



St. Luke's Line

WEDNESDAY.COMMUNITY

FALL KICK-OFF

Cookout and Live Music!
Wednesday, August 20 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Come join us to celebrate the start of fall Wednesday.comm with a cookout and live music!

The United Methodist Men will be cooking over the grill, and there will be side dishes, drinks and several homemade desserts for your enjoyment. Meals are \$5 per plate (sharing is allowed, if you wish). Proceeds will go the Alms Fund.

Live music will be provided by Will Solomon and his band. You are in for a special treat as we enjoy the great talent of Will and his fellow musicians.

In addition, there will be a table displaying all of the class options for Wednesdays this fall, and the facilitators will be there to answer any questions you may have.



**CELEBRATE THE START OF
FALL WEDNESDAY.COMM WITH
A COOKOUT AND LIVE MUSIC!**

St. Luke United Methodist Church

Wednesday.comm Schedule
Fall Class Descriptions
Invitation to Revival Weekend

Letter from the Pastor
Staff Picture and Name Game
Missional Community Reflection

Upcoming Events
Thank You Notes
Stewardship Emphasis



WEDNESDAY EVENINGS ARE A
GREAT WAY TO GET CONNECTED
AT ST. LUKE.

WEDNESDAY.COMMUNITY

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES & CLASSES

Wednesday.comm Classes and Activities Start August 27!

Wednesday evenings are a great way to get connected at St. Luke. Each Wednesday evening starts with a time of fellowship over dinner. Following the meal there are classes and activities for children, youth and adults.

Once again this year the meals will be hosted by different groups and classes to raise awareness and support for various ministries in our community. Meals are \$5 per plate (sharing is allowed, if you wish) and will be served from 5:15–6:30 p.m.

Everyone has different schedules, and with that in mind, the evening will start early and end late. The hope is that at least one of these opportunities will fit your schedule as well as your discipleship growth. It is exciting to see the diverse line-up of classes being offered this fall! Check out the listing on pages 3 and 4 to find one that best suits you and your schedule.

5:15–6:30 p.m.	Come and go community meal in the Gym
6:00–7:00 p.m.	Childcare for infants and toddlers
6:00–7:00 p.m.	Activities for preschoolers—Bible learning time each week.
6:00–7:00 p.m.	K-5th Graders: "Take Away," a game-based Bible curriculum focused on a child's capacity to learn (take away) an application from scripture that can be applied in real life. The focus is on scriptural principles that promote healthy spiritual growth and a desire to explore the wonders of God!
6:00–7:30 p.m.	Youth Bible study in the Youth Room
6:00–7:30 p.m.	Adult classes (listings on page 3 and 4)
7:00–8:30 p.m.	Adult choir
7:00–8:30 p.m.	Childcare available for children of parents in choir or class.

**WEDNESDAY.COMM CLASSES
AND ACTIVITIES START
AUGUST 27!**



WEDNESDAY.COMMUNITY

ADULT CLASSES & GROUPS

Missions and Christian Community Development

6:00–7:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Reid Buchanan

Getting ready to participate on a short-term mission trip or work locally? Interested in learning more about the principles of Christian Community Development while serving locally or internationally? This class will equip and empower you to participate or to further explore being part of an international trip. Been on a short term trip? This class is for you, too. Come share and build on those experiences. The sessions are informal and participatory. Lessons covered in the class: Principles of Christian Community Development; Cross-Cultural Relationships; Identifying Assets and Inspiring Hope; Mobilizing the Church for Holistic Ministry; Best Practices in Medical Missions; When Helping Hurts; Storying for Oral Learners; and Worldview and Development.

Discipleship 1: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study

6:00–7:30 p.m.

Facilitated by Pastor Mark, co-facilitator Keith Reinke

Disciple is a transformational small group experience that includes daily Bible study, interactive group discussions, and is ideal both for those who are new to the Bible as well as seasoned students of Scripture. Through Disciple, you will gain an introduction to the entire Bible as well as its major themes from Genesis to Revelation. This is a long term group experience and will run for three semesters.

