



St. Luke's Messenger

Dear Parish Family

October-December 2018

I was watching the news recently and the Newscaster was talking about a merger between Pandora (a free music streaming "station" or "app") and Sirius XM Satellite Radio, which comes often on a "trial basis" with most new cars. The latter, then, is usually "subscribed to for a monthly fee. Sirius is going to "buy out" and take over Pandora and in the short run, Pandora would continue to be free; but, in the long run, the speculation is, according to the Newscaster, the Pandora will either cost you "money" or "time" (commercials that you will be listening to).



Greg Kronz
Rector

We are in the midst of Stewardship season in the church where we seek to secure pledges for the next fiscal year for our budget; but really, more than that, try to establish what staff and ministries we will be able to realistically have for next year (as well as deal with the lawsuit expenses and debt of our building). It is always a "balancing act." In my mind, it shouldn't be, but it is! Let me explain.

Stewardship has often been boiled down to "time, talent, and treasure". When Scripture addresses stewardship, which it does frequently, in both the Old Testament, and New Testament, "giving" is quite comprehensive. The whole idea of

stewardship actually begins at creation: that all that we are and all that we have comes from the Lord. When Adam and Eve were placed in the Garden of Eden, it wasn't "their property," it was God's property; the same with the plants and animals; and they were called to be "good stewards" of what was given to them.

The "tith" (a tenth part) was established as early as Abraham, and was considered the "minimum standard" of giving back to the Lord throughout Scripture, including Jesus' own words (Matthew 23). We are actually called to more: to giving to the poor, the widow and orphan, generous additional giving, giving to "the Temple." In other words, generosity is a lifestyle because of God's love in us; because He is a generous God, that we give out of a grateful and thankful heart.

And, He wants our time! Prayer, time in His Word, worship, study, ministry, mission are all part of this and expressions of giving our time. The invitation of Jesus to "Follow me" really is all consuming: we spend continual time with Him and keep our eyes fixed on Him.

Someone once said that if we want to see your priorities, just look at your calendar (the use of your time) and your checkbook (the use of your resources/money). Let me take it a step further: If you love someone, you invest your lives in them; you spend time with them, resources on them: your spouse, your children, even other relatives and friends. People you care about. When you consider the "First and Great Commandment: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength," in other words, the whole of your being, you might think He wants "all that you are and all that you have;" and you are right!

But, He allows you to be a steward of that! Recognizing that the talents, opportunities,

skills, and most especially His Son and your salvation all come from Him, He gives you guidelines on how you might "give back to Him;" how you might grow in your love relationship with Him; how you might be an effective disciple and witness; how you might help His church grow and enable and empower His Church to do what it needs to do.

As you pray about, think about, and consider your Stewardship this year, please reflect on and pray about the above. God is not like the merger of Pandora and Sirius: He is, if you are His, your "All in All" because of His love for you in Jesus!

With love, in Christ,

Greg Kronz

P.S.: Meet Owen!

Charlie and Bethany (Kronz) Hamill and Baby Owen are going to be in Hilton Head the week prior to Thanksgiving (November 12-16)! We would love to provide an opportunity for anyone who wishes to have a chance to greet them and meet their precious Owen (our first



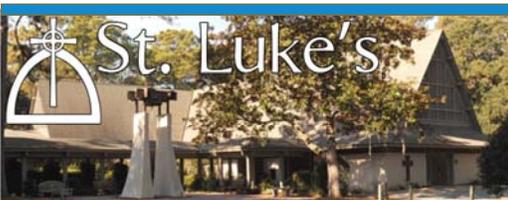
grandchild)! Since they won't be here over a Sunday, we thought the best opportunity we could provide for them would be on Wednesday night, November 14th. Please plan to join us for the regularly scheduled 5:30 Pot Luck Dinner (which they will be present for); and, instead of the John Study, there will be an extended time of Dessert and Fellowship from 6:15-7:15. Hope you will plan to join us!

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Our Focus

- Upward: To worship and serve the Lord
- Inward: To grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Christ in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
- Outward: To share our faith, our hands and our hearts, for the sake of the gospel, our community, and the world.



