

SPIRE



IN THIS ISSUE

3

THE OFF-SEASON by Dr. Tom Pace

4

RESTORATION by Shelby Olive

8

¡BIENVENIDOS A OASIS! by Pastor Roberto Blanco and Rev. David Horton

20

2018 DISTINGUISHED LIFE AWARDS

ABOUT THE COVER: St. Luke's continues restoration work on homes affected by Hurricane Harvey. Thank you to Jon Norman (pictured) and all the volunteers who give their time to this effort. Read the story on page 4.

Spire (USPS 7190) is published monthly by St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 3471 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77027-5334. Periodicals postage paid at Houston, TX and additional mailing offices.

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Welcome to the summer edition of the Spire magazine!

The Spire is now published four times a year, so you can look forward to new issues for Lent, Summer, Fall and Advent. To keep you in touch with more time-sensitive information, several features can now be found online where they are updated on the first of each month. New member and baptism information and pictures, as well as Caring and Sharing member news are available on our website at StLukesMethodist.org/family-news.

Have you tried our new church app? Download it at the app store by searching for St Lukes UMC Houston. This member toolbox is the fastest way to find activities, sermons, Dr. Pace's blog and more with just a tap of your finger.

The Off-Season

by Dr. Tom Pace, Sr. Pastor



Summertime is coming. Slow moving baseball. Less traffic. Long, warm, humid evenings. Relax. What will you do with your summer?

I once asked a professional football coach what he did in the off-season. He laughed and answered, “There is no real break. We take two days off and get right back at it. We do the inside work to get ready for the next year.” He went on to say that he believed the preparation the coaches did in the off-season was what determined whether they would win or lose in the subsequent season.

So maybe rather than just a time of rest and vacation, it would be good to view the summer as a time to do the “inside work” to prepare for the year ahead.

Perhaps you could...

- ...write your personal mission statement about what you want your own life to be all about.
- ...begin a prayer journal.
- ...see a counselor to address issues that hold you back.
- ...spend some time in honest conversation with family members about what your family’s values are.
- ...identify your personal, vocational, relational and spiritual goals for the year ahead, and a path to reach those goals.
- ...sit and pray for more than five minutes.

This summer, we have two sermon series planned to help you do that inside work.

During the month of June and the first Sunday of July, we will look at *How to Pray the Psalms*. The book of Psalms is the prayer book of the Bible, and we will consider five types of Psalms and how to incorporate them to put some structure in your prayer life.

In July and August, we are going to consider together how to put into practice one single verse of Scripture, with supplemental verses to help us. In a sermon series entitled *Focus on These Things*, we will see how changing our thinking can change our lives, and work to make Philippians 4:8 happen – *“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”*

I suggest to you that a summer that includes important internal preparation will make all the difference. Let’s have a good off-season.

Restoration

by Shelby Olive



Out of sight, out of mind. It's been months since Harvey left its mark on the Greater Houston area. Its damage is no longer discussed in the news. It's no longer a trending topic on social media. People have moved on to other issues. Here's the problem. Recovery is far from completion. This is why St. Luke's is committed to being one of the last ones out.

Be the Broadmoor

Receiving so much help so soon after Harvey hit stirred a movement at St. Luke's to "Be the Broadmoor." Just days after the hurricane and flooding, Broadmoor United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge arrived with volunteers and box trucks filled with supplies. Their generosity allowed St. Luke's to become a distribution center, offering supplies and volunteers to those needing them. Broadmoor inspired St. Luke's Outreach Council to create the Disaster Relief Committee, a team dedicated to creating partnerships in all cardinal directions, so they can help during times of need the way Broadmoor helped St. Luke's.

The Restoration Team

St. Luke's Outreach team, along with three other local churches, has developed a plan for holistic restoration of the homes and Houston communities affected by Harvey. The Restoration Team is a combined effort of Chapelwood, Westbury, St. Paul's and St. Luke's United Methodist churches. It is a multi-faceted response that tackles a variety of issues that were not only caused by the hurricane, but also exacerbated by it. The Restoration Team received a \$504,000 grant funded through the Greater Houston Community Foundation and several other organizations. This grant has allowed the team to provide for some emergency services, muck homes and install walls and insulation in many houses throughout the Houston area. The team has been able to provide up to \$8,500 in materials plus volunteer labor valued at \$25,000... and the work continues.

To achieve maximum impact, each church on the team is focused on restoring a different area of Houston. St. Luke's has been sending volunteers to the west side of Houston, but there's a whole different project happening in northeast Houston. The Restoration Team discovered a neighborhood where men were out of work when Harvey hit, and their homes were damaged by the storm. Instead of sending out volunteers, they realized it would be more impactful to help these men gain new skills while paying them a livable wage.

"We all have so many aspects to our lives," said Alice King, Director of Outreach at St. Luke's. "Everything needs to be done holistically. We want to have really great networks of services so that we can refer as much as possible while sticking to the small part that we can actually do ourselves."

Generosity

The church has overflowed with generosity pouring in and out of its walls. To date, St. Luke's has distributed \$210,000 for direct assistance to families and individuals whose homes were devastated by flooding. The church has also allocated \$50,000 to help with additional Restoration Team operation costs. Knowing that other needs can be intensified by natural disasters,

St. Luke's also donated \$5,000 to the Association of Victims of Domestic Violence, which had a matching opportunity from David Weekley Homes, and \$22,000 to Amazing Place dementia day program for new floors.

"What we always want is for our money to make the most impact so that people can get the real help that they need," Alice said. "It would be easy spend all of our money for one thing, a very specific thing, but if folks aren't being helped on all fronts, it's going to be really difficult for them to move forward and recover."

Staffing

In addition to providing financial and volunteer support, the church has also lent Denise Snider, Director of Global Outreach, as a case manager, along with Jon Norman, a St. Luke's member and full-time volunteer, as an assessor as part of their commitment to the Restoration Team. Jon volunteers nearly 80 hours a week assessing damage, preparing homes for volunteers, and leading volunteers as they work. Denise visits homes as a trained counselor with the Restoration Team's project manager to not only gather information on the damage caused by Harvey, but to also help people know that they will be

completely cared for as they rebuild. Chapelwood and St. Luke's have also become the official visiting team volunteer hosts for the Restoration Team. Since the storm passed, both churches have hosted and continue to host work teams that have come to Houston from across the country.

Though Harvey's damages are far less visible than they were just a few months ago, there is still a long way to go before Houston and its surrounding areas are fully restored. This goes beyond rebuilding what was broken by the storm. Alice says she hopes to not just repair, but to create better living conditions than those that existed before the storm.

"Stay tuned for what's next, because this is going to be a long story, and we've already received tremendous blessings as a result of our relief efforts," Alice said, "And we want everything that comes out of this story to go to the glory of God."

