



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

# Transformation Times

June 2011  
Volume 1, Number 6

## Family Night at the Movies - With Friends

Get ready for summer fun with "Pictures in the Park" starting Friday, June 17 at 9pm.

Invite your family and friends to spend an evening under the stars at Ragan Park watching the family-oriented movie *Facing the Giants*. This is one of our monthly INVITE opportunities for the unchurched.

FREE event with popcorn and drinks provided. Bring your own lawn chairs and blankets.

**Where:** Ragan Park

**Time:** 9pm

**Bring:** Lawn chairs, blankets, family and friends.

Other "Pictures in the Park" dates at 9pm: July 15 and August 19



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## Summer T.N.T. - 8 Weeks of Singing, Learning and Praying

This summer, we are offering a come-and-go version of T.N.T. (Tuesday Nights Together). Reverend Bobbie Stone will teach one class, for all ages, studying eight of our favorite Bible stories:

1. Rahab the prostitute
2. The woman at the well
3. Abigail, the intelligent, beautiful, ideal wife
4. Healing of the leper
5. Friends who brought a sick man to Jesus
6. The sower and the seeds
7. Jesus with the children
8. Feeding the 5,000

We will also sing some of our favorite songs, including hymns and praise music. There will be a piano, guitar and tambourines in the chapel.

Come to sing, learn and pray together as your schedule allows. No books to buy, but BYOB (bring your own Bible). Pastor Londia and Pastor Emonia look forward to seeing you there.

There will be lots of singing, learning and praying from 6 to 7:30pm, July 12 through August 30. No meals, but plenty of cool refreshing lemonade.

## Reflections from Emonia

### CELEBRATE RECOVERY

We were recently invited to a Victory Celebration at Life Church in Olathe. What is a Victory Celebration? It is the completion of nine months of deep soul searching, acknowledgement of the hurts, hang-ups and habits and the surrendering to God's will rather to ones own will. It was powerful! We heard 21 testimonies of how Celebrate Recovery changes the lives of women and men from despair to knowing they are children of God and Jesus Christ is their Higher Power. It was an amazing experience!

Friday we had our own Celebrate Recovery meeting which includes worship, a reading of the 12 Christ-centered steps, a lesson, sharing and fellowship. Its hard work and sometimes painful, but the outcome of knowing how to handle situations that come up with grace and spiritual guidance is priceless.

The purpose of Celebrate Recovery is to provide a safe and healthy atmosphere where we face and overcome our struggles. We examine our past, present and future by applying the Eight Recovery Principles and the Christ-centered Twelve Steps. As a result, we grow to become the children of God that we were meant to be. By being accountable to God and to each other, we develop a deeper, more intimate relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and learn to live a life that is guilt and worry free.

Anyone wishing to attend will be received with open arms - no condemnation and no judgment. If you suffer from depression, grief, financial irresponsibility, lying, overworking, overeating, co-dependency and/or the need to control, fear, anger, procrastination, anxiety, rage, drugs, hurtful relationships, alcohol, guilt, etc., come, be a part of a loving community who is here to support. We meet every Friday at St. Luke's from 7 to 9pm.

Be blessed and be a blessing,  
Pastor E

## SPARKLE BECOMES SHINE

St. Luke's has a tremendous opportunity to help our area kids and our school district this summer. As you recall, two years ago we made Truman Elementary *sparkle*; this year we would like to make Dobbs Elementary *shine*.

One of the projects of the Community Ministry Task Force is to do a facelift on three elementary school in the Hickman Mills district. The chosen schools are Santa Fe, Dobbs and Ingels. Santa Fe will be managed by Turning Point Church, Dobbs by St. Luke's and Ingels is yet to be determined.

We will be assisted by other area congregations on Saturday, July 23. As in the past at Truman, there will be different types of work to be done so there is something for everyone! Mark your calendars to make a difference. Sign up to volunteer at the Information Center or visit the project Web site at [www.kclinc.org/projectshinehickmanmills](http://www.kclinc.org/projectshinehickmanmills) to volunteer or make a donation.

