



# St. Luke's Sentinel

The Parish Paper of St. Luke's Church – Anglican (Episcopal) – Blue Ridge

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Blue Ridge, Georgia

December 2018

## Holiday concert and special services planned for Dec. 14

Special events during Advent and Christmas at St. Luke's include a holiday candlelight concert and a number of festive services.

This year's annual Christmas concert will feature the Misty Mountain Winds. Cheryl Star, Adjunct Flute Professor, will direct. The event is set for Friday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. A reception will follow in Thomason Hall.

Two services will be held Christmas Eve. The first at 5 p.m. will be a Family Service with children's skit and Holy Communion; the second will be the traditional candlelight late-night Festive Holy Communion with choir and organ. This service begins at 10 p.m.

Brooke McHan is directing the skit at the 5 p.m. service. Written by Martha Millsaps, it tells the

story of the nativity in a way that will resonate with people of all ages. All children are welcomed to participate. Please call the church office if you want your child included.

An additional service of Holy Communion with carols will be held Christmas Day at 9 a.m.

Holy Communion will also be celebrated on St. Stephen's Day (Dec. 26), St. John's Day (Dec. 27) and Holy Innocents Day (Dec. 28). All three services will be at noon in the Jennus Chapel.

The Rector encourages St. Luke's members to invite their friends and neighbors to both the concert and special services. Many who are now Anglicans / Episcopalians had their introduction at a Christmas Eve late-night service. Be a missionary!

## Extra principle payments reduce mortgage by \$18,213

Special principle-only payments have reduced St. Luke's mortgage by \$18,213. In February, the indebtedness stood at \$63,387. By the end of October the amount owed stood at \$35,529.

The push to reduce the debt began when St. Luke's member Pat McConnell proposed and coordinated the raffling of a gift basket. The raffle, drawn for on Labor Day, produced \$506. Other funds came from a Collectable Sale on June 9 (\$1979), sale of jam in Thomason Hall (\$30) and turn-in ink cartridges (\$54)

These special fundraisers, moreover, raised awareness of the loan, which is secured by the parish house property. Additional funds came from gifts from generous St. Luke's members.

To keep the momentum going, the offering from the Thanksgiving Day service is being designated for mortgage reduction.

The Rector thanks Mrs. McConnell and all who have given generously. Additional end-of-the-year gifts are encouraged and sought. When this loan is paid off, St. Luke's will have an additional \$568 a month to go for mission-based projects.

## Budget for 2019 approved by Vestry

St. Luke's Vestry, at its November regular meeting, approved a budget for 2019. St. Luke's members may access the budget from the "members" section on St. Luke's website. A password is needed to get into this part of the website. To obtain that code, please call the church office or speak to a Vestry member or Meredith Yacavone, treasurer. Other resources for St. Luke's members may also be found in this section.

**Sentinel – 'Around the Corner & Around the Communion**

## Looking beyond our doors

By the Rev. Ronald O. Wikander

Somehow the Fall and its back to school activity has arrived once again. The Snack in a Backpack program and its 50 some odd volunteers are busy packaging 450 meals for the school aged youth of Fannin County. Each sack of food contains two meals to help eradicate hunger on the days when there is no school.

There is other activity afoot as well. A proactive effort is being made to improve the summer feeding program. Different organizations who have provided resources in the past are being asked to collaborate on new methods of procuring food, reducing program costs, and increasing the efficiency of food distribution. The end goal is to reach more children and overcome food shortages

experienced during periods when subsidized school lunches are not available.

Anyone who has participated in the past is asked to continue to consider volunteering for this most worthy enterprise and to encourage their friends to join them. Those who have helped others in need can be assured that it is a fulfillment of our Christian Mission to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Our first collaborative group meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13. Stay tuned for further information.