Stay tuned
for what's next,
because this
is going to be
a long story

1,197
Volunteers

133
Houses
mucked

31
Homes with
insulation
installed

Harvey Workdays

St. Luke's has scheduled monthly workdays to install drywall and insulation in homes affected by Harvey. No experience is needed, and all supplies are furnished. Sign up for a team at StLukesMethodist.org/Houston-flood-relief



Learning in the Off-Season

Register at StLukesMethodist.org/GroupFinder

**Equipped to Serve | Sundays, June 3-24 | 9:30-11a.m.
Hines Baker Room**

When we serve in a manner that matches who we are, we experience growth, joy and fulfillment. In this four-week class, we will consider our spiritual gifts as well as our talents, personalities, passions and experiences. Put together, these characteristics uniquely equip us for ministry within the church and the world. Come and discover your vital role in the body of Christ!

At the end of the course, the Adult Ministry team will connect you to opportunities to put your gifts into action. Facilitated by Rebecca Alsup and Jennifer Gould.

Bible in 90 Days | Tuesdays, June 5–August 28 | 6-7 p.m. | Hines Baker Room

Please join us for a special class designed to read the Bible from cover to cover...in 90 days! Ted Cooper, Jr., author of *The Bible in 90 Days* says, “Reading every word of the Bible is not the norm, nor is doing so in such a short time frame. Something just happens when you do this. In your case, this “something” might be obvious, or maybe it won’t become apparent for a while.” Committing to completing this challenge will positively impact your faith journey in ways you cannot imagine... sign up today! The registration fee of \$15 includes the participant book. An “official” Bible in 90 Days Bible is available for \$15, if desired, but any Bible will suffice. Led by Dr. Linda Christians, Ken Jacobson and Peggy Keus.

Bible 101: New Testament | Wednesdays, June 6–August 1 (not meeting July 4) | 6-7:30 p.m. | Room ES313/314

Why did Jesus teach in parables? What was the early church really like? Are Paul’s letters still applicable? Is Revelation a warning about rapture? Come find out the answers to all of these questions and more in an 8-week study of the New Testament this summer. No materials required except your Bible. Led by Rev. Thomas Harper and Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears.



Financial Peace University | Sundays, June 10-August 5 | 4-6 p.m. | Room ES308/313

Financial Peace University (FPU) is a nine-week class on money taught by America's most trusted financial guru, Dave Ramsey. Dave and his teaching team will walk you through the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future and much more! You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change the way you spend. This class is for everyone: young or old; single or married. The average family pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in the first 90 days. The materials cost \$93 and include membership for you and your spouse, access to the online resources, a copy of Complete Guide to Money, FPU Class workbook, Envelope System, and more. Led by Brian and Katy Cox; Jen and Darrin Floyd.

**At the Crossroads: Leadership Lessons for the Second Half of Life
Mondays | 6-7 p.m. | July 9-August 13 | ES309**

At the Crossroads, by Clayton Smith and Dave Wilson, is a six-week Bible-based study offering comprehensive, practical help for Christians who are approaching, entering, or already in retirement. Readers can work through the book on their own or as part of a group. Cost \$10. Led by Claud Riddles and Mary Schuler.



Summer Scripture + Shared daily App Readings

Did you know that St. Luke's Scripture+Shared App has a daily reading plan? This summer's topic is the *Book of Psalms*. Each weekday the app will offer a selection of scripture, a brief commentary and reflection question. Download the Scripture+Shared App and when you go on vacation, your Bible study goes right with you. Why not ask a friend to join you? For more information go to www.StLukesMethodist.org/Bible.





¡Bienvenidos a Oasis!

by Pastor Roberto Blanco

In the midst of the fourth largest city in the country, in the most diverse neighborhood of southwest Houston, lies Oasis; a place where the thirsty quench their thirst, the weary find rest for their souls, and the children of God breathe in the joy of a loving church.

The great commission of Jesus is to spread his teachings to all the nations of the world. *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* Acts 1:8. We believe that the ends of the earth are all around us. Despite their speaking the same language, we are in the midst of a wide variety of Hispanic nationalities, with different customs, cultures and idiosyncrasies allowing us to be a multi-cultural church where Hispanics of different nations can worship and feel at home.

Our intention is not to create a church exclusively for Mexicans, Salvadorans or Cubans. Instead, we want to create a community that includes all who wish to live their faith with us, and that understand that despite different surnames, we are a big family. We know that we have a great ministerial challenge before

us that will require all our energy, prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit. But at the same time, we are confident in what God will do. Our passion is to see salvation and the kingdom of God being established among Hispanics in Houston.

We want Oasis to be the place where the thirsty quench their thirst, the weary find rest for their souls, and the children of God breathe in the joy of a loving church.

We visualize a ministry that will bring a positive impact and spiritual blessing to our city. Although we just began six weeks ago, we are already seeing the first fruits of the ministry. Families are beginning to arrive and made to feel part of our church. Every day we see new people come to us who confess that they want to be more than visitors; they have arrived at the place where they want to settle down with their families. We are passionate to spread the word to let our community know that Oasis meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. for a meeting with God. On Sundays at 10 a.m. we study the word in Sunday school, and beginning in September, we will launch a new Sunday worship service

at 11 a.m. We ask for your prayers as we spread the news—evangelizing, using social media and inviting people to join our community. We are one family in Jesus, putting our faith to work in love.

P E N T E C O S T

The Vision for Gethsemane

by Rev. David Horton

“...in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power” Acts 2:11

The church of Jesus was born on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit blazed like fireworks on the heads of the first disciples and gave these uneducated fishermen the power to preach the gospel in other languages including Aramaic, Persian, Arabic, Egyptian, Greek, Hebrew, and Latin, and *“they were all together in one place”* (Acts 2:1). Pentecost is a “how-to” case study in the best of Christian witness: there is diversity in context, unity in mission, and solidarity in relationship, all for the sake of offering the gospel to all nations.

Pentecost is the vision for Gethsemane. We exist to offer the gospel to all nations in our backyard. We embrace the rich diversity of our context. We collaborate together on one vision. We abide in relationship with Jesus and with one another as the foundation of our work. We hope to offer worship in a cluster of languages: English, Spanish, and Swahili at least.

The addition of Rev. Roberto Blanco to our staff team is a major milestone in making God’s vision a reality. He was ordained in the Methodist Church of Cuba and worked under their bishop in the largest Methodist church on the island with over 3000 in weekly attendance. Then he spent four years in ministry in Rio de Janeiro. Roberto is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, and English. He is an accomplished musician (seriously, you should hear him play the trumpet). He has a heart for reaching dechurched Hispanic people with passionate worship and preaching.

