ONNECLO

St. Luke's United Methodist Church Newsletter

Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

Matthew 25:20-21

The Church at a Crossroads

A called Special Session of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church takes place February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri and requires our ardent prayers!

See letter on pages 5 and 6

"St. Luke's Got Talent

(Excerpted from Pastor Lisa's sermon, January 20)

"What's your talent? You say you don't have one? I don't believe it. More likely, your talent may be hidden. I CAN SAY THAT as your Pastor because I have come to discover some of the hidden talents in our congregation. So today, we are beginning with a game: Who's Who in the Pew! I'll describe the talent. You guess who it belongs to!

Did you know that one of you, sitting in this congregation right now, is an award-winning weight lifter?!

Now, do you know who it is? Here's a hidden talent for sure! So, let's begin with clues. This person entered the "100% Raw Powerlifting" Competition and won their class, defined by age and weight, by bench pressing 77 pounds. After the competition, they later learned that they set the Virginia state record for "100% Raw Powerlifting." Now that you have all the facts, those of you who aren't in the know, can you guess who? My friends, our covert weight-lifting champ is Marcia Grubbs!

Surprised? We usually are, to discover hidden talents. But God never is! God already knows the talents He has given us. And more importantly, God knows if we are using them! Our question to ponder today is this: What are we doing with the talents God has given us? Have we hidden them away or are we using them for His Kingdom?

St. Luke's, what about you?

Among other talents, there's this one for welcoming children and for offering early childhood education. Yours is the best preschool in Richmond. And recently, we have begun to multiply and increase this talent for the Kingdom of God through our Wednesday Night Bible School, bringing preschool families into the worship of God, some for the first time.

And what has God done in response? The Spirit of God, working through the Richmond District of the United Methodist Church, has taken the talent we unearthed, and is multiplying it: \$2000 dollars invested from the annual budget has become \$15,000 dollars to invest this year, and \$15,000 more over the two years after that!

That's multiplication for sure! And our charge is to keep that multiplication going . . . That NOT just ministry, and NOT just money, but MOST OF ALL, believers might increase in this place!! We all have talents! As they say on TV, America's Got Talent, and YES! "St. Luke's Got Talents," too! Friends, let us use them, multiply them, so that we might bring children and new believers into the Kingdom of God!

Blessings, Pastor Lisa

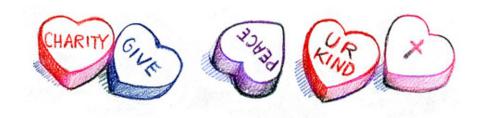
Schedule for Music Ministry of St. Luke's UMC February 2019

	-
Sunday - 02/03/19 09	:15 - 09:45 - Mallet-percussion choir - Music office 10:00 - 11:30 - Sanctuary Choir
	in worship Choir room & sanctuary
Wednesday - 02/06/19	07:00 - 08:30 - Sanctuary
weunesuay - 02/00/19	Choir rehearsal
0	
Sunday - 02/10/19	09:15 - 09:45 - Mallet-percussion
	choir - Music office
	10:00 - 11:30 - Sanctuary Choir in wor
	ship Choir room & sanctuary
Wednesday - 02/13/19	07:00 - 08:30 - Sanctuary Choir
	rehearsal
Sunday - 02/17/19	09:15 - 09:45 - Mallet-percussion
	choir - Music office
	10:00 - 11:30 - Sanctuary Choir
	in worship Choir room & sanctuary
Wednesday - 02/20/19	07:00 - 08:30 - Sanctuary Choir
······	rehearsal
Sunday - 02/24/19	09:15 - 09:45 - Mallet-percussion
	choir - Music office
	10:00 - 11:30 - Sanctuary choir in
	worship Choir room & sanctuary
Wednesday - 02/27/19	07:00 - 08:30 - Sanctuary Choir
	rehearsal

ANNOUNCING:

From among all the churches on the Richmond District, St. Luke's was chosen as the 2019 recipient of the "5 Talent Grant" which provides \$30,000 over three years, to a promising new ministry that has the potential of reaching new persons for Christ. This funding may be used for staffing, and this first year, St. Luke's will seek a Christian Educator to help lead and multiply our efforts at inviting children, young families, and those who may not have worshiped before, into a causal fellowship through our Wednesday Nite Bible School. This program includes children's Sunday School (on Wednesday Nite) and a 30-minute kid-friendly worship service.

Thanks be to God!



HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO DEAN AND IBBIE SMITH, who were

surprised with a party in their honor, given by their family here on December 29th, with family and friends invited!

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The annual 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration will take place on February 10th at the 10:30 am Worship Service. If you will have a 50th Wedding Anniversary during 2019 or have had a 50th Anniversary and it has not been celebrated at St. Luke's, please call the church office no later than February 5th, 2019.

WELCOME BACK, C.W. AND KELLY, AND ADDISON ELIZABETH! Having

you in our midst on Sunday, January 20, 2019 was a delight!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE MEMBERS and SHEPHERDS: Please

note that our annual Congregational Care meeting will take place on Sunday, February 3rd, at 11:30 am in the Parlor. Anyone who would like to help send cards is welcome to join us. We look forward to seeing you!

Rhea Strum and Ruth Wickstrom

JUST A REMINDER! During the week, M-Th, 9-1pm, Pastor Lisa can be reached at church: 276-7000. On Fri/Sat (her preacher weekend) in case of something urgent, Pastor Lisa can be reached at home: 364-8426, or by cell: 370-7825.

BE INFORMED Keep up with all that's going on within the Virginia United Methodist Conference by visiting http://www.vaumc.org

Birthdays

February 1	Becky Jenkins
	C.W. Rice
	Jason Williams
February 2	Randi Hayes
February 5	Kevin Russell
	Stephanie Burnett
February 6	Gayle McGonigle
	Ashley Driskill
	Nikki Driskill
February 8	Sean Wythe
February 10	Katie Haley
	Katherine Stefi Harris
February 12	Carolyn Beeckler
February 15	Ruth Russell
	Tom Proffitt
February 17	Robert Hall
	Rebecca Heath
	Matt Pritchard
	Tee Leigh
February 19	Andrea Brown
	Betty Hubble
	Justin Burnett
February 20	Maria Proffitt
	Wesley Pritchard
	Wayne Johnson
February 22	Scottie Kyle
February 24	Mary Nell Kloss
February 25	Thelma Edwards
	Rachel Jenkins
	Sofia Lorenzo
	Bruce Anderson
	Stewart Ball
	Scarlett Blu Butler
February 26	George Moore
February 28	Pam Coleman

OUR NEW LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY

meets at Anna's on Tuesdays at 11:30 am. Ray Kyle leads this class and our study is "That's What The Man Said" (The Sayings of Jesus) by Maxie Dunnam. All are welcome to attend. The class will meet on Tuesday, February 5, 2019.

Upheld in our Prayers

Please keep the following in your prayers.

Thelma Edwards	Betty Wellman	Dean Smith
Peggy Uglow	Tom Brown	Wilmer Downs
Kevin Leigh	Debi Clements	Margaret Tucker
Wayne Kinney 🚺	Kerry Myers	Opal Holshouser
Renae Hedrick	Jan Hall	Andrew Schaeffer
Lori Jones & family	Sharon Hoyle	George Munford
Marie Goodman 🗏	Joyce Johnson	-
John & Joan Crawf	ord	
Katherine & Raym	ond Fayle	E
David & Bonnie Sh	erwood	
Our Military		
Robbie Bowen	Aaron Frankey Ho	olden Russell

"Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

Our sympathy and love are extended to Bobby and Barbara Armstrong and family. Barbara's nephew, Dr. Paul Jackson, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Friday, December 28th, 2018.

Our sympathy and love are extended to Woody and Debbie Smart and family. Woody's 92-year-old mother, Thelma Smart, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Sunday, January 6th, and Woody lost his uncle, Gene Smart, on Saturday, January12th, 2019.

Our love and sympathy to Carole Russell and family. Carole's husband, Bob, a former Virginia State Senator, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Saturday, January 19, 2019.

Our sympathy and love are extended to Becky Jenkins and family. Becky's mother, Esther Patterson, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Monday, January 21st, 2019.

Our sympathy and love are extended to Elizabeth Butler and family. Elizabeth's mother, Carolyn Johnson, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019.



New Staff Member Sought:

Coordinator for Children and Young Family Ministry Project (part time, 10 - 15 hours a week, Sept-May), compensation \$1,000 a month during the school year. St. Luke's United Methodist Church in North Chesterfield, Virginia, seeks an innovative and outgoing Christian to cultivate our ongoing "Wednesday Nite Bible School Ministry" which offers children a station-based, story-telling curriculum and families an informal 30-minute worship experience. This program, recipient of a 5 Talent Grant, seeks to bring young families from the community of a vibrant, award-winning preschool and our neighborhood, into worshipful, meaningful participation in the church. Ability to relate to children and families essential, as well as an ability to coordinate with church and preschool staff and volunteers. A deep conviction for inviting children into the faith of Jesus Christ and spiritually supporting their families is central to the position. Previous teaching experience with children essential; a degree in Education or Christian Education preferred. All applicants must complete and agree to abide by St. Luke's UMC Child Protective Policy. Interested parties may send a resume to Rev. Lisa K. Sykes at stlukespastor@verizon.net St. Luke's UMC, 4101 Fordham Road, Chesterfield, VA 23236. Phone: 804-276-7000.

St. Luke's Face Book Page

Make sure you like the St. Luke's Facebook page to keep up with everything going on at church. Also, please like and share the posts and events. The more we share and like, the more others will see what a wonderful place St. Luke's is -- and all the things that we are doing! Here's a link to our page: https://m.facebook.com/St-Lukes-United-Methodist-Church-486188658201339/

Christmas in January!

At the Annual United Methodist Men's Christmas Dinner, which happened January 19th, the Men presented Pastor Lisa with a rollicking Christmas present! Mindful of the "Oak Ridge Girls" at the December 2018 Youth talent show, Lisa received a pair of ruby red cowgirl boots for the next time she takes the countrywestern stage!



Lip-syncing that golden oldie "ELVIRA!", lead "singer" Shirley Jones, along with her two cowgirl cohorts (Audrey Vogen and Pastor Lisa), had the crowd in stitches at the Youth Dinner and Talent Show in December. his talented trio brought down the house! How 'bout an encore Ladies?

Folks, whenever that encore takes place, Pastor Lisa's cowgirl outfit is now replete with real, rootin'-tootin' cowgirl boots presented to her at the recent Methodist Men's dinner!

Annual Audit Assistance

We are looking for someone to help with annual audits. If you have some math skills and an interest in this area,please call the church office at 276-7000



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE POST OFFICE BOX 5606 10330 STAPLES MILL ROAD GLEN ALLEN, VIRGINIA 23058-5606

Sharma D. Lewis RESIDENT BISHOP TELEPHONE: 804/521-1102 FAX: 804/521-1178 E-MAIL: terribiggins@vaumc.org

December 3, 2018

Dear Virginia Conference Clergy-

The topic of human sexuality has long been a source of disagreement within The United Methodist Church. Right now the topic is the focus of many conversations as we prepare for the Special Session of General Conference 2019 in February.

With tensions so high, congregations may be concerned about what is happening and what this means for their church. As clergy you may feel fear or uncertainty. I send this letter in the hopes of setting us on the same course in the Virginia Conference.

It is my hope and prayer that we can stay a connected church.

As the Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 3:20, it is God who can do more than we can ask or imagine. I hope that the Virginia Conference will trust in our Lord together.

The reason I hold out for hope for this denomination's unity is because I know what we can do together. I have seen it.

Our conference has been historically and consistently one of the strongest supporters of the missional connection. Our small and large membership churches, through shared ministry in apportionments, help support Global Ministries and 350+ missionaries in 60 countries.

We have been a part of the church's growth in countries such as Cambodia, Brazil and Mozambique. Through our unique conference Initiatives of Hope missional partnership team, we have:

- Supported church and parsonage construction and lay and clergy leadership development in Cambodia and Mozambique.
- Started educational advancement through school and dormitory construction and scholarships for students in Cambodia.
- Provided tutoring and after school programs for at-risk children in Brazil through the Shade and Fresh Water ministry of The Methodist Church of Brazil.
- Opened dialogue and support for Virginia Native peoples as they seek autonomy and sovereignty as well as offering opportunities in cooperation with the conference Native American Ministries team to provide a family camp.

Through our aid to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief), we have supported disaster response when disasters such as wildfires and hurricanes are more prevalent. The need has never been greater. In 2017, the Virginia Conference supported UMCOR in excess of \$1.7 million.

Our churches, big or small, are and can be a source of hope. We are never more like the hands and feet of Christ than when we are working together in ministry.

I hope you will use the resources listed below to help start conversations in your context and share information. These conversations will be hard ones, but we learn more from our neighbors by understanding different perspectives.

As we prepare for this Special Session of General Conference, I call upon you, our Virginia Conference clergy, to be a non-anxious presence. Lean away from fear and lean on God. Lean away from uncertainty and lean into the mission of your local churches.

God is here. And God is doing something immeasurably more than we know how to ask or imagine.

Resources:

- Commission on a Way Forward information: <u>www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward</u>
- Final Commission on a Way Forward report: <u>www.umc.org/who-we-are/way-forward-report-released-in-all-four-official-languages-of-general-confe</u>
- Virginia Conference Sept. 2018 livestream event: <u>https://livestream.com/VAUMC/COWFQA</u>
- Bishop Lewis' "Guiding Principles" for Virginia Conference: <u>www.vaumc.org/ncfilerepository/WayForward/BlshopLewisSlides9_27_18.pdf</u>
- Judicial Council Oct. 2018 decision: <u>www.umc.org/who-we-are/council-of-bishops-issues-statement-regarding-the-judicial-council-decision</u>
- General Conference 2019 information: <u>www.vaumc.org/GC2019</u>

Peace and Blessings,

Jama D Jaint

Bishop Sharma D. Lewis

Annual Youth Dinner and Talent Show A Great Success!

Appreciative words from Nancy Taylor:

"This whole thing couldn't go on without her and I really appreciate her . . . Thanks Rachel!"

"I would like to further thank an extremely important person regarding this whole shebang. Rachel keeps the train on the track and continually makes sure everything goes as smoothly as possible. She takes care of numerous details, both large and small." Nancv

Rachel responds:

"Well, what can I say? The kids were amazing tonight and it looked like everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Every year I don't know how we will top the year before and they do it every time. We are truly blessed to have such fun, energetic and talented kids who are willing to throw themselves into whatever Nancy and Steve dream up year after year.

Nancy, Steve and Lori - a million thanks for putting the program together and working with our youth the past few weeks. You pull out the absolute best in our kids and everyone can see the joy and pride in their faces as they successfully try new things with your guidance and support. I know I am not the only parent that is genuinely surprised at what the kids are willing to do for you.

Haley and Chris - thank you for participating in our performances each year and always supporting our kids with your presence. Chris, you always lead by example and show the kids that it is "cool" to ham it up and have a good time with this. They watch you both and follow your lead, we couldn't ask for a better couple for them to follow.

Carolyn, Rick and Brian - thank you for your hard work in the kitchen today. Carolyn and Rick always spend a good part of the day in the kitchen preparing the food and then cleaning it all up when it's over. It is an exhausting day and your time and energy are so appreciated. Brian, thanks for providing the soundtrack for the evening with your lovely voice in the kitchen (I'm not sure how thankful Carolyn and Rick were about that).

Parents - none of this is possible without you. Thank you for getting your kids to practices, helping with set up and clean up, taking pictures and video, performing in the show, the list goes on and on. Everyone's schedules are so busy and you consistently make time for your kids to come to youth group and participate. Thanks for making it a priority in your lives.

Are we having any youth events before the end of the year? I'm not sure, so keep an eye on your email. If not, we will see you in the New Year and I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas."

Youth **Mission!**

MINISTRY www.vaumc.org/youth On January 20th, the Youth of St. Luke's and LCOS hosted a pizza party at the Varina Heart Haven home for adults with developmental disabilities. The youth assisted the residents to play bingo and then served them a dinner of veggies, pizza and awesome cookies. The residents were so thrilled for the food and fellowship, and the staff members were delighted at the presence of the youth with the residents. It's only a 20-minute trip to the Varina Home, but a journey deep into the love of God! Thanks, Youth!

FEBRUARY YOUTH ACTIVITIES

UNITED

OUTH

February 3: Soup-er Bowl Luncheon February 10: Deliver valentine cards to shut-ins February 15-17: Eagle Eyrie Retreat February 24: No youth group

> Pizza Party at Hearthavens



The youth wrapped up 2018 with a trip to Kings Dominion's Winterfest.



Soup-er Bowl Sunday February 3rd! 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. HOMEMADE SOUPS GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICHES DESSERT

The youth will provide the sandwiches, dessert & drinks. We need your help with the SOUP!

Please email or call the church office if you can contribute a soup for the lunch.

We will be collecting a youth love offering & food donations for the Belmont Food Bank at the lunch.

Smart Family Baptisms



On December 30, 2018, Brian and Carly Smart brought their sons, Brian Woodrow, Jr., and Sawyer Rodgers, to be baptized. The entire Smart Family was present for the baptisms, including Krystle and her fiancé Brett who will be married in April.



Faithful in Much!

Thanks to YOU, despite missing a Sunday last month, and worshipping despite wintry conditions with only 22 in attendance this month, the 2018 BUDGET IS IN! The down-to-the-wire triumph is especially due to those who estimate and are catching up their estimates of giving, and also because there were those who just felt called to exceed the giving estimates they had already made.

While we don't pay the full list of apportionments, we do pay those that are most essential, including health benefits for active and retired clergy (like Tom Brown and John Peters). We always seek to be faithful and grow in our support of mission and ministry around the globe; as John Wesley said so well, "The world is my parish." Thanks to your generosity, we actually paid \$24,285.00 in apportionments for 2018. This is 64% of our total apportionments.

A Very Beautiful Cantata



The Christmas Cantata, assembled by Bob Ford, included parts for the regular Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir and the Children's Choir. By and large, most of us considered it the most beautiful cantata we have heard. Kudos to all who participated, and Bob, our musical director!



Applause and appreciation for Music Director Bob Ford included his choir members after the 2018 Christmas Cantata

February, 2019

Sunday, Feb. 3 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Soup-er Bowl Sunday sponsored by Youth (F.H.) 11:30 am-12:30 pm Trustees (LB) 11:30 am-12:30 pm Congregational Care/ Shepherds (P) 4:00-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

Monday, Feb. 4

4:45 pm Safe Haven 7:00 pm-8:30 pm Boy & Cub Scouts (F.H. & all rooms upstairs)

Wednesday, Feb. 6

10:00 am-12:00 noon Susannah Wesley Circle (F.H.) 6:30 pm-7:30 pm Girl Scout Troop 337 (F.H.) 7:00 pm-8:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, Jan.10

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm NAMI (P)

Friday, Feb. 8 9:00 am-12 noon Quilting Group (F.H.) 5:00 pm & Overnight Pack lock-in (Cub Scouts)

Saturday, Feb. 9 9:00 am Pack lock-in (Cub

Scouts) concludes Sunday, Feb., 10

(50th Wedding Anniversaries) 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am-12:30 pm Finance Committee (P) 4:00-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

Pastor The Rev. Lisa Sykes stlukespastor@verizon.net

Shirley Gary **Office Manager** stlukesumc@verizon.net

Bob Ford Minister of Music stlukesmusic@verizon.net

Monday, Feb. 11

10:00 am - 10:30 am Chapel (F.H.) 7:00-8:30 pm Boy & Cub Scouts (F.H. & all rooms upstairs)

Tuesday, Feb. 12

10:05 am-10:15 am Chapel (F.H.) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm BPSA (P)

Wednesday, Feb. 13

10:00 am-12 noon Young at Heart (F.H.) 7:00 pm-8:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Thursday, Feb. 14

6:30 pm-7:30 pm Girl Scouts -Troop 5228 (B) 7:00 pm-9:00 pm NAMI (P)

Saturday, Feb. 16 Eagle Eyrie (Youth)

Sunday, Feb. 17 (Youth at Eagle Eyrie & Boy Scout Sunday 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am-12:30 pm Pastor/Parish (P) 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

Monday, Feb. 18 Eagle Eyrie (Youth) 7:00-8:30 pm

Boy & Cub Scouts (entire building)

Tuesday, Feb. 19 7:15 pm Endowment

Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Girl Scout Troop 337 (F.H.) 7:00 pm-8:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal (S)

Margaret Anderson **Financial Secretary** stlukesfinsec@verizon.net

stlukestreas@verizon.net

Michele Hart **Preschool Director** director@stlukespreschoolva.com

Thursday, Feb. 21 7:00 pm NAMİ (P)

Friday, Feb. 22

9:00 am-12 noon Quilting Group (F.H.) 6:00-8:00 pm Pack Derby set up

(Cub Scouts - F.H.)

Saturday, Feb. 23 7:00 am - 1:00 pm (F.H.) Pack Derby Race (Cub Scouts)

Sunday, Feb. 24

9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am-12:30 pm Administrative Council 4:00 pm-5:30 pm Youth (F.H.)

Monday, Feb. 25

10:00 am - 10:30 am Chapel (F.H.) 6:30 pm UMM (F.H.) 7:00 pm-8:30 pm Boy & Cub Scouts (Basement)

Tuesday, Feb. 26

10:05 am-10:15 am Chapel (F.H.) 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm BPSA (P)

Wesdnesday, Feb. 27 10:00-12:00 Preschool Program (F.H.) 7:00 pm-8:30 pm

Chancel Choir (S)

Thursday, Feb. 28 6:30 pm-7:30 pm Girl Scouts - Troop 5228 (B) 7:00 pm NAMİ (P)



www.stlukesumconthehill.org



DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb. 3 - Parlor Soup-er Bowl Sunday (11:30- FH) **Congregational Care/Shepherds** Feb.16-18 Youth - Eagle Eyrie Feb. 8, 2019 Pack Lock-in (Cub Scouts - overnight) Feb. 22 Pack Derby set up (Cub Scouts - F.H.)

Feb. 23 Pack derby Race (Cub Scouts- F.H.)

LOOKING AHEAD

MM Pancake Dinner (more info to follow) Wednesday March 6 - Lent begins

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

6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Scottie Kyle Treasurer

Ray Jenkins Superintendent of Sunday Schools