



St. Luke's Line

JULY 2014

July 27-31
6-8 p.m.



Study & Prayer Opportunities
Nathaniel Mission Close Up

2014 Conference Update
Thank You Notes

Staff Memories of VBS
Financial Update

IMAGINE...

- ...a child hearing about God's love for the first time.
- ...kids worshipping in powerful ways.
- ...children praying for each other.
- ...adults and teens modeling Jesus' love to children.
- ...the kids in our church showing God's love to children in India.
- ...children serving each other.

This summer, kids ages 3 through rising 5th graders will discover that Jesus' love is one-of-a-kind at Weird Animals VBS. Be a part of Vacation Bible School at St. Luke United Methodist Church. We need your help with decorating, donations, prayer and through many opportunities the week of VBS, July 27-31. Register to volunteer at www.st.lukeumc.org/vbs or click on the Weird Animal VBS logo on St. Luke's web page. You can also register your kids to attend VBS at that site. Questions? Contact Renee Edington at renee.edington@gmail.com.

St. Luke United Methodist Church
Jesus Christ in Every Life

study opportunities...

Upcoming Events to Encourage Spiritual Growth

Summer Study at St. Luke

Digging Deeper, a sermon/discussion group, continues through the summer! Join us for fellowship and spiritual growth during the summer months. The purpose of this group is to encourage deeper reflection about Pastor Mark's sermon each week and to help participants apply the lessons to their daily walk. We'll meet each week through July 6 to explore Pastor Mark's four-week sermon series, "Grace Rocks." Then we'll pick up again beginning July 27 with his series on the 23rd Psalm. This group works great for summer schedules. Nora Conner (nconner@stlukeumc.org or 269-4687) will facilitate the discussions on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Life Center, room 127.



They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42

WEDNESDAY.COMMUNITY



Save the Date!

Our fall Wednesday.commm kickoff will be August 20.

This past spring an average of 60 adults participated in seven classes and groups, and 18 youth and 14 children participated in Bible study and activities. An average of 88 people enjoyed the meals each week, including 25 God's Pantry guests who were welcomed for meals, Christian fellowship and hospitality. Twelve different groups hosted the meals, which raised over \$5,500 for various causes and ministries. Thanks to all for your participation and service! We're excited about another great season this fall. Look for more details in the August newsletter, and come join the community!

prayer opportunities...

Start the Day Off Right With Tuesday Men's Prayer & Share

Though the Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer and Share group meets early (6:30 a.m. to be exact), we are still a spirited bunch, even at that hour. I have been attending going on 14 years and find it to be an important piece to my spiritual journey and prayer life.

The format has changed over the years as we have read from Scripture, thought-provoking spiritual guide books and other literature with discussion following. At this writing, we rotate a devotion each week and follow up with discussion too. The constant in this group has always been to end with prayer. Many prayer concerns come from the Sunday bulletin as well as the website. Others are voiced by individuals from around the table.

This group became larger a few years ago when a Thursday morning men's meeting merged with the Tuesday bunch having heard our breakfast treats were made by...oh, you'll just have to come and see for yourself. We usually have about 12 people, give or take, and always have good fun, good food, good devotions and discussions, and always end with prayer. If this sounds like a group you would like to experience, come by on a Tuesday Morning, even if you're still in pajamas.

Blessings in His Name,
Gordon Henson

They were continually
devoting themselves to the
apostles' teaching and to
fellowship, to the breaking
of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42



outreach opportunities...

A Closer Look at the Nathaniel Mission

One of the United Methodist Ministries that St. Luke has supported throughout the years is the Nathaniel Mission, a local United Methodist mission that provides a number of service and spiritual growth opportunities to Lexington residents. The Nathaniel Mission had been located in Davis Bottom since the 1930's, but they recently moved to a new location from its longtime home on DeRoode Street to 1109 Versailles Road, Suite 600. Recently, the mission has merged its free medical clinic for the uninsured with that of Mission Lexington, which also serves the uninsured and working poor. The merger was necessary because more and more of their uninsured patients were being insured under the nation's new health care law, and fewer clients were coming to each mission. The Nathaniel Mission is now focusing more on wellness and prevention. The dental offices have moved to 216 South Limestone, where Mission Lexington's dental clinic was located before its dental and medical clinics united at 230 South Martin Luther King Boulevard last year. The following are some of the ways the Mission looks to significantly impact the people of Lexington.