Roberto came highly recommended by Rev. Arturo Cardar, a Cuban-American pastor serving as the Coordinator of Mission Field Development for the Texas Annual Conference. Roberto is one of Arturo’s top recruits. I am thankful for Arturo’s hard work in helping Roberto and his family secure visas to live and work in Houston. May God bless Pastor Roberto, his family, and the Spirit’s movement through Gethsemane.





Tapestry Players Present...

JUNE
15-17

Father of the Bride

A simple wedding escalates into a big affair in the Banks household in this play by Caroline Francke. Directed by Steve McCurdy. Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, June 17 at 2:30 p.m. in the Rotunda Theater. \$10 general admission — purchase at the door or online at tapestryplayers.org/father.

AUG
2-4

Rodgers and Hammerstein's State Fair

And it's blue ribbons and Academy-award winning music as the Frake family heads to the fair in this production of a Rodgers and Hammerstein classic. Book by Tom Briggs and Louis Mattioli. Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, with music by Richard Rodgers. Directed by Tina Throckmorton, with musical direction by Sid Davis. Thursday, August 2; Friday, August 3; Saturday, August 4 at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, August 5 at 2:30 p.m. in the Rotunda Theater. \$15 admission / \$10 children and students with ID — purchase at the door or online at tapestryplayers.org/statefair.

Interested in singing in the chorus? Sign up online: tapestryplayers.org/chorus.



Bridges Academy's Jerry Eckles Music Theater Camp presents *Honk Jr.*

Bridges Academy of Fine Arts will present a one-hour "Junior" version of the hit musical *Honk!* This delightful and award-winning adaptation of the tale of the ugly duckling is a heartwarming celebration of what makes us special. The "Jr" series of musicals feature condensed versions of shows to allow for a shorter production time. Camp will run Monday through Friday over two weeks — June 18-29 — from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enrollment is open for students entering grade 2 through graduating seniors. Plenty of roles, lots of great chorus numbers, and a fun opportunity for your child to develop/expand their skills regardless of prior experience. Tuition is \$275, with a 10% discount for each additional sibling you enroll. All camp activities will take place in the Rotunda Theater. Enroll online at www.bridgesfinearts.org/honkjr.



Children's Music Ministry Presents

Judge Julie Truly and the Case of the Holey Roof!

Order in the court! All rise for Her Honor, Judge Julie Truly, who will now hear The Case of the Holey Roof from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 5. Our Children's Music Ministry presents this musical with a story taken from the New Testament. The musical is open to children entering 1st through 5th grades. The dates for rehearsals are Monday, July 16 to Friday, July 20 from 1:30-5 p.m. Our performance will be at 6 p.m. on Friday, July 20. Register your child online at www.stlukesmethodist.org/judgejulie. For more information, please contact Noralyn Carpenter — ncarpenter@stlukesmethodist.org or 713-402-5028.



Pure Sound Presents *Babes on Broadway*

Our Pure Sound youth return to the Rotunda Theater stage this summer to act and sing in their annual musical revue — Friday through Sunday, August 17-19.

Rotunda Gallery will be back in the fall!

The Fellowship Hall renovation includes changes to our Rotunda Gallery hallway, so all exhibitions have been postponed until construction is finished later this year. Stay tuned!

Amigos de
Pure Sound
presenta
CINCO de MAYO FIESTA

TICKETS
\$20 adult
\$10 child

Benefiting Pure Sound Youth Choir
Saturday, May 5 | 6-9pm | Southside Place Clubhouse
Purchase tickets online at StLukesMethodist.org/events

St. Luke's Summer Camp 2018

School's out. We're in!

This summer, St Luke's After-School Care and Summer Camp are celebrating their 50th Anniversary with new games and activities that include Hip-Hop dancing, a collaboration with Triumph Sports, an updated variety of games for Minute to Win It and a new science curriculum.

Love the classics? Kids can cool down in our on-site swimming pool and participate in arts and crafts, tennis, gym games with Coach Jones, cooking/nutrition, music/drama and our famous talent show!

The entire camp takes field trips every Friday to fun places like Pirates Bay Waterpark, Typhoon Texas, PuttPutt FunHouse, Incredible Pizza, and more!

St. Luke's Summer Camp is for children entering grades 1-6 in the fall. Camp runs for 10 sessions, beginning June 11 and finishing August 17. Camp hours are 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the option of adding early care (7–9 a.m.) and after care (4:30–6 p.m.) at an extra cost. Also, lunch packages, provided by The Burger Joint, Chick-Fil-A and Central Market, are available for purchase.

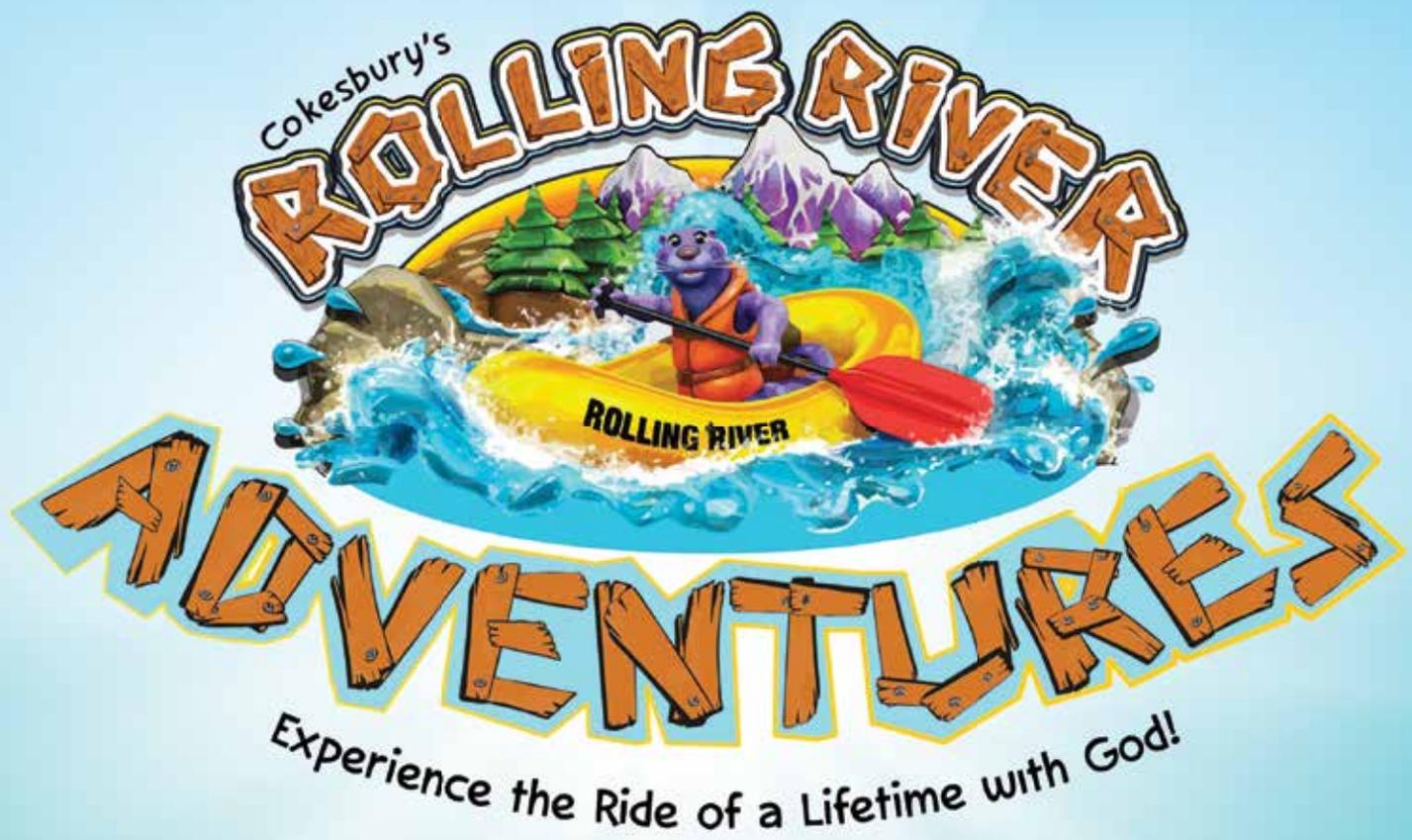
For Middle Schoolers, every day is a Field Trip!

