



## The Mystery: “Why It doesn’t All Add Up!” (Also known as “The Mystery of the Furtive Forty!”)

*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” Matthew 4:1-4*

In history, “the 40 days of Lent” has sometimes been more of a metaphor than an actual number of days. The United Methodist webpage teaches us that the word “Lent” comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.”

We think of Lent as a liturgical season of forty days which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. If you count up the days in between, however, they do not number 40.

Over the course of Church History, the season of preparation for Easter Sunday has ranged from one day (in the first century) to 44 (today in the Roman Catholic Church). As early as the Council of Nicea in 325, the bishops spoke of the *quadagesima paschae* (Latin for “40 days before Easter”).

At that time, Lent began on the sixth Sunday before Easter and ended at dusk on Holy Thursday—40 days. But the council also forbade fasting, kneeling, and any other acts of sorrow and penance on the Sundays in Lent.

Over time, Sundays were excluded from the total of 40 days, because every Sunday is understood to be a celebration of the Resurrection. Therefore, if you think about it, the Lenten week goes Monday through Saturday, six days, and does not include any Sundays. That’s how today we arrive at 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter!

Perhaps more important is the theological point of Lent. Lent recalls the 40 days Moses spent with God upon the mountaintop and the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation. Not surprisingly, then, Lent has come to be a time of repentance, spent in the presence of God. That makes it, too, a time of self-examination and reflection. We Christians are to focus on our relationship with God, and we often give up something or volunteer our time sacrificially for others.

No matter how good you are at counting to 40, or how bizarre is the way we calculate the 40 days of Lent, what is important is our opportunity in this solemn season of reflection, to spend significant quality time with our souls. In a hurried and hassled world, we too seldom set aside time to truly look into our own souls, see our own weaknesses, or identify and prioritize the Lord’s inspirations over our own aspirations.

May you count to 40, my friends, but even more, may you find that the Lenten staples of repentance, forgiveness and self-reflection bring your to new realizations about yourself, even as you prepare for the renewed revelation about our Lord: that he does live, and he calls us to new life, too.

Thanks be to God!, Lenten blessings, Pastor Lisa

## Young at Heart

We will meet on March 8, promptly at 10:00 a.m., for a short meeting. Following the meeting, Nikke and Chip Headley will entertain us with gospel music after which we will enjoy a selection of Irish food.

## Lenten Bible Study

Our Lenten Bible Study will be at 11:00 am at Grits and Grace Diner (formerly Karen's Diner) on March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, & 11. We will be using the book, "Gospelled Lives: Encounters with Jesus". Cost of the book is \$11.00. Come join us. You may pick up a copy on the table in the sanctuary.

## Stamps For Mission

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST WOMEN –  
STAMPS FOR MISSION

We are calling on St. Luke's congregation to help us collect used stamps. If you will, please save all stamps that come in your mail to benefit missions. All stamps are useful. We will even take stamps that have not been used. We will also take cancelled and/or foreign stamps, including old ones that have not been used. Listed below are requirements for the stamps:

1. Trim paper around the stamps at least a quarter of an inch, or you can turn in the whole envelope.
2. If you have postcards, turn in the whole card.
3. Leave rows of stamps intact.
4. Give them to a member of the United Methodist Women and we will see that they are sent to our UMW coordinator.

Thanks for your help with this ongoing effort.

## Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars for the Silent Auction and BBQ Dinner, Saturday, April 29th, 5pm - 7:30 pm

Put on your fancy duds ( blue jeans, boots and cowboy gear) and mosey on down to the St. Luke's Corral for our western themed dinner. Or just come to place your bid. Check out all the auction items and start bidding 5:00 - 6:00 pm. Dinner is served at 6:00. Auction bidding ends at 7:30 pm.

Dinner tickets are \$10 per person. Dinner includes BBQ from Kings Barbecue, baked beans, coleslaw, rolls, dessert and beverage. Please see Rebecca Morris or Marcia Grubbs for tickets, or contact the church office. Get your ticket early! See y'all there!

## Youth Sunday

Youth Sunday at St. Luke's will be March 19. Our youth will be at the Lutheran Church of our Saviour on March 12 to lead the same service there. We also look forward to our choirs collaborating for shared services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday!

## Volunteers Needed!

WE ARE LOOKING for a couple of volunteers to assist with children's church. The only requirements are that you're at least 18 years of age and that you like working with children. You'd only be scheduled every 6 weeks. Please see Carolyn Beeckler to sign up or email at [beecks@comcast.net](mailto:beecks@comcast.net) Thanks!

## Line Dance & Exercise Class

Our Weekly Line Dance and Exercise Class is growing! Come join in all the fun, led by our wonderful instructor Shirley Jones. This class is open to the neighborhood and community, so bring a friend and come each Tuesday at 3:00 pm!

