

St. Luke's Messenger

Dear Parish Family

March 2014

By the time you receive this Messenger, E-100 (The Essential 100 Bible passages to know) will have been completed by many in our congregation. Some are still working their way through their readings, and I would encourage you to keep on!! For those of you who did not have the opportunity to read the E-100 passages, there are still study guides around, as well as plans to offer this again in the fall to those who weren't able to do so now.



Greg Kronz
Rector

I have been asked several times in the course of E-100 if I might write an article and discuss the various Bibles that are available. One person, in particular, was very specific: "Please write about which Bible is the best."

I want to begin by saying that there are "better translations" than others; but the real key is to get a readable Bible and start reading: that is the key!!

When I was young in my seeking after the Lord, someone said to me: "Greg, you know a lot of Bible stories and a little about the Bible; you know a lot about "religion," rules, and being right; but you don't know the Bible and you really don't know the Lord." He was right! And, that began my "journey" of being a daily Bible reader (when I was 13 years old). In those early years I would miss a day now and then, but these days, it is rare. I can't imagine beginning a day without spending at least a

few minutes, if not more, with the Lord: in His Word and in prayer.

Therefore, I am going to give you a few thoughts and pointers about Bibles, and possibly you could begin the Lenten discipline of reading the Bible daily. This could be a new beginning of daily Bible reading for you!

First of all, let me make a distinction. There are "Bible translations" and "Bible paraphrases." Translations take the "original language" and seek to translate, as accurately as possible, into English. Some "phraseology" might be different: more comfortable, more "readable," more "poetic" in style. Further, some will use "tools" such as other ancient texts that are not Biblical, but used in that historical period, to get the most accurate word. Some will use both the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament) and some will also additionally use "The Septuagint" (the Old Testament, translated into Greek by 70 scholars) in order to arrive at their translation. All will use the "Greek" ("koine" Greek, which is the "common Greek language" during Jesus day) in order to translate the New Testament. When I was in college, I took "Classical Greek," which has differences from "koine" Greek (which I took in seminary), which also has differences to modern Greek. That is why translations are so tricky!

Early versions: "The Vulgate" (vulgar, or common language) also known as the "Jerome Bible" was a Latin translation in the late 4th Century and was the standard (until revisions to the "more modern" Roman Catholic Bible used in the 13th through 16th centuries). Other translations were the Wycliffe and Tyndale translations (early English translations) and even the "Geneva" translation (John Calvin and his followers). Of course, the most widely read and well known of English translations is the King James Version, and has been a standard translation down through the centuries since the time of the Reformation.

However, translations have multiplied in the last 100 years. You have many good translations of the Bible: the New King James (to reflect the King James with updated English), the New

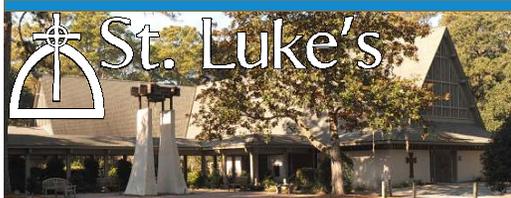
American Standard, the New English Bible (as well as the English Standard), the New International (probably one of the most widely read translations today by those who are seeking Bible translation accuracy, as well as very readable); the Revised Standard and the New Revised Standard Bible; Today's English Version (formerly, The Good News for Modern Man: the Bible in modern English written to be very readable. I read this version from 1971-1973, until I moved on to The Revised Standard. At that time, The Good News was readable for my age and ability to understand, and the Revised Standard was one of the most accurate and readable, with a little more "advanced" English. When you see the word "New" in front of a translation, it means that the Bible language has been updated to give the original intention behind a word. An example of this: in the Revised Standard version, the Greek word "anar" and the Greek word "anthropos" were both translated "man." However, in the New Revised Standard and similar translations, "anar" would still be translated as "man," but anthropos would be translated as "human" or "human being," which is more accurate to modern ears. "Gender specific" or "Gender sensitive" would cause the latter to be more readable than the former. The New Jerusalem Bible is the newest Roman Catholic Bible, which contains the Apocrypha (the inter-testamental books: a discussion for another time) and is both "modern" in English translation and is more poetic in style.

