

**The Lamplighter**  
**Of Saint Luke's Lutheran Church,**  
**Prosperity, South Carolina**  
*September 2009*

**NOTES FROM THE PASTOR**

My thoughts in this column for our newsletter are best summed up by the heading of the column..“INTERIM PASTOR.” It Is hard to believe that it was just a year ago that I came on board as your interim pastor. I cannot tell you how great it has been for you to have given me the privilege to serve St. Luke's as your interim Pastor. I must tell you that I have really enjoyed this past year. I have learned from you, I have learned to love you, I have learned to consider you as friends. By the time you receive this newsletter you will have voted to issue a call to your new pastor. My days are numbered in serving St. Luke's church. Thank you for giving me this opportunity. Thank you for accepting me as your Interim Pastor. Thank you for the wonderful response to our family crisis this summer. You have shown the real presence of the power of the Holy Spirit in this place.

As you move on to the future, know that St. Luke's is an alive church, with great potential, with great leadership, and with people willing to be “a little Christ” to all. May this always be the vision that people see when they enter this Church and whenever they greet you in the community.

Ronald G. Smith, Sr.  
Interim Pastor

## **The Lamplighter**

Of St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
4056 St. Luke's Church Road  
Prosperity, SC 29127  
Phone: 803-364-4093  
Fax: 803-364-5150

Email: [secretary@stlukesprosperity.com](mailto:secretary@stlukesprosperity.com)  
Web Site: [www.stlukesprosperity.com](http://www.stlukesprosperity.com)  
September Editor: April Towner

Church Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday:  
8:00am-5:00 pm  
Friday:  
8:00am-1:00 pm

## Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA**

The date of the next joint meeting of the St. Luke's WELCA has been changed from Sept. 13th to Sept. 20th. The Fay and Hilton Roof circle will host the meeting, which will feature Barbara C. Thomas of Chapin as guest speaker. Barbara has published a novel entitled "Just Pick Up The Pieces". The book is an autobiographical novel and is the author's first book. It is a moving account of the two-year period in the lives of Barbara and her younger sister, Joy. It begins with the sudden and tragic death of their mother and culminates in their placement in Epworth Children's Home of the South Carolina Methodist Church in Columbia.

The story is set in the historical town of St. Augustine, Florida in the late 1940's. Barbara and Joy's father's alcoholism leads to a period of turmoil and insecurity. The story unfolds to reveal how differently the pair of sisters react to the blows that fate deals them. Each struggles in her own way with resilience and perseverance in order to overcome their difficulties.

The novel has been given a four-star rating on Amazon.com. Critics have found the book to be "heart wrenching, heartwarming, inspiring and appropriate for all ages." Barbara Thomas is a retired teacher, having taught sixth grade in the Irmo area for twenty-five years. A graduate of Columbia College and USC, she and her husband, Norman, live on the lake outside of Chapin. Barbara will sign books at the conclusion of the meeting. The cost of the book is \$20. Anyone interested in hearing Barbara's story is invited to attend.

# **September 2009 Volunteers**

## **ACOLYTES**

- September 6 Beth Fulmer & Brianna Kinard  
September 13 Adam Lester & Ingrid Trotter  
September 20 Conrad Minick & Anabel Turner  
September 27 April Cumalander & Rachel Turner

## **CRUCIFER**

- September 6 James Ballantyne  
September 13 Nicole Boozer  
September 20 Ashton Floyd  
September 27 Kaitlin Kunkle

## **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

- September 6 Christie Gardner & Deann McManus  
September 13 Michelle Long & Kelly Hawkins  
September 20 Tina Nichols & Susan Lake  
September 27 Angela Hawkins & Linda Kunkle

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

- September 6 Sherry Holland, Betty Jones, Mellisa Cumbie,  
Morgan Hallman, and Jessica Holland  
September 13 Robert & Helen Beebe  
September 20 Andy Mike, Heather & Quentin Hawkins  
September 27 Ruthie, Rudy and Nicole Boozer

## **GREETERS**

- September 6 Doliene Bedenbaugh & Joe Boozer  
September 13 Ruthie and Nicole Boozer  
September 20 Linda Kunkle & Enoch Boozer  
September 27 Ronald & Catherine Boozer

## **LECTORS**

- September 6 Wanda Connelly  
September 13 Andy Hawkins  
September 20 Russell Hendrix  
September 27 Bobby Morris

