



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

Transformation Times

March 2011
Volume 1, Number 3

Our New Leaders!



Not Shown: Stacia Childs, Staff Parish Relations and Janet Abram, Representative - United Methodist Women

Church Council

First row (left to right):

1. Eileen Crabtree, Staff Parish Relations
2. Londia Granger Wright, Lead Pastor
3. Emonia Barnett, Associate Pastor
4. Rita Miller, Lay Leader

Back row:

5. Chris Waddell, Trustees
6. Carl Gustafson, Representative - Men's Group
7. Frank Stormer, Finance - Chair
8. Andrew Brown, Finance
9. Kyra Jones, Representative - Youth
10. David Odneal, Trustees - Chair
11. Mandy McConnico, Staff Parish Relations - Chair
12. Dan Schmitz, Trustees
13. Garry Kemp, Council Chair

Staff

First row:

1. Donna Gregory, Early Childhood Center Director
2. Pastor Londia
3. Pastor Emonia
4. Angela Fleming, Communications Coordinator

Back row:

5. Barb Bruns, Community Health Ministries Coordinator
6. Sue Love, Missions Director
7. Sue Kemp, Adult Ministries Director
8. Andrea McMurry, Administrative Assistant
9. Jason Dattilo, Youth Ministries Director
10. Jerry Cornell, Maintenance and Facilities Coordinator



Not Shown: Don Eatherton, Finance



Back by popular demand! Did you enjoy the sermon series *90 Minutes in Heaven*? Now you can explore in-depth the wonder and joy of the place God has prepared for you. The six-week Small Group Study "*90 Minutes in Heaven - See Life's Troubles in a Whole New Light*" is being offered in connection with T.N.T. on **Tuesday evening beginning March 8 from 6 to 7:30pm.**

Another study group is being offered beginning **Thursday, March 10 from 7 to 8:30pm or Sunday, March 13 from 2 to 3:30pm.**

We will watch the DVD in full, discuss the study questions and share personal experiences. No need to sign up, come when you can. Questions? Call Sue Kemp at 347-0388.

Under Construction! The Chancel area of the Sanctuary is under construction through March 4. During this time, access to this area will be limited. Contact Jerry Cornell, Facilities Coordinator, for details.



What's Going On?



THREE-YEAR PLAN

By now I hope you have heard about the 3-Year Plan we brought before the congregation on February 20 to help us move forward in Our Mission and Our Vision. Saturday, February 12 was Training Day for the Church Council and Staff. I greatly appreciate those who gave up 6½ hours to learn and share what it means to help govern and manage the church (see Our New Leaders on page 1).

We discussed the Healthy Church Initiative and how to accomplish Our Mission and Our Vision. In addition, we listened to insightful responses to Our Leadership Covenant, Our Core Values and Beliefs and our Organizational Structure. I believe we have an understanding of who is responsible for what as we live out the Accountable Leadership Model: Authority, Responsibility, Accountability. These documents are in front of the 2011 Church Directory. I hope you will read them and consult leaders about any questions and comments needed for clarification. In the meantime, please know that the Nominations Committee did a good job of selecting leaders who want to do the right thing for Jesus, this community and this church.

Remember and freely discuss how to help us achieve these goals from our Three-Year Plan:

- 1) Make 25 new disciples by December 31.
- 2) Increase participation in all areas of ministry and spiritual maturity.
- 3) Increase community services by 10% over the previous year.

HOLY DAYS

Ash Wednesday (March 9 at 7 pm) calls the people of God to contemplate the condition of our souls and reflect on our sinful nature. The Season of Lent (March 9 - April 23) gives us opportunities to focus on giving and receiving forgiveness from God and one another. What are you giving up for Lent? We will have several opportunities to fast and pray for our community, church and ourselves. And of utmost importance, we must prepare our hearts to celebrate Maundy Thursday (April 21), Good Friday (April 22) and Resurrection Sunday (April 24). Adjust your schedules to observe these holy days that are set aside to bring us closer to God by reliving our Lord's last days on earth.

