



Highlands Ranch, Colorado

The CHRONICLE

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Inside This Issue:

- Church & Society.....3
- Missions.....5
- Children's Ministries.....6
- Servant Spotlight.....8
- Music & Drama.....9
- SLY.....10
- Finance Update.....11

and much more!



1,750 attended St. Luke's Easter Sunday services.

That's up almost 200 from last year!

"The Da Vinci Dialogues"

Special Study on May 7th and May 14th

It's hard to ignore the sensation created by the international best-seller, "The Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown, especially with the movie coming out this spring. Why has this book created so much discussion and debate among theologians, historians, and people of faith? Is it simply a work of fiction or does it contain a deeper mystery that is now being revealed after 2000 years in the shadows? The Christian Connection Class invites you to explore these questions and others as we have a special two week study called, "The Da Vinci Dialogues" on May 7th and 14th in Classroom B at 9:30am. Please come if you can! All are welcome. Contact Scott Wesson swesson@aimco.com or 303-683-0196.

Sometimes the Whisper Speaks the Loudest

by Laurie Gilbert



Laurie Gilbert meets with children at the Bible Camp in Guatemala.

March 24th, 2006, a team of 22 people left for Lemoa, Guatemala. We left with open hearts and minds, ready for whatever was before us. At one point during the week, Ken Fong requested a moment to video each one of us, sharing what touched us the most during this mission trip. When it was my turn to be interviewed, it took me a while to think about what I really wanted to share. Sharing can be hard enough, let alone on video! There were so many things I wanted to tell about... but what spoke to me the loudest? It might have been how touched I was with this special group of people, who willing left their comfort zones to share life with the beautiful people of Guatemala, or was it getting reacquainted and playing outdoor games with the children in the Hogar del Nino Orphanage? It could have been visiting the 6th grade classroom at the Lemoa public school, an adobe hut separated from the main school, in the back of a corn field. I recalled the hard physical labor of hauling sand, gravel, cement powder, and concrete blocks for the orphanage classroom and the retreat bathroom. Maybe I would talk about the heart felt devotions shared by the team each morning or by Pastor Dave's inspired reflections

continued on page 5

THE SOUND OF MUSIC Auditions!

Saturday, May 20: 10:00am-noon
Sunday, May 21: 1:00-3:00pm,
 Call Backs from 3:00-4:30pm

Show Dates: November 2-5, 2006

There are both singing and non-singing roles for the *Sound of Music*. The nun's chorus will be expanded to include several more women. Music audition selections include *Edelweiss*, *My Favorite Things*, *Climb Every Mountain*, *The Sound of Music*, *Do-Re-Mi*, and *Sixteen Going on Seventeen*. Copies for audition material will be available outside the music office beginning May 1.

Questions, contact James Ramsey at jim@stlukeshr.com

Roles and approximate age considerations:

- Maria Rainer - female age 18-35
- Captain Georg von Trapp - male age 30-55
- Max Detweiler - male age 30-55
- Baroness Elsa Schraeder - female age 30-55
- Liesl von Trapp - female age 15-18
- Friedrich von Trapp - male age 14-16
- Louisa von Trapp - female age 12-14
- Kurt von Trapp - male age 8-12
- Brigitta von Trapp - female age 8-11
- Marta von Trapp - female age 6-9
- Gretl von Trapp - female age 5-7
- The Mother Abbess - female age 30+
- Sister Sophia - adult female
- Sister Bernice - adult female
- Sister Berthe - adult female
- Sister Margaretta - adult female
- Rolf Gruber - male age 16-25
- Franz (the butler) - male age 30-55
- Frau Schmidt (the housekeeper) - female age 30-55
- Herr Zeller - male age 16-32
- Admiral von Schreiber - male age 40-60
- Baron Elberfeld - male age 40-60
- Baroness Elberfeld - female age 40-60
- Other "Bad Guy" (non-singing) parts - adult male



Confirmation Celebration

The 2006 Confirmation Class had a wonderful dinner Saturday, April 22, at St. Luke's and were honored to listen to Ann Marie Hocchalter, a Columbine shooting survivor, share her story and the importance of her faith. Confirmations took place in the sanctuary and each Confirmand knelt at the altar and took vows given by Rev. Janet. (Ethan Goddard, surrounded by friends and family, is shown in photo above.) The class was also recognized in a ceremony during the 9:30 service the following Sunday morning. Crosses were given by their Prayer Partners as a keepsake reminder of Confirmation. We are proud of you all - congratulations and welcome!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

Sunday Worship Services:
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

Sunday School:
(Adult, Youth & Children)
9:30am & 11:00am
Nursery available for all services

Church Office: 303-791-0659
Fax: 303-470-5615
St. Luke's Youth.....x45
Childcare Reservations.....x47
Email: office@stlukeshr.com
Website: www.stlukeshr.com

Staff:

- Rev. Janet Forbes.....x13
Senior Pastor
Emergency: 303-241-9312
- Rev. Dave Money.....x33
Associate Pastor
Emergency: 303-932-1035
- Rev. Pam Rowley.....x32
Pastoral Care
Emergency: 720-348-1528
- James Ramsey.....x23
Director of Worship & Arts
- Carrie Mallery.....x35
Associate Dir. of Music Ministry
- Kay Coryell.....x43
Assistant Music Director
- Chris Wilterdink.....x14
Director of Youth Ministry
- Ann Smith.....x19
Assistant Youth Director
- Jenita Rhodes.....x27
Director of Children's Ministry
- Lynne Butler.....x11
Pre-school Ministry
- Kristina Linn.....x40
Childcare Ministry
- Lynda Fickling.....x20
Dir. of Membership Ministry
- Bonnie Funk.....x10
Administrative Assistant
- Dave Cupp.....x24
Director of Finance
- Dan Kuhl.....x44
Facilities/Custodian
- Kay Swanson...303-791-1982
Director of Little School

All articles, photos and notices for the June/July issue of *The Chronicle* are due May 15th.