There is another type of Bible called a "paraphrase". A paraphrase is not technically a translation, but a re-phrasing of the passage to make it more "reader friendly," and may take some liberties to get the truth across, and is more understandable, as opposed to an exact "translation." An example of this would be "The Living Bible." Another earlier version would be the J.B. Phillips translation. There is a debate whether "The Message" is actually a translation or a paraphrase, and I won't take up that argument here; just suffice it to say that it is a

(Continued on page 7)

Contents

Parish Life	2
Music	3
CFM / St. Patrick's Cookout	4
Youth	5
Missions	6
Outreach / Greg cont'd	7
ACTS	8



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

Church Mouse

Been to The Mouse lately? We hope you have been able to take advantage of our big sales. It was great to see people lined up at opening, and walking out with armfuls of clothing. Now we have displays of new spring merchandise! It's been so much fun putting out brightly colored clothing. Spring is in the air, and also at the store!



That brings us to spring cleaning (remember Whistle While You Work? I'm trying that). When you decide to part with those things cluttering up your closets and drawers, please remember that we are delighted to receive your gently used items. We are especially in need of housewares (kitchen items, bric-a-brac, bibelots -- all those things that have to be packed up when one moves one's house). We really need these things, since we are victims of our own success. Thanks for keeping us in mind. You'll enjoy the tax deduction and the space. And we will give you hearty thanks.

See you at The Mouse,

Carol Gyllenhoff

Flower Guild

The following dates are available for flower memorials:

May 11th and 25th.



EASTER FLOWERS - The Flower Guild is requesting donations for the Easter flowers to beautify our wonderful Sanctuary. Memorial envelopes will be available in the pews starting March 9th. Please make your check payable to St. Luke's Flower Fund and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the Church office by Monday April 14th. Very many thanks. Call Joyce Stebbing with questions at 686-2166 or e-mail to joycestebbing@roadrunner.com.

New Adult Sunday School Classes Underway

Expect to be challenged when our Adult Sunday School class offers two new options starting Sunday, February 23. Following completion of our powerful Bible reading curriculum, Scripture Union's Essential 100, we'll continue growing our faith as we delve into Tim Keller's Gospel Christianity I: Gospel and The Heart. The 10-session discussion oriented study will be led by John Wigington. Focusing on many core beliefs in our Christian faith we'll consider such diverse topics as What is the Gospel?... Who is God?...Who is Jesus and why did He die? We'll be challenged to consider how we can change and why we can't do it alone. Join us at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

The second study is geared for parents, "Sacred Parenting: How Raising Children Shapes Our Souls." Assistant Rector Nathan Bistis will be leading the sessions. Parents, discover the spiritual potential in your parent-child relationships. Gary Thomas's inspiring and affirming book is not a typical instruction manual on child rearing; instead it demonstrates how God uses kids to profoundly change their parents! Through scriptural insights and encouraging real-life stories, you'll learn how others handled difficulties and challenges--and how it transformed their walk with God. The class will meet in the new Ministry Center at 9:00 a.m.

Transitions

- **Births** - none
- **Deaths** - none
- **New Members** - Robert & Angela Burnaugh

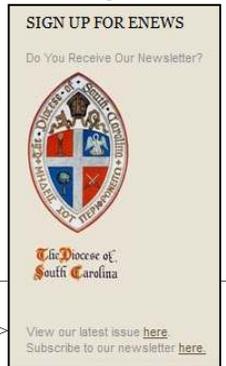
St. Luke's E-Zine

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.dioceseofsc.org

Look for the following to the right of the homepage:



Church Staff



Greg Kronz, Rector
gregkronz@stlukesghi.org



Nathan Bistis, Associate Rector
nathanbistis@stlukesghi.org



Kathie Phillips, Deacon
kathiephillips@stlukesghi.org



Steve Chisholm, Youth Director
youth@stlukesghi.org



Nina Rodman, Minister of Music
music@stlukesghi.org



Jordan Sturm, Publications/Praise Team
jordansturm@stlukesghi.org



Amy Cross, Comptroller
amycross@stlukesghi.org



Denise Gildner, Church Secretary
denisegildner@stlukesghi.org



Janice Ring, Preschool Director
preschool@stlukesghi.org



Sharon Smith, ACTS Director
acts@stlukesghi.org

St. Luke's Church
50 Pope Avenue
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

(843) 785-4099
stlukes@stlukesghi.org
www.stlukesghi.org

VESTRY MEMBERS

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



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



REQUIEM by John Rutter

Sunday, March 23, 2014

10:00am service

As a special offering of music during the season of Lent, the St. Luke's Choir will present John Rutter's beautiful choral work REQUIEM, accompanied by organ and six instruments, flute, oboe, cello, harp, timpani and glockenspiel, on Sunday, March 23 at the 10 o'clock service. Its seven movements will be woven into the fabric of the worship service as a part of the liturgy.

