



Weekly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 15, 2024



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Meet Your Church Leaders Series II

MARK LESLIE
CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL

Hello Church Family, My name is Mark Leslie, and I serve as the chair of Church Council. The leaders in our church attend Church Council monthly to represent their various committees and ministries and to discuss matters of church-wide significance. Committee Chairpersons also present their ministries' upcoming activities. My goal is to ensure everyone is heard and the meetings run smoothly.

In the past year, Church Council has completed a number of important tasks. We approved a church budget after much discussion. We approved our annual Charge Conference documents, which updated our membership list as well as approved salaries for our staff. We also dealt with issues that arose during the year. Last year, for example, Church Council discussed the vandalism to our pride flag. As a Church Council we discussed the best course of action, and we voted to empower our trustees to improve our church's security.

As many of you know, we also approved and circulated a survey that I hope will shape our ministries for the next year. First, I noticed that many of you were unaware of what happens at Church Council and would like to be made aware of our decisions and activities on a regular basis. The Church Council, we discussed the possibility of submitting a regular update to the weekly newsletter. As chair of Church Council, one of my goals for the year is to regularly update the church community about decisions reached at Church Council by submitting summaries to the newsletter. Thus, you can expect to hear more from me soon. Second, I also noticed that many of you wanted more opportunities for fellowship: potlucks, progressive dinners, and any other opportunities to get to know the people sitting next to you in the pews. My second goal for the year is to find new opportunities to encourage fellowship at our church.

BLESSINGS,
J MARK LESLIE

PRAYER CONCERNS



Dianne & Ron Wallace; Clyde Gilker; Bev Mesey; Teri-Ann Wallace & Marian Junge (Marcia Kennon) ; travelers; those whose team lost the Super Bowl; those affected by the shooting at the KC Super Bowl celebration.

Financial Update

This update provides a summary of our 2023 year end financial status and the picture moving forward. We ended 2023 firmly in the black, our income exceeded our expenditures by over \$27,000. Although our initial 2023 budget anticipated a deficit two factors contributed to the big change. First, as you may recall, we made an appeal in February for additional offering commitments and received over \$25,000, and second there was a significantly lower payroll expense due to understaffing.

A 2024 budget was prepared by the Finance Committee and approved by the Church Council at the January meeting. Not unlike our 2023 original budget this budget shows an uncomfortable deficit. This comes about from both a lower income projection and an increase in spending. The pledge total from the Stewardship campaign for this year's giving was almost 10% less than last year, a result of some pledges decreasing and pledgers lost (mainly by death). Expense increases over last year stem from the expectation of full staffing this year and, to a much lesser extent, small salary increases.

There are factors that could increase income and also factors that could reduce expense. Including these, however, a deficit still seems likely.

We are thankful for your past support and are grateful for its continuation.

Derek Redmore
Chair, Finance Committee.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CHARLES FRANKLIN GOLDEN (1912-1984)

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN STAFF MEMBER, BOARD OF MISSIONS

BORN AUGUST 24, 1912, IN HOLLY SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, GOLDEN RECEIVED DEGREES FROM CLARK COLLEGE AND GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, BOTH IN ATLANTA. HE WAS ORDAINED AN ELDER IN THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (MEC) IN 1938 AND SERVED SEVERAL CONGREGATIONS BEFORE BECOMING A PROFESSOR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY AT PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE.

AFTER SERVING AS A CHAPLAIN IN THE U.S. ARMY, HE BECAME THE DIRECTOR OF FIELD SERVICE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF NEGRO WORK OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS FROM 1947 TO 1952, BECOMING THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN NAMED TO THE STAFF OF THE BOARD OF MISSIONS. HE WAS AN ASSOCIATE SECRETARY AND LATER DIRECTOR IN THE DIVISION OF NATIONAL MISSIONS, WHERE HE SERVED UNTIL 1960.

HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE COMMISSION TO STUDY THE JURISDICTIONAL SYSTEM FROM 1956 TO 1960, WHEN HE WAS ELECTED BISHOP IN THE CENTRAL JURISDICTION. HE PRESIDED OVER THE NASHVILLE-BIRMINGHAM AREA 1960-1968 AND IN THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, HE SERVED THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA 1968-1972 AND THE LOS ANGELES AREA 1972-1980.

GOLDEN EMPHASIZED THROUGH HIS ARTICULATION OF ISSUES AND HIS EPISCOPAL LEADERSHIP THAT METHODIST AFRICAN AMERICANS WOULD NOT SETTLE FOR ANYTHING LESS THAN FULL AND COMPLETE INTEGRATION. GOLDEN WAS NOTED AS A FORCEFUL BISHOP, BUT HE WAS RESPECTED AS FAIR AND A PERSON OF INTEGRITY.

