



## ***Is GOD still speaking? Am I listening?***



I was recently in a conversation with someone who said that when I talk about hearing God they assumed I heard God's voice speak to me audibly....like I have some unique gift of hearing God. This comment made me want to share my thoughts about God speaking. I do believe that God is still speaking into the

world and I don't know that I have any special ability to "hear" God. But, I do seek to listen. I spend time with God every day, but my experience with God varies and the way that I "hear" God varies as well. I have found the 17-20 minutes that I spend in Centering Prayer once or twice a day to be incredibly meaningful. But, that experience with God is less about hearing anything at all and more about trying to tune my spirit into God's Spirit....aligning my heart with God's heart. I will say that the more committed I am to that regular centering prayer, the better able I seem to be to notice God in a million other places and ways. Sometimes I think God is speaking, but we don't have our listening hearts open.

I believe God comes to those who seek God. Unfortunately, God doesn't always show up with guidance and wisdom on MY timetable. But, God does show up. I simply have to wait and remain open.

A lot of hearing God has to do with being attentive. I find that when I am seeking God, listening for God, God often comes to me in a multitude of ways. And when there is something I really need to "get," God often sends that message multiple times. (I guess God does that because I'm slow....or I'm slow to trust.). For example, I may hear a scripture verse read, then read the same scripture shows up in a devotion the next day and then I find the same scripture on a bookmark in a book that I "randomly" open. If I'm paying attention I notice that the same scripture is showing up. When that happens, I "hear" God saying to slow down and ponder the verse.

Sometimes God's wisdom shows up in the verse of a song or in a random conversation. When I notice consistent reinforcement of a message, I sit up and take notice. Sometimes God "speaks" through other people. I believe it is important to be in relationships with others who are seeking God because they can

help me listen and sometimes help me clarify what I think God is saying.

Sometimes God speaks through the witness of another person. For example, in a recent conversation with a church member, she shared that she was hungry to dig deeper into scripture, but felt she lacked a good foundation. It was all overwhelming to her. As we talked about scripture, her fresh hunger for the word of God renewed in me a fresh desire to recognize and not take for granted the great gift of God's word in scripture. I told her that God was speaking to me through her that day.

Always it is important to test what I believe God is saying against the tried and true teachings of Jesus. Is it loving? Is it kind? Does it honor and respect myself and others? Does it draw me or others to faithfulness and to be our best selves? Is it just? These are questions that our faith calls us to ask when we are seeking to hear God accurately.

*My child, if you accept my words and treasure up my commandments within you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; if you indeed cry out for insight, and raise your voice for understanding; if you seek it like silver, and search for it as for hidden treasures –then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2:2*

God is still speaking. Are we listening?



***Blessings, Pastor Betsy***

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# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

## ***It is very exciting in the children's area!***

Vacation Bible School will be held Monday July 8 – Friday, July 12, 9:00-11:30 at Broadmoor Methodist. We will be paying for any St Luke's kids to go so please let me know so we can get the early registration forms. We are also going to need some volunteers to help with the different crews. They are pairing 2 adults with one teen per crew this year. If you are interested let me know. It's lots of fun and you just show up and take the children to the different activities.

*Thank you for your support! Christy Terrill, Director of Children's Ministries | 318-470-0779 | cwt125@bellsouth.net*

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The University Terrace Neighborhood Association will be sponsoring a meeting on safety and security in the St. Luke's gym on Tuesday, May 7 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm. Joe Mann, owner and operator of the Homeland Security Group, LLC a Private Investigation and Consulting firm in Shreveport will present. Mr. Mann is a retired Senior Special Agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, after serving thirty-five plus years in Federal law enforcement.

The program will cover the following:

Security & crime prevention/ Observation skills /Suspicious activity defined/ When to call 911 or the non-emergency number/ What and When to post on social media about suspicious activity: person, vehicle etc./ Home security/ Natural disasters in the neighborhood

Anyone is welcome to attend.



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# MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

## **PALM SUNDAY**

*Thank you to the members of the Chancel Choir who worked diligently to prepare special music for both services on Palm Sunday! Anthems, scripture, and narration were interwoven to help us all remember and experience the events of Holy Week .*

## **ST. LUKE'S SCHOLARSHIP MUSICIAN PROGRAM**

*Donation Request: Your Help is Needed!*

Because of a generous anonymous donation, St. Luke's has been blessed to have Scholarship Musicians for the past 34 months. Words cannot express how blessed we are to have Collin Hughes, Aaliyah Thomas, Calvin Davis, and Payton Fowler as part of our Music Ministries. They add expertise from their music education as part of the Centenary College Choir; they add quality to each performance; they add energy to what the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir offer the congregation. Having Scholarship Musicians in churches with nearby colleges is a way to enrich both music ministry programs and the lives of young adults who appreciate a church family as they begin adulting and finding their own way in the world.

I am writing to request your financial support so that St. Luke's can continue to have our Scholarship Musician Program. The significant original donation will have been spent by the end of May 2019. If you would be willing to help support this invaluable program, please respond on or before May 12<sup>th</sup> by submitting your donation marked Scholarship Musician Program during the offering, or by bringing it to the church office or mailing it.

**I am deeply grateful for those of you who have already responded to meet this need! We are still striving to meet the goal of funding this program for another year. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at [music@stlukesumc.community](mailto:music@stlukesumc.community) or [bethduet@gmail.com](mailto:bethduet@gmail.com).**

Gratefully,

Beth Duet, Director of Music Ministry/ [music@stlukesumc.community](mailto:music@stlukesumc.community)



*\* Pictured is the Chancel Choir presenting "Blessed One" on Palm Sunday*

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

May the 3rd will be Aaron Leach's (Aaron on the left) last day of high school. He will be graduating May 18th from Byrd High School. Join our church family on May 5th as we celebrate all our graduates.

Peace of Christ,  
Momma T



## AMOR/ Low Key NEWS

Once again, the word from AMOR/Low Key is "Thank you!" We have grown. We now have 8 different 12 Step recovery meetings happening on campus every week. New people are touched by the hospitable welcome of St Luke's every week. The same can be said about the Low Key recovery service. The reach of Low Key is growing even more dramatically. Nursery and child care every week are making Low Key so much easier for single parents, especially young mothers with very young children. St Luke's has some great baby-rockers and it is a blessing to everyone involved. The spirit of the Low Key family is invigorated every week, because we see new people discovering the deep spirit and gentle love of this fellowship.

I want to recognize, but not over-emphasize the attendance. On the third Friday of April, Low Key had a total of 94 people!! And the volunteers have kept up with it every step of the way. Kudos to all y'all who greet people, bring food, make sandwiches, make coffee, rock babies, move furniture, answer questions, and share hugs and smiles. If you want to be involved, just show up. I guarantee you will find your place. It may be meeting new friends.

I also want to extend a special invitation to Low Key on May 10th. That Friday will mark one full year of Low Key every week. I can't tell you what all we will do to celebrate, but it is worth making a scratch on the door post to see how we have grown and to thank God for a year of miracles.

Grace, peace, and good mojo -- Bing

### Healthy Lifestyles



May 5: Church Wide Potluck at 5pm prior to the Southern Plainsmen concert. Since it's May 5th our theme will be Cinco De Mayo for decorations; feel free to bring Mexican dishes if you like.  
Debbie Laffitte



#### Upper Third May meeting: May 9, 2019.

Program: Meredith Pate - Christus Health - Cardiac Dietitian.

Thank you - Donnie



## STAFF

**Reverend Betsy Eaves**  
Pastor

**Debra Roberson**  
Office Administrator

**Beth Duet**  
Director of Music

**David "Bing" Bingham**  
Lay Pastor, AMOR

**Ashley O'Quinn**  
Treasurer

**SueEllen Coleman**  
Music Accompanist

**Momma T (Tania Lang)**  
Spiritual Director of Youth

**Christy Terrill**  
Children's Ministry Director

**Brittany Richardson**  
Nursery Coordinator

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## WORSHIP

SUNDAYS, 8:30 & 10:45 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
9:30 AM

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## CONTACT ST. LUKE

6012 Youree Drive  
SHREVEPORT, LA 71105

PHONE: 318.868.3613  
FAX: 318.868.3614

admin@stlukes.community  
www.stlukesumc.community  
facebook.com/stlukesshreveport

### St. Luke Book Club

The St. Luke's Book Club's May selection is one previously suggested for the United Methodist Women: *Sally Ride: America's First Woman in Space* by Lynn Sherr. This definitive biography reveals an extraordinarily talented and bold woman who made history. Join us on May 19th at 3:00 for what will surely be a spirited discussion.

Gerrie





# MAY 2019

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## SUNDAYS

**MAY 5, 12, 19, 26**

WORSHIP, 8:30 & 10:45 AM  
SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:30 AM  
YOUTH GROUP, NOON - 2 PM  
AA, 7 PM

**MAY 5**  
**MAY 12**

SOUTHERN PLAINSMEN 6 PM  
HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, 2 PM  
CIRCLE SERVICE, 5:15 PM  
BOOK CLUB, 3 - 5 PM

**MAY 19**

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## MONDAYS

**MAY 6, 13, 20, 27**

GRIEF SUPPORT, 5:30 PM  
AA, 8 PM

**MAY 6**

MISSIONS, 5:30 PM

**MAY 20**

TRUSTEES, 7 PM

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## TUESDAYS

**MAY 7, 14, 21, 28**

STAFF MEETING, 10:30 AM  
CENTERING PRAYER, 4 PM  
YOUNG ADULTS, 5:45 PM  
(14TH IS TACO TUESDAY)

**MAY 7**

WORSHIP COMMITTEE, 2 PM  
UNIV TERR NA MTG, 6 PM  
FINANCE, 6 PM  
CHURCH COUNCIL, 7 PM  
COMMUNICATIONS, 7 PM

**MAY 21**

**MAY 28**

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## WEDNESDAYS

**MAY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

KOINONIA, 7 AM  
HANDBELLS, 5:30 PM  
CHANCEL CHOIR, 6:30 PM  
AA, 7 PM

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## THURSDAYS

**MAY 2, 9, 16, 23, 30**

YOUNG ADULTS, 6:50 AM (ends 5/16)  
LECTIO DIVINA, 8 AM  
CRAFTERS, 10 AM  
AA, 6:30 & 7:30PM

**MAY 9**  
**MAY 16**  
**MAY 23**

UPPER THIRD, 11:30 AM  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY, NOON  
CRAFTERS 4 MISSION, 5:30 PM  
UMM, 6:30 PM

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## FRIDAYS

**MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

LOW KEY SERVICE, 6 PM  
AA, 8 PM

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## SATURDAYS

**MAY 4, 11, 18, 25**

AA, 10 AM  
ALANON, 10 AM

**MAY 18**

SRSG, 10:00 AM—2PM