

the connection

Third & Fourth Quarters 2009

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

Address 2700 W. Villa Maria | Bryan, TX 77807

Phone 979.822.9000 | Fax 979.822.9005

Website www.stlukesbcs.org

UPCOMING events

Monday, Nov. 16

6 pm
Church Council
Visioning Forum

Thursday, Nov. 19

6:30 pm
B/CS Hub Charge
Conference

Friday, Nov. 20

6 pm
Parents of Young Kids'
Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 29

Angel Tree Wish Stars
Available at Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 2

6 pm
Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 6

6 pm
Candlelight Service of
Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 13

4 pm
Birthday Party for Jesus

Thursday, Dec. 24

6 pm
Christmas Eve Service

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Come, Thou Long-Expected...Building

St. Luke's is closer than ever to the big move-in. The question remains: *when exactly will that be?*

Somebody must have prayed for patience because St. Luke's has had its fair share of practice as we wait for the new building to be move-in ready. As of now, the building is now 95% finished, which leaves most of the work yet to be done on the landscaping and parking lot. Best estimates put us moving in as early as **Wednesday, Nov. 18**, and being ready to worship in St. Luke's new sanctuary for the first time on **Sunday, Nov. 22**. In the

meantime, there is much work to be done on our end. If you have any spare time this week or next, please consider lending a hand (*see below*).

After we make the move and have a short period of transition, please make note of the church's new contact information:

PHONE 979.822.9000 FAX 979.822.9005

ADDRESS 2700 W. Villa Maria Rd.
Bryan, Texas 77807

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

- ▶ **PACK THE CHURCH OFFICES...** The time has come! Lend a hand to Pastor Jason and DeAndre as they tackle packing up paperwork and office supplies.
- ▶ **HELP WITH NURSERY...** As we anticipate growth in attendance upon move-in, we will soon be shorthanded in infant and toddler care. Sign up with Kelsey Johnson to be put on a Sunday morning rotation between 9:15 am–12:15 pm. You will only be called to work once a month.
- ▶ **ANSWER OFFICE PHONE...** Since St. Luke's does not have a full-time receptionist, we are still looking for volunteers who will help out with simple office tasks, including answering the phone from 9 am–1 pm on weekdays.
- ▶ **BE A GREETER OR BRING SOME REFRESHMENTS...** We want to show our warmth and hospitality to local churches coming to St. Luke's for the B/CS Hub Charge Conference on Thursday, Nov. 19 at 6:30 pm. Contact Jane Ford to bring refreshments and DeAndre Johnson to be a greeter.

Pastoral Leadership Program Activities

- Engage in quarterly retreats for the first two years, followed by semi-annual gatherings for three years
- Complete a variety of leadership assessments
- With the help of the congregation, assess and improve their skills for preaching, cultivation of congregational generosity and engagement with the public square
- Enjoy the counsel and support of an executive coach
- Work with a clergy mentor who has a proven record of faithfulness and fruitfulness in ministry
- Cultivate strong peer relationships
- Develop a clear plan for ongoing learning and growth
- Reflect theologically on the nature of personal and congregational leadership

Advancing Pastoral Leadership

Pastor Jason has been selected as one of 15 chosen for an intense five-year program designed to develop pastoral leadership skills.

After navigating the in-depth application and interview process, Pastor Jason has been selected as one of the 15 clergy to comprise the first class of the Advancing Pastoral Leadership program. This program is a ministry of the Texas Annual Conference through its Center for Clergy Excellence designed to develop the capacity for strategic congregational leadership in the annual conference. Created out of a deep concern for the mission of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, the goal of the program is to assist emerging clergy leaders in developing their capacity for fruitful leadership.



“This will be a defining time in my ministry.”

With this program, clergy who have 30 years of potential remaining service to the church have the opportunity to develop their capacity for leadership. No where else in the country do United Methodist clergy have an equivalent opportunity both to serve important missional appointments and be guided in an intentional, long-term process of leadership formation.

Pastor Jason attended the first quarterly retreat in October. Reflecting on this experience, he says, “I can already see that this program will be a defining time in my ministry, growing my capacity for leadership in the church.” Please join us in prayer for our pastor as he continues to grow through Advancing Pastoral Leadership. Details about the program are at left.



Christmas Caroling Party

Join us for a night of caroling on **Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 6 pm.** We will meet at the church, go caroling and then enjoy holiday refreshments at the home of Barry and Donna Bauerschlag. For more information, contact DeAndre Johnson.

B/CS Charge Conference

St. Luke's will host this annual meeting on
Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 pm.

Each year we live out a part of the United Methodist connection through our annual charge conference. At the B/CS Charge Conference, we gather with all of the churches that comprise the Bryan-College Station hub of the West District. Together, we elect church officers (*see below*), approve the budgets, set annual goals and celebrate the past year in ministry at St. Luke's and the other hub churches. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Joe Fort, will preside over the gathering and call us to extend our ministry in the world so that we may each grow as fruitful and faithful disciples.

For the first time, Charge Conference will be held at St. Luke's on **Thursday, Nov. 19, at 6:30 pm.** St. Luke's will need a strong presence at charge conference to help show our hospitality to the district. Volunteers are needed to help greet those attending and provide refreshments for the event. Contact DeAndre to see how you can help.