## CLOSING THE CHURCH

September 6 Henry Kunkle, Jr.  
September 13 Byron Carr  
September 20 Robert Beebe  
September 27 Mitchel Connelly

## USHERS

September 6 Tim Connelly, Evan Pitts,  
Bert Lucas, Chesley Minick  
September 13 Henry Kunkle Jr., Jim Ballantyne,  
Russell Hendrix, Enoch Boozer  
September 20 Steven Lake, Matthew Kunkle,  
Lee Livingston, John W. Pugh  
September 27 Joe Boozer, Jody Green,  
Reggie Beckham, Joey Long

## ALTAR GUILD

Aug 31-Sept 06 Mitchell & Harriett Connelly and Wanda Crotwell  
September 7-13 Joe Kunkle and Brenda Smith  
September 14-20 Faye Shealy and Junior Shealy  
September 21-27 Neal, Laura, and Adam Lester  
September 28-October 04 Randy and Judy Nobles



# On the Bulletin Board

**Roll up your sleeves, we need you ALL now more than ever!** The bazaar will be held on the 1st Saturday in October - October 3rd. We'll start at 9am and will last until 2pm. We are going to have the White Elephant Sale - so clean out those closets, cabinets, and that attic - we did really good

with this last year...remember, no clothes or shoes. We will also have our now famous bake sale - and I mean we really had and sold a lot of this stuff last year - some people come just for this - so be planning on baking all those delicious cakes, pies, cookies, brownies, etc. Also, any canned goods - I had people calling me at home last year after the bazaar wanting more of those fig preserves. Liver Nip contest is going strong - we need to know who all are planning to enter the contest. You will need to have them at the church before 10:30am. Contest will be at 11am. Once contest is over, we will begin the Liver Nip sale - you can eat in or take out. We will sell by the bowl for eat in and by the quart for take out. Also, there are several folks that want to make them just to sell. Please call Carolyn Shealy @ 364-3278 or Cheryl Lucas @ 364-3442 to let them know if you're planning to bring liver nips. We are going to have hamburgers, hot dogs, and minced meat BBQ sandwiches. We are hoping to be able to have use of the fellowship hall for the week before the bazaar. Please start dropping off items for Craft Bazaar and/or White Elephant Sale starting the Sunday before the bazaar and during the week before the bazaar so that we can get the stuff priced and displayed. We will try to be there in the evenings. Bake goods will need to be dropped off Friday. Call Cheryl or Carolyn if you need someone to meet you there at a special time. We need volunteers to help us in many different areas - please call Carolyn or Cheryl if you are willing to help in any way. We all really appreciate every one's help we are hoping for another successful year!

**Starting on September 6<sup>th</sup>** Sunday School will be at 10:00 and the Service will begin at 11:00

**This coming January, Professors Monte Luker and Bobby Morris** will again be leading a group on a study-tour of the Holy Land. This year, Bobby will first take the group into Egypt for two days in Cairo and two days at Mt. Sinai before crossing over into Israel. If you are interested or would like a brochure, please see Bobby.

## **NEW HORIZONS**

***"Building boys rather than mending men."***

I'm sure you recognize this theme that describes Boys Farm goal. I took a tour of Boys Farm several years ago and was very impressed with their buildings (gym, dorms, etc) but at that time I could see a need for many things. Even though Robert and I receive a Monthly Journal (progress report) it isn't like talking with the residents and seeing their progress. That's why I took this opportunity to invite a representative from Boys Farm, Jonathan Mauer, and several of his boys to bring us up to date. They will be with New Horizon's, September 19, Saturday, 3:00 pm, in the assembly room. Bring your favorite covered dish and beverage. If you're in a generous mood, maybe you could contribute to some of the needs of these boys. Any questions, call Helen Beebe, 364-3358.

## **"About our Members"**

Bobby Morris has been invited for the third time to teach the Old Testament class in the South Atlantic Lay Leadership Training (SALLT) course series. The class will be Saturday, September 12 at Reformation Lutheran Church in Greenville, Tennessee.

