

ST. LUKE'S NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2020



**"This very
day in David's
town your
Savior was
born - Christ
the Lord."**

**Matthew
2: 1-2**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The Children's Hunger Project	2
Worship	3
Nominating Committee	4
Music Magic	6
God's Story for St. Luke's	8
New Members	10
Calendar	12

Pastor's Note

Dear Friends,

In the Book of Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 11 God says, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." As we begin this new year and decade, it is exciting to see what God is doing at St. Luke's and in our midst. We have our hope and future in God, and I cannot wait to experience it with you all!

I would encourage you all to read the story of God's faithfulness to St. Luke's in the early 1970s, which you will find in this newsletter on pages 8 and 9. There are so many parallels to our current situation with the congregation at St. Luke's in the early 1970s, and there is wisdom to be learned in how they prayed, listened, discerned and made decisions that we can apply as we approach the opportunities God is blessing us with in 2020.

If I could invite you to do one thing in this new year, it would be to ask yourself the question that Rev. Bill Barron asked the Elders of the St. Luke's Session in 1972 ... "What can we dream together and agree that we will pray about together each day that would be not for our own glory, but for the glory of God?" I would love to hear what your dreams are for our church and ministries, and I promise that I will share your dreams with the Session so we can consider where God would have us go with the dreams, all for his glory!

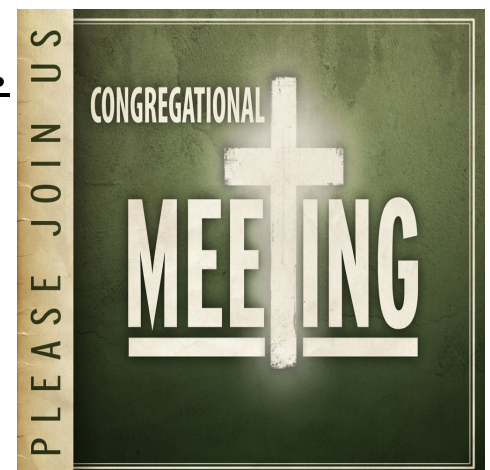
*In God's Love,
Pastor Jody*

Congregational Mtg.

You're Invited

When: Sunday, January 19th
Immediately following the
10:00 a.m. worship service.

Agenda Items: Election of the
2020 Nominating Committee and
Receive the 2019 Annual Report



The Alice Montgomery Trust

Alice Montgomery loved the Lord, she loved her family and friends, and she loved her church family. The Session learned this past summer that in honor of the love Alice had for the Lord and our congregation, Alice left a very generous portion of her estate to our church. A check from Alice's Trust was personally delivered to our office by Alice's nephew and his wife, Bob and Lu Zane, in early November.

Because of her generosity, the Session has approved the following projects:

- New roofing for Buildings 1/2, 5/6, and 7/8 (work to commence 1/6/20),
- A new A/C unit and roof repairs for Fellowship Hall,
- New kitchen cabinets, paint, and countertops for the Fellowship Hall kitchen, as well as new flooring in all of Fellowship Hall (including the kitchen),
- Two AED systems to aid anyone having heart distress in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall,
- Orff musical instruments for the St. Luke's Choir/Music ministry, and more.

As work moves forward with these major projects, updates and plans will be shared by the Session with the congregation. We are so grateful for Alice's gift to our congregation and look forward to the improvements and repairs that will be accomplished in the coming months!

The Children's Hunger Project

Mark your calendars now! We are going to kick 2020 off doing exactly what Jesus calls us to do ... feeding and loving the children of our community.

****You're Invited****

Monday, January 6th 5:15-7:15 p.m.

1855 W King St, Cocoa, FL 32926
(on Rt. 520 in the middle building of the Hyundai Dealership, parking is in the rear of the building)

Sign up on the sheet in the Narthex!



January Worship Plans

On Sunday, January 5th we will celebrate Communion and EPIPHANY, which is the day when we remember the arrival of the Wise Men as the star brought them to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Wise Men each brought Jesus a special gift and we will each be invited to bring a canned food gift to help feed our hungry neighbors in the name of Jesus. Following worship, there will be a Pot Luck Lunch and then we will take down the Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

**** On Sunday, January 12th, St. Luke's is going to be closed as we take "Church On the Road" and worship with our brothers and sisters at First Presbyterian Church (1235 S. Park Ave., Titusville). This is our opportunity to show love in a radical way for the congregation of First Presbyterian as they prepare to close on January 31st, 2020 and we hope you will make plans to be part of the 10 a.m. worship service at First Presbyterian Church. ****

On Sunday, January 19th we will be back at St. Luke's for worship at 10 a.m. and as part of the service we will ordain and install our new Elders. Following the worship service, members and guests are invited to remain in the Sanctuary for the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION. This is a wonderful time to ask any questions you might have about the ministries and plans of the committees for 2020, and for members to elect the 2020 Nominating Committee.

