

THE OUTLOOK

St. Luke's United Church of Christ

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www.stlukesuccindep.org

David T. Lyon, Pastor Ralph Koch, Pastor Emeritus

Boyd Ahrens, Music Director

Nanette Moore, Administrative Assistant/Director of Christian Education

January 22, 2012



In many ways twenty years is a long time. For over twenty years members and friends of St. Luke's have tolerated my many idiosyncrasies while striving to serve as your pastor and teacher. I deeply and sincerely appreciate your patience and your dogged commitment to put up with my shenanigans and overall silliness. But I am constantly amazed that you have allowed me to share some of the most important times in your lives. I am so very touched to have been present for births and deaths, for anniversaries and baptisms, and during times of great celebration as well as times of devastation and despair. In recent days many of you have thanked me for something I did years and years ago. I am continually amazed at how people remember even small gestures. But truly I am the one who wants to thank you. Over the next year or so you will not see much of me. Our beloved United Church of Christ polity strongly suggests that a retiring or departing pastor must give the new pastor plenty of space to find her/his way into a new ministry. I will likely worship at one of our sister congregations but after the new pastor gets established I may well find my way back to a pew near the back of St. Luke's. But just because I am not visible does not mean that you will not be much in my thoughts and prayers. From a distance I will keep discreet watch over my St. Luke's family.

For twenty years we have laughed a lot and cried a little and I celebrate every precious moment. I am fully confident in the process our denomination recommends for a search process for a new pastor. I have noted with a smile, "It's the worst process there is, except for all others." For many it will be difficult to be patient. For many the instinct is to rush through the search process and simply, "get on with it!" But that hasty approach usually produces a mess of ugly magnitude. I am fully confident that more than several excellent and qualified candidates will present themselves to your search committee. Indeed, you have already secured the services of the Rev. Bob Atkinson as Interim Pastor. I have known Bob for many years. He is a fine man and an outstanding pastor. He will serve you well and faithfully. Again, the process works! I will be with you in prayer as you continue your journey in faith always striving to serve Jesus our Christ and Savior.

God bless.

David.

Blanche O'Neill
Kelly Ray
Josh Slusser
David Wendle
Shelby Jennings
Esther Cheney
Kirk Moore

Ima Smith
Kittie Yantz
Shirley Draheim
Snigdha Kumar
Joann Miller
Bert Schaaf
Peace for our World

Clara Wiesendanger
Norm Schemmer
Loretta Beverlin
Shannon Humphrey
Faith Wildschuetz
Kathy Tucker

Elmer Baker
Ken Bergman
Eddie Meisenheimer
Aiden Carpenter
Jeanne Gardner
Jim Dillie



INTRODUCING...

Interim Minister – Pastor Bob Atkinson

The Church Council of St. Luke's has asked me to serve as your new Interim Minister, so I thought it might be helpful to tell you a little about myself and my family.

My full name is Rev. Robert T.S. Atkinson, otherwise known as Bob or Pastor Bob, your choice. My spouse, Shirley, and I have lived here in Independence almost 10 years. Shirley works in the patient accounting department at St. Luke's Hospital and we have three children and one grandchild. Our son, Seth, is the oldest and he lives in Redmond, Washington, where he works as a Project Manager for Microsoft. Leah is our middle child, and she and her spouse, Jamie, live in Washington, Missouri, where she is the Associate Pastor at St. Peter's U.C.C. Our youngest daughter, Sara, also works for St. Luke's Hospital, and she and our grandson, Wesley, live here in Independence with her boyfriend, Shannon and his daughter, Shyenne. Wesley is seven, attends Santa Fe Elementary, and is "the best (and only) grandson we've ever had!" He is a real joy!

I come to St. Luke's after having served as Interim Minister at Zion U.C.C. in Mayview, and before that at Bethel U.C.C. in Concordia. Before beginning Interim Ministry, I served on the Missouri Mid-South Conference Staff for a little over 5 years as the Campaign Development Director for the Camp Mo-Val Campaign. Prior to that, I served as Pastor of Trinity U.C.C. in Lexington for eleven years, from 1991-2002.