Editor:
Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

ST. LUKE'S DIVERSITY REFLECTED IN SPIRITUALITY STYLES

What a delight to listen to your reflections on our "Searching for Spirituality" worship series! Your responses to learning about spirituality are as diverse as the faith backgrounds and spiritual pathways that we bring to our life together.

The "Searching for Spirituality" experiences were based on research by Corinne Ware on spiritual typologies or preferences. Knowing how we are spirituality different from or the same as other people can help us understand our strengths. Such knowledge may suggest new ways in which we can grow together so that spiritual experience becomes richer. You may review the **Spirituality Wheel** and the spiritual styles of Head, Heart, Mystic, and Kingdom on the St. Luke's website at www.stlukeshr.com

According to our survey results in discerning our PRIMARY SPIRITUAL STYLES, 38% of St. Luke's relate to God out of a HEAD spirituality, a thinking spirituality that values study, reflection, and living the faith congruently with one's vocation, beliefs, and values. The second strength of St. Luke's congregation is HEART spirituality at 26%. This spiritual style embraces the "affect" of worship, feeling the presence of God through word, music, and community. Both of these spiritual styles experience God as immanent and personal.

The third spiritual strength of St. Luke's is MYSTIC spirituality at 23%. Mystics enjoy contemplative worship with a blending of prayer, silence, ritual, music, and scripture. The fourth spiritual strength of our congregation is KINGDOM spirituality. At 13%, this spirituality reflects our deep commitment

to missions and social justice. Many KINGDOM seekers live their spirituality in the world, acting as prophets and change agents so that the Kingdom of God many be realized in the social structures of the culture. Our KINGDOM people push us, teach us, and lead us into the world to make a difference.

Our secondary preferences affirm a pattern which reveals a congregational leaning toward both Head and Heart, but name our growing edges toward mysticism and justice ministries. The secondary strengths were 39% HEART, 28% HEAD, 19% MYSTIC, and 19% KINGDOM.

Again, these percentages reflect our diversity and our commitments, our richness and our depth. What an exciting opportunity we have as a community of faith to learn from one another, to engage God from the multiple facts of the Holy One, and to stretch our experience to invite growth. The statements of feedback affirm a variety of worship experiences, the giftedness of our music and drama ministers, the hope of expanding into more contemplative, mystic settings for worship, the use to worship elements from our Christian tradition, the desire for reasoned engagement with theological thought and social issues, and the hope that worship connects in relevant ways to daily life.

Growing our spiritual life as a congregation is the hope of increasing the vitality of God's Spirit in us, as individuals and as a community of faith. The work of the Holy Spirit is to conform us to the image of Christ. Our worship leadership will continue to listen to the congregation and to God so that we might grow into full humanity by living the life of Christ.

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us... are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit." -2 Corinthians 3:17-18

-Rev. Janet

MOUNTAIN SPIRITUALITY RETREAT - AUGUST!

St. Luke's is planning its first spiritual retreat in the mountains, August 11-14, 2006. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find the peace and quiet necessary to hear the "still small voice" of God. Our retreat will offer a sanctuary in the mountains where you can step out of a busy life for silence, solitude, study, and prayer. Come experience the wilderness of the Rocky Mountains from the vantage point of a comfortable hut, Francie's Hut of the 10th Mountain Hut system, out of Breckenridge. There is no phone, no TV, not a single distraction; only peace, quiet, nature, and spiritual companions. It is an ideal environment for spiritual renewal. Retreat hikers will participate in a variety of activities, from planned discussions and study to the daily cooking and cleaning. There is always plenty of time for solitude and prayer. The huts are near lakes and streams, and there are also good opportunities for hiking or simply enjoying nature far from the civilized world. Mark Ely will be our mountain guide. Mark has led two mission experiences to Guatemala for St. Luke's and is an experienced hiker and outdoorsman. He has been leading mountain spiritual retreats for Trinity UMC for five years. Check out the general overview of spiritual retreats at <http://www.puravida.org/participate/retreats>. Look for a sample schedule of the balance of study, solitude, recreation, and fellowship time. Rev. Dave Money will be the spiritual retreat leader. This mountain retreat is planned in response to congregational feedback on the desire for more contemplative experiences in the outdoors.

The Social Principles, The Nurturing Community

by Susan McIntosh

This is the third in a series of articles to help members and constituents of St. Luke's learn a little more about the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.

In the past months, I've given an overview of what the Social Principles are and a summary of the section on "The Natural World." This month's topic is "The Nurturing Community." Following Wesley's emphasis on grace, the UM Church indicates that "all persons are important – because they are human beings created by God and loved through and by Jesus Christ and not because they have merited significance." No matter who you are, where you are on your spiritual journey, or what struggles you may have experienced, **you are important.** We all, as a community, can "nurture human beings into the fullness of their humanity." At St. Luke's, we promise to do this each time we join together in baptism.

This section in the Social Principles then discusses several issues that can best be addressed within a nurturing community:

- The Family
- Other Christian Communities
- Marriage
- Divorce
- Single Persons
- Women and Men
- Human Sexuality
- Family Violence and Abuse
- Abortion
- Ministry to those who have experienced an abortion
- Adoption
- Faithful Care for Dying Persons
- Suicide

Most of us likely agree on some of these issues ("People who have experienced abuse and violence in their family should be loved and supported." "Single people are just as important as those who are married.") However, at various times in the church's history, disagreement on some issues seem more widespread than agreement. Reading the Social Principles shows a community that nurtures, despite disagreement. The current tough issues of abortion and human sexuality contain language reflecting the struggle in identifying a common statement, and have wording carefully shaped in light of these struggles. The struggle to find balance is evidence of the importance of all voices, and the continuing sentiment throughout is that every person is a creation of God's, and every person is important.

As in many churches, issues around homosexuality are friction points in the United Methodist Church. The discussion of human sexuality states that

"homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth," that the "practice of homosexuality" is "incompatible with Christian teaching," and that "families and churches" should not "reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends." The clear tension between the phrases reflects the diversity of traditions, experiences, reasoning, and understandings of scripture of the many members of the church. This language – the church's official position – is part of the growing, communal nature of the Social Principles. As part of the Book of Discipline, sections of the Social Principles can be changed every four years, based on proposals brought to the General Conference. Like each of us, and like the church, the Social Principles are works in progress; with God's grace, they move more or less closer to God's vision for us as they grow and change.

