

# the connection

Second Quarter 2009

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## UPCOMING events

July 5–11

U.M. ARMY Camp

Tuesday, July 14 @ 7:30p

Finance Committee

Sunday, July 19 @ noon

Council on Ministries

Sunday, July 26 @ noon

Spaghetti Fundraiser

Sundays, Aug. 2 & 9

@ noon “Exploring St.  
Luke’s” membership class

Thursday, Aug. 6 @ 7:30p

SPR Committee Meeting

Saturday, Aug. 8

10a – 2p Day of Jubilee

Sunday, Aug. 16 @ noon

Council on Ministries

Sunday, Aug. 16 @ 6p

West District HymnSing

Wednesday, Aug. 26

@ 12:30p Trustees Mtg.

Thursday, Aug. 27

@ 7:30p Lay Leadership

Tuesday, Sept. 8 @ 7:30p

Finance Committee

Sunday, Sept. 20 @ 4p

Church Council Meeting

## Young Confirmands Engage Their Faith

BY ANDREW WOLFE, SUMMER PASTORAL INTERN

St. Luke’s first-ever confirmation class is a time of intentional preparation for lifelong faith decisions.

Pastor Jason and I are excited to lead the five-week confirmation study with our high schoolers, **Robbie Reece**, (*top photo*) **Matt Leighman**, (*left*) and **Mara Boyd** (*right*), as they discover their identity in Christ and learn the teachings of the Gospel.

Topics of study include the power of God, the implications of our sins, baptism, the Holy Spirit, service and the work of God, and finally, the basic foundations of Methodism. We hope that these topics will lead the confirmands to a better understanding of the basic tenants of Christianity and help them build a solid relationship with Christ.

### WEEKLY SPIRITUAL CHALLENGES

Over the course of confirmation, the students will have many opportunities to grow and develop spiritually outside of class.

Each week, we assign a challenge for Robbie, Mara and Matt to complete. Our hope is that these challenges will get the students comfortable with their faith and sharing it with others. Last week, they were challenged to share their testimony with a close friend or family member who hadn’t yet heard their story. Although this is a difficult and daunting task to accomplish, each confirmand rose to the occasion and shared his or her testimony.



### U.M. ARMY CAMP

Another opportunity for spiritual development will be at U.M. ARMY throughout the week of July 5–11 in Porter, Texas. U.M. ARMY is a service project camp that is designed to help those who are less fortunate by painting houses, building wheelchair ramps and doing a variety of other projects to make their homes a better place to live. To date, the confirmands, one other volunteer and I are signed up to go. As a former camper, I cannot say enough about how fun this week will be and how much these students will be changed! It is our goal to have two more adult volunteers sign up for the trip—do you sense God calling you to go?

> continued on page 2

## Confirmation (cont.)

### ONE-ON-ONE MENTORS

Finally, in order to engage the confirmands so they may grow and discern, we have chosen members of the congregation to mentor the students through their faith journeys. These mentors are spiritual guides to whom the students can look for answers to questions, encouragement and friendship. Pastor Jason and I believe

that having a mentor truly brings the confirmand into the family of St. Luke's because it provides them with someone familiar who has been walking with Christ for many years. The mentors' experiences as Christians allow them to give great insight and wisdom to their students, which will help them grow even more.

### What You Can Do

- ▶ **PRAY...** We invite the whole congregation to keep these students in your prayers as they go through the process of confirmation.
- ▶ **MENTOR...** We have been blessed with all of the help from the mentors so far and want y'all to know that we couldn't do this without you! If you're interested in mentoring, either now or in the future, contact Pastor Jason.
- ▶ **BE A VOLUNTEER AT U.M. ARMY...** We are still looking for two more adults to come on the trip this summer. It will certainly be a wonderful week full of work, worship and adventures!
- ▶ **SUPPORT...** To raise funds for the U.M. ARMY trip, St. Luke's will be having a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, July 26 after worship at the Tauber Fellowship Center. Pick-up or dine-in. The cost will be \$5 a plate for adults and \$4 for children. There will also be a cake auction and a slideshow of photos and testimonials from the trip. The funds raised will go to offset the cost of U.M. ARMY, which will cost around \$1,000.

## Cooperative Christian Education

BY KELSEY JOHNSON,  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY  
COORDINATOR

Thanks to involved volunteers and parents, Bible stories come alive for children both at church and at home.

