

Sowers of St. Luke's

St Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN

July 2019

Visit us online at: www.stlukesumc.com/outreach/on-site/

From Our Leader...

This has been quite a spring with all the rain! However, the Sowers' Garden has certainly benefitted. The garden looks beautiful due to Carolyn and the others who help her. Many, many thanks.

In May, we enjoyed a lovely luncheon planned by Joyce Wozniak. She also graced the table with flowers and special napkins to help welcome spring. Five of us enjoyed hearing about spring happenings and Chris' trip to Paris. Consider joining in on these outings. They are such fun. Thank-you, Joyce.

Our plant sale went very well this year. Thanks to all those who provided plants. May I also say that the weather cooperated for once and we sold nearly everything. I believe the final profit was \$878.25!

Our meeting on March 9th with Dee McConville (retired IT expert) on Pinterest provided us with ideas for our future Bazaars crafts. This is a program we can use to help with not only our Fall Bazaar, but other plant sales. Thank you Dee and Chris.

Special thanks to Nan Schulte for all the time and effort she put into setting up budgets for our chair persons, and a long range plan for our treasury. This gives us a better idea of what monies we have to spend and allows for emergencies. In addition, Nan spent a good deal of time revamping the Sowers' organization chart. This is a guide and will help us be more business-like in our endeavors. We are a unique organization within the church as we are self-supporting and can contribute to the St. Luke's in a special way.

A big thanks also to Matt Russell and the years he put in learning and executing the trimming of our pear trees. We appreciate your dedication and hard work, Matt!

We were asked again this year to plan a program for middle school students during their Vacation Bible School experience. Middle School Mayhem as it was called was a combination of learning about St.



Luke's, the Bible, and making contributions to the others. 35 students were divided into rotating groups. Our cadre of students cleaned up the patio at Luke's Lodge, studied the Bible verses that are scattered throughout our garden, and made small pizzas using herb toppings from our supplies. A good time was had by both students and Sowers. Chris Hammock and her team of helpers included Nancy Snively, Barb West, Sue Meyer, Pat Reed, Gail Corn, and Sue McKee.

Thanks to Gloria Barron who provides decorations and delicious treats for all our programs and to Sharon Fischer who helps Gloria. Take a look at Gloria's invitation later in this newsletter. She has planned a luncheon at Sully's Grill on July 11. That might be a great time to bring some ideas for Bazaar crafts!

Thinking about the future, Gloria will be planning our future programs (and will be publishing them in the Church catalogue). Your ideas for speakers and activities are welcome!

-----Sue McKee

Summaries of earlier programs:

Eleven Sowers met on March 9, 2019 to learn about using the internet for Pinterest. Computer and Pinterest expert Dee McConville had a detailed print out to guide us and used the computer in the parlor for us to follow along as she explained how to actually do it. She guided those who brought

laptops how to create a free account, how to look for topics, how to create a board, and how to pin something we wanted to keep to that board. We are hoping to use this to get new ideas for things we can make for the bazaar.

Thanks to Gloria for sweet treats to ease our frustration and headaches from all the hard work!

---Barb Krahl

April 13, 2019

The Sowers had a meeting and program in parlor. Nine members and five guests (a record number?) attended: Alice B, Beth Van Tassel (who joined!), Beth M, Beverly L, and Marti Hunsucker (former member).

We began with a short business meeting as Sue McKee explained her expectations and goals for this year. We are interested in getting new members, and brainstormed many good ideas. Some of those included teen service hours, 5th Sunday garden tours with the Green Ministry, photo tours of our garden with the help of the Arts Ministry, booklet published with Bible references/plants, herbs, programs for the UMW circles -- Now to put the ideas into action!

Marti offered that she is storing our wood pansy cross in her barn and that it likely needs repair before using again next year.

Next, Marcia Brandt Carter Pearson, our founder, presented the program on the 13 St. Luke verses that are on stones scattered through our garden. In teams of 2, we went out and found verses from 2 stones, looked them up and read them aloud for discussion. Then we took a test on St Luke and most were shocked by how little we knew about him!! Well, I was anyway.

----Diane Rice

Treasurer Report...

Notes from your new Treasurer.....

At the end of May, Nan and I met to transfer the Sowers records and checking account to me. She was the Treasurer of Sowers for a very long time and was ready for a change. We all owe Nan a big "Thank You" for her dedication to our group.

Our Checking account is at BMO Harris Bank and Carolyn Curry and I are both on the account.

There have been questions concerning ownership if one of us would pass. The account would transfer to the surviving Owner. At that time, the group would pick another person to be added to the account. This has been approved by Jeff Peek.

