



Another Decade

Another Piece of Our Puzzle

## COME CELEBRATE

*The honor of your presence is requested as  
St. Luke's United Methodist Church,  
4101 Fordham Rd., North Chesterfield, Virginia 23236,  
celebrates*

*its 60th Anniversary  
on September 10th 2023, at 10:30 am.*

**Please join us September 10th, that our puzzle may be complete!**

After worship, we will enjoy a potluck meal, wonderful fellowship,  
and a petting zoo for the children from noon-1 pm

**RSVP, Please!** [stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org](mailto:stlukesoffice@stlukesrva.org)



*When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.*

*Mark 10:14-16*

## An Unexpected Anniversary Gift: "Lord, how did you know just what we needed?"

60 is momentous! 60 years is a great gift from God! And 60 years is plenty long enough to become very set in our ways. In addition to congratulating St. Luke's on its 60th Anniversary in ministry as a United Methodist congregation, I also want to challenge us!

60 years old is a good time not only to look back, but also to look forward. To give thanks for the faithfulness of years gone by, and to seek a new vision to carry us 60 more years into the future. There are seeds being planted right now, that will help us in that vision and its pursuit.

I feel as though St. Luke's has been given an anniversary present, one that was most unexpected. You all well know how vibrant and well regarded our preschool program is. Sadly, once the children complete Jr. Kindergarten, their ties often shift to other locations since we have not had a continuing ministry for them.

One of our preschool moms came to me, and said, "I'm not ready to be done with St. Luke's yet," even though both her children had graduated from the preschool. And so, she made a request that really is a gift to our church and its ministry. A home-schooling parent, she asked permission to use the church fellowship hall and adjacent areas on two

Friday mornings a month, so that homeschooling families in her neighborhood, and in the preschool, can meet here at St. Luke's as a home-schooling co-op, for enrichment, community and learning with a Christian framework.

I want you all to imagine the fellowship hall full of young families, learning and growing in knowledge and faith. Nothing could be more compatible with the gospel and with our hopes for ministry in this place. Now that summer Vacation Bible School has been a wonderful success, post pandemic, and as we seek to restart Wednesday Night Bible School, I see a vision for St. Luke's as a church in ministry to God's children of all ages, with a new ministry, or should I say renewed ministry, to young families with young children. All of this grows out of seeds planted generations ago by other mothers who wanted a morning out program, one that developed into the best preschool in Richmond.

We seek to be a ministry as a congregation of Jesus Christ to the family of God, where we are all children of God, and pass the gospel in new ways to the new generations that follow. May the next 60 years be full of promise here, to the children of God who are grown and even crowned with grey, as well as to the children who are little and have yet to learn all the lessons that we have been taught by and about our Savior.

May we learn them anew, right along with those who are new to us.

Thanks be to God!  
And Happy Anniversary!  
Pastor Lisa



# Message from Laurel Jones

*Psalm 149:1 and 3 says, "Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of saints . . . Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp."*

September 10th is almost upon us, and with it the joyful celebration of St. Luke's 60th anniversary. The choir will make a joyful noise, and a dancer will celebrate through movement and music. The choir is singing a "new song" as we have learned a lovely new piece for this special meeting, "The Canticle of Turning", which begins: "My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great."

I am excited to welcome special additional singers to the chancel choir who wanted to join with us for this special occasion, and I am excited to be able to be a part of this special anniversary. Happy 60th, St. Luke's!

## Mark Your Calendar

On September 26 at 7 pm, there will be a special presentation by Donnie Huff, a law enforcement professional, on building security in the midst of a threat situation. All members of the Trustees, Administrative Council, and the church preschool staff are asked to attend. Donnie was good enough to attend an FBI training in our behalf and bring back important information which he will present to us.

This meeting is open to the public, and will be held in person in the sanctuary.