Every Sunday morning, our kids (ages 4 through 5th grade) participate in Bible-based games, crafts, videos, songs and more through the Live B.I.G. curriculum and the help of our dedicated teachers.

Because Christian learning and discovery extends beyond time spent at church, I would encourage parents to follow along with the topics we'll be covering week to week and keep the conversation going. For at-home activities you can do with your children, visit the Parents Page at [www.ilivebig.com](http://www.ilivebig.com).

### JULY 2009

#### Stories of Faithful Friends

- July 5 Ruth and Naomi (*Book of Ruth*)
- July 12 David and Jonathan (*1 Samuel 18:1-5; 20*)
- July 19 The Five Friends (*Mark 2:1-12*)
- July 26 Priscilla and Aquila (*Acts 18:1-4, 18-21*)

### AUGUST 2009

#### Living the Story

- Aug. 2 Worshiping God: Solomon (*1 Kings 6:1, 11-14, 38*)
- Aug. 9 Praying: The Lord's Prayer (*Matthew 6:5-15*)
- Aug. 16 Helping: Seven Chosen to Serve (*Acts 6:1-7*)
- Aug. 23 Learning: Mary Sits at Jesus' Feet (*Luke 10:38-42*)
- Aug. 30 Forgiving: The Life of Love Sermon (*Ephesians 4:30-5:2*)





## Progress on St. Luke's Phase One Building

BY JIM DAVIS, CONSTRUCTION ON-SITE REPRESENTATIVE

Week by week, changes at the building site are dramatic. The work completed stands as a testament to God's faithfulness. Stay in the know by following regular video updates and reading this report.

Working with our general contractor for the building and grounds, G. W. Williams, and the subcontractor for the site work, Cole Construction Company, much has been accomplished at the St. Luke's building site.

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Slab is in place, including the rough-in plumbing and electrical.
- Electrical service has been established though no outside lights have been installed.
- Sewer line has been connected, as well as the water lines.
- Runoff detention pond has been generally completed.

### WHAT'S NEXT

- Drive and parking lot are currently being cut and graded.
- The frame is going up now that the trusses have been built and shipped.

### VISITING THE SITE

Now that construction is underway, the results are easy to see. At the same time, visitors to the actual construction site are not welcome. This is a safety concern as well as a distraction to the workers. A church visit day is planned for the near future when all will be welcomed. Several of these visit days are planned over the next five months.

### GRAND OPENING

The completion of the building is planned for November or early December! More details will be released as the date draws closer. The multipurpose building will have space for classrooms, a sanctuary, staff offices, nursery and welcome center.

### FIND OUT MORE

Pastor Jason will continue his weekly video update. This can be viewed on the church's web site at all times and will be played during the announcement time every Sunday. If you have specific questions, please ask Pastor Jason or myself. We are on the site on a regular basis and can answer questions ranging from how deep the pipes are below

*If you have questions about the building and grounds, feel free to ask any member of the Building Committee:*

- Jason Burnham
- Loueva Clark
- Jim Davis
- DeAndre Johnson
- Wayne Wickman
- Amy Wynn

the ground to which trees will be preserved around the building.

### TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

All of us need to praise the Lord for the opportunity to serve Him with this building, thank Him for the good construction weather and ask for His continued guidance as we seek to serve Him through His church.



## Fulfilling Our 'Promise'

BY DOT GUTTERY, ST. LUKE'S FAMILY PROMISE LIAISON

St. Luke's volunteers support local homeless families in transition through Family Promise.

Family Promise of Bryan-College Station is an area-wide, faith-based, nonprofit ministry that supports families who are experiencing homelessness as they search for jobs, undergo job training and obtain permanent housing. Family Promise meets a family's immediate needs for shelter and food by providing a safe environment for families to stay together during their housing crisis.

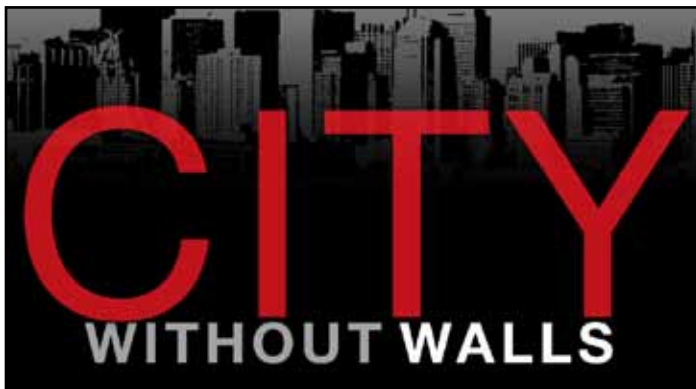
St. Luke's is a "buddy church" alongside First United Methodist in Bryan. Eight local churches rotate hosting the families for two weeks at a time (or once per quarter).