Below are the officer nominations for 2010 to be approved by Charge Conference:

Lay Leadership

Rev. Jason Burnham, *chair*
2012 Susan Miller
2012 Jamie Boyd
2011 Bobby Pope
2011 Terry Davis
2010 Josh Stevens

Finance

2012 Rachel Moyer
2012 Donna Bauerschlag
2011 Exa York
2011 Dot Guttery, *chair*
2010 Laura Joost, *secretary*

Chair of the Councils

Jackie Hook

Vice-Chair of the Councils

Justin Albright

Lay Delegate

Andrew Hook

Church Council At-Large

2011 Jane Ford
2011 Brad Taylor
2010 Ginny Griggs
2010 Denise Cook
2010 Charlie Kornegay

Staff/Parish Relations

2012 Randy Miller
2012 Louise Davis
2011 James McNeill
2011 Sieb Green, *chair*
2010 Ken McCormick

Trustees

2012 Gwen Riddle
2011 Scott Pangburn
2011 Paul Davis
2010 Walter Cagle, *chair*
2010 Alice Trejo, *secretary*

Finance Committee Report

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

↓ **July 2009:** \$12,616

↑ **August 2009:** \$19,665

↓ **September 2009:** \$9,875

2009 Budget: \$189,000

Spent as of 10/01: \$147,155

2010 Budget: \$206,000



2009 CAMPAIGN FUNDS RECEIVED (AS OF 11/10)

Pledged: **\$42,622**

Non-pledged: **\$38,109**

Total: \$80,731

OVERALL CAMPAIGN GOAL = \$400,000

Remaining: **\$319,269**

Percent of Goal: **20%**



Family Promise

On **Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 21 and 22**, St. Luke's will be hosting Family Promise at First

UMC in Bryan. This is a partnership ministry to homeless families in transition. Our responsibilities include providing dinner, evening activities, transportation and overnight hosting. If you would like to be involved, contact Dot Guttery.



‘Road to Bethlehem’ Series

Following a two-week series focusing on Thanksgiving (Nov. 22 and 29), St. Luke’s will kick off its Advent/Christmas series called “Road to Bethlehem.” We will explore the scriptural prophecies about Christ and their fulfillment.

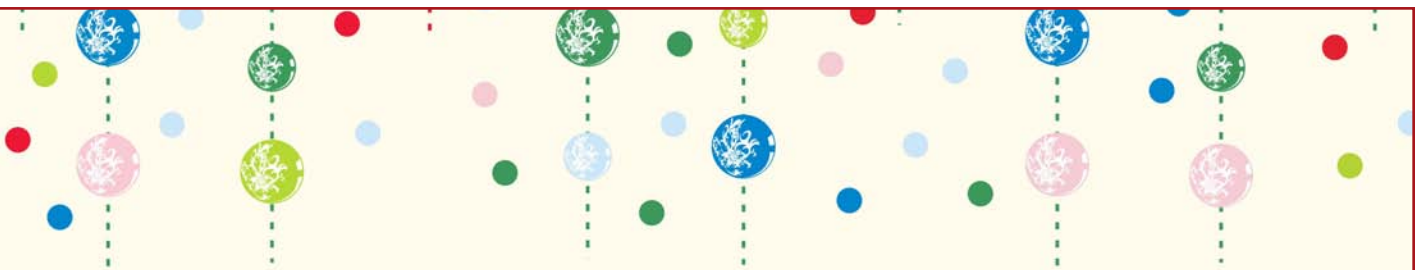
- Sunday, Dec. 06** 1 Samuel 16:1–13 & Matthew 1:1–17
- Sunday, Dec. 13** Isaiah 7:10–17 & Matthew 1:18–25
- Sunday, Dec. 20** Micah 5:1–5 & Matthew 2:1–12
- Thursday, Dec. 24** Luke 2:1–20
- Sunday, Dec. 27** Matthew 3 (Jesus’ baptism)

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

In anticipation of Christmas, St. Luke’s will present its Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, a program of readings, prayer, music and candlelighting on **Sunday, Dec. 6, at 6 pm** in the sanctuary. The program is free and open to the public, so please invite your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Nursery care will be available for infants and toddlers.

Music will be provided by the St. Luke’s Choir, accompanied by piano, trumpets, flutes and strings. They will present selections by John Rutter, Robert Young and others. The congregation will be invited to join in singing several familiar Christmas hymns.

After the service, there will be a “Taste of Christmas” reception with holiday refreshments, sponsored by St. Luke’s small groups. Please coordinate with Louise Davis to bring goodies and decorate your small group’s designated table.



Birthday Party for Jesus!

As a service project and fun event for the kids this Christmas, St. Luke’s Children’s Ministry will throw a birthday party for Jesus on **Sunday, Dec. 13, at 4 pm**. Each child, in honor of Jesus’ birthday, should select an Angel Tree Wish Star off the tree in the Welcome Center, starting Sunday, Nov. 29, and bring the wrapped gift to the party. All gifts will go to local foster children. Volunteers are invited to join in the fun! We will have cake and refreshments, games, crafts, decorations and party favors for all the kids. Contact Kelsey Johnson, Children’s Ministry Coordinator, to sign up to volunteer for this event.