A CHURCH IN THE ANGLICAN TRADITION

Office Closures

The church office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday beginning at noon on Wednesday, November 21 through Friday, November 23.

Flower Guild

Altar Flowers dates available through the end of the year are October 14, 21, November 18, 25. We have greenery on the altar through Advent. Call the Church office at 843-785-4099 if you'd like to schedule dates for 2019 in honor or memory of a loved one or in celebration of a birthday or anniversary. Cost is \$100 made payable to St. Luke's Flower Guild. Leigh Ann Hoppe is in charge of the Flower Guild and always makes sure that the altar is beautiful.



Women's Studies

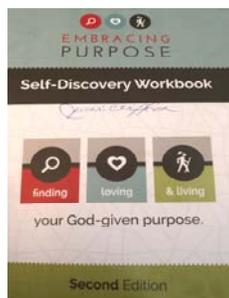
Ladies' Bible Studies for the Fall:

-Tuesday Friends
Tuesdays at Noon

-Real MOMS
Wednesdays at 9:30

"Embracing God's Purpose for Your Life". A Study from Scripture of discovery how to live out the special gifts God has for you. At all points in our lives God is encouraging us through His Word, His people and His gifts to us. Come join us to discover what His plan for you is today and your future. This is an "ageless" study...just as useful at 20 as it is at 80.

More information? Call Judi Clifford, 843-247-4858.



Bookshop News

Our beautiful Bibles are still being offered for you at 50% off, so be sure to share and spread the good word. Carry your Bible everywhere. You never know who may be blessed by a perfect verse for their situation. *Also note as of Sep12-Nov14 *our little corner of the world will be open for your shopping pleasure every *Wednesday evening from 5-6pm.* Come and find the perfect Bible and a lovely card to accompany it for only \$1.00. Smile all the while and make someone happy! Looking forward to seeing you. **Sundays: 8:45am-10:50am; 11:30am-12:15pm. *Wednesday evenings from 5-6pm.***



Transitions

Baptisms - Henry Ivan Wyatt

Deaths - Keith Bogart, Lee & Rich Holcomb, Wanda Nicholson, Candice Kyzer

Transfer In - Bruce & Betsy Cochran, Jim & Anita McGuiirk, Charles Witte

Transfer Out - none

Help Us Recycle

WE RECYCLE! Baskets are located at the end of each transept for paper recycling. Please dispose of any unwanted bulletins in these baskets to be taken to the local recycling center. Thanks for helping St. Luke's stay "green"!



SEARCH FOR "St. Luke's Church" and look for the Bell Tower icon.



Church Staff



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VESTRY MEMBERS

<http://www.stlukesghi.org/administration---vestry.html>

St. Luke's E-Zine

We send a weekly email to help you prepare for Sunday and upcoming activities. We call it our E-Zine. That's E-'zeen', like maga-zine. It's our weekly 'E'-lectronic maga-'zine'. Or E-Zine. Get it? To be added to our list, send an email to publications@stlukesghi.org with "E-Zine" in the subject line.

SC Diocese E-Newsletter

You can receive the newsletter of the South Carolina Diocese by subscribing from the Diocesan website:

www.diosc.com

Look for the following to the right of the homepage:

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Do You Receive Our Newsletter?



facebook

Visit the Bishop's Blog

Sign up for our e-newsletter.
View past issues of e-newsletter.

SUBSCRIBE HERE

WANTED: SINGERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SPECIAL CHOIR

Rehearsals begin November 6th

On Christmas Eve at the 10:30/11:00pm service, the St. Luke's Choir traditionally sings many of the beautiful carol settings of Christmas season. The men and women of this choir come together twice a year to present special music for worship – this is their Christmas offering! Each time this choir resumes rehearsals, new singers are encouraged to join the music team!

Rehearsals begin Tuesday, November 6, 5:15

-6:30-pm in the choir room (schedule below).

This Christmas Eve service begins with a Festive Prelude at 10:30pm; the service (Rite II with communion) begins at 11:00pm and concludes shortly after midnight in the stillness of early Christmas morning!

