

The VISITOR

A monthly publication of St. Luke's United Methodist Church - Kilgore, Texas

LOVE GOD

LIVE HIS WORD

SHARE HIS GRACE

APRIL 2017

ISSUE 4



Dear Friends in Christ,

Do you like puzzles? I like puzzles. Here is one I made up.

Why is it important for Christians to worship God on Sunday? Easter is the Sunday of the year when the answer to that question is clearest, so let us ask, "Why is it important for Christians to worship God on Easter Sunday?" At the heart of Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul writes, "If Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty. (1 Cor. 15:14)" Paul continues to proclaim that "Indeed Christ is raised from the dead." Resurrection is at the heart of Easter Sunday and resurrection is also at the heart of our faith. Did you know that the church regards every Sunday as a "Resurrection Day?"

Jesus rose on Easter Sunday over 2000 years ago, so what difference does it make if we worship this Easter Sunday? Have you ever lined up dominoes and pushed the first one over and watched the rest in the line fall in order? The next domino cannot fall unless the one before it hits it and so on down the line. If one of the dominoes in the middle is removed, the last domino can stand there dormant forever, without ever knowing the movement of the first dominoes. The history of the last domino will never know the first domino existed.

In this creation, something is not real unless it is observed; something cannot be appreciated if it is not experienced. Perhaps that is why ultimately God became flesh and dwelt among us, so we could observe the truth about God. It is also why God must come again.

What if Mary, Peter, and John had decided not to bother looking into the empty tomb? Would we call ourselves Christians today? What if the disciples had never told anyone how the Risen Christ appeared in the upper room, or the two men who witnessed Christ on the road had just remained in Emmaus.

I know that going to church had a profound effect on my faith.

Pastor Darwood



Backpack Ministry is in full swing! This month the youth organized and packed up over 100 bags of food thanks to your donations! Chet and Linda Garner have made deliveries to three elementary Kilgore campuses during the month of March! The teachers at the schools have expressed how excited the students are to receive these meals for the weekend. Thank you to Don Nicholson and Bill Bryant for volunteering to pick up our food order from the East Texas Food Bank when they pick up the order for Helping Hands. This saves us a lot of time and

money. If you would like to be a part of this great new ministry, you can bring monetary donations to the church office or place in the offering plate by making your check out to St. Luke's UMC and putting "Backpack Food Ministry" on the memo line. Or if you would like to volunteer at East TX Food Bank, they will give us monetary credit toward our account. Just tell them St. Luke's sent you!

PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

STEWARDSHIP 101

“God’s unconditional love Initiates our response of giving”

Everything belongs to God! Do you believe that? If you do, then storing up treasures for yourself are contrary to this belief. Now, this does not mean that we should be frivolous in planning for a stable way of life. Rather, plan wisely for security of shelter, food, clothing, education, retirement. “Treasures” referenced here refers to being brainwashed by commercialization of life styles, products, cars, fads, music, etc. that entice us to believing that “stuff” is going to make our life better!

God’s **Unconditional Love** initiates our response of giving. We may wonder why we don’t always willingly give from what we receive. Perhaps the reason the heart responds in a negative way is that we allow it to be dominated by external or physical things instead of by the Word of God.

When we accept and affirm God’s unconditional love and **truly** make it a matter of the mind AND heart, we come to understand the depth of **His** unconditional love. He **sacrificed His son** to show us the kind of love that gifts to us forgiveness:

“Thus, it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations...”

Luke 24:46-47

God works through our ongoing process of discipleship (yes, we **ARE** His “today” disciples) so that the work of the Holy Spirit, in us, is actively sharing to “bring life to the lifeless”.

What does all this have to do with Stewardship 101?

Stewardship, properly understood, is a system for giving glory to God for His concern for each individual. Tithing is ‘NOT a Law - it IS a Privilege’ based on gratefulness in our relationship with God. The offering during worship is not “a means of raising money”, but rather “a system for giving glory to God for His concern for each and every individual”.

Ask, **“Is my offering representative of the one perfect Gift, Jesus Christ?”** Christian conversion enables us to commit living our lives based on His example of unconditional love. Our church is a conduit through which His work continues.

-Pat Rudy

“When I am raised to life again you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me... Those who obey my teachings are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them and I will love them.”

John 15:20-21b Life Application Bible

OUR STEWARDSHIP

January 1 - March 31, 2017

2017 Budget.....	\$576,005.28
Received as of 3/31/17.....	\$100,584.38
Expenses.....	\$117,045.23
Over / (Short).....	(\$16,460.85)
3 mos. budget needs (\$144,001.32) (short).....	(\$43,416.38)

“When I am raised to life again you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me... Those who obey my teachings are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them and I will love them.”