And, as part of the worship service on **Sunday, January 26th**, we will install the 2020 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S OFFICERS and have Treat Time in their honor following worship.

We will serve Communion at Royal Oaks Assisted Living on Sunday, January 5th at 1:45 p.m. and have a worship service with Communion at Crescent Wood Assisted Living at 2:30 p.m. You are always invited to share in both of these opportunities to journey and worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ who are assisted living residents ... they would love to see you!



Nominating Committee Slate

One of the voting items at our Annual Congregational Meeting will be the 2020 Nominating Committee. The Session puts forward the following slate for your approval:

- Ann Reitz, Elder, Chairperson,
- Jose' Amador, Elder, Vice-Chair,
- Rebecca Gunness, Congregant Member,
- A Congregant Member TBD, and
- Bill Rushing, Congregant Member.

Pastor Jody serves as an Ex Officio member of the committee (voice but no vote).



100 Christmas Dinners

Team St. Luke's was amazing on Saturday, December 21st as we packed 100 Christmas dinners in the space of two hours and delivered them to area schools, families, and individuals who have food challenges. Every dinner contained a 10# bone in smoked pork butt, mashed potatoes, baked beans, and a complete pie. We also included a beautiful Invitation to our neighbors receiving the dinners to come and worship with us on Christmas Eve, the youth group schedule of events for the next two months, and a list of all of the mission projects we do as a church throughout the year.

Thank you to everyone who donated pies, drove to pick up the 13 cases of meat, smoked all of the meat, worked as a volunteer on December 21st to prepare the meals, and delivered the dinners to the schools (Coquina Elementary, Mims Elementary, and Jackson Middle School), families, and individuals. Praise God for allowing us to do the holy work of feeding our neighbors!



JANUARY AND FEBRUARY LINE UP

The next two months offer many wonderful opportunities for you to jump in and participate in worship, fellowship and mission:

January 5th	Epiphany Sunday worship service with Communion at 10 a.m.
January 6th	Packing 1,500 meals at The Children's Hunger Project in Cocoa
January 12th	Worship at First Presbyterian Church/No service at St. Luke's
January 18th	The Music Magic Show 6-8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall \$10/ticket
January 19th	Worship and Elders ordained/installed at 10 a.m.
	Annual Congregational Meeting following the worship service
January 26th	PW Installation of Officers during the 10 a.m. worship service
February 2nd	Souper Bowl Sunday (bring a canned food item)
February 8th	10 a.m. BINGO #3 Brunch and BINGO!
February 9th	"God Loves You" Valentine's Treat Time after worship
February 23rd	Scout Sunday, Troop 488 helps lead worship
February 25th	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in FHall 5-6:30 p.m.
February 26th	Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

We raised \$101.27 at our 1st Annual Christmas Karaoke to benefit 2 Cents A Meal. All 2 cents a meal donations support Society of St. Andrews, Second Harvest Foodbank, Madagascar, AIR Guatemala and Central FL Presbytery Hunger Relief Projects.

HELP WANTED

- Pastor Jody would like someone with bread baking skills to bake two loaves of purple sweet potato bread for our Communion bread during Lent. Please let her know if you can help.
- Calling all painters. We will have several opportunities in January for people who can paint to help with the painting of Fellowship Hall. Please see Mike Noble if you want to help.



For someone tonight:

Terrible day, not a terrible life.

Hard season, but a beautiful story.

Awful chapter, but an amazing book.

Perspective is everything. The day Jesus died was the worst and best day in history. It looked like death, but it gave me life.

Your Mess Matters.



The Music Magic Show



St. Luke's 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip was chosen to be the recipient of 100% of ticket sales for **The Music Magic Show**, a variety show produced by Marsha Clayton. The location of the show changes annually, as does the charity recipient of the show's ticket sales. This year's show will be held on **Saturday, January 18th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**. Tickets are \$10 each and include the show, a beverage, and a dessert. There will also be a 50/50 Raffle.

Ticket sales will be capped at 110 and **no tickets will be sold at the door**. Tickets will be available for purchase before and after Sunday morning worship services, as well as during regular church office hours (Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:30 a.m.). Thank you for supporting the 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip and our local area performers who are giving so much of their time and talent to make this show possible!