## Silent Auction

Our annual Silent Auction is coming up on April 29th and we are currently soliciting donations. If any church member would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated and your name will be displayed on our "wall of thanks." Donations could be frozen meals or that special cake you bake, a craft item or even something that you no longer want in your household, but is in good condition. If you know someone with a business that would be willing to donate that would be great as well.

## Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch Meeting – March 21, 7:00 pm in the sanctuary.

## Brunswick Stew

The Methodist Men will make Brunswick Stew on Saturday, March 11th. It will be \$8.00 per quart. If you would like to pre-order, contact the church office, 276-7000. The stew will be ready after 1:00 pm.

## BE INFORMED

Keep up with all that's going on within the Virginia United Methodist Conference by visiting –

<http://www.vaumc.org>

# Choir Schedule

## **St. Luke's UMC Children's Choir**

Will be rehearsing on Sunday mornings in March on the 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th in the choir room from 9:15 to 9:45.

## **St. Luke's UMC Handbell Choir**

This quartet of women rehearses on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:25 in the sanctuary on March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th to prepare for assisting in the 10:30 Sunday morning worship service at a later date. There are plenty of handbells for all volunteers to come and participate in this fun and energetic group.

## **St. Luke's UMC Sanctuary Choir**

We will be rehearsing on Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:45 those appropriate choral offerings to assist in the Sunday morning 10:30 worship service. Thursday evening rehearsals are the 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Interested singers are welcome to join the sanctuary choir for a short-term participation for the Lenten period through Easter Sunday. Will you not commit to the 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th Sundays in Lent and also April 2nd, 9th (Palm Sunday) and 16th (Easter Sunday)? Join us at 7:30 as we are rehearsing the "Song of Shadows" which is appropriate for Maundy Thursday here at St. Luke's.

# Thank You

Margaret Tucker would like to thank the members of St. Luke's for the many special acts of kindness during her son's, Tim Tucker, hospital stays and death.

## Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Joan Bowker	Dean Smith	Bill Brown
Ronnie Jones	Bill Coleman	Ron Halloran
Opal Holshouser	Barbara Stone	Laura Patterson
Karen & Reg Whitton	Marie Goodwyn	Muffin Morris
George Burnett	Betty Ward	Sam McCoin
Renae Hedrick	Margaret Tucker	Eden Kloss
Marynell Kloss	Gayle McGonigle	
Kim D'Esposito	Lachelier	

### **Our Military**

Robbie Bowen	Aaron Frankey	Larry Russell
Holden Russell		

### **People to remember**

Annie Davis — 5410 Claridge Drive  
Chesterfield, VA 23832 276-4322

Margaret Tucker — 9703 Groundhog Drive  
North Chesterfield, VA 23235

Ron Halloran — Hickory Hill Retirement Center  
900 Cary Shop Road  
Burkeville, VA 23922



## Birthdays

March 1 Tommy Driskill  
March 6 Steven Grubbs  
March 7 MaryJo Jones  
March 10 Beth Ball  
March 12 Christopher Hedrick  
March 15 Kathy Bowen  
Elijah Jones  
Scott Brown  
March 18 Eric Jones  
March 19 Ronnie Jones  
March 21 Elton Gardner  
Andrew Proffitt  
March 24 Steven Hudson  
March 26 Deanie Reynolds  
March 30 Debbie Smart  
March 31 Bobbie Strum

## Anniversary

March 25  
Bobbie and Rhea Strum

## Easter Flowers

This year for Easter Sunday you will be given the opportunity to order an Easter Lily, Hydrangea, Azalea or Mum. All orders must be in the church office no later than March 27th. Make checks payable to St. Luke's UMC and be sure to designate on the check in the lower left corner "Easter Flowers". Please complete the following form and drop it in the collection plate with your check. The following flowers will be available: Easter Lily, \$11.75; Hydrangea, assorted colors - \$18.00; Azalea, assorted colors - \$18.00; Mums, assorted colors - \$11.75

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Plant Desired: **Easter Lily** **Hydrangea** **Azalea** **Mum**

Number of Plants: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

[stlukesumc@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesumc@verizon.net)

## Candles for our Candelabras

We would like to purchase oil-filled candles for our two candelabras. We will need 14 candles. The cost is \$66 per candle. If you would like to donate a candle in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the form below and place it, together with your check, in the offering plate:

Name of Donor: \_\_\_\_\_

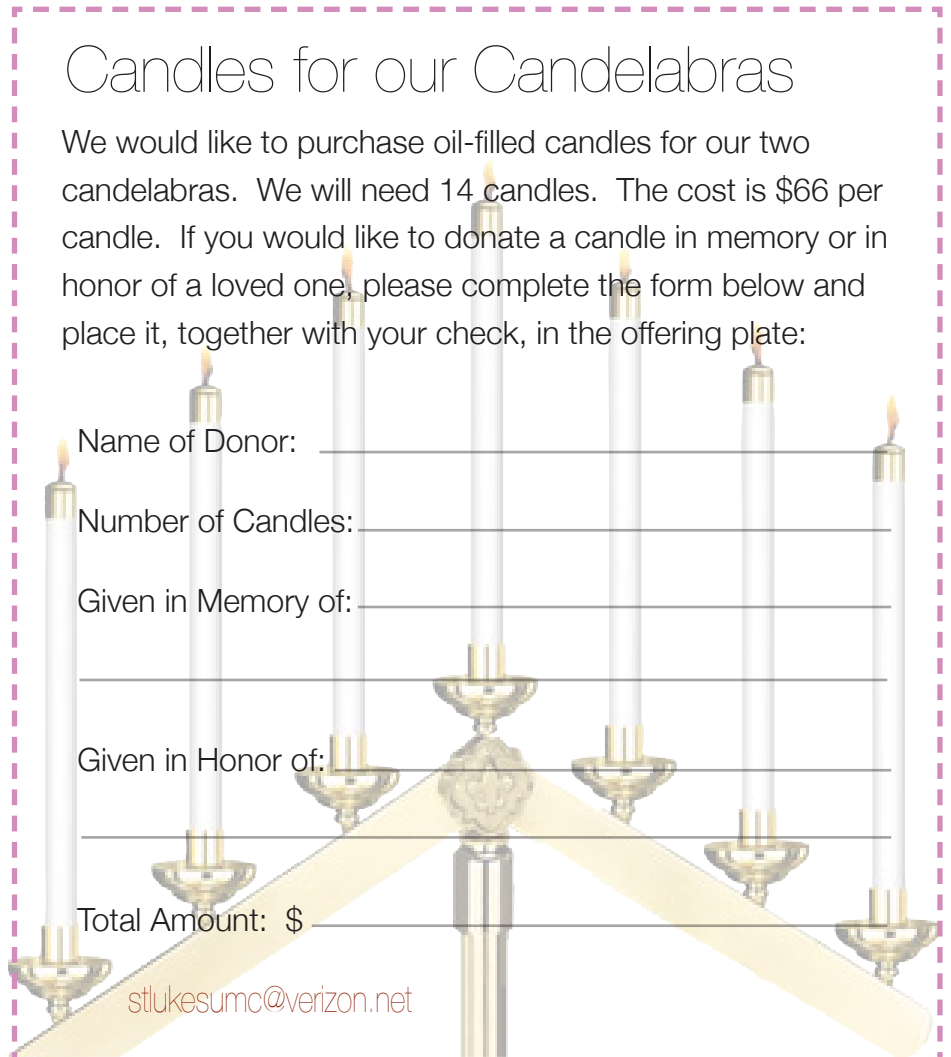
Number of Candles: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given in Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

[stlukesumc@verizon.net](mailto:stlukesumc@verizon.net)



# FUNDRAISING NIGHT @

**The Flyin' Pig**



**BACKYARD GRILL AND BAR**  
Midlothian, Va

Help Support  
St. Luke's Preschool



Monday, March 13, 2017  
4:00p.m.- 8:00p.m.

Bring this flyer on March 13th and **The Flyin' Pig** will donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase to St. Luke's Preschool.

**The Flyin' Pig**

13560 Waterford Place  
Midlothian, VA 23112  
[facebook.com/TheFlyinPig](https://www.facebook.com/TheFlyinPig)  
Tel: 804-447-4592

**DINE-IN or TAKE-OUT**

# WHAT'S UP!!



Our Youth enjoyed a Spiritual Retreat at Eagle Eyrie



We celebrated Bob and Barbara Armstrong's 55th Wedding Anniversary



Andrea Brown is honored for 30 years of service with the Henrico Public Library



Our Preschool and church staff celebrated Heart Day by wearing red.



The Captain of the Chesterfield County Police Department spoke to a full house at our first Neighborhood Watch Seminar.



## Wednesday, Mar. 1

10:00 am Susannah Wesley Circle, F.H.  
6:00-7:00 pm UMM Pancake Supper, F.H.  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl Scouts, Troop 337 (location tbd)  
7:30 pm Lenten Service, S.

## Thursday, Mar. 2

6:30-7:30 pm Adult Hand Bell Practice, S  
6:30-7:30 pm NAMI, F.H.  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir, M.R. & S

## Sunday, Mar. 5

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Trustees Committee Meeting, (P)  
4:00-5:30 pm Youth, F.H.

## Monday, Mar. 6

10:05-10:45 am Preschool Chapel (F.H.)  
4:45 pm Safe Haven  
5:30-7:00 pm Al-Anon (P)  
7:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts, B & 106, 108, 110, 112  
7:00-8:00 pm Boy Scouts, F.H. & all rooms upstairs

## Tuesday, Mar. 7

10:05-10:30 am Preschool Chapel (F.H.)  
11:00 am Bible Study - Grits & Grace (formerly Karen's Diner)  
3:00 pm Exercise/Line Dancing (F.H.)  
5:30-7:00 pm Dinner with Friends (P)

## Wednesday, Mar. 8

10:00 am Young at Heart (F.H.)  
7:00-8:00 pm Cub Scout Parents (B)

## Thursday, Mar. 9

6:30-7:30 pm Adult Hand Bell Practice (S)  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl Scouts - Troop 5228 (B)  
7:00 pm NAMI (F.H.)  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir, M.R. & S

## Friday, Mar. 10

9:00-12:00 Noon Quilting Group, F.H.

## Saturday, Mar. 11

UMM (Stew) - Ready for pick-up after 1 pm

## Sunday, Mar. 12

(Youth Sunday @ LCOS)  
9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Finance (P)

## Monday, Mar. 13

9:45-11:45 am MOPS (F.H.)  
5:30-7:00 pm Al-Anon (P)  
7:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts, B & 106, 108, 110, 112  
7:00-8:00 pm Boy Scouts, F.H. & all rooms upstairs

## Tuesday, Mar. 14

10:00 am-12:00 noon Preschool Program (F.H.)  
11:00 am Bible Study - Grits & Grace (formerly Karen's Diner)  
3:00 pm Exercise/Line Dancing (F.H.)

## Wednesday, Mar. 15

10:00 am-12:00 noon Preschool Program (F.H.)  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl Scouts, Troop 337, F.H.

## Thursday, Mar. 16

6:30-7:30 Adult Hand Bell Practice, S  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl Scouts, Troop 5228, B  
7:00 pm NAMI (F.H.)  
7:30 Chancel Choir, M.R. & S

## Sunday, Mar. 19

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 a.m. Pastor/Parish (P)

## Monday, Mar. 20

10:05-10:45 am Preschool Chapel (S)  
4:45 pm Safe Haven  
5:30-7:00 pm Al-Anon (P)  
7:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts, B & 106, 108, 110, 112  
7:00-8:00 pm Boy Scouts, F.H. & all rooms upstairs

## Tuesday, Mar. 21

10:05-10:30 am Preschool Chapel (S)  
11:00 am Bible Study - Grits & Grace (formerly Karen's Diner)  
3:00 pm Exercise/Line Dancing (F.H.)  
7:00 pm Neighborhood Watch Meeting (S)

## Wednesday, Mar. 22

7:00 pm Dale District Community Meeting (S)

## Thursday, Mar. 23

6:30-7:30 pm Adult Hand Bell Practice, (S)  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl Scouts, Troop 5228, (B)  
7:00 pm NAMI (F.H.)  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, (M.R. & S)

## Friday, Mar. 24

9:00-12:00 Noon Quilting Group, F.H.



## Sunday, Mar. 26

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Administrative Council meeting (P)  
4:00-5:30 pm Youth (FH)

## Monday, Mar. 27

9:45-11:45 am MOPS (F.H.)  
5:30-7:00 pm Al-Anon (P)  
6:30 pm U.M. Men (F.H.)  
7:00-8:00 pm Cub Scouts, B & 106, 108, 110, 112  
7:00-8:00 pm Boy Scouts, F.H. & all rooms upstairs

## Tuesday, Mar. 28

11:00 am Bible Study - Grits & Grace (formerly Karen's Diner)  
3:00 pm Exercise/Line Dancing (F.H.)

## Wednesday, Mar. 29

8:45 am Grandparents' Breakfast (F.H.)

## Thursday, Mar. 30

6:30-7:30 pm Adult Hand Bell Practice, (S)  
6:30-7:30 pm Girl Scouts, Troop 5228, (B)  
7:00 pm NAMI (F.H.)  
7:30 pm Chancel Choir Practice, (M.R. & S)

**Location Codes:** F.H. – Fellowship Hall, P – Parlor, B – Basement, M.R. – Music Room, S – Sanctuary



*St. Luke's seeks to be a spiritual community where all God's children experience Christ's love and redemption and where we share this through worship, fellowship, education and mission for the community and the world.*

[www.stlukesumconthehill.org](http://www.stlukesumconthehill.org)

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