

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

February 2023

Volume 64

Issue 2

In the neighborhood for good!



Right Before our Eyes

Look around, look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now. Those of you who have heard the soundtrack or seen the Broadway play *Hamilton* will recognize these lyrics. How this sounds to you right now depends on your situation. If all is going well in your world, you might be singing along. But if you are in rough waters, you might be rolling your eyes (if you're even still reading). There is such amazing beauty in this world, but also, such deep sadness. Babies are born and babies are lost. Dreams come true and are sometimes dashed. Doors open and are slammed shut. Victories are hard won and then suddenly lost.

Scripture shares these emotions with us, deep joy, the fleeting nature of everything, frustration, and hope. It bids us to look around, look around. Look more deeply. Look at the world around you and look deep within your soul. Paul tells us in the first chapter of his first letter to the Corinthians, surprisingly, amazingly, that we have all we need. What does that even mean? What could that mean? Do we need less than we thought? Do we need something other than we thought? Or is what we really need in front of us, if we only have eyes to see it, if we look with Kin-dom eyes?

1 Corinthians chapter 1 also tells us that we have who we need as companions on the journey. If we do not yet see that, is there perhaps a quality that needs to be brought out of someone we already know? Is there someone we haven't considered before that will help us live into the kin-dom?

The Beatitudes in Matthew chapter 5 tell us that the values of the Kin-dom of God are different than the commonly held values in our world. In the Kin-dom, kindness, mercy, humility, and self-control are honored. Those who practice these things, Jesus says, will experience joy.

Let us then keep our eyes wide open for those among us who are honored by Kingdom values – those who mourn, those who are peacemakers, those who long to live in God's righteousness and are persecuted for it, those who hold out hope no matter what may come. Let us welcome them and learn from them. Let us practice the gifts we've been given—hope and kindness, forgiveness, and encouragement. And let us pay holy and hopeful attention to what and who God has given us to become the community that God is calling us to be. *Look around, look around...*

Peace,

Sally

... from Leslie

Is it difficult for you to talk about your faith? Do you wonder if inviting people to church can ever be done in a respectful, healthy, and loving way? Are you longing to spread the love and acceptance that you've found in Christ and at ELUMC, but worried about offending someone, being too pushy, saying the wrong thing, or coming across like you're talking down to someone? Are you skeptical of reaching out to others in faith, unsure if outreach is important at all? What even is outreach? Can you spread the love and truth of God even if the word "evangelize" makes you feel icky?

If any of these questions resonate with you, you'll want to mark your calendar for February 19. Leslie will be leading this free workshop using takeaways from one of her most recent seminary classes, and she wants to see you there! It will be full of research, discussion, interactive activities, helpful tips, and hopeful inspiration. Reach out to elumccomm@gmail.com if you have any questions!



OUTREACH WORKSHOP

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19 | 2-4PM
ELUMC CHAPEL

**"NO ONE IS USELESS IN
THIS WORLD WHO LIGHTENS
THE BURDENS OF ANOTHER."**

-CHARLES DICKENS



Pray for our mission team

Our Hinton mission team will leave on Friday morning, February 10, for an intensive weekend of work on behalf of the poorer residents of Appalachia, and return on Monday the 13th. While the project for the weekend hasn't been decided yet, past projects have included preparing a home for residency, chopping and delivering firewood to those too high in the mountains to make it down the "hill" to get it themselves, and salvaging materials from a torn-down house for use in other builds in the area. All of them have been rewarding in different ways. Please pray for the members of the team: Melinda Adkins, Sally Allocca, Doreen and Tom Duley, Carol Hay, Bruno Hughes, Karen Marks, Mike McCleskey (Sally's brother from Orlando), John Milledge, Robert Milledge, and Jane Phares.

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February Birthdays

			1	2	3 *Curtis Luster	4 *Bill Self
5	6 *Lisa Heathcock	7	8	9	10	11 *Bob Chapman
12	13	14	15 *Juanita Jones	16	17	18 *Leslie Adams
19	20 *Alison Walker	21 *Jon Lott *Logan McDonald	22 *Tom Forsee	23	24	25
26	27	28				



Since February is still a winter month, we are going to take a little break from our monthly activities (sort of). We will come back together on March 14 for a St. Patty's Day party (a little early). More to come about the details!