To join or more information, contact Nina Rodman (843.422.0490 cell/text or ninarodman@stlukeshhi.org). Come, celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve with others who love to sing the unforgettable music of Christmas!



CHRISTMASTIDE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday, December 24th

4:30pm Family Service with communion

(St. Luke's Music Team, Children's Choirs and Youth Bells, trumpet, organ, piano)

8:00pm Service with communion

(Youth Choir, trumpet, organ, piano)

10:30pm Festive Prelude

11:00pm Service with communion

(St. Luke's Choir, brass quartet, Ring & Rejoice Handbells, organ)

Tuesday, December 25th

10:00am Service with communion

Sunday, December 30th

8:00am Rite I with communion

10:00am Rite II with communion

Sunday, January 6th (Epiphany begins)

8:00am Rite I with communion

10:00am Epiphany Lessons & Carols

MUSIC TEAMS EXCITING NEW SEASON 🎵🎵🎵

Lots of excitement and energy abound as St. Luke's music teams are enjoying their new seasons of "making music" in its many forms!

Come, join one of the music teams and minister through 🎵🎵 in the name of Jesus Christ!

CANTERBURY CHOIR: 7 boys and girls, ages 4-6 years (Wednesdays, 4:15-4:55pm)

ST. NICHOLAS CHOIR: 5 boys and girls, grades 2-5 (Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00pm)

YOUTH BELLS: 5 ringers, grades 3 & above

(Thursdays, 4:00-5:00pm)

RING & REJOICE HANDBELLS: 7 ringers, youth & adults (Thursdays, 5:30-7:00pm)

ST. LUKE'S MUSIC TEAM: choir, singers, instrumentalists of adults (Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00pm) CONTACT: Jordan jordansturm@stlukeshhi.org OR Nina ninarodman@stlukeshhi.org

ST. LUKE'S CHOIR: adults (Tuesdays, 5:15-6:30—begins November 6th)

YOUTH CHOIR: boys & girls, grade 6 & above (Sundays, 11:30-12:30pm)

Contact: Nina Rodman (843.433.0490 cell/text) or ninarodman@stlukeshhi.org

O Come, All Ye Faithful (1743)

And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 1:11)

John Francis Wade, author of this hymn, was hounded out of England in 1745. He was a Roman Catholic layman in Lancashire; but because of persecution arising from the Jacobite rebellion, streams of Catholics fled to France and Portugal, where communities of English-speaking Catholics appeared.

But how could he, a refugee, support himself? In those days, the printing of musical scores was cumbersome, and copying them by hand was an art. In the famous Roman Catholic College and Ministry Center in Douay, France, Wade taught music and became renowned as a copyist of musical scores. His work was

exquisite.

In 1743, Wade, thirty-two, had produced a copy of a Latin Christmas carol beginning with the phrase *Adeste Fideles, Laeti triumphantes*. At one time historians believed he had simply discovered an ancient hymn by an unknown author, but most scholars now believe Wade himself composed the lyrics. Seven original hand-copied manuscripts of this Latin hymn have been found, all of them bearing Wade's signature.

John Wade passed away on August 16, 1786, at age seventy-five. His obituary honored him for his "beautiful manuscripts" that adorned chapels and homes.

As time passed, English Catholics began returning to Britain, and they carried Wade's Christmas carol with them. More time passed, and one day an Anglican minister name Rev. Frederick Oakeley, who preached at Margaret Street Chapel in London, came across Wade's Latin Christmas Carol. Being deeply moved, he translated it into English for Margaret Street

Chapel. The first line of Oakeley's translation said, "Ye Faithful, Approach Ye."

Somehow "Ye Faithful, Approach Ye" didn't catch on, and several years later Oakeley tried again. By this time, Oakeley, too, was a Roman Catholic priest, having converted to Catholicism in 1845. Perhaps his grasp of Latin had improved because as he repeated over and over the Latin phrase *Adeste Fideles, Laeti triumphantes*, he finally came up with the simpler, more vigorous "O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant!"