John 15:20-21b Life Application Bible

Our Presence at Worship

	Worship	Sunday School
3-5-17	182	122
3-12-17	162	112
3-19-17	191	102
3-26-17	193	99

St. Luke’s Membership as of 3/31/2017

Membership.....	585
Removed.....	9
New Members.....	10
Total as of 3/31/17	586



SAVE THE DATE

June 11, 2017

**FAREWELL
TO THE GALAWAYS
ONE SERVICE: 10:30 AM
DINNER & CELEBRATION
AFTER IN FAMILY CENTER**

**More Information Later
For Now, “Save the Date”
to Celebrate and Honor**

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL

8:30am The Arise Band cantata
 9:30am Hope, Angel Tones, & Cherubs rehearsal
 10:00am Chancel Choir & Handbells "warm up"
 10:30am worship: Cherub Choir, Angel Tones, Hope Choir, plus Chancel Choir Cantata
11:30am Spaghetti Luncheon Youth Fundraiser Family Center. Support the youth earning money for summer activities/camps.

APRIL 13: 7:00pm, Maundy Thursday Worship, Sanctuary

APRIL 15: 5:00-7:00 GOOD FRIDAY in the Gym
 A Quiet, Meditative Walk through the Stations of the Cross - Hands-on, Spiritual Experience!
 Sponsored & Prepared by Our Youth
Do not miss this! Come & Go from 5:00-7:00pm

EASTER SUNDAY--APRIL 16

6:30am. Sunrise Service on lot near gym
7:30am. Breakfast in Family Center
8:30am. Arise Service, Sanctuary
 Easter egg hunt, gym
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Traditional Service
 Easter egg hunt, gym

SEND PRAYER REQUESTS TO E-PRAY

TO: lisafrazier09@gmail.com

Do you want to know what is going on at St. Luke's? Do you want to be a part of the best prayer group ever? Do you have prayer request or want to pray for those that do? Please email requests to Lisa Frazier.
Staying connected with news and special prayers.

ST. LUKE'S HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

We encourage all St. Luke's high school seniors to apply for the St. Luke's church scholarship to help with expenses for the college of your choice.

To be eligible, the student must be an active member of St. Luke's or of the St. Luke's youth organization, and/or the student's immediate family must be active, supporting members of the St. Luke's church family.

Applications are available in the church office.

If you would like your scholarship to be announced at your high school's awards assembly, the deadline for the return of the application is May 1, 2017. Otherwise, please return it by July 1, 2017.

CHURCH FAMILY CONCERNS

Deedy Adams (Hospice home)	Billie Hale	Vivian Patton
Jean Aills (Arabella Memory)	(daugh. Joy's home, LA)	(Arabella, Kilgore)
Margarette Allison (Briar Cliff, Tyler)	Jo Hancock	Rita Peters (Arabella, Long'v)
Charlotte Austin (Hospice)	Millard Harkrider	Charlene Phillips
address: Bradley Bryant, 7279 Juniper Dr.Denton, Tx. 75033)	Steven Jackson	Wanda Renshaw
Jerry Boone (Arbor Grace #10)	Mary Jordan	Linda/Bill Ridder
Barbara Cotten	Yvonne Kennedy	Juanita Riley
Chris Crawford	Richard/Kathy Kimball	Pat Sage
Jan Duncan	Nell King	Fred/JoAnn Samford
Daniel Ellis	Dwaine Kirksey	Jo Stiles
Laura Farnham	Marie Murray	Marilyn Summers
Tommy Freeman	Nina Fern Nichols (Arbor Grace #19)	Bonnie Sistrunk
Ronnie Jobe	Guy (#309)--Billie (#404) Oliphint (Arabella)	Samuel Thurston
Jim/Sarah Galaway		Wendell/Glennys Travis
Gary Gray		Edith Williams
Sam Holley		Wilbur Yates
Jacque/Todd Gibbs		

Prayers for Loved Ones:

People will remain on this list about a month.

Please let us know if they need to be on longer - 903-984-3576.

Kathy Adamsfriend of many
Mark Allen.....Freddie Lollie's family
Bob Barbeefriend of Mickey Smith Family, Ann White family, & many others
Mac Blackstonefather of Donna Shupe & friend of many
Keith Allen Brown.....great nephew of Anna Rohde
Rosemary Bocanegra & Martha Emili & Mary Herrera.....friend, aunt, & great aunt of Carolina Bryant
Jimmy Brown..... friend of David Wilson
Bart Covin step-brother of Ronda Dickey & friend of Mack/Toby Monday
Kay Davismother of Bob Davis
Jon DeKokerfather of Kraig DeKoker
Carolyn DurenMother of Allison Thompson (friend of SyRena Witt)
Joe Dysonnephew of Dorothy Geese
Margie Edwardsfriend of Suzanne Gibson
Edna Frazier..... mother of Milton Frazier
Meagan Gibbsniece of Bill Bryant
Jennifer Gilcrestfriend of Carolina Bryant
Wanda & Bill Haney.....brother & sister-in-law of Ludie Courtney
Gail Hargrave & Sherry Lockman.....friends of Pat Morchat
Reggie Hawkins.....dear friend of the Whitworths & the Cottens
Austin Huckaby..... friend of Gus Witt
Kim Hurlburt.....ex member & friend of Thompsons & others
Bruce Huther & Rod Allen..... brothers-in-law of Sharon & Jim McCann
Loa Johnsonmother of Denise Reinert
Nancy King.....friend of Sara Lugeanbeal
Brian & Dianne Lee.....Lee family
Linda Kohlfriend of Dean & Kathe Miller
Henry Lyne.....brother of Martha Eschenfelder
Tommy Konczakfriend of Jack Moore
Keith Matternfriend of Bill Bryant
John McCloskey..... father of Bruce Tindel
Melissa McDonald.....niece of Sally/Randy Holder
Teresa Millerneighbor of Sally Holder
Camryn Noll granddaughter (cancer) of Carolina Bryant's friend
David Pennfriend of Tonya DeKoker
Ron & Carol Procellfamily Phillip & Tina Procell
Roy Simmonsbrother of Carol Grimes
Orea Smithuncle of SyRena Witt
Dana Ransomfriend of Larry Phillips & many others
Christin Reeves (cancer).....sister-in-law of David Reeves

