

St. Luke's United Church of Christ

Rev. Michael Chamberlain, Interim Pastor

329 Walnut St.

Jeffersonville, IN 47130

(812) 282-3383

stlukesucc@hotmail.com



2017 Annual Report

Presented February 4, 2018

Church Council Report

My two-year term was a full task. In January 2016, Rev. Jennifer advised that she had accepted a new call in London England. For such an opportunity you must rejoice in her success as you lament the loss of such a bright star. Naturally there was fall out over her departure and several members left the church. Not as many as I feared, but enough to make my task difficult. The Lord did provide Rev. Mike Chamberlain and his lovely wife, Dot, to pick up the pieces and smooth the way for the next pastor. Mary Beth Woehrle donated the use of her late parents' home for a parsonage. This was a true gift to all of us. Never has a transitional pastor had such a wonderful lodging.

In addition to the loss of Jennifer and her family, we had a series of deaths of leaders that made a hole in the center of the production of the worldly mission. Rev. Mike has soothed the waters and has assisted in the funerals of too many St. Luke's faithful. We have continued. We have maintained our leadership role in the community and we have explored new missions such as health-care ministry which will come to pass this year. New people have arisen to pick up the roles of the departed and new roles with new people have been added. Many times I have been discouraged. My own health has been an issue for me to deal with. Last Friday I had the second spinal fusion in my neck in a year. As I compose this report I am homebound.

This is also the time for St. Luke's to alter its financial plan and to operate more like a business. We cannot rely on Sunday collection plate to operate the missions of the church. At a time in history when the need for the church to carry on new missions since there is more need we need "New Ways for New Days" or an alternative to raising money. It is time for all of us to stop being discouraged and to recognize that while the mission of Christ is still here, the world has changed and things we saw our grandparents do are not enough to do the mission. Mixing secular and church is probably good. They never should have been disconnected.

I remain yours in the spirit of Christ,

Jack Vissing

Pastor's Report

The first priority for 2017 was to meet with Stephanie Weiner of the Kentuckiana Association on January 26, 2017 to get us going on the right track for our Study of our Church's Ministry. We moved through a portion of the Study and then the congregation elected the Pastor Search Committee, who finished the Study with a survey and other events that gained comment for the Search Committee's understanding of the kind of ministry going forward.

During the year, we lost seven of our members to death. I was asked to conduct four funerals for friends of the congregation, as well. For the most part, these folks were in health care centers and fortunately, we have not added folks back to care in these facilities. Though, we have had several hospitalizations, we have been fairly fortunate the health of most of our people have been somewhat stable. I have continued to keep a regular visitation going for those who have been in the hospital and for those who are living in care facilities.

During the past year, I have brought resources for ministry to the Council. This past summer, we brought in a resource to help in the interpretation of Stewardship, however, we were not able to implement it in time. It was a resource that teaches that Stewardship is more than money. It is about how we manage life and the creation to which God has left us. Another resource that we studied was one where folks gather in homes in small groups to do bible study and develop fellowship that strengthens the overall mission of the Church. The side benefit of the program is to introduce new people to our church.

The one project that gained the most continuing interest is the Faith Community Health Ministry sponsored by Norton Hospital in Louisville. The core part of the program is centered around a ministry of nurses in the church that are trained in offering spiritual care, as well as physical care. This program is designed so that ministry can be offered within the church and into the larger community. After Sausage Supper, the Council will take another look at this one.

I have never served a church where so many people gather to do such a large project for so many years as you have through the generations! If you can do as you have with a project such as this, there is nothing you cannot do. What you have done with the Sausage Supper is a dry run for what you can do in ministry in other areas and in years to come, you will.

You are a compassionate and caring people and we have been recipients of both. You love your children and wish the best for them. If there is one thing I leave you with, it is this: Keep encouraging the children in this community and give them opportunities in leadership as you have.

In the Peace of Christ,

Rev. Mike Chamberlain

Music Director's Report

In 2017, St. Luke's Music Program provided comfort, inspired hearts, led worship, secured continuity, created sanctuary for worship and allowed a space for fellowship and community - all through music and ministry. I submit the following annual report to commemorate the work, worship and wealth of fellowship moments in the music program at St. Luke's during 2017 and to serve as an invitation to participate in the music program in 2018.

Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord. Ephesians 5:19

Worship Music

St. Luke's musicians provided a variety of music to lead our congregation in worship and praise. Our music ranges from classical to contemporary and all genres in between. Our choir serves as both leaders of our congregational music and as providers of service music which allows listeners the opportunity to praise God and contemplate the meaning of the scriptures referenced within. Our musicians bring talent and skill to St. Luke's, sharing their vocal and instrumental gifts throughout the year and especially during Lent, Easter, Advent and Christmas. We closed 2017 with the choir leading our music on Christmas Eve morning and at night with many special offerings of worship and praise in song. We believe and hope that these offerings serve as our offering to God of worship and our offering to those who listen for an opportunity to worship in a sacred space in the presence of musical worship.

Family Music Night

Family Music Night continued at St. Luke's in 2017. In 2017 the children met regularly, sharing songs, making crafts and enjoying play at St. Luke's. Our children love to play at St. Luke's and it is meaningful to see them feel so at home in a house of worship. Likewise, it is heart-warming to see the joy that their presence brings to those around them. Our children rely on Family Music Night as a safe place to come spend an hour with their friends, learn about the love of God while participating in healthy and wholesome activities. We make crafts, sing songs, play chimes, read the Bible, play, laugh, worship and learn about worship traditions (e.g. How to use a hymnal, How to say the Lord's prayer during church, How to sing the Doxology, Why we have a baptismal font, What we mean when we share the peace of Christ and Why it is important to be a part of a Christian community of faith). Every week we have a scripture and theme to tie all the parts of Family Music Night together. Our Family Music Night program for children is a way for us to pass on the traditions of Christian faith to our children and to teach them the ways in which God wants us to walk.

Children's Christmas Pageant

The children of Family Music Night and many children of St. Luke's participated in the Christmas Pageant at St. Luke's in 2017. The children presented a program which told the story of Jesus' birth and shared Christmas Carols. The children sang all their carols *a capella* and invited the congregation to join them in singing as well. It was a special moment at St. Luke's when we all sang Silent Night together quietly and meaningfully Christmas Eve morning alongside the children. It was a moment for worship, humility and thankfulness for Jesus's birth.

Handbell Choir

Under the direction of Bev Hennegan, our Handbell Choir contributed to the music of St. Luke's in 2017. The Handbell Choir continued the tradition of bell music on Easter and Christmas as well as other times throughout the year. Their music is always a blessing and a special addition to our worship services. We are grateful for their leadership and contribution to our worship services. As with our other ministries, all are welcome to participate.

Music Director's Report, continued

Volunteer Musicians

St. Luke's is wealthy in the musical expertise found throughout our congregation. We have musicians of all genres, instrumentation and ages. Even our children share their instrumental musical talents with the congregation. We have developed a tradition of our children and youth sharing their school contest pieces with us the Sunday prior to competition. This allows our children the opportunity not only to practice for the difficult task ahead, but to also know and feel the reward that comes when you share your musical talents during worship. The support that the children receive from the congregation is evident in the smiles and applause. Their participation in the worship service is simply inspirational. We have several choir members who also share their talents throughout the year accompanying our congregational hymns with French horn, flute and trumpet. Our volunteer pianist, Janet Turner, continued to provide our worship services and our choir with many musical accompaniments and solos in 2017. Her generosity of spirit and talent are unparalleled and we would not have the choir program that we have without her.

In conclusion, it is an honor to serve as your music director as I have since February 2013. It brings me great professional and personal joy to share in the music program at St. Luke's alongside the many talented musicians in our congregation. During a year of transition and preparation, I hope that the music at St. Luke's brought you joy, peace, sanctuary and space to worship God. May God bless you as you enter 2018 and may He continue to bless St. Luke's congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Neva

Neva-Marie Polley
Music Director

Spiritual Life Report

2017 had Faith Steele become co-chair of the Spiritual Life committee. Faith is a regular member of the choir and frequent liturgist. It was good to have her point of view and opinions, being a longtime member of the church. Faith and I worked Good Friday services with pastor Mike, another learning experience for myself. We tried to be of assistance to Pastor Mike and learn from his years of experience. 2017 also saw St. Luke's new member Steffanie O'Neal become a regular member of our team on Sunday mornings. She was not only a good addition to our team, but St. Luke's in general. She is involved in many other aspects of the church as well. Steffanie has now become the Spiritual Life Committee chairperson for 2018. 2018 will be another year of change at St. Luke's with the Pastor Search Committee hard at work, security issues being addressed, congregation growth and any other issues that come along. We need to support our Council and church leaders as they lead us into this yet-to-be-determined future. Thanks to Justin, Steve, Steffanie, Eden, Faith, Linda, Ann, and all others who have helped these last two years.