Embracing Spiritual Awakening by Diana Butler Bass

6:30–7:30 p.m.

Facilitated by Gordon Talk, retired UMC pastor

Almost half of the population of the United States says that they are spiritual and religious, but they want to meet their spiritual needs in new and deeper ways than they find in current religious institutions. Does that sound like someone you know? Does it sound like you? Would you like to understand our changing spiritual world better? *Embracing Spiritual Awakening* invites participants to examine and understand the changing personal and national landscape of our culture and spirituality. Embracing Spiritual Awakening will meet for ten weeks. Each session will feature a DVD presentation by Diana Butler Bass followed by a discussion of what it means to be spiritual, to be religious, and how Christians today might be grace-filled witnesses to the reality they know and feel. Contribution to the discussions by all participants will be essential to the success of this study.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Children of the Day: A Beth Moore Study

6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Facilitated by Becky Jordan

Beth Moore takes us through a study of 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Your circumstances and conditions are not coincidental in your journey. God's timing is impeccable. Join Beth Moore on the Thessalonian shores as you face real crises, real medical diagnoses, real afflictions, real relationships, real doubts, real concerns and real fears. Let's not brush the sand off quickly. Let's sit a while and let the tide come in and wash our eyes with fresh vision. We don't have to always see eye-to-eye to be glad we're side by side. Let's pat the sand beside us and welcome each other along.

Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Facilitated by John Crissman

In 1941 England, when all hope was threatened by the inhumanity of war, C. S. Lewis was invited to give a series of radio lectures addressing the central issues of Christianity. More than half a century later, these talks continue to retain their poignancy. First heard as informal radio broadcasts on the BBC, the lectures were published as three books and subsequently combined as *Mere Christianity*. C. S. Lewis proves that "at the center of each there is something, or a Someone, who against all divergences of belief, all differences of temperament, all memories of mutual persecution, speaks with the same voice," rejecting the boundaries that divide Christianity's many denominations. This twentieth century masterpiece provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith.

The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Jill Robertson and Marti Mullett

This book by Rick Warren, Dr. Daniel Amen, and Dr. Mark Hyman is an innovative approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle where people get better together by optimizing their health in the key areas of faith, food, fitness, focus and friends. Within these five key life areas, attendees are offered a multitude of resources and the foundation to get healthy. Through DVD, readings and discussions, the Daniel Plan teaches simple ways to incorporate healthy choices into your current lifestyle while encouraging you to rely on God's power through biblical principles.

A Faith that Matters-The Wesleyan Way

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Wendell Barnett

Join us for this church-wide study on Wednesday evenings! Before they were called "Christians," the early followers of Jesus were called people of "The Way" (Acts 9:2). Jesus said that He Himself is "The Way" (John 14:6), and the author of Hebrews said of Christ that He is "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). For the early Church, salvation was more about the journey than the destination. 300 years ago John Wesley recaptured this focus on the Way, and today his vision still can resonate and challenge us. In this study written by Bishop Scott J. Jones, we'll envision and practice discipleship as a way of life and be led into a deeper, more thoughtful, more active commitment to Christ: a faith that matters.

A Bead and a Prayer

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Karen Girard

A Bead and a Prayer introduces participants to using prayer beads as a way to connect with God. In this six-week class, participants will explore the history and art of using beads in prayer, make their own prayer beads, discover ways to pray with beads, and learn how beads can help them deepen their faith, understand Christian beliefs, and listen to God.

Knitting and Crocheting

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Karla Lhade

This group meets weekly to knit scarves for various charities. All are welcome from beginner to expert. Stop by anytime for fellowship and some crocheting and knitting tips!

**“COME TO ME,
ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY
AND BURDENED,
AND I WILL
GIVE YOU REST.”**

MATTHEW 11: 28



MULTICULTURAL SERVICE REVIVAL WEEKEND ST. LUKE UMC

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

10 A.M. UNTIL 4 P.M.

ALL ARE INVITED TO COME AND PRAY UNITED SOMETHING HAPPENS (P.U.S.H.).