Campers entering 7th and 8th grades in the fall, visit places like Splashtown, Bayou Wildlife Park, Laserzone, I-Fly, and more! Campers also participate in at least one community service project per week. Space is very limited, so sign up early to ensure your middle schooler's summer is one to remember.

Best of all, our loving and energetic counselors provide a camp experience that is exciting, safe, character-building and welcoming to children of all races, nationalities, and religions.

To register or for more information, visit StLukesAllDay.org and click on "register"; you will then need to create a new account. After that, follow the website's prompts to continue the registration. If you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call at 713-402-5075 or come and visit our office on the 2nd floor of the Johnson Building. We can't wait to hear from you!





Vacation Bible School June 11-15, 2018 | K-5th grade

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you. -Isaiah 43:2

At Rolling River Adventure VBS, discover an interactive, energizing, Bible-based program. Campers become Rafters and explore how to serve God and God's mission for their lives. After a high-energy Opening Assembly, the Rafters make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Rapid Reminders to equip our Rafters for an active life with God. Rafters will discover a Rafting Ready Verse that will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

Campers will expand on what they've discovered by participating in a variety of activities: making art projects at the Craft Station, singing new music at the Music Station, exploring at the Science Station, participating in recreational activities at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty snacks at the Snack Station. Along the way, Rafters will hear about our mission project and respond to a call for action. Jesus calls us to a great adventure with God. join us for the ride of a lifetime as we raft down God's river together!

Campers

VBS is for all children entering K-5th grade in the fall of 2018. In addition, children ages 2 1/2-PreK (as of 6/11/18) may participate in Mini-VBS, if a parent volunteers on campus the entire week of VBS.

Volunteers may also register for childcare (2 months-2 1/2 years). Registration is \$50 and is required for all participants.

Teen Helpers

Teen staff includes anyone entering 7th-12th grade in the fall. Students entering 6th grade can participate through VB6, new for 2018.

You do not need to be a member of St. Luke's to participate in VBS. In addition, the registration fee for teens is now \$25 per teen and includes their staff t-shirt, breakfast daily, and snacks.

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY www.stlukesmethodist.org/vbs

Students on the move...

The summer is an exciting time for Student Ministries at St. Luke's! There are tons of trips and events both near and far. For more information and to register for the activities listed below, go to StLukesMethodist.org/events or the app.

**JUN
3-6**

June 3 - 6 | Servio Christi: Middle School Mission Trip

Our incoming 7th-8th grade students are going to beautiful Corpus Christi for their summer Mission Trip. We'll stay in beach houses in Port Aransas - each one with a pool, ping pong table, and other fun activities. Our days will be spent working in teams on minor construction projects and painting homes affected by Hurricane Harvey. Cost is \$500.

**JUN
11-15**

June 11-15 | Vacation Bible School Teen Staff & After-VBS Activities

Middle and High School Students play an integral role in St. Luke's Vacation Bible School each year. Over 100 students participate, and their energy and enthusiasm are appreciated by everyone. Teen staff includes anyone entering 7th-12th grade in the fall. Incoming 6th graders are able to participate in VB6, new for 2018. Registration fee is \$25 per Teen Helper and includes their staff t-shirt, daily breakfast, and snacks.

The fun doesn't end at noon during VBS for Teen Helpers! During Monday through Thursday afternoons, we have fun events for all the students who helped in VBS that morning.

Monday - Casa Ole Nacho Bar (generously donated, registration required)

Tuesday - Speedy's (laser tag, go-karts, putt-putt, arcade)

Wednesday - Top Golf

Thursday - Momentum Indoor Rock Climbing

Register online for each day's (except Monday) event and lunch option.

**JUN
24-30**

June 24-30 | CIY:Move

Move is more than just another camp; Move is an experience! Students are challenged through intense, interactive worship, dynamic preaching, small group study, and community building. We will spend five days in beautiful Durango, Colorado at the Christ In Youth (CIY) Conference learning what it means to be a Kingdom worker. Each student returns home with a personal and unique challenge for the upcoming year. Join us and see why this is the trip students can't wait to sign up for year after year. Cost is \$900.



June 24-28 | Middle School Getaway

**JUN
24-28**

Back by popular demand, we are reinstating the Getaway trip for our students entering 7th-8th grade. We are heading to San Antonio, where we'll stay at University United Methodist Church.

Students will experience Schlitterbahn, Fiesta

Texas, dinner at the Gristmill, shopping in Gruene, a day on the Riverwalk with a stop at the Alamo for those interested, and plenty of time for relaxing and hanging out in the evenings. We will end each night with worship music and a devotional. Cost is \$450.

**JUL
17-24**

July 17-24 | Dominican Republic High School Mission Trip

Our student trip to the Dominican Republic is back this year, and we can't wait to partner once again with GO Ministries in Santiago. This will be St.

Luke's eighth year to work alongside our friends and partners in ministry there, and it is always a joy watching students build relationships and catch up with old friends and make new ones.