The church believes that by listening to each other, we can hear God's call in the community. Through these articles, I hope that all of us will be able to listen to others' perspectives and try to understand how that person came to that place. As we talk and listen to God's voice in each other, our beliefs can grow, we can journey together in faith, nurturing each other's growth to full humanity along the way.

OPPORTUNITIES

Adult VBS - Exploring God's Promises is a five week adult study beginning Wednesday, May 24 continuing through June 21st from 9:30-11:00 in the morning. We will dig into God's promises in five biblical texts and explore ways to live them and to share them with others. Each scripture illuminates a particular promise and finds fullest expression in the ongoing promise of God's presence in the resurrected Christ. God promises to love us, know us, treasure us, forgive us and to always be with us. These promises are foundational, and they confirm God's intention toward us in Jesus Christ. The cost of the booklet is \$9 and you must register by May 10th so that we can be sure to have enough and get you a booklet before the first class. Childcare is available with a reservation 24 hours in advance. To register contact Lynne Butler 303-791-0659 x11.

Summer Saturdays

Join us for breakfast! A social gathering for all women of St. Luke's and their friends. We had so much fun during the year at "Women's Night Out", we didn't want stop eating... so join us for an early meal with friends this summer:

Saturday, June 10 at 8:30am – Le Peep's Highlands Ranch
(By St. Luke's at 44 W. Centennial, near the AMC Movie Theater)

Saturday, July 22 at 8:30am – Mimi's
(9155 Park Meadows Dr. – Entertainment District in Lone Tree)

On **August 14th** we will have our planning dinner (to select the restaurants for our regular evening dinners for the year) at Cheesy Jane's – 6:30pm. Mark your calendars now!! Contact: Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com



St. Luke's circa 1989

St. Luke's History A new small group is forming and we need people who like to research, compile and dig up stories. For St. Luke's 25th anniversary in 2008 we are putting together a booklet about the history, traditions, symbolism and much more about St. Luke's from our beginning. Why start now? Because we want to take the time to make this a booklet that is meaningful and includes everything we can think of. This group will meet the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm in the Abraham room (which is downstairs off of Goliath.) Childcare is available with a reservation. Can't be a part of the group but still want to contribute? We would love to have all stories, ideas, pictures, and any other information you can think of. Contact Lynne Butler x11 or lynne@stlukeshr.com to be a part of this group or to contribute information.

We are Called to Serve Serving Opportunities May 2006

Prayerfully consider where to serve at St. Luke's

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." -2 Corinthians 9:7

Vacation Bible School/Summer Sunday School: SON TREASURE ISLAND is the theme for Vacation Bible school this year! We will also be using a tropical theme for Summer Sunday School. If you are passionate about children and would like to serve as a teacher or helper in any of our children's classrooms for VBS or Summer Sunday School, please contact Jenita Rhodes jenita@stlukeshr.com or Lynne Butler lynne@stlukeshr.com. Our community of children needs you!

Communications & Outreach: We invite you to explore your creativity and technical skills while helping St. Luke's stay connected. We are seeking those who enjoy photography, graphic arts, writing and editing skills. Many items are done at your own home! We would love to have you join this team. Contact Lisa Hajek 303-471-0705 lahajak@qwest.net

Adult Education Team: This team's mission is to revitalize and expand the adult education offerings at St. Luke's. Meetings are held as needed and we are always open to new ideas for classes. Contact: Lynne Butler 303-791-0659 x11 lynne@stlukeshr.com

Church and Society Team: This team seeks to provide a forum for the St. Luke's community to learn about and act on the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church. We hope to provide education and a resource for action on social issues such as poverty, discrimination, and peace and justice. Contact Susan McIntosh 303-347-0727 susanrmcintosh@yahoo.com

Missions Project Teams: Help St. Luke's reach outward to assist people in our local community and throughout the world. We coordinate collection of food and supplies for local and international organizations; organize outreach projects; manage a budget through which we make donations to local and worldwide missions; and educate church members on the needs of the community and people worldwide. We support St. Luke's small groups and help them create their own outreach experiences. If you are passionate about helping others come join us! Contact Peter Reif 303-791-9002 peterreif@msn.com or Dawn or Gene Branch 303-470-7866 dawn@siblingtechnology.com or gene.branch@agms.com

Grocery Certificate Team: What a great way to meet lots of people! Every time you sell these certificates, a donation is made by one of the local grocery stores to St. Luke's! Help sell these between services on a Sunday convenient to your schedule. Contact Deb Payne 303-795-2685.



Women of St. Luke's

The Women of St. Luke's will host their first church-wide **Baby Shower in the Fall** of 2006. All new mothers of the church will be invited to attend. Plans are to give a gift basket to each new mother. The group is asking if there are any other groups or circles within St. Luke's that would like to donate a small gift to include in each of the mothers' baskets. If interested in donating, contact Amy Ash at 303-799-6079 or aash71170@comcast.net



