

Parking

Great parking options are available with shuttle service from:

- The Briar Club garage, 2603 Timmons Lane, 3rd and 4th floors
 - St. John's lot at Buffalo Speedway and Westheimer
- Children must be 5 yrs. old to ride the buses.

Encounter's 10 Year Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, February 26

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Fellowship Hall
It wouldn't be a birthday party without cake, live music, and fun activities including a photo booth. Guests will help assemble "birthday bags" for children served by Christian Community Service Center's food pantry at Gethsemane and the Houston Food Bank. An Amazon wish list has been created at <http://a.co/codFC2Q> to help you shop.

Painters James Doyle Avant and Wendy Parker Messerschmidt are featured in the Rotunda Gallery as our February Artists of the Month. Stop by the gallery after worship today to meet them and view their work.

Shrove Tuesday Luncheon February 28 | 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Fellowship Hall

The Ladies of St. Luke's and St. John the Divine invite you to join them at their Annual Shrove Tuesday Luncheon. Guest Speaker is Rev. Eric Huffman, Lead Pastor of The Story Houston. For reservations call 713-402-5094.

Say hello to Scripture + Shared!

St. Luke's new Bible Study app has launched with a study of *Jesus' Life - Journey to Jerusalem*.

Group materials are available on the new Scripture + Shared App and St. Luke's website.

- **New Living in Faith Together (LIFT) Groups**
If you are not already in a LIFT group, new groups will launch this week. These small groups meet regularly to pray, study the Bible, share stories, build lasting friendships and serve together. Scripture + Shared materials will be the curriculum.
- **Bible Buddies**
If you are looking for something more flexible, choose your day and time and invite a friend to be your "Bible Buddy" using the Scripture + Shared materials.

Sign up at the Connection Center or StLukesMethodist.org/bible.

The **Scripture + Shared App** is available at the Apple Store (Mac) or Google Play (Android.)

Hint: Say "yes" to notifications and be the first to know when new content is loaded.

INSIDE-OUT HABITS

WE PRAY

Sunday, February 19

Lord, Please guide me in the direction that I need to go in school for my future career. I feel like I'm just going through the motions without having an end goal in mind. I need help prioritizing you as number one, and trusting that even if I don't have all the answers that there is still a plan for me.
-Allison Fernbach,
Sophomore at Texas A&M

Monday, February 20

Jesus, You came so that the blind may see, and too often I am quick to assume this just means healing for folks without vision. But I am blind too...blind to my neighbor who is lonely, blind to my friend who is excluded, blind to the child who is bullied. Open my eyes and give me vision to see the people around me that need love. Amen.
-Katie Montgomery Mears

Tuesday, February 21

God, Help me to make you my number one priority above everything else. Please take away the distracting things that the world values so I can focus on you. Guide me every day and help me let go of my plan because yours is much better.
-Alexandra Blake, 14 years old

Wednesday, February 22

Father God, Draw my heart closer to you. Help me to hear your direction for my life, and help me to move faithfully with confidence knowing you are in charge - not me. Please guide me towards patience and empathy, and help me to greet all I meet with the love you taught us through your son Jesus Christ. Amen.
-Chelsea Pacey

Thursday, February 23

Jesus, You teach the road to your father is narrow because He just wants me. Today I pray for the strength to release the stuff of this world that is burdensome so I can come full-heartedly and freely to you. Amen.

Friday, February 24

Dear God, Please help us to strengthen our relationships with you. Bless those who are less fortunate than us. Amen.
-Christopher Lewis, 13 years old

Saturday, February 25

Lord, I pray for the pastors and staff of St. Luke's who are preparing tomorrow's worship. Bless them with health and time and I thank you for their dedication to spreading your word. Please ready my heart to receive the message and remove all distractions so I can then take the good news out into the world. Amen.

WE GIVE OURSELVES AWAY

in generosity and service.

Bring your \$1 bills to worship and help PM Pals

Each Sunday this month, \$1 bills placed in the collection plate will be dedicated to PM Pals, St. Luke's "kids night out" program for families with special needs. Your gift will provide PM Pals with additional staff hours and special equipment that will enhance the program. Interested in volunteering with PM Pals? Contact Bevin at pmpals@stlukesmthodhoidst.org



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IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS PRAYER, a hospital visit or contact from one of our ministers, please call Rev. Bill Denham at 713-402-5156. 24-hour Prayer and Praise Line: 713-402-5088.