## ***“A Big Thanks to the Saint Luke Family”***

Dear St. Luke's Family,

Thank you ALL for the prayers, phone calls, cards, and food during my recent back surgery. I'm doing pretty good now - the pain is gone. I made the comment to someone and I'll tell all y'all, too, if I don't get better in a timely manner, it could be because Kent's "doing something" to prolong my recovery just to keep all y'all Stoney Hill cooks sending those good vittles down to my house (hahaha) - y'all have SPOILED that man! I really appreciate the preacher coming down to the hospital - even though I didn't get to see him for my "final prayer" since the hospitals "under construction". I made it through, though, Pastor Smith, so walls must not have any effect on prayers - I'm living proof! (That sounds like "sermon material" to me....as if I haven't already provided you with enough....) Thank you Mrs. Linda for the tape delivery service - you are THE BOMB! Anyway - I really appreciate everything and I can't wait to get back to church...I hope all y'all have been working on your crafts....

With much love,

Mary Beth Richardson

Dear Friends of St Luke's

Thank you for the Love Offering to help with Carols expenses. We were overwhelmed by your generosity! It has been a comfort to all of us for being a part of such a caring church family. We appreciated all the prayers, phone calls, cards, flowers, food and visits. Carol is slowly but surely recovering from her accident. Please continue to remember her in your prayers. She enjoys hearing from you and misses her friends at St. Luke's. Again thank you for you love and all the support for us. We are blessed to be a part of this congregation.

God Bless Us All,

Henry and Rose Brandt

Dear St. Luke's Church Family,

We would like to thank everyone for the many acts of kindness shown during the loss of our loved one, Evelyn Morris. Your calls, cards, flowers, food, memorials, visits, and prayers all meant so much during our difficult time. A special thanks to Pastor Smith for his many visits and prayers.

Sincerely,

The Morris Family

St. Luke's Lutheran Church Family,

The family of Sarah Ethel Cook would like to thank everyone for their love and support of Ethel these past few years. The flowers, food, memorial, cards, and phone calls during her times at White Oak Manor and her recent passing were very much appreciated. Pastor Smith and Pastor Evans were very loyal and encouraging to her and we appreciate all they did. May God Bless each and everyone of you.

Marian, Ralph and Marie, Doris and Gerald

### **August Financial Report**

**Offering needed each Sunday in 2009 to meet Budget**

	<b>\$5,047.37</b>
<b>Budget Needed To Date</b>	<b>\$171,610.58</b>
<b>Budget Received To Date</b>	<b>\$157,433.98</b>
<b>Amount short of Budget</b>	<b>\$14,176.60</b>
<b>Fellowship Hall Balance as of 08/30/09</b>	<b>\$214,310.41</b>

<b>WORSHIP TRENDS</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>	<b>OFFERING</b>
<b>August 02</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>\$5,575.00</b>
<b>August 09</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>\$4,015.00</b>
<b>August 16</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>\$4,122.00</b>
<b>August 23</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>\$3,392.00</b>
<b>August 30</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>\$3,631.00</b>

# September 2009

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 4 Michelle Long  
Joe Moore  
Brian Koon
- 6 Travis & Jennifer Slice
- 7
- Lillie Belle Minick Paul & Ann Hawkins
- 9 Carol Brandt  
Mary Jones
- 12 Ossian Higgins  
Ingrid Carr
- 14 Kelly Hawkins  
Brianna Kinard  
Carolyn Shealy
- 15 Elandor Minick
- 18 Rebecca Killian  
Gracen Green
- 19 Christopher Connelly Clint & Jenni Shealy
- 20 Bernice Connelly
- 21 Tracey Fulmer  
Jeffery Turner
- 22 Ashley Glymph
- 23 Wanda Taylor
- 27 Alex Brandt  
Clint Shealy
- 30 Heather Kunkle  
Baylee Ann Kinard

**Happy Birthday and Anniversary Everyone  
May God Bless You with Many More!**



# ber 2009

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> Choir Practice 7 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>16</b> Barbara Richardson Circle 7 pm  Choir Practice 7 pm	<b>17</b>  <b>Newsletter                      Info Due</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> New Horizons 3 pm
<b>23</b> Thomas Suber Circle 7:30 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>30</b> Choir Practice 7 pm			

## ***Prayer List***

### ***Members***

Sherry Dominick  
Janice Lake  
Mary Edith Bedenbaugh  
Chesley Minick  
Joe Usry  
Ponzell Morris  
Julia Turner  
Tamela Cohen  
Edgar Jones  
Beverly Bowers  
Carolyn Harmon  
Mary Beth Richardson  
Betty Connelly  
A.J. Shealy

### ***Family & Friends***

Matt Paxton (Deann McManus' cousin)  
Bobbie Alan Oxner  
Kathleen Crumpton  
Pauline Owings (Beth Kunkle's Grandmother)  
DJ Bedenbaugh  
Chase Hamm  
Kathleen Long (mother of Charlene Pitts)  
Ronda Cannon  
Jessica Morris (needs heart transplant)  
Jan Tibboles  
Harry Evan  
Vanessa Boozer  
Wyman Metts  
Helen Smith  
Mary Davenport  
Leah & Anna Long (Aunt of Belton Dennis)  
Mary Beck  
Ernestine Wofford  
Ruth Boozer (Mary Beth Richardson's Grandmother)

Clarence Vanderford (April Peel's Grandfather)  
H.C. "Doc" Richardson  
Brady Nussman  
Lurleen Eargle (David Eargle's grandmother)  
Frank Meyer  
Vera Loving(Kelly Hawkins grandmother)

### *Nursing Home*

Carol Brandt (Saluda Nursing Center)  
Ira Bedenbaugh (White Oak Manor)  
Mamie Lou Bedenbaugh (White Oak Manor)  
Lille Belle Minick (White Oak Manor)  
Dezaree Morris (White Oak Manor)  
Ruby Nichols (White Oak Manor)  
Martha Ann Cook (Lowman Home)  
Jacob Bundrick (Lowman Home)  
Peggy Bedenbaugh (White Oak Manor)

All caregivers, and all others who have experienced pain,  
disappointment, anger, and grief in this congregation, St. Luke's,  
and elsewhere.

### *Congregational Sympathy*

Congregational Love and Sympathy is extended to the family and  
friends of Mr. Joel Derrick. Mr. Derrick passed away Saturday  
July 25, 2009. Our prayers are with you all.

Congregational Love and Sympathy is extended to the family and  
friends of Ms. Debbie Rose Simpson. Ms. Simpson passed away  
on Monday, August 10, 2009. She was the sister of Mrs. Margaret  
Koon. Our prayers are with you all.

## *Our Prayers are with you all*



**South Carolina Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

August 22, 2009 (from the Church wide Assembly)

Dear South Carolina Lutherans:

I woke up this morning, the day after our Church wide assembly voted to approve all four ministry proposals related to the social statement on *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, with the words from Psalm 130 on my mind. *"Out of the depths do I cry unto you, oh Lord. Hear my prayer."*

It is a psalm that reflects for me my experience of this assembly. These words evoke the depths of Biblical and theological convictions that have been so passionately shared on the floor of the assembly each day. They express so well the depths of prayer that we deliberately paused for every 20 minutes, asking for God's guidance and the Spirit's wisdom for all our decisions. These words reflect the deep and painful realities of Lutheran Christians who love Jesus Christ as their Lord, who take seriously the Word of God, who love the Church and their neighbor, and who yet arrive at very different conclusions about what it means to follow faithfully Jesus in our world today.

When I first read in our social statement the phrase "bound conscience," I was somewhat ambivalent to the term. It seemed like a phrase that could easily be twisted to mean whatever someone wanted it to mean. After these days of prayerfully listening to brothers and sisters who hold very different convictions, I have now experienced the significance of this phrase "bound conscience" up close and personally. Never before have I witnessed such intense debate, and yet such a deep respect for one another, as I have heard here this week. Never before have I seen so many deeply committed Christians wrestling with such important decisions and in such a patient and loving way.

So what is God saying to us though all this? That is the question that I believe we need to keep on asking one another in the days and weeks to come. I believe that the decisions of this week challenge us to be more intentional in our study of God's Word and its meaning for our life together as baptized children of God. I also believe we are being called to a deeper engagement in prayer for this church and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all of our relationships. Finally, I believe God is calling us and teaching us to become more patient and loving, especially toward those whose faith and conscience arrives at different conclusions from our own. I began this letter with psalm 130, "Out of the depths do I cry unto you oh Lord. Hear my prayer." But I would like to end with the Scripture that Bishop Hanson spoke to us at the conclusion of yesterday's session from Colossians 3.

"As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

In Christ,

Bishop Herman Yoos

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.*

-- Colossians 3:14-15

I write to you from the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis with official information about the actions of this assembly related to human sexuality. I am grateful for the manner in which this church has engaged in this conversation. The way this assembly has discussed these questions is a continuation of the way this church has deliberated: with deep and heartfelt respect for each other, engaging with Scripture, listening to the faith stories and experiences of one another, and through worship and prayer seeking the discernment of the Spirit.