So two brave Englishmen, Catholics, lovers of Christmas and lovers of hymns, living a hundred years apart, writing in two different nations, combined their talents to bid us come, joyful and triumphant, and adore Him born the King of angels.

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

(Then Sings My Soul. Special Edition. Robert J. Morgan. Thomas Nelson, Inc. p, 15)

Chili Cook-off

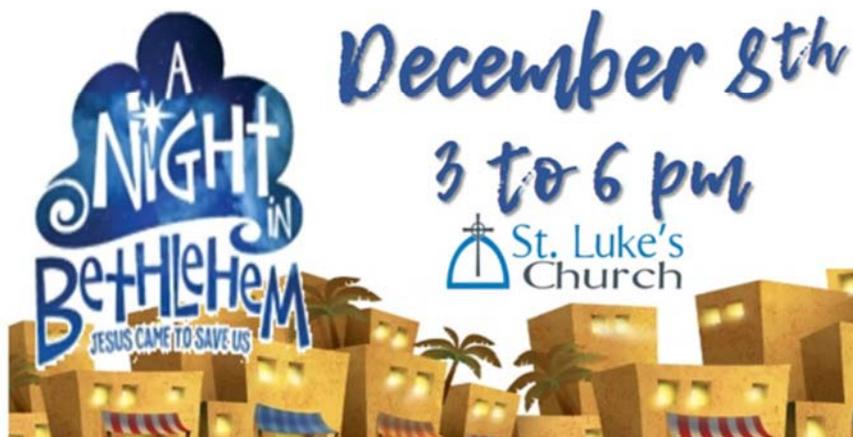
November 18th



after the 10 AM service
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us for lunch and cast your vote!

Text/call Veronica Chisholm to register your chili!



December 8th

3 to 6 pm



A Night in Bethlehem

November will be a busy month getting ready for our Christmas outreach event. Last year, 92 families from Bluffton, Hilton Head and some tourists walked around Bethlehem marketplace, interacted with the shopkeepers, saw live animals and heard about the night Jesus came to save us! Thank you to everyone who participated with prayers, donations and working before, during and after the event!

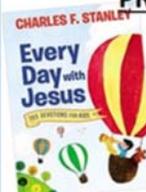
Please pray for:

- * the families who God will bring here on Dec. 8th
- * everyone working on the event
- * the presence of the Holy Spirit touching lives
- * safety

GREAT BOOKS



PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY



Every Day with Jesus:
 365 Devotions for Kids
 by Charles Stanley

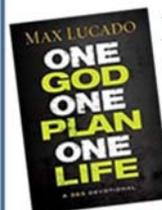


ELEMENTARY & TWEEN

365 Trivia Twist Devotions
 by Betsy Schmitt

That Is SO Me: 365 Days of
 Devotions: Flip-Flops, Faith,
 and Friends (Faithgirlz)
 by Nancy N. Rue

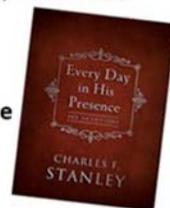
TEENS



One God, One Plan,
 One Life: A 365
 Devotional
 by Max Lucado

PARENTS

Every Day in His Presence
 by Charles Stanley



ENTIRE FAMILY

God's Story 365: A Fun Way to Explore
 the Bible As a Family
 by Big Little Studios LLC



www.godsstory365.com

We need to borrow the following:

- 6 E-Z up canopies
- colorful fabric/burlap
- baskets
- vases
- rugs/curtains
- lanterns/candle holders
- blankets/sheets

Write your name on it and we will return to you!

Drop off at the office or on
 Sundays by the Vestibule.