Source: Linda Gesling, *Mirror and Beacon: The History of Mission of The Methodist Church, 1939-1968*. (New York: General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church, 2005), p. 150



Dr. Charles Golden with delegates to the Delaware and Washington Conference on Missions of the Division of National Missions, Board of Global Ministries, July 1957. PHOTO: GENERAL COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY



LET'S WEAVE!

HERE ARE SOME OPPORTUNITIES IN FEBRUARY

Now that we have completed one plastic sleeping mat, let's do another one! During the month of February, we are offering 4 sessions to work on our loom with guided assistance, if you need it. Our team hopes you will come to one or more sessions. It's really pretty fun as well as rewarding!

So, please come and learn, continue to weave if you've done it before, or show someone else how to do it. Someone with experience will be on hand to monitor and assist.



HERE ARE THE DATES & TIMES THIS MONTH IN THE STAGE PORTION OF FELLOWSHIP HALL:

**Sunday, Feb. 18,
10:00-10:25 AM
& 11:30-12:30 PM**

**Thursday, Feb. 22,
12:30-2:00 PM**

**Wednesday, Feb. 28,
1:00-2:00 PM**



FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE

FOR LIFEWISE STL &
WEBSTER ROCK HILL MINISTRIES



Thank you to all who have donated so far to the February Food Drive! As of February 11th, we've collected 167 food items toward our goal of 400. So, we are not quite halfway there.

Take a moment now to write a few of the items from the list below on your shopping list for this week!
Collection containers will be in the Sanctuary Lobby & First Floor Lobby (aka Elevator Entrance).

FOODS REQUESTED FOR THIS DRIVE:

- Rice
- Pasta
- Grits
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Cream of Wheat
- Spices
- Peanut Butter
- Cashew Butter
- Almond Butter
- Olive Oil
- Soup
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Tuna
- Dried Beans
- Grocery Store Gift Cards
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit

Please check labels and avoid foods high in salt and sugar content.



CLIMATE CHANGE REASONS FOR OPTIMISM?



We hear from many sources that we are on a course from climate change to drastic results in the not-too-distant future. The major cause is the increasing level of carbon dioxide and other chemicals, including methane, in the atmosphere. We see increasing efforts to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide by generating electricity from solar panels and wind turbines and the growing use of electric vehicles. The size of these efforts has not as yet reduced the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. However, there are many activities, especially in the chemical industry, that focus on eliminating carbon dioxide emissions. There are large investments being made in recognition that carbon dioxide emissions have to be eliminated or at least drastically reduced.

I will share, in this article, a few examples of processes that are well on the way to commercialization or already there. These examples represent several different approaches to reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Further examples will appear in later articles.

Cement and concrete production are a major contributor to CO₂, about 8% of the global total. A process under development in several institutions uses microbes to make concrete with a CO₂ generation of 60-70% less than current technology. This development could be very significant in light of the expected doubling of construction by 2060. Another new technology attacking the same problem with comparable results is the use of electrochemistry. The method is now in a pilot plant that can produce 50 trucks of concrete per year. A commercial manufacturing plant is planned for 2026.

Most of the developments above come from corporations with some governmental support. Individuals can play a role by the choices we make in our everyday living. One inspiring example of an individual making a significant impact came to my attention recently. A student at Washington University med school, Joshua Perez-Cruet, was concerned that the curriculum was deficient in attention to climate change issues. His passion for this issue resulted in conversations with faculty that has led to changes. WUM member Jan Hanson played an important role in the implementation of this change. A specific example involves a change in a widely used anesthetic, desflurane. Desflurane is an extremely potent greenhouse gas. A replacement was identified, equally effective, but far less potent as a greenhouse gas. BJC has adopted this change that is the equivalent of saving 1,500 gallons of gas per week. A secondary benefit was a cost saving of \$400,000/year.

Watch for further Newsletter articles on technologies addressing climate change.

Derek Redmore



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WINTER GATHERING

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

BRUNCH (\$10) SERVED AT 10:00 A.M.

PLEDGE SERVICE, BUSINESS MEETING,
AND PROGRAM FOLLOWING BRUNCH


GUEST SPEAKER ELLEN MOSES
RIGHT TO READ COALITION

**INGATHERING: CHILDREN'S BOOKS
FOR HODGEN ELEMENTARY**

**Please choose books with
diverse characters for ages 3–10**

If you prefer, monetary donations can be made to purchase books.