I started at Trinity U.C.C. soon after receiving my M.Div. degree from Central Baptist Theological Seminary in May of 1991. I also have an M.A. degree in Adult and Continuing Education from UMKC, and a B.A. degree in Religion from Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Massachusetts. My family and I were members of the Nazarene Church prior to joining the United Church of Christ in 1985 at Southwood U.C.C. in Raytown. Shirley and I are currently members of Bethel U.C.C. in North Kansas City.

I love to ride my bicycle and have ridden in the MS-150 (150 mile bike ride for Multiple Sclerosis) for the 21st time this past September. Biblical study is also a passion for me, and I have taught "Introduction to the New Testament" every 3 years since 2002 at the Missouri School of Religion. I also love movies, computers, pop music, history, science, and have been a vegetarian since 2007.

That's more than enough about me, but I look forward to learning more about all of you while serving St. Luke's. I will also be glad to meet with you at any time, or by appointment. You can contact me through your secretary, Nanette, at the church office, or directly by telephone or email. My cell phone number is (816) 237-9222 and my email address will be pastor@stlukesuccindep.org.

I look forward to working with all of you as we strive together to serve God and others.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Bob

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

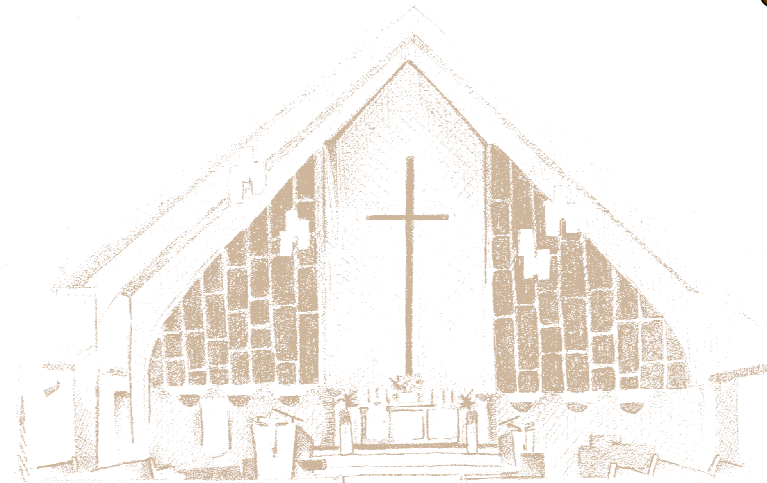


CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

January 29th,

We will celebrate
The Rite of Confirmation
during our morning worship service.

Service of Farewell



Followed by a Reception

In Honor Of

Rev. David Lyon

*who is retiring from
St. Luke's United Church of Christ*

*February 12, 2012
3:00 PM*

St. Luke's United Church of Christ



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 22nd, 7:00 PM

For many people this is one of the most solemn and meaningful services of the year.

You are encouraged to join us.

LENTEN STUDY SERIES



“Living the Questions”

Educational film series as we again journey to Jerusalem in the Lenten season.

Tuesdays, Feb. 28th – April 3th,
6:30-7:30 PM.

Desserts, Fruit
and Childcare available.



Youth Dinner & Movie Night

The youth will be serving a dinner and then showing a movie on Saturday, February 18th, 6:00 PM.

Dinner will be salad, homemade pizza & dessert. After dinner you will move into St. Luke’s own movie theater for a presentation of “Second Hand Lions”



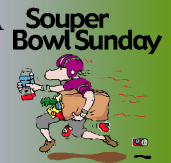
LILIES ON SALE

Easter Lilies will be on sale for \$11.50 each on Sundays, February 19th & 26th, before and after worship. For more information see Nancy Meyer.



We will again participate in Souper Bowl of Caring on Superbowl Sunday, February 5th.

Please bring cans of soup to be donated to Community Services League. A barrel will be placed near the sanctuary doors for your donations.



MEN’S FELLOWSHIP NEWS



For now, John Curtis will continue to make soup for Men’s Fellowship. If anyone wants to volunteer to make soup on a certain month please let the church office know.

LADIES DAY OUT

February 21st, 11:30 AM

54th Street Station
(West of Independence Commons)

RSVP Mary Ann Mock
816-461-7291





BOYD'S SUPER SIXTY BIRTHDAY POLKA PARTY

Party with Supersixtyman at:
Claycomo Community Center

28 South Drake St., Claycomo, MO 64119

(Behind City Hall on 69 Hwy also called Vivion Rd)

February 4, 2012, Party is 6-10 PM

German Theme, food & beverages provided.