Veronica Chisholm (843)540-4024

St. Luke's Youth Ministry

6th Annual Trip to Honduras

Steve Chisholm

Thank you again for your amazing support of our mission trip to Honduras. Because of your generosity and donations we were able to help fund a new pilot project called Camp Alabanza that reached 30 children every day for an after school camp that included education, Christian spiritual development and leadership skills. Our 25 teenagers and 5 adults helped to make this another outstanding trip as we shared our lives, hopes and faith with teenagers and children in the community. After the trip we gathered together the teenagers who went on the trip and their parents for a meal and debrief/celebration of an amazing trip. The impact this trip had on our teens and leaders was profound. The other day I asked Emma McNamara, a sophomore at Hilton Head High School, and a member of our church about the significance of her trip:

This past summer I went on our St. Luke's Church youth mission trip to Copan Ruinas, Honduras. It was an experience I will never forget! The culture, the kids, and the overall environment was indescribable. I was nervous about leaving my family and my "comfort zone" for a week, but somehow, I knew everything was going to be alright. The

morning that we were leaving, I had a feeling that I was about to partake in something bigger than I ever knew. The responsibility of teaching the word of God to children who know and love God was



something bigger than I could imagine. Upon meeting the children on day one, I felt extremely blessed for everything that I have been given in life and I wanted to share that with the kids. The children were so outgoing and as soon as you made eye contact with them, they ran over and gave us each a hug. It was so humbling to see these kids who have less than we do, but they were so grateful for everything we did for them all week. The communication with the kids was challenging, but without any words I could tell what they were saying to me and I like to think that God had something to do with this. The kids were so special and they now hold a very special place in my heart. Initially, I prayed for a safe trip and that God would help me to understand my purpose on this trip and with the kids. He did just that and by day two, I was ready for what we were sent there to do and for

Youth Group Schedules

High School Youth Night

(Grades 9-12)

Sundays from 6:30-7:45PM in the Mission and Ministry Building.

Middle School Youth Night:

(Grades 6-8)

Wednesdays from 6:15-7:45PM in the Mission and Ministry Building..

any job that needed to be done. I felt that I was already very strong and secure with my faith, but after this trip I felt his presence even stronger within me and I am now closer to the Lord. This trip was life changing for me and has made me look at the world much differently in how I appreciate what I have and the gifts that the Lord has presented to me. I am forever grateful for this experience and would love to go again next year!

-Emma McNamara

Thank you for your support of Emma and the other teens and leaders who went on this trip. Our youth ministry is all about walking alongside teenagers and helping them to connect with God through a relationship with Christ in deeper and lasting ways. These kind of trips are an experience that help build lasting and deeper faith in our youth!

COURAGEOUS PARENTING

Taking The Hassle Out Of The Home

Speaker: Dr. David Anderson

November 15th 5:30-8:30 PM

At St Luke's Church Fellowship Hall

Cost \$47 a couple or \$30 for a single.

Stay tuned for ticket/registration information.

Dinner Included!

Do you ever...

- wonder how to better communicate with your child or teenager?
- feel stuck attempting to motivate your child or teenager in school?
- disagree with the "other parent" concerning parenting strategies?
- feel frustrated that your discipline techniques don't seem to change behavior?
- want more peace and respect in your home?
- wonder how you can increase confidence in your child?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, the Courageous Parenting seminar is for you! Dr. Anderson will give you proven tools to help you feel more peace and confidence as a parent. His communication style is full of energy, warmth, compassion, and story telling. Dr. Anderson's over 30 years of experience as a professional speaker and family counselor will leave you wanting to hear more from him. Don't miss this exciting opportunity! Learn more about Dr. Anderson at: ImpactingPeople.com

STOPPING FOR THE ONE

Betsy Hake

We continue to reach out on the streets and are so thankful for the opportunities that God provides for us to make friends with the women there. I wanted to take a moment to share an experience I had in the grocery several days ago. A missionary named Heidi Baker whose books have inspired me, talks about how we need to stop for the one who God puts in front of us (or in my case the one behind us), no matter where we are. For some reason God likes to give me these opportunities in the grocery!

I went there after church and because of our situation right now I could only go for the essentials, so I walked straight past the freezer with all those yummy ice cream containers calling my name and totally ignored the cookie aisle. As I was standing in the check out lane looking over my meager lot and on the verge of feeling sorry for myself, I glanced over my shoulder at the person behind me in the line. The man behind me was no taller than my shoulders and I recognized him from the begging he does at the stoplight by our church. He has the body of a child and the head of an adult, and looks to be about 40 years of age. He is bald and sunburned and because he lives on the streets, the odor he emits is not pleasant. But it is that glint of lust in his gaze that causes the most discomfort.

