

“Some of us have been given special ability as apostles; to others he has given the gift of being able to preach well; some have special ability in winning people to Christ, helping them to trust him as their Savior; still others have a gift for caring for God’s people as a shepherd does his sheep, leading and teaching them in the ways of God. Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God’s people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ . . .”

Ephesians 4:11-15 - The Living Bible

“Bound for Glory”!

Chugga, chugga, chugga, chugga, chugga, chugga—woo, woo! Do you hear that, my friends? You say it’s the sound of a train coming down the tracks? Well yes, but not just any train! This train is the Rocky Railroad Adventure Line, and take my word for it, this train is bound for glory!

Each January, our Vacation Bible School wizard, Becky Jenkins, and I sit down and pick out the curriculum for Bible School that summer. The railroad-themed Bible School we are doing this year, July 9th through 13th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, we picked out in January of 2020!

There’s a parable here my friends. Trains start slowly, they build up momentum, they build up speed. Before you know it, they are hurtling down the track. But what happens when you have to bring your train, or your church, to an almost complete stop? That’s what happened in March of 2020, and that is why our Bible School curriculum has been three years in the making!

Finally, and at last, the train is pulling out of the station once again. There are lots of moving parts to get going again. There’s a fire to stoke. There is power we need, to push this train (and church) forward, and there’s that thing I look forward most of all to regaining: MOMENTUM!

Amazing to think, we are getting back on track! The gears are starting to move, and the fire is starting to burn. John Wesley would say that

a Christian fire burns within each one of us. Put us together, and we will get moving! Just like the Methodist movement Wesley began back in the 1700s. Put us together, and we will build up momentum, fueling ministries both within and without the church walls. Get on board, because there is a place and a need for everyone, and as I said before, this train is bound for glory!

Not just in our children’s ministries, but in all our ministries, we are restarting our forward motion, and working to build up momentum. Thanks to each of you who is helping--with children’s ministries--with our age-level ministries, with our missions and evangelism, with our administrative teams, and most of all, with the worship and vision we share.

Where we were headed in 2020 may not be the same as where we’re headed in 2023. The Lord knows. The Lord knows the direction we’re to take and has put work before us to do. So it’s time to feel the breeze (or should I say Spirit?) as we get underway and proceed to new places.

You all know how I like to travel. Well, I don’t just enjoy the trip; I enjoy my fellow travelers! You are wonderful traveling companions, not to mention good engineers and navigators, on this journey we take together. So, make sure your fire is burning, and you have a ticket for the Promised Land!

And remember, the ride is almost as wonderful as the destination!

Blessings, & All Aboard!

Pastor Lisa

Calling All Singers

CALLING ALL SINGERS! September 10th is quickly approaching and I am hoping to have more singers to join with the Chancel Choir to create a Reunion Choir that will help celebrate St. Luke's 60th anniversary! If you have ever sung with the choir or are new to singing with the choir, we would love to have you join with us for three Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7:15 p.m. August 23rd, 30th and September 6th. We will rehearse the two pieces we will be performing on those dates. If you plan to sing, please let me know by early July. Please come and help us celebrate this momentous anniversary through our music!

Laurel Jones, Music Director

United Women in Faith to Host Zoom Meeting (Date Change)

In July the United Women in Faith will host a Special Zoom Meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to connect some of our St. Luke's Homebound members and friends with others for a time of fellowship. Women, you are invited to join us on Zoom. Here is your invitation:

Hi . . . It's Tea Time
Pour: Yourself a cup or glass of tea
When: Wednesday, July 19, 2023
Time: 4:00-5:00 p.m. High Tea Time
Where: On Zoom
Share: Some time with those who we rarely see and miss

60th Anniversary Celebration! Save the Date September 10th

Calling all members, former members, family, friends, and neighbors to join us in celebrating 60 years of worship and mission. We are fortunate and blessed to welcome our special guest preacher, The Reverend Dr. Hyo Lee, District Superintendent of the Three Notch'D District.