Over the past two years, the Lord has put on our hearts to have a revival weekend to praise, thank and petition our Lord with our lives. Multicultural service has continued to witness the goodness of God in its endeavors. From the inception of the Multicultural service, various communities have been reached with the love and gospel of Jesus Christ. Lonely families, and more so refugees and students, have found a place to fellowship and experience the feeling of being at the feet of Jesus Christ. This unique church service within Lexington has seen its members being uplifted by Almighty God. The sick have been prayed for passionately, and experienced the miraculous healing powers of Almighty God. The students have excelled in their academics as testified in the Multicultural service while serving God diligently.

The revival weekend gives us an opportunity to reconnect with God and realize His spiritual gifts within us. It marks a day for all of us to come together and renew our personal relationship with God. Multicultural service is thus sending out an open invitation for all people to come and awaken their spiritual nourishment. The revival weekend will be marked with different praise and worship songs originating from different nations. There will be sermons, testimonies and healing sessions.

Come all and listen to different men and women of God as they speak and preach the good news of our Savior Jesus Christ. The preaching, testimonies and worship will provide an avenue to allow God to speak to us in different ways. The many burdens that are ongoing in our daily life will be offloaded at the feet of Jesus Christ. This is an effort to bring us closer or have a personal encounter with Christ. It's about worship, spiritual growth and healing. God is calling us to (C.O.M.E)–Cast Off Much of our Excess baggage and be relieved. We invite you all to come with family and friends and let us Pray Until Something Happens (P.U.S.H.).

Stephen Adu and Ralph Odima
Multicultural Worship Evangelism Team



THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

I hope that you are making your plans now to be involved in the church-wide study this fall. We will be considering "A Faith That Matters," utilizing the book *The Wesleyan Way: A Faith That Matters*. There will be a lot of ways to participate in the study—Sunday school classes, Wednesday.com, small groups, children and SLUMY. Our Sunday morning worship services will be centered around the themes incorporated in the study. I have been reading the material in preparation for a series of messages that will accompany the study and it is excellent and potentially life-changing whether you are new to the faith or have been a Christian for a long time. I hope that everyone will plan now to find a way to "plug in" to the church-wide study from September 21–November 9. Watch for more details. I believe that God will do a great work if all of us open our hearts and minds, and our time, to "A Faith That Matters."

I BELIEVE THAT GOD WILL DO A GREAT WORK
IF ALL OF US OPEN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS,
AND OUR TIME, TO "A FAITH THAT MATTERS."

Just a reminder that the most difficult time to do ministry in the church is during the summer. People are in and out as they go on vacations and take long weekends to the lake. Young people are away at camp. It's hard to keep track of all the comings and goings. Attendance is down. And giving lags behind. But the need for ministry goes on. God's Pantry continues to be open twice a day every Monday through Friday and remains in need of volunteers and food. The Life Center continues to buzz daily with activity. The counseling center continues to touch many lives. And those needing assistance from the Alms Fund has continued to increase during these summer months. As you are traveling this summer be sure and include worship in your itineraries. And please remember that the financial needs of the church do not take a summer break. Please, as best you can, keep up or catch up with your church giving (and remember you can do that online from wherever you are) so that we can keep up with the needs of the church and the community around us. And as always, thanks for all you do to support the ministries of the church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

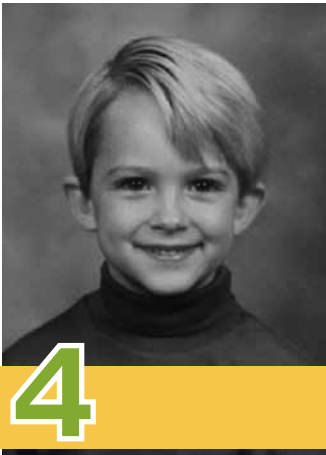
THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT THE
MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH WITH YOUR PRAYERS,
PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE AND WITNESS.

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE FUN?

Play the staff picture name game.

Match the staff member's name with the number beside each photo.
Check the last page of this newsletter to see how many you got right.