My girls have mentioned it to me as we sometimes give to him as quickly as possible before the light goes green. "I don't like the way he looks at me, Mom," says Jency. "I know, sweetie, I know," I say back because if I am totally honest, his gaze makes me uncomfortable, too. But today with him right there behind me in line, with his four limes clutched tightly to his chest, I could not ignore him. Isn't it just like the Lord to bring someone who is truly in need when we are on the cusp of discontent? I began to sense God's compassion for this man. Suddenly my grocery basket didn't look so lean. While he paid for his limes, I started scanning my groceries to see what I could give him.

As God would have it, he went to the pharmacy that is at the end of the check out lane because he was feeling poorly and wanted his blood pressure taken. I, too, had to go to the pharmacy because Isabella's lice population was at the point where ignoring them was no longer an option. The pharmacist asked me if I would mind waiting for her to take this man's blood pressure since she was alone at the

register. I explained that I was in no hurry and that if he needed some medication that she could put it on my tab.

So kind of instantaneously we became a little team to help this man. His blood pressure was very low so I got him some dehydration drink and some snacks and the pharmacist got him a chair so he could sit a spell. While he was waiting for his blood pressure to go back up I asked him if he had ever attended a church. He replied in the negative and I asked him if he would like to hear about how he could receive eternal life, and he nodded his head yes. I don't know how long I shared with him, but he seemed very excited about this news that Jesus

could set him free from sin and death. I asked him if I could pray for his blood pressure and after we prayed, I asked him if he would like to ask Jesus to come into his heart. He prayed eagerly and when he finished, he lifted his head and his countenance was totally different. I invited him to our church and gave him some more food before I left. I was awed by this divine appointment, and thankful for His help in stopping for the one.



Bill Phillips, Interim Missions Committee Chairperson
phillipskb@aol.com



BMOC/Preschool Christmas Dinner & Auction to benefit St. Luke's Preschool

Save the Date!

Saturday, December 1st

5-9pm

St. Luke's Fellowship Hall

Dinner, Auction, and Carols



What a great way to start the Advent Season!



October Outreach: Kairos Prison Ministry

Kairos Prison Ministry was founded in 1976 based on the Cursillo Model and taken into prisons for the incarcerated inmates. The program is ecumenical and interdenominational which means it does not favor any single denomination, but teaches the Love of Christ and redemption possible for the participant if they agree to invite Christ into their life.

The program was taken into US prisons and has grown to cover approximately 40 states, and 9 other countries in scope. The ministry is active in over 450 sites, is run with a minimal paid staff and over 30,000 volunteers. More than 800 weekends are put on each year. The program is offered and the inmates have to request to be involved. If chosen they spend the three day week-end with 42 residents going

through the week-end. The weekend is self-discovery and relating with one another in a Christ like setting. Here they are subjected to a surrounding of the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. They are told we are not there to change them in any way, unless they decide they would like to change based on their acceptance of the week-end and its teachings.

We need 50 volunteers to put on a weekend. We also prepare 6 meals for 100 people that are taken into the prison so that part of the weekend is home cooked meals for all participants. The Kairos team also takes 7,000 dozen cookies into the prison.



Every inmate in the whole prison receives a bag of cookies containing a Bible Verse each of the three nights. The participants receive cookies all day for three days during the meeting. Some of the inmates say they come for the home cooked meals and cookies and are loved into submission by our team!!!!

A weekend costs approximately \$ 5,500 to put on. This covers the 600 meals, all the supplies for the meetings and programs, and housing and kitchen facilities for the team.

It is amazing to see the change come over the inmates as the week unfolds. If you would like to become involved and see Christ in action, we always need new people to join us in this ministry.

November Outreach: Hilton Head Heroes

Lemons Into Lemonade

For almost twenty years, Hilton Head Heroes has grown from its very humble beginnings into a robust year around program. Hundreds of families have now spent a magical week in the Hero House "creating memories that last a lifetime." Their participation in the program reminds us everyday that, unfortunately, we are sometimes in the business of watching children gracefully becoming angels; while unselfish acts of love and kindness make it possible for ordinary people to become Heroes.