Week Ending April 29, 2006

Gerry Wright (Gail Abernathy's mother)
Rex Cochran
Madilyn Johnson (Katie Johnston's cousin)
Carolyn Dean
Jeff Patefield
Nancy Rawls (Betsy Keyack's sister)
Jackie Durban
Jennifer Emerson-Roy (Harry & Nancy Cushing's niece)
Deb Murphy (Little School mom)
Syd Harrison (friend of Brad Chase)
Erin Morgan (the Walter's family friend)
Marge Snoddy (Kam Bole's friend)
Dorothy Lloyd (Sheri Shea's mother)
Jack Taylor (Loree Kohr's friend)
Ernie Wight (Elizabeth Laurvick's father)
Bob Lanham (Ann & Jan Lanham's son/brother)
Frances Boles (Tim Boles' mother)
Andy Bingham (friend of Joy Damsgard)
Lisa Maciejewski (Jennifer Jiang's sister)
Erienne Romaine (Raap family friend)
Marlyn Gaskin (Diane Whetson's friend)
Karen Gumz (Sandy Thompson's friend)
Nancy Obertier
Don Craig (Marcia Benschopf's father)
Wendy Walker (Sheri Shea's friend)
Eileen Williams (John Williams' mother)
Bernie Mezger (John Mezger's father)
Guillermo Rodriquez & family (Gail Abernathy's son-in-law)
Edith Walters (Terry Walters' mother)
Cindy Barlow
Carol Eckberg (Kris Reif's mother)
Margaret Hinchey (Kay Swanson's friend)
Cheryl Smith (Joy Damsgard's friend)
Rosie Kovak (Joy Damsgard's relative)
Yvonne Schmidt (Laura Kuhl's mother)
Sturgis Wetherington
Jerry Heinz (Rachel Nolder's father-in-law)
Sandy Ray (Ellen/Lynda Fickling's niece/cousin)
Edith Allen (Susan Stanley's mother)
Norma Harris
Bill Lee, Jr.
Marie Fornoff's mother, Beth
Fumiyo Yamamoto (Jon Takayama's grandmother)
Patti Anderson (Nancy Obertier's friend)
Grant Larson
Mrs. Navai (Manijeh Badiozamani's mother)
Pat (Bob Davis' mother)
Linda Kercheval (sister of Tony Palizzi)
Jim DeLuca (father of Joely Maddux)
Susan Fritz (friend of Kay Swanson)
Ursla Cherry (friend of Trudy Turner)

Richard Vanderkooy (brother-in-law of Rick and Robin Fort)
Ron Aines (Marshall Aines father)
Tracy Dunbar (friend of the Cushings)
Janet Blatchford (friend of Samantha Leahy)
Carol Anderson (friend of Shelly Bonjean)
Jan Winter (friend of Jenny Stevenson)
Alondra Picaco (co-worker of Jenny Stevenson)
Kristy Svendsen (Sue Townsend's daughter)
Janet Johnston
Krista Smith (Sharon & Dewey's Daughter-in-law)
Shaun Van Dyke (Bobbi King's great nephew)
Truman King Sr. (Truman King's father)
Sherry Merrill
Louis Pressel (Carolyn Warden's cousin)
Joe Avey
Kathy Eccles
John Poole
Tricia Dunlap (Betty & Larry Dunlap's daughter)
Sharon Oliver
Kathie Brennaman (Lynda Fickling's sister)
Ryan Hooke
Chris Goldsberry
Ralph Crandell (Mike Stephen's uncle)
Trish Labout (neighbor of the Stephens)
Tom Sailors (brother of Patricia Sailors-Westlake)
Kris Kinney
Ray Bobkowski (Ted Bobkowski's father)
Lisa Bobkowski (Ted Bobkowski's mother)
Jordan Harmon (Walter family friend)
Lucas Ryskamp (former LS student)
John Sudol (Joyce Carnes' cousin)
Jan Dickinson (Bobbi King's friend)
Keith Ayers
Louise Cahill (Lynne Montagne's mother)
Duane Wilterdink (Chris's father)
Logan Hoffman
Devyn Linn
Randy Bennett (Fred/Jean Bennett's son)
Ellen Ursin (Lynda Fickling's mother)
Sam Evers
Marcy Glasser
Deb Lawrence
Jessie Meyer (friend of Gail Abernathy's)

Sympathies:
To Tim & Joyce Carnes and family on the passing of Tim's mother on April 3.
To Jenita & Dave Rhodes and family on the passing of Jenita's mother, Pat Swanson, on April 22.

ADULT EDUCATION

The Adult Education committee will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm beginning May 9th in the Abraham room downstairs off of the Goliath area. Adult Education has not met for quite sometime so we would love to brainstorm new ideas to offer the adults of St. Luke's. Do you know of a great book to study, think we are missing something, have an idea for a class? Then join us as we plan class offerings for the next year. Childcare is available with a reservation 24 hours in advance. With questions please contact Lynne Butler x11.

MISSIONS

continued from page 1

in the evening. Then again, listening to the stories of Sister Helen and Sister Connie, telling us about the war that so many Guatemalan's lost their lives in, really hit home. All of these thoughts have strong and meaningful messages, but I found what I wanted to share the most, was something I hadn't felt on a mission trip before. It probably isn't the most earth shattering or dramatic event, but it's what touched my heart. I have a feeling what I'm about to share, probably didn't really happen the way I remember it, but here it goes. At the beginning of one of our Bible Day Camps, after the bible story had been told, after the songs were song, we lined all the 300+ children up into 4 lines. On this one particular day we handed out small paper hearts out to each one of the children. One by one. As we handed them a heart, Laura Richards and I took turns saying, "Jesus te ama" or "Jesus loves you." What I remember is everything being so quiet and still, and as I said the words I looked into each one of those beautiful brown eyes, on their small, moist, dust covered faces and realized that the most important thing I could do on this trip, at this time, was to share those 3 beautiful words, "Jesus te ama." If Ken was videoing at that time, it probably was anything but quiet and still, but this moment filled me with peace that I can barely describe. Now, granted, a lot of these children are probably Catholic and have heard these words before, but what was different this time for me, was I said the words... out loud. Their little nods of the head or quiet voices saying "Gracias" just made everything seem so complete. So many times on mission trips I see and feel the physical needs, and it can overwhelm me, but this time it was different. It's then that I remembered that some where in the Bible, it talks about listening for the whisper. Thank you, Jesus, I think I heard it.

"Mission of the Month: May" – Guatemala Ministries

During May, the St. Luke's "Mission of the Month" will be the ministries we support in Guatemala. Your donations will support the orphanage in Lemoa and the John Wesley School in Santa Cruz del Quiche. In addition, medical professionals – doctors, dentists and nurses – are needed for a medical mission trip to Guatemala in May, 2007. Contact Dawn and Gene Branch, 303-470-7866, for more information.