All are invited to stay for a covered-dish lunch and fellowship following the service. A petting zoo will be available for youngsters of all ages.

Don't miss this special day. YOU are a piece of St. Luke's UMC history!

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/>



A BEAUTIFUL BABY BOY!

Cindy Burnett's son Justin and wife Lauren welcomed a beautiful baby boy on May 12th, 2023 at 2:19a.m. Named Calum Lee Burnett, he weighed 7 lbs., 11.8 oz., and is 19 inches long. Everyone is doing well.

(The article above was in last month's newsletter, but with an incorrect birth date. Please note that Calum Lee entered this world on May 12th, not June 12th. (Sincere apologies to Calum Lee and family! Karen Courtney)



Calum Lee Burnett

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dixie and Ronnie became grandparents on June 2nd! Emilia Blair Bowman, weighing 6 lb., 6 oz., is 19.5 inches long. The happy parents are Nick and Kate Bowman, and all are doing well.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Keith Miller who repaired the phone tree and the paper cutter in the office. Also, thank you to Woody Smart for taking care of our routine maintenance. What a gift these gentlemen give to St. Luke's!!

BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Save the Date!

All Aboard! St. Luke's Vacation Bible School is full steam ahead for summer 2023! We will host a Rocky Railway-themed week starting **Sunday, July 9th, running through Thursday, July 13th, 6:00pm-8:00pm.**

Please reach out to Colleen Cassada, cbbcassada@gmail.com

Registration Forms must be filled out and are available in the church office.

if you would like to volunteer in any way. We'd love to have you on our journey! Registration information will be available soon. Spots will fill quickly, so be sure to reserve your seat on the Rocky Railway Express! More information to come, but remember to mark your calendars to join the adventure on the Rocky Railway!



"Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Betsye and John Russell and their extended family at the unexpected death of her nephew, Warren Blake.

We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Ray and Scottie Kyle and extended family at the loss of Ray's brother, Terry. Terry claimed the promise of the resurrection on June 21, 2023. Please keep his wife Louise in your prayers.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Deana Hines. Deana, a former preschool teacher, claimed the promise of the resurrection June 20th, 2023. Prayers for her husband, Gary, and daughter, Morgan.

We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Woody Smart and family. Woody's cousin, Richard Shockley, claimed the promise of the resurrection on June 24, 2023.

We extend our sympathy, love and prayers to Dixie Bowman whose friend, Sharon Inge, claimed the promise of the resurrection in June.

July Birthdays

- July 2 Rick Beeckler
- July 4 Reinah Morris
- July 6 Woody Smart
- July 8 Jim Grubbs
Autumn Papczynski
- July 10 Kay Callis
Brian Smart
- July 11 Rachel Kaeser
- July 12 Mandy Wellman
Jeremy Reed
- July 13 Matthew Wertz
- July 14 Jordan Calfee
Sara Wertz
- July 16 Kevin Johnson
- July 18 John Richardson
Amanda Nolen
- July 20 Jim Brown
- July 24 Shane Halloran
Amelia Marie Russell
Annabelle Louise Russell
- July 26 Margaret Anderson
- July 28 Karen Miller
- July 29 Robbie Bowen
- July 30 Joel Calfee
Leann Nunnally

Anniversaries

- July 7 Kent & Rhea Calfee
Bruce & Robin Anderson
Elton & Kathy Gardner
- July 18 Ronnie & Shirley Weade
- July 20 Jason & Michele Hart



On Father's Day, the dads in the congregation were treated to special musical praise, performed to God's Glory and played in honor of Father's Day, by a young musician /violinist.

Silent Auction Time Is Coming, Along With Brunswick Stew!!

St. Luke's United Methodist Church has served this community in the Richmond area for over 60 years. We are a small congregation with a big heart and are thrilled to finally be able to resume our Annual Silent Auction Fundraiser, post pandemic. It will be held on Saturday October 21, 2023, with a preview in the Church Fellowship hall on Friday October 20, 2023. Specific times will be announced closer to the event. This fundraiser is being held in tandem with our United Methodist Men's Club Annual Brunswick Stew sale.