2020 Youth Mission Trip

The time of prayer and discernment for our 2020 Youth Mission Trip is over and we are happy to share that we will be traveling to Savannah, Georgia. Our team is in conversation with White Bluff Presbyterian Church to stay at their church during our June 13-19 week in Savannah, and we hope to partner with them to help their congregants impacted by severe storms over the past two years. We thank everyone who has been praying for us in our decision making, and continue to ask for your prayers as we complete our plans.



Youth Group Plans

Youth Group is about growing deeper in our faith, participating in mission projects, making friends, and having fun. Here's our line up of Youth Group activities coming soon:

- **Sunday, January 5th** Youth Group from 12-1:15 p.m. and then Church On The Road from 1:15-3:30 p.m. at Royal Oaks and Crescent Wood Assisted Living. Youth help lead worship and visit with residents at both assisted living homes.
- **Saturday, January 18th** 6:00 p.m. The Music Magic Show in Fellowship Hall. All youth need to help with set up at 4:30 p.m. and we will make sure everyone is driven home at 9:00 p.m. when we are done with clean up. All proceeds from The Music Magic Show benefit our 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip to Savannah, GA (June 13-19, 2020).
- **Sunday, January 26th** 12-2:30 p.m. Youth Group in Room 8. Ice Cream Blizzards, games, and Bible Study.

Looking Ahead

Saturday, February 8th 9:00 -11 :00 a.m. Brunch and BINGO to benefit our 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip. Youth need to be in Fellowship Hall by 8:30 a.m. to help with set up.

Tuesday, February 25th Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 5-6:30 p.m. hosted by our Youth Group and Scout Troop 488. Proceeds from the dinner will be split between the 2020 Summer Youth Mission Trip and the Scout Troop's Camping Fund.

Are You Ready To Make Some Great Memories Together?



To The Glory Of God Story

The following is an abridged version of the account of the T. K. Lee Story written by Rev. Bill Barron, who served St. Luke's from 1970-1977, and the T.K. Lee Planning Committee:

When I (Bill Barron) came to St. Luke's, the Apollo space program had succeeded in achieving the goals of that decade and there had been a dramatic reduction in the work force at the Space Center. We were a very depressed community. At that time, St. Luke's had a budget of \$26,000, we were generating \$9,000/year in income, and we were receiving \$17,000 in aid from St. John's Presbytery. There were a lot of people in our church who really wondered if we would survive in spite of the magnificent start the church had had under Rev. Hugh Hamilton.

I remember I went to a meeting of the Synod of FL where Rev. Lloyd Ogilvie of Bethlehem, PA spoke about something that happened in his church. He had asked the elders to come together and "dream dreams" to try to think of what could happen to the glory of God without any limitation if we would trust God for that. He told about the magnificent things that happened in that church. I was very, very inspired by his presentation, came back, and met with our nine elders. I said, "What can we dream together and agree that we will pray about together each day that would be not for our own glory, but for the glory of God?" After we had discussed several possibilities like someone to work with the young people (the standard kinds of requests that were being raised all the time) LeRoy Sherrer, the Superintendent of Sunday School, said, "I hope there will be so many people to come to church here that we can't seat them in this Fellowship Hall and we'll have to build a Sanctuary right out there; and we'll do it in eighteen months." The rest of us kind of looked at each other and cleared our throats. "Now LeRoy, there you go, foolin' around, be serious now, what would you really like to pray about?" He insisted that we pray about a Sanctuary together.

In the meantime, as God often works without our being aware of it, He had already started his processes for answering our prayers. There was a realtor, Mr. Moss, who was a dedicated congregation member of First Presbyterian Church of Orlando, and his pastor, Dr. Howard Chadwick, who were both involved in working with our St. John's Presbytery in new church development. Mr. Moss was aware of a very wealthy Chinese business syndicate that had approached our presbytery about giving land in North Brevard for the purpose of organizing a new Presbyterian Church. Note: The money was from a woman involved in that business syndicate who had been married to a Nationalist Chinese who was not a Christian and who had been led to Christ by a Presbyterian missionary. She wanted to express her thanks to the Presbyterian Church for having sent a missionary who was able to communicate the Good News of Christ to her husband.

Mr. T.K. Lee of New York, on behalf of the Chinese business syndicate, made a one time gift of Xerox stock to St. John's Presbytery that was sold for \$104,562.78 for the purpose of developing a Presbyterian Church in the N. Brevard area. All surveys indicated that no new congregation would be started in this area in the near future (8-10 years).