THANK YOU

Are you one of many people who have been helping to improve the appearance of our facilities? If so, you deserve our appreciation. I apologize in advance for those whose names I omit for sprucing up the building by painting: David Arnold, Donna Hoch, Don Hoch, Don Eatherton, James McConnico, Wil Abram and facilities coordinator Jerry Cornell. As of this writing, Jerry was putting together another crew to brighten up the hallway and Ragan Hall. The office bathroom also received a fresh coat of paint, inspirational plaques on faith and practical furnishing. Drop by to see the volunteer handiwork of Steve and Janean Mills. The servant hood spirit is alive and well here at St. Luke's.

See you in Church, Pastor Londia

Reflections from Emonia



While I was on vacation, I attended two churches to get a feel of what it was like to be a guest. I attended an African Methodist Episcopal (AME) and a United Methodist (UM) church. Both churches are well respected in the Milwaukee area and are over 100 years old.

Both churches have beautiful buildings and are active in the greater community. The AME church is in the inner city and the UM is a suburban church.

My first visit was to the AME church. First of all I wasn't sure how to enter the church, so I watched for others to see where the majority of people were going in. I followed. People were in the foyer/lobby talking and enjoying each other's company; however, no one said hello or even acknowledged that I was there. Some looked in my direction, but made no attempt to welcome me to their church. I had to go up to an usher to ask for a bulletin which she gave to me without saying a word, but smiled. Then she turned and continued her conversation with the other ushers.

I found a seat and sat down. People were coming in and they would smile in my direction, but no one came to welcome me to their church. While we were singing, I was having a difficult time locating the song as they had several hymnals and a gentleman noticed and offered me his hymnal and smiled very warmly.

There was listed a time to acknowledge guests, but that was missed.

Now the question is, if I were looking for a church to attend, would I consider this church? The music was fine, the preaching was good and relevant; however, I did not feel they wanted me to be part of their fellowship because NO ONE welcomed me to the church.

The second church was a United Methodist church. Again it was difficult to figure out how to get into the church. I finally found a sign that pointed me to the parking structure. I still had trouble finding how to get out of the parking structure into the church, but finally found a door that opened. I was walking through a hallway that opened onto the fellowship hall. A couple of people were sitting at a table having coffee. They looked in my direction, but said nothing. I asked how to get to the chapel and they said up those stairs. I went up the stairs, still unsure of where I was going. I found the chapel and took a seat in the back near the door. People came in and nodded their heads at me smiling and went directly to their seats. At the greeting time, people made a point of coming to where I was sitting to greet me, but only one woman said she was happy I was there, making me feel welcome. She seemed so genuine.

The music was good; the preaching was good and relevant. After the service the pastors were at the back of the chapel shaking hands. One of the pastors asked if I would like a tour of the church to which I said yes. The lady that seemed so genuine said she would be my tour guide. It was a good tour; however, when we returned to the fellowship hall where several people were having coffee, it seemed to me that when she introduced me to them, it was an interruption, an obligation rather than really being interested in meeting this new person. Again, the question is: if I were looking for a church to be a part of would I choose this church? NO.

This was a good experience and I am thankful that St. Luke's does a much better job at greeting and making people feel welcome. What I think is important is that we all experience what it is like to be new in a church setting, how it makes us feel even as church people. We sometimes become complacent, inattentive and - quite frankly - forget that *we are the church*, not the beautiful building. I loved the buildings of those two churches; they were unique and so beautiful. The people, however, did not live up to the beauty of their buildings which is very sad.

Don't forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it! (Hebrews 13:1) We are striving to have an inviting building which is important, but just as important, if not more, is how you and I respond to new people who choose to visit us. It makes all the difference.