But since we won't have a get-together in February, Jane P. has declared Sunday, Feb. 26, as SENIOR DISCOUNT DAY for the Bell Tower Players matinee performance of *Dearly Departed*. (See announcement on next page.) Church seniors (and guests they bring) will pay only \$10 for their admission, a 20% discount off the regular price.

Also, consider going on our day trip to Lynchburg, Tennessee, on February 21 (see p. 5).

Our prayers are with Juanita, one of our senior participants, who recently had a massive stroke and is now in East Glen for rehab. Please continue praying for Juanita and her family.



Our Bingo bash last month was great fun, although late holiday events cut down on our usual crowd. The fellowship (and the food, of course) were wonderful as always!

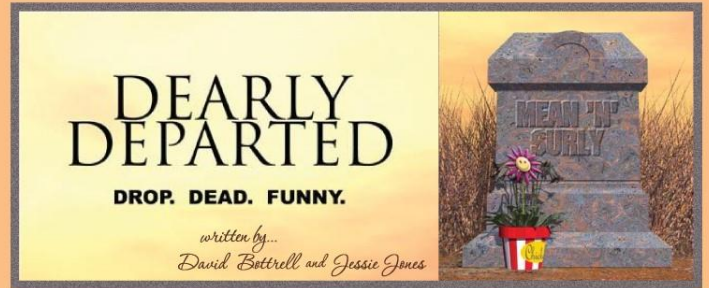
Due to scheduling of the mission trip to Hinton and the Bell Tower Players production, there are no Friday nights left in February for a Boomers event. BUT, Friday night, February 17, has been declared BOOMERS NIGHT AT THE THEATRE. All church Boomers and their guests (Boomer or not) will receive a 20% discount on the price of admission. That means you'll pay \$10 instead of the regular \$12. (Return on February 26 for the matinee, and you'll qualify for the senior discount!)

The play is a funny (and sometimes sad) look at family dynamics during a time of loss. Come and support fellow Boomers Melinda Adkins, Greg Boling, Jane Phares, and all the rest of the Bell Tower Players by coming and bringing a friend or two (or three).



The liturgical year is moving swiftly on. We started with Advent, went to Epiphany (see Barry's article) during which we observed the Baptism of the Lord and will observe the Day of Transfiguration, and soon we will be entering the season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 22). Easter will be here before we know it, coming on April 9 this year. But before we get there, let us prepare our hearts and be ready for the seemingly long Lenten season, when we remember our mortality and repent of our sins. There are some wonderfully reflective possibilities coming during Lent, so join your church family in planning to participate in the services and activities to come.

The Bell Tower Players present



February

Friday 17th & Saturday 18th
Thursday 23rd thru Saturday 25th
at 7:30 PM

Matinee Sunday 26th at 2:30 PM

\$12 general admission

East Lake United Methodist Church
7753 First Avenue South Birmingham, AL
Park and Enter on Second Ave. side of church

For more information call (205) 836-3201

Music Notes 'midst Organ-izing

We are now in the midst of the season of Epiphany; the Day of Epiphany is January 6. We associate that with when the wise men arrived to "where the Christ child was." We also often use it for the deadline to get our Christmas decorations down (even though some of us "Christmas-philes" will leave them up until February 2, the Feast of Lights, or perhaps some few until Fat Tuesday, the day before Lent begins! A few people don't even know how to pronounce it. It is said that two DJs up north of here were announcing an event at the nearby Church of the "Epi-fanny" (their pronunciation)! What's this season really all about?

It's celebrated by much of Christendom: United Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, and even a handful of Baptists, just to name a few. Some, like us, call the entire period, from the coming of the magi until Ash Wednesday, Epiphany. Others just call the period Ordinary Time (doesn't mean "ordinary," but that's a discussion for another time), with January 6 as its beginning. To begin with, the name Epiphany comes from the Greek "epiphaneia," which means "appearance" or "manifestation," and refers to the manifestation of Jesus Christ to the world. Secondly, most of us have it buried somewhere in our memory banks that the season talks a lot about "light." Jesus is the light of the world, we are to let our light shine, etc. Third, like Lent, it may be said to be a journey, a brief summation of what went on with Jesus, his travels and teachings, his very actions, leading up to Lent with his penultimate journey to Jerusalem, and ultimate walk to the Cross.