Garry Kemp, task force coordinator

## What's Going On?

### NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS TRAINING FOR ALL

What are the average age, economic status, educational level and ethnic makeup of households around the church? Are we really "a multicultural congregation that is open to all?" What does multi-cultural mean? Do our present ministries match community needs? How can we be even more hospitable than we already are? Church Council and staff have completed the training, now we offer it to the congregation. Mark your calendars and plan to spend two hours learning the facts about our neighbors: Tuesday, June 28 from 6-8pm, Saturday, July 2 from 9-11am or Thursday, July 7 from 7 to 9pm. These classes will complete our Healthy Church Initiatives prescriptions, for which we can all be proud.



### NEW STAFF

Reverend Bobbie Stone will be joining our unpaid staff as of June 1. She will work as Pastoral Assistant, primarily to provide spiritual care for our senior adult members. Pastor Bobbie has written that she feels led by the Holy Spirit "to help further the mission and vision of the church, to which I am wholly committed." I couldn't be more pleased.

### "INVITING" OPPORTUNITIES

In support of our three-year vision goals to make 25 new disciples by December 31, we offer the following for everyone to invite un-churched people to social, memorial, fellowship and worship events. Mark your calendars through the end of the year:

- ✓ June 17 Watch "Facing the Giants" movie during Pictures in the Park.
- ✓ July 17 Summer Adventure midpoint celebration.
- ✓ August 21 Back-to-school recognition for public school employees.
- ✓ September 11 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial for 9/11 victims and their families.
- ✓ October 30 Pumpkin Fest holiday fun for the local community.
- ✓ November 6 Veteran's Day/Retire the Flags ceremony after worship.
- ✓ December 21 & 24 Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve services.

### MEET US AT THE SHACK FOR A SIX-WEEK SERMON SERIES

Some of you have already begun to read and study the paperback fictional bestseller, The Shack: Where Tragedy Confronts Eternity by William Paul Young. I believe you will find the author's creative explanations and descriptions of biblical themes enlightening and reassuring. God is indeed with us during the worst times of our lives. Our summer series will be held July 10, 17, 24, 31, August 7 and 14. We will discuss evil, grief, the Trinity, grace, faith and healing. This book has the power to transform beliefs and actions. Donna Hoch and Rev. Bobbie Stone will join Pastor Emonia and me in a panel discussion about Mack's relationships with God, his wife and children beginning Sunday, July 10. This will be a good day to invite an un-churched relative or friend.

### TAKE GOD AS YOUR TRAVELING COMPANION

Are your vacation plans finalized? Are your summer activities all mapped out? Don't forget to take God along with you. Where ever you go, find a church to worship. We'll be praying for travel mercies to and from your destination.

See you in Church,  
Pastor Londia

# Fund Raising Policy for St. Luke's United Methodist Church

*Approved by Church Council on 4-25-2011*

Effective July 1, 2011

## Definition

Fundraising is defined as any effort to sell a product or provide a service in order to raise funds, on behalf of our church or within our congregation, for the benefit of our church, its congregants, or another authorized person or organization sponsored by our church.

## Responsibility

The Staff is responsible for overseeing and approving fundraising efforts at St Luke's Church. The fundraising group must provide a written request to the Appropriate Staff Member (Staff Supervisor). Approval must be requested from the Staff (Supervisor) at least twenty (20) days in advance of promotion for the fundraising activity. Special forms for this purpose are available in the church office.

## Purpose of this Policy

1. Ensure a coordinated and consistent approach to all fundraising activities.
2. Ensure that fundraising activities are carried out in a positive manner and are beneficial to the Church, the congregation, and our mission.
3. Improve results of fundraising events by minimizing conflicts of timing and/or purpose of fundraising events.
4. Ensure that all receipts are handled and accounted for in accordance with the financial policies of the church.