REQUEST PRAYER | PRAYER FOR OTHERS | READ DAILY PRAYERS

Visit the interactive prayer wall at StLukesMethodist.org/prayer. Not only is the interactive Prayer Wall a place to share your prayers, it is also a place where you can go to pray for others, and when you do, be sure and check the box that says you prayed.

WE STUDY THE BIBLE

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon Notes

Inventing Yourself Godward Bishop Scott Jones

1. You can be more than you are.
2. Born again/from above: "another"
3. The prerequisite
4. The direction
5. The method
6. The takeaway

KEY VERSE FOR THE WEEK:

Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." -- John 3:3

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

What would being re-invented in a godly direction mean for you personally? What change could you imagine?

DISTINGUISHED LIFE AWARDS

CLASS OF 2017



KATHY AND JULIAN BYRD came to St. Luke's in 1978 because of a wedding—their daughter's. But, make no mistake, they were not "new." Dr. Julian Byrd has been a Chaplain at Methodist Hospital for 41 years. He has known pastors at SLUMC since founding pastor, Dr. Durwood Fleming. He was asked to help serve Communion, and so began a partnership in ministry. He has enjoyed his relationship with each senior pastor. The Byrds found community when they joined the Goodwill Class. Later, Julian took on the training of Stephen Ministers, and has served on the Board of Stewards. He taught Sunday School classes for years, and together they have served on the Life Celebration Guild. Kathy knows a good celebration and has coordinated over 1,000 weddings in her career and ministry with the Wedding Guild. And they do not stop... passing by the lobby at the Hallmark recently, they saw a woman sitting in a chair. They invited her to get in the car to come to church and she is still coming each week. This is how they continue to live, not only to receive but to be involved in the world around them with meaning and purpose.



PHOEBE AND SAM CATLI's story begins in the Philippines with their similar backgrounds. Both inherited their love of missions from their parents. Sam's father worked closely with American missionaries, and Phoebe's father worked in a American missionary school and preached the Gospel to indigenous people. Sam and Phoebe arrived in Houston in 1972 and settled into the apartment complex at the back of Gethsemane. This UMC church was a convenient place to worship and was a continuation of the Methodist tradition they had at Duke while they were in graduate school. At Gethsemane, Sam was invited to be a church usher, and Phoebe began to teach children's Sunday School. They started the Kaleidoscope class with five people and today, there are up to 50 people attending the class. While most of them are from different countries in Africa, other attendees have come from Iraq, China, Philippines, Pakistan and South America. Most of the women needed to develop new livelihood skills, so the Sewing Circle of Hope was founded by Phoebe to teach new skills and entrepreneurship, help facilitate integration into Western culture, and serve as a support group for these women. And their story circles right back to the beginning where, through their Sun Rise Institute, the Catlis helped found the House of Shiloh Orphanage serving impoverished children in Philippines.



CAROLYN AND PAUL MEYER have a credo when it comes to making a move. First, get a roof over your head, and second, find a church. And that is exactly what they did when they moved to Houston from Australia, and St. Luke's became their church home. To make friends in their new church, they knew they needed to jump in and get active in service and small groups. From project to project, it seems that Paul does not say "no." From rehabbing houses to assisting with communion, leading Member Care, being SL rep to CanCare, serving as board chair for SEARCH, and becoming a Stephen Minister. He has even ridden the lift to the ceiling of the old sanctuary to change the light bulbs. Carolyn has marvelous stories from serving in the Wedding Guild for years, and while they have no biological children, they have many "children" and (now grandchildren) from the pre-marital ministry, young marrieds Sunday School class and hosting International Cultural Exchange students. Carolyn served as President of Christian Community Service Center (CCSC) and the food pantry has a very special place in her heart. She is currently a Lay Chaplain at a Methodist Hospital. The Meyers will tell you, "There are so many opportunities. Serve! It will enrich your life!"