Nathaniel's Market

The Market is open each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 1:00 p.m. Canned goods, bread, dessert items, hot dogs, cleaning supplies and occasional special items such as fruits and vegetables are available. Qualifications for the Market are residence in Fayette County, Kentucky. The Mission serves an average of 25 families per day. Each household (defined by address) is allowed one visit per month. Identification needs to be presented at each visit.

Bible Study

The Mission gathers each Sunday morning at 8:00 for Bible study. The style is a discussion with a focus on the core beliefs of Christianity and their application to our lives. All are welcome.

Prayer Group

On Thursday at 10:00 a.m., participants come together for a time of prayer and Bible study.

Meal Program

At 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, Nathaniel Mission serves a homestyle breakfast consisting of biscuits, gravy, sausage, bacon, scrambled eggs, our own special recipe grits, donuts, fresh fruit, coffee, chocolate milk, white milk and orange juice. On Sundays and Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m., a homestyle meal is served from a menu that varies. It can range from hamburgers to our favorite honey ginger pork. All are welcome to any meal.

Back to School Clothes Program

Each August, the Mission provides one complete set of clothes including a shirt, pants, socks and shoes to children connected to the Mission. This past year, it served almost 80 families and 230 children.

Christmas Program

Our goal for the Christmas program is that each child and each adult in the families served receive at least one Christmas present as well as a food basket for each family. This past year, over 100 families and 600 children and adults were served.

Thanksgiving Dinner

On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, the Mission serves a community dinner. The meal is truly home cooked as it is cooked entirely by volunteers in their homes. Each person that attends is served restaurant style. There are no lines to wait in. Each year, the Mission hopes to serve well over 400 meals.

Want to help? Simply visit www.nathanielmission.org or call 859-255-0062.

ministry matters...

2014 Kentucky Annual Conference & Notes

The 2014 Kentucky Annual Conference began with registration on Sunday, June 8, and finished with appointments being read on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 11, at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington. The theme for this year was "Reach the World—Equipping Servant Leaders." Bishop Lindsey Davis presided over the Conference in his sixth year as our Kentucky Bishop.

Many exciting things took place at the Conference. James Williams (wife, Natalie) continues as our Lexington District Superintendent. Pastor Mark is reappointed to St. Luke for his third year. Others noted for ministry at St. Luke were Jeremy Buchanan (Assistant), Reid Buchanan (Assistant), Don Cutter (Assistant), Bob Ockerman (Assistant) and Irene Kabete and Reuben Lang'at (Immigrant Pastors). Extension Ministry Appointments were Steve Martyn and Ken Collins to Asbury Seminary Faculty and Sarah Holsinger-Friesen to Spring Arbor University. Noted as retired clergy at St. Luke: Ron Crandall, Terry Faris, Lowell Langefeld and Orin Simmerman. Please continue to thank Pastor Lowell (and Betty) for all they do in retirement. John Crissman was added to the Eastern Kentucky Wesley Foundation (Class of 2016). John was also elected as the Lexington District Lay Leader.



Open Hearts.
Open Minds.
Open Doors.

The Conference began on Monday morning with separate meetings for laity and clergy. We listened to our Kentucky laity and the North Georgia Lay Leader's challenge to laity. Monday afternoon began with Opening Worship with Bishop Davis, a Remembrance Service for pastors and spouses who had passed in the last year and Communion. Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett gave the message. Bishop Robert Morgan was one of 22 clergy and 12 clergy spouses who were remembered for many years of service and had passed in the last year. The Service of Ordination & Commissioning was held on Monday evening. Bishop Debbie delivered the message, and 27 candidates were ordained or commissioned. Paul Bramel's son, Jeff was ordained as an Elder during this service.

Tuesday morning began with music followed up by a worshipful work session. A Retirement Service honoring 17 retiring pastors was last on the agenda for the morning. Tuesday afternoon was the fifth year for an "Afternoon of Service" at the Conference. The afternoon had 736 registered (plus others who just came to help) to participate in 40 ministry projects at 25 locations in Covington and the surrounding area. At last report, 2,483 health kits were assembled for UMCOR; 63 units of blood were donated; 328 encouragement notes and 173 letters were written; 12 coolers of bottled water were handed out and meals were served at Grace Mission; trees were trimmed and landscaping was done; nursing homes were visited; food was given out from four food pantries; prayers in the prayer room and

(Continued on page 6)

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prayer walks were offered up in support of the area and the participants; a ministry to the Kenton County jail resulted in nine accepting Jesus for the first time and 47 recommitments of lives to Jesus...and so much more.

