

Sowers of St. Luke's

St Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN

September 2019

Visit us online at: www.stlukesumc.com/serve

From the Pres...

Our plant sale was a great success this year due to Carolyn's planning and to all who donated. Also, thanks to Sue Meyer for setting a work schedule. I was especially pleased to see members giving help and advice to those who were buying our plants. Many thanks to all of you!

Sue Clark, a church member, supplied us with boxes of books and magazines. These came from her daughter's landscape business. They are much appreciated. We sold some and will find uses for them in future programs.

Our next big event is the **UMW Bazaar on Saturday November 9**. We will be having a **planning meeting on September 25th from 6 to 7 pm in Room C115**. This is a great time to use Pinterest, the internet program our computer expert taught us during the April meeting. Scout around for ideas.

Our Garden is aging. We have had a broken pipe in our watering system. Now, also, some of our slate walkway stones need repair. (See Carolyn's message and picture for more info). And, our long time angel/cherub lost both head and toes! This means dipping into our next year's budget to pay expenses.

Last year, Nan Schulte, created budgets for all our chairmen as well as an emergency fund. We are building up this latter one so that future emergencies can be paid from this. All chairmen need to watch their expenses so that budgets can be reevaluated again next year.

Our Board has decided to have a business meeting for officers every two months. The next meeting will be **November 13th, at 10:00 am** at the church. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Sue McKee, Diane Rice, or Nancy Snively. Have a great fall.

----Sue McKee

From your VP...

The Sowers officers met this week to discuss several issues. The most "urgent" was about the MANY books/magazines that were given to us and laid out at the recent plant sale. There are still a lot of them in the Sowers closet. If you would like to have some of them, get to the closet **before Sept 25** when they will be donated to the church rummage sale. The closet door seems to swell in heat and is very difficult to open then, so better to try when the hot sun is not upon it!



Another issue is keeping within our current budget expenses with unexpected repairs in the garden. We feel that it is necessary to make the repairs so are looking at ways to cut our other costs from now on. One of the projects we have paid for in money and labor is the 3 large urns at the church main entrance 4 times a year at an annual cost of about \$500. Carolyn has done them for a long time and before that Diane Stone used to do them. It is now much easier to water with a hose very close by so that shouldn't be an issue. What we are proposing is **IF** the church would foot the bill for the plant material we select, is there a member or two who would do plant design, the planting and then care for them over the summer? If this is a place for you to give time, let me know ASAP. Otherwise, we will be telling the church that we can't do it anymore.

The other area that we have cared for in the past is Door 16 on the back side of the Education wing (or on other side of picnic table as you enter our garden from the parking lot). We decided that we would no longer be able to handle that area as a group.

The officers plan to meet every other month to make sure we all know what's happening and

make decisions as needed. Please let one of us know if you have any concerns for us or for the whole membership.

----Diane Rice

Treasurer Report...

Not only plants, but tools and books were a part of our Fall Sale. We made \$610.00 for our efforts.

---Nancy Snively

Take a Look

Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp has a now monthly bulletin about gardening happenings in and around the Hoosier state, the HortusScope, monthly gardening checklists, events and more. Sign up at: hoosiergardener.com.



Summer Lunch Event...

On July 13, six Sowers took time out of their summer activities to meet for lunch at Sullivan Hardware's new restaurant—Sully's Grill. It's located inside the store and members enjoyed

the good food and even better conversation. Also, ideas for new Bazaar items were discussed. Each one attending received a garden book from Gloria with a personalized bookmark written just for them! After our time together, we visited rows and rows of plants and stopped in the Yellow House to shop for gifts. What a grand time!
 ----Gloria Barron

From the Gardener ...

Fall is not my favorite time of year, too much of a reminder that outside days are near an end. If you get a chance to hear Myrene Brown on any garden subject it would be worth your time; she has one on finding something to do in the garden every day of the winter. She is recognizing the therapy of dressing for the weather and being outside.