*Please mark your calendars for this safety education event.*

## "Sorrow and Love flow mingled down"

Our sympathy, love and prayers are extended to Cyndi Smith and family at the passing of Cyndi's nephew, Zachery Griffin. Zachery died in a car crash in July. Cyndi is Ibbie Smith's daughter-in-law.



A 1963 view of the Sanctuary decorated for Christmas. In 1974 during Ray Jenkins ministry here the Sanctuary was remodeled and carpet and cushioned pews were installed and eight stained glass windows were given as a memorial gift.

## 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/>



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WILL MEET:

September 6, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Program: Falling leaves & helping hands  
In preparation for 60th Anniversary Celebration

## MISSIONS

Mark your calendar – October 21, 2023, for the Silent Auction, Bake Sale, the Brunswick Stew and Trunk or Treat! If you need a letter to contact a business that you frequent to ask for a donation, the letter is available in the church office.

Also, there is a sign-up sheet for the Bake Sale on the bulletin board going into the sanctuary or you may call the church office (Monday-Thursday, 9-1 pm) to sign up for an item for the Bake Sale.

## MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

**Clean-up Day around the Church is on Saturday, October 7th, (9 AM - Noon).** Bring your leaf rakes, gas-powered weed eaters, gas-powered leaf blowers and outdoor trash bags. If everyone can give just one hour, we can clean the front of the church and make it look really nice for our Silent Auction and Brunswick Stew Sale. Buildings and grounds chairman: Woody Smart.

## ONLINE GIVING

Some of our members are beginning to use online giving as a method of making contributions to the church. If you have questions or need assistance with setting up your account, please come by the church or call me (804-334-0821) and I will help you with it. It's very easy to set up and once done, very easy to use. You may do individual contributions or set it to do automatic contributions periodically (weekly, monthly, etc.) Of course, we still gratefully welcome checks, cash, or automatic bank payments. Scottie Kyle

## BE INFORMED

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

<http://www.vaumc.org>



## Preschool

Celebrating our teachers' milestone Years of Service! Diane Florenz and Mandy Wellman for 5 years, Carolyn Beeckler for 20 years, and Jo Ann Pelonero for 25 years! We are grateful for their dedication to educating young children!

## Finance Committee Progress Report

Good news. Thanks to your generosity, contributions in August are on track to increase about 20% over the June-July average. Keep up the good work!

This takes us a long way towards meeting our regular obligations. An additional \$650 per week will allow us to break even, breathe a sigh of relief, and refocus our efforts on St. Luke's mission of living God's Word as we reach out and serve our surrounding community.

Please give as you are able to help us serve our neighbors. For a reminder of all St. Luke's has done and is doing, see the July/August 2023 newsletter at <https://www.stlukesva.org/about/newsletter/N2023-07-08.pdf>.

If you haven't already, please visit St. Luke's website, <https://www.stlukesva.org>, click on the red GIVE button and sign up for online giving.

This allows you stay up to date on your giving and allows the church to more effectively meet our monthly operating expenses.

