

The SPIRE



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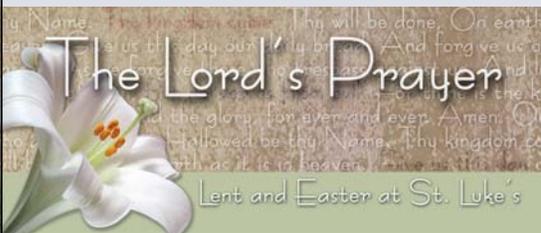
Experience Lenten Small Groups

There is something special about discussing spiritual matters in a small group in someone's home or a setting outside of the church. Home groups provide an informal setting where participants can share in whatever way they are comfortable. As St. Luke's takes a closer look at *The Lord's Prayer* during the Lenten season, small groups are being formed. Each group will receive a DVD commentary by clergy with a brief study guide to discuss themes weekly during the 6-week Lenten season. To encourage wide participation, groups will be formed on the basis of schedule and geographic convenience. "I believe each person who uses this Lenten time to refocus on the priorities of faith will come away with a richer, fuller life, and a special Easter experience," notes Dr. Pace. To enroll in a group contact Jane Williams at 713-402-5042 or email jwilliams@stlukes-hou.org.



Prospective Facilitator Training: February 7

Say YES! If you would be willing to coordinate a small group during Lent, plan to attend this special training session (which includes lunch) at noon in B151 (near Fellowship Hall on the Westheimer campus). Facilitators will help lead discussions and solicit prayer concerns during the 6-week Lenten session that follows the sermon series on *The Lord's Prayer*.



During the sermon series on *The Lord's Prayer*, St. Luke's will provide members and visitors with a unique way to meditate on the text each day. A CD featuring several musical versions of Jesus' words associated with this prayer will be available at the Connection Center (Westheimer) or Narthex (Gethsemane) during Lent. Whether at home or in the car, or even loaded onto an mp3 player, "Our Father who art in heaven..." can stay with you wherever you go.

Pray for one another...

Be part of a special Lenten prayer initiative

Imagine the St. Luke's congregation praying for one another throughout the day; every member and visitor prayed for by **name** every day of Lent.

Dr. Pace will preach a sermon series on *The Lord's Prayer* each of the six Sundays during Lent. To reinforce our worship experiences during Lent, the prayer ministry teams are encouraging **all children, youth and adults** to commit to pray *The Lord's Prayer* every day during Lent and lift other's

names in prayer.

In mid February, everyone who commits to share five minutes each day will receive a list of names and a brief prayer. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Specific age related material will be provided to assist with your prayer experience. This would be a great time to make a commitment to pray, or pray together as a family. Please share this information with your family, friends and small groups at St. Luke's. Sign up today: www.stlukesmethodist.org/lent-prayer/

Zechariah doesn't believe that God will give him a child in his old age, so the angel pronounces that Zechariah will not be able to speak until the child is born. He "loses his voice," until he names the child John, and then he miraculously finds his own voice again.

I am told that it is important for a vocalist to find his or her own voice, to sing within his or her range, and avoid any effort to sing like someone else. There is a voice, a song within each of us, which we must learn to sing.

In the movie and book *The Legend of Bagger Vance*, the mysterious caddy Bagger Vance shares his wisdom with Rannulph Junuh, a golfer who was great at one time, but whose life has sort of slipped away from him. Vance tells him,

"Yep... Inside each and every one of us is one true authentic swing... Something we was born with... Something that's ours and ours alone... Something that can't be taught or learned... Something that got to be remembered... Over time the world can rob us of that swing... It gets buried inside us under all our wouldas and couldas and shouldas... Some folk even forget what their swing was like..."

One of my pastor friends likes to say, "The secret to effective ministry is authenticity, and when you learn to fake that, you have it made." This is a rather backhanded way of saying that being authentically one's own person is easier said than done. It takes significant work and prayer to uncover within each of us the person God created us to be.

I pray that each of you will find your own voice, and discover that true authentic swing within you.



A voice and a swing

Tom Pace, III

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
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 P.O. Box 22013, Houston, Texas 77227
 713-622-5710
www.stlukesmethodist.org

Discover your talents

Are you a good steward of your time? We often think of stewardship in the realm of money, but God calls us to be good stewards of much more than money – of our time, talents, bodies and environment.

Webster's dictionary defines "stewardship" as the conducting, supervising or managing of something, especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

If you would like to know more about how you can use your time and talents for God's purposes, take our quick S.H.A.P.E. assessment online. Visit www.stlukesmethodist.org/evangelism and click to take the S.H.A.P.E. assessment. You are not signing up to do anything, but instead allowing us to shine a light on who God created you to be and why you are special.

Scholarship Applications

2010 St. Luke's Scholarship Applications are currently available for St. Luke's members and children of members. The applications must be completed and returned on or before March 8, 2010. There are a number of scholarship endowments administered through St. Luke's Methodist Church Foundation funded by St. Luke's members. You can pick up applications in the Church offices or at <http://www.stlukesmethodist.org/scholarships/>

If you have any questions please call Anona Karnaky at 713-402-5003.