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 6:30 UMW Unit	4	5 7-10 Country Breakfast
6 9:30 Blood Pressure 11-1 BS Chili Lunch 12:30 Joanna & Rejoice Circles	7 7:00 Community Ministry Meeting	8	9 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00 Worship Season of Lent begins	10 1:00 WOW Circle 7:00 Susanna Cir.	11	12
13 Holy Communion Day Light Savings Time Begins	14 6:45 Staff Meeting	15	16	17 9:30 Hannah & Rebekah Circles	18 Women's Retreat in Independence	19
20 9:50 Angel Circle 12:15 Singles Lunch	21 7:00 LIFE Circle 7:00 Book Group	22	23	24	25	26
27 6:00 Community Lenten Worship (St. Luke's)	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	8:00am Prayer Group; 8:30 and 11:00 Worship; 9:50 Sunday School; 5:00pm Youth
Tuesday	10:45am Contemplative Prayer; 5:30pm Tuesday-Nights-Together (TNT); 7:00 Boy Scout Troop 110
Wednesday	9:00am Quilters; 10:30 Community Justice Prayer Group; 5:00pm LOGOS; 6:00 Wednesday Jam; 6:15 Chancel Chimes; 6:30 Gospel Choir; 6:30 Prayer Group; 7:30 Chancel Choir
Thursday	7:00pm Devoted Stitchers
Friday	7:00pm Celebrate Recovery

How do we make disciples? Our 2nd session of T.N.T. will begin on Tuesday evening, April 5 as we continue to fulfill the Discipleship Path: Healthy Church Initiative Prescription #5. Tuesday evenings are the time to join a small group ministry, where new disciples just starting their journey and existing followers regardless of where they are on their journey, can come together for fellowship and study. The DiscipleMaker levels are Curious, Convinced, Connected and Committed.

Our time together will begin with a free-will offering meal starting at 5:30pm provided in Ragan Hall. The meal will consist of soup, sandwich, salad, dessert and drink. After the meal at 6pm you will break off into the DiscipleMaker study groups for which you have signed up. The evening will come to a close at 7:30pm.

This is the 2nd session of **TUESDAY NIGHTS TOGETHER (T.N.T.)**. If you did not have a chance to participate in the 1st session, you will be able to choose from one of several Study Groups that will be offered. Some examples are:

- **The Pastors' Class** led by either Pastor Londia or Pastor Emonia. All are invited to this class on the Bible, faith, salvation, United Methodist history and membership.
- **Nooma Series** by Rob Bell. You will watch a DVD and your leader will guide you through the lesson. Interesting titles of the DVDs include: *Rich, Breathe, You* and *Store*. These will generate some thought-provoking discussions.
- **Serving from the Heart - Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts** could help you find your gifts and talents for service. This is a must take study to become aware of how you can serve God.
- **Christianity and World Religions** by Adam Hamilton answers questions people have been wrestling with about Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Christianity.

The bulletins beginning in March will have the complete list and a sign-up sheet as inserts and sign-up sheets will also be available at the Information Center beginning Sunday, March 6 and will continue thru Sunday, March 20.

Materials needed to participate will be provided for those who sign-up. Also, if you attend a study group, child care thru age 4 will be provided and activities for children ages 5 - grade 6 will be available.

Tuesday Nights Together (T.N.T.) at St. Luke's is the place to begin your spiritual journey, deepen your spiritual journey, enjoy fellowship and fulfill our Mission, "To make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." **Sign up NOW!**

Are you between 35 and 60 and don't go to the doctor very often?

I vaguely remember those days but there is something that you need to know about your blood pressure. If your blood pressure is elevated on a permanent basis - even slightly - when you are in this age group you are at a very high risk for a stroke in your 50's, 60's and beyond.

Strokes are NOT JUST FOR OLD PEOPLE! The youngest stroke patient that I ever dealt with was 17 and he died when he was 20; so you are never too young to be checked regularly. Recommendations from the American Heart Association are as follows:

- in your 40's? Have your blood pressure checked every six months
- in your 50's? Have your blood pressure checked every three months
- 60 or older? Have your blood pressure checked every six weeks



Want to avoid making an appointment with your doctor, sitting in a waiting room and paying your insurance co-pay to have our blood pressure checked? Have your **blood pressure checked for free** on the first Sunday of each month by some of your St. Luke's family who care very much about your well-being.