God is busy loving all of us. Just read this wonderful note Brinlee McGilvray (4 yr. old) wrote in church:

*"I love you and Luke loves you.
 I love you for 100! I'm glad your in my heart."*

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APRIL 2017

BIRTHDAY PRAYER CALENDAR

Praying for our St. Luke's Family. Please say a prayer for our church family on their special birthday. **If we missed your date, please call the church office (903-984-3576)**

April 2	Carolyn Holcombe	April 22	McKenna Hurlburt
Roberta Boggs	Jim McCann	April 23	Carol Hinton
April 3	Madison Tapler	April 23	Larry Phillips
Angela Byrd	April 11	April 23	Cory Riser
Evie Hatt	Art Martine	April 24	April Watson
Kelly Jackson	April 12	April 24	April 25
Butch Neilson	Jennifer Gabriel	April 25	April 26
April 4	Pauline Jones	April 26	April 27
Hunter Falco	April 13	April 27	Tracie Gaut
Charlene Phillips	April 14	April 28	Cristi Bennett
Sarah Rohde	April 15	April 28	Courtney Culpepper
April 5	April 16	April 28	Ima Roberts
Cindy Lindley	Charlotte Austin	April 29	Fred Samford
April 6	Laura Johnston	April 29	James Tapler
Charlotte Austin	April 17	April 29	Anthony Boone
Alyssa Cole	Sara-Catherine Patton	April 30	Jack Dickey
Tori Suydam	Scotti Wood	April 30	Lou Lacy
April 7	April 18	April 30	Kayla Spann
Lee Galaway	Josie Johnston	April 30	Jake Pierce
Ally Venable	April 19	April 30	Hope Jordan
April 8	April 19		
JoAnn Ashley	Jessica Hatt		
Nina Fern Nichols	April 20		
April 9	Bobby Wheeley		
JoAnn Samford	April 21		
April 10	Pat Haynes		
Richard Greene			

Happy Birthday

2017 April Wedding Anniversaries

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Bill/Roberta Boggs	4-14-1984	33
Ryan/Alyssa Cole	4-10-2010	7
Dennis/Mikki Ellis	4-08-1989	28
Gary/Beverly Gray	4-09-1960	57
Milton/Jan Hattaway	4-06-1965	52
Steffen/Colette Jones	4-05-1997	20
John/Misty Lewis	4-20-2002	15
David/Emily Mason	4-28-2001	16
Billy/Billie Sue Mims	4-03-1982	35
Wade/Cindy Silvey	4-04-1998	19
Robert/Debra Wheeley	4-16-1977	40

Happy Anniversary

PRAYERS FOR LOVED ONES, Continued

Pam Richburg friend of Sheryl Caraway
Luvia Rios friend of Carolina Bryant
Cherie Salmons niece of Jan Duncan
Alejandra Serrano.....2nd cousin of Carolins Bryant
Josh Shirey cousin of Ludie Courtney
Robert Shugart father of Misty Shipman
Rachel Simpson & 3 children.....submitted by Lori Todak
Robert Stiles son of Jo Stiles
Cristen Sistrunk daughter-in-law of Bonnie Sistrunk
Alicia Stemmerman niece of Bruce Tindell
Kathy & Ronnie Toddsister & brother-in-law of Loretta Ross
Dr. Rob Thoni friend of Jamie Haynes & many others
Joe Tuckfather of Don Tuck
Billy Vernon friend of many
Watkins family in the loss of daughter/sister.....The Shipman family
Melvin & Sue West brother-in-law & sister of Bill Bryant
Peyton & Langston Whitegrandsons of Curtis & Sigrid Harvey
Harold Wiesefather of Emily Mason
Carter Wilbanks 11 yr. old friend of Richelle Rathbun
Dorothy Williams.....sister of Bonnie Sistrunk
Katy Williamsfriend of Andrea McGilvray
Billy & Linda Williamson grandparents of Logan Gilbreath
Oren Wrightclose friend of Will & Loretta Ross

HELPING HANDS

The Helping Hands of Kilgore Cart located in the East Hallway of the church is in need of groceries, toilet paper, paper towels, hygiene items, etc., for Helping Hands. Can you spare a sack? Just put it in the cart. Your gifts will be delivered to the Helping Hands Center on Martin Street.
Thank you for Giving!