### Family Promise Volunteers

- 9 for activities
- 4 for overnight stay
- 7 for meal prep
- 1 for transportation

We just hosted three families June 15 and 16, and we will help host again in late August. All sorts of volunteers are welcome and needed to provide meals, fellowship, emotional support and activities for the children.

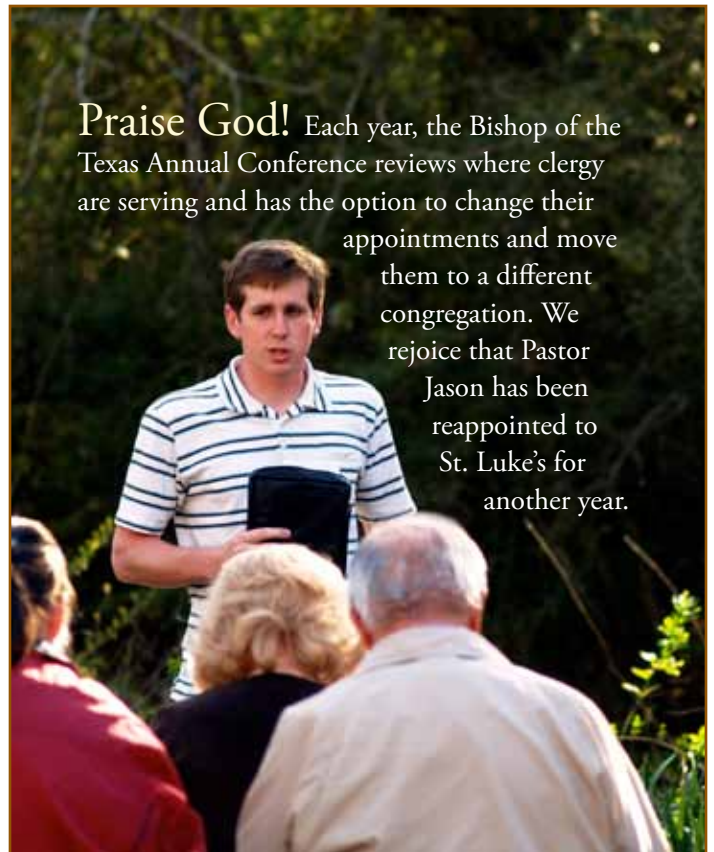
For more information on how you can be a part of this community response for homeless families, contact Dot Guttery at 979-778-4174. Volunteers are asked to attend a training session. The next training will be Sunday, July 19, during the Council on Ministries meeting.



### A Worship Series on the Books of Haggai and Zechariah

- July 5 Priorities: Building God's House (*Haggai 1*)
- July 12 Take Courage, Be Persistent (*Haggai 2:1-9*)
- July 19 God Will Take Care of You (*Haggai 2:10-19*)
- July 26\* Repent...Continually (*Zechariah 1:1-6*)
- Aug. 2 No Limits (*Zechariah 2*)
- Aug. 9\* Saved for a Purpose (*Zechariah 3*)
- Aug. 16 Cause and Effect (*Zechariah 4*)
- Aug. 23 Love One Another (*Zechariah 7:8-14*)
- Aug. 30 Nothing Is Impossible (*Zechariah 8*)

\* denotes Communion Sunday



**Praise God!** Each year, the Bishop of the Texas Annual Conference reviews where clergy are serving and has the option to change their appointments and move them to a different congregation. We rejoice that Pastor Jason has been reappointed to St. Luke's for another year.

# Automatic Bill Pay Option

BY BILL SCHROEDER, FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR

It is summertime—the time when families and individuals take vacations! When we are out of town on the weekends, it's easy to fall behind on tithes. I'm writing to you to remind you to try to keep your giving up-to-date. At the end of six months, the budgetary giving has fallen short of expected receipts.