Not long ago, we were fortunate to meet a young brother and sister from Ohio who had spent the entire summer selling lemonade from a small stand in front of their house. Toward the end of the summer, they took their annual family trip to the Sea Pines Resort for a beach vacation. However, this time, a big plastic pickle jar full of nickels, dimes and quarters took the trip with them. With beaming faces and smiling eyes, these two children presented their earnings to me one night in Harbour Town. They asked me if I would accept their donation for our Hero kids and their families. I'm

certain that their parents couldn't have been more proud and I certainly couldn't have been more touched.

As our financial needs have grown over the years, we have gratefully received support from every source imaginable. And whether it's the heartfelt donation from a healthy little brother and sister, or the overwhelming generosity of a large family foundation, we have come to understand and appreciate that Heroes come in all shapes and sizes. We are proud to be part of a community and organization that, for a brief moment in time, turns life's lemons into lemonade for the children and families that we are so honored to serve.

December Outreach: Family Promise

Doesn't Every Child Deserve a Home?

Can you imagine being 9 years old and not knowing where you will be sleeping each evening, what you'll have to eat, or if you'll have clean clothes for school? Sadly, for over 600 children in Beaufort County this is their reality. This is where for the past ten years Family Promise of Beaufort County and over 30 local congregations, and most recently St. Luke's Church, have stepped in to help.

Family Promise provides comprehensive case management and assistance in securing employment, access to medical care, childcare, school placement, and support in ultimately locating affordable housing. Additionally, we provide

transportation to interviews, medical appointments, places of employment, childcare and school.

During this period, our guest families participate in our Life Skills program whose curriculum is designed to provide instruction in household and financial management, parenting skills, and other skills necessary to sustaining independence. Our Day Center, located in Old Town Bluffton, is the hub of operations and a place for our guests to receive mail, do laundry, complete employment and housing searches in our computer center, complete goal sheets, and meet with our



Case Manager.

While Family Promise is not a faith-based organization, temporary shelter is provided by congregations of a variety of faiths. Our guests are provided with safe overnight accommodations, nutritious meals, and companionship all due to the efforts of over 700 wonderful volunteers. Our families were blessed to have experienced the warm welcome and gracious hospitality of St. Luke's this past August and for that we are all most appreciate.

Jamie Evans, Outreach Chairperson
jsevans129@gmail.com

Counselor's Comments: Blessed to Be a Blessing

Sharon Smith

Currently I am doing a Bible Study on Ephesians, by John MacArthur, and it has given me some thoughts I'd like to share. In Ephesians 4:17-32, Paul points out the difference between believers and unbelievers. Characteristics of the unbeliever are: hopeless confusion; minds that are full of darkness and closed to things of God; hardened hearts against Him; no sense of shame; living in lustful pleasure; practicing every kind of impurity. Sadly this describes much of our culture.

This causes me to ponder anew, with utmost thanksgiving, the way in which the Holy Spirit freed me from a life without purpose over forty years ago. When the faith-based life brings its ups and downs, we are never without God and the hope and comfort He provides when we go to Him. We are also blessed with the support and fellowship of other believers who lift us up in prayer and love us through life's difficulties.

I want this blessing for the unbelievers, and I believe we can all be more proactive in reaching out to them. We don't have to be able to convince them with Scripture, we just have to share our faith experiences and care in a way the world is unable to do. One way to do this is to pray with them when they share their pain. I have found that taking the time at the moment they ask is so much more powerful than saying, "I'll pray for you." Also, we can invite them to come to church with us. So much of the world is lonely and without community, waiting to be asked.

Another way to reach people is to share the things that God has done in your life. I find myself getting excited all over again as I remember and share each memorable

blessing I have received. It renews my faith as I share with others.

Lastly, there is Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3:16-19 which you can share with believers and unbelievers as God puts them on your heart. "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you being rooted and established in love, may have the power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know his love

that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." (NIV)

I pray this for all of us as we grow in Christ and seek to draw others to Him!



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