Yours in Christ,

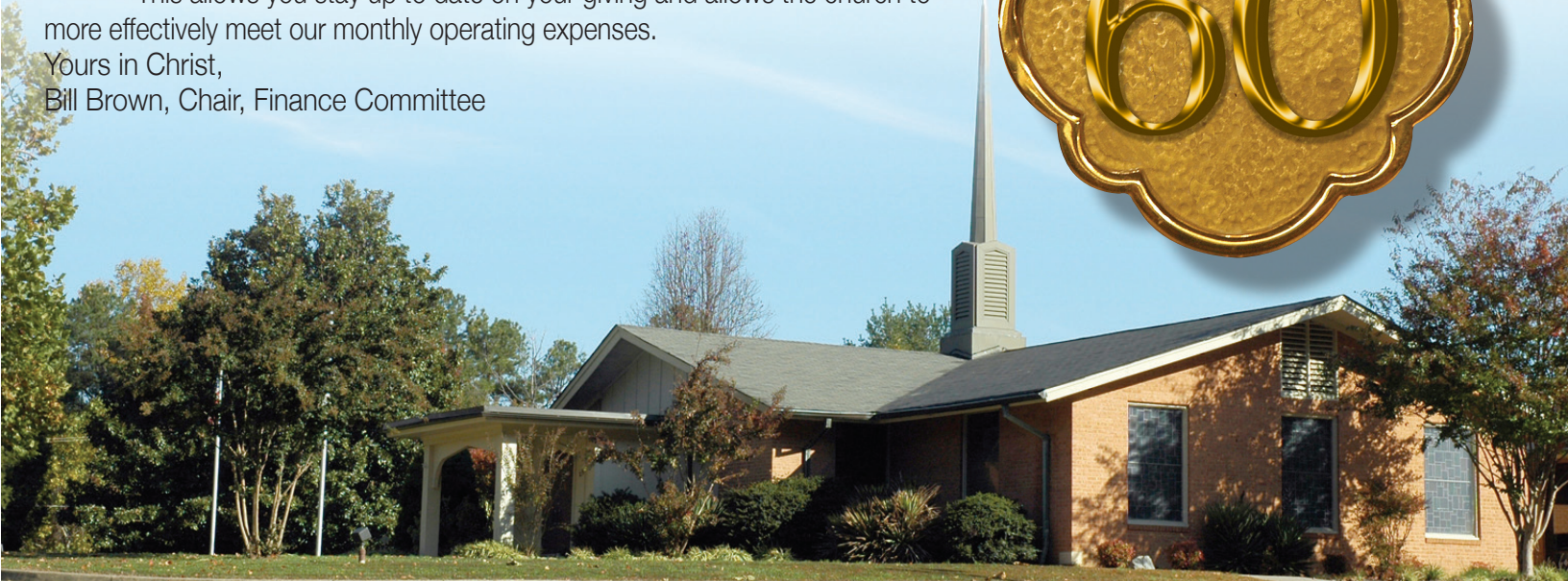
Bill Brown, Chair, Finance Committee

## September Birthdays

September 4	Adam Bowman
September 6	Shirley Weade
September 7	Mary Wise
September 8	Jared Calfee
September 9	Brady Hart
September 12	Troy Gary
September 13	Linda Engel
September 14	Reg Whitton
September 15	Sydney Kaeser
September 16	James Papczynski
September 20	Dianne Johnson Douglas Lucas
September 21	Amanda Jones
September 24	Todd Gary
September 26	Sue Fussell Jesse Bowman
September 29	Heather Burnett Latham Tad McGonigle

## Anniversaries

September 1	Ronnie & Dixie Bowman
September 2	Chris & Kathy Bowen
September 5	Steve & Terri Edwards
September 13	John & Joan Crawford
September 19	Chris & Haley deKrafft
September 26	Clinton & Shirley Gary
September 29	Mary & Pete Meador



# Update on Maui Wildfires

Please continue to pray and stay updated on the wind-driven wildfires on Maui that have prompted evacuations and caused significant loss of life and widespread damage.

As of an August 14 update, UMCOR is coordinating with the California-Pacific Annual Conference to process an initial grant for emergency supplies such as shelf-stable food, water, hygiene items and tools to help survivors recover belongings as first responders continue to provide initial aid in the area.

Gifts can be made in the following ways:

- Online at <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/901670>
- By toll-free telephone call: 1-888-252-6174
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and mailed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068
- By check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #901670-Hawaii” written on the memo line and given to any United Methodist church.

As far as VIM (Volunteers in Mission) teams to Maui, it is still too early in the process for teams to be sent out. VAUMC’s Disaster Response Coordinator Rev. Bob Pihlcrantz shared that recovery efforts are still underway to recover the deceased. When this changes, the VAUMC will be notified conference-wide. Learn more from UMCOR...