## Policy Guidelines

- In general, fundraisers should be short in duration, with solicitation normally not lasting more than two Sundays.
- Fundraisers need to benefit and have the support of a St Luke's ministry program. The particular Staff ministry leader will therefore need to sign off on the fundraiser.
- A fundraising project must be confined to the space allocated for it. In general nothing is to be sold in the narthex/Lobby.
- Specific provisions for church clean up must be made if applicable.
- Detailed financial records must be kept and turned in to the Treasurer as applicable.
- Only two fundraising event can go on at a time unless otherwise approved by the Staff.
- Publicity must be approved along with the application.
- Publicity must disclose who is doing the fundraising and its purpose.
- Activities to raise funds for congregations can do more than make money; they should when possible build fellowship and commitment in a community of faith.
- No individual solicitation allowed.

## Fundraising Calendar

The purpose of the Fundraising is to be recorded on the church calendar record along with the dates and contact names for all fundraising activities taking place at the church as well as by the church and for the church.

## Special Offerings

Special offerings need to feel special. They need to be kept to a minimum and must fulfill our mission. All special offerings and requests for cash donations must be approved in advance by the Pastor and the staff.

**Congratulations to our graduates!**High School

Brandon Ashley  
 Amer Bindahri  
 A.J. Booker  
 Rebecka Christopher  
 Chris Estrada  
 Mitchell Gray  
 Mary Linn  
 Antoine Payne  
 Sylla Rabicion  
 Rebecca Rejnin  
 Samantha Rosser

College &  
University

Jennifer Burton  
 Nick Copelin  
 Stephen McMurry  
 Michelle Nolan  
 Andrew Pederson  
 Marcus Ray



Do you need help with work around your house or a skill you can share with others?

If so, contact Carl Gustafson at 816-525-5689 or Wil Abrams at 816-525-5473. St. Luke's Men will be scheduling dates to help with yard work, inside and outside painting, weather sealing, light plumbing and electrical work, etc.

Forty-one health kits were donated and will be used by the Missouri Office of Creative Ministries disaster response team.



Thank you for your generosity.

The Scholarship Committee is receiving **applications for college scholarships** through June 30.

A new \$300 scholarship is now available for a junior or senior in college pursuing a community service career (teacher, social worker, etc.). To apply, complete the standard information form at the Information Desk and return it to the church office by June 30. This scholarship has been established in memory of Kyle Zammar and will be presented during worship on the second Sunday in August.

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.

**Area Congregations Gather at St. Luke's**

The Community Ministry Task Force held its second community meeting in Ragan Hall on May 2 with fifty-four individuals in attendance including twelve local pastors. The five Task Force Committees reported on their findings, action plans and timelines for the chosen community projects.

The concept of area churches, homes associations and community groups working together to accomplish defined goals seems to have great appeal.

The following community projects will be pursued:

1. Develop a **Summer Youth Program** to provide meaningful opportunities for children ages five to 12.
2. Conduct a **three-school facelift** on Saturday, July 23 for Hickman Mills elementary schools called Project Shine. Visit the website at [www.kclinc.org/projectshinehickmanmills](http://www.kclinc.org/projectshinehickmanmills) for more details.
3. Establish a **summer feeding program for children** similar to the Back Pack Snacks program we currently participate in at Truman Elementary.
4. Create an **employment support club** providing support, networking and hope in a depressed job market.
5. Advocate for the establishment of a **free health clinic** in our corridor for the underserved.

As we move forward in Mission, there will be many opportunities this summer to make a difference in the lives of people in our community. More details will be forthcoming.

# June 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Notes and reminders:		1	2 9:30am United Methodist Women (UMW) Unit meeting	3	4 7-10am Country Breakfast  Annual Conference
5 UMW Sunday 9:30am Blood Pressure Check	6 Summer Adventure Begins 7pm Rejoice Circle	7 6pm Pastors Class	8	9 1pm WOW Circle 7pm Susanna Circle	10	11 Wesley Class Social
12 Pentecost Holy Communion 5:30pm Joanna Cir.	13 6:45pm Staff Meeting	14 6pm Pastors Class	15	16 9:30am Hannah & Rebekah Circles	17 9pm Pictures in the Park	18
19 Father's Day 9:50am Angel Circle 12:15am Singles Lunch	20 7pm LIFE Circle 7pm Book Group	21 6pm Pastors Class	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 6-8pm Neighborhood Awareness Training; 6pm Pastors Class	29 6pm Summer Adventure Parent Supper	30	Notes and reminders:	

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

## MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

### A message from Sue Love, missions director

The **June communion offering** will be split between the Community Assistance Council (CAC) and the Raytown Emergency Assistance Program (REAP).