Tuesday evening was "Mission Night 2014" and the receiving of the Missions Offering from the churches in Kentucky. Rev. Adam Hamilton, the founding pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, and author of 15 books, spoke on "What Leaders Do and Why." He spoke on qualities of leaders, unleashing the power of the laity and the five principles of leadership. What a marvelous, inspired lesson we received! The mission offering, with a goal of \$125,000, was to be split equally between Blessing Home (Thailand) and the Red Bird Missionary Conference. Friday morning we were told that the offering was \$110,000 and growing.

An update on the "Imagine No Malaria" campaign from last year which sought support for providing \$10 nets that would protect a family of four. The goal for Kentucky was \$100,000. \$123,729.63 has been received! St. Luke contributed \$1,434 to the offering last year. Of the \$75 million goal, 60 has now been raised.

Wednesday morning began with music followed by a second lesson from Rev. Hamilton entitled "Effective Worship and Preaching." We were then given many different reports on Methodist activities and groups during a worshipful work session. After lunch, we heard Rev. Hamilton give a teaching on "Mission, Evangelism and Methodism." Appointments of pastors moving or receiving new appointments were read for each District and the Conference was adjourned.

Many items of business were considered and reports presented in the worshipful work sessions. A motion to reduce the number of districts from 12 to 9 was approved. A 2015 budget of \$7,959,453, a reduction of \$1,174,368 from the 2014 budget of \$9,134,067, was approved for the Kentucky Conference.

St. Luke was well represented at the Conference. Nora Conner, Susan Stivers, Larry McPherson, Cheryl and I were privileged to represent you as Lay Delegates. Stephen Wells served as an equalization delegate to balance the voting numbers of laity and clergy. Pastor Mark and Karen, Pastor Lowell and Betty, Dawn Beamish, Reid Buchanan, Jeremy Buchanan, Terry and Judy Faris, Paul and Diane Bramel, Bob Ockerman, John Crissman, Jessica Wells, Jennifer Davis (We claim her, too!) and Ken Collins (I'm certain there were others that I missed.) were all there for at least a portion of the Conference.

Others that you might remember that were in the Appointments Listing are: Covington District—Yancey Adamson (Concord (Bracken)/Neave) (Dinah was wearing purple hair!), Michael Coppersmith (Cynthiana First); Elizabethtown District—Val Johnson (Granted Incapacity Leave); Frankfort District—Mike Voigts (Danville Centenary—moved from Wilmore), Willard Knipp (Shelbyville Centenary), Garnett Slone (Retired Clergy); Lexington—Jeff Bramel (New Beginnings—moved from Sacramento); Lynn Beach (Park), Ron Crandall, Terry Faris, Lowell Langefeld, Howard Reynolds, Orin Simmerman and Gene Strange (Retired Clergy); Louisville—Corey Nelson (Grace/St. Matthews Assistant); Madisonville—Paige Williams (Hopkinsville First); Prestonsburg—Jerri Williams (Prestonsburg First—moved from Paris First).

There was so much more that I can't begin to include here but just maybe you can sense some of what happened at Conference. Next year, Annual Conference will be at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green. The Conference for 2015 will be June 8 to the 11. The 2016 and 2017 Conferences will return to Bowling Green.

Submitted by Joe Farmer

thank you...

Notes of Appreciation

Dear St. Lukers,

Thank you for your prayers, calls, gifts, and visitations during my surgery and time of rehabilitation. Perhaps a card from a friend of over 55 years says it most succinctly: "Knowing that someone cares is the best medicine of all." God has blessed me greatly through you.

Love and appreciation in Christ,
Sharon Scott

I thank my God every time I remember you.
Phillipians 1:3

Dear St. Luke UMC,

Thank you once again for your dedicated giving to the UK Wesley Foundation. We are honored to represent the United Methodist Church on campus. We are also excited about partnering with you in this endeavor. Your financial giving makes all of it happen.

Thank you!
UK Wesley Foundation

fond memories...