I hope everyone enjoyed the plant sale this past weekend. We learned and we taught, we watched the little red wagon being loaded with plants and happy customers pulling it away through the crowd. (We escorted them when there were enough Sowers around.) With an abundance of plants, Sowers came through once again. Our earnings were increased by donations of tools, yard art, and gardening books. Our sale is known well enough that non-members bring in items for us to sell. The profits were very satisfactory as Nancy details in her note. Thank you to everyone who participated.

We have a few more months of gardening at church. You will be receiving notices about work sessions this fall; come if you can and stay as long as you want. For years we have fertilized the cypress tree on the corner with Job's spikes. Since it hasn't looked really lush since the first year in the garden we might just skip the 'vitamins' this fall. You can see a row of Hanoki Cypress as you enter Newfields from Michigan Road to the right of the guard gate. They look a little better than ours and this is their second year; they are not getting fertilized. We always add iron or aluminum sulfate to the azaleas and they continue to bloom well. The espaliered pear trees grew nicely this summer and need a pruning as soon as possible. We cut the

perennials back as they lose their attractiveness. Our church friends continue to complement us on the garden as a place to look out on and as a place to sit outside.

A recap of our \$400 irrigation repair this summer is that the faulty valve had to be traced and was found under a boulder to the right of the door, buried of course. A picture of the site will be taped to the wall in the closet for future reference. A big maintenance project ahead is the stone walkways at a cost of \$1800. Three years ago we hired a construction company to put Perma-Sand down between the stones; this helps to keep the stones level so we don't trip; the sand also bonds so as to decrease weed growth. If you gardened with us this summer you know about spraying and pulling tiny weeds to keep the walk looking neat.



We were the benefactor of an anonymous gift this summer which in part was designated to remove the euonymus vines on the north side of the double doors and adding an iron lattice with a clematis vine. The plan was to add a climbing hydrangea; it will be beautiful but grows very slowly so need the clematis for early interest.

We still have the very large and difficult to trim euonymus on the south side. We have used our garden budget for this year but by sharing the story we thought **there could be a Sower or a friend of a Sower who would like to see this happen sooner rather than later.** We can cover the cost of removing the remaining vine. What there is not money for in the budget is the

second **trellis (\$117)** and **two climbing hydrangea, \$170 each next spring** and possibly a lower cost if purchased this fall. Note the picture of the trellis on the north side and the Niobe (ruby red) clematis. Donations for this improvement to our garden may be sent to Nancy Snively, our treasurer.



Sara Circle would love to have you as guests on **Monday September 16th at 1 p.m. in the parlor.** They are older ladies who look back on their gardening days but wanted to talk about gardening and the Sower's garden as to how it fits with the church history. Chris has assembled pictures to show on the screen and I will do my best to go over almost 35 years of history in 30 minutes. Maybe some will go out into the garden afterwards. ---Carolyn Curry

Programs for 2020...

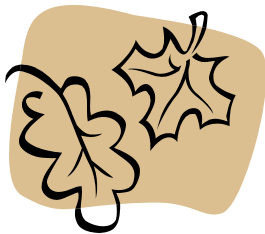
Gloria is planning interesting activities, but is always open to suggestions. Contact her at 317-844-2989 with ideas.



Bazaar News...

Anna is traveling to Ireland during Sept. and Oct. and won't be able to attend the planning meeting for Wed. Sept. 25. She has some product ideas that will be ready for that meeting. She also has a collection of jars that might be perfect for your recipe! We are looking forward to seeing you on **Wed. Sept. 25 at 6pm in Room C115**. Come with ideas!

Joyce has offered a collection of cookie cutters to sell at the Bazaar. I'm thinking that each tied with a ribbon displayed on a small Christmas tree would be delightful. If you too, have some cutters ready to move on, bring them to the Sowers' closet marked for the Bazaar.



About the News...

The Sowers are part of the church website but the exact URL has changed: www.stlukesumc.com. Click on GO, then WAYS TO SERVE, 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 address will receive the newsletter as a .pdf attachment.

Leaders for 2019

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