Our Endowment is held and invested along with other monies by our Church. There is an Endowment Committee which oversees the management of the Investments. We cannot touch the principal, but once a year the earnings are transferred to a Designated Account and then we can transfer the funds to our Checking Account. If the Sowers would cease to exist, the Endowment Committee has been instructed to only use our Endowment for the maintenance of our Garden and the beautification of the grounds and gardens of St. Luke's United Methodist Church.

---Nancy Snively

From the Gardener ... June 2019

What has been going on in the garden?

If you were to walk into the garden this week you would see first the blue larkspur around the bird bath. Two shades of blue with the fading campanula/balloon flowers. Lavender is there for the picking, not as lush as in other years but it likes to be picked.

The herb bed was reconfigured to replace the tiles with a banked edge, and perennial plants were replanted and annuals added. The labels are out so people can make note of what they like. Taking a picture and using a plant ID app is also an easy way to learn about a plant. From the herb bed you can take sprigs of herbs to enlighten your lunch: basil, stevia, dill, sage, fennel, chives, and oregano are there for the picking.

There is beautiful mauve astilbe across from the herb bed and another bunch outside the lattice. The oakleaf hydrangea outside the lattice that we planted in 2012 is lush this year. And like hostas in your yard ours are the biggest ever.

Nancy chose lavender, yellow, and white for the color scheme for annuals this summer: nemesia, vinca and yellow gold marigolds. Veronica and pink thrifts were planted this spring;

they haven't done much so far, definitely sleeping the first year and with little sun till this week.

Thank goodness for the rain as our irrigation system needs repair at zone 2 and zone 3 control boxes. Our irrigation guy asked me if I knew where the control boxes were buried. I didn't know there were control boxes (green he says) buried out in the garden. There is a plan for tracing the line to find them. In the meantime hand watering.

We have been gifted in several ways, with unexpected changes. Jay bought us hose and a reel for watering the urns out front. So easy now. I am setting up a watering schedule for the front urns and would be happy to hear from anyone who can help. It has worked well to divide the summer into two week schedules. Just respond by email if you can help for a two week period.

A big monetary surprise came from someone who said 'let me buy the summer annuals and those two trellis that are in your long range plan'. To explain the trellis plan, we have had since the beginning two vigorous euonymus vines outside of the double doors. The one to the south requires a one to get up on a ladder and teeter around while grasping in the air tendrils. The vine to the north has been infested with weeds and makes a nuisance of itself growing into the boxwood. The same landscaper that designed last year's renovation suggested a trellis with climbing hydrangea and clematis on each side. With the gift, and the giver wishes to remain anonymous, we could get the vines started this year. Climbing Hydrangea are slow growers and it takes clematis a few years to flower well. The hydrangea is not in but the project is started with the trellis and clematis on the north side. Rosie's has ordered a matching trellis for the south side. In the future the large yew bushes on each side of the door can be taken out to open up the view of the garden. We would use low shrubs in those spaces.

Next surprise was long time church member Joe Coulter taking it upon himself to take the wooden bench home to clean. It was in the pulpit, for a sermon series this spring. The audience could barely see how gray and mossy the bench was, it fit well in the sermon. Joe cleaned the same bench two or three years ago.

Chris had considered having the M. S. Mayhem Camp kids clean the weeds between the bricks at entrance 16 and Gail had plans for putting mint in the planters. Both of these things were taken care of by someone else in the last week and the three of us do not know how that happened. From what I saw earlier of the area behind the Lodge the kids had plenty of trimming to do there. I have come to understand that these unexpected events keep life interesting; reminding us that we may think we are the only one on a pathway till someone else becomes a big part of the plan.

-----Carolyn Curry

Programs for 2019...

Lunch at Sully's Grill on July 13 at 11:30

Come explore the new restaurant located inside Sullivan's Hardware at 6955 North Keystone. After lunch, we can stroll through the rows of flowers and shop at the yellow House. Please call Gloria Barron by Thursday July 11 to let me know if you will join us. Leave a message at 317-844-2989. Looking forward to seeing you!

----Gloria Barron

Member News...

Looking ahead, I will gladly take 3 volunteers to be on our nominating committee. They will work to find 2020 officers during August and September! One of them will be a return from last year – Sue Meyer, Gloria Barron, or me. I might be calling you!! ---Diane Rice

About the News...

The Sowers are part of the church website but the exact URL has changed: www.stlukesumc.com, click on **OUTREACH**, then **ON SITE**, then scroll down to the Sowers. It is a 'blurb' about who we are within the church with a link to our most recent newsletter.

All with email addresses will receive the newsletter as a .pdf attachment.

This issue is being mailed to everyone because the 2019 Sowers Directory is included. For some reason, I never thought of it before, but decided today since we list the inactive members, that they should also get this issue and the directory.

-----Diane Rice

Leaders for 2019

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Notes and Comments:

