

## WE TELL OUR STORIES



### MY THIRD GRADE BIBLE By Patty Dickson

There are a lot of things that are very different at St. Luke's today compared to when I received my third grade Bible. Some things, however, will never change.

I was in the third grade in 1955 when I received my Bible. The book plate on the inside is signed by Durwood Fleming who was the senior pastor at the time. Today, third graders receive their Bibles in front of the congregation. In 1955, I recall that they were just passed out one day in Sunday School with none of the fanfare that surrounds them now. There was not a special breakfast for the third graders and their families. There was not a Bible Exploration event. But receiving my first Bible from St. Luke's was special then and will always be a tradition that is special to the children of St. Luke's.

When I was a child, worship was held in what is now the Fellowship Hall. This was before the construction of our current Sanctuary (which opened in September of 1959). There was a Sunday evening service that many people attended in addition to the Sunday morning service. I joined the church at one of the Sunday evening services two years after I received my third grade Bible. I, along with several others, joined wearing our choir robes because the Junior Choir sang at that service. In preparation, we attended confirmation classes after school for 6 weeks which is short compared to today's practice of confirmation in the sixth through eighth grades. There was a wide age range in our confirmation group – I was in the fifth grade but there was every age up to 16. Over half of the children and youth who joined that day were baptized first as the practice of baptizing infants was not as common back then.

I've gone to church here for many years and remember gathering in the Blanton Building for Sunday School when space got tight. I remember little things like getting our Cokes from the kitchen in bottles instead of cans (while Mr. Getty the groundskeeper implored us not to spill!). I remember being asked to help with a church project, and how that invitation led to my becoming more active. As much change as this church has experienced, some fundamental things are the same.

What are some things that haven't changed? The faith tradition that we uphold for our church's children... the content of the Bible... learning to live and love like Jesus. That third grade Bible was my only Bible for a long time. It moved to Southern Methodist University and back home to Houston with me. Even after I acquired other copies, I kept it and have had it for 65 years now. For all the children receiving Bibles today, I hope your third grade Bible and the importance of God's word stay with you forever.



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## ST. LUKE'S INSIDE-OUT HABITS

### WE STUDY THE BIBLE AND WORSHIP

**Matthew 13:44-46** <sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

**Matthew 19:21-22 (NIV)** <sup>21</sup> Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." <sup>22</sup> When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

#### Sermon Notes January 26, 2020 *Give!*

#### Fourth in the series, *Forty Days of Joy*

- 1) Who do you want to be?
- 2) What do you have?
- 3) Where will you find Him?

#### Possible best next steps for you...

- Attend tonight's Family Reunion Church Conference at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall – celebrate all that God did in 2019, look ahead to 2020, and learn about the Serve75 Challenge!
- One great way to move your faith journey forward is to join one of our newly forming small groups. Find deeper faith and belonging by signing up for the Small Groups Launch on February 10. Register: [Stlukesmethodist.org/group-life](http://Stlukesmethodist.org/group-life).

#### Key verse for the week

...on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.  
Matthew 13:46

#### Questions for Conversation and Reflection

Can you think of a time you found joy in serving or giving? What are you holding back preventing you from being "all in" for God's kingdom?

## WE PRAY

### Sunday, January 26

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your written word to guide us and to shape our lives. Help us to read and study the Bible daily so that we may learn your ways. Encourage us to give time and effort to seek an understanding of who you are and of how much you love us. Amen.

### Monday, January 27

Heavenly Creator, work through us to bring your order to the world. Give us wisdom and discernment to seek good solutions in difficult situations so that the world of chaos in which we live may see your presence in us. Help us to be your living testimony. Amen.

### Tuesday, January 28

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for giving me the word that is truly a light unto my path. By reading the Bible I get guidance, encouragement, and insight. Let your wisdom encourage me to forgive graciously, love well, and seek you in all things. Amen.

### Wednesday, January 29

Heavenly Father, we pray for those who are battling chronic illness. We ask that you would guide them to new treatments that make their lives better. We pray that you would bless them and encourage them. Amen.

### Thursday, January 30

Gracious God, forgive us when we fall short of your ways, and turn our hearts back towards you. Thank you for new mercies each day. Your grace redeems us. Amen.

### Friday, January 31

Loving God, you hold the whole world in your hands and you never let it fall. Your power and might are unfathomable, and your grace and love abound. Thank you, God, for handling everything that I cannot. I trust in you. Amen.