Sutton Elementary School Garden
Saturday, May 12 | 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Sutton Elementary School | 7402 Albacore Drive

Join us as we help trim, weed, and plant in the Sutton Elementary School garden! Some tools available but feel to bring your own!



Sole Hope Shoe Cutting Party | Saturday, June 9
9:30-11:30 a.m. | Westheimer Campus

A pair of Sole Hope shoes can protect a child in Africa from life-threatening infections. Shoe pieces are cut out at Sole Hope parties and then assembled by locals who have been taught the trade of shoemaking and receive a fair wage. Collection boxes for jeans will be available on both campuses.

Saturday Serve!



Bag Beans & Rice for Christian Community Service Center
Sunday, July 15 | 12:30-2 p.m. | Gethsemane Campus

Join us for a special Sunday Serve at our Gethsemane campus! We'll package beans and rice for CCSC and other area food pantries. We'd love for you to join us for worship at 11 a.m., too. Lunch will be served and it promises to be an excellent day of service for the whole family!



Blood Drives

Please donate blood and help others in need through the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center.

Westheimer Campus | Blanton Building
Sunday, May 13 | 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Gethsemane Campus | Canterbury Hall
Sunday, July 1 | 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

To register for Saturday Serve, email Meredith Davis at mdavis@stlukesmethodist.org



Signing the Walls

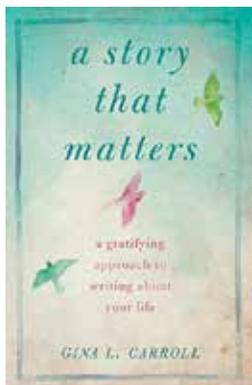
St. Luke's opened the Fellowship Hall mid-renovation and invited the Encounter community and entire congregation to bless the room with their favorite scriptures, prayers and well-wishes. We were overwhelmed with the support and love poured into the space and are now permanently preserved there. As we anticipate the completion of the renovation, scheduled for late July/early August, we remain mindful of the presence of God that not only covers the walls, but also manifests inside the hearts of our friends who will gather here for many years to come.



ST. LUKE'S LIFE

Here at St. Luke's, we want you to have every opportunity to build authentic bonds with other Christians—just like you—who are striving to walk the Christian journey faithfully, so check out the following events! Join our church family and find a small group and Sunday morning class that truly fits. To learn more about all of our ministry groups, visit StLukesMethodist.org/ministries.

SENIOR ADULTS



Program and Luncheon:

We Tell our Stories

Thursday, May 10 | 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
ES313 and 314

As one of our Inside-Out Habits at St. Luke's, we are to tell our stories. We want to add our life stories to the mix, however, we often struggle with getting started. Gina Carroll, author of *A Story that Matters*, will help us explore our ability to help, heal, and connect with others through

the art of telling our stories. Buffet lunch (\$10) following the program. Advance registration required. Call 713-402-5087, email reservations@stlukesmethodist.org or register online at stlukesmethodist.org/events.



Day Trip: Wiess Energy Hall at the Houston Museum of Natural Science

Wednesday, May 16 | 10:30 a.m.–4 p.m. | Lunch at Katz's Deli (on your own) | \$12 per person

After an early lunch at Katz's Deli on Westheimer, tour the new Wiess Energy Hall at the HMNS and enjoy an afternoon movie in the IMAX Theater. Cost \$12. Advance registration required. Call 713-402-5087, email reservations@stlukesmethodist.org or register online at stlukesmethodist.org/events.

Gethsemane Silver Circle

Wednesday, May 23 | 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. | Gethsemane

Enjoy a morning of games and conversation with lunch and birthday celebrations at noon. Cost for lunch is \$5. For reservations, please call Betsy Evans, 281-565-0348.

Day Trip: Houston TranStar

Thurs, June 21 | 9:45 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. | Cost and Lunch: TBD
Get a behind-the-scenes look at the Houston TranStar

facility and learn about TranStar's role in transportation and emergency management in the Houston area. Cost and lunch TBD. Advance registration required. Call 713-402-5087, email reservations@stlukesmethodist.org or register online at stlukesmethodist.org/events.

Program and Luncheon: TBD

Thursday, June 28 | 11 a.m.–1 p.m. | ES313 and 314

Buffet lunch (\$10) following the program.

Advance registration required. Call 713-402-5087, email reservations@stlukesmethodist.org or register online at stlukesmethodist.org/events.

Afternoon at the Movies: *The Post*

Monday, July 16 | 1:30 p.m. | ES309



Summer Picnic | Thursday, August 9 | 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Back by popular demand, Monica Griffin, Director of Bridges Academy at St. Luke's, and her group of talented friends will entertain us with a mix of show tunes in the newly-renovated Fellowship Hall! Advance registration required. Call 713-402-5087, email reservations@stlukesmethodist.org or register online at stlukesmethodist.org/events.

Evening Trip to the Alley Theatre – *The Mousetrap*

Wednesday, August 15 | 6:30 p.m.–10:30 p.m.

\$24 per person payable by August 8

The scene is set when a group of people gathered in a country house cut off by the snow discover, to their horror, that there is a murderer in their midst. Who can it be? Leave the driving and the parking to us and join in on a trip to the Alley Theatre to see Agatha Christie's classic, *The Mousetrap*. Advance registration and payment required. Call 713-402-5087, email reservations@stlukesmethodist.org or register online at stlukesmethodist.org/events

Bridge Group | 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. | EN205

All are welcome at this growing, informal group interested in learning or brushing up on bridge played by Goren rules. Contact Kathy Austin, 713-252-6727. No reservations needed.



THIRSTY FOR Theology

A new group for young professionals (30's and 40's) who are ready to discuss the deeper questions about God, the church, and our culture as a whole. We will discuss the importance of being open about asking hard questions and searching for answers together. If you are single, married, divorced, a "good" Christian, "bad" Christian, or not even a Christian, come join us for fellowship and Holy conversation. Upcoming events:

Black Labrador (4100 Montrose Blvd.)

Monday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.

Work to make this world better or plan for the next? A conversation about Christianity and social justice led by Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears.

Monday, June 11, 6:30 p.m.

Do you really have a choice? A discussion about free will.

Led by Rev. Thomas Harper.

Monday, July 9, 6:30 p.m.

The Good Book... what should we believe about the Bible?

Led by Rev. David Horton.

Monday, August 13, 6:30 p.m.

Gold Roads and Fiery Pits: a discussion about heaven and hell.

Led by Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears.

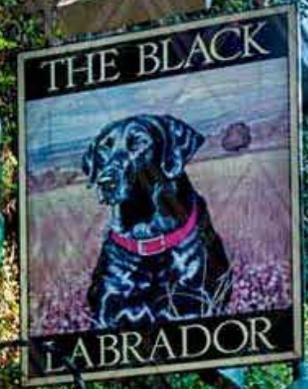
Sunday Brunch

Sunday, May 20, 12:30 p.m. | Mia's Table (3131 Argonne St.)

