OH, CHRISMON TREE; OH, CHRISMON TREE

The blessing of the Chrismon tree this past Sunday was an inspirational moment in our worship service. The tree is a beautiful addition to our sanctuary decorations. Special thanks go to Rebecca Henley and Mary Pritchard who volunteered their time and talent to decorate the Chrismon tree each year. The lovely, new symbolic ornaments adorning the tree were discovered last year by Rebecca and Mary and were purchased by the Christian Disciple Sunday School Class.

Our blessings abound!

** SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES **

This is a perfect time to invite guests to our worship services.

“Glad Tidings of Peace and Joy”
10:15 a.m., Sunday, December 15
Presented by Our talented St. Luke’s Choir

Carols, Candlelight and Communion
5:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 24
Pastor The Reverend Ricky James

St. Luke’s United Methodist Church
621 Duling Ave. Jackson, MS 39216
(601) 362-6381
info@stlukesjackson.org
www.stlukesjackson.org
Rev. Ricky James, Pastor

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday we will be treated to the joyous music of our choir as they present their Christmas Cantata entitled: Glad Tidings of Peace and Joy! Music is such an important part of the ministry that St. Luke’s offers to the community, and we are blessed with very talented and faithful servants. I hope that you are not only making plans to attend but also thinking of who you will invite to experience this joyous time with you.

The sanctuary will be adorned with beautiful poinsettias that remind us all of the new life that blooms forth in Jesus Christ. Many of you have given these in honor and memory of people and so we thank you for your gift. You may take these flowers home after the service if you desire. Any remaining poinsettias will be delivered to our homebound members or left in the sanctuary to continue blessing our Christmas celebration.

As the calendar year draws to a close, I want to encourage everyone to complete your 2013 pledge. Like most churches, we depend upon receiving a significant amount of our offerings during the month of December, and everyone’s gift is needed.

If you’ve already completed your pledged giving for the year, please consider giving an additional gift to one of our Conference Mission Shares. The list of these missions can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office. It’s a great way to be a blessing to others this Christmas. Thanks and see you Sunday!

Grace and Peace, Ricky

Loving, Learning, Living in the Heart of Fondren
ST. LUKE’S SHARES THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias Express the Spirit of Love: The poinsettias decorating our altar this Sunday, December 15, beautifully and brilliantly express the spirit of the Christmas Season as they are placed in memory and in honor of our loved ones.

Season of Giving “Thank you” Expresses Gratitude: Your monetary gift to our loyal St. Luke’s Staff is not only a more tangible “thank you” for their dedication to the day-to-day duties of their work, it is also an opportunity to express your gratitude for their service to our church family. Gifts may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or given to the church office. SPRC will make sure each staff member receives a “spirit of Christmas bonus” on your behalf.

Advent Devotional Booklets Express the Spirit of Anticipation, Joy and Hope: It is not too late to to pick up a complimentary copy of Advent: A Calendar of Devotions by Deborah Westbrook for your family. Ask an usher on Sunday, or pick up one from the church. These daily scriptures, Bible verses, prayers and stories of how God can speak through our human experiences and bring us hope through Jesus Christ, express the spirit of anticipation, joy and hope, during the Christmas Season and beyond.

FLOWER POWER – THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

Share Sanctuary Flowers with Homebound; Need Vases! Do you have small (but larger than bud size) to medium size vases taking up space and collecting dust? Would you like to donate them to a good cause? If your answer is “Yes,” we have the solution. People placing sanctuary arrangements often choose to donate the flowers to our homebound after worship. Ella Bruner has generously volunteered to separate those arrangements into smaller, individual vases. Ella and Bill then deliver the individual arrangements to members who are unable to attend church. If you can help, please drop off your vases at the church. Contact the church if you wish more information.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

Please join us this week in Sunday school as we continue to discuss the true Christmas story, focusing on the importance of giving. Also, parents, please remember our next performance by the Cherub Choir will be Sunday, December 22nd. We hope you can all attend. If you are interested in getting your child more involved in our program, please email Leah Batson at leahbatson@yahoo.com.

KID’S DAY OUT – THANK YOU AND REPORT

The event held this past Saturday was a success! The children made Christmas cookies and ornaments, and enjoyed spending time with the youth group and other volunteers. Thank you to those who made the event possible!

∞ YOUTH GROUP NEWS ∞

We are planning our annual trip to see the Canton Christmas Lights on December 19th.

THIS WEDNESDAY AT LUKE’S

► Pastor’s Study, 10:00 a.m., led by Rev. Ricky James,
► Prayer Shawl Ministry 2013 Report: This year, your Prayer Shawl Ministry has made and given 16 shawls with St. Luke’s blessings to those in need of solace and comfort, and to those celebrating a joyous occasion. We also gave 25 scarves to the women of the Friendship Connection. Remember, our ministry has no holidays, so please let Dot Jaubert or the church know if a church member needs a shawl. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all! ► Pastor’s Study, 6:00 p.m., led by Rev. Ricky James, ► Youth Group Bible Study, 6:00 p.m. ► Child care provided 6:00-7:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE AND STEWARDSHIP REPORTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
<th>Worship</th>
<th>Offerings Needed Weekly</th>
<th>*Offerings Received 12/08/13</th>
<th>Offerings Needed to date</th>
<th>Offerings Received to Date</th>
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THANKS FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Daniel White</th>
<th>Raven Scott</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chad Swindall</td>
<td>Nicole &amp; Kevin Akers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Edward Campbell</td>
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Welcome to worship, in the name of the holy Baby of Bethlehem, our Savior.