REQUIEM is one of John Rutter's most frequently performed choral works. It is a setting of the Mass for the Dead, so called from the first word of its Introit which begins Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine ("Grant them eternal rest, O Lord"). Other modern settings of the Requiem written prior to Rutter's include those by Mozart, Berlioz,

Verdi and Faure. Rutter's REQUIEM, first performed in 1985 in Dallas, Texas, is unique because it includes the setting of two psalms (Psalms 130 and 23) and because its text is written in both Latin and English. It was written following the death of his father.



John Rutter, the most successful and well-known composer of choral music in recent British history, was born in London in 1945 and received his first musical education as a chorister at Highgate School. He went on to study music at Clare College, Cambridge, where he wrote his first published compositions and conducted his first recording while still a student. His compositions

embrace both large and small-scale choral works, orchestral and instrumental pieces, a piano concerto, two children's operas, music for television, and specialist writing for such groups as the Philip Jones Brass

Ensemble and the King's Singers. From 1975 – 1979, he was Director of Music at Clare College, and in 1981 formed his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, a professional chamber choir primarily dedicated to recording. He now divides his time between composition and conducting. In 1980 he was made an honorary Fellow of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ, and in 1988 a Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians. In 1996 the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred a Lambeth Doctorate of Music upon him in recognition of his contribution to church music.

The St. Luke's Choir has previously performed four of John Rutter's large choral works: REQUIEM (March 2007), MASS OF THE CHILDREN (March 2009), GLORIA (April 2010), and MAGNIFICAT (December 2012). The singers of the St. Luke's Choir and I hope this presentation of REQUIEM will be especially meaningful to you as you celebrate the season of Lent.

"SOLI DEO GLORIA!"

Nina

The Pretty Faces of the Youth Bells

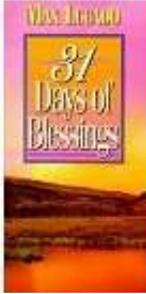


Left to right: Anna Brackett, Madeleine Pollitzer, Mackenzie Starnes



31 Days of Blessings

Here is a Blessing for Quiet Time to pray over each family member as you leave your home for the day:



As you spend time alone with God, allow the Lord to seed your heart with understanding. Invite him to spade and dig and shovel and fertilize those seeds so that his words will take root and bear fruit. Trust God to defeat the one who is lurking nearby, seeking to steal the seeds before they hit the ground.

“Plant goodness, harvest the fruit of loyalty, plow the new ground of knowledge. Look for the Lord until he comes and pours goodness on you like water.” Hosea 10:12

[31 Days of Blessings] Max Lucado
Copyright [UpWords Ministries, 1995] Used by permission <http://maxlucado.com/read/topical/31-days-of-blessing>.

CFM News

Sunday School –After E100 ended in February we began teaching The Catechism from the Book of Common Prayer. The students will be working from the Book of Common Prayer and will be discussing and learning church doctrine.

Wednesday Night – The number of children attending is steady and the diversity of ages such that we needed to step up the Wednesday night offering for the children. There are 16 children who attend regularly – 5 of whom will be in the Nursery. We have Victoria and Patricia in the nursery from 6-7. Jennifer Thompson, Alexandra Greig and Susan Greig will be teaching The Chronicles of Narnia in this time using a combination of film, reading and storytelling to explore the Gospel Story as

symbolized in C.S. Lewis' fairy tale.

CFM Socials - CFM has had much positive feedback on our social events and many have felt that we should continue creating traditions that people can count on as part of the church family year. Look out for news in your bulletin for our next event.

Donation - The St Luke's Bookshop has made a generous donation toward curriculum for CFM. They will also continue to purchase the Bibles that CFM gives to the newly baptized in our congregation. How wonderful to have the support of different ministries in our church – a big thank you to the St Luke's Bookshop!

