Thank you, St. Luke’s!

The members of St. Luke’s recently impressed the South Carolina Kairos community with their outpouring of prayers, love and support for the Kairos #33 weekend, which was held at Broad River Correctional Institution on April 18 - 21. Members Herman Hickman and John Rumph assisted Doug Deaderick and the rest of the Kairos team as table leaders for the 30 Broad River residents who participated in the four day weekend. While the team fed the spiritual needs of the residents, Cynthia Goines and her crew (Kitty Dade, Desmond Goines, Gloria Weston-Goines, Francis Goodwin, Maxima Holmes, Veda Johnson, Larsene March, Gwen Meadows, Julia Meadows, Tannie Smith) fed their bodies with meals that will long be remembered. When Cynthia was introduced at the Closing Ceremony on Sunday afternoon, April 21, you could hear the residents chanting, “Meatloaf Meatloaf” throughout the chapel. In addition, members of St. Luke’s baked over 115 dozen cookies which were distributed to all the Broad River Residents during the weekend.

If you are interested in working with this rewarding Prison Ministry, contact Doug Deaderick for more information. Upcoming Kairos weekends are scheduled for the fourth weekends in October and April.

Province IV HIV/AIDS Ministries is sponsoring the 22nd Annual HIV/AIDS Retreat at the Kanuga Conference Center on June 7 – 9. If you are interested in sponsoring a participant or attending this spirit-filled weekend of hope, music, and rejuvenation, contact Deacon Deaderick. Scholarships are $150.00

The Commission on Community and Human Resources is in the process of compiling and archiving the history of St. Luke’s. If you are interested in volunteering with this endeavor contact Corine Whittington-Kimpson.

The St. Luke’s Book Club meets the third Thursday of each month from 10:30 - 12:00 in the parish fellowship hall. Lunch is provided. June’s book is Holy Ghost Girl, by Donna Johnson. Please join us for good fellowship and discussion.

This year Vacation Bible School will contain an adult component called Theovision. During the evening program we will be watching two movies, The Pianist and Lincoln. Following the viewing we will take part in theological discussions based on the movies. Join us as we look for God in the movies.

Several members have expressed interest in ordering additional red tee shirts (long or short sleeve) with the Pew Aerobics graphics on the back. Forty shirts must be purchased to make an order. If interested in a tee shirt, contact Deacon Deaderick.
Our Prayers are asked:
For Our Loved Ones in Nursing Homes or Assistance Living: Eddye Brown, Vivian Hampton, Lorraine Marshall, and Emerson Hazzard
For Our Recently Departed: Fred Thompson and Abram Coles
For Our Expectant Mothers: Rachel Bicha, Ja’Vell Bynoe, and Rebecca Cokley
For Members of the Armed Forces: Chad Williams and Peter Utley
For Our Loved Ones at Home: Bernice Johnson
For Our Ministry: With many stars in their heavenly crowns this is our prayer for the parish of St. Luke’s.

What makes a Dad?
God took the strength of a mountain, the majesty of a tree, the generous soul of nature, the comforting arm of night, the wisdom of the ages, the power of the eagle’s flight, the joy of a morning in spring, the faith of a mustard seed, the patience of eternity, the deep of a family need. Then God combined these qualities, when there was nothing more to add; and he knew his masterpiece was complete. And so, he called it …….DAD.

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY
June 16, 2013

ST. LUKE’S MENS CLUB
President: Francis Goodwin
Secretary: James (Shakey) Johnson
Treasurer: William (Stew) Smith

2013 St. Luke’s Men’s Club Activities:
February  Black History Month
Lent  Lenten Tea Sponsor
May  Mother’s Day Fellowship
     Men’s Club Fish Fry
October  Fall Men’s Club Fish Fry
December  1st Sunday in Advent Fellowship
          Men’s Club & Choir Fellowship
         Christmas Baskets for the Needy

SOMETHING FOR THE CHILDREN:
1. How many commandments are there?
2. Can you name the seasons of the church?
3. What special Sunday do we celebrate in the spring?
4. What is your favorite Bible story? Why do you like this story?

ST. LUKE’S FINANCIAL STATUS FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE FISCAL YEAR:

STATEMENT OF MISSION
BUDGETED:  $55,057
FIRST QUARTER:  $48,157
VARIANCE:  $6,900

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND
BUDGETED:  $5,773
RECEIVED:  $3,572
VARIANCE:  $2,201

OUR CHURCH REVENUE HAS NOT MET OUR BUDGET EXPECTATIONS. YOUR CONTINUAL GIVING AND MEETING OF YOUR PLEDGE IS APPRECIATED.
MAINTAINING OUR STEWARDSHIP TO OUR CHURCH

This is an excerpt from the stewardship speech made by Tannie Smith on November 14, 2010.

Money is one of the things we think of most when we think of stewardship. Money is an important part of stewardship but as we know it goes much further than that. We are asked to honor the Lord with our wealth, with the first fruits of all our crops. This means we are to give to God before anything else: paying bills, food or entertainment. Oftentimes we pay everything, keep out enough money for play and household expenses. God gets a portion of what is left. This is not first fruits. This is scraps given to God. We are to seek God first, not after we take care of ourselves. We need to come to the understanding that when we give to God first, everything else falls into place.

When you give to your church, you are giving to God. The money given in the offering plates is used to provide a meeting place, support your priest, perhaps send out missionaries, print Gospel tracts, and keep the church building and assets well-maintained. The church members vote on a church budget, then the tithes and offerings are spent according to that budget.

It is interesting that no one would think of attending a football game at Benedict College or University of South Carolina without buying a ticket to help pay for providing the entertainment, yet some people think nothing of enjoying the blessings of the church without contributing their part to support the ministry. I feel that tithing is probably the most accurate guide for giving, but no one needs to feel under a burden. The tithe is meant to be a blessing, not a straitjacket. But if you feel under pressure, it would be better for you to give perhaps one percent with joy than 10 percent under duress. Give the one percent and let God speak to your heart.

I would like to suggest a place to begin tithing – something, I plan to try – it’s called “the 90 Day Tithing Challenge.” Here’s how its works. For the next 90 days, you commit to giving at least one-tenth of your income to the Lord. At the end of 90 days, you can either continue tithing or you can stop. Why not practice tithing for 90 days and see if God will not bless you. I’m not promising you more money or a new car or anything like that. I can’t guarantee you’ll get a raise or that all your bills will be paid. But maybe God will bless you beyond your expectations if you dare to take a step of faith. If at the end of the 90 days you don’t like it, you feel pressure, you’re going broke, and you don’t think it works, then just stop and go back to whatever giving pattern you are following right now. So why not take the 90 Day Tithing Challenge? You have nothing to lose, and maybe everything to gain.

As you make a decision about how to support the work of your church in the coming year, please take time, examine your heart, pray about it, and ask for the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Then remember what God has already done for you and make the choice to honor God with a cheerful financial pledge to the work of God’s church.

It doesn’t take faith to give out of one’s abundance; it takes faith to stand up after you have been knocked down by the world and to continue to trust in the promises of God. Therefore, let us choose to sow bountifully and cheerfully, knowing that the funds we give will be used to do the work of the Lord.

LET US PRAY

O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, I know that all I have received is from your hand. Gracious and loving God, you call us to be stewards of your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us to always use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us bringing your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts in Jesus’ name. Amen.
JUST TO LET YOU KNOW:

Vacation Bible School: Vacation Bible School will be held during the week of June 10, 2013. From that Monday through Friday, VBS will be from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Please bring your children so that they can learn more about the Bible as well as having fun. Everyday, there will be refreshments. There will be classes for all young persons and adults. We hope that older youth will assist with the younger children. You can contact DeNell Hickman or Gwen Meadows for further information or to volunteer as a teacher or to donate refreshments.

The Parish Fellowship Commission presents a “one day only” trip to Savannah, Georgia on Saturday, August 17, 2013. The cost per person is $55.00. We will board at Columbia Place Mall with departure time at 6:30 a.m.; tour Savannah with out step on tour guide; visit the historic district on River Street; have lunch on our own; and do a little shopping before returning to Columbia. Deadline for payment is June 17, 2013. Contact Cynthia Goines or call the church at 803-254-2327.

The 1st Wednesday Bible Study lead by Fr. Utley has been studying spirituality as it is related to today’s world. The lessons encourage one to think and read the Bible for a greater and better understanding of the word of God. Fr. Utley pushes our minds to reach for a deeper understanding of the Bible. We have about 16 or more students. Please come join us on the 1st Wednesday.

Harvest Hope Food Drive: The 2013 food drive is now underway. Please place non-perishables in the large bin in the church narthex.

The Annual Parish Picnic: The annual parish picnic will take place at Sesquicentennial State Park on June 9, 2013, at 9:30 am, starting with an outdoor church service followed by the annual picnic. Please invite and bring family and friends.

Congratulations to:

J’Corey Hickman (Herman and DeNell’s grandson) on making the 3rd grade A & B Honor Roll at Forest Heights Elementary School. Also, on February 9, 2013, J’Corey came in second place in the All Event Youth Bronze Bowling Tournament in Columbia.

Damian Brown (Herman and DeNell’s Grandson) who graduated from kindergarten on May 23, 2013 from Forest Heights Elementary School.

Damion Cokley (Pat’s grandson) who came in First Place with his team in the Rising Star Bowling Tournament. Also, Damion was featured in Columbia Business Monthly for his participation in the First Tee of Columbia, a golf program for youth.

Janae’ Riley, who received a Doctorate Degree from the University of South Carolina, School of Pharmacy. She will be going to Florida to do her residency at the VA Medical Hospital.

Michelle Manigault Hurley who took the Oath of Office for Family Court Judge for the Fifth Judicial Circuit on March 26, 2013. Her mother and father, Tony and Alice Hurley, along with her children and her husband, participated in the ceremony.

Rebecca Hare Cokley, who was appointed as the new Executive Director for the National Council on Disability (NCD) in April 2013. The Council promotes policies, programs, practices and procedures that further the objectives of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) to ensure that Americans with disabilities have the same level of access to civic, social and economic participation as their non-disabled friends, family members and peers.

Adell Adams and Charles Blakely, Class of 1962; and Barbarel Blakely, Class of 1956 will be honored at the Benedict College Champions for Pride Banquet will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2013, 6:00 pm, Tickets are $40.00. Please support our church members. Tickets may be purchased from the honorees.

The St. Luke’s Men’s Club sponsored a Men’s Fellowship Breakfast on Saturday, May 11, 2013 in the Parish Hall. The guest speaker was Attorney Luther J. Battiste, III of the law firm of Johnson, Toal and Battiste, PA. His remarks on the "Reconstruction Period in South Carolina: Hidden History " was very informative.

Parish Fellowship’s Bowling Extravaganza on Sunday, June 2, 2013 at Royal Z Bowling Lanes was a success. Thanks to our Bowlers: Damian Brown, Damion Cokley, J’Corey Hickman, Tarnez Hickman, Malik Quartlebaum, Tannie Smith, Corliss Wise, and DeNell Hickman, who also coordinated the games. Also, thanks to the following who came to cheer our bowlers: Pat Cokley, Cynthia Goines, Larsene March, Cassandra Sims, Gloria Weston-Goines, and Khalief Smith.
### June 2013

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2. ECW Meeting, 12 noon
5. Wednesday Bible Study, 10:00 am
9. Annual Picnic, Sesquicentennial Park, 10:00 am
10. Finance Commission Meeting, 6:00 pm
13. St. Luke’s Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am
16. Father’s Day
18. Vestry Meeting, 6:00 pm
19. Men’s Club Meeting, 7:00 pm
20. St. Luke’s Book Club, 10:30 am
22. Feeding Ministry, & Mini Health Fair, 12 noon
23. Buildings & Grounds, 12 noon
27. St. Luke’s Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am

### July 2013

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3. Wednesday Bible Study, 10:00 am
8. Finance Commission, 6:00 pm
11. St. Luke’s Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am
14. Parish Fellowship Commission, 12 noon
18. St. Luke’s Book Club, 10:30 am
25. St. Luke’s Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am
27. Feeding Ministry, Noon
28. Buildings & Grounds, 12 noon

### August 2013

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7. Wednesday Bible Study, 10:00 am
8. St. Luke’s Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am
10. Popcorn & Movie, 12 noon
11. Parish Fellowship Commission, 12 noon
12. Finance Commission Meeting, 6:00 pm
15. St. Luke’s Book Club, 10:30 am
20. Men’s Club Meeting, 7:00 pm
25. Buildings & Grounds, 12 noon
27. St. Luke’s Quilters/Crafters, 11:00 am
24. Feeding Ministry, 12 noon
The Coffee Hour calendar has dates available in 2013 for sign up. Please sign the calendar to host a fellowship Sunday for your birthday, anniversary or In Thanksgiving for many Blessings. Thank you.

Cynthia Goines

United Way 2-1-1

Dial 2-1-1 for free, confidential referrals to more than 18,000 local programs statewide that can assist you counseling, job training, emergency assistance and other needs.

United Way also has a service called Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R). It assists parents in locating and selecting quality affordable child care in South Carolina. Just dial 2-1-1 and press 5 for assistance.

MISSION STATEMENT: “The mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to spread the Word and share the love of God with all people.”