### Saturday, February 1

Heavenly Father, we pray for those struggling with loneliness and who feel isolated from the church. Let each one of us be a light to others who need to feel your love and warmth. We ask that you draw your people closer to you so that they feel your everlasting love and forgiveness. Amen.

### Sunday, February 2

Lord, Micah 6:8 states that you require us to "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you." Let these words reside in our hearts and guide us through each day. Amen.

## PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

### The 75th Anniversary 24-Hour Prayer Vigil

Kick-off Service | February 19 | 7 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

The vigil will kick-off with a special service and will continue for the next 24 hours. Be one of the 75 or more people who commit to pray for an hour either in the Chapel or at home. Contact Thomas Harper: [tharper@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:tharper@stlukesmethodist.org) or Register: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f4caee28a13-75th>

### Service of Prayer and Healing

Wednesday, February 5 | 7-8 p.m. | Chapel

Rev. Thomas Harper leads a time of prayer and communion where we ask God for spiritual and physical healing for you or a loved one.

### So many ways to pray

- Now you can call or text your prayers: 713-228-7033
- Write your prayer request on one of the leaves found in the pew rack
- Visit the interactive prayer wall: [StLukesMethodist.org/prayer](http://StLukesMethodist.org/prayer)

If you or someone you know needs prayer, a hospital visit or contact from a minister, call Rev. Bill Denham at 713-402-5156 or email Laurie Kereluk: [lkereluk@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:lkereluk@stlukesmethodist.org).

## WE MAKE FRIENDS

### Family Reunion 2020 | Church Conference

TODAY | 4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

We'll celebrate what God did through St. Luke's in 2019 and look forward to what is to come in 2020. We will elect leadership, consider candidates for ministry, and more. All are encouraged to attend.

### Wounds that Heal

Tuesdays, January 28-March 3 | 6-7:30 p.m. | EN205/206 | Led by Rev. Michelle Manuel

Join this study on the healing ministry of Christ, based on the book *Wounds That Heal: Bringing Our Hurts to the Cross* by Stephen Seamands.

Register: [StLukesMethodist.org/group-life](http://StLukesMethodist.org/group-life)

### The Perfect Priest: A Journey through the Book of Hebrews

Tuesdays, January 28-March 3 | 6:30-8 p.m. | ES313 | Led by Madison Garcia

Join us for this six-week study. We journey through Hebrews in lecture and discussion and explore Jesus Christ as our Perfect Priest.

Register: [StLukesMethodist.org/group-life](http://StLukesMethodist.org/group-life)

### Get Connected Fair | Sunday, February 2 | 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Fellowship Walk

Want to get connected into the life of St. Luke's but not quite sure how? Ministry area representatives will be on hand to give you information, get you signed up and plugged in.

### Taste and See: Discovering God among Butchers, Bakers, and Fresh Food Makers

Sundays: February 9-March 29 | 4-5:30 p.m. | ES306

Led by Rev. Katie Montgomery Mears

Learn to nurture deep connections around the table and gain a fresh perspective on how the foods in the Bible—figs, bread, fish, olives, lamb, and salt— are symbolic of God's provision. Register: [StLukesMethodist.org/group-life](http://StLukesMethodist.org/group-life)

### Small Groups Launch | Monday, February 10 | 7-8:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Are you looking for people to share life with, study the Bible, and pray together? At the Launch you'll learn what it means to be in a small group, meet your potential group members and learn more about the curriculum.

Register: [StLukesMethodist.org/group-life](http://StLukesMethodist.org/group-life)

### Celebrate St. Luke's 75th Anniversary in 2020!

Were you married at St. Luke's? Do you have other great memories of our church? Please email your pictures, stories, and memories to [75@stlukesmethodist.org](mailto:75@stlukesmethodist.org).

**Want to share your story with a video?** We are recording stories before and after the Church Conference starting at 3 p.m. Sign up: <http://bit.ly/303qwgC>

Have old church photos? We can scan them at the same time.

## WE GIVE OURSELVES AWAY

January is National Mentoring Month, and a new Rotunda exhibit highlights our own St. Luke's KIDS HOPE USA mentors and students. If you can volunteer one hour, one day a week at either Sutton or Briar Meadow Elementary, you can help a special child blossom and thrive!

Call: Marci Pampe (713-357-4466) or Karen McCarver (713-402-5152)

\$ PLEDGED  
AS OF 1-21-2020

\$8,565,775 M  
That's 92% Getting there!

GOAL: \$9.3 M

# OF PLEDGES  
AS OF 1-21-2020

1,264 Pledges  
That's 93.6% Giving with Gratitude!

GOAL:  
1,350 PLEDGES

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