Mark the date for Backyard Bible: June 16th -20th. We will be studying The Exodus – more news to follow.

CFM Mission Statement

The Children and Family Ministry will encourage the collective Church family and the individual families in our congregation, to focus on the Word of God as revealed through Scripture, to pray together daily, to be involved in service to the family of God, and in outreach

both locally and internationally. Instruction will be given in a liturgical context in an age appropriate way through songs, storytelling, and interactive activities. Intergenerational learning will be encouraged so that families can develop the skills and confidence to build and strengthen the Christian faith within their family group.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE COOK OUT

Sunday, March 16, 2014, 11 am - Parade Finish

Mouth-watering food by our Favorite Culinary Gentlemen,
Hog Heaven BBQ Team!

Bring your chair or blanket and join us on the lawn for
“hot off the grill” hamburgers, hot dogs and BBQ.

There will also be cold drinks and chips,
as well as

DESSERT to satisfy that “sweet tooth”!

Proceeds Support St. Luke's Preschool

Brought to you by the parents, board and staff
of St. Luke's Preschool and Hog Heaven BBQ Team



St. Luke's Youth Ministry

Three Roadblocks and Three Promises

Steve Chisholm

Recently, I gave a teaching to the middle school and high school students called: Three Roadblocks and Three Promises

In this life, all of us who have a relationship with Christ are on a journey pointed toward heaven.. At times we are going to face challenges or roadblocks along the way.

The first big roadblock I see people facing is alienation. This takes many forms such as feeling isolated, rejected or alone. Jesus has good news for us when we face this roadblock. God says, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

Another big roadblock that affects us all is sin. This expresses itself in many ways such as selfishness, lust or other destructive behavior. We all have times when sin begins to block our way and sidetrack us in our walk with Christ. But Jesus reminds us once again that our lack of faith does not faze him. He states: if we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot disown himself. (2 Timothy 2:13)

The final roadblock is death. We live in a culture that has a weird relationship with life and death. On the one hand we have

this obsession with death from violent video games to romantic vampire movies. On the other hand we have this false pursuit of trying to avoid death by looking for the ever-allusive fountain of youth. We will pursue any and everything from plastic surgery, teeth whitening, supplements and

anything else to help us feel and look young and avoid death. But Christ gives us the only lasting security in regards to life and death, and that is his promise for eternal life for all who believe.

(John 3:16-18) Paul sums up this promise with these words: For I am convinced that neither DEATH nor LIFE, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither

height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

My Golden Retriever named Bode, who passed away on February 5th at the age of 14 and a half, was an inspiration as I composed this message. A friend reminded me that a trusted, faithful pet like Bode gives us a tangible reminder of God's unconditional love and faithfulness to us. On the night Bode died I held him in my arms as he breathed his last breath. In that moment I had a visual recall of choosing him as a puppy and picking him up for the first time nearly 15 years ago. This has reminded me that God has



March Youth Group Schedule

Middle School

Wed. 3/5 NO YOUTH GROUP - ASH WEDNESDAY

Wed. 3/12 6:00PM

Wed. 3/19 6:00PM

Wed. 3/26 6:00PM

High School

Sun. 3/2 6:30 PM

Sun. 3/9 6:30 PM

Sun. 3/16 6:30 PM

Sun. 3/23 6:30 PM

Sun. 3/30 6:30 PM

chosen us and that when we breathe our last breath this is not the end. CS Lewis provides us with a visual reminder of the reality of our hope in eternal life in the Chronicles of Narnia when the children in the story enter into heaven. "All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on for ever: in which every chapter is better than the one before." Put your faith in Christ today and you to will know God's faithfulness, His commitment to you and the assurance and reality of eternal life.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, March 4th, 5:30PM – 7:00PM in the Parish Hall

It is time for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. This year the proceeds will help fund our High School Mission trip with Urban Promise to Honduras. Please come out and support these students! Back by popular demand chocolate chip and blueberry pancakes, and plenty of bacon will be served! Come out for a great event to support youth missions and to prepare for lent. Tickets may be purchased after services on Sunday, on March 2nd in the parish hall, and will be available beginning Monday, February 24th through Tuesday March 4th at the volunteer desk in the church office during regular office hours. Also, they can be purchased at the door the night of the dinner. However, purchasing your ticket(s) in advance helps us make sure that there is plenty of food for all. Tickets will be available on Sunday, March 2nd after the 8:00 and 10:00 services. We look forward to seeing you there.



SERVANT PARTNERS AT WORK IN HONDURAS

Living and Working Among the Worlds' Poor

Colonia Flor del Campo is one of the ten most dangerous neighborhoods in the "murder capital of the world": Honduras, Central America. Every day, more than 200 children receive education, spiritual formation, alimentation, recreation, and unconditional love in our little oasis of Christian community called "God's Littlest Lambs School and Daycare," which was opened in 2004 by The LAMB Institute (www.lambinstitute.org). Most of our students live within walking distance, picking their way along dusty, rocky paths, always accompanied by an adult, hair neatly combed, uniforms washed by hand, shoes lovingly polished.



One day, about five years ago, our leadership team was debating about whether or not we could keep the school open. We were in financial straits, and although we passionately loved the school ministry, we discussed the heartbreaking possibility of having to shut it down. We could not bear to take a vote at that meeting, and I began the short, steep walk home, head down, heaviness slowing my steps. And then: "Hola, Suzy!" I looked up to see two little girls, filthy and ragged, walking towards me. Between them, they were carrying a gas tank, no doubt on their way to have it re-filled for the small stove at home.

"That's your school down there, right?" one of the girls cheerfully inquired.

"Yes," I said, feeling deeply the imminent loss.

"It's beautiful, right?" this same child insisted, putting down the can and giving me a very personal smile.

"Yes, it's beautiful," I agreed.

"I'm going there next year!" she suddenly announced.

In that moment, I had a vision of hope: this precious little girl in our green and yellow uniform, black shoes, and hair pulled back, carrying a backpack filled with school supplies for the day. I gave the two children a smile, and we continued in opposite directions. God had spoken. Our school is still open, miraculously, because God has

continued to provide financially, but also because teachers continue to serve, despite the obvious dangers, and because children continue to enroll, even though the neighborhood has grown tougher and tougher over the years. Last year, three of our children lost parents (murdered), and another four families left the neighborhood due to death threats.

Instead of two neighborhood gangs, there are now four. "War tax" (to the gangs) is imposed everywhere, even on churches, and last year two of our teachers were threatened. An additional miracle is that our ministry has not been approached to pay

the war tax, perhaps because we opened our facility to the family of a gang member who was murdered, or maybe it's because we have cared for the children of criminals in our daycare, or because we have emphasized incarnational love instead of a particular doctrine -- but certainly because we depend completely upon the friendship of Jesus Christ, the power of prayer, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Our theme Scripture is, "These are those who follow the Lamb wherever He goes" (Rev. 14: 4), and that's what we try to do, regardless of circumstance.

Three years ago, after having directed LAMB for its first eleven years, I stepped aside and passed the reins (with relief!) to our incredibly gifted and committed Honduran leadership team. David and Evelyn Gradiz are our Directors now, and they give themselves to the ministry, heart and soul. I returned to my role as a supporting missionary, affiliated with **Servant Partners** (www.servantpartners.org), a mission agency which seeks Jesus by living and serving among the world's poor. The six core values of SP are joy in God, servanthood, incarnation, making disciples, justice, and transformation. These are also

core values of LAMB, and I felt that the partnership would be a blessing, as it has proven to be.

In Flor del Campo today, in addition to our school and daycare, our ministry directs a flourishing microfinance program. Six hundred participants are experiencing transformation in their homes because of tiny loans which have allowed them to develop businesses, which in turn have enabled them to keep their children fed and educated. We also run the "Alonzo Ministry," which is an outreach to neighborhood youth who might otherwise join the gangs and drug traffickers. Alonzo was a LAMB scholarship student and intern who was murdered one block from our ministry in 2010 by a drug addict who wanted to steal his cell phone. In response to Alonzo's death, we canvassed the neighborhood for volunteers to save our young people from killing and being killed. The movement has only one paid staff member and twenty committed volunteers who minister weekly to about three hundred young people. We also have two "staff missionaries" in Flor del Campo, Franklin and Astrid, who come



alongside our program staff by visiting the sick and elderly, counseling parents and children, and reading missionary biographies to our schoolchildren. And we can't forget our beloved "Hermana Olga," who is the hands and feet of Jesus every day, keeping our eyes on the most vulnerable in the community, so that we can be timely and appropriate in our response.