Opportunities to serve:

CCSC's Food Pantry at Gethsemane: Volunteers are needed on Fridays from 9:45 a.m.-1 p.m. To better serve the hungry in the area, CCSC added Friday hours of operation to its current schedule of Monday and Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Please contact Clare Bruce at 713-961-3993 x211 or cbruce@ccshouston.com.

Kids' Meals: Supervisors are needed for this vital ministry that makes sandwiches to go in sack lunches for preschool children in need. Groups meet in St. Luke's kitchen every Monday evening. The time commitment is about two hours per month. If interested, please contact Alice for more information at 713-402-5067 or aking@stlukes-hou.org.

Woodshop Ministry: Join the industrious men and women from St. Luke's and the community who make special projects and classic-style wooden toys for churches, schools and non-profits all over the world. Please contact Alice King at aking@stlukes-hou.org for details.

connection corner

connecting to the St. Luke's family

Helping Houston's Hungry – Christmas Offering 2009

St. Luke's members generously contributed to the 2009 Christmas Offering to help make a difference in the lives of hungry children and adults in the Houston area. Over \$55,000 was raised to support two area organizations: **Kids' Meals of Houston** and **Interfaith Ministries' Meals on Wheels**. Texas ranks 3rd in the nation for food insecurity, meaning one in five adults and one in four children in our state are hungry. "Kids' Meals and Meals on Wheels are on the ground five days a week serving meals to the city's most vulnerable age groups, and we are so fortunate that we can help them fulfill their missions with St. Luke's generous donations," says Susan Silvus, Director of Outreach Ministries.

Kids' Meals is a community based organization, serving healthy lunches to 1,200 hungry pre-school aged children, living in poverty. They provide and deliver nutritious meals, free of cost to the families, Monday through Friday, year-round. These meals make a huge difference in the lives of the children they serve, impacting lifelong health, education and quality of life.

St. Luke's has a long-standing relationship with the Kids' Meals organization; and church members volunteer each Monday night, preparing 600 sandwiches that are then picked up by the Kids' Meals organization and put with milk, fruit and chips to provide a full meal.

Meals on Wheels provides nutritional support to help seniors stay independent and in their own homes. This program is a free service for seniors with limited mobility. Each meal includes an entree, two 1/2-cup servings of fruit or vegetables, bread, milk and whole fruit or dessert.

Thank you to the St. Luke's community for having a heart for Houston's hungry and working together to **make a difference**.



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Angel Tree

Angel Tree, the long-standing St. Luke's tradition of providing Christmas gifts and food to families living in poverty, served about 500 fellow Houstonians this year. Through our partnership with Misi3n Milby, a non-profit organization working to reduce poverty in Houston's east end, children enjoyed Breakfast with Santa and generous gifts.



St. Luke's members Sharon Hampton and Amber Nichols helped make Christmas better for Misi3n Milby families.

outreach

reaching out to our community and the world

Gethsemane campus

Blood Drive – Give the Gift of Life!

Come and join us and the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in giving the *Gift of Life* on Sunday, February 21, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. in Canterbury Hall at the Gethsemane Campus. A regular number of voluntary donations are required every day to meet the need for blood in the Texas Gulf Coast and East Texas regions. *Commit for Life!* Contact John Gaston 281-437-8951 or Bobby Plummer 713-774-0717.

Save a Life... Adult CPR and AED



The Houston Texans, American Red Cross, Texas Arrhythmia Institute and Methodist De-Bakey Heart & Vascular Center have joined forces to offer this training day to the community. Participants will receive Red Cross certification in Adult CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) use upon successful completion of the class. Groups are welcome! Call 832-667-5857 to register your group. The Gethsemane Community Nurse Committee invites both campuses to take advantage of this training on Saturday, February 20 and Sunday, February 21 (En Español).

Saturday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m. or 1-5 p.m. **Sunday:** Spanish Language Session, 12-5:30 p.m. Methodist Training Center, 8335 Lantern Dr., 77054, \$10 per person – Participants must be 12 years of age or older.

Participants must pre-register

Online (En Español): www.houstonsavealife.org

By phone: 832-667-5857 between 8 a.m.-5 pm., (Group registrations)

By mail: Download the registration form (pdf) and mail completed form with payment to: Save a Life, c/o The Methodist Hospital Foundation, PO Box 4384, Houston, TX 77210-4384

Check or money order (NO cash) payable to: The Methodist Hospital Foundation)

Questions? Contact 832-667-5857 or savealife@tmhs.org.

Merger Transition Update

Did you know that we've added more members at the Gethsemane campus in the past two months than the church has added in the previous year? This is an exciting time of growth, and as we integrate the two churches into one, it is an opportunity for us to redesign the way we do our work at both the Westheimer campus and the Gethsemane campus. Is there a new, better way to do something? Can we do our work more efficiently?