REMEMBER OUR MILITARY

- **Spec. Drew Bryant*
US Navy - nephew of Bill & Carolina Bryant
- **Derek Chamness* (Loretta Ross's "adopted" son)
- **Captain Chris Conte*
Army - Sandra Holley's grandson
- **Staff Sgt. Joel Crenshaw*, son of Mike Crenshaw, step-son of Ronnie Jobe, brother of Shanna Burgess
- **Shawn Decker*, National Guard, Kilgore
- **Airman Daniel Ellis*
Air Force - son of Dennis & Mikki Ellis
- **Capt. Stanton Gardenhire*
son of Terry & Christine Gardenhire
- **Cameron Chase Grimes*
Army - Grandson of Carol Grimes
- **PO1 Brian Holcombe* Spec. US Navy
Wendell & Carolyn Holcombe's son
- **Lt. Col. Chad McAdams*
nephew of Loretta Ross
- **Kenny Montross* - USAF, "*Bubba*" *McKinley* - USMC
great nephews of Kay McKinley
- **Jake Pierce*
Navy - son of Debra Sanders & J.B. Pierce
- * *Chief Robbie Reinert*
US Navy - son of Ray/Denise Reinert
- **Ryan Reinert*
Army-Private 1st Class - son of Ray & Denise Reinert, Courtney (husband), Emma (Daddy)
- **MSgt. Shane Shugart*, brother of Misty Shipman
- **Jacob Whitworth*, Army - son of Anthony & Lori Whitworth, Grandparents are Herb/Barbara Cotten



Parents' Night Out

Friday, April 7
6:00pm - 10:00pm
\$10 per child

Call Niki Chowdhury

903-235-9401 for more information.

Methodist Youth Moving Up (MYMU)

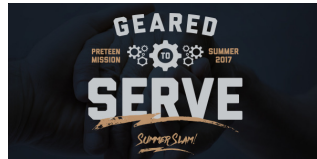
Friday, April 21st, 7pm-8am

All 4th & 5th graders are invited to a lock-in at the church gym. There will be crazy games, movies, food, and fun. Cost \$10 to help pay for supplies/food. You are welcome to bring a friend.

Summer Slam

June 18-21

Mark your calendar for a mission opportunity for children who completed 3rd-5th grade. Cost is \$75 which includes a day at Splash Kingdom. Registration & more info on our church website.



Vacation Bible School

August 7-11, 9:00am-12:00pm
Join us in a VBS where kids learn they were created by God and built for a purpose!



MOTHER'S DAY OUT

MDO is currently holding registration for the 2017-2018 school year which will begin in late August. All of our classrooms are staffed by two loving teachers who have been Safe Sanctuary trained and CPR/First Aid certified. We keep our class sizes small to ensure that each child gets the attention that they need to thrive. If you are interested in registering or learning more about how our program can serve you, please feel free to contact me @903-240-4609.

Please keep the cans and cartridges coming!

In His Service,
Misty Shipman



CONFIRMATION CLASS APRIL SCHEDULE

April 2 - 3:30-4:30 - Family Center

Lesson: "Practical Instruction on Prayer"

April 9 - 3:30-4:30 - Family Center

Lesson:

"What Does It Mean To Be a Church Member?"

April 16 - EASTER - No Class

April 23 - 3:30-4:30 - Family Center

Lesson: "History of the Church"

In context of a tour of the church facility with explanation of the "symbols of faith."

April 30 - Field Trip - Leave @ 11:50am

Field Trip to Jacksonville Lookout

Lesson: "The Cost of Discipleship"

Youth Chicken Spaghetti Luncheon and Dessert Auction



The youth will hold their annual Chicken Spaghetti Luncheon and Dessert Auction on Sunday, April 9th following the 10:30 service.

Dine in and take outs will be available.

All proceeds will go toward youth summer camps and mission trips.

Garage Sale Fundraiser

May 19-20

Turn your extra stuff into money for the youth's mission trips. You may start bringing your donations on May 11.

GAME NIGHT - FUN, FUN, FUN

A wonderful fellowship opportunity!

Saturday, April 29, 6:00 - 8:00pm, gym.

Call Barbara Francisco for more information

903-918-6797.



Music & Worship
**Special
 Music
 Events**
 for **Holy
 Week**

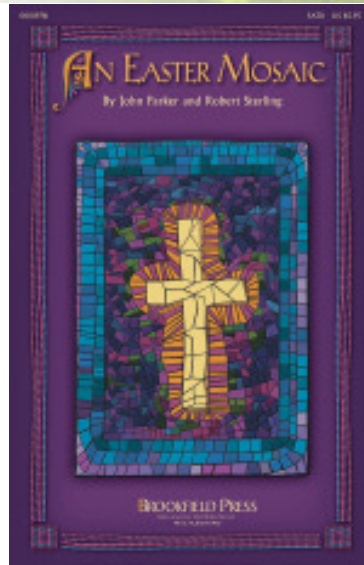


palm sunday
 WE WORSHIP YOU



A Holy Week service of music, media, and scripture in the 8:30 Service with the Arise Band

Children attending will process with palm branches



**A Holy Week
 cantata given
 by the
 Chancel
 Choir,
 Speakers, and
 Instruments
 on Palm
 Sunday in the
 10:30 service**

All the Children and Junior Choirs will sing in the 10:30 service on Palm Sunday! All children are invited to join them in processing with palm branches!