*The Rev. Mr. Wikander serves as St. Luke's Community Outreach Coordinator. He may be emailed at vicarwikander@tds.net.*

## Three from St. Luke's attend ADOTS synod



St. Luke's Rector the Rev. Victor H. Morgan and Andy and Juanita Lebkuecher attended the Nov. 2-3 synod of the Anglican Diocese of the South (ADOTS) at Holy Cross Cathedral in Loganville. The keynote speaker for the event was the Rev. Dr. Winfield Bevins who spoke on why young adults are

increasingly drawn to historic forms of worship. Dr. Bevins, an Anglican clergyman, serves as the Director of Church Planting at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. He also directs Asbury's Anglican Formation program. His book *Ever Ancient Ever New: The Allure of Liturgy for a New Generation* is set to be released in early 2019.

## Recipe of the Month

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By Diane Wikander

This recipe comes from our exuberant church secretary Pam Seby.

### Barbara's Green Chile Breakfast Casserole

20 whole green chiles (Ortega, if you can find)

1 can evaporated milk

3 heaping spoons of flour

8 green onions (scallions), diced

2 lbs. cheddar cheese, shredded

¼ cup whole milk

10 eggs

In a lasagne casserole pan, layer chilies and cheese, open and flatten 10 chilies. Cover the bottom of the pan, put half the cheddar cheese over this. Open and flatten the other 10 chilies, layer them over the cheese and put in the other half of the cheese on the chillis.

Mix both kinds of milk together and add flour, mix to dissolve flour. Crack eggs into a separate bowl, add diced onions and milk and flour mixture. Mix this well. Now sprinkle in spices that you think will taste good. Pam suggests Applewood smoked sea salt, garlic and a generous amount of black pepper.

Slowly and evenly pour egg, milk, onion and spice mixture over your chilli cheese layers. Bake at 350-degree F. oven for one hour.

*Thank you Pam. This sure sounds yummy. I hope to try it soon. Everyone enjoy and God bless you.*



"But, apart from the pews, the sermon, the hymns, the coffee and, 'all that praying', you'd come again?"

## Staying abreast with the trends of the time

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The Postmodern world is wired very differently from anything Christendom has experienced. It is basically made up of those whose lives have been influenced by Christianity and those who are what is termed "postmodern". Without going into all the distinctions and origins of postmodernism, (for those who want to explore this further, read Robert Webber's Ancient – Future Faith, Baker Book House ) we can describe postmodernism being determined by two things, neither of which are generational issues:

- Who influenced a person growing up – family or peers?
- Did that person or his or her family grow up going to Church or not? If a person is influenced more by his or her peers than their family and did not grow up in church, they are most likely postmodern.

### Today's times:

- Perception is that there is no ultimate value.
- Many paths to the same destination.
- All faiths are viewed as interchangeable
- No Grand scheme anymore.
- Christianity is no longer the starting point in one's search for meaning.
- "What works for me" is more important than some eternal value.

### The World today:

- There is little difference viewed between the secular and sacred.
- Spirituality is a state of mind not a state of relationship.

### Generally Speaking Postmoderns have the following leanings:

- **Authenticity.** Prefer honesty over politeness. No frills, except technology. No Sunday morning only faith.
- **Community.** Need to see the Gospel lived out. Rather than instant conversion, a process of converting is needed.
- **Lack of dogmatism.** Rules aren't what they used to be. The historic truth of the Bible is not as important as if it speaks to my needs.
- **Music and Art** are important in their lives.
- **Diversity.** Gender and race are meaningless.
- **Interdependence.** You feed me, I will feed you mentality.
- **Entertainment.** Extremely important.
- **Values.** No ultimate values, no ultimate truth.
- **Propositions.** Not as important as feelings.
- **Experience** is the highest form of reality.

- **Institutions.** General distrust.
- **Community.** Very strong positive feelings.
- **Family.** Made up of those who befriend them more than those who produced them.
- **Spirituality.** Do not feel one has to have relationship to organized religion to be spiritual.

## Letter from St. Luke's Stewardship Chairman

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Luke',

As we approach the end of the year and look forward to events in 2019, it is also time to consider our church's financial situation for the coming year. As the Stewardship chairman, I had the opportunity to view the church's budget for 2019 and am astounded at the myriad of expenses we must plan for. Many are for items we just take for granted each time we come to the church. Here are a few;

Pest Control	\$675
Telephone service	\$1488
Trash disposal	\$1188
Lawn Maintenance	\$5000
Elevator Maintenance	\$2019

So for this coming year when you plan your financial contribution to St. Luke's keep in mind the *necessity* for the "everyday" items that keep our beautiful and active parish going. By pledging now you give the clergy and vestry more certainty of how best to allocate those funds for the needs of the whole parish.