Over the past few months, the Merger Transition Team has been working together to outline specific policy and procedure guidelines that the staff at both the Westheimer and Gethsemane campuses can use to coordinate and streamline their job responsibilities. Team members are systematically going through the various administrative tasks, outlining who is responsible, informed, consulted and who has the final approval of each, bearing in mind all the various church committees that are also involved in these processes.

It's a sometimes tedious exercise, but one that has really allowed team participants to learn more about each other and to better appreciate what each and every employee does for our combined churches. It also makes it very clear who does what, and will lead to greater understanding on the part of all employees.

The meetings are filled with positive discussion, probing questions, revelations and even some eureka moments and laughter. These guidelines are a work in progress, and as we grow into the merger, they will be updated to incorporate revisions, as they



are determined. Staff members at both campuses will be encouraged to make suggestions that will allow them to do their jobs even more efficiently.

With several more months of weekly meetings and detailed procedures to go through, there is no shortage of work ahead for the staff and the Merger Transition Team. We are blessed to have so many fine staff members and volunteers who are dedicated to this merger and who are working very hard to make it a model for other churches to emulate.

This is an amazing opportunity for us to *make a difference* in so many lives, both those we serve and in us as we serve. Realizing this concept has made the process and all the procedures required to get there worthwhile!

Questions about the merger process and procedures can be directed to Sally Matthews at smatthews@stlukes-hou.org or Robbie McDonough at rmcdonough@stlukes-hou.org.

Just after the devastating earthquake in Haiti, some of you expressed great frustration to me over Pat Robertson's comment that the earthquake was a result of that country's sin since they "swore a pact with the devil." One of our youth ministry staff members at the Gethsemane Campus, Jacob Breeze, and three other members of the St. Luke's community were in the Dominican Republic when the earthquake hit and they felt the tremors. News was slow to travel to them, but in the midst of everything - as they were working with Haitian who were living in the D.R., they heard a voice from America - the voice of Pat Robertson on the airwaves... how crushing. I thought to myself, "That is not my voice. That's not the only Christian voice"...how frustrating.

When considering natural disasters of all kinds, we must ask ourselves if we believe that God creates them a) all the time, b) some of the time, or c) never. Given the witness of the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible, we don't really want to say that God never uses natural disaster to move people to repentance. At the same time, we don't want to say that God always uses them to move people to repentance - after all, God "makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous" (Matthew 5:45). God has created all things and their natural processes, and we have recognized that forest fires and other things that we call "natural disasters" are necessary for new growth. This would mean that God is the cause of such occurrences because of the natural process that God has put in place, but this would not be to cause repentance. On the question of whether God causes natural disasters in order to punish sin, maybe what we want to say is "some of the time." We can imagine a world in which God might do so, but what we know of God and God's world also help us to know that natural occurrences do not always have to be punishments for sin.

Interestingly, around 1750 John Wesley preached a sermon entitled, "The Cause and Cure of Earthquakes." Quoting from Psalm 46 and Isaiah 10, Mr. Wesley posits three main points:

- I. To show that earthquakes are the works of the Lord, and He only bringeth this destruction upon the earth:
- II. Call you to behold the works of the Lord, in two or three terrible instances: And,
- III. Give you some directions suitable to the occasion."

This sermon naturally takes modern Methodists off guard. Throughout the entire sermon, Mr. Wesley is insistent that such disasters should call people to repentance. Given my argument above, I would want to nuance Mr. Wesley a bit acknowledging the particular world-view of the time, the reason for his writing the sermon, and Mr. Wesley's insistence that Scripture drive all of our beliefs about any issue; certainly Scripture does nuance the views that he posits. I would invite us, though, to not dismiss Mr. Wesley's sermon. The question for me is *who should be brought to repentance?* In the case of Haiti, is it the Haitians who should be in repentance or those in the wealthiest countries of the world, who sought it fit to turn their heads while the poorest nation in the world had not enough resource or education to build structures that could withstand an earthquake of such magnitude? This is an appropriate question for us to be in prayer about.

In the end, no matter what the cause of natural disasters, we are all called to be about God's justice. God's justice includes working to restore the world. Isaiah 61 says that the people of God "shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations." May it be so with us.



reflecting on earthquakes

Cares and Concerns**Foundation Hospital**

Ruth McCurdy

Kindred Hospital

John Wildenthal

Recently Discharged

Pat Colmenares

John Duffie

Johnnie Hardin

Donna Kidwell

Melissa Kulkarni

Corinne Lawrence

Steve McCarthy

Lee McMurrey

Hugh Parker

Bettie Sauer

caring
ministries**Congratulations to:**

Jennifer and Pedro Buhigas on the adoption of their daughter, Isabel Milagros Buhigas, who was born on December 18.

Yolanda Finegan Sutherland and Morgan Sutherland on the birth of their son, Max Taylor Clarke Sutherland, on January 15. Proud grandparents are Vanitta Clarke-Douglas and Neville Douglas.