Maundy Thursday Service on April 13
 Remembering the Last Supper in a Communion Service
 An anthem with the Chancel Choir including a solo by Carolina Bryant will be a part of the service.



Easter Sunday Morning!
Uplifting Music in All Services!
Celebration as We Sing Together in All Services!
Let us worship together the Savior of us all on this most special day of all the year!

United Methodist Women MORNING CIRCLE

The Morning UMW met for their regular meeting on March 7th in the Fireplace room of the Family Center.

A birthday party was held on March 15th at the Willows Nursing Home. All help was appreciated.

Lunch was served at the Wesley Foundation on Wednesday, March 8th, with approximately 200 individuals being served. Morning UMW will be serving again on Wednesday, April 12th. If you can help serve, please let Richelle Rathbun know.

Kilgore Church Women will meet on April 28th at 11:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church. All, except those who work, are asked to bring a salad, sandwiches, or a dessert.

Under Joys and Concerns, prayer was asked for several individuals who are ill or have relatives who will be traveling.

The next Morning UMW meeting will be held April 4th at 10:30 a.m. in the Fireplace Room. The title of the program will be: "Time to Hope: Communities Challenging Mass Incarceration". Rev. Ralph Rudy will share his experience with the Kairos Prison Ministry.

All women in the church are invited to attend.

Sue Jones, Secretary

United Methodist Women PAM BESSER EVENING CIRCLE

UMW Pam Besser Evening Circle met for our regular monthly meeting in March. A light supper was provided by Jan Hattaway. Richelle Rathbun provided our monthly devotional based on 2 Kings Chapter 5, telling us to trust God's path to healing.

Deborah Stiles provided our program for the night on Human Trafficking. Deborah is an investigative detective for the Longview Police Department specializing in crimes against children. She talked about how people use force, fraud or coercion to get others to perform sex acts or into forced labor. She talked about how things have changed a lot in the last 5 years because of the internet making things more easily accessible. She ended the program with how hard it is to get a conviction because the victim's unwillingness to cooperate. She focuses on getting the victims help.

The business portion of the meeting was conducted in which the minutes and treasurer's report for the previous meeting were approved.

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday April 4th at 6:00 pm** in the Fireplace room.

All women are invited and invite a friend to come with you.

Kathy Brown, Secretary

St. Luke's United Methodist Men 2017

APRIL 26: 5:00 - 7:00 PM

PANCAKE SUPPER FUNDRAISER

Price: \$5 adults; \$2 children

Come Eat - Support Our UMM



2017 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 17, 8:00am

Breakfast & Program, Family Center

Saturday, September 23, 8:00am

Breakfast & Program, Family Center

Saturday, October 28, 8:00am

Breakfast & Program, Family Center

Saturday, November 11, 8:00am

Breakfast & Program, Family Center

Saturday, December 16, 10:00am, Family Center

CHRISTMAS BRUNCH



NO HILLTOPPERS

April 5

You are INVITED to LUNCH
and TO participate in the
SOUP 'n SERMON Series

Lunch begins at 12:00 noon and
the program will end by 1:00pm.

SPEAKER: Rev. Ron Byrd

Interim Pastor at the Kilgore Christian Church

Holy Huddlers

Good Christian Fellowship - While we Eat

Upcoming Meeting Dates & Locations

Apr 7 - The Butcher Shop

Apr 21 - Bodacious BBQ

May 5 - Cotton Patch

May 19 - Jucy's BURGER, Hwy 80

June 9 - Dairy Queen, White Oak

June 23 - Val's, Kilgore



Come one. Come all. The meal is on you,
but the fellowship is shared by all!!

Mikki Ellis

LAST SOUP N' SERMON

April 5: 12:00 Noon - 1:00pm

St. Luke's Family Center

Speaker: Rev. Ron Bryd

Interim Pastor at

Kilgore First Christian Church

**Lunch and Sermon will be over by
1:00 for those who have to get back to jobs.**

Kilgore Church Women To Meet

April 28 at The First Baptist Church 11:30

Bring "pick up food" to share

If you have questions, call

Dimi DeSantis at 903-983-2357

EMMAUS GATHERING, APRIL 8

4:00pm - 7:00pm FAMILY CENTER

If you have attended an Emmaus Weekend,

this is a great time to

renew relationships and experiences.

Visitors are welcome!

Sponsored By St. Luke's

Contact Pat Thompson if questions, 903-239-1961

LIVE-IN AIDE NEEDED

We have received a call from Tommy Freeman's Uncle Vernon Fritz. They are seeking someone to live with Tommy, rent free, in his three bedroom brick home in exchange for watching out for Tommy.