No gifts, please. Just come and have fun!

Need more information? 816-453-8406



90th
BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION
for

Helen Koch

February 11 from 2-5

Open House in

Helen's honor at

The Fountains

2100 S Swope, Independence, MO

No gifts please



The Kansas City
Metro Men's Chorus

will be performing at
St. Luke's UCC on

Sunday evening, March 11th, 6:00 PM

Our own Jerry Brunner now sings with
this amazing group.

There will be a freewill offering taken
that will go to Re-Member, the
organization that the youth will work
with on their mission trip.

The youth group will also host a freewill
offering dinner before the concert. The
dinner will be served from 4:45—5:30.

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are in the early planning stages
for the Youth Auction that will
take place the last of April and
have started collecting items to
auction. Some items that have been donated in
the past have included: Royals, Tickets,
Theatre Tickets, restaurant gift cards, rounds
of golf to area courses, gift certificates for
services (you might consider lawn care, house
cleaning, salon treatments, etc.) gift
certificates to restaurants, artwork, and gift
baskets. Please let Nanette or one of the youth
leaders know if you have something to donate.



I want to thank all the Salvation
Army Bell Ringers this year. You
did an awesome job. It couldn't
be done without all your help and
dedication. Thanks Again, Larry Paul



ACTIVITY BAGS

Chrissy Arnold has lovingly put together
new activity bags for the kids to use
during worship. There are 2 colors of
bags—orange is for the younger kids and
they have coloring books, crayons, etc. in
them The yellow bag is for the older kids
and they have sketch pads, colored
pencils, etc. in them.



Feel free to use the bags
during worship and
return the bag and its
contents to their storage
area in the hallway.



**THE JOB IS COMPLETE!
PEW PADS AND CARPET HAVE BEEN INSTALLED
AND THEY LOOK AND FEEL WONDERFUL**



The new pew pads were installed December 1st, 2nd & 3rd and the carpet was installed the week of January 16th. Go to our website to see a pictorial of the pew pad installation and a pictorial of the carpet being installed will be up soon.

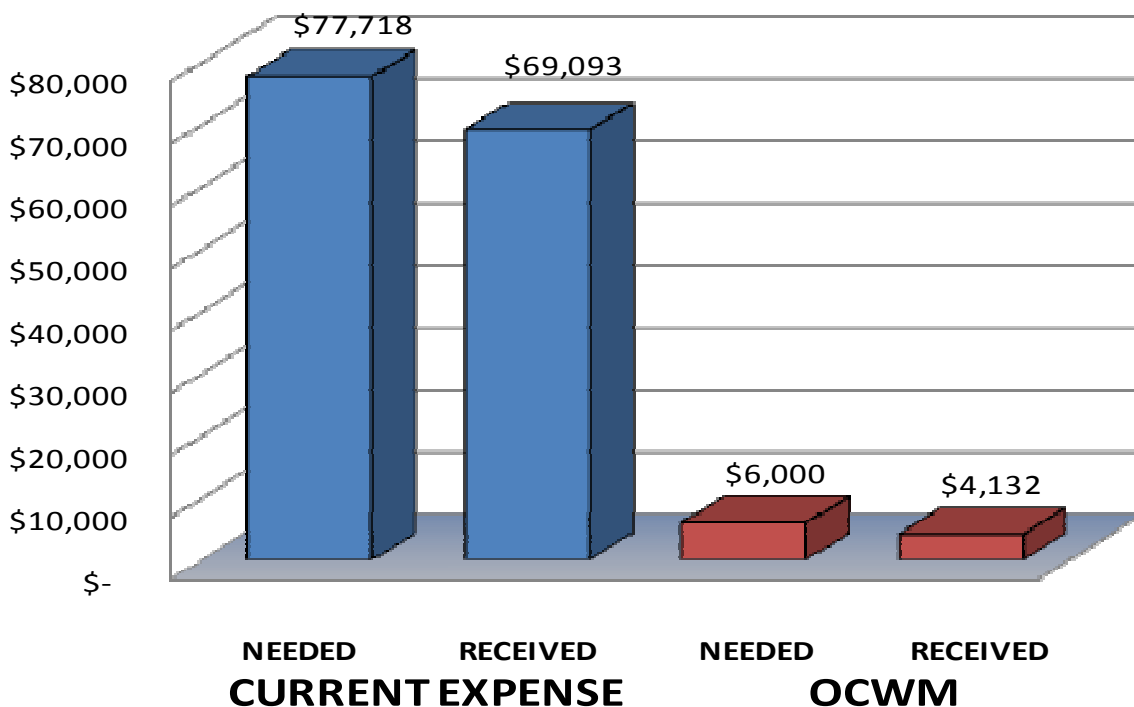
Thank you to all on the committee that worked hard to get this done
“just right”.