Sunday, June 24, 12:30 p.m. | Local Foods (Kirby)

Sunday, July 29, 12:30 p.m. | 100% Taquito

Contact Rev. Thomas Harper, Pastor in Adult Ministries, at tharper@stlukesmethodist.org or visit www.StLukesMethodist.org/thirsty.



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW Westheimer Book Group | Mondays, 10 a.m. | ES306

May 14 – *Emma* by Jane Austen

June 11 – Book selections for 2018-2019

Contact Dorothy Voss, 713-660-7243.

Gethsemane Book Group | Saturday, May 12 | 9:30 a.m.

Chicky Fowler's home with co-hostess Dianne Billings

Isaacs Storm by Eric Larson

Contact Jo Ann Smith, 713-686-5859.

UMW Games Group | Mondays | 10-11:30 a.m., EN204

All levels of experience are welcome at this Chinese Mah Jongg group. Contact Lori Wilson-Reynolds, 713-665-3553.

May 7, 14, 21 | June 4, 11, 18, 25 | July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

UMW Afternoon Study Circle | Tuesday, May 28, 6 p.m.

Shanghai River Restaurant, 2407 Westheimer

End of the year party. Contact Kathy Austin, 713-252-6727.

UMW Night Circle | Tuesdays, 6:30-8 p.m.

May 15; July 17, August 21

Contact Pat Deckert at 713-334-6848.

UMW Service Group | Monday, May 21

10-11:30 a.m., EN205/206

Contact Mary White at 281-615-4115.

UMW Shalom Circle | Gethsemane Campus

Tuesday, May 1 at 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

for games and pot-luck lunch in Room 1306, RSVP to May at 713-771-3279.

CAMPUS TOURS

Historical Walking Tour | Westheimer Campus Sundays, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5

Meet in the Commons following the 11 a.m. worship service on the last Sunday of every month for a historical walking tour of the entire campus.

GETHSEMANE



Free Parent Support Group Tuesdays from 5-6 p.m. | Gethsemane Campus Youth Wing Classrooms

This is an open, welcoming group offering conversation and friendship for parents and guardians of children and youth. Childcare and interpreter services are available upon request. Contact Amy Kelley at 713-357-4464.

Wednesday Night Fellowship | 5:30 p.m. | Canterbury Hall

Gather for a family-style meal followed by groups at 6:30 p.m. Childcare is available, as well as tutoring for students.

Pastor's Bible Study Pastor David leads a discussion style class.

"Real Talk" wrestles with how the Bible can help us navigate everyday life. For more information, contact Amy Kelley.

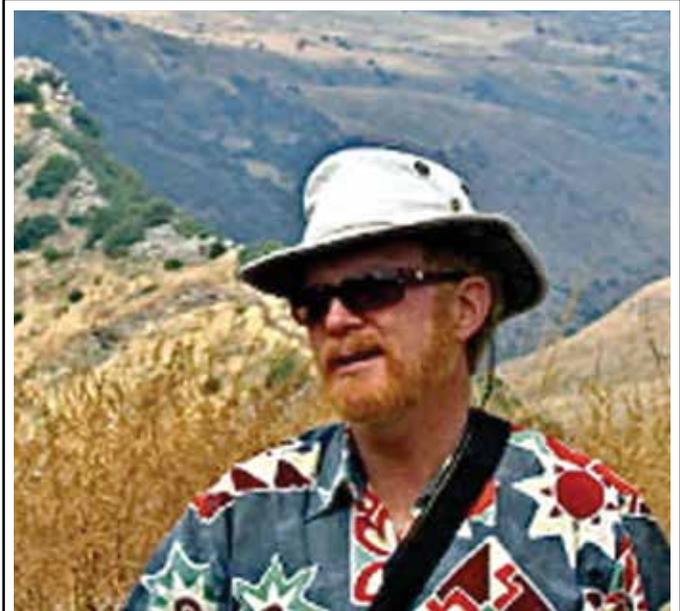
Oasis, our new Spanish worship community, is led by Pastor Roberto Blanco.

PRAYER

Service of Prayer and Healing | May 2, June 6, July 11, August 1

7-8 p.m., Westheimer Chapel

Join us at a service of prayer and healing as we lift our burdens to the Lord and fill afresh with God's spirit. Rev. Thomas Harper will lead a time of prayer and communion where we ask God for spiritual and physical healing for you or a loved one. For more information contact Rev. Thomas Harper at tharper@stlukesmethodist.org.



Dr. Jim Fleming Special Speaker on Sunday, May 20, 9:45-10:45 a.m. | Rotunda Hosted by the Goodwill Sunday School Class

Dr. Jim Fleming, lecturer, is the director of Biblical Resources, LLC and the CEO of Biblical History Center, a museum of daily life in biblical times, located in LaGrange, GA. He obtained his Ed.D. degree from Southwestern Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas. He has lived and worked as an archaeologist and educator in Israel since 1974 and has taught classes in the School for Overseas Students at Hebrew University and the Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem. Dr. Fleming has developed courses in historical geography and biblical history, uniquely tying the studies with the biblical text, with an emphasis on the theological implications. He is the author of several dozen notebooks and teaching materials that are an excellent help to pastors and leaders.

Learn More About our Upcoming Holy Land Trips Presentation by Dr. Jim Fleming Sunday, May 20 | 4 p.m. | ES308

All are welcome as Dr. Fleming previews St. Luke's two upcoming trips to the Holy Land. Whether you've already registered for one of the trips or may be interested in signing up, you are invited.

The two Holy Land trips are scheduled for September 28-October 9 and October 10-21, with both trips being hosted by Dr. Linda Christians. The travelers will visit places often excluded from standard Holy Land tours in addition to exploring sites made familiar through beloved biblical stories. For more information, contact Karen Smith at ksmith@stlukesmethodist.org or 713-402-5086.

DISTINGUISHED LIFE AWARDS CLASS OF 2018



Val Dean and Jack Read joined St. Luke's in 1954 and have been faithful supporters of every minister who has served at St. Luke's. For 64 years they have "given themselves away in generosity and service"! Jack, who is a native Houstonian, has served St. Luke's as a Boy Scout leader, usher, member of the Board of Stewards and Houston Project committees, Habitat for Humanity volunteer, and UMCOR hurricane relief volunteer. For years he has been part of the woodshop team where members craft as many as 10,000 toys for non-profits each year. Jack also serves in the prayer room, is a Stephen Minister and has recently completed the walk to Emmaus. Val Dean has been a member of United Methodist Women as well as serving on the Board of Stewards, UMCOR hurricane relief, and as a prayer room partner and Stephen Minister. They are long-time members of the Randy Smith Bible class. Val and Jack's example of love for Jesus and each other has been an inspiration to all of us.



