season:

- Our **November communion offering** will go to Community Assistance Council (CAC) and Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP) to help purchase the perishable items needed to make holiday baskets for their clients. Our ingathering will be non-perishable items like vegetables, stuffing, gravy and cake mixes that can be used in these baskets or for groceries.
- United Methodist Women will be gathering gifts for **Della Lamb's Christmas store** in November. Toys, gloves, hats and warm clothing are always needed for the children.
- The **Turkey Dinner offering** will go to support the work of the Salvation Army that provides meals, shelter, hope during disasters and hot holiday meals to those in need in our community on the actual holiday.
- Boxes for **gifts for Community Assistance Council and Raytown Emergency Assistance Program** to use in their holiday stores will be up in the Donation Station the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Gifts for infants to adults are needed (winter wear, blankets, small household items and appliances, CDs, DVD, etc.). Items should be new, unwrapped and brought to the church by December 11 so they can be available for the holiday stores. Watch the Missions bulletin board for additional gift ideas.

There are **various volunteer opportunities** to help during the holidays: setting up the Christmas store with one of the agencies, helping clients shop, preparing food baskets, serving a holiday meal and - perhaps most importantly - giving the gift of time. As you count your blessings this Thanksgiving, know what a blessing you are to others when you reach out in Christian love to serve those in need.



Community Garden Update - 100 pounds of tomatoes, 16 pounds of okra, 30 gallons of green beans, five gallons of cucumbers, and numerous squash, collard greens, radishes and green peppers. These numbers represent the produce grown, gathered and donated by the mission-focused gardening group at St. Luke's.

During the 2011 growing season, a dedicated group of workers prepared the ground, planted seeds and seedlings, and provided the care to grow much needed fresh produce for the local community. Due to the generosity of both experienced and novice gardeners, straight-from-the-garden vegetables were given to those in need within the church, to CAC, REAP and to the Summer Adventure Program.

The group maintained two sites this season. The main garden is located on the south end of the church and housed the tomatoes, beans, peppers, okra, root crops and leafy vegetables. The second site was provided by Pat Binder, Angela Fleming's mother, who lives across the street from St. Luke's. Vine crops, such as cucumbers and squash, were grown on this site. Thanks to Mrs. Binder for her generosity. With the additional space we were able to share more fresh produce with the community.

Don Hoch made significant improvements to the watering system. Even though we had a summer with record setting heat, thanks to his efforts and the additional help of the watering team, the garden was able to flourish.

This gardening project exemplifies the St. Luke's Vision - Invite, Grow, Serve! Therefore, we invite all who are able to serve. No gardening experience is necessary, just a willingness to share the fruits of your labor! If you are interested, please contact Dave or Judy Arnold at 525-2379 or send an e-mail to teach34@aol.com.



The quilt that was donated to Festival of Sharing sold for \$525. This money will provide 105 new blankets for those in need. Congratulations to Mabel Hayner and the Wednesday quilting circle.

Our Mission:

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

Our Vision:

Invite, Grow, Serve.

What's Inside?

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Don't forget the Church Council meeting at 6:30pm on Monday, November 7.



"A multi-cultural congregation open to all."

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE CHILDREN WHO WERE RECENTLY BAPTIZED:

Congratulations to our New Members

Barbara Chevalier joined the church by transfer on Oct. 9

Denise Lester joined the church by profession of faith on October 25.



Ellis Cohen



Lillie Edwards



Major Edwards



Hannah Edwards

Christmas Worship Schedule

November 27: Hanging of the Greens during both worship services.

December 11: Christmas Cantata at both worship services.

December 21: Blue Christmas at 7pm in the chapel for stress-free reflection on the season.

December 24: Christmas Eve children's service at 5pm; Candlelight Communion at 6pm.

December 25: Celebrate Jesus' birthday on his birthday with one combined service at 10am.

Mark your calendars now! Invite family, friends and neighbors throughout the month of December to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through worship and song