Erin and Steven McCary on the birth of twin daughters, Ashley Alece McCary and Ansley Marie McCary, on January 22. Proud older brother is Ewan McCary and proud grandparents are Tonya and John Anderson.

Julie and Joel Osterman on the birth of their daughter, Emma Grace Osterman, on January 26. Proud older sister is Rachel Osterman.

Mindy and Mark Standlee on the birth of their son, Joshua Allen Standlee, on January 29. Proud older brother is Landon Standlee and proud grandparents are John and Jane Williams.

Our Sympathy to:

Kara, Mason, and Kaylie Mings on the death of their husband and father, John Mason Mings V, on January 18.

Boyd and Joyce Wagner, Dee and Tom Pace, Darla and Albert Labasse, Katie, Kendall, Calley and Caroline Pace, Coatney and Andrew Cobble on the death of Boyd's sister, Winona Fulkerson, on January 19.

John and Prissy Watson, Laura and Winston Talbert, Greg and Cathy Watson, Caroline and Emily Talbert, Claire, William, and Gardner Watson on the death of John's mother, Robbie Auger Watson, on January 19.

Mischa Montgomery, Sandra Montgomery, and Meg Montgomery on the death of Mischa's daughter, Lanaya Enola-Ayanna Montgomery, on January 23.

John Biggs, Gardner and Jennie Biggs, Byron and Amy Biggs, Andy and Leslie Biggs, Katie and Richard Brusselback and their families on the death of John's wife, Betty Armistead Biggs, on January 24. Meghan, Jacob, and Torah Breeze on the death of Meghan's grandmother, Barbara Lou Foster, on February 1.

If you know of a concern or a joy that the church should know about, please contact Caring Ministries at 713-402-5086 or - 5156.

Have a prayer request? Call the PRAYER LINE, at any time, day or night, 713-402-5088.

Do you know anyone in the military? Caring Ministries Prayer Team wants to pray for individuals who are serving our country. Contact Anona at 713-402-5003 or akarnaky@stlukes-hou.org

Celebrating Lives

BRIDGES ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

In Memory of: Dr. Annette Lopp by The Chancel Choir; Heather Leigh Akins; Beverly, Wiley & Will Carmichael; Mr. & Mrs. James L. Henry; Bette & Joe Leone; Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Neil

CARING MINISTRIES

In Honor of: Shana Tatum by Mary Jule Tatum
In Memory of: Betty A. Biggs by Stephen Lazarus:

Irene Lee by Mary Jule Tatum

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

In Honor of: Julie Ellerbrock & staff by Rob, Lavonne & Katie Baker: **Wilma Appelt Vickers** by Dr. Gary & Sandi Appelt

EDLOE WOODSHOP

In Honor of: Hugh Parker by Jim & Ginger

Yarbrough: **The Edloe Woodworkers** by Joy Woodard

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

In Honor of: Barbara Focht by Mr. & Mrs. Roland W. Miller

In Memory of: Tuleta Boatman by Jennifer & James DiMichelle; Corrie Glinski; Joyce & Lee Lanphier; Helen & Bob Morgan; Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Murdock; Adele & Bob Sandler

GENE DECKER OUTREACH ENDOWMENT

In Memory of: James Rogers Arrington by Betty & Bob Geary

GETHSEMANE GARDEN FUND

Gift of the Heart for Meditation Garden by Eugenie Gonzalez

GETHSEMANE MINISTRIESsenior
adults

February 11: Our Mainstreamer Day programs and luncheon (10 a.m.-1 p.m.) will feature Dr. Charles Wilbur Yates, Jr. and Beatrice Dee Pipes who write murder mysteries under the pen name of Dee Wilbur, a combination of their middle names. Both Dr. Yates and Mrs. Pipes have interesting backgrounds, very different from the books they now write together. They have authored two books, which, rumor has it, are set in Richmond, Texas! Programs in the Parlor, lunch in Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend!

February 18: The Museum of Fine Arts is the destination for our February Day Trip when we will have lunch at Café Express in the museum, and then have a guided tour of three of the exhibitions that are part of the "An American Season" series. We will see Prendergast in Italy, Sargent and the Sea, and Houston's Sargents. Cost for the trip is \$10, which includes the guided tour, a coupon for the gift shop and a gift from the museum as well as transportation. Lunch is "on your own." Reservations and payment are due by February 11.

The Fellowship of Older Adult Ministries is sponsoring a trip this fall to the "Magnificent Cities of Central and Eastern Europe," October 31-November 13. We will experience the cultures of Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Poland with comprehensive guided tours of Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Krakow and Warsaw. We will visit the Jasna Gora monastery with one of its clergy to witness the world-famous Black Madonna. Per person rates for a double room are \$3299, including airfare and many meals. Brochures about the trip are available in the office or by calling Marlys Barry at 713-402-5008.

Sundays**9:45-10:45 a.m., Youth Sunday School**

Sunday morning is a fun environment filled with music, games, a relevant lesson from scripture, and a time to unpack what was discussed in small groups. **6th Graders** meet in their Confirmation groups in the Activities Center (gym). **7th & 8th graders** meet in the Attic. High school students meet in the Youth Chapel.

5:30-7 p.m., MYF a time of fellowship and fun. This is a great environment for our students to build Christ-centered relationships. **Junior High** will meet in the Attic. See times and costs on the calendar. **Senior High Sunday Night**, 5:30-7 p.m., \$5. Host Homes TBA. Call 713-213-6111 for information

In Honor of: Jack & Ginger Blanton by Hank & Kathryn Coleman

In Memory of: Steve Sengelmann by Laura Wheless
GETHSEMANE MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of: Norman Green by M. D. & Freda Allyn; Betty B. Beathard; Shed & Clara Boren; Bill & May Jee; John & Patsy Laker Dan & Carolyn Peterson; Marian Roper; Jean Walker: **Carolyn Hughs** by Hampton at Shadowlake: **Betty McKenney** by Jean Walker: **Chick Racer** by Shed & Clara Boren; Bill & May Jee

THE MAINSTREAMERS

In Memory of: Enid W. Thurston by Dorothea J. Palm; James & Mallory Shaddix

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

In Honor of: Larry & Martha Loyd, & Herb & Mary Jo Loyd by Nancy & Dean Johnson

MUSIC MINISTRY

In Honor of: Dr. Barton & Stephanie Herrscher by Dr. Rick & Anne Herrscher

ST. LUKE'S CENTER FOR COUNSELING**& LIFE ENRICHMENT**

In Honor of: Amy Birchill by Eva Archer-Smith; UMW Night Circle

ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH FOUNDATION

In Memory of: James Rogers Arrington by Betsy & Jim Winn; Bobbie Wisecup: **Hines H. Baker III** by Lucy Gray Arnold: **Julietta Burchfiel** by Thursday Night Bible Study Class: **Bill Lester** by Kate & Woody Scott: **John M. Mings V** by Agatha & Erich Brann: **Chloe Pounds** by Kate & Woody Scott: **Eugenia Head Reynolds** by Libby Orr.

Prepaid Snack Supper

Passes are available online - \$50 for 10 meals.

Mark Your Calendar**Wednesdays, Midweek****Small Groups, 7-8:30**

p.m. \$5 snack supper.

February 7 Junior High

MYF - Rock Climbing,

5:30-8:30 p.m., \$10, Meet in the Attic

February 13 ChristWalkers, 1-5 p.m., bring \$5 for ice cream, meet in the Loft

February 14 No MYF

February 21 Junior High MYF - Pump-It-Up, 5:30-8:30 p.m., \$10, Meet in the Attic

youth
activities

Ministry SPOTLIGHT

Highlights in 2009:

- Designated over \$7,000 for counseling fee scholarships
- Referred over 400 people to counseling or other support
- Hosted 14 free, community-wide speaker events featuring a variety of Life enriching topics
- Hosted a Holiday Support Speaker Series with the Depression Bipolar Support Alliance
- Expanded the number and diversity of 12-Step groups to meet a wider variety of needs
- Responded to job loss demand by expanding the Career Decisions Workshop
- Presented "Powerful Tools for Caregivers"
- Collaborated with B.I.G. Love Cancer Care for Hope of Heaven Grief Conference, by marketing and providing on-site support to grieving families
- Hosted a Stephen Ministry Caring Ministry Workshop welcoming 140 people from 18 congregations
- Collaborated with Gethsemane Ministry to create a family program to strengthen academic and relational foundations with students at Amigos partner school
- Provided Counseling Center resources at the Gethsemane Health Fair and Block Party.



New for 2010

The Center added a third counselor in January. Child and Family Therapist **Barry McCarty** has a longstanding relationship with St. Luke's Day School administrators and families. He has 26 years of experience and specializes in working with families in dealing with young children who exhibit outbursts of anger, fear, low self esteem and sadness. Barry has over a decade of experience in private practice with Interface-Samaritan Counseling Center and will be at St. Luke's on Thursdays.



Beginning February 24, The Counseling Center is offering new support groups including:

- Sense of Self Peer Group for Teenage Girls
- Sense of Self Peer Group for Teenage Boys
- Fathers of Adolescents and Teenagers
- Mothers of Adolescents and Teenagers
- Boundaries in Marriage
- Boundaries in Dating
- Powerful Tools for Caregivers



"I am very pleased to be a part of this new and important ministry at St. Luke's. I think that the Center for Counseling and Life Enrichment will fill a critical need in the service offered by St. Luke's to both our congregation and our community. As much as anything, I hope that our church's commitment to this service will move us towards the ultimate de-stigmatization of counseling which is so often the first step in getting help to those who need it."

Scooter Smith, Lay Chair for the SLCCLE



Funding the Mission

Founded, but not funded by the St. Luke's operating budget, the SLCCLE (St. Luke's Center for Counseling and Life Enrichment) relies on generous donations made to the Nick Finnegan Ministry supporting the Center, Sunday School class donations, donations made in honor of/in memory of individuals and the Second Mile gifts that church members designate during the Stewardship campaign. "Most members may be surprised to know that the Center has an independent budget," notes Director Amy Birchill, "and that significant money must be raised to pay personnel expenses, publicity, support programs and events, intake/referral services, and to fund new initiatives to help the hurting in Houston."

- To date, the recent Stewardship campaign has raised \$103,640 which is being applied toward the Center's 2010 Center's operations.
- The Center's first fundraiser (sponsored in honor of the Nick Finnegan Ministry) raised over \$371,000, including a generous grant from the Sterling-Turner Foundation. (See photos below)



"We are excited to start 2010 with the addition of Rachel Etheridge (left) to our staff as the Fund Developer to support the continuing growth of the Nick Finnegan Ministry and the SLCCLE," adds Amy. Originally from Paris, Tennessee, Rachel has a degree in Communications & Business from Trinity University. In her role as a client manager with a local luxury magazine, Rachel embraced the Houston community and is looking forward to bringing those experiences and relationships to assist the SLCCLE in making a significant difference in the community.

"We are thankful to have Rachel's expertise to help support our mission to provide an avenue of hope and healing," says Amy. "This type of funding will ensure our ability to minister daily to those struggling with life's issues, through counseling, referrals, and life enriching support groups and educational opportunities in a loving and inclusive Christian context."

The Center's top wish list for 2010 is to be able to hire a Clinical Social Worker to help manage the growing number of intakes and referrals which grew from nearly 300 in 2008 to over 400 in 2009.

If you would like to know more about the programs and services of the SLCCLE, volunteer, or would like to make a donation, please call 713-402-5046.

The Nick Finnegan Ministry Fundraiser

The Nick Finnegan Ministry was established by his parents, Bill and Susan Finnegan who through their experience of supportive Christian counseling in their time of need were able to grieve the loss of their son and to find the faith to move forward as a family. Their hope for this Ministry created in his honor, is that it will raise awareness that it is okay to ask for help, and that there are resources readily available at minimal cost.



The Finnegans hosted the first fundraiser for the SLCCLE on November 5 at their home with speaker Dr. Bruce Perry, who gave an inspirational presentation on "healing communities" such as the one SLCCLE is creating. The event raised over \$370,000 for the operational expenses of the Center.

Baptisms



Alexander Leathers Anderson, son of Darryl Wade Anderson and Christie Cardon Anderson on January 17.

Philip Speed Crosswell, son of David Miller Crosswell, Jr. and Allison Speed Crosswell on January 17.



Reed Samuel Elliott, son of Steven Mark Elliott and Joy Meyer Elliott on January 17.

Gwyneth Mae Graves, daughter of Guy Fulton Graves and Adri Archer Graves on January 17.



Savannah Finlee Petit, daughter of William Creeger Petit and Jett Shipman Petit on January 17.

Collins Eloise Montgomery, daughter of Andrew Nobles Montgomery and Molly Williamson Montgomery on January 24.



New Members



Ben Yoesel transfers to St. Luke's from another United Methodist church. He is Operations Manager for Ballard Exploration Company.

Michael and Megan Bennett join by transfer from another United Methodist church. Michael is a sales representative with Invivo Corporation and Megan is a homemaker. They are the parents of Marley, 18 months.



Michael and Megan Bennett join by transfer from another United Methodist church. Michael is a sales representative with Invivo Corporation and Megan is a homemaker. They are the parents of Marley, 18 months.



Danielle Cordes and Price Herndon unite by transfer from other denominations. Danielle is a nursing student at Texas A & M and Price is a student at Baylor University. They are engaged and are

planning to be married in 2011.

We welcome Jeanie Saltmarsh and her daughter and son-in-law, Mike and Jamie Felicia, who transfer from another United Methodist church. Jeanie is a retired teacher. Mike (not

pictured) is a police officer with the Galveston Police Department and Jamie is an assistant district attorney with the Harris County District Attorney's Office. They are the parents of Austin Felicia.



Ben and Nancy Barnett join by Profession of Faith. Ben is a physician/associate professor at UT - Houston, Nancy is a homemaker. They are the parents of 4-year-old twins: Davis and Nathaniel, and Zachary, who is 20 months old.

Lauren Dougherty and Chance Decker transfer from other United Methodist churches. Lauren is a marketing specialist with INX, Inc. and Chance is an attorney with Looper, Reed, & McGraw. They are engaged and planning to be married in September, 2010.



Not pictured

Amanda Kirk joins St. Luke's by transfer from another denomination. She and her husband, Kevin, are the parents of Chloe, age 1.

Jon and Lauren Strieby unite by transfer from other denominations. Jon is an associate with Goldman Sachs and Lauren is events specialist for Haynes & Boone, LLP.