**Sign up on the Connection Card during
Sunday worship or contact Mary Taylor
or Marcia Kennon**

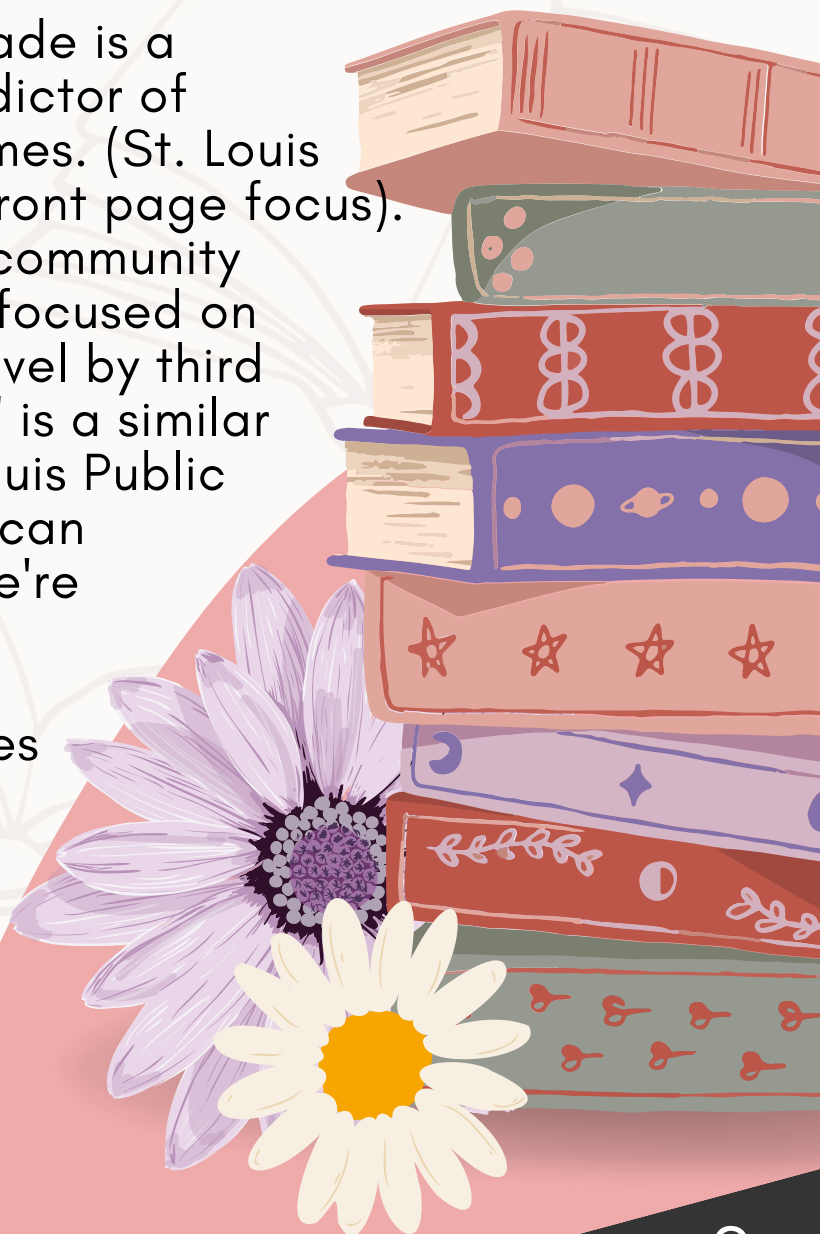


READING MENTORING AT HODGEN'S ELEMENTARY We're Back!

Eight volunteers from WUM each week mentor K-2nd grade children in reading at Hodgen Elementary in south St. Louis City. Says volunteer Roger McCurley: "I have absolutely no credentials as an educator, but my kindergarten kids are responding well.....I suspect that we are making a difference in the lives of these wonderful kids." About making a difference, educators agree, Roger.

Learning to read by third grade is a foundational skill and a predictor of successful scholastic outcomes. (St. Louis Post Dispatch, January 26, front page focus). The SLPD article is about a community campaign, "Right to Read", focused on children reading at grade level by third grade. "Literacy for the Lou" is a similar city wide effort of the St. Louis Public Schools (The St. Louis American February 1-7). Unofficially we're on board with these campaigns. It is not too late to join this effort. Substitutes especially are needed.

**Interested? Check
that box on the
coming week's
Connection Card.**





GUIDED LENTEN RETREAT FEATURING THE CHOSEN

*Guided Lenten Retreat featuring The Chosen,
Tuesdays, Feb. 27, Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, 9:30 AM-
2:00 PM at
Mercy Conference and Retreat Center in
Frontenac.*

*\$40 individual session; \$175 for whole series.
Lunch included. Register at mercycenterstl.org.*

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINE

All articles and submissions must be sent to
secretary@websterum.org by Monday
at 5pm to be in that week's newsletter.