# Vacation Bible School



Our vacation bible school was held July 16-20, 2023. It was a great week on the Rocky Railroad, and we would like to thank the entire crew for their help in making this a great time for the children.

## Three cheers for our Rocky Railroad Crew!!

Lisa Sykes, Becky Jenkins, Kay Callis, Heather, Cameron & Sadie Jones, Katie Janney, Debbie Smart, Chris, Haley & Charlotte deKrafft, Ruth Wickstrom, Andrew Russell, Will & Emily Ramirez, Colleen, Paul, Jean-Kathryn & Mable Rose Cassada, Katie Lucas, Leann Nunnally, Rhea Strum, Ibbie Smith, Suzanne Jones, Kelly Rice, Suzanne Beeckler Steinhorst, Bobbie Strum, Brian Kaeser, Ray Jenkins and Michele Hart.



# 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 Fund-raiser, post pandemic. **It will be held on Saturday October 21, 2023, with a preview in the Church Fellowship hall on Friday October 20, 2023.** This fundraiser is being held in tandem with our United Methodist Men's Club Annual Brunswick Stew sale.

Please feel free to contact either Barbara Nunnally or Leann Adair, details below. We would be glad to answer any questions.

**Barbara Nunnally**

804-852-4136

[BPN11900@gmail.com](mailto:BPN11900@gmail.com)


<https://stlukesrva.org>

**Leann Adair**

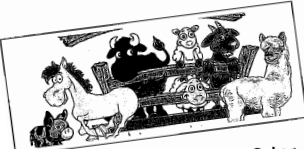
804-677-8810

[Leann.Adair@gmail.com](mailto:Leann.Adair@gmail.com)

**Happy Birthday Saint Luke's You're 60**

When a little Church has a big  
for kids,   
the birthday party includes a petting zoo!

As the year begins, please join us on September 10<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:30 am  
for wonderful celebration of the ministries here at Saint Luke's,  
including our award-winning preschool.  
The children will sing, butterflies will dance,  
the children will exit worship for a lesson, fun and crafts,  
and  
Our Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Hyo Lee, will preach!

 There will be a fellowship meal and a  
petting zoo to follow our very special  
service. You are  
welcome to bring a dish to share!

Bring your camera, too!  
Come help us celebrate the congregation that celebrates  
our wonderful ministry to children!



*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](http://www.stlukesrva.org)

## Upheld in our Prayers

Prayers for peace, unity and justice and healing  
from fire, storm and flood.

Louise, Ray & Scottie Kyle  
Wilmer & Phyllis Downs  
Mary Meador  
Ronnie & Dixie Bowman  
The Beekler Family  
Annie Davis  
Gayle McGonigle  
Deannie Reynolds  
Thelma Edwards  
Opal Holshouser  
Peggy Uglov  
John & Joan Crawford  
Ibbie Smith  
Marvin Saunders

Andrea Brown  
Sennie Case  
Violet Smith  
Richard Jenkins  
Margaret Anderson  
Florence & Marion  
Hugh Harris  
Vernon King  
Woody Smart  
Ronnie & Shirley Weade  
Craig Rust  
Katherine Peterson  
Craig and Rachel Cook  
Dan McSpadden

### Our Military

Robbie Bowen, Aaron Frankey, Larry Russell

### Prayers for those who are expecting:

Chris & Haley deKrafft  
Larry & Cassy Russell



Green farm house "Old Green Building" which was the birthplace of St. Luke's in 1963 stood where the first level of the lower parking lot is today

**Pastor**  
**The Rev. Lisa Sykes**  
[stlukespastor@stlukesrva.org](mailto:stlukespastor@stlukesrva.org)

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**Margaret Anderson**  
**Financial Secretary**  
[stlukesfinsec@stlukesrva.org](mailto:stlukesfinsec@stlukesrva.org)

**Ray Jenkins**  
**Superintendent of  
Sunday Schools**