Adam and Melanie Cox transfer to St. Luke's from other United Methodist churches. Adam is a senior landman with NFR Energy LLC and Melanie is a business analyst with Wells Fargo.

Kay Elliott transfers from another United Methodist church. She is a member of the Sojourners Class. Kay joins her daughter and son-in-law, Trisha and Matt Roberts, and family in the St. Luke's membership.



Janet Yauch joins by transfer from another denomination. She works in application sales for Oracle. We welcome Janet and A.J., Ellen, and Ryan Yauch to our church family.

David and Mary Jackson unite with St. Luke's by Profession of Faith. David is an engineer with NASA and Mary is volunteer coordinator at M.D. Anderson. David and Mary are the parents of a daughter, Rory, who is 9 months old.



Thomas and Jackie Gregor transfer to St. Luke's from another denomination. Thomas is an attorney/partner with Ogden, Gibson, Brooks, & Longoria and Jackie is a trainer at Metropolitan Health & Racquet Club. Thomas and Jackie are parents of Olivia, age 1.

Thomas and Jackie are parents of Olivia, age 1.

Ron and Nancy Hammonds transfer to our congregation from another United Methodist church. Ron is owner of Grason Communities, a land development and homebuilding company.



Kids' Kamp registration

Begins February 22

St. Luke's Summer Kids' Kamp is a day program for children entering 1st - 8th Grade in the Fall. Our camp serves children of all races, nationalities, and religions. Kids' Kamp will open its doors this year for the 50th summer. While at camp your child will engage in a multitude of activities, such as: swimming (pool on site), arts & crafts, tennis, music & drama, science, field sports, field trips every Friday. New activities this year include photography, yoga, and cooking/nutrition! We are looking forward to an exciting summer full of great experiences. Enrollment is limited, so sign up early!



NEW THIS SUMMER: Box lunches from Matthew's Market & Skeeters available for purchase!

To download your application and for more information visit www.stlukesaskidskamp.org. Contact at sndavis@stlukes-hou.org or 713-402-5075. Office hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m.-12 p.m. & 4:30-6 p.m. in the Activities Center.



Lenten Concert series

Join us every Thursday at noon in the Westheimer Chapel, beginning February 18 through April 1. There is no admission charge, however a free will offering will be received. The series begins on February 18 with Sean Brabant, tenor and Mary Box Brabant, piano with Sid Davis, tenor. Look in the February 19 Spire for further concerts.

February artist of the month

fine arts

Charlie Jean Sartwelle is our February Artist of the Month in the Rotunda Gallery, where she will be exhibiting a series of multi-media works titled *Aviary Arias: Bird Songs*. Charlie Jean is a native of Cameron, TX and a graduate of the Alfred C. Glassell School of Art. She is the founder of Mother Dog Studios, which offers local artists alternative studio and exhibition space.

Reflecting on her exhibit, Charlie Jean says, "In our post modern grief, nature can be a healing energy. Observing, listening and painting the birds brings a new awareness to my consciousness. Birding from my bedroom window each morning and listening to the beginnings of the day through bird songs, I bring my *Aviary*

Arias to visual form through collage, paint and sometimes found objects. Jonathan Rosen writes in his book *The Life of the Skies*, that 'birds seem to possess something that transcends happiness or sadness--they simply are.' *Aviary Arias* is my meditation on life through the use of art making."

A portion of all Rotunda Gallery sales proceeds benefits the St. Luke's Art Fund, which provides a means to maintain and add to our permanent art collection. In addition to this standard commission, Charlie Jean would like for an additional 25% of all sales to go to the UMCOR Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund, which is a most generous gift by our artist. If you would like to purchase one of Charlie Jean's pieces, contact Monica Griffin at mgriffin@stlukes-hou.org or 713-402-5110.



**ST. LUKE'S UMC
UNITED METHODIST MEN'S**

Valentine's Dinner Dance

with music by the Grateful Geezers

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

6:30 P.M.

3471 WESTHEIMER

FELLOWSHIP HALL

RSVP (\$15 PER PERSON)

ANNE ADAMS 713-622-5710

Day School registration



The Day School 2010-2011 applications are now available in the Day School office and are available on line at www.stlukesdayschool.org. Church members must turn in their applications by 6 p.m. on February 9 to be eligible for the first priority drawing. We will continue to receive applications, and those received after 6 p.m. on February 12 will go into the community drawing.

School tours are held every Tuesday through February 9 and all applications and information will be available at the tours. Please contact the Day School at 713-402-5030 with questions.



NCJW honors Andrea White with Hannah G. Solomon Award



The National Council for Jewish Women's Greater Houston Section will honor long-time St. Luke's member Andrea White with the Hannah G. Solomon Award on Sunday, February 21. A luncheon is planned from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1811 Briar Oaks Lane.

NCJW's Hannah G. Solomon Award is presented annually to outstanding individuals who have worked to bring about social change and whose impact has motivated others to fight for change locally, nationally or internationally.