The church is working on ways to help you stay current with your giving. We hope to have direct debit capabilities soon. Until then, several members have begun to use a service offered by their

bank called Automatic Bill Pay. Many banks will mail checks directly to us in the amount that you desire, saving you time and effort. You can schedule one time or recurring payments. This can help improve consistency in giving. Sometimes this service is free, and other times there is a small fee associated with it. Check

with your bank for complete details. Call Laura at the church office and she can explain these procedures.

I hope you have a wonderful summer, and please remember your church when you are traveling!




## A Spiritual Voyage

In September, Pastor Jason and his wife, Lauren, will be traveling to the Holy Land to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Along with a group of 28 other young United Methodist clergy and spouses from the Texas Annual Conference, the Burnhams will participate in a short-term academic program through Jerusalem University. The university is located on Mount Zion, overlooking the Hinnom Valley. The trip's organizer is an experienced clergyman who believes that witnessing the physical canvas of Jesus' life will enhance teaching, preaching and overall understanding of the gospel. Their itinerary includes visits to Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, Galilee and Jericho. They will participate in daily field studies of biblical history. Jason and Lauren will leave Monday, September 7, and return Saturday, September 19, just in time for Jason to preach the next morning! Pray for the Burnhams as they prepare for their journey.

## Finance Committee Report

St. Luke's operational budget is **\$13,200** per month. Here is the church's income during the second quarter of 2009:

-  **April 2009**  
\$23,733 (\$10,533 more than budgeted)
-  **May 2009**  
\$14,439 (\$1,239 more than budgeted)
-  **June 2009 (as of 6/24)**  
\$8,483 (\$4,717 less than budgeted)



### 2009 CAMPAIGN FUNDS RECEIVED (AS OF 06/10)

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Pledged:      | <b>\$29,206</b> |
| Non-pledged:  | <b>\$29,100</b> |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>\$58,306</b> |

### OVERALL CAMPAIGN GOAL = \$400,000

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Remaining:       | <b>\$341,694</b> |
| Percent of Goal: | <b>15%</b>       |

## Raised by Wolves

Introducing St. Luke's summer pastoral intern, Andrew Wolfe.

St. Luke's is blessed to have as our summer pastoral intern, Andrew Wolfe, who is in the discernment process for ordained ministry with hopes of being a pastor. Andrew is originally from College Station but currently lives in South Carolina as an incoming junior at Clemson University. He studies philosophy with a religion emphasis and hopes to attend seminary after college.



given responsibilities such as leading the confirmation class, planning and writing the current sermon series on family, and organizing a community outreach picnic. Some of his favorite moments of this summer have come during his recent opportunities to preach. Andrew said that he enjoys the rush and excitement of preaching and was glad to be able to give back-to-back sermons on June 7 and 14. "The opportunity to bring a word to the people of St. Luke's is a true honor, and I am so grateful for all of the encouraging words from the congregation. I love all of you guys!"

*> read the full article on St. Luke's Facebook page!*

## Sermon Recordings to be Delivered to Shut-Ins

Our ministry teams have been in prayer about how to best serve the members of our church who aren't able to attend worship on Sunday mornings. Here's the game plan:



Once a week, each shut-in will receive a visit from someone on the newly-formed Visitation Team who will deliver a CD recording of the most recent sermon. This visit will be in addition to Pastor Jason serving them communion on a monthly basis.

If you have one day a month to offer your time to be a member of the Visitation Team, please contact the church office to get signed up.

As always, if you miss a Sunday and want to listen to a past sermon, visit the archives at [www.stlukesbcs.org](http://www.stlukesbcs.org). Just click on the "Sermon Audio" link.

## Make a Joyful Noise

St. Luke's Choir will resume rehearsals on Tuesday, July 21, at 6 pm at the Tauber Fellowship Center.

We will begin rehearsing music for the West District HymnSing (*more details below*) on August 16 as well as music for worship. You do not need to be an experienced singer to be a part. All are welcome.

**The 20th Annual West District HymnSing** will be held on Sunday, August 16, at 6 pm at Christ UMC in College Station. This is a fun time where musical groups and members from many churches around the district gather to sing and worship. St. Luke's will join other churches in leading the music for the event. Afterwards, there will be an ice cream social. All are invited to attend.

## Day of Jubilee

On Saturday, August 8, from 10 am to 2 pm, join us for our second annual Day of Jubilee. It is a day dedicated to relaxation, rest and recreation. We'll be celebrating on the church's building site with games, grilling and even Slip 'n' Slide!