If you are a little over this age group, we ask no questions about age and will check your blood pressure anytime we are set up for it. If you need to be checked between scheduled times, contact me at 816-765-6645.

A Message from Barbara Bruns, MT (ASCP), Community Health Ministries



Chili Lunch, Sunday, March 6, 11-1 in Ragan Hall
 \$6.00 per person ~ \$15.00 family. Proceeds for Boy Scout Troop 110. Tickets on sale February 27

Congratulations to Johnny & Stacia Childs on the birth of Brady Joseph. Maternal grandparents are Ross and Joniel Worley.

Summer Church Camps for Children & Youth

- Early bird registrations are due by April 15
- Three day camps for children entering grades 3 & 4
- Five day camps for children 5th grade and older
- Also grandparent, parent and child and family camps available



Church Camp

St. Luke's kids will receive scholarships for 1/3 the cost of regular camp (one per camper).

Cub Pack 110 is selling **Hy-Vee coupon books** for \$5 (over \$50 in coupons). To order contact Maria Barton at 816-316-0084 or Troop110cubs@gmail.com. Help support our scouts.

The February Ingathering resulted in 286 items being collected. Peanut butter, cereal, canned fruit, vegetables and toothpaste are still needed.

The **United Methodist Women's (UMW) meeting** is on March 3, at 6:30pm. The guest speaker is Theresa Garza Ruiz from the Jackson County Legislature; she will begin speaking at 7pm. Men and women are invited to attend.

Save the DATE! **Saturday, April 30. Antique Road Show and Dinner sponsored by St. Luke's UMW**

Community Ministry Meeting

Monday, March 7, 6:30pm in Ragan Hall. Join the discussions on creating partnerships for fulfilling unmet needs in our area.

Thank you from REAP for the weekly donations of Panera products to help provide bread and baked goods for their clients. Average weekly donations to the Panera Operation Donation Program are valued at \$250-\$300. Thanks to James McConico for picking up the product each week on behalf of St. Luke's.

Staff

Lead Pastor: Lonia Granger Wright
 Associate Pastor: Emonia Barnett
 Adult Ministry: Sue Kemp
 Youth Ministry: Jason Dattilo
 Children's Ministry:
 Missions: Sue Love
 Community Health: Barb Bruns
 Communications: Angela Fleming
 Office: Andrea McMurry
 Facilities: Jerry Cornell
 Weekday Childcare: Donna Gregory
 Music Director: Keith Curington

MINISTRY UPDATES FROM OUR STAFF

Hello from the children and staff in the Early Education Center (Preschool and Child Care)!

This month we are learning about transportation, our country and flag, and music.

Of course, we celebrated Valentine's Day and love with a party on February 14 when the children exchanged valentines. Love to all of our St. Luke's friends! **Donna Gregory, Director.**



Message from Jason Dattilo, Youth Ministry - The youth attended the recent WOW (Weekend of Worship) event in Springfield. Below are just a few comment from our youth:

"WOW was a good experience and had good music and speakers." Isla Jones

"My WOW experience was amazing. I feel as if I'm closer to God than when I left Kansas City." Travis White

The youth recently finished a book titled "Confessions" that includes topics written by other youth about depression, abuse, etc. Our youth discussed experiences they've had with these issues and how they could provide support to someone else experiencing them. We also attended the Winter Jam 2011 Christian Concert at the Sprint Center. Bands included The Newsboys, David Crowder Band, Kutless and more. Tony Nolan was the key speaker. Meanwhile, we are planning our summer work trip.

A Message from Angela Fleming, Communications Coordinator

What is my role as the Communications Coordinator for St. Luke's? My role is to effectively convey and exchange information and ideas through the verbal and/or written word using common symbols, signs or behaviors. In other words, I'm responsible for making sure that all communications about St. Luke's is effective.

How can I help you? If you have an idea or information that needs to be communicated to others, I can help! Need a sign or poster? Volunteers? Donations? Contact me at tfleming57@hotmail.com or call **816-665-2804** at least two weeks before you need to communicate something. We can discuss what you need to communicate, who needs to know about it and the tools we have available to get the word out (The Scoop, Transformation Times, monitors, bulletin boards, etc.). At least one week before you need to communicate, please provide a draft of the communications.