Let's Get Together

Springboarding from four core beliefs, St. Luke's has adopted a strong vision for Children's and Family Ministry.

CORE BELIEFS

- ▶ **St. Luke's welcomes children in worship.**
*"When we baptize a child into the family of God, that child has a meaningful place in what that family does as a group."
(Including Children in Worship)*
- ▶ **St. Luke's takes pride in its intergenerational, multicultural worship.**
*"It is not only possible, but desirable, to develop worship which works for the entire community."
(Children at Worship, Congregations in Bloom)*
- ▶ **St. Luke's wants to model God's design for a community where individuals—no matter their differences—know they belong.**
"When you welcome and involve children in worship, you'll follow Jesus' admonition to 'let the little children come to me'—for they belong to the kingdom of God."
- ▶ **St. Luke's affirms and empowers Christian parents in raising their children in the faith.**
*"Parents are the best people to teach their children what it means to worship God."
(Parenting in the Pew)*

LEARN TOGETHER

- ▶ At 9:30 on Sunday mornings, kids go to one of **two classrooms**: 1) Preschoolers (ages 3–5) and 2) Elementary (K–5th graders).
- ▶ We use the Live B.I.G. curriculum (www.ilivebig.com). Parents **rotate teaching duties** with each couple leading one class one Sunday per month along with the help of volunteer teaching assistants, if needed. These parents arrive 15 minutes early to set up the rooms and be ready to welcome the children. On non-teaching Sundays, parents participate in a parents' small group that runs concurrent to the children's time and reinforces family ministry.
- ▶ Parents participate in **quarterly meetings**. Families who have recently joined the church will go through an orientation/teacher training and be added to the rotation. At the meetings, all parents sign up in advance for the Sundays they will teach. The calendar will be distributed shortly after the meeting and reminders issued the week before parents are scheduled to teach. Parents who unex-

PARENTS' QUARTERLY MEETING

FRIDAY, NOV. 20 @ 6 PM

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH - CHILDREN'S SUITE

Come for a full tour of the new children's facilities! We'll be signing up for Sundays to teach the Winter curriculum (Dec.–Feb.), talking about classroom management and routines, as well as turning in our Safe Sanctuaries certificates.

pectedly have a scheduling conflict should contact another couple from the list and arrange a switch. They should then notify the master calendar coordinator.

WORSHIP TOGETHER

- ▶ We have redesigned the **worship bulletins** to incorporate graphic symbols for non-readers to be able to follow along and comprehend the order of worship (e.g., praying hands beside prayer time and musical notes next to songs). This new design also benefits people with intellectual disabilities and the unchurched.
- ▶ **Integrated activities** allow children to bring God praise in ways that are age-appropriate. Children are sometimes invited to choose items from a box of musical percussion instruments, scarves and ribbon streamers during certain parts of the service. During the sermon, a craft table with Play-Doh, coloring sheets and other quiet activities is set up in the Courtesy Room as an option for younger children. Activities always relate to and reinforce the theme for the day, and volunteers will guide the children.
- ▶ When parents need another outlet, we rely on back-up **nursery care** for children ages 4 and under, should parents so choose. Nursery workers for babies and toddlers consider their jobs as "more than babysitting" and implement Christian songs, stories and other activities in a loving environment that fosters spiritual growth.
- ▶ We value the contributions children offer to the congregation and to God. We often have children help with **worship elements** by writing prayers, creating artwork for the altar, participating in drama and taking leadership roles in lighting candles, ushering, singing, etc.

Who can I contact with questions?

KELSEY JOHNSON (kaj.rdj@gmail.com) is the children's ministry coordinator and plans family ministry events. JERRICA GEORGE (georgefamily08@gmail.com) manages the master calendar and teacher scheduling.

Children's Schedule

DECEMBER 2009

The Messiah Is Born

- Dec. 06 The Angel's Message (Luke 1:26–38)
- Dec. 13 Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39–45)
- Dec. 20 Journey to Bethlehem (Luke 2:1–7)
- Dec. 27 The Birth and the Shepherds (Luke 2:8–20)

JANUARY 2010

Jesus Is God's Son

- Jan. 03 The Wise Men (Matthew 2:1–12)
- Jan. 10 Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:39–52)
- Jan. 17 Jesus is Baptized (Matthew 3:13–17)
- Jan. 24 Jesus Makes a Choice (Luke 4:1–13)
- Jan. 31 Jesus in the Synagogue (Luke 4:16–30)

What's Next for St. Luke's?

Come discern what next steps God has for St. Luke's and its ministries on **Monday, Nov. 16, at 6 pm.**

The Church Council will host a Visioning Forum on **Monday, Nov. 16, at 6 pm** at the Tauber Fellowship Center. Together, we will talk about and discern how God has called St. Luke's to live out its vision of transforming lives in the B/CS community. All committee members and ministry team members are encouraged to attend.



P.O. Box 1012 | Bryan, TX 77806

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

St. Luke's