The auction will help us to continue our missions in the community each year. We are reaching out to see if your business would consider a donation of an item, a gift card, or a service that we can include in our auction.

Before the pandemic, St. Luke's had been recognized for supplying more than 3,500 meals to Safe Haven (a shelter program for the homeless) and crocheting over 50 sleeping mats constructed from plastic shopping bags for homeless veterans. We have sheltered and fed women and children in the CARITAS program, adopted a local elementary school to provide school supplies and tutoring and we have newly begun supporting programs like the Dancing Little Stars and Soccer Shots.

St. Luke's is proud to be home to an early education preschool program that was voted as one of the top three schools in the Richmond area by Style Weekly magazine four years in a row. We also continue to support the Belmont Food pantry. Recently, we have seen their needs triple as they work to support the more than 500 families with nutritious meals each month. We try to keep ourselves busy in the community to continue serving those in need.

As the auction date nears, we will happily advertise your business as a partner with St. Luke's in these efforts to help our community in our promotional materials, our social media connections and of course, on the day of the event. Given the popularity of the Brunswick Stew event, we hope to have an excellent turnout.

As you consider the support of St. Luke's and this event, we would like to thank you. These efforts can make a dramatic difference in our community and we deeply appreciate it. Please remember that your donation would be tax deductible. We will happily provide you with a receipt upon request.

Please feel free to contact either Barbara Nunnally or Leann Adair, details below. We would be glad to answer any questions, help to set up your donation and of course, pick donations up at your convenience. As a reminder, we would appreciate any expiration dates on applicable items to be extended into 2024 since our auction will be held in the last quarter of 2023.

Barbara Nunnally

804-852-4136

BPN11900@gmail.com

<https://stlukesrva.org>

Leann Adair

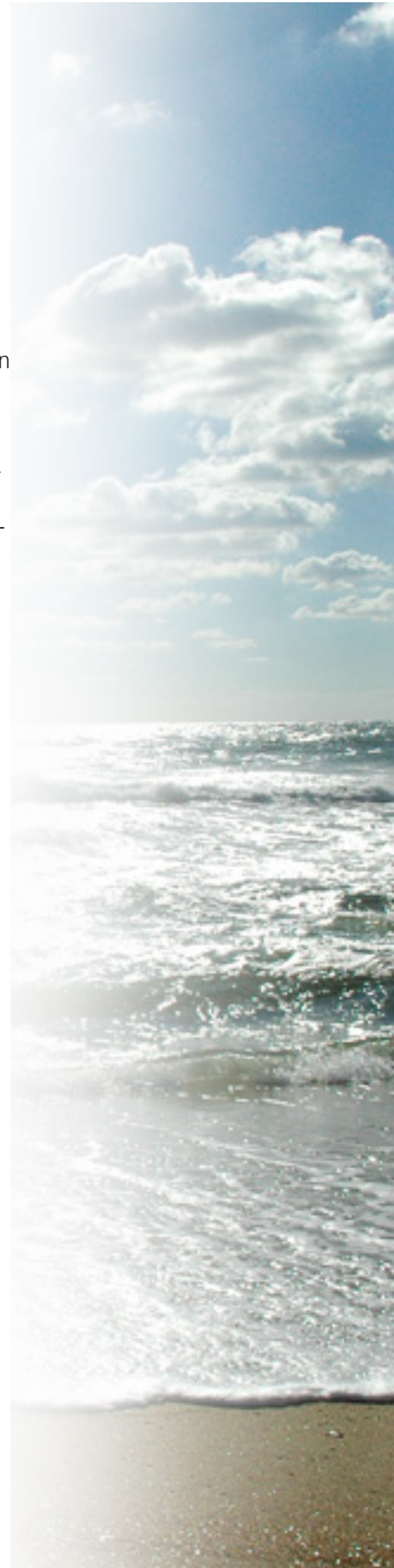
804-677-8810

Leann.Adair@gmail.com

Silent Auction Donation Request

Copies of the Silent Auction donation letter above will be available in the church office. Please pick up a copy and consider sharing it with those businesses you frequent.