Peggy and Bob Harrison were high school sweethearts who married, moved to Houston and settled in the then-new Sharpstown neighborhood. They settled into Gethsemane United Methodist Church. It is the Challenger Sunday School class at Gethsemane that they call "the rock" of their spiritual experience, saying, "the bonds of class members have been the most important thing to us and to our family." When Bob took over as leader of the Missions Committee, he said he hated meetings and thus began dinner get-togethers. Bob said that Peggy's good cooking made this the best committee in the Methodist church! The Harrisons have taught Sunday School and been KIDS HOPE mentors. Peggy has shared her culinary skills with many committees and events and been active in the United Methodist Women and VBS. Bob has served on the Finance Committee, the Board of Stewards, Head of the Site Council, Houston Project, and Merger Committee. The Harrisons have seen Gethsemane through two mergers with other Methodist churches. They are most appreciative of the opportunities brought about by the merger of Gethsemane UMC with St. Luke's UMC, saying, "We were living in a bubble, the merger has brought us real

opportunities to bring God's word to refugees and many other new people. This has been an eye-opener and a blessing. It is the most profound experience of our 47 years at this church, and we have not even seen the full impact yet."



When **Rosemary Samuelson** moved to Houston as a nurse in 1968, one of the first things she did was to look for a church... and not just any church, it had to be one with a good choir. She visited churches and sang with several, but as soon as she tried St. Luke's, she knew immediately that she had found her home. She says it was the "discipline and knowledge of the leaders and their connections to people in the music world" that made all the difference. She loves the fact that under the leadership of first Bob Bennett, and now Sid Davis, the choir is "doing big stuff, and not just singing hymns. Singing with a church choir you realize that you are part of the service; you are leading worship and providing for the congregation." Rosemary grew up in a large family (eight siblings) and knows about family and that is what she has found at St. Luke's. For many years she was a member of the Bruncher's Sunday School Class, has served on the Board of Stewards, spent several years on the Houston Project Committee and volunteered with Christian Community Center's Sunshine Resale Shop. Having spent her career in pediatric nursing, she has a special place for children and appreciates the opportunity for families to serve together through CCSC's

Jingle Bell Express and Back to School programs. Recently retired, Rosemary moved to Richmond, Texas. But don't think for a minute that she will miss a choir rehearsal or Sunday morning at St. Luke's. "I have to be able to sing in the choir and stay at St. Luke's," she says. "This church is my home."

CELEBRATING LIVES

ST. LUKE'S EASTER OFFERING PLANT WITH PURPOSE

In Honor of:

Pat Deckert on the occasion of her birthday by

Nancy Stephenson
Pamela Howard
Betty Brown
Elinor Hart
Susan Silvus
Linda Burch
Bobbie Wisecup

Bobbie Wisecup on the occasion of her birthday by

Pat Deckert
Nancy Stephenson
Pamela Howard
Betty Brown
Elinor Hart
Susan Silvus
Linda Burch

Betty Brown on the occasion of her birthday by

Bobbie Wisecup
Pat Deckert
Nancy Stephenson
Pamela Howard
Elinor Hart
Susan Silvus
Linda Burch

BUILDING FUND

In Memory of:

Sally Kate Weems by

Bill and Laura Denham
Dick Brewer

Randy Gorham by

Timothy P. Hart

CARING MINISTRIES

In Honor of:

Debbie Agee by

Laura and Bill Denham

Jan Agee by

Laura and Bill Denham

Bill Denham and the Hospital Visitation Team by

Dick Brewer

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

In Honor of:

Sid Davis and the Chancel Choir by

Byrom Wehner

Larkin Matthews on the occasion of his birthday by

Joel and Carol Mohrman

**Mike and Bonnie Stroman on the occasion of their
birthdays** by

Joel and Carol Mohrman

In Memory of:

Nancy Browne Wehner by

Byrom Wehner

Rev. William James Hodge by

Marilyn and Wesley Stevens

Caroline Gregory by

Ann and Bob Arnett

GETHSEMANE MUSIC PROGRAM

In Honor of:

Shirley Wiss by

An Anonymous Donor

GENE DECKER OUTREACH FUND

In Memory of:

William Wayne Kidd by

Jane and Charles Szalkowski

Susan Mize by

Jane and Charles Szalkowski

Eleanor Reiners by

Melinda Hall

Sally and Larkin Matthews

Jane and Charles Szalkowski

Betty and Bob Geary

The Gene Decker Study Class

NICK FINNEGAN COUNSELING CENTER

In Honor of:

Terrell and Spencer Branch and the Finnegan Family by

Betsy and Van Young

In Memory of:

Maggie Burke Daugherty by

Carol and Brad Deason

Julia and Matt Himier

Cindy and Jim Hinton

Nancy Allen

Kathryn Holland

Barry Family Foundation

Maria and Chris Pappas

Hilary and Jaime Ramirez

Karen and Gene Oshman

Joe McDermott by

Bill and Susan Finnegan

Kimberley Jean Blocker by

Heather Blocker-Orme

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

In Memory of:

Grace Eleanor Kontz by

Bill and Laura Denham

ST. LUKE'S EMMAUS COMMUNITY

In Honor of:

Don Culbert by

Jack Read

ST. LUKE'S NEEDLEPOINT GUILD

In Honor of:

Cindy Pierce by

Kathryn and Claud Riddles

OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

In Memory of:

Dr. Abbe Ledbetter by

Mary Hale McLean

WOODSHOP MINISTRY

In Honor of:

Pat Deckert on the occasion of her birthday by

Nancy Stephenson

Bobbie Wisecup

Pamela Howard

Betty Brown

Elinor Hart

Susan Silvus

Linda Burch

In Memory of:

Roger Stark by

Neil and Barbara Stovall

Phyllis O. Ashley

CELEBRATING LIVES CONTINUED

THE STORY HOUSTON Member Care Fund

In Memory of:

Anatilde Becerra by
Luis Becerra

In Honor of:

Sarah and James Welley by
Alejandra and Zachary Newell

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FOUNDATION

In Honor of:

Carol Griffin by
Jane and Ben Ramsey

Ashley Shroff by
Jane and Ben Ramsey

Saylor Lee Gibson by
Jo Ann Gibson

In Memory of:

Bill Watts by
Betty and Wade Taylor

Nancy Park and William Meade Wheless by
Caroline Callery
Jeanie, Collis, Will and James Sanders
Dr. Walter and Mrs. Linda McReynolds

William Meade Wheless by
Martha Ann and Byron Snyder
Susan Scott Ross

Mr. and Mrs. James Cravens

Gina and Saib Saour

Leigh and Jason Taylor

E. J. and Lynn Hudson

Margaret and Ames Smith

Ned and Kay Holmes

Deanne White

Andrew Ebert

Virginia Elkins

Charles Newton and Flo Crady

Jack and Leslie Blanton

Linda and Bob Bloss

Janet and Bill Head

Mrs. Lucy Arnold

Charles and Kathy Boortz

Werlein and Harris, P.C.