**** (SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THE REST OF THE STORY) ****

St. Luke's Story (continued)

Since St. Luke's was, at the time of the gift, a small mission church and a relatively new congregation, our church was presented as the logical recipient of this gift. Through the indispensable help of Mr. Moss and Dr. Chadwick, Mr. Lee directed that his gift be given to St. Luke's of Titusville. The donor gave very few restrictions; however, he did require that the entire gift be applied to buildings, including indebtedness of present buildings, repairs and remodeling, and new construction.

Over the next 9 months, the T.K. Lee Planning Committee (Ken Wall - Chair, Lee Ayres, Betty Camp, Gene Flynn, Julian Mountain, Larry Respass, David Rosine, and LeRoy Sherrer) met nine times and each member spent at least 40 hours in research, prayer, discussion, and decision making. While the Planning Committee's technical charge concerned the T.K. Lee gift only, there were several other considerations that they addressed in their work with the congregation:

1. The officers of St. Luke's were keenly aware of the danger of being "spoiled" by such a large gift, which they felt could result in a relaxed commitment by the congregation. However, Praise the Lord, the results of the Every Member Canvas showed that that did not happen.
2. Another danger was that the congregation would not feel a part of the resulting program if it was totally the result of Mr. Lee's gift. With that in mind, the Planning Committee asked the question, "What part should the congregation play in what we do?" The congregation overwhelmingly responded through the Every Member Canvas that they desired to deepen their commitment to God in Jesus Christ in time, money and ability.

As Rev. Barron wrote, "... on that Easter Sunday (in 1972) all the chairs in Fellowship Hall were filled. Wall to wall all around people were standing. The kitchen was packed both with chairs and with people. There were folks standing outside in the corridor. And on that Sunday, we got the message that our prayers had been answered and we proceeded then with another series of miraculous things that happened in the filling of that space. I'm sure you've heard that stories before ... the way we were able to secure the architect, Nils Schweitzer.* He was a fantastic man and the only reason he took our project was that he had had a stroke and he wanted something small by his standards that he could become personally involved in as he began to work back into the routine of a daily practice. There were people, contractors who wanted to get on his bid list, so they underbid our job just to get on Mr. Schweitzer's list to do the work, which resulted in us getting the Sanctuary for about \$35,000 below cost.

There were a lot of ways in which God has his hand in this so that when we dedicated the Sanctuary in 1975, all of you who are aware of it know that there wasn't any person there with any sense of honesty who could say, 'Look what we have done.' We were all absolutely bowled over with the fact that God had been about some magnificent business, and we had been privileged to be a part of it. I am sure that God's work is continuing here and it's just part of the continuing exciting story of being alive in Jesus Christ with the fellowship of this church."

***Note: Nils Schweitzer (1925-1988)** was called The Dean of Orlando Architecture. He was greatly influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, with whom he studied architecture in the prestigious Taliesin Fellowship program. Schweitzer came to Central Florida in 1953 from Baltimore to work as the Southeastern representative for Frank Lloyd Wright's firm and to oversee the design of Florida Southern College in Lakeland. He helped design the Orlando International Airport, Epcot Center's Mexican pavilion, Loch Haven Park and St. Luke Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Orlando. In 1964 he helped build the Loch Haven Art Center, and in 1985 his firm designed the addition to the Orlando Public Library.

Source: <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/os-xpm-1988-02-21-0020110135-story.html>

New Members @ St. Luke's



On Sunday, December 15 we welcomed (L to R) John Herzog, Luis Huapaya, and Jerry Phillips as new members of St. Luke's. John sings in the choir and helps fix the church's clocks, Luis volunteers with the Youth Group, and Jerry is working on repair projects around the church each week and is a weekly attendee of the Adult Sunday School class. We are grateful to have John, Luis, and Jerry as part of our church!

Elders: Goodbye and Hello

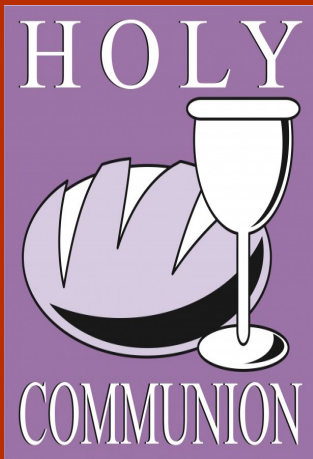
A BIG THANK YOU to Loretta Mudrak and Marsha Van Vuren for their outstanding leadership on the Session as Elders. Loretta and Marsha will rotate off of the Session on Sunday, January 19th. We are grateful that Loretta has volunteered to serve as a Deacon to continue leading the Prayer Partner ministry. Marsha has volunteered to co-chair the 2020 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry with Beth Coldiron, and Marsha will also continue serving as the Bible Study co-teacher for the Presbyterian Women.