HOUSE CLEANING

Marie Sehkar

(St. Luke's-sponsored Liberian family)
Reasonable Prices, Excellent Training
References from St. Luke's Members

303-734-3674

Needs Transportation

Travel With a Purpose: My Trip to Guatemala

by Carolyn McIntosh

Hola! After weeks of preparation and anticipation, our church group of 22 arrived in Guatemala City at 8:30pm on Friday, March 24. We stayed the night at the largest Methodist Seminary in Latin America. The following morning we traveled the curvy road by way of the "chicken bus" for 3 hours to Chichicastenango. Our afternoon was spent playing with the orphanage children in Lemoa. The highlight of the day for me was seeing their happy, eager faces as they ran across the field to greet us and play with the new toys we'd brought to them. Their animated, grateful, smiling faces touched me deeply. Language was no barrier and we found that to be true with all the Guatemalan people the entire week. I found them a very warm and gracious people. On Sunday we went to the Market where among other things we purchased a brightly colored altar cloth for St. Luke's. That evening we attended the "God With Us" Methodist Church, where the pastor spoke to us in both Spanish and English. Pastor Dave was invited to speak a few words of greeting, also.

On Monday our work week began. We divided into two teams – one worked at the orphanage building on a second story addition and one at the Methodist Retreat Center on a bathroom. We hauled blocks, mixed concrete, built walls, dug trenches, etc. You should have seen those youth go to work! Interacting with the Guatemalan workers was a great experience and respect and admiration grew between us as the week progressed.

Bible Camp began on Wednesday afternoon and started with 100 village children the first day to 400 the last day. Again, this was a highlight for me. As the little ones came – some even with their mothers and older sisters carrying them – I was touched deeply. When Pastor Dave had the Opening Ceremony on Jesus Loves Me, the children were so reverent and attentive, you could truly feel God's presence as we all sang the song in Spanish, "Cristo me Ama." Every afternoon we also prayed in Spanish, Padre Nuestro (Lord's Prayer). It was awesome.

At night Pastor Dave led us in devotions and we reflected on the day's events. We laughed and we cried, as we told our stories and shared with one another around the fireplace. One night we decided how to allocate the money between the orphanage and John Wesley School, which St. Luke's so generously had raised. Another evening we discussed ways we could continue our involvement with Guatemala, which we'll let you know at a later date.

What I've written above is only a factual summary of what happened in Guatemala and much is missing. I can't begin to express all that the mission trip meant personally. I only know it was a life changing event for me and I would recommend this or a similar trip for anyone.

To be immersed in a culture, interacting with the people, being the hands and feet of Christ is totally different than just visiting a country as a tourist. It's "travel with a purpose" and building relationships. Talk to any of the other team members who went to Guatemala and catch their enthusiasm, too!



Carolyn McIntosh and Dawn Branch build a wall for the new bathrooms at the Methodist Retreat Center in Lemoa.

LIBRARY DEDICATION

Library to be Dedicated to Vickie Ferguson



The congregation is invited to attend a dedicatory ceremony for the SHIRLEY VICKIE FERGUSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY on Sunday, May 14 at 9:00am in the administrative offices foyer. Many thanks to Ann and Ken Reck, Terri Beecher and Lynda Fickling for their tireless work in cleaning, cataloging, and moving the St. Luke's library to its new space in the administrative wing.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Fri. May 5

*Children's Dinner Theater -
Dinner 6:00pm, Show 7:00pm*

Sun. May 7

*SLY Jr. 5th & 6th Grade
Fellowship 6:00-8:00pm in Goliath*

Tues. May 9

*Children's Ministry Education
Team Meeting 7:00-8:30pm*

Wed. May 10

*Children's Ministry Fellowship
Team Meeting 9:30-11:00am*

Sat. May 13

*Summer Children's Ministry
Workshop 8:30-11:00am*

Sat. May 20

*Discovery Club, Respite Program
for Special Needs Children and
their siblings*

Weds. May 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21

Adult VBS Study 9:30-11:00am

Sun. May 28

*Memorial Day – NO Sunday
School – Only Nursery to 2's*

Sun. June 4

*Promotion Sunday –
Celebrate Summer!*

*SLY Jr. 5th & 6th Grade
Fellowship BBQ: 4th grade and all
families invited 6:00-8:00pm*

Fri. June 9

Sly, Jr. Mission Mania begins

Sun. June 11

*Summer Sunday School Begins
– Adventure of the Treasure
Seekers!*

Tues. June 20

*Children's Ministry Education
Team Meeting 7:00-8:30pm*

Wed. June 14

*Children's Ministry Fellowship
Team Meeting 9:30-11:00am*

**Weds. June 14, 21, July 12,
19, 26, August 2**

Wacky Wednesdays 9:30am-noon

June 26-30

Vacation Bible School



Easter Fun Day A great time was had by all during Easter Fun Day on April 8th! Over 350 children and adults enjoyed cotton candy, balloon animals, cookies, games, a bouncy castle, the Easter Bunny and the live bunnies! A special thank you to Valerie Koenig (pictured at left) who helped to plan and implement Easter Fun Day this year. Valerie, her husband Chris and their son Colton (pictured below with life-sized Easter Bunny), attend St. Luke's and are also deeply involved with The Special Olympics. Thanks, Valerie, and to everyone who helped make this fun event possible!



A Note from Your Children

Hey Mom and Dad, it's almost summer again. And you know that just before summer is spring and you know what that means in Colorado. It could rain, snow or be 90 degrees, all in the same day. I am so busy in the morning that I don't always remember everything I am suppose to have. Please help me to bring my coat, a hat and put on sunscreen every day. Sometimes the Nursery staff likes to take us outside and we want to be prepared. Also, I know that we look very cute in our suits and dresses, but don't forget there is a sandbox outside, and you know how I like to pretend I am at the beach, so please dress me in fun outdoor play clothes. Thanks Mom and Dad, you're the best!