The Silent Auction will take place on October 21st. Your help in obtaining Silent Auction items is sincerely appreciated.



*This Father's Day, the Special Candle
upon the Altar was dedicated by...*

Keith & Kay Callis in memory of Samuel Wilkins Callis

Keith & Kay Callis in memory of James Monroe Barker, Jr.

Karen Courtney in honor of Seth Sykes

Troy & Todd Gary in honor of Clinton Gary

Sara Owens & Scottie Kyle in honor of A. Ray Kyle

Ibbie Smith & family in memory of Dean Smith

Rhea Strum & Bobbie Strum in memory of Woodrow Strum

Rhea Strum & Bobbie Strum in memory of Ray Mahan

Rhea Strum & Bobbie Strum in memory of Clarke Hale

Rhea Strum in honor of Bobbie Strum

Adam, Wesley & Joshua Sykes in honor of Seth Sykes

Ruth Wickstrom in honor of Kevin Wickstrom

Ruth Wickstrom in honor of Dan Jepson

Ruth Wickstrom in memory of Paul Jepson

Ruth Wickstrom in memory of Charles Wickstrom

Ruth Wickstrom in memory of Roger Wickstrom



God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it...
Dad

—Anonymous

Can You Help?

St. Luke's and its members have a well-earned reputation for generosity and caring. Our mission activities over the years have ranged from hosting Caritas to tutoring children at nearby Jacobs Road elementary. Every time a special need arises, be it locally to replace a worn out HVAC part, or nationally, to aid victims of natural disasters, or world-wide to help refugees or our missionaries, St. Luke's people step up to do their share, to do what's needed.

Now, our need is financial, and it is just routine, ordinary, everyday expenses. It is the costs of having our physical church and our staff. As with virtually every other congregation, Covid has hit us hard. Active membership is down, which means attendance is lower and contributions are lower still. But most of our costs are fixed. Staff must be paid. Maintenance has to be done and paid for. Utilities and office costs have to be paid for. We have reduced those costs as much as we can. There is no fat left to be trimmed. There is, in fact, little meat still on the bones, certainly less than we need.

Twice now, so far this year the church staff have had their too small monthly paychecks delayed a week because we simply do not have enough cash to pay them.

So far in 2023, our MINIMUM monthly expenses, with no special costs such as a broken HVAC system or a dead tree that needs removal, are \$19,255, while our monthly average collections, plus net parsonage rental receipts, are \$15,391.

Even though they are paid well below what they could earn if they looked for jobs in the private or public sector, payroll costs of almost \$11,000 are by far the largest component of our monthly expenses. Utilities, which vary from month to month, average almost \$1,900. Administrative costs (office supplies, postage, copier rental and so forth) are \$1,700 per month, and maintenance costs, which vary considerably from month to month, have averaged \$3,600 so far this year.

We do have other sources of income, but they are relatively small and variable. Net parsonage rental, which has averaged \$1,300 so far this year is already included in the \$15,000+ figure shown above. Maintenance expenditures for the parsonage, which are not a part of the church budget, commissions and vacancy time reduce actual income from that source. That, too, will disappear entirely when St. Luke's has a new pastor assigned who needs a parsonage for his or her family.

We also receive money each year from the preschool based on enrollment, so that varies from year to year. The preschool also pays a portion of church costs, including some maintenance items, a portion of custodial services, and a portion of grounds care. The share paid by the preschool is NOT included in the amounts shown above.

I know that most of you are already giving all that you can, but the fact is we need more contributions every month just to keep our church operating. That doesn't include the special offerings which, as the term implies, are almost always used to meet special needs. So, if you find a way to donate a few more dollars every week or every month it would be greatly useful to our church.