Let us walk together in the Light of the Lord!

I love you,

Barry



“Keep on praying for the saints . . .”

Ephesians 6:18

Please pray for the members of our church family who need our prayers:

Alma & Jack Boggan

Gary Sandridge

Those whose lives are being torn by war, storms of snow and rain, extreme temperatures, and other disasters

Memorials & Honoraria

A gift has been given to the church in memory of

Jerry Williams, for the Feeding Our Friends Fund*
John Milledge

What is the “Feeding Our Friends Fund”*?

The Thompson Fund, now known as the Feeding Our Friends Fund, supports snack bags, hot lunches, and payment for odd jobs for our homeless and struggling community members. We are grateful for the seed money we received years ago and those who have recently contributed.

Donations can be made by check to East Lake UMC, designated Feeding Our Friends, or by PayPal on the church website. Donations of food items are still encouraged and greatly appreciated.

**THIS is the perfect time
to do NEW THINGS
to reach NEW PEOPLE
for Jesus Christ!**

**How is the Holy Spirit leading you
to do this?**

Spring Day Trips, part 1

The first of our day trips will be on Tuesday, February 21, to Lynchburg, Tennessee, and Miss Mary Bobo’s Boarding House. The time is short, but we have to schedule our trip around which day and time Miss Mary’s has seating. Hopefully this gives everyone a chance to reschedule any conflicts.

We will charter a bus (or minibus) to carry us and allow us to leave the driving to someone else. An estimate of transportation costs is \$60, but this will depend on the number of folks we have (\$60 is based on our having 20 people). The meal at Miss Mary’s is \$29.95 plus tax and an 18% gratuity, so a tentative estimate of total cost for the trip is \$100 per person. We will, of course, get the best price we can on the bus rental.

Jane Phares needs to know by Friday, February 10, if you would like to go on the trip. There will be sign-up sheets in the “glass door area.”

If our response is good, we hope to go to the Justice Museum in Montgomery in March and to see the *Million Dollar Quartet* at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in April. Come on, friends—let’s hit the road!

March is “Women in the Pulpit Month”

The following was included in a recent issue of the Conference’s *eVoice* newsletter:

“The Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) of North Alabama will celebrate March 2023 as Women in the Pulpit Month. Women have been preachers throughout the Christian scriptures, the history of the church, and the Wesleyan movement, but many North Alabama United Methodist Churches still have not had the benefit of hearing and being led by women preachers. What better time than Women’s History Month to celebrate the tradition of women being called and equipped as preachers of the Gospel of Christ? COSROW hopes that every North Alabama United Methodist Congregation will hear from a female preacher on at least one Sunday during the month of March.

Aren’t we thankful we get this privilege every Sunday?!

Lectionary Readings for February

I keep your word close, in my heart, so that I won't sin against you.
Psalm 119:11 (CEB)

Sunday, February 5 – Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 12 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday, February 19 – Transfiguration Sunday, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Exodus 12:24-18

Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 26 – First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

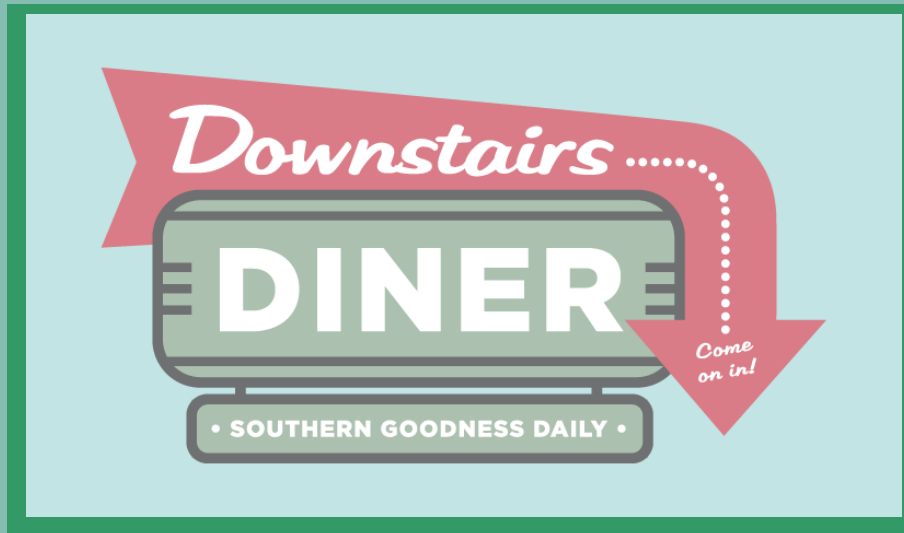
Psalm 32

Romans 5:1-7

Matthew 4:1-11

From your Lay Leader . . .