Love, *The Children of St. Luke's*

Nursery Reservations: Please remember to make reservations for childcare 24 hours in advance. This is to ensure that your child(ren) will have plenty of childcare providers to give them all the attention they deserve. You may call 303-791-0659 x47, email kristinalinn@netzero.net or www.stlukeshr.com to make your reservations. There is no need for reservations for Sunday morning worship times.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Jenita Rhodes
Director of Children's
Ministries



Lynne Butler
Preschool Ministry
Coordinator



Kristina Linn
Childcare Coordinator



Kay Swanson
Director of Little School



LITTLE SCHOOL News

Merry Moments in May!

Little School has had another fabulous year, seeing our children blossom and grow! As another year comes to a close we meet this month with joy and sadness. One of our goals at Little School is to know each child as an individual and make a connection with their families. By doing this, however, we get so attached that we miss the children greatly when they move on after graduation. Sometimes we are fortunate to have their siblings remain with us, so we get to keep seeing our wonderful children and families!

This year Little School's theme has been LIGHT (*Matt 5:12*) and each month at Chapel we have been talking about different kinds of light! We have had crystals, light bulbs, candles, stars, flashlights, campfire light, tea lights, beacons and, of course, SUNLIGHT! Each month the children are visited by our biblical friend, Zeek (a very funny puppet), who teaches us about God's love and the light that shines in and around each one of us, and how we shine our God light to others. It has been a very fun time and the children always have an opportunity to sing the school theme song "This Little Light of Mine!"

Little School is looking for some fun, flexible moms, to work at Little School. **We need assistant teachers and lead teachers!** Please contact Little School at 303-791-1982 or kay@stlukeshr.com for further information!

May will be a very busy month for us with our Teacher Appreciation Luncheon, Mother's Day fun, outside activities and year-end parties! **Graduation will be held May 17th and 18th** with the last day of school for everyone being May 18th. The teachers will have a very full day cleaning and closing up for the summer on the 19th. School will begin on September 5th for children! Ms. Tami and myself will be working very part-time this summer to get things ready for fall. The best way to reach us during the summer is by email at kay@stlukeshr.com. Please do not call the main church office to reach us, we will get back to you when we check messages each week... thank you!

Have a wonderful spring and a delightful summer!

Blessings, *Miss Kay*

Sly, Jr. 5th & 6th Grade Fellowship Group

In May our Sly, Jr. journey will end with some really "cool", drippy wet group games and reflection on where we have come and where we might be going. Chris Wilterdink, our fabulous Youth Director, will share some of the great opportunities available to the 6th graders (soon to be 7th graders!) and Jenita will have some thrilling Mission Mania destinations. Don't be left behind! It's never too late to join in. Dinner is at 6:00pm and we end at 8:00pm.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL – Adventure of the TREASURE SEEKERS

The theme of this summer's Sunday School program for our 9:30am 1st-6th graders explores God's promises as we dig into the stories of Ruth and Naomi, David and Jonathan, Esther, the Prodigal Son and talking to the Disciples. All this while we travel to an archaeological dig on an exotic tropical island. Each Sunday we will discover how the stories in the Bible can guide us into closer relation with God.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO LEAD

OUR EXPEDITION! We are asking for several adventurous youth and adults to come forward and give our PEAK Adventures Workshop leaders a well deserved break this summer. We need only eight individuals to lead our children each Sunday. All supplies and planning will be done and ready to go. All you need to do is prepare yourself by reading over the lesson and activity. There will be an organizational meeting on Saturday, May 13 to set the schedule and distribute the curriculum. Call or email Jenita Rhodes to get involved.

Promotion Sunday is June 4th.

All children ages 2 through 6th grade will ceremoniously move to the next higher age or grade level class. Parents will drop their children off in this year's class and pick them up from their new classroom. Don't worry! We have never been left with lost children!

Children's Dinner Theater

St. Luke's Children's Ministry presents the Children's Dinner Theater Friday, May 5th. Join us for a Cinco de Mayo themed dinner at 6:00pm. At 7:00pm the Cherubs Choir will perform and then St. Luke's own children will star in "Just Like Us". A play that teaches how we all are different but still alike. After that the puppet team will lead the audience in some fun karaoke songs. All proceeds from this night will benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters Colorado, Inc.

VBS - June 26th-30th St. Luke's lower level will be transformed into a tropical paradise for Son Treasure Island, St. Luke's 2006 Vacation Bible School. Every day children age 3 (by September 15th) through kids going into 5th grade will learn about how God treasures them through games, crafts, music, snacks, skits and Bible stories. Registration forms are available in the church office and are due by May 30th or when the program is filled. With questions please contact Lynne Butler x11.

Family Christian Home Each year the Methodist General Board of Discipleship has a theme for the Christian family. This year the theme is Peace. Throughout 2006, Children's Ministries will look for ways to educate and encourage families through literature and fun activities. On May 5th we will present a play, "Just Like Us", which teaches tolerance and celebrates our differences. Families will receive more information about the Christian Family theme soon.

Little School will continue in May to collect items for Presbyterian St. Luke's Children's Oncology (cancer) unit! Items may be donated by the nursery downstairs or in the tub by the church office. We still need NEW fleece children's or twin size blankets, individually wrapped snacks, drink boxes, crackers, fruit cups or other snacks! This is EXTREMELY important and the children on chemotherapy sincerely appreciate your donations! THANK YOU!



Servant Spotlight: Susan Hooke

by Jill Wright

St. Luke's has no shortage of meaningful service opportunities. With so many important volunteer-driven programs and events, some may find it difficult to choose where to lend their talents, or which opportunity is in most need of their help. Some jump right in and immediately find their comfort zone. Others may try on many different hats until they find the right fit.

In Susan Hooke's case, she didn't find her true calling – it found her! We'll explain that later. First, let's meet Susan and see how her journey led to that event.

Susan Hooke is a Colorado native, born and raised in Arvada. Her mother owned an antique shop and her father was a well-known attorney. Susan attended Catholic primary and secondary schools and studied recreational, travel and hospitality management at Colorado State and Metro State. She has worked as a flight attendant, a travel agent, a retail store assistant manager and even had a stint in the financial services industry. She and her husband Rob, an attorney, have been married since 1991 and have two children, Ryan, 11, and Samantha, 6. The Hooke Family lives in west Highlands Ranch.