Our neighbors in the west side of Bryan will be invited to come. Please bring meat to grill, a side dish or a dessert, as you are able.



# Celebrations

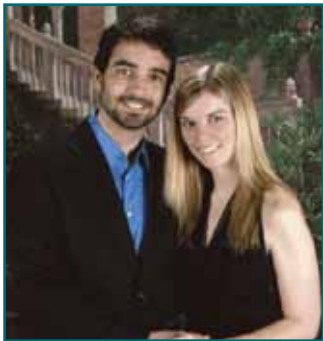
## BIRTHS & BAPTISMS



**Alexander Lee Owens** (*see photo at left*) was born on February 27 at 6:05 am. He weighed 6 lb 6 ½ oz and was 19 inches long. We celebrate with his mother, Katy, and the McCormick family.

**Andrew Clark** (*not pictured*) professed his faith and was baptized in worship on June 7. He is the grandson of Norm and Loueva Clark. Andrew will establish his membership at his parents' home church.

## WEDDINGS & GRADUATIONS



**Jeremy and Sara Alfred** tied the knot May 16 in Shreveport, La. Jeremy attended St. Luke's all last year and played the piano in the worship band. He is a graduate student in Nuclear Engineering and is working this summer at Oak Ridge National Laboratories. Sara graduated in May from Centenary College with a degree in Music. In the fall, we will welcome Jeremy and Sara back to the Bryan-College Station area.



**Heather Haynes** married Chris Hunt on June 12 at a ranch outside Dallas. Heather sang in St. Luke's worship band two years ago while she was a student at Texas A&M. Last year, she taught high school history in Dallas. Her husband Chris graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 2008 and is currently serving in the Coast Guard. Soon, they will move to Kittery, Maine.



**DeAndre Johnson**, St. Luke's Director of Music Ministries, graduated from Southern Methodist University with his master of sacred music degree on May 16. His degree was conferred jointly by the Perkins School of Theology and the Meadows School of Music. DeAndre spent nearly three years commuting to Dallas and taking distance learning classes to complete his course of study. It sure was a long road to travel—literally!

To continue to pursue his calling to become an ordained deacon in the United Methodist Church, DeAndre must complete an additional 15 credit hours in polity, doctrine, church history and preaching—along with several other requirements—before he can be commissioned at the Texas Annual Conference in June 2010.

## NEW MEMBERS



Our newest members who have joined over the past three months are: (*see photos, left to right*) **Ginny Griggs, Dot Guttery, Janice Reeves, Gwen Riddle, Brad Taylor** and (*not pictured*) **Durwood and Peggy Speights**

**EXPLORING**  
*st. luke's*

WELCOME FROM  
ALL WALKS  
OF LIFE

**Interested in joining St. Luke's? The next membership class will be August 2 & 9.**

# Embracing New Technology to Expand Vital Ministries

BY KELSEY JOHNSON, COMMUNICATIONS TEAM LEADER

What's all the hubbub about Facebook and Twitter? After all, St. Luke's already has an online presence through its website! Here's why making the plunge into social media makes perfect sense.

I have to admit I was a skeptic, at first. I resisted setting up a personal Twitter account, let alone managing one for St. Luke's! Like many of you, I considered Twitter and Facebook to be "cool," but just passing trends. I dismissed them before I truly realized their potential and the dynamic ways these tools can impact ministry.

**FELLOWSHIP & DISCIPLESHIP** | Facebook offers an easy platform for people to discuss sermons, give feedback on what is and isn't working with our ministries, share photos of church events, keep connected to each other's daily lives and even send out quick prayer requests. More than 50 people are already fans of the St. Luke's Facebook page, and that number is growing!

**EVANGELISM** | Quite simply, social media serves as another entry point for people in the community to find out what St. Luke's is all about and, more importantly, what it means to follow Christ. Through the informal atmosphere of Facebook and Twitter, visitors get a sneak peek at the Christian life—the commonplace, the profound and everything in between.

I encourage you to set aside your reservations and join in the conversation. To find us on Facebook, search for "St. Luke's United Methodist Church." To follow on Twitter, go to [www.twitter.com/stlukesbcs](http://www.twitter.com/stlukesbcs).



P.O. Box 1012 | Bryan, TX 77806

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
St. Luke's