The purpose of Servant Partners is also ours: "We see ourselves as catalysts for change, and emphasize relationships, flexibility, creativity, and risk-taking in ministry. We evangelize, train, and empower people to transform their own communities in ways that will continue long after we are gone" – for the glory of God and the love of His people, following the Lamb wherever He goes.

Suzanne McCall

Missionary in Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Teresa Kunich, Missions Committee Chairperson
tkunich@gmail.com
843-301-3723

St. Luke's Missions

Teresa Kunich

Acts 1:8 is our Mission's Committee's vision:

And you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Our prayer for you is that you find your "mission field". God calls all of us to missions, some are called to foreign countries, some are called to domestic missions, some are called locally and some of you tirelessly work one on one, with individuals, but the Lord does call us all to minister to people and spread to gospel. Some of you are called to GIVE and others to go. This month is your opportunity to give. **Every check you write this month will be matched.** The St Luke's Church Mouse has agreed to match all donations to the "Missions Month's" offerings, this is a huge blessing!!

St Luke's is so very blessed to have a church that has a heart for Mission's and people to fulfill the needs of those who go. We have international teams traveling to Africa,

Honduras, Belize and hopefully to Haiti soon. We have Missionaries in most of these areas that we financially support allowing them to live and work with the people there and do the work God has called them to do.

We are able to continue this support and sponsor awesome projects ONLY through your donations. This year, we have already helped to sponsor a project in Honduras at the Jericho Villa where Betsy Hake and her 36 children live. The Church Mouse matched our donation of \$1250.00 and the team was able to build a Prayer Chapel and add a much needed ramp to their outdoor kitchen. After much prayer, we decided to step out in faith in another area, and support an organization called HELP West Africa. (Tom Connor is very active with this organization.) Our Christmas Giving Tree was a huge success. We thank each of you for your efforts in donating to the "Wish Lists" of the Missionaries. We are blessed to be able to reach beyond what we have been doing and that comes only through your support.

We are supporters of our local missions as well. We are still actively working with York Place as they transition and follow God's

lead, as well as the Soup Kitchen and ministering to the area homeless, Prison Ministries, Kairos and Allendale prison and Princess Warrior's events that reach out to women locally and internationally. You can also volunteer at The Church Mouse to show your support for missions. Though these ministries do not always require financial support from the Missions Committee, we have church members volunteering to support these ministries. Please contact me if you want to know how to get involved in any of these areas.

It is an honor to be able to lead this Missions Committee and know that we are doing our part to spread the gospel, locally, domestically and to the ends of the earth. Blessings, Teresa Kunich

* Please know that none of your offerings to the Missions Committee will be used to pay for travel expenses for teams that go. Each team member is responsible for their own travel expenses.

Andrea Myers, Outreach Director
gamyers@roadrunner.com
843-689-3880

Greg, (Continued from page 1)

good Bible to read and loved by many.

Then, of course, there is the question about which kind of "Study Bible" to get, if one wants to take another step! Let me say that there are many Study or Devotional Bibles; some are very specific in terms of audience (Men's, Women's, Mom's, Dad's, Student's, Children's), one for those who are struggling with addiction (The Freedom Bible), one for someone who wants to "defend the faith" (The Apologetics Study Bible). There are also Bible's with study notes, annotated Bibles, and Bibles that have a specific theological bent (Schofield or Holman). There are Bibles that help you to connect one Bible passage to others (The Thompsen Chain Reference Bible). There is the "Parallel" Bible that allows you to compare different passages to each other in different translations; as well as "lines up" different gospel stories to the other gospels; and even Greek to English side by side. By the way, I have a variety of these! Either because of college, seminary, or my own interest. There are Bibles that help you to read most of (or the entire Bible) e.g., The One Year Bible; as well as other devotional Bibles to help you grow in different areas of your life at different times in your life e.g., one's that deal with specific needs or challenges in your life.

One other note for those who want to have a little theological understanding about

different translations. I specifically want to point you to one verse (though you could find "hints" elsewhere): Romans 3:25. In the midst of Paul's presentation of the Gospel (Romans 1-8) Paul uses a phrase, in referring to God's provision for our salvation, that has been translated in several ways. The verse refers to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, and how it is understood as He gave His life to pay the penalty for our sin, and took the punishment that we deserve when He died on the cross in our place for our sin. It has been translated: "sacrifice of atonement," or "expiation," or "propitiation." Let me address these briefly: Expiation refers to Jesus taking our place and being willing to be sacrificed for our sin and taking our punishment. Propitiation refers to the same, but also includes "God's wrath" for sin. In our day, "a wrathful God" is not a comfortable thought for many, though it reflects what the Old Testament talks about when the Bible says, "without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sin;" and, the blessings and curses of Deuteronomy 28, as well as the prophets, are considered. The third possibility really by-passes the issue by saying that Jesus is "a sacrifice of atonement," including the idea that a sacrifice is necessary, and the word "atonement," really meaning "at-one-ment" (where we become one with Him because Jesus' righteousness is "imputed to us" and we become righteous like Him). I realize that this gets a tad complicated, but

the point is that as we examine Romans 3:25, we get an idea of how serious the translator(s) take the issue of sin and the punishment for sin.

Having said all this, I believe that the real key is reading the Bible as the Word of God! That it is God's Word for us as we seek to grow in the knowledge and love of Him, seek to grow as a part of His Church, and share His gospel with others. We have the opportunity to wrestle with the issues, both individually and together, when there are questions of translation. There are, at times, nuances of difference, but the essential Word is available to us (unlike those persecuted or too poor to have access). "Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" as one of our Collects says as we pray. To come to read it as God's Word for us, because He loves us (as one writer has written: "The Bible is God's love letter to us"). The Bible is how we come to know Him, and like Jesus, is bread that feeds our souls. As we read, we seek to know Him, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and grow as His disciples for our own sake, for the sake of the church, and for the sake of the world.

Read His Word; find a Bible you can read; use a guide to help you grow, and you will "be blessed to be a blessing."

Love in Christ,

Greg

Counselor's Comments: Listen

Sharon Smith

In studying the book of James, I am once again drawn to James 1:19 as I see it so vital to our relationships with each other. "My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry." Each of us wants so much to be understood, but most of us have a difficult time listening to another person, especially in the midst of a conflict. This also goes along with what has recently jumped out at me in the book Boundaries, by Townsend and Cloud. The authors make the point that we are to respond rather than react to another person, which then allows us to maintain control of ourselves versus letting the other person have control of us by reacting.

In the communication packet that I give to most of my clients, there is a sheet on the five steps of listening: 1) Make eye contact, 2) Stay focused on what the person is saying, 3) Don't interrupt, 4) Notice body language and voice tone, trying to understand his/her feelings, 5) Repeat back what you heard to clarify. When Bob and I were receiving marriage counseling, I realized all too clearly that step 2 was very difficult for me when I was feeling misunderstood. So I would have to interrupt

to be understood. Of course, it didn't work very well. Fortunately, I have improved in this area.

Taking this all one step further, listening comes down to a willingness to be humble, to allow our own needs to wait while we work to understand another person. It seems to me that this is what dying to self is all about.

So, back to James – "Quick to listen." How does this play out in our daily lives? If someone gets on your last nerve and you are ready to react, take a deep breath, say a quick prayer, and work to understand what is going on for him/her. When you speak, ask questions and listen. That is responding rather than reacting. You will find that if you are willing to hear what is going on for him, he will be ready to listen to you. That is really what God has created us for, relationship, which requires patience and a willingness to understand before being understood.

"Slow to become angry." Martha Horn pointed out that this Greek word is more about wrath and rage than frustration. This

leads me to believe that James' final command is that we don't hold on to our frustrations with another and allow it to turn to wrath and rage. Healthy communication and a willingness to forgive is what keeps us from unhealthy anger which can make us

physically and emotionally sick. It does not demonstrate Christian "love" to the world. It can be summed up in a saying that I've heard without knowing its original source, "Resentment is like swallowing poison and waiting for the other person to die."

Jesus is our perfect example of healthy communication. I marvel at his ability to love his disciples in spite of their bungling, human flaws. I am amazed that he was silent throughout his unjust treatment and condemnation. And he loves us in this same way, in spite of our humanness. All he asks is that we "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...and Love your neighbor as yourself."

As we enter the Lenten season, let us all focus on making an effort to listen, understand and love one another better.



Saint Luke's Church
50 Pope Avenue
Hilton Head, SC 29928

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 21
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928