Susan began attending St. Luke's about eight years ago on the recommendation of her neighbor, Michelle Krug. She joined St. Luke's about four years later.

"For the first few months attending St. Luke's, I often cried during services. Raised as a Catholic, I felt tremendous guilt for not attending a Catholic church, but I felt so drawn to St. Luke's, and I felt so welcomed here. I truly believe that God led me to St. Luke's to help me with rough roads that laid ahead," Susan shares.

"My family at St. Luke's was always there for me as we dealt with my own depression and other issues affecting my family," Susan says. "I couldn't have gotten through it without that support."

"Working with these kids energizes me, they inspire me to be a better person. I get so much more out of it than I put into it... I feel that these kids help me as much as – if not more than – I help them." -Susan Hooke

Susan and Rob Hooke's personal experiences led them to help start EMPOWER Colorado, an organization dedicated to families of children and youth with brain disorders. (Visit www.empowercolorado.com for more information.)

Despite those trying years, and her involvement with EMPOWER Colorado, Susan still felt compelled to serve St. Luke's.

"I started volunteering at St. Luke's because I believe it is something we should all do for our community, in some way, at some time. There are times in our lives when we can give and there are times in our life when we need to take," Susan says.

For a few years Susan was involved with St. Luke's Caring Connection, the group that, among many things, organizes and sends meals to new mothers, persons recovering from surgeries or illnesses, and funerals. She was also active with what was formerly called the Family Ministries Team, which organized hayrides, the Christmas "hanging of the greens," and other events.

"Through my involvement with those activities I got to know a lot of St. Luke's youth. I was in awe of their depth and talents. They are such a great group of kids – so much more spiritual than I was at their age!"

About five years ago, then-Youth Director Aaron Shipman called Susan. He told her that SLY (St. Luke's Youth Group for junior- and senior-high school students) needed an adult advisor and that several of St. Luke's teens had specifically requested Susan.

And that is how Susan's true calling found her!

"I have definitely found my niche working with SLY," Susan says. "I get to be a teenager again and have so much fun. Some nights we are silly, playing games like Red Rover, and other nights we are very spiritual. Chris Wilterdink (current Youth Director) recently led a very moving Holy Week exercise involving loaves of bread. I was moved to tears. It is so wonderful to get to be a kid again, acting carefree and silly while also growing spiritually."

As SLY Youth Leader, Susan helps with the Sunday SLY group, drives youth to events and outings, assists with confirmation classes and performs other missions. "Last year I chaperoned SLY at the 'Up With Youth' weekend in Estes Park. I didn't get a whole lot of sleep that weekend!" Susan joked.

"Working with these kids energizes me, they inspire me to be a better person. I get so much more out of it than I put into it," Susan continues. "I have formed so many great friendships, and I feel that these kids help me as much as – if not more than – I help them."

To learn more about SLY service opportunities, or other St. Luke's opportunities, please contact Lynda Fickling at 303-791-0659 x20.

MUSIC & DRAMA



James Ramsey
Director of
Worship & Arts



Carrie Mallery
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry



Kay Coryell
Assistant
Music Director

All Ensembles Concert: May 13 at 7:00pm

Come and enjoy the final concert of the season for all of our amazing music ensembles at St. Luke's. To conclude the 2005-2006 worship and benefit concert season, many of the 17 ensembles in the music program will join together for a musical celebration finale. Following the free concert, there will be a social time with sweets for all. Please come and help us celebrate another wonderful and successful year in music that makes a difference at St. Luke's.

Thank You Note from Jim

I can't thank everyone enough for the gifts of spiritual comfort, financial support and most of all the prayers these last several weeks. All of these blessings surrounding my recent vocal surgery have truly helped me through an incredibly difficult and emotional time.

I feel in my heart that this experience is absolutely God-centered. I'm profoundly grateful to those who continue to be a part of this journey with me and am deeply humbled as well as overwhelmed by your generous spirit. Please know how much I appreciate everything you all have done; the well-wishes, cards, prayers and perhaps most overwhelming – the pancake breakfast!

Your friendship, support and prayers have been an abundant source of strength for me, as well as for Leigh and the boys, these last few months. We are extremely grateful for the incredible outpouring of love and support from our St. Luke's family of friends! I'm looking forward to raising my voice with yours in song again very soon!

-Jim

2007 Wesley Choral Festival

If you've always wanted to go to NYC and sing or simply tour and celebrate the tercentenary of Charles Wesley, then sign up to go with members of the Chancel Choir. The tour/festival takes place from February 15-19 with a gala dinner and culminates with a performance on the evening of the 18th in Lincoln Center at Avery Fischer Hall in which James Ramsey will be conducting. The proceeds from the concert will benefit UMCOR. The performance will also feature a world premiere commissioned work (by St. Luke's) celebrating the life of Charles Wesley. Sign ups are happening now. You don't need to sing in order to go. We'll be staying in Manhattan. More information about the festival is on our website at www.stlukeshr.com. If you are interested, please contact James Ramsey via email only at jim@stlukeshr.com. Sign up now! The price per person will range between \$1,200 and \$1,500 depending on whether you choose the total package or if you choose to take the land only package.

Chancel Choir Goes to France

Members of the Chancel Choir and family members, 33 in all, are gearing up to head across seas to sing and visit France from May 26-June 5. The Chancel Choir tour includes singing in some of the most famous and grandest cathedrals in the world such as Le Madeleine and Notre Dame in Paris. In addition, we'll be participating in a wreath-laying ceremony at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach in Normandy in which we'll be reading the names of veterans connected to St. Luke's in some way who have given service to their country and singing *America the Beautiful* as a lasting tribute. The Chancel Choir performs 6 concerts and recitals and will see the beautiful sights of France and it's glorious countryside. Please keep us in your prayers as we represent St. Luke's UMC and one of it's wider missions of making a difference through music in France. A detailed itinerary is located on our website at www.stlukeshr.com.