Yours in Service,

Bob Tarter

Faith & Fellowship Report

2017

Last year we had the Mother-Daughter Dinner, but could not get an acceptable date at Perrin Park for the Picnic. We also did a Coffeehouse which went very well, and I believe that was Kelley Curran's idea.

2018

February 4: Congregational Meeting (light meal); will ask people to pitch in side and dessert items.

This year I would like to do something for both Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Proposed Event Dates

March 13: Spring Coffeehouse. Same format as usual, plus people with church history, foodways, family history, and German/other cultural stories are invited to share what they know. This is designed to share church history and culture so that it can be passed on, and so that sharing of knowledge can happen across family and generational lines.

April 22: Soup, Salad and Sandwich Pitch-in and Rock Painting

May 6: Mothers' Day Luncheon (Sunday prior to Mothers' Day)

June 10: Fathers' Day Brunch (Sunday prior to Fathers' Day)

July 15: Ice Cream Social

September 9, if Perrin Park is available (will call soon): Church Picnic

October 12: Fall Coffeehouse

Other casual events may be added.

Kathie Miller

Property & Finance Report

St. Luke's United Church of Christ - Jeffersonville IN
Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2017

Friday, January 12, 2018

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
Assets		
100.005	Cash - FSB General Fund	18,284.25
100.006	St. Lukes UCC Money Market Account	102,173.08
100.014	Cash - Petty Cash	200.00
	Total Cash	\$120,657.33
150.030	PNC Stock - 272 shares	39,246.88
150.031	NiSource Stock	3,398.00
150.040	United Church Fd - Scholarship	101,628.14
150.043	Brinker Capital - Scholarship Fund	110,086.21
	Total Investments	\$254,359.23
199.000	Buildings & Equipment	1,835,326.00
	Total Fixed Assets	\$1,835,326.00
	Total Assets	\$2,210,342.56
Liabilities		
200.000	<i>Payroll Taxes Payable</i>	
200.305	Internal Revenue Service	346.10
200.310	Indiana Department of Revenue	129.59
	<i>Total Payroll Taxes Payable</i>	<i>\$475.69</i>
200.400	FSA - Health & Childcare Dep.	981.29
200.403	Staff X-mas Payable	419.00
	Total Liabilities	\$1,875.98
Fund Balances		
300.000	General Fund Balance	58,229.29
310.000	Benevolence Fund Balance	(393.00)
320.000	Building & Capital Projects FB	15,231.76
330.000	Youth Fund Balance	5,326.94
333.000	Tara's Garden Fund Balance	226.05
335.000	Choir Fund Balance	3,394.24
340.000	Memorial & Endowment Fund Bal	72,248.51
345.000	New MInistries Fund Balance	1,200.00
350.000	Loave & Fishes Fund Balance	1,533.10
355.000	Scholarship Fund Balance	211,583.77
360.000	Women's Fellowship Fund Balanc	693.33
375.000	Member Benevolence Fund Bal	2,048.47
380.000	Missions/Evangelism Fd Balance	1,818.12
399.000	Equity - Bldgs & Equipment	1,835,326.00
	Total Fund Balances	\$2,208,466.58
	Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$2,210,342.56