If you go to St. Luke's web page, <https://www.stlukesva.org/>, you will see a link we call THE button, labeled in red: "Give." Following that link will allow you to select an amount, frequency, and date for your contribution as well as a payment method. You can make a one-time contribution or set up a series of regular payments. Scheduling regular payments will allow office staff, in turn, to better schedule payments of bills.

Your generosity has been called on many times, and together we have shown that we can do what is necessary when faced with a challenge. Thank you in advance for helping our church to continue its mission.

Yours in Christ, Bill Brown, Finance Committee Chair

August Birthdays

August 1	Brian Kaeser Zach Morris
August 2	Nancy Ladd Jack Harrison Moyer
August 3	Pastor Lisa Sykes
August 6	Chris deKrafft
August 9	Tammy Morris
August 14	John Russell
August 15	Zeb Saunders
August 18	Cindy Burnett
August 21	Rhea Strum Riley Beeckler
August 22	Campbell Eden Moore
August 23	Cameron Callis
August 26	Wilmer Downs
August 28	Bobby Reynolds
August 29	Carlton Hudson
August 30	Jo McDowell Bob Armstrong

Anniversaries

August 5	Ken & Pat Knust Clay & Rebecca Morris
August 14	John & Betsye Russell
August 16	George & Melissa Moore Bill & Pam Coleman
August 31	Carlton & Rose Hudson

Dates for Nominating Committee Meetings (IN PERSON)

July 16 – 12:00 Noon
(after VBS reception)
July 30 – 11:30 am
August 6 – 11:30 am
August 20 – 11:30 am
August 27- 11:30 am
(if needed)

THANK YOU!

SAVE THE DATE!!!!
September 10, 2023
60th
Anniversary



**CHESTERFIELD
FOOD BANK
OUTREACH CENTER**

12211 Iron Bridge Road, Chester, VA 23831

Phone: (804) 414-8885

www.cfboc.org

May 23, 2023
Donation Receipt

St. Lukes's United Methodist Church
4101 Fordham Rd.
Richmond, Va. 23236-1135

Dear Congregation,

It is because of your graciousness that many families and senior adults in Chesterfield County will not go without food. You have no idea how much it means to know that our community is supporting Chesterfield Food Bank Outreach Center so that we can do what we do. Letting people know that they are not alone and there is HOPE is so important! Thank you for being such a good neighbor and for graciously donating \$50.00 in May to help us feed the hungry.

Please keep spreading the word that we need continuous support with food donations, please feel free to pass on to organizations/friends/family that we still are looking for anyone to hold a food drive.

Our next program is the KSFP, if you like to hear more about the Kids Summer program, please connect to here for more information www.cfboc.org/ksfp

Our aim is to keep you in contact with us via email, so could you please send us your email address, please email us below. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us either by email cfboc.donorservices@gmail.com or phone, 804 414-8885.

Your sincerely,
Chesterfield Food Bank Outreach Center Family



Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson speaks to Annual Conference attendees in Roanoke

Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace, unity and justice across the nation

Louise, Ray & Scottie Kyle	Andrea Brown
Wilmer & Phyllis Downs	Sennie Case
Mary Meador	Richard Jenkins
Ronnie & Dixie Bowman	Margaret Anderson
The Beeckler Family	Florence & Marion
Carolyn Beeckler's mom	Hugh Harris
Annie Davis	Vernon King
Gayle McGonigle	Woody Smart
Deannie Reynolds	Ronnie & Shirley Weade
Thelma Edwards	Craig Rust
Opal Holshouser	John & Joan Crawford
Peggy Uglow	Katherine Peterson

Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell

Prayers for those who are expecting:

Chris & Haley deKrafft

Larry & Cassy Russell



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

Pastor
The Rev. Lisa Sykes
stlukespastor@stlukesrva.org

Shirley Gary
 Office Manager
stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org

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 Financial Secretary
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 Superintendent of
 Sunday Schools