Duties would include mostly household chores and shopping. Although Tommy is legally blind, he is very active and mostly self sufficient.

If you are interested, call the office or Pastor Darwood (903-984-3576).

BLANKET DRIVE

For Rahab's Retreat & Ranch

The ETATT (East Texas Anti-Trafficking Team), of Longview, is sponsoring a Blanket Drive to benefit Rahab's Retreat, the new faith-based facility right here in Kilgore that serves victims (*women and girls*) free of charge, who have been caught in the sex and human trafficking industry.

SIZES NEEDED: Crib, Youth, Twin, Full, Queen

Blankets can be gently used, new or handmade.

YOUR DONATIONS MAY BE DROPPED

OFF AT ST. LUKE'S OFFICE

Mon. thru Fri. 9:00am to 5:00pm

2017 - THE YEAR OF HEALING

Malachi 4:2 – but for you who obey me, my saving power will rise on you like the sun and bring healing like the sun's rays.

God is the Ultimate Healer.

Many may need spiritual healing and others may need relationship healing. Whatever the situation, prayers will always be welcomed.

The Evangelism Team has put the prayer net back up in front of the Family Center. It is there for anyone who needs healing prayers or knows someone who needs prayers whether it's for physical, mental or an addiction healing. Maybe you know someone who still needs a job. Pray for them.

There will be note sheets, pens and plastic ribbons in the little boxes by the prayer net. Write your prayer on a card and tie a ribbon to the prayer net. Rev. Darwood will read each prayer during Sunday worship and pray for them.

This project is not just for St. Luke's. It's also for the communities in and around Kilgore.

We will be selling T-shirts.

**A portion of the money collected will go to
Rahab's Retreat.**

This project will go on as long as you need prayers and we sell T-shirts. **- The Evangelism Team**

EVERY MEMBER IN MINISTRY

St. Luke's is the place to express our faith and service through ministry. Many, *and we mean MANY*, are already doing just that. Many of us are not. Have you felt the "nudge" of God calling you to become involved and just aren't sure how to get started? Here are some ministry areas that might perk your interest.

~ A Group of Ladies to Care for the Sanctuary (altar cloths, polish brass items, flowers, decorations, pew racks and more).

~ Increase Participation in United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women

~ Teach a Sunday School class for our Young Married Couples and/or Singles

~ Website Webmaster: innovate, update, create

~ Mission Ministry that Reaches Out into the community and beyond (Adult Mission Trip??)

~ Become involved with one of our existing ministries

Our prayer is that **2017** will be the year that **"every member will be in ministry"**.

We are blessed when we WORSHIP together. Now let us bless others as we WORK together.

INTERESTED?? Please call

Pat Rudy at the office: 903-984-3576

NEW MEMBER



PEGGY FARABEE, joined our membership on Sunday, March 26. She lives at 105 Eastridge Rd. She is a retired School Administrator with a Doctorate in Education. She was born in San Antonio and her life journey is more than interesting. Peggy was widowed and has four grown children. She is already active in our worship and transferred from another denomination in Longview. St. Luke's is blessed to have a lady with so many talents a part of our church family.

**IT'S TIME FOR
Wrapped CANDY for our
PLASTIC EASTER EGGS
for the Easter Egg Hunts!!
The HUNTS will be held
EASTER, APRIL 16!
Please Drop Off at the Church!
Many thanks for your help!**

Words of Thanks

CHOIR NOTES

Have you noticed lately how wonderful the Chancel Choir sounds? We are blessed by their talents, under the direction of Music Director, James Vermillion, and the talent of Organist, Susan Crawford.

Thank you to this group of singers who give of their time and talent to lead in worship every Sunday with music that fills our hearts:

Carolina Bryant	Debra Maloch
Annette Morgan	Laura Vermillion
Beverly Gray	Sharry Christopher
Ann Rosson	Diane Lee
Carol Grimes	Kay McKinley
David Morgan	Dennis Ellis
Chris Crawford	Jerry Medford
Dan Cross	Milton Hattaway

Thank you ALL for making our hearts sing!

Renewed Day-By-Day

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come—the old one has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

I struggle with an illness that saps my strength and energy. As a result, I have difficulty getting myself out of bed in the morning. A friend sent me a picture of a phoenix (a mythological creature that rises from the ashes) with the words, “Still I rise”.

I added today's verse and 2 Corinthians 4:16: “Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day”. I use it as a bookmark and keep it by my bed.

Many of us go through trying times, whether dealing with illness, limitations, or the emotions of accepting these realities. The words and picture on my bookmark remind me that each day is an opportunity to rise again, physically and emotionally, and to become a new creation in Christ.

Now, each morning after looking at my bookmark, I stretch my arms upward. I pray for God to fill me with the Holy Spirit as I rise and am renewed. Our transformation in Christ is an ongoing process, and each day moves us further along this path.