- A) Reid Buchanan B) Jeremy Arnold C) Mark Walz D) Nora Conner E) Paul Bramel
F) Ed Towle G) Susan Cutshall H) Jeremy Buchanan I) Bob Ockerman



A Community Together On Mission

WE ARE INVITING PEOPLE TO BECOME A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY SO THAT THEY CAN ENCOUNTER JESUS AND BEGIN TO BELIEVE IN WHO HE IS.

In March of this year, Young Adult Ministry at St. Luke transitioned away from our weekly worship service on Thursday nights. The service was going well, people were being connected to the community, and we were having between 30 and 40 people gather to worship God every week. Overall the Young Adult Leadership Team (myself included) viewed Thursday Night Worship as a great success. So why did we decide to stop doing it every week?

When I came to St. Luke, I was tasked with growing our ministry that reaches out to young adults (people between the ages of 18-35). This is a demographic that most churches in America are struggling to reach. We started with a four-fold approach that included Worship (Thursday Night Worship), Grow (small group Bible studies), Connect (events intended to build community) and Serve (service/outreach opportunities). This four-fold strategy gave a strong identity to the young adult community that already existed at St. Luke and we have seen some significant growth in this area.

As we continued to evaluate our strategy after the first year of its implementation, one thing became really clear. Most of what we did in the first year of ministry required that someone come to the church building in order to be a part of the community. Our events were 'attractional' in nature. We hoped that some element of the event, be it food, good music or community, would attract people to come to St. Luke's church building where they could be connected.

While this model was effective at reaching people who already considered themselves Christians and were looking for a Christian community to be a part of, we noticed that there was an important demographic that this model was not reaching—people who don't know Christ. As the culture in United States shifts away from

a Judeo-Christian worldview, more and more young people are questioning the place of religion, specifically Christianity, in their lives. Our facilities are state of the art, our worship services include contemporary music and engaging teaching, and yet there is a growing demographic of people who will never engage Jesus for the first time by coming to a worship service in a church building.

As the Young Adult Leadership Team discussed and prayed about this reality, one thing became really clear: we needed to find some model of ministry that allowed for non-Christians who would never feel comfortable in a church building to interact with and join the community. And so in March of this year, we transitioned away from the attractional model of ministry and into a Missional Community model.

The basic idea is that the young adult community that has been built over the past year and a half can become missionaries to our own city of Lexington. By relocating into homes and public spaces, our community can begin to interact with and include people who would not feel comfortable in our church building. We operate under the principle that people will belong to a community before they believe. Just like the disciples joined Jesus' mission before they believed who He was, we are inviting people to become a part of our community so that they can encounter Jesus and begin to believe in who He is.

After four months of trying this model of ministry we are learning a great deal, and adding people to our community. We are excited to see the long-term fruit of this ministry and continue to press into being a community that is living our lives on mission in Lexington.

Jeremy Buchanan

ministry in action...

STEPHEN MINISTRY CELEBRATION



ST. LUKE'S STEPHEN MINISTERS ENJOYED FELLOWSHIP AT THEIR ANNUAL POTLUCK COOKOUT ON MONDAY, JUNE 23 AT THE HOME OF POLLY SUMMERSETT.

St. Luke has been a Stephen Ministry congregation since 2001. During its 13 year history, over 60 persons have completed the required 50 hour training. Stephen Ministers commit to a two year period of service. A number of St. Luke's Stephen Ministers continue to serve long beyond that time. Nearly 150 persons have been served in some way. Some assignments are only for a few months and some have continued for as much as six to eight years. Stephen Ministers are trained to walk along side persons experiencing a life challenge and needs or desires a one-to-one Christian friend to be a confidential listener and encourager. Anyone interested in having a Stephen Minister may contact Joanne Beidleman (278-3973), Stephen Ministry Team Leader, or Karen Hinkle (268-8933), Referrals Coordinator.

growth opportunities...

STUDY & SERVICE EVENTS



a faith that matters

A ST. LUKE CHURCH-WIDE STUDY

Mark your calendars! Our church-wide study this year will begin September 21 and run through November 9. We will use *The Wesleyan Way: A Faith that Matters* by Bishop Scott Jones, and the study will be offered in Sunday School classes and during Wednesday.com. Pastor Mark will share a sermon series on the theme as well. Stay tuned for more details!