Property & Finance Report, continued

St. Lukes UCC

Financial Summary for the year of 2017

	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>YTD Budget</i>	<i>Favorable (Unfavorable) Difference</i>
GENERAL FUND			
General Contributions	117,627	128,612	(10,985)
Fundraiser Income	30,517	25,175	5,342
Other Council Income	2,717	4,800	(2,083)
Faith & Fellowship Income	572	1,100	(528)
Personnel Income	419	700	(281)
Spiritual Life Income	1,412	1,560	(148)
Finance & Property Income	2,046	1,505	541
Total General Fund Income	155,310	163,452	(8,142)
Personnel Expenses	92,332	111,082	18,750
Other Council Expenses	3,129	5,150	2,021
Fundraising Expenses	2,782	2,015	(767)
Stewardship Expenses	189	535	346
Faith & Fellowship Expenses	376	1,325	949
Spiritual Life Expenses	3,426	4,574	1,148
Office Expenses	6,355	6,459	104
Building Expenses	28,407	32,049	3,642
Evangelism & Mission Expenses	390	263	(127)
Total General Fund Expenses	137,386	163,452	26,066
Net Increase/Decrease General Fund	17,924	0	17,924
BENEVOLENCE FUND			
Benevolence Fund Income	8,027	8,917	(890)
Total Benevolence Fund Expenses	8,420	8,918	498
Net Increase/Decrease Benevolence Fund	(393)	(1)	(392)
BUILDING & CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND			
Total Bldg & Cap. Proj. Fund Income	26,394	7,925	18,469
Total Bldg & Cap. Proj. Fund Expenses	72,806	6,200	(66,606)
Net Increase/Decrease Building & C.P. Fund	(46,412)	1,725	(48,137)
MEMORIAL & ENDOWMENT FUND			
Total Memorial Income	25,461	0	25,461
Total Memorial Expenses	0	0	0
Net Increase/Decrease Memorial & End. Fund	25,461	0	25,461
TOTAL NET INCREASE/DECREASE	(3,420)	1,724	(5,144)

TRANSFERS TO/FROM OTHER FUNDS			
Transfers TO General Fund	0	0	0
Transfers TO Benevolence Fund	0	0	0
Transfers TO Building & Capital Projects Fund	0	0	0
Transfers TO Memorial & Endowment Fund	0	0	0
Transfers FROM Memorial & Endowment Fund	0	0	0
(this is an expense to the memorial fund not included in expenses above)			

Property & Finance Report, continued

At the beginning of the year we sat down and discussed the “what” we need for the church. Not necessarily what kind of money we need, but what we need to continue to be able to provide a venue for a multitude of activities and missions. Several years ago, we spent a substantial amount of money to bring our House back from a very bad condition from the flood and also from age. The one thing that really needed to be done was to put a new roof on the entire church; not patch it but complete reroof. We had not put a roof on the church (the shingle part) since approximately 1977. Yes 40 years ago, so I think we got our money’s worth out of that roof. But we also had issues with parts of the flat roof, with leaks and holding water, poor drainage, etc. So, we decided to get it all done and have it all under one warranty. This was a substantial amount of money we had to spend and currently we have raised about a quarter of that money to pay for it. Fortunately we had the money in our building fund but we also need more things to be done now before we welcome our new Pastor.

Over the course of the year we also worked closely with the Pastoral Search Committee and Personnel to ensure we could budget for the new pastor. We have a budget based on what we can afford, with a new pastor coming, and hopefully in the coming months we will be calling a new pastor.

The one thing that I can say over the past year is that at the end of year we did not have to cover our budget with any of our savings. This is a great feeling and you all as the congregation should be proud of yourselves, staying within budget is a great thing. If we can keep up our giving and continue to grow our rolls we will be once again the “Best Church in Jeffersonville”.

A few projects we are looking at for the upcoming year are, updating the security system, ensuring a safe and secure place to worship and hold other events and fixing all the walls that have water damage from the leaks in the old roof.

Let’s make this the best year ever for St. Luke’s; invite a friend to come, donate your time, welcome a new pastor, and help us grow.

Barney Harting

Missions & Growth Report

In 2017, Missions and Growth participated in the planning and promotion of a summer Koinonia Coffee House which was well attended. We also participated in the planning of a summer yoga presentation that wasn't as well attended, but provided opportunity for publicity.

We continued building our White Flag Team. St. Luke's Team is on standby each third Tuesday during winter months to serve as an overnight shelter at the Salvation Army in New Albany when temperatures are forecast to be 35 degrees or colder for four hours overnight. Erin Kelley is the team leader. Erin, Marilee Kreml and Kelley Curran have attended training provided by the Homeless Coalition of Southern Indiana. Erin and Kelley have also served on the Coalition's White Flag Committee. More volunteers are still needed.

We renewed and recommitted to our relationship with the Center for Lay Ministry by seeking and receiving a church council appointment to fill what had been an empty seat on CLM's board of directors.