Should you consider some "special/extra" contribution, please consider the fact that the mortgage on the parish house is now down to about \$35,000. Any help here will contribute to reducing our parish's long term financial exposure.

One last thing; there are ways to save on taxes by making a contribution directly from your 401k or other pre-planned savings/investment portfolio. Check with your accountant for more info on this.

As for payment, you can pledge in a lump sum, quarterly or by any other timing that best suits you. We just need to be notified of the amount of your pledge. We look forward at St. Luke's to an active and adequately funded (by your pledge) 2019!

Oh, and yes we appreciate any all additional donations received during our normal church services! Thanking each of you in advance.

Roger Johnson

## St. Luke's reaches out to the larger community



Hundreds of children received candy at St. Luke's table at the Blue Ridge Halloween Safe Zone. Many thanks to those who donated candy and those who helped staff the booth: Tom, Melissa and Katie McCormick; Eric, Crista, Finn and Elin Thoresen; and Barbara Newman.

2018 was St. Luke's third year sponsoring a table. The event is sponsored by the Blue Ridge Business Association.

## Topics for 'Teaching Tuesdays' and 'Lunch and Learn' announced

St. Luke's Education Committee, under the direction of Roger Johnson, has announced topics and presenters for Teaching Tuesdays and for Lunch and Learn in Lent series (Wednesdays) in the first half of 2019:

### Teaching Tuesdays

- Jan. 22 – *Thinking about Pain and Suffering*, the Rector;
- Jan. 29 – *Church Vestments and 'Hardware'*, Deacon Tony McConnell;
- Feb. 5 – *Divisions in the American Episcopal Church*, Roger Johnson;
- Feb. 12 – *Reactions in the Worldwide Communion*, Roger Johnson;
- Feb. 19 – *Episcopal Church USA. What Happened?* Roger Johnson; and

Feb. 26 -- *Result [aftermath] from the Split*, Roger Johnson.

### Lunch and Learn in Lent on Wednesdays at Noon Key Doctrine

- Mar. 13 – *Inspiration*, the Rector;
  - Mar. 20 – *Incarnation*, Deacon McConnell;
  - Mar. 27 – *Atonement*, the Rector;
  - Apr. 3 – *Sanctification*, Rev. Ron Wikander; and
  - Apr. 10 – *Last Things*, the Rector.
- ### Teaching Tuesdays
- Apr. 30 – *The Apostles and their Impact*, Pat Dearing;
  - May 7 – *The Apostles and their Impact (2)*, Pat Dearing;
  - May 14 – *Women of the Bible*, Teresa Wankel; and
  - May 21 – *Women of the Bible (2)*, Teresa Wankel.

## The saints of St. Luke's – St. Cuthbert

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By James Yacavone

*In the side chapel of St. Luke's (the Jennus Chapel) there are 16 exquisitely needlepointed chairs which bear the name and heraldic symbol of 16 saints who were prominent in the English church. In this continuing series the Sentinel will highlight each saint and tell you a little about his or her history.*



**St. Cuthbert (634 – 687)** was a hermit, monk and bishop in the Kingdom of Northumbria in northeast England and southeast Scotland and is regarded as the patron saint of northern England.

Sources suggest that he did military service before becoming a monk at

the Celtic Christian monastery at Melrose on the Scottish border where, in 661, he became the prior. In 664 the Northumbrian Church adopted the customs of the Roman Christian Church. Cuthbert, who was raised in the Celtic tradition, adopted the Roman practice and was made prior of the monastery at Lindisfarne in order to introduce Roman tradition there. At Melrose and Lindisfarne Cuthbert traveled widely doing missionary work, ministering to the people, preaching and performing miracles. He retired in 676 and became a hermit but in 684 he was elected the Bishop of Hexham. He was reluctant to leave retirement but was persuaded to do so by King Ecgrith though he became the Bishop of Lindisfarne instead of Hexham. After Christmas in 686 he retired again and returned to his cell. He died on March 20, 687.

Following his death, numerous miracles were attributed to intercessory prayer near his remains.

Alfred the Great, King of Wessex, was inspired and encouraged in his struggle against the Danes by a dream he had of Cuthbert. Thereafter the royal house of Wessex, who became the kings of England, made a point of devotion to Cuthbert. He has been described as perhaps the most popular saint in England prior to the death of Thomas Becket in 1170. His remains eventually came to rest in Durham Cathedral in Durham, England. He is recognized as a saint by the Anglican Communion, the Roman Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church. His Anglican feast day in the U.S. is August 31.

St. Cuthbert chair in the Jennus Chapel at St. Luke's was given in memory of Roy Donald Johnston by Michaelene Johnston.

*In the next issue we shall discuss another early English saint who is memorialized with a chair in the Jennus Chapel.*

### *On the lighter side . . .*

The story is told of the atheist who accosted a preacher. "Do you believe in eternal life?" The preacher has no time to reply. "Well its a load of rubbish!" shouted the atheist. "I believe in science, evolution, survival of the fittest, and when we die, that's it! No eternal life, no great judgment, and no God!" The atheist continues his assault against the preacher repetitiously and tirelessly. "Eternal life! Eternal life! Ha! "Its all pie in the sky when you die." When I die that's it, the end, no eternal life, no nothing. He continues, until he reaches his climax, "I will be buried six feet under when I die and that's it! Nothing! Caput! When I die I am utterly convinced that that will be the end of me!" "Well thank God for that" replies the preacher!"

\* \* \* \* \*

A rector was leaving and was saying farewell to his congregation at the Church doors for the last time. He shook the hand of an elderly lady as she walked out. She said "Your successor won't be as good as you."

"Nonsense", said the rector, in a flattered tone. "No, really", said the old lady, "I've been here under five different Rectors, and each new one has been worse than the last."

## From the Rector

Ways and methods of celebrating Christmas have varied, traditions and customs have evolved and changed, but at the center of it all, is that great affirmation found in the prologue to St. John's gospel: "and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

The Rev. Charles S. Denison, reflecting on this truth, wrote:

"Over the centuries this great fact [God becoming man in Jesus Christ – the Incarnation] has reigned. It has been secretly celebrated in huddled, hidden catacombs; thoughtfully expounded in the universities of the Middle Ages; profoundly observed in the liturgies of many traditions; seen afresh in the new vision of the Reformation. It has been proudly proclaimed from the great pulpits of Victorian England and humbly cherished in the homes of America. Today it is the great Truth beneath all the tinsel and the chorus of every carol, the Gift above all our gifts."

The problem, of course, is Will we see it? It is entirely possible, especially in today's fast-paced, commerce driven world, to see the creche and miss the Christ, admire the twinkling lights in a thousand shop windows and miss the Star of Bethlehem. So, let me begin by earnestly entreating you – with the words of the slogan that has been around for quite some decades – "Keep Christ in Christmas".

The following poem was written by the Minister of the Church in which I grew up. May we

let it guide our thinking as we head for Dec. 25:

### Christmas Spirit

The mingling masses of humanity  
Rushing to and fro;  
Gaily lighted trees and holly leaves  
And sprigs of mistletoe;  
Songs of sleigh rides and  
jingle bells;  
People pushing and shoving  
their way  
Through crowded marts,  
Singing of peace and goodwill with  
Prejudice in their hearts—  
All this I say with growing fear  
And agony,  
And thought I heard the one of  
Bethlehem  
Crying for Calvary.

Will men ever learn to look past  
self  
And tinselled things,  
And sing the angels' song  
of the birth

Of the King of Kings?

■ W. Benton Preston

Dr. Preston went home to be with the Lord in 2014, but his words of wisdom in this matter lives on. May we heed them.

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Let me encourage you to help get the word out about the true meaning of Christmas by inviting your friends and neighbors to one of our Christmas services. Not a few people who call themselves Anglicans / Episcopalians today had their first experience of Anglican worship at a traditional late-night Christmas Eve service. This being the case, won't you do your part by getting the word out?

If the Gospel – the announcement that the world has a new King – is really good news,

then we ought not to sit on it but share it!

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Many thanks to members of the ECW and its director Teresa Wankel for the extraordinary work done in connection with this year's Christmas bazaar. \$7503 was raised.

Also, many thanks to Richard and Jackie Lumpkin for assisting St. Luke's organist Eileen Kerr with the music during Advent. Indeed, all who sing in the choir deserve our appreciation. Music adds so much our services. I encourage others to be a part of this ministry.

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**"Anglican faith and practice is rooted in Scripture, grounded in history and focused on making disciples of Jesus today."**

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## The Church can help

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*Editor's Note: The following column by the Rector first appeared in the Blue Ridge News Observer.*

According to statistics published in *The Washington Times*, 15 million U.S. children, or 1 in 3, live without a father in the home. In 1960, just 11 percent of American children lived in single-parent homes.

In another article published in *Psychology Today*, Edward Kruk, Associate Professor of Social Work at the University of British Columbia, posits disastrous consequences for the lack of fathers in the home. Some of these are: compromised emotional security; increased incidence of behavioural problems; poor academic performance; delinquency and youth crime; promiscuity and teen pregnancy; and problems with future relationships.

At a recent class I was leading, the question was raised as to what the Church could do to help in this crisis. As we were looking at the Apostles' Creed, the natural place to begin was its opening declaration: "I believe in God the Father Almighty."

Might giving more attention to this concept of God as Father be helpful in this current crisis? Not all would agree, but I believe it might.

You may have no one in the home to call Father. Even so, you are not an orphan. God is your father. In the words of the Apostle Paul to the learned men of Athens: "For in him [God] we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring" (Acts 17:28). We are God's children, he is saying.

More than that, God is an ideal Father inasmuch as He loves, provides for, knows your weaknesses and strengths, corrects, guides and is there in good times and bad. Perhaps this is what children in father-less homes should be told: When you feel all alone, look up, rejoice and give thanks. One greater than any human parent cares.

Teaching children to make this affirmation is not the whole answer to today's problem, but it is a beginning. In addition, men in the Christian community should strive to model the divine actions I have just named. They should do this first for their own children but also for all children in their midst.

Put another way, these little ones cannot see their Father in heaven with their physical eyes, but they can see you. Strive to be an icon of the Divine Father.

Of course, there are some in today's world who want to trash "Father" in liturgies and hymns and opt for a more generic designation of the Divine. They would argue paternal language is out-of-date and inherently tinged with oppression and domination.

In response, I would want to agree that oppression and domination are things not to be commended, but tampering with language is not the way to eradicate these vices. What is?

It is through reimagining human fatherhood in light of divine Fatherhood. It is through demonstrating in the church a better way. It is through striving to make each local church what each local home was intended to be: a haven of peace, trust, meaningful work, love and joy.

Let us be about our Father's business!

## 'Thou', 'thee', 'thy' language in the Church

*Editor's Note: The following article was borrowed from a handout found at St. Phillips Church Charleston, S.C.*

Most languages of the Bible and Christian tradition have two ways of speaking to someone: a public, formal way of speaking to a group of people (called the second person plural pronoun, which corresponds in English to "you" and "your" and in Southern English, "ya'all"); and a private, intimate way of speaking to friends and family, as individuals (called the second persons singular pronoun English 'thou', 'thy' and 'thee, with the verb ending "-est")

Historically, the language of prayer has made use of "thou" forms to express the special intimacy we have with God in prayer. Jesus called God "Abba", a child's affectionate and trusting name for his father (Mark 14:36); and He taught His disciples to call on God as "our Father" (Matthew 6:9). St. Paul tells us that "God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6). Using the "thou" form of English shows that we do not address a distant, indifferent, or hostile god: even when we confess our sins, we do so as His beloved children who are bold to come before him in the faith of Jesus Christ.

## Birthdays at St. Luke's

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Dec. 02 – Dr. James Crews	Dec. 19 – Rt. Rev. William W. Millsaps	Jan. 11 – Jan Vollrath
Dec. 05 – Sally Hess	Dec. 19 – Randy Romig	Jan. 16 – William Trotter
Dec. 08 – Richard Peck	Dec. 24 – Brad Bradbury	Jan. 20 – Art Learned
Dec. 09 – Evelyn Bryant	Dec. 27 – Judy Evans	Jan. 21 – Juanita Lebkuecher
Dec. 09 – Emily Jones	Dec. 28 – Stephanie VanCampen	Jan. 22 – Rev. Charles Sims
Dec. 12 – Jean Allen	Jan. 03 – Christina Pinkerton	Jan. 22 – Tom McCormick
Dec. 14 – Rev. Victor H. Morgan	Jan. 07 – Priscilla Cashman	Jan. 29 – Alex Such
Dec. 16 – Sally Granda	Jan. 09 – Judy Smith	
Dec. 17 – Brooke McHan		

## Wedding Anniversaries at St. Luke's

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Dec. 02 – Kent and Susan Lipham	Dec. 22 – William and Martha Millsaps
Dec. 11 – Wiley and Ellen Grantham	Jan. 05 – Kary and Darlene McCain
Dec. 18 – Richard and Mercedes Misinco	Jan. 30 – Ronald and Diane Wikander
Dec. 20 – Joe and Susan Brandon	

## Ask the Rector

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### Q. What does a Deacon do?

A. A Deacon assists a Priest (Presbyter) in the conduct of divine services, including reading the Gospel. A Deacon may also officiate at a wedding, minus the blessing, and baptize (in an emergency any Christian can administer this sacrament). In addition, Deacons assist with the care of the sick and others having special needs in the parish. If licenced by the Bishop, a Deacon can preach. A Deacon may also administer Holy Communion from elements previously set apart by a Priest.

### Q. How are lessons chosen for services?

A. For Holy Communion, lessons -- the Epistle and Gospel for each Sunday and Holy Day -- are printed in the Prayer Book. For other services, namely Morning and Evening Prayer, readings prescribed in the Lectionary printed in the front of The Book of Common Prayer are used. The Sunday lectionary has multiple sequences. The Rector chooses which sequence is followed each year. In Trinity-tide, a sequence is provided in which lessons go through a section in the Bible chronologically. These are called "course" readings.

### Q. How long does it take to prepare a Sunday sermon?

A. Length of preparation varies with preachers and the subject matter. Typically, the preacher begins reading and thinking about the Lectionary passages early in the week. A day or so later, one or more commentaries may be conducted, and by the end of the week, the themes suggested in these readings will have been narrowed down to one main point, perhaps with several subpoints. The job of putting pen to paper can now begin.

## At a glance

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**MR. JERE SET THE EXAMPLE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE** – St. Luke's member Jere McConnell is nearing his donation of 21 gallons of blood. He began donating blood in the early 1960s to help a dear friend battle cancer and has given on a regular basis ever since. He is greatly appreciated as his blood type is A negative. Two companies come to Blue Ridge on a regular basis, Blood Assurance and the Red Cross. The next visit of the Blood Assurance mobile unit will be at Fannin Regional Hospital on December 21 from 12:30PM to 5:30PM.. The unit also visits Blairsville General Hospital and Murphy Medical Center. Please donate if you are able.

**ENGLAND IN '19** – The Rector is considering leading a trip of pilgrims to England in November, 2019. St. Luke's member and former travel agent Pat McConnell is working up a prospectus. If interested, please call Mrs. McConnell at (706) 633-7734 or email her at [jeremcconnellbr@yahoo.com](mailto:jeremcconnellbr@yahoo.com).

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**Financial Pledge for Year of the Lord 2019**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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As a steward of God's gifts and in gratitude for all blessings, I pledge the following amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the work of Christ through St. Luke's Church for 2019.

This will be offered in increments of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each: \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year  
\_\_\_\_\_ other (Please check one)

*Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God as prospered him. (1 Cor. 16:2)*