TRUSTEE WORK DAY

Trustee work day will take place on Saturday, August 23, 8:30 a.m.–noon. Come out and help us clean, make repairs and have some fun getting St. Luke in tip top shape! If you would like to confirm your participation or have questions, please call the church 269-4687 or email etowle@stlukeumc.org.

UNITED METHODIST MOUNTAIN MISSION IS COMING

The United Methodist Mountain Mission will be at St. Luke on Monday, August 11. They are in need of the following: children's clothes including underwear and socks, children's shoes, men's clothes and shoes, dishes, pots, pans, small appliances, uniforms/scrubs, rubberbands, safety pins, hand soap, toilet paper, furniture polish and garbage bags in the 13 and 33 gallon sizes. Items can be dropped off at the Resource Room next to the Connection Center.

UPWARD IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Upward 2015! Yes, it is time to begin planning for our fifth season at St. Luke. We really need your help to make the upcoming season a success so if you can support this ministry with your time and/or donations please let us know! We need to build a team to help us up front to promote our league, those with a clear vision willing to step up and help steer and direct our league, a great crew of Referees, basketball and cheer coaches and a slew of volunteers to help on Saturdays from January 17-March 7. If you have some free time and open dates on your calendar, please let us know by emailing etowle@stlukeumc.org.

thank you...

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Dear St. Luke Friends,

I am very thankful to you for remembering me in prayers during my illness. It made me happy to know that you thought of me. It really helped. The Lord knows everything about our need and He helps us. I love you all. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anny Chinyama

Thank you for all the cards and notes of encouragement during my recovery; and all the wonderful food—WOW! Thank you all so much for thinking and praying for us.

With grateful hearts,

Connie & Gil Rouse

Dear St. Luke UMC,

Thank you so much for your gift of \$100. During this seasonal drop in donations, your faithfulness is not only encouraging to the people in our community struggling with poverty and homelessness—it's vital. Even a little bit of help can go a long way...whether it's a nourishing meal or visit to our health clinic. It's often small acts of grace that compel people to enter our transitional housing or seek pastoral counseling and find the deep, lasting healing they so desperately want.

Your generosity, along with God's grace, is what keeps the Mission going. Thank you so much for partnering with us.

Gratefully,

Jim Connell
Executive Director
Lexington Rescue Mission

STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS

Budget Needs for June, 2014	\$121,138.10
* Total Income for June, 2014	\$101,645.52
Deficit for the month	(\$ 19,462.58)
Budget Needs Year-To-Date (as of 6/30/2014)	\$629,918.12
Total Income Year-To-Date (as of 6/30/2014)	\$562,802.40
Deficit for the year	(\$ 67,115.72)
Total Income Year-To-Date (as of 6/30/2014)	\$562,802.40
Expenditures Year-To-Date (as of 6/30/2014)	\$627,712.75
Alms Donations – June	\$ 4,624.58
Reach Beyond Contributions – June	\$ 22,147.00
Total Reach Beyond Contributions	\$727,552.59
Methodist Home (5th Sunday offering)	\$ 1,775.00

*(Total Income includes contributions, building use fees and Kroger card receipts)

“PEOPLE GIVE TO WORTHWHILE PROGRAMS RATHER THAN TO NEEDY INSTITUTIONS. THE CAUSE MUST CATCH THE EYE, WARM THE HEART AND STIR THE MIND.”

— HAROLD J. SEYMOUR, PHILANTHROPIST

SUMMER STEWARDSHIP

As you are away from church during the summer months enjoying time with family and friends, please do not forget your St. Luke church family. Electronic giving is available for those away from home to eliminate the hassle of tracking down a post office. As an active and growing church, we rely on your faithful tithe year-round.

CHANGE IN STOCK TRANSACTIONS

Those of you who wish to make donations of stock to St. Luke should be aware that Charles Schwab has closed our account so stock transfers will need to be made through our Merrill Lynch account. Contact the Church Business Administrator for procedural information.