Thought for the Day

Each day is an opportunity to be Renewed in Christ.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, help us reach to you for strength and Welcome each day as an opportunity to be renewed in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

S. Martin (New Jersey) The Upper Room

WORKDAY “THANK YOU”

Saturday, March 18, we awakened to good weather and a mild temperature - just right for a workday at the church! Seventeen men and women showed up at 8:30am and accomplished their planned projects by 11:45am:

- > Changed light bulbs in the sanctuary chandeliers
- > Found and Fixed a leak in sprinkler system lines
- > Trimmed dead and overgrown shrubs/tree limbs
- > Removed railroad ties and monkey grass from lawn
- > and More . . .

A big “Thank You” to those who worked:

Mack Monday	Luis Guavarrama
Robert Ellis	Herb Cotten
Richard Green	James McCann
Sharon McCann	Randy Gaut
Michael Barnard	Dennis Ellis
Bruce Tindell	Pat Rudy
Dan Cross	Danny Harrison
Jack Dickey	Milton Frazier

Later in the afternoon two Master Gardener angels, Richard and Kathy Kimball, showed up and planted the geraniums in the window boxes on the outside of the chapel

~ Our Thanks and Appreciation to All ~

APRIL CALENDAR 2017

* Nursery provided for this event. ** Nursery can be arranged for this event. Call Niki Chowdhury

Saturday, April 1

10:00-12:00pm Baby Shower

Sunday, April 2 5th Sunday in Lent

8:30am Arise Worship, Sanctuary
 9:30am Sunday School*
 10:30am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary*
 1:00pm Handbells Rehearsal, Handbell Room.**
 3:30-4:30pm Confirmation Class, "Practical Instruction on Prayer" Family Center
 4:30pm Youth, gym
 5:00pm Great Oaks Ranch, Snacks & Barn Worship
 6:00-8:00pm Dave Ramsey Financial Peace, Fireplace Room, Nursery available

Monday, April 3

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Tuesday, April 4

10:30am UMW meeting, Fireplace Room- "A Time to Hope; Communities Challenging Mass Incarceration"
 6:00pm Pam Besser Circle, Fireplace Room
 6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Wednesday, April 5

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 9:00am-2:00pm MDO
 11:00am NO Hilltoppers
 12:00noon Soup 'n Sermon with Rev. Ron Byrd of the 1st Christian Church
 3:15-5:30pm Children & Junior Choirs
 Cherubs (Pre-K - Kindergarten)
 Angel Tones (1st - 3rd grades)
 Hope (4th - 8th grades)
 3:30-7:00pm Youth Activities, Gym
 5:15pm Dinner (\$5/adults; \$2/children), ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans, drinks, dessert
 6:00pm Mini Methodists for Children
 6:00-7:00pm Pastor Darwood's Bible Study (Bring your Bible--Exodus) in F.C. Parlor
 6:00pm Prayer Shawl Min., Caring Christians Rm.
 6:00-7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary**
 6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Thursday, April 6

6:30-8:00pm Arise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary**

Friday, April 7

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 9:00am-2:00pm MDO
 6:00pm Holy Huddlers, The Butcher Shop, Longview
 6:00-10:00pm Parents' Night Out, gym

Saturday, April 8

4:00-7:00pm Emmaus Gathering, Family Center

Sunday, April 9 6th Sunday of Lent

8:30am Arise Worship, Sanctuary--Arise Band Cantata
 9:30am Sunday School*
 9:30am Hope Angel Tones, Cherubs rehearse
 10:00am Chancel Choir, Handbell warm up
 10:30am Traditional Worship Service with Cherub Choir, Angel Tones, Hope, plus Chancel Choir Cantata *
 11:30am Spaghetti Luncheon, Family Center
 1:00pm Handbells Rehearsal, Handbell Room.**
 3:30-4:30pm Confirmation Class, "What does it mean to be a church member?" lesson, Family Center
 4:30pm NO Youth, gym
 5:00pm Great Oaks Ranch, Snacks & Worship
 6:00-8:00pm Dave Ramsey Financial Peace, Fireplace Room. Nursery available.

Monday, April 10 Holy Week

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Tuesday, April 11 Holy Week

6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall
 6:00pm Mission Team, Conference Room

Wednesday, April 12 Holy Week

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 9:00am-2:00pm MDO Easter parties
 12:00-1:00pm Soup 'N Sermon with Rev. Glenn Young, Family Center
 3:15-5:30pm Children & Junior Choirs
 Cherubs (Pre-K - Kindergarten)
 Angel Tones (1st - 3rd grades)
 Hope (4th - 8th grades)
 3:30pm Youth Activities, Gym
 5:15pm Dinner (\$5/adults; \$2/children), chicken pitas, salad, drinks, dessert
 6:00pm Mini Methodists for Children
 6:00-7:00pm Pastor Darwood's Bible Study
 6:00-7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary**
 6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Thursday, April 13 Holy Thursday (Maundy)

6:30-8:00pm Arise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary**
 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary*

Friday, April 14 Holy Week Good Friday

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 9:00am-2:00pm NO MDO
 5:00-7:00pm Good Friday Come and Go Prayer Stations, gym

...continued next page

APRIL CALENDAR 2017

* Nursery provided for this event. ** Nursery can be arranged for this event . Call Niki Chowdhury