Godspell Recap

Simply, an amazing worship experience! There are countless thanks and kudos to go out to all the cast and crew who worked on creating a wonderfully comical, enlightening and moving production. My thanks to Carrie Mallery for being music director/director and for Dave Laurvick and his ability to not only do a great Brando and John Wayne on stage but to create and build the set as well as help direct. Also, many thanks to my beautifully talented wife for her amazing skills as producer. In addition, my heartfelt thanks to the cast for the countless hours of preparation - Jack Kennedy, Dave Laurvick, Ed Law, Ray Godsey, Doug Johnson, Angela Alderson, Emmy Bauer, Linda Walker, Leigh Ramsey, Lisé Takayama, Eileen Law, Lynne Sorsby and Kevin Sims. And to the production crew: Tim Boles, Terry Walters, Ken & Kristine Fong, John Harper, Jeff Johnson, Dave Rhodes, Kevin Ashby, and Bob & Sharon Oliver. And last but not least, the Band: Jim Allen, Carrie Mallery, Mel Scott, Jon Takayama. Kudos to all!

Summer Choir

If you've always wanted to sing in the choir at St. Luke's but couldn't because it's on Thursday nights, or you're too busy, out of town most of the time, love music but not sure if you can do it, or anything else, then this is the time and place for you. Our Summer Choir will begin again in June and sing once a month during services until regular rehearsals for the Chancel Choir begin again the first week of September. All are welcome!

Summer Choir schedule:

- Sat., June 17: 8:30-11:30 Retreat
- Sun., July 9: 9:30 & 11:00 services
- Sun., June 18: 9:30 & 11:00 services
- Sun., August 6: 9:30 & 11:00 services

Summer Choir sings the music ministry during both services. After the music ministry at 11:00, the choir will exit the service. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Jim at jim@stlukeshr.com.

Ensembles Go on Break for the Summer

Many of our music ensembles will begin their summer break starting on Memorial Day Weekend. However, a few will meet sporadically throughout the summer. If you are interested in joining any ensembles, please go to the website for contact information at www.stlukeshr.com and click on the music and drama link or contact James Ramsey at jim@stlukeshr.com. Regular rehearsal schedules will begin in mid August or the first week of September for all music ensembles.

Sound of Music Auditions: May 20 & 21 *See cover for details*

If you are considering auditioning: rehearsals begin last week of August or first week of September. Rehearsal days will be Wed. evenings, Sat. mornings or early afternoons, Sun. afternoons. Very few cast members are scheduled for every rehearsal. The week before show will include many rehearsals, often extended. Contact James Ramsey at jim@stlukeshr.com.

For a complete listing and contact info for all of our ensembles and information on upcoming opportunities please visit stlukeshr.com.

May 2006

5/3 – SLAM
 5/7 – SLY AM Worship
 SLY PM: Final District
 Worship © Hope UMC
 5/10 – SLAM
 5/14 – Mother's Day
 (Make momma happy!)
 No SLY AM or PM
 5/17 – Final SLAM
 Senior Dinner 6pm
 5/21 – Regular SLY AM
 Graduate Sunday,
 SLY PM: Summer's Starting
 5/28 – Memorial Day Weekend
 No SLY AM or PM

June 2006

6/4 – Regular SLY AM
 SLY PM – Summer Kick Off!
 Neighborhood Pool Party
 6/10-6/17 – Sr. High Mission Trip
 to Biloxi, MS
 6/11 – Regular SLY AM
 Regular SLY PM
 6/18 – Father's Day
 (Have fun with Dad!)
 No SLY AM or SLY PM
 6/25 – Regular SLY AM
 Regular SLY PM

SLY: ST. LUKE'S YOUTH

Ann Smith
 Assistant
 Youth Director

Chris Wilterdink
 Director of
 Youth Ministries

CHRIS's CORNER**Almost Time to Get SOAKED!**

Summer is knocking on the door, school is ending, the trees are full of leaves, confirmation has ended, seniors are graduating... and oh yeah, the summertime gets really hot! One of the ways you can stay cool this summer is to get *SOAKED. All around St. Luke's this summer you will see a little Spongebob-like guy showing you ways that you can get *SOAKED this summer.

Our summer programs will be up and running again in June, and it is a great time to share some fun with your friends, and meet some new cool kids as last year's 6th graders join us and this year's 8th graders become high schoolers. Check out what we have coming up!

- Tuesday Night Volleyball Starting 6/13 at 6pm.
- Breakfast Club Thursday Mornings at 10am starting 6/15.
- GEMS (for girls only) Rafting, Hiking, Spa Nights, Movies, Bowling, Community Service, Downtown Adventures
- STM (for guys only) Indoor Skydiving, Wednesday Night Dinners, Hiking, Body Works, Community Service
- Regular SLY AM & SLY PM all summer long



Watch for a calendar to come at the end of the month with more detailed descriptions of our *SOAKED Summer. Get ready to SOAK IN new ideas, SOAK UP some love and strength from mission experiences. Get SOAKED THROUGH as many different church activities as you can this summer!

Blessings, –Chris

DON'T MISS!

Youth Mission Trips There are a few open spots for our summer mission trips. Turn in applications and talk to Chris ASAP to reserve your spot!

Graduate Sunday on May 21

If you are a graduating senior, make sure Chris has a senior picture and a kindergarten picture for the ministry moment and recognition at each service on May 21. This is also Disciple Graduation Sunday, so if you were involved in either section of Youth Disciple, you will be recognized at the 9:30 service as well. Graduate Dinner is on May 17 at 6pm, please RSVP with Chris if you can come.

Warren Village has recognized our youth group as the 2006 Group Volunteer of the Year for our efforts in putting on the Costume Drive & Halloween Haunted House Party! We have sponsored this event since 1998! A huge thanks to Cassie Johnson, the Ashby's, Lynda Drake, and everyone else who has piled on the effort to serve the families of Warren Village. Way to be!!!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**2006 Confirmation**

Class: Cory Hensen, Alex Hughes, Jane Givens, Peter Maxwell, Lauren Stanley, Kristin Speedy, Matthew Bacon, Caitlin Bauer, Rebecca Cushing, Gina Thