

*As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
1 Peter 2:4-5*



**BIG NEWS -
THE BISHOP IS COMING!
SAVE THE DATE FOR
ST. LUKE'S UMC
60TH ANNIVERSARY
SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2023.**

St. Luke's members and friends - Mark your calendars to celebrate an important milestone in the life of St. Luke's UMC, its 60th anniversary. We are honored that **Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson** has accepted our invitation to preach and that **District Superintendent, The Reverend Dr. Lee**, will be in attendance as well. Worship will be followed by a special meal and fellowship.

Stay tuned for details!

Touchstones

One of my favorite memories is taking my three young sons and my mom to Maymont, one of Richmond's great treasures. I am especially fond of the beauty and peace of the Japanese Garden there. It was always so much fun when we came to the edge of the pond and the boys saw the stepping stones. Adam would take Seth's hand, Wesley would take mine, and Joshua would take Granna's. And together, we bravely sought to land our feet on the stepping stones, lest we join the Koi fish in the water.

The stepping stones were security, as we found our way through an adventurous path. Each time we returned to this garden, we found that the stepping stones had become old friends over time. The more we traced our steps there, the more we trusted the stones to guide us. Now when I go to Maymont, even though times have changed and boys have grown up, those old stepping stones still fill me with joy.

In this season of transition, when so much in the world has changed, and is still changing, it's good—I dare say—essential, to have familiar steps which trace a path connecting us to those things that always have, and always will, bring us joy.

Spiritually speaking, these are not stepping stones, but touchstones. People, places and things in this world that, for us, will never change. They reconnect us to the joys we have known, and show us the way forward, bringing the good things from the past to a new future. I have been blessed this Christmas and New Year with that experience. Unexpectedly, two of my dearest friends, one from Oxford England and another from rural Pennsylvania, came to Richmond to see me.

I hadn't realized how much it would strengthen me and renew my spirit to reconnect with these dear friends. They are touchstones in my life. No matter how many years between our visits, the friendships remain steady and strong and do not change; like those old stepping stones that I'm so familiar with, they give me a toehold on this crazy world of ours, and remind me how important it is that we renew ourselves, body and spirit.

There are other touchstones I've come to share with you. A Christmas celebration to include candlelight Christmas, Brown Bag Nativity, and the Men's Club Christmas dinner. And of course there is our Youth dinner and show, which took us around the world this year, and yet gave us a sense of home. I hope you have, or that you will find, touchstones in your own life and in our life together.

For the Church, of course, is built upon a rock which cannot be moved. If you need some place solid to put your feet, and find your spiritual way forward, this fellowship is just such a touchstone, because in our midst, when we gather for worship or fellowship, service or mission, there is Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, today, tomorrow and forevermore.

Blessings in this new year! — Pastor Lisa

Welcome Aboard!

Laurel Jones, who has so wonderfully provided music as a substitute musician since October, has accepted the permanent position of Music Director and Organist. Welcome, Laurel, to our St. Luke's family!

"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE . . ."

Psalm 100:1-2 proclaims, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing."

As the new Music Director for St. Luke's I am excited about a job where I get to serve in making a "joyful noise" in the worship of God. The past few years I have enjoyed the occasional job of filling in at various churches for other organists, but I never had the joy of choosing the hymns or the choir pieces. This year I am excited about the music the Chancel Choir will perform. I am delving into the The Faith We Sing hymnal to find new pieces and choose old favorites, along with discovering music in the Worship & Song hymnal, which I only just recently learned existed! So far this year we have two voices for each voice part, but there is always room for anyone who wants to come join us on Wednesday night's at 7:15 pm for choir rehearsal, and Sunday mornings to help raise our voices in the collective worship of God.

Laurel Jones, Music Director

Dancing Little Stars



With the new year, St. Luke's welcomed back the Dancing Little Stars, a program that teaches ballet and tap to preschool age children. Molly, the instructor leads her class around the fellowship hall practicing their ballet moves as they go.

Dancing Little Stars classes began January 10th, and continue through May. Time: Tuesday evenings, 4:45-5:45 - for kids 3-kindergarten.

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-Methodis-Church-486188658201339/>

"SUPER BOWL SUNDAY," FEBRUARY 12TH

Come tailgate in the fellowship hall Sunday, February 12th with the St. Luke's UMC team after worship!

A variety of soups will be provided for lunch. Come for a bowl of soup and stay for the fellowship.

Kick off your Super Bowl Sunday with a "Souper Bowl" lunch at St. Luke's. Please let the church office know if you can bring a crockpot of soup or chili.

YOUNG AT HEART

During the month of January our seniors' fellowship, Young at Heart, gathered for a baked potato luncheon and competitive rounds of bingo.

Young at Heart meets the second Wednesday of each month and everyone is welcome.

PANCAKE SUPPER

The United Methodist Men will serve a pancake supper on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. The meal will consist of pancakes, sausage patties, fried apples, and beverage, and will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

STAFF LUNCHEON

In January with the start of 2023, St. Luke's office staff and volunteers celebrated the year past and its accomplishments. Gathering at Lola's Farmhouse Bistro for lunch at the invitation of Pastor Lisa were Shirley, Margaret, Scottie, Laurel, Michele, Ray Kyle, Barbara and Brian.

Absent but appreciated, were Richard, Karen, Jane, Becky and Vickie.

A 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?

If you will celebrate a 50th Wedding Anniversary during 2023, please let the church office know so you may be included in the celebration on February 12, 2023. Deadline for notifying office is February 5th.

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

From the Finance Committee Thank You!

Your generous giving to the glory of God has seen St. Luke's through a challenging year of rising costs and unexpected expenditures. At the beginning of 2022 the church was faced with a heat pump compressor failure and a major roof leak had to be repaired. In the summer another heat pump failed and several dead trees required removal. The budget was strained mightily.

BUT through your tithes and offerings, contributions from the Preschool and generous year-end giving, we have successfully weathered our financial storms.

In addition, the Finance Committee is pleased to report that despite the year's financial challenges, St. Luke's paid a total of \$16,848 toward its apportionments to the Conference and District to support our global church. These funds were allocated as follows: \$15,072 - Active Clergy Health (100% of assessment), \$96 -Africa University (100%) and \$1,680.00 - District Administration (100%).

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

An Invitation From Congregational Care

Who doesn't like to be REMEMBERED, especially when we are ill or saddened in some way? Pastor Lisa says that St. Luke's is a church that really cares about each other and is ready to assist whenever needed!

As we begin the New Year of 2023, please plan to come together to help support our congregation's needs. We will meet at 11:30 am on February 5th in the parlor. Pastor Lisa will remind us of various ways we can help. Even though we know she is the "Energizer Bunny," she cannot check on every member without assistance. Volunteering to send cards, or being a Shepherd to a homebound member, are ways to minister to our friends here at St. Luke's.

Our sincere thanks to those who have faithfully completed these tasks in the past, but realize they cannot continue this year.

Please, prayerfully consider how you would like to be a part of this Ministry! Come for refreshments and fellowship on February 5th!

The Congregational Care Team (Matthew 22:39!!)

P.S. It's never too late to volunteer, give us a call, please!



"Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

Our sympathy, love and prayers are extended to Debbie Smart and family. Debbie's brother, Glenn Waugh, claimed the promise of the resurrection on Monday, December 5, 2022.

Alan Hufmann, a former member of St. Luke's, claimed the promise of the resurrection December 8, 2022.

Our sympathy, love and prayers are extended to Rosemarie Adkins at the passing of her sister Anni, in Germany, on January 18, 2023.

Our sympathy, love and prayers are extended to Barbara and Leann Nunnally. Barbara's brother and Leann's uncle, Curtis Perry, claimed the promise of the resurrection on January 19, 2023.

Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation

Ronnie & Dixie Bowman	Peggy Uglow
Ruth Wickstrom	Margaret Anderson
Florence & Marion	Bob & Jan Hall
Wilmer & Phyllis Downs	Clinton Gary
Rose Marie Adkins	Joan Varner
Ronnie & Shirley Weade	Sennie Case
John & Joan Crawford	Steve Taylor
Gayle McGonigle	The Beeckler Family
Deannie Reynolds	Vernon King
Bettie Jones	Annie Davis
Opal Holshouser	Katherine Peterson
Terry & Louise Kyle & Family	

At this time, Ronnie Bowman cannot have the stem cell transplant.

Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell

THANK YOU!

Our thanks to Andrew Russell for purchasing the American Flag and the Methodist Flag for our flag-poles and to Cody Russell for installing the flags.

Adult Sunday School Class

Dear St. Luke's members and friends,

We have revived our class which meets each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. The attendance has been great and the discussion has been inspiring and reflective. Beginning in November, we started exploring the book of Genesis. It is amazing how much introduction to the entire Bible is introduced in Genesis. Our lessons consist of a chapter of scripture along with a narrative from our text. The class seems to be engaged and adding great value to our open discussions.

During December, we paused the study of Genesis, devoting the month to the renewal of the value of Advent. It was an exercise in redirecting our thoughts about the birth of Jesus, and the impact it has on our lives today. We also reflected on previous studies of Advent and discovered how much we have grown in our understanding of this most valuable season.

In January we returned to the book of Genesis and have discovered how Noah, Abraham, Sarah and others have influenced our lives and given us insight for the future.

Please join our teachers; Seth Sykes, Charlotte deKrafft and Roger Ball as they solicit discussion and revelations in the books of the Bible. Your input is welcome.



Brown Bag Nativity

Our annual Brown Bag Nativity was held the second Sunday in December. Every child chose a brown bag as they came in, and inside the bag was a prop.

Those who were angels found a halo, the Wise Men found a crown, etc. Laurel Jones' son and daughter, Willard and Isabella, played the parts of Mary and Joseph.



Preschool Christmas Program



January 10, 2023

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
4101 Fordham Road
North Chesterfield, VA 23236

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank you for your generous donation of the turkeys for the Feeding Ministry at Belmont Community Resource Services. They were great looking birds! We were able to distribute these on our distribution day in December.

Know that you have been a great blessing to people in need. The turkeys provide a special joy to families during the Christmas season as there are many people in the community who have no means to have Christmas meal. You are truly living out the scripture found in Matthew 25 which says, "...For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat." St. Luke's United Methodist Church has made such a difference in the lives of so many over the years.

In Christ,

Rev. Larry Cochran
President
Board of Directors
Belmont Community Resource Services

3510 Broad Rock Blvd., Richmond, VA 23234
belmontcommunityres.services@gmail.com

February 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
Tee Leigh
- February 19 Andrea Brown
Betty Hubble
Justin Burnett
- February 20 Maria Proffitt
Wayne Johnson
- February 22 Scottie Kyle
- February 24 Mary Nell Kloss
- February 25 Thelma Edwards
Rachel Jenkins Cook
Sofia Lorenzo
Bruce Anderson
Stewart Ball
- February 26 George Moore
- February 27 David Urbanski
- February 28 Pam Coleman

Thank you note from Belmont Community Resources for the Thanksgiving Turkeys we sent.

Thank you note from Peggy

Dear St. Luke's Family,
I want to thank everyone for all the cards and gifts you sent for my birthday. I love everybody and especially miss coming to church to see you all in person. Have a beautiful holiday season!

With Love,
Peggy Uglow

Missionary Jennifer Moore's Visit

On Christ the King Sunday, just before Advent, we were blessed to host Jennifer Moore, a Board of Global Ministries missionary to North Macedonia in the

Balkans. Jennifer was home on American soil for three months to speak to churches about her work among the children who lived there.

Becky prepared a fantastic and well attended Thanksgiving reception after church, and Jennifer also met with the Woman of Faith and other guests for lunch on Monday.



Our Advent sermon series, CONVERSATION WITH ANGELS, included the following - Bill Brown, Chris deKrafft, Mabel Rose Cassada and our youngest angel, Jean-Kathryn Cassada, who played the role of the angel who could not keep quiet.

Dec. 2022
Dear Rev. Lisa Sykes and the
St. Luke's UMC Family:
Thank you all for receiving me with such a warm welcome this itineration and allowing me to share what God has been doing in my life and in North Macedonia. I had a wonderful time visiting with you all and especially enjoyed the reception after the service with all those delicious treats! Thank you also to the UWF group for organizing such a lovely lunch for me on that Monday - that was a real blessing. Thank you for your prayers and your support for both me and the work in N. Macedonia. May God bless you as you continue to shine His light in North Chesterfield, Greater Richmond and to the ends of the earth!

In Him,

Jennifer Moore



Wesley really loved his Birthday card from the congregation.



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.stlukesrva.org

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