There's so much going on in *my* life in the church (getting this late issue of *The Chimes* out, being in the upcoming play, coordinating our mission trip to Hinton, etc.), that it's a little hard to focus enough to write my article this month. I promised last month to follow up on my recap of Rev. Brian Erickson's talk/sermon/inspirational lecture at the called meeting of the Annual Conference last December. But after watching the YouTube video again, I decided there was too much there to try to "recap" it, so I am going to include the link to the video for those who wish to see and listen for themselves. The video begins with a talk by Rev. Suzanne Katschke, who is the Executive Director of New and Renewing Churches in our conference. She and her team have been doing a magnificent job of helping folks whose churches have disaffiliated to band together and form new communities of faith, some meeting in car dealerships, grocery stores, and other unlikely places to praise God and make a new beginning. These new churches (remember, "the church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people") are doing a new thing, guided by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by the Lord our God. But I digress. Suzanne is followed by Brian, and I encourage you to find a way to hear their messages on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Lsw5v-GF1IA> I will help you hear it. C4U, *Jane P.*



Menus for February 2023

Tuesday, January 31 - Beef tips with gravy, rice, green beans, cornbread

Wednesday, February 1 - Mac & cheese, turnip greens, black eyed peas, cornbread

Thursday, February 2 - Chili with beans, grilled cheese

Tuesday, February 7 - Hamburger with gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables

Wednesday, February 8 - Mac & cheese, collards, butterbeans, cornbread

Thursday, February 9 - Baked or fried fish, baked beans, cole slaw

Tuesday, February 14 - Baked chicken, wild rice, squash, roll

Wednesday, February 15 - Meat loaf, scalloped potatoes, cabbage

Thursday, February 16 - Sub sandwiches, chips, pasta salad

Tuesday, February 21 - Fat Tuesday Breakfast!

Wednesday, February 22 - Taco salad with pinto beans, chips

Thursday, February 23 - Pork chops, wild rice, Italian vegetables

Tuesday, February 28 - Chicken-broccoli-rice casserole, salad, roll

Wednesday, March 1 - Mac & cheese, collards, butterbeans, cornbread

Thursday, March 2 - Baked or fried fish, baked beans, cole slaw

Food
for Thought

*Life expectancy would grow
by leaps and bounds
if green vegetables smelled as good as
bacon.*

February 2023

Wednesday, February 1

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday, February 2

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, February 4

Pancakes & Pajamas event – 10 a.m. – noon
(Wesley Hall)

Sunday, February 5

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, February 7

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, February 8

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Luke study – 6 p.m. (First floor meeting room)

Thursday, February 9

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, February 10 thru Monday, February 13

Hinton Mission Trip

Sunday, February 12

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, February 14

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, February 15

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Luke study – 6 p.m. (First floor meeting room)

Thursday, February 16

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Friday, February 17

Opening Performance of *Dearly Departed* – 7:30 p.m. (Bell Tower Theater, that is, Wesley Hall)

Saturday, February 18

Dearly Departed – 7:30 p.m. (BTP Theater)

Sunday, February 19

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
Outreach Workshop – 2-4 p.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, February 21

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, February 22 – Ash Wednesday

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Luke study – 6 p.m. (First floor meeting room)

Thursday, February 23

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Dearly Departed – 7:30 p.m. (Bell Tower Theater)

Friday, February 24

Dearly Departed – 7:30 p.m. (BTP Theater)

Saturday, February 25

Dearly Departed – 7:30 p.m. (BTP Theater)

Sunday, February 26

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
Staff-Parish meeting – 2 p.m. (Office Conference Room)
Dearly Departed – 2:30 p.m. (Bell Tower Theater)

Tuesday, February 28

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)