Don't hesitate to call or email with question, ideas or concerns surrounding any communication effort.

A Message from Missouri Conference Bishop Robert Schnase

January 18, 2011

Rev. Londia Granger Wright
St. Luke's United Methodist Church
9420 James A Reed Rd
Kansas City MO 64138-4628

Dear Londia, Members and Friends of St. Luke's United Methodist Church,

Paul writes, "Now, friends, I want to report on the surprising and generous ways in which God is working in the churches in Macedonia province." (2 Corinthians 8:1, *The Message*) Substituting Missouri churches for Macedonia churches, I share Paul's words of thanksgiving as I reflect on the good work of the churches of the Missouri Conference. I realize this has been a difficult year for many but I am pleased that so many churches like yours have given not only according to their means but beyond their means. This joyful passage of scripture reflects the sense of delight, encouragement, and hopefulness that I feel as I celebrate with you the ministry you are accomplishing through your congregation and through your apportionment giving.

I want to congratulate you and your congregation and to express my personal appreciation for giving 100% of your apportionments during 2010. Your faithfulness to the apportionment covenant demonstrates a commitment to ministry beyond the walls of the local church. By your giving you support ministerial education, our seminaries and United Methodist colleges, our work overseas, our conference camping, missions work, youth ministries, campus ministries, social services, our development of new churches and strengthening of existing congregations, the administration of our connection, retired clergy benefits for those who have served our churches faithfully for years, and so many other significant ministries which no single local church could possibly accomplish without our connectional covenant. Thank you.

Commitment to the apportionment covenant begins with the pastors and the lay leadership of the congregation, and I appreciate your helpfulness. And no church gives fully without a firm commitment from the membership of the local church, and I give God thanks for the vision, generosity, and faithfulness of your members. And few churches are able to give apportionments without intentional planning, and I thank you for thinking ahead and including the ministries supported by apportionments in your budgeting and ministry plan.

Please know that you have my continuing pledge to see that the ministries supported by apportionment giving are fruitful, held to an increasing expectation of accountability and excellence, and aligned with our core mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.

You and your church join with more than 650 congregations that gave full 100% support or more to apportionments in 2010. The magnitude of ministry supported by our giving makes a substantial positive difference in the lives of people, congregations, and ministries within our conference and throughout the world.

Blessings to you and your congregation during these months to come as we all seek to serve the purposes of Christ in our work together. Again, thank you.

Yours in Christ,

Robert Schnase
Missouri Bishop



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

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 9, 7pm

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Community Lenten Worship Service

Sunday, March 27 at 6pm

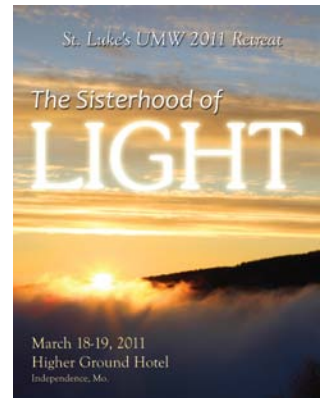
Worship with our neighbors in Hickman Mills. Offering and ingathering for Community Assistance Council (CAC)



St. Luke's United Methodist Women's 2011 Retreat

- When? March 18 and 19
- Where? Higher Ground Hotel Retreat Center in Independence
- What Time? Check-in at 5pm Friday; dinner at 6pm; retreat ends Saturday at noon
- Cost? \$45 double; \$75 single; \$15 retreat only
- Theme? "The Sisterhood of Light"

Reverend Sandy Grider will serve as the Study Leader. To register or for more information, contact Ione Keys at 816-761-2519.



Congratulations to **DeVion Marquez Thompson**. He was baptized on January 30.



Congratulations to **Keith Curington**, Music Director, who became a member of St. Luke's on February 20.



Please welcome **Luvenia Bovi Lewis**, our new Children Ministry Director who will start on March 1, 2011.