We welcome Jose' Amador, Jeff Lake and Gail McMahon as new Elders who will begin serving following their ordination and/or installation on Sunday, January 19th. We are grateful that these wonderful congregants have said "Yes, Lord!" to the opportunity to serve as Elders for three years. Their first Session meeting will be Thursday, January 23rd.



“For where your
treasure is, there
your heart will
also be.”

Matthew 6:21



Year To Date Financial Information

Financial Report as of November 30th

2019 Operating Income Year to Date	\$ 117,709.07
2019 Operating Expenses Year to Date	\$ 121,590.02
Year to Date:	\$ (3,880.95) *

*We had two weeks of offerings in November that were approximately \$1,000 less than usual and a 1x/yr property tax & storm water bill for just over \$2k.

Ushers/Communion Servers/Attendance

Sunday, Jan. 5th

Ushers: Beth Coldiron,
Dorothy Peters,
Jerry Phillips, and
Marsha Van Vuren

Sunday, Jan. 12th

Church on the Road at
First Presbyterian Church
(1235 S. Park Ave)

Sunday, Jan. 19th

Ushers: June Duff, Brandilyn
Hoftyzer, Haley Mann, and
Sandy Vidal-Diaz

Sunday, Jan. 26th

Ushers: Colette Sigle,
Tessie Stanga, Loretta
Mudrak, and Kassie
Mudrak

Communion Servers

Jerry & Susan Beverly,
Dorothy Peters,
Loretta Mudrak, and
Pastor Jody

Worship

Attendance

Dec. 1st: 77
Royal Oaks: 9
Crescent Wood: 13
Dec. 8th: 86
Dec. 15th: 110
Dec. 22nd: 80
Dec. 24th: 116
Dec. 29th: 65



Special Occasions



Wedding Anniversaries:

None this month

Birthdays

Carol Moore (1/8)
Len Jackson (1/9)
Beth Coldiron (1/11)
Ron McCracken (1/11)
Beverly Herzog (1/13)
Layne Hamilton (1/16)
Tessie Stanga (1/16)

Birthdays (continued)

Jerry Stanga, Sr. (1/18)
Andy Amador (1/23)
Colette Sigle (1/26)
Angela Chan (1/27)
Jerry Phillips (1/27)
Angel Amador (1/30)

*We thank God for blessing each of our
friends with the gift of time and pray that
their next year will be amazing!*

January 2020

PAGE 12

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Happy New Year!</i> <i>No church programming</i>	2 <i>Happy New Year!</i> <i>No church programming</i>	3	4
5 <i>Epiphany/ Communion</i> 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 a.m. Pot Luck in Fellowship Hall 1:45 p.m. Communion at Royal Oaks 2:30 p.m. Communion at Crescent Wood	6 Reroofing Project all week 5:15 p.m. <i>The Children's Hunger Project Food Packing Cocoa on Rt. 520</i>	7 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den 488, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	8 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study at Cracker Barrel 11:30 a.m. Prayer Partners, Rm. 3 No Choir Rehearsal	9 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study in Rm. 3	10 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6	11 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 485 in Room 6
12 <i>Church on the Road</i> 10:00 a.m. <i>Worship at First Presbyterian Church (1235 S. Park Ave)</i>	13 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Committee Meeting	14 9:30 a.m. PW Meeting/ Christmas Lunch 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den 488, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	15 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Prayer Partners, Rm. 3 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 7	16 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study in Rm. 3 5:00-8:00 p.m. The Music Magic Show Dress Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall	17 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6 <i>Deadline for February newsletter articles</i>	18 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Music Magic Show in Fellowship Hall to benefit the 2020 Youth Mission Trip
19 <i>Cong. Meeting</i> 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Cong. Mtg. 11:15 am Treat Time in Fellowship Hall	20	21 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den 488, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	22 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study @ Cracker Barrel 11:30 a.m. Prayer Partners, Rm. 3 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 7	23 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study in Rm. 3 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting in Rm. 3	24 7:30-11:30 a.m. TOPS meeting in FHall and Rm 6	25
26 <i>PW Officer Installation</i> 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Treats in Fellowship Hall 12-2:30 pm Youth Group in Room 8 3 p.m. 1st Pres. Final Service, All Invited	27	28 6:00 p.m. Cub Scout Den 488, Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 488, Fellowship Hall	29 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study @ Cracker Barrel 11:30 a.m. Prayer Partners, Rm. 3 7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal, Rm. 7	30 1:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study in Rm. 3	31	