Saturday, April 15 Holy Week (Gym closed)

6:00-8:00pm B-Day party for Amanda Patton, FC

Sunday, April 16 EASTER SUNDAY

Easter egg hunts after 8:30 & 10:30 worship, gym

6:30am Sunrise Service, outside beside gym
 7:30am Breakfast, FC
 8:30am Arise Worship, Sanctuary
 9:30am Sunday School*
 9:45am Handbell rehearsal
 10:30am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary*
 3:30-4:30pm NO Confirmation Class, Family Center
 4:30pm NO Youth, gym
 5:00pm NO Great Oaks Ranch, Snacks & Worship

6:00-8:00pm NO Dave Ramsey Finance

Monday, April 17

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 7:00pm Trustees, Conference Room
 6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Tuesday, April 18

6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Wednesday, April 19

9:00-9:45 a.m. Exercise, Family Center
 9:00am-2:00pm MDO
 10:00-12:00pm AuCourant, Fireplace Room
 3:15-5:30pm Children & Junior Choirs
 Cherubs (Pre-K - Kindergarten)
 Angel Tones (1st - 3rd grades)
 Hope (4th - 8th grades)
 3:30-7:00pm Youth Activities, Gym
 5:15pm Dinner (\$5/adults; \$2/children), pulled pork, coleslaw, mac & cheese, drinks, dessert
 6:00pm Mini Methodists for Children
 6:00-7:00pm Pastor Darwood's Bible Study in F.C.
 6:00pm Prayer Shawl Min., Caring Christians Rm.
 6:00-7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary**
 6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Thursday, April 20

6:30-8:00pm Arise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary**

Friday, April 21

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 9:00am-2:00pm MDO
 6:00pm Holy Huddlers, Bodacious BBQ, Kilgore
 7:00pm-8:00am MYMU Lockin, cost \$10

Saturday, April 22

Sunday, April 23 2nd Sunday of Easter

8:30am Arise Worship, Sanctuary
 9:30am Sunday School*
 9:30am Cherub Choir rehearsal, Sanctuary
 10:30am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary* Cherub Choir program

11:45am Finance Team Meeting, Family Center
 1:00pm Handbells Rehearsal, Handbell Rm.**
 3:30-4:30pm Confirmation Class, Family Center-lesson: "History of the Church" includes choir tour and explanation of symbols
 4:00pm Candidate Forum, Family Center
 5:00pm Great Oaks Ranch, Snacks & Worship
 6:00-8:00pm Dave Ramsey Finance*, Fireplace Room
 Nursery available

Monday, April 24

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Tuesday, April 25

6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Wednesday April 26

9:00-9:45 a.m. Exercise, Family Center
 9:00am-2:00pm MDO
 3:15-5:30pm Children & Junior Choirs
 Cherubs (Pre-K - Kindergarten)
 Angel Tones (1st - 3rd grades)
 Hope (4th - 8th grades)
 3:30-7:00pm Youth Activities, Gym
 5:00pm Dinner (\$5/adults; \$2/children),
PANCAKE SUPPER (UMM)
 6:00pm Mini Methodists (for Children)
 6:00-7:00pm Pastor Darwood's Bible Study - Bring your Bible for Exodus in F.C. Parlor
 6:00pm Prayer Shawl Min., Caring Christians Rm.
 6:00-7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary**
 6:00pm Den Meeting, Laird Hall

Thursday, April 27

6:30-8:00pm Arise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary**

Friday, April 28

9:00-9:45am Exercise, Family Center
 9:00am-2:00pm MDO
 11:30am Kilgore Church Women

Saturday, April 29

7:00am Newgate Mission breakfast, Longview
 10:00-12:00 Hope, Angel Tone Rehearsal, gym
 6:00-8:00pm Game Night (Family Center for this night)

Sunday, April 30 3rd Sunday of Easter

8:30am Arise Worship, Sanctuary
 9:30am Sunday School*
 10:30am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary* Cherub Choir program
 11:50pm Confirmation Class: Field trip to Jacksonville's Look Out Tower, lesson: "The Cost of Discipleship"
 3:00-6:00 Hope and Angel Tones Choirs rehearsal, gym
 4:30-6:00pm Youth,
 6:00pm Hope & Angel Tones program, gym
 5:00pm NO Great Oaks Ranch, Snacks & Worship

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The VISITOR

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SUNDAY SERVICES:

Arise Service 8:30 AM
Sunday School 9:30 AM
Traditional Service 10:30 AM

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**MARCH 5, 2017
INFANT BAPTISM OF
JACK SPRAYBERRY**



Jack Edward was born December 8, 2016, in Longview to Veronica & Cody Sprayberry. His proud grandparents are Lisa & Milton Frazier. Our church family is very proud of this young family.

**MARCH 19, 2017 BAPTISM OF
RAYCE & SADIE TUCK**



Rayce Martin & Sadie Jo Tuck are the children of Don & Misti Tuck. Rayce's birthday was 12-11-06 and Sadie's is 3-22-10. What an honor to take the vows with these young people!