If you would like to make a contribution to this project please include it with your offering and mark you envelope “Carpet/Pew Pads”.

Since 2003, the Living Memorial Fund for Church Missions has contributed a portion of its earnings to the Independence Boulevard Christian Church Micah Ministry program. The Micah Ministry is the urban, ecumenical outreach mission to the poor and needy in the historic Northeast area of Kansas City, Missouri. The Micah Ministry is a C.U.I.C. mission (“Churches Uniting in Christ”) designed to encourage Christian unity, end racism and “feed my sheep.” (John 21:15-17) It is centered around a table ministry of home-cooked suppers in which faith-based and civic volunteers partner and seek to embody the call to evangelism by heeding the words of the prophet Micah. St. Luke’s has sent volunteers to help serve as well as donating a total of \$4,200 to this worthwhile ministry.



**BUDGET NEEDS and INCOME
SUMMARY
July 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011**



YEAR IN REVIEW

2
Carryout Dinner
AWOL at Garrozo's
Canadian Polka Sunday

Hosted Mission 1 Planning Meeting for KC Area of Western Association

Ladies Day Out Met Monthly

Question & Answer Board Set-up

David Announced Retirement

Offering Envelopes Issued 14 Local Congregational Scholarships Issued Totaling \$7800

'I Do, I Do' Dinner Theater
Sold Mulhaupt Property
Year in Review Banners

Congregational Meeting for Purchase of Carpet & Pew Pads

Holiday Helpers Collected \$1211

Published & Distributed 12 Outlooks

Loaned Games for CASA Carnival

Graduate Recognition Sunday

Donated \$500 to Steppingstone

Recycled Paper

Carpet/Pew Pad Committee Formed & Visited Churches

10
Hanging of the Greens
9 Funerals
Royal's Game
Webinar on Social Media & Sexual Abuse

Budget Graph & Memorial Report Prepared Monthly

Annual Report Prepared

Utahers & Greeters Every Sunday
Samoan Church Used Fellowship Hall
Easter Egg Hunt

Busy Finger Made & Donated 203 Animals to Children's Mercy

Teacher Appreciation Sunday

1
Donated \$500 to Faith Witnessment
Mission Trip Parent Meeting

Mission Trip Parent Meeting

Meeting with Mulhaupt Executor
Steppingstone Auxiliary Dues Collected

Donated \$500 to Blue Springs Terrace

Collected Over \$1,000 to Help with Worldwide Disasters

Audit Committee Met
Maunulyn Service

Received Memorials Honoring 8 Members

1
26" TV/DVD Purchased with Memorial Money
Volunteers worked at Harvesters

Flowers Planted Outside

Santa Visited
Council Interviewed Possible Interim

Sunday School Collected for Heifer Project

Confirmation Trip to Emmaus & Eden
Offering Counted 2 Baptisms Weekly

Asphalt Repair Work on Parking Lot

Confirmation Banner Planned

YA Dinner at Parrino's

New Theatre

1
Totenfest
Potluck Dinner
White Elephant Bingo
Digital Sermons on Website

CE Meetings Held

Memorial Committee Met

Pageant Rehearsal & Lunch
Website Updated Weekly

Received Mulhaupt Bequest & Property

Donated \$500 to IBCC Micah Ministry

Council Met With Rev. Dale Parson

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Choir at Hosanna Lutheran

Annual Meeting

Sunday School Kick-off Sunday & Potluck

Samoan Congregation Used Chapel for Worship

Windchimes & Finger Cymbals Purchased

Special Congregational Meeting on Mulhaupt Property

AWOL to Manny's
New Parking Lot Light

Annual Budget Meeting
3 Weddings

Donated \$400 to I-Can