Clare Glassell

Suzanne and Tim Brown

Walker and Marjorie Cain

Pam and Jimmy Erwin

Betty and Wade Taylor

W. Russell Brown, Jr.

Jennifer and Mace Pinchal

Linda and Lester Allison

Cherie and Jim Flores

Rogers and Kelty Crain

Daniel Calmes Arnold by

Thomas and Dorothy McDade

Richard Dawson

Harry Webb

Penny Brooks

Dr. Jim Pickens

Dr. and Mrs. Carlos Hamilton, Jr.

Bill and Laura Denham

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coale

Margaret and Floyd Smith

Sue Sikes

Truett and Harriet Latimer

Lucile and Brantley Harris

Laura and Carter Grinstead

Lorenzo Collins

Virginia Oxford Thompson

Becky and Greg Copeland

Louise Estill Perlitz

Kay and Ron Walker

Judy and Charles Tate

Janice and Joe Wilson

Carter and Bill Lee

Wade and Bettye Nowlin

Everlyn Cummins Giles

Reece and Gail Anderson

Dorothy Wynne

Al Keller

Mr. and Mrs. Tom O'Leary

Elizabeth C. Walter

Carole and Jim Looke and Family

John Carter

Jo Ann and John Sellingsloh

Lynette and Trey Snider

Peggy Roe

Ann and John Brodnax

Susan and Donald Sinclair

Nancy Allen

John and Marilyn Holstead

Dorothy and Norman Radford

Margene and Bill Lloyd

Wendy and Loyd Wright

Steven and Sue Watkins

Mr. and Mrs. William Wilson

Bill and Lynne Bonham

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Sands

Ferguson McNiel

Sally and Craig Ezell

Betty and Wade Taylor

Marlin and Avis Johnston

Jim and June Moore

Diane and Robert Weigle

Chico and Kay Cravens

Lynda and Bill Barksdale

Willoughby and Mary Williams

Rusty and Paula Walter

Susan Scott Ross

Sally and David Harvin

Susan and Eugene Vaughan

Brad and Stephanie Tucker

Rufus and Marianna Duncan

Vicki and Scott Laverde

Leslie and Sanford Weiner

Patrick Swearingen

Martha Bartle by

The Boyd Cousins

A.J. and Joe Shafer

Dorothy Willman Cummins

Marion and John Heldenfels

Patsy and Garnett Brooks

Josiah Oliver

Diane and Harry Webb

Paul Elliott

Rev. William James Hodge by

Virginia Arnold Elkins

Rev. Bill and Laura Denham

Judy Hitchcock

Marcia and Ben Mathes

Pat Deckert

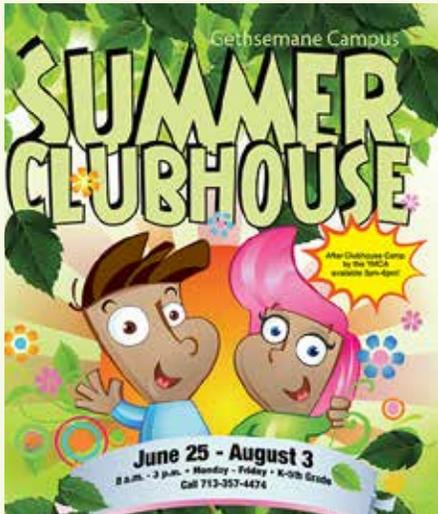
Dr. and Mrs. Mike Knapick



Coffee WITH THE PASTOR

CWP is a casual gathering led by Sr. Pastor, Dr. Tom Pace. It is the perfect way to learn more about St. Luke's and is the first step on the path to membership. Sign up online at StLukesMethodist.org/im-new/#jointhefamily

Upcoming dates:
May 20 and July 22 at 4 p.m.
and August 15 at 5:30 p.m.



Summer Clubhouse at the St. Luke's Gethsemane Campus is a safe, educational and spiritual place for children of the Sharpstown and Gulfton area! There are SIX wonderful weeks filled with learning activities and fun adventures for children entering kindergarten through fifth grade.

8a.m.-3p.m. | Monday-Friday
 June 25-29: Summer Fun: Love in My World
 July 2-6: Sports & Fitness
 July 9-13: Science & Technology
 July 16-20: Me & My World
 July 23-27: Mosaic Music Camp
 July 30-Aug 3: Summer Fun: Love in a Big World

Cost \$25 per child, per week with a \$65 family maximum per week. Some scholarships available. The fee covers a morning snack, nutritious lunch, crafts and activities.

For registration or to volunteer, contact Juana Tavico 713-357-4474, jchavez@stlukesmethodist.org or Amy Kelley 713-357-4464, akelley@stlukesmethodist.org.

After Camp Care program offered by the YMCA, 3-6 p.m. Cost: \$10/child/week.

Patricia Osborne by Elizabeth and Peter Wareing
 Janet and Bill Head
 Ann Cissel and Beverly Beckham
 Beverly and Dan Arnold
 Alice and Randy Helms
 Susan and Tom Martin
 Steven Arnold

Jerry Webb by Marshall, Tim, Stewart and Howard Gunn

Audrey Moody Ley by Ann and Bob Arnett

Mary Wier Kelsey by Beverly Watson
 Dan and Beverly Arnold and Family

Dave Chapman by Ann and Bob Arnett

Alvin Jimmerson by Elaine Devereaux

Jeff Bell by Sallie Gordon and Ken Schwenke

Walta Jean Smith by Paula Selle
 Mary Jo Loyd

John Stadler Pruitt, Sr. by Betty T. Chapman

Madge West Jones by Mary Hale McLean
 Horst and Letitia Paul
 Jayne Venarde
 Oveta S. Lucy

Barbara Ledbetter Britt by Ann and Bob Arnett

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 In Memory of:

Johnny Rutherford by Bill and May Jee

Going on vacation? Take us with you!

- Download St. Luke's app by searching *St Lukes UMC Houston* in the app store
- LiveStream sermons on the app or at StLukesMethodist.org/LiveStream
- Keep up with your financial giving online at StLukesMethodist.org/Give
- Follow the Book of Psalms daily reading plan on Scripture + Shared
- Stay in touch through social media:

 #stlukeshouston

 /stlukeshouston

 @stlukeshouston