In my response to the voting members on Friday, August 21, I made this request: we need one another. We need time. We need the voices of those who lament and those who rejoice over these actions, for together we have been called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and engage in God's mission for the life of the world.

The assembly adopted 676-338 -- precisely two-thirds of those voting -- "Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," the ELCA's 10th social statement, with minor editorial amendments. It also adopted a series of implementing resolutions with amendments. This theological and teaching document builds on the key Lutheran principles of justification by grace and Christian freedom to serve the neighbor. It emphasizes that central to our vocation, in relation to human sexuality, is the building and protection of trust in relationships. It therefore affirms that we are called to be trustworthy in our human sexuality and to build social institutions and practices where trust and trustworthy relationships can thrive. The social statement addresses marriage, same-gender relationships, families, protecting children, friendships, commitment, social responsibility and moral discernment. Regarding same-gender committed relationships, the social statement says that this church is not in agreement and recognizes the different perspectives which are present among us.

Our assembly also adopted resolutions proposed by the Church Council based on those contained in a "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies." The actions direct that changes be made to churchwide policy documents to make it possible for those in committed same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA. There were amendments to two of the proposals.

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The assembly adopted the resolutions in the following order, beginning with a strong statement about how we will live together in the face of our disagreements:

**Resolution 3:** “RESOLVED, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all.” (Adopted 771-230 as amended)

**Resolution 1:** “RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships.” (Adopted 619-402)

**Resolution 2:** “RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church.” (Adopted 559-451)

**Resolution 4:** This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by members in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships; recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and approved; and stated that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry. (Adopted 667-307 as amended)

I invite you into important, thoughtful, prayerful conversation about what all of this means for our life in mission together. What is absolutely important for me is that we have this conversation together.

We meet one another finally -- not in our agreements or our disagreements -- but at the foot of the cross, where God is faithful, where Christ is present with us, and where, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are one in Christ.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson  
ELCA Presiding Bishop

## 2009-2010 Teacher List

### Nursery

Linda Sheppard  
Sarah Eargle

### Preschool

Lucinda Kunkle  
Becky Mills  
Angela Hawkins  
Kelly Morris

### Kindergarten

Betty Connelly  
Cheryl Lucas  
Mary Beth Richardson  
Carolyn Shealy

### 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sandra Barnett  
Sherry Dominick  
Julie Hamm

### 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>

Penny Ballantyne  
Dana Green  
Ruthie Boozer (Nicole Boozer assisting)

### 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

Beth Kunkle  
Janna Cockrell

### Confirmation 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>

Pastor Smith  
David Eargle  
Caroline Brandt

### High School

Barry McManus and Chad Hawkins

### Adult I

Wanda Connelly  
Bobby Morris  
Jim Ballantyne

### Adult II

Sherry Holand  
Catherine Boozer  
Byron Carr

### Adult III

Group led discussion  
using various short term  
materials

### Adult IV

Kelly Hawkins

### Adult Sunday School Superintendent

Faye Shealy

### Assistants

Rose Brandt  
Linda Kunkle  
Catherine Boozer



## LUTHERAN BELL FESTIVAL SERVICE

Supporting the ELCA WORLD HUNGER FUND

Sunday, October 18, 7:00pm

St. Peter Lutheran Church,  
1130 St. Peter's Church Rd.  
Lexington, SC, 29072

Five area Lutheran Church Bell Choirs will band together to provide a service of Lessons, Hymns and Bell Meditations using bells as the major instrumentation. The cooperating churches are: Host church, St. Peter, Lexington; Coordinating church, Union, Leesville; St. Stephen, Lexington; Mt. Horeb, Chapin, and St. Jacob's, Chapin.

Churches, Sunday School Classes, and individuals of each congregation of our Conference are encouraged to attend the service and lend their voices to the JOY of WORSHIP in order to make a huge gift to the ELCA World Hunger Fund. Encourage groups to make an effort to send a special offering if they cannot attend this wonderful service in person.

The festival has no registration fees or tickets at the door. Each Choir is responsible for obtaining its own music. The pastors of each participating choir will read the lessons during the service. Two Thrivent Chapters are supporting the Festival. The Dutch Fork Chapter will assist with Festival expenses and contribute any remaining funds to the offering. The Lexington-Saluda Chapter will support the offering with matching funds.

Cooperating Directors: Tina McGready, Sara Coffman, Joan Marco, Amy Gunwall, Bailey Slice, Jim Lindler.