In one of the most vibrantly diverse cities in the country, Former First Lady Andrea White has focused on deepening community bonds. To help keep kids in school, Andrea and Bill, in partnership with HISD, founded *Expectation Graduation*. Every year on Reach Out to Drop Outs Day, volunteers knock on doors and personally ask kids to come back to school. Thousands of students have returned to school since the program started in 2004. The program has grown to include 18 cities in Texas and beyond.

Two other programs that develop community bonds which Andrea is involved in are the *Amazing Faiths Project* and *We're All Neighbors*. In partnership with the Rice University Boniuk Center for Religious Tolerance, Interfaith Ministries of Houston and the Office of the Mayor, the city-wide *Amazing Faiths* initiative created Annual Dinner Dialogues where thousands of people of all faiths come to share a meal and a facilitated conversation about spirituality in their lives. The project has grown to other cities and includes youth-oriented programs. *We're All Neighbors* showcases Houston's cultural, intellectual, architectural and everyday heroes that make this city unique.

For more information about the Hannah G. Solomon Awards Luncheon, visit ncjw.org or to request an invitation, call 713-667-5694.

St. Luke's Adult Ministries Small Groups

New Studies for the New Year: Tuesdays

12:07-12:53 p.m., B154
Taught by Jane Williams
Philippians

January and February Sermon series

Lessons from the Vineyard
Study guides available for small groups on the church Web site or at the Connection Center

Short-term Disciple Bible Study

An Invitation to John, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.
Sally Dowland teaching, R22

For more information or to reserve child care for any of these groups, call the Adult Ministries office, 713-402-5139

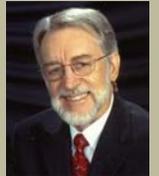
Contemporary Theology Class

The Contemporary Theology Class is beginning a study of Soren Kierkegaard and his seminal work, *Fear and Trembling*. The class meets Sundays at 11 a.m. in R24

adult
ministries

Maintaining a Good Marriage

Dr. Kelton Ro-Trock will speak to the Horizons Class on the topic, "Maintaining a Good Marriage" on February 7 and 14 at 9:45 a.m. Dr. Ro-Trock has been a licensed marriage and family therapist in the Houston community for more than three decades. He is an ordained United Methodist minister and has served as a member of the Adjunct Faculties of Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Texas, School of Public Health.



A Melody-A Love Song

O Lord, when I have a song in my heart to sing to you I will sing you a sweet, sweet melody of love that will tell you just how much I love you. High up in the trees, I would ask the birds to come down and sing this beautiful melody to you. The birds are your own creation-you made them in one day for us to enjoy in your new world. Because you love us, you created everything for us to enjoy while on this earth.

Until you call us to live with you forever and ever, Lord-'till we hear your voice, I will continue to sing a love melody to you!

By Rita Williams

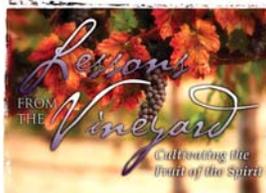
This poem was written by Rita Williams, a member of the Joy Class at St. Luke's. Pictured with her are Marc and Jolyn Greer. Marc is part of the teaching team for the class.

The Joy Class members are primarily adult residents of The Center Serving Persons with Mental Retardation or local group homes operated by Vita-Living. Like Rita, class members have their own unique abilities and talents. You would be surprised at what you can learn from them, says Adult Ministries Director Jane Williams.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Tom or Lisa Gossett at 713-661-1105 or lisa.gossett@sbcglobal.net or Jane Williams at jwilliams@stlukes-hou.org.



worship



8:30 a.m. Sunday – Traditional Worship with Holy Communion*

8:45 a.m. Sunday – Encounter Worship, Fellowship Hall

9:45 a.m. & 11 a.m. Sunday – Traditional Worship*

6 p.m. Sunday – Improvisation Jazz Worship, Chapel

* Sanctuary

Sermon videos, podcasts and corresponding study guides are available online at

www.stlukesmethodist.org/worship/sermons

February 7

"Self Control: Protect against the Foxes"

Fifth in the series

Lessons from the Vineyard:

Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26;

Song of Solomon 2:15-16

Dr. Tom Pace preaching

Altar Flowers: are dedicated to the Glory of God

Worship at Gethsemane Campus – 6856 Bellaire Boulevard

8:30 a.m. Sunday – Taizé Worship (English)

9:45 a.m. Sunday – Servicio en Español - Spanish Worship

10:55 a.m. Sunday – Traditional Worship (English)

6 p.m. Sunday – Contemporary Jazz Worship (English)

6:30 p.m. Wednesday – Mid-Week Contemporary Worship (English)

February 14

"Love and Generosity:

Feed and Water Regularly"

Sixth in the series

Lessons from the Vineyard:

Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit

1 John 4:11-21

Dr. Tom Pace preaching

Altar Flowers: are dedicated to the Glory of God