

The Chimes

of East Lake United Methodist Church

June 2025
Volume 66
Issue 6

In the neighborhood for good!



The Heart of Worship

This past Sunday began our summer Sundays of meeting in the chapel for both of our worship services. This move was made to save on the cost of cooling the large sanctuary during the hottest months in an effort to be good stewards of the gracious gifts we have been given for mission and ministry. It's a good move. It's perfectly understandable. Of course, it comes with some drawbacks. We won't get to hear the "playing of the merry organ" every Sunday. And we won't get the awe-filled feeling of simply walking in that majestic space. The chapel is beautiful in a different way. It is more intimate and more immanent. But, it is really different.

It occurred to me that this move might not be only practical, but also theological. What can this move teach us about how we live out our faith? Many of us are used to seeing the glorious windows every Sunday and experiencing the vast dwelling that invokes the Holy Spirit. Without these experiences, it seems that something is missing in our worship experience. I wonder how people who don't have access to that experience manage. How do they find ways to worship?

Perhaps we are to be the bearers of those experiences to those outside of that majestic space. What is the song that we sing in what we say and how we live our lives? How can we share the stories, the miracles, the parables of Jesus, like the stained glass windows do? How can we make them tangible and real for those who do not know? How can we express the awe and stillness of that space to others whose lives are filled with distractions? How do our lives and our actions express the power and beauty of the love of God? Can we embody that sense of worship in our absence from that room so that others, who may never enter that room, might come to know the presence of the living God?

Maybe this shift in space, this shift in perspective, can be a call from God that is about much more than saving money on utilities. Perhaps it is a call to boldly live out our faith as passionate disciples following the Holy Spirit outside of the walls of the sanctuary. While we will return to our worship space in the matter of a few months, may this experience encourage us to continue to share the heart of worship in all that we do wherever we are.

Peace,

Sally

... from Leslie

Hey, everyone!

First, THANK YOU for my surprise reception! It meant the world getting to celebrate my Commissioning at this special place. Even before I was Commissioned, my East Lake family has been a great source of support and encouragement. Even though there are still a few years to go in my journey to ordination, I wouldn't have even gotten this far without you.

When I think about this month at ELUMC, what stands out is how this has been an especially strong month when it comes to our **partnerships**. We helped i3 Academy in our neighborhood with their Reading Challenge Pizza Party and their 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony. Highlands UMC did a diaper drive for our Co-op and is bringing a group to volunteer with our Market Bags later in June. Our church family put together 3 disaster relief buckets for UMCOR. Sally, Sydnee (our awesome new market manager), and I recently went to the East Lake Library re-opening, and Sally was even interviewed there! We hosted a Town Hall with Alabama Arise and Birmingham Indivisible focusing on the dangers of SNAP and Medicaid cuts. We are having a Resource Fair and Open House for our Recovery Center in early June.

I could probably think of more if I tried, but the point is that **we are all better when we are connecting with other people. We are called to share and support and invite and help.**

Maybe you know of some other organizations we might partner with in some way. (We could really use some sponsors of our Golf Tournament fundraiser in September!) But even if not, I bet you know some people who aren't involved in our ministries who might like to take part if you only invite them. I think Summer is the perfect time to bring a new friend with you, to spread the word about what we've got going on, to meet new people, and to grow even more connections.

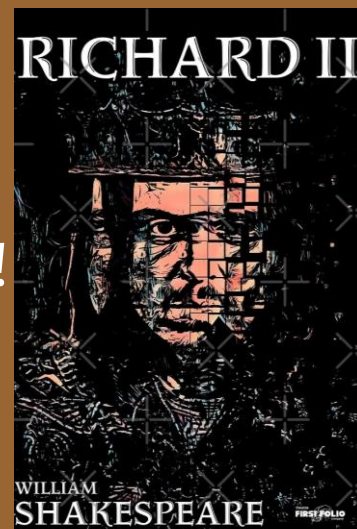
Here's to more people, more connections, and more opportunities this Summer!

Love and Peace,

Leslie

Bell Tower Players get ambitious this summer!

Yes, this summer our resident theatre group will once again tackle a Shakespeare play, this year, one of his tragic history plays.



Director Andrew Duxbury describes it this way: "*Richard II* is a play about power. About its use, its misuse. About how it can easily be squandered and difficult to regain. About how seemingly minor and heedless decisions made by those with power can add together bit by bit until an avalanche of wrong decisions and ill-conceived attempts to restore balance ultimately undoes a king and a nation."

Rather than portray the characters and the setting as they might have appeared in Shakespeare's time, Dr. Duxbury brings them into the modern day, and the whole play takes place in a makeshift prison. He says, "We still read and perform Shakespeare after 400 years because he brilliantly wrote about the very essence of human nature in various situations, and that never really changes."

Performances will be August 7-10 and 14-17.

East Lake United Methodist Church
(205) 836-3201 (office) (205) 836-3203 (Fax)
Pastoral and Program Staff:

Rev. Sally Allocca, Senior Pastor
(205) 821-8804 smcallocca@gmail.com

**Rev. Leslie Norris Williams, Minister of Discipleship
and Communications**
(205) 475-2890 elumccomm@gmail.com

Mr. Barry Norris, Organist and Choir Master
(205) 540-1820 the1220chambers@yahoo.com

Dr. Jane Phares, Office Administrator
(205) 821-8632 jane.eastlakeumc@gmail.com

A word from your Finance Committee:

We want to make you aware of the church's finances through the first quarter of 2025. As you can see from the report below, our needs have exceeded our income by approximately \$7000 per month. While we do have some funds in savings to draw from, as your finance committee we are looking for ways to increase our income and make cuts as needed, If you are able to increase your already generous giving with a one time or regular gift, it would be greatly appreciated.

East Lake UMC

Financial Statement

January – March 2025

Income

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Contributions | \$80,858.00 |
| IRS - Employee Retention Credit | \$561.00 |
| Building Rental Income | \$7,263.00 |
| Total Income | \$88,682.00 |

Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Utilities | \$26,157.00 |
| Insurance | \$13,800.00 |
| Office Expenses | \$2,884.00 |
| Building & Grounds | \$4,751.00 |
| Salaries | \$48,285.00 |
| Food/Supplies | \$3,137.00 |
| To the NAC for benefits, tithe, etc. | \$10,369.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$109,383.00 |

Needed from Savings **-\$20,701.00**

12TH ANNUAL ELUMC CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE

MONDAY, SEPT. 29, 2025

GRAYSON VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB



June Birthdays

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 *Jessica Findley | 5 | 6 | 7 *Leatha Norman |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 *Lucy Lipp | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 *Ragan Boling | 18 *Peggy Gilman | 19 | 20 *Audrey Odom | 21 *Jay Thornley |
| 22 *Doris Ingram | 23 *Leslie Williams | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 *Susan Gann | 30 | | | | | |



Hi, friends!

Since we had a game day last month that proved, shall we say, a little less than exciting, we're going back to the tried and true Bingo for June. Be prepared—I'm conducting a house-cleaning where prizes are concerned. If you've seen my office lately, you know it is piled up with prizes from times past. It's gotten to the point where I can't walk into parts of my office! So come for some relatively effortless fun on **Tuesday, June 10, at 10 a.m.** in the office conference room.

Since I will be gone the last week and a half in June, I'll ask you to go ahead and mark your calendar for July's activity. On July 8, we'll gather for a movie—same time (10:00 a.m.), same place (office conference room). I'm giving you almost a month to make suggestions—so put on your thinking caps and come up with a good one! Do you want to see a classic ("old") movie? A musical? A mystery? A tear-jerker? A rip-roaring comedy? Think of a suggestion and tell me soon! In the meantime, I'll see you on 6/10!

Jane P.

*"Keep on praying for the saints
..." Ephesians 6:18*

Please pray for the members of our church family who have been in the hospital, who have recently had surgery, are scheduled for surgery, or who otherwise need our prayers:

Greg Peek

Gary Sandridge

Please keep these folks in your prayers.

*We also extend our sympathies to Nancy Benjamin and Ichabod Temperance in the death of their mother, **Donna Benjamin**, on May 23. Ichabod and Nancy have diligently and lovingly looked after their mother for a number of years. We know they are missing, and will miss her, so please keep them in your prayers as they go through this time of grief.*

**"Alone we can do so little; together we
can do so much."**

— Helen Keller

Lectionary Readings for June

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

Sunday, June 1 – Seventh Sunday of Easter; Ascension Sunday

Acts 16:16–34

Psalm 27

Revelation 22:12–14, 16–17, 20–21

John 17:20–26

Sunday, June 8 – Pentecost

Acts 2:1–21

Psalm 104:24–24, 35b

Romans 8:14–17

John 14:8–17 (25–27)

Sunday, June 15 – Trinity Sunday

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31

Psalm 8

Romans 5:1–5

John 14:8–17, 25–27

Sunday, June 22 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:1–15a

Psalm 42

Galatians 3:23–29

Luke 8:26–29

Sunday, June 29 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

2 Kings 2:1–2, 6–14

Psalm 77:1–2, 11–20

Revelations 21:10, 22–22:5

Luke 9:51–62

... from your Lay Leader

Annual Conference 2025 is now behind us, and we wait a year for the next one. This one was particularly good, as we watched (with a whole row of our church members) Leslie be commissioned as a deacon during the Ordination Service. That service truly is awe-inspiring, with a huge choir made up of choir members from five of the larger UM churches in our city, orchestral accompaniment, and powerful preaching by our new bishop, Rev. Bishop L. Jonathan Holston. We are hoping to have Bishop Holston here at East Lake to preach sometime soon. In the meantime, we celebrate Rev. Leslie's accomplishments and wish her so well as she continues her journey toward full status as a deacon.

I told Sally I would write a report of my other experiences at AC here in *The Chimes*, but now I realize there won't be enough room here. So instead, I will hit the high spots and talk about it more fully in a Sunday-morning report. (I'll try to keep it reasonably short then, too.)

Since I'm saving all the Conference reporting until another time, I want to share some sad news. When we were at Hinton in April, we built a ramp for a man named Tim Ryan, who was quite an interesting character. His personal history was pretty amazing, and some of us, who weren't equipped for ramp-building or any of the other physical tasks, sat most of the time and talked with him. Anyway, we got word a couple of weeks later that he was in the hospital with stage four lung cancer that had metastasized. He passed away peacefully on May 18, less than a month from when we were there. We send our condolences to his family and to each member of the Hinton team, as well as those at Hinton itself.

Jane P.



**FREE NALOXONE
KITS AND TRAINING**

**FOOD, DRINKS,
AND DESSERT**

**FUN ACTIVITIES
FOR BOTH KIDS
AND ADULTS**

EAST LAKE COMMUNITY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RESOURCE FAIR



INFORMATION.ASSISTANCE.HOPE.

**SATURDAY JUNE 7TH, 2025
10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**East Lake United Methodist Church
7753 1st Ave S, Birmingham, AL 35206**

EVENT PARTNERS:

East Lake Recovery
Drop-In Center

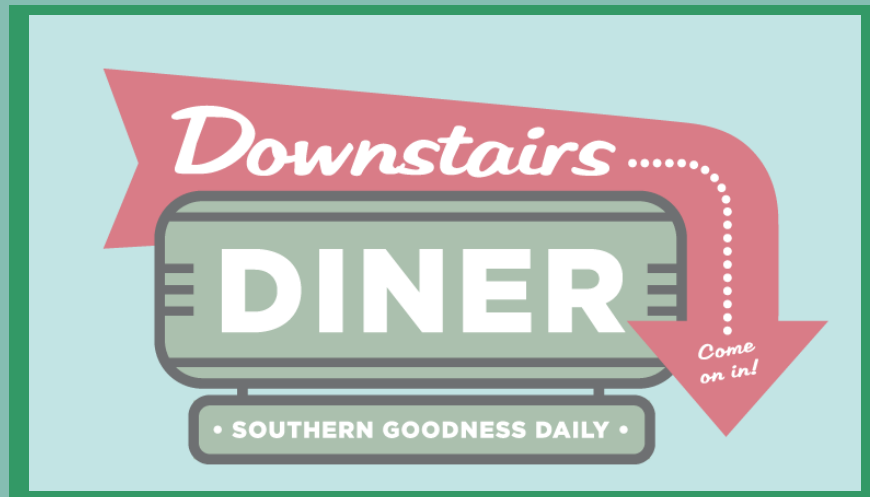
East Lake Methodist
Church

Rebirth Christian
Fellowship

Addiction Prevention
Coalition

Join us for the 2025 PRIDE Parade!

The Parade this year is on Saturday, June 14, stepping off at 8 p.m., or dusk. We will meet no later than 7 p.m. to find our place in the line-up (somewhere along 32nd Street and 7th Avenue South, depending on how many group participants there are. This year, **Melinda Adkins will drive her truck, so those of us with mobility issues can still participate!** Please let Jane Phares know (1) if you are going to go with us, and (2) if you need to ride for the duration of the parade. This is always a fun event. **We need people to help decorate the truck**, so if you're willing to help with that aspect, let Jane know that, too!



DINER OFFERINGS FOR JUNE 2025

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Monday, June 2 | Macaroni & cheese, greens, blackeyed peas, cornbread |
| Tuesday, June 3 | Chicken, broccoli, and rice casserole, fruit, roll |
| Wednesday, June 4 | Taco salad w/ ground beef, corn, rice, tortilla chips |
| Thursday, June 5 | Pork chop, yellow rice, green beans, roll |
| Friday, June 6 | Fried fish, fried okra, coleslaw, roll |
| Monday, June 9 | Breakfast: sausage, biscuit, eggs, grits, and fruit |
| Tuesday, June 10 | Fiesta chicken soup, fruit, cornbread |
| Wednesday, June 11 | Chicken salad, tomato slices, crackers, fruit |
| Thursday, June 12 | Meatloaf, roasted potatoes, baby carrots, roll |
| Friday, June 13 | Fried fish, au gratin potatoes, fried okra, roll |
| Monday, June 16 | Spaghetti with meat sauce, garden salad, fruit, roll |
| Tuesday, June 17 | Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll |
| Wednesday, June 18 | Red beans & rice with sausage, salad, cornbread |
| Thursday, June 19 | CLOSED FOR JUNETEENTH |
| Friday, June 20 | Fried fish, fried okra, garden salad, bread |
| Monday, June 23 | Macaroni & cheese, pinto beans, collards, cornbread |
| Tuesday, June 24 | Salmon croquettes, rice, broccoli Normandy, roll |
| Wednesday, June 25 | Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green peas, roll |
| Thursday, June 26 | Baked ham, roasted sweet potatoes, green beans, roll |
| Friday, June 27 | Fried fish, baked beans, coleslaw, bread |
| Monday, June 30 | Hamburgers w/ lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, French fries |

June 2025

Sunday, June 1

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Sabbath Economics class – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, June 3

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 4

Book study – 10 a.m. (Red Bike Coffee)
 Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.
 Old Testament Overview – 6 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Thursday, June 5

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 7

Farmers Market – 8 a.m.-Noon
 Thrift Store – 9 a.m.-Noon

Sunday, June 8

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Sabbath Economics class – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 Leadership Team meeting – 2 p.m. (office)

Tuesday, June 10

Senior activity (Bingo) – 10 a.m.-11:30ish (office)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 11

Book Study – 10 a.m. (Red Bike Coffee)
 Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.
 Old Testament Overview – 6 p.m. (1st floor meeting room)

Thursday, June 12

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thrift store – open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Saturday, June 14

Farmers Market – 8 a.m.-Noon
 Thrift Store – 9 a.m.-Noon

Sunday, June 15

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Sabbath Economics class – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)
 Lunch with our neighbors – 12:30-1:30

Tuesday, June 17

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 18

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.
 No Old Testament Overview tonight

Thursday, June 19

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Ponder with the Pastor – 5:30 p.m. (True Story)

Sunday, June 22

Traditional worship – 9 a.m. (Sanctuary)
 Sunday School – 10 a.m. (various classrooms)
Sabbath Economics class – 10 a.m. (1st floor meeting room)
 Alternative worship – 11 a.m. (Chapel)

Tuesday, June 24

Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Thrift store - open 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
 Crochet group – 12 noon (Diner)

Wednesday, June 25

Adult Bible Study – 11 a.m. (by phone)
 Downstairs Diner – open 11 a.m. til 1 p.m.
 No Old Testament Overview tonight

Thursday, June 26: see June 12; Saturday, June 28: see June 14; Sunday, June 29 : see June 22