Upcoming VBS Brings Back Fond Memories for Staff



When I was a seminary student, many years ago now, I served a small church in rural Mercer County. They were wonderful folks. Mostly elderly. No children. And so when they started talking about doing a Vacation Bible School that first summer, I wondered why. But I went along with it. My job was to drive the van (which they had borrowed from another church) and pick up the kids. What kids, I wondered? But they gave me a route to follow which took me all over the eastern part of the county and I was amazed that first night to discover that as I drove through the neighborhoods and down the country roads that kids were waiting for me to come. By the time I got back to the church, that 15 passenger van was full of kids. And there was another group of kids waiting at the church for us. We averaged about 20 kids that week. What they taught me was that a successful VBS is as much about reaching into the community as it is the church. As a result of that VBS, a young family up the road began to attend the church and eventually the mom and dad and two little boys became a regular part of the ministry of the church. Even though St. Luke has lots of children of our own to minister to through VBS, I am so glad that the vision includes reaching out to children in the community who are not now a part of the church. We never know when a child (and a family) is going to be impacted by what goes on that week, that would otherwise have not been touched by the love of Christ. Pray for VBS and pray for the kids who will be impacted that week.

Mark Girard
Senior Pastor



I loved VBS growing up! My favorite thing—the themes. Medieval themed VBS was incredible. I dressed up like a knight for a week...unreal!

Jeremy Buchanan
Assistant Pastor

I have been involved with VBS at several different churches and have had so many positive experiences seeing kids learn about God. The one that sticks out the most is last summer teaching little kids in Honduras Bible stories. The team took turns helping with VBS each day. When it was my turn, we were teaching the story of Joseph and letting the kids act it out. Watching those kids have a blast learning about love and forgiveness is an experience I will never forget!

Jeremy Arnold
Director of Youth Ministries



My earliest memory of VBS is making a popsicle stick jewelry box. I'll be honest, I don't remember WHY we were making it, I just remember how proud I was when it was finished and I could take it home! As a young child, I always felt loved and accepted at VBS and it's my prayer that every child who attends St. Luke's "Weird Animals" will feel the same way.

Susan Cutshall
Director of Childhood Ministries

VBS
July 27-31
6-8p.m.

financial update...

Reach Beyond Campaign Finishing On A High Note

With well over 90% of the pledges received, the Reach Beyond Campaign has been a tremendous success and another testimony to the vision and faithfulness of the people of St. Luke United Methodist Church. It is even more amazing considering that the campaign spanned one of the worst economic downturns in American history. While the campaign was happening, your gifts to the General Fund as well as other special missions continued to experience annual gains. What wonderful stewards and witnesses you have been and continue to be. As a congregation we should take pride in what we have accomplished in these past few years. The addition of the Life Center has allowed us to expand mission and ministry into many new areas, while remaining faithful to support those ministries that have been so crucial for us for many years. The facilities that we have built will allow St. Luke to reach out to the community and world around us for years to come.

Of course, we must always continue to move forward. Although our Reach Beyond campaign officially ends June 30 we will continue to accept contributions to this effort, hopefully until we receive 100% of our goal and more. Several have indicated that the economic pressures have caused your Reach Beyond contribution to be late in finishing up, and that is fine. Others have completed their pledge but feel a desire to continue to give to this cause, and that is wonderful. Additionally, there are those who are new to the church and have not had the opportunity to Reach Beyond in your giving, who would like to participate. Every amount given will help us move closer and closer to being debt free sooner rather than later, so that rather than investing in facilities, we can invest completely in people's lives. Certainly as we look to the future we will have to develop other financial plans to help retire this debt so that we can focus our entire energy towards our vision of "Jesus Christ in Every Life!" Today, we celebrate and give God the glory. So congratulations St. Lukers! Well done good and faithful servants!

Every amount given will help us move closer and closer to being debt free sooner so that we can invest completely in people's lives.

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.

STEWARDSHIP

EMPHASIS

Budget Needs for May, 2014	\$ 96,910.48
Total Income for May, 2014	\$ 86,924.08
* Deficit for the month	(\$ 9,986.40)
Budget Needs Year-To-Date (as of 5/31/2014)	\$ 508,780.02
Total Income Year-To-Date (as of 5/31/2014)	\$ 461,156.88
Deficit for the year	(\$ 47,623.14)
Alms Donations – May	\$ 5,186.60
Reach Beyond Contributions – May	\$ 14,915.00
Total Reach Beyond Contributions	\$ 705,405.59
Mortgage Balance (as of 5/31/2014)	\$3,003,380.00

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

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had." Acts 4:32