Greater use of St. Luke's Facebook page was made in 2017. All analytics including the number of page likes, shares, post reach and people engaging with the page have trended up all year, and boosted (paid) posts were used to promote events such as Coffeehouse and Oktoberfest.

March's Tara's Garden event was well attended and garnered earned media for St. Luke's in the form of a News and Tribune article ahead of the event and a visit from a TV news crew during.

There were some unmet goals in 2017 that will be focused on in 2018. These include the initiation of a couponing ministry, for coffeehouses to occur more frequently (perhaps quarterly) encouraging regular Wednesday nights at church and to better highlight the fiber arts and other crafting mission activities taking place at the church.

Kelley Curran

Children & Youth Report

The Jr./Sr High have been involved by participating in the daily lives of our church ministries. The youth participated in several Youth Sundays by leading the church in worship. Throughout the year our youth participate in the church service by assisting as liturgist, playing a musical instrument, and helping the younger children with the job of the acolytes during the service.

Many of youth, grades 3-12, attended church camp over the summer at Merom along with several adults as counselors. We also had several adults attend Seniors Unlimited at Merom last Fall.

The youth also help with Thunder Parking, Oktoberfest, Loaves & Fishes, Annual Sausage Supper, and we can't forget about our Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Bev Hennegan

Women's Fellowship Report

St. Luke's Women's Fellowship meets monthly at 11:00 AM in the Blankenbeker Room.

The Women's Fellowship continues to offer their support to our church and community. Greeting cards are mailed to St. Luke's members each month who are homebound or in care facilities.

This past year, financial support was provided for special needs of St. Luke's, Merom Conference Center and CLM.

Members have donated many hours helping to prepare for and participate during our church Sausage Supper, Oktoberfest, Church Yard Sale, Sunday Fellowship Hour, and Bereavement Meals, just to mention a few.

A Thank You to all members for their encouragement, dedication, and support of our mission to serve our church and community.

Becky Clements

President

Elders Report

The elders met several times in 2017. We did good serving communion and trying to reach out to church members more often to encourage participation in worship and the life of St. Luke's. Special recognition goes to Kate Chaney and Bev Hennegan for their role in monthly communion and communion to shut-ins. If you for someone you know would like communion at home or in nursing care, please let us know. And special thanks to Carol Higdon for heading up the prayer chain. Special prayer requests can be made to Carol, any elder, the pastor or the church office.

Thanks to every elder for your time and energy this year. Three new elders have been ordained. They are Peggy Hardaway, Denise Hicks, and Eden Kuhlenschmidt. I think they have proven to be longstanding leaders at St. Luke's. I look forward to their spiritual leadership.

The elders have worked more this year to try and reach out to all members of St. Luke's. Per the constitution of St. Luke's Church, the elders are to look at a list of members that have **neither** attended worship or given financial to support our church. The elders are to try and reach those members and see if they want to be an active member. If they cannot reach said member or the member wants to be on the inactive roll or remove from the rolls, the elders then recommend a membership status to the council.

And to remind all what our constitution says about membership: "Members and associate members shall pledge themselves to attend the regular worship of church and the celebration of the Lord's Supper; to live the Christian Life; to share in the life and work of the church; to contribute to its support and benevolence; and to seek diligently in the spiritual welfare of the membership and the community. "

Let us all through the love of Christ and with the help of God, strive to live up to our vow of membership. Come. Worship and praise. Celebrate the Lord's Supper. Find a ministry team to help or start a new Christian ministry. Give of yourself and share the blessing that God has already provided to you. Thanks be to God!

Love, Joy, Peace and Mercy,

Mike Campbell

St. Luke's Staff & Leaders 2017

All Members—Ministers

Rev. Michael Chamberlain—Interim Pastor

Becky Herald—Church Administrator

Neva-Marie Polley Scott—Music Director

Cindy Scroggins—Accountant

Carole Watson & Martha Frame—Custodians

Jack Vissing—Council President

Kelly Khuri—Vice President

Kathy Fox—Secretary

Peggy Hardaway—Treasurer

Mike Campbell—Financial Secretary

Marilee Kreml—Personnel

Bob Tarter—Spiritual Life

Kathie Miller—Faith & Fellowship

Brian Mabry—Children & Youth

Barney Harting—Finance & Property

Kelley Curran—Mission & Growth