We will be collecting food, personal care products, laundry and cleaning products for our June ingathering. Donations received the first two weeks will be dedicated to CAC. Donations received the last two weeks will be dedicated to REAP. During the summer, extra lunch and breakfast items are needed as kids are home from school. Watch for good buys and buy something extra when you shop to donate to the food drive. Especially needed are pasta products, tomato sauce or pasta sauce, canned fruit, canned meats, cereal and peanut butter, and canned meals/lunch items for children.

**Hunger is on the rise.** With the increased cost of gas, food and cutbacks in aid and with more cuts looming as Congress works to decrease the U.S. budget, more and more working families are turning to food pantries, churches and community agencies for assistance. CAC is currently experiencing a 32% increase in new families compared to the same time last year - with a 20% decrease in donations.

The need will increase more as children who receive meals while in school are out for the summer. In response to the need, the Summer Feeding committee of the Community Ministry Task Force group is working on two efforts:

1. To provide food through the summer similar to *Back Snack* to some of the same children who received it all school year.
2. To coordinate city-wide food drives to help keep the shelves of CAC filled so they are able to respond to the increased need.

St. Luke's will kick-off the city-wide food drive by collecting food for the first two weeks of June. After that, the food drive will pass to another congregation for two weeks and continue to work through the churches who are partnering to make a difference in South Kansas City as participants of the Community Ministry Task Force.

CAC is in need of the following:

- tomato products (sauce, paste)
- spaghetti sauce
- macaroni and cheese
- pasta, boxed meals
- canned meals (spaghetti-o's, chili, sloppy joe mixes, etc.)
- canned fruit
- canned meat
- condiments (i.e., mustard, ketchup, BBQ sauce)



Paper products, laundry products, cleaning products and personal care items are always in need as well as other food items. Please look for ways you can help by donating to the food drive, helping with the garden efforts at St. Luke's and/or CAC during the summer months or helping at CAC's food pantry.

Working together as a community we can make a difference for our neighbors, families and children struggling to make ends meet, faced with limited resources and difficult decisions. Your donations will help us ensure children in our neighborhoods are not food insecure and have nutritional food during the summer months.

## MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

### A message from Jerry Cornell, facilities director

It is an exciting time at St. Luke's and we have been busy with many projects, such as painting Ragan Hall, Kids Corner, The Parlor and various halls. The mission statement has been added in the Narthex and Ragan Hall; it is impressive and good comments have been received. We moved the choir room to the main floor and installed a choir robe rack. Jason, the youth director, moved into the main office and his old office is now the new Donation Station.



We made plumbing and electrical modifications to improve the hot water supply and provided enhanced lighting. Signs prohibiting weapons have been installed and the landscaping team has been busy cleaning and beautifying the church grounds.

**A GREAT BIG THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED!**

We have a number of projects that will be happening in the near future including clean around the storage building so the youth can repaint. Handicap parking will be expanded on the north side of the church to make the church more accessible.

May God Bless you and the church as wonderful things are happening!

### A message from Luvenia Lewis, director of children's ministry

Summer Adventure starts June 6 with a dynamic Christian movie "Letters to God!" We will enjoy writing our prayers to an amazing God. Then we will launch our Snail Mail Project where children improve their writing skills through communicating with pen pals. We are looking for adult pen pals that have the time to answer questions of faith and interest from the minds of children.

Summer Food Service Program has approved the church to be an open feeding site Monday-Friday during June 6-August 12. We will serve free meals for breakfast 7:45-8:45am and lunch 11am-1pm to all children and youth 18 years old and under. We will also be able to establish other feeding sites in surrounding areas that have shown an interest in meeting the hunger needs of children. We are having an awesome crew of volunteers coming together to lend a helping hand to make this program a success. During the breakfast time, we will have reading activities with our Breakfast Buddies. The adults that volunteer for Breakfast Buddies will listen and read with individual children or small groups. It is going to be a blast!

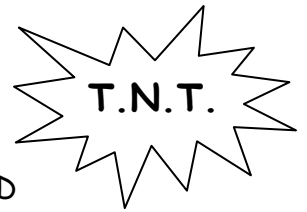
During the lunch, the community children will engage in a fun witnessing of Jesus Christ arts and craft to help them understand his message of love. You are extended a special invitation to come and spend time with us this summer. Please contact me for more information at 816-763-8444 or 913-565-0721.

### A message from Jason Dattilo, youth director

Are you **currently in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade**? If so, we look forward to you being a part of St. Luke's youth group. Several summer activities are planned to help you get to know the other youth members. Information about these events will be available soon.

The youth will be traveling to Sikeston, Missouri, from July 10 - 16 for their **summer work trip**. We will be doing work in and around the community. Anyone interested should contact Jason as soon as possible.

*Welcome!*



## MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

### A message from Sue Kemp, adult ministry

**T.N.T (Tuesday Nights Together):** Thru the month of June we will continue the Nooma Series by Rob Bell. This class is led by Antonio Booker with a new DVD topic each week and thought-provoking discussion to follow. If you need a bite to eat before the class starts at 6pm, a free-will offering meal is provided. Class ends at 7:30pm. If you haven't joined an **Adult Sunday School Class**, check out the variety of classes that are going on at 9:50am on Sunday mornings. Each class is unique and there is something for everyone. Going to Sunday school is a wonderful way to become active in your spiritual journey. Classes are listed each Sunday in the Bulletin or stop by the Information Center for further direction. As we move into the busy summer months, take a moment to stop and think about the opportunities to increase your faith development and awareness on your spiritual journey. Then, take advantage of the many opportunities provided by St. Luke's.

### A message from Angela Fleming, communications coordinator

Have you ever stressed over writing something for the Transformation Times, Scoop or Sunday bulletin? Ever wished there was something available to help you design a poster, sign or other communication piece? If so, two resources are available to help.

1. As the communications coordinator, **I am available** to review anything you need reviewed - and can even help write and design things with enough notice. Please contact me at [tfleming57@hotmail.com](mailto:tfleming57@hotmail.com) or call 816-665-2804 at least five business days before you need to finalize something.
2. St. Luke's now has a **Style Guide**. This brief guide provides suggestions for using our logo, recommended fonts, colors and other helpful information that may take some of the guesswork out of things you're trying to create. For a copy, see Andrea in the church office or visit the new Forms, Publications and Resources section of our Web site ([www.stlukeskc.org](http://www.stlukeskc.org)).

### A message from Donna Gregory, early childhood director

Topics for May included mothers, nursery rhymes, fairy tales and safety. We made gifts and cards for our mothers and enjoyed decorating the undercroft hallways with spring flowers, birds and sea creatures. We celebrated the end of the preschool year with a picnic in Ragan Park with our preschool families. Children going to kindergarten received books from their teachers. Full-time childcare is ongoing for children 6 weeks through age 5, but this summer we have invited our part-time preschool friends to join us on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. We are looking forward to a fun filled summer!



### A message from Sue Love, missions director

Secondary to your giving, The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has been sent \$2,037 to assist in Pacific Emergency Disaster response; \$1,000 for International Disaster response; \$1,000 for United States disaster response and \$750 to assist with global water and sanitation issues. The Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church received \$500 to help with local disaster response efforts and \$300 for the purchase of water filtration systems taken to Haiti families by Volunteer in Mission teams.



**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

## Pick Your Date

### Neighborhood Awareness Training:

- Tuesday, June 28 6-8pm
- Saturday, July 2 9-11am
- Thursday, July 7 7-9pm



Allan Marcotte and David Stone paused for a moment in front of the new custom- designed and handmade mailboxes built by Allan. Dave helped to secure it to the office wall. Thanks, guys!



Special thanks to Dave and Sandy Taylor for painting our Mission Statement in the lobby and Ragan Hall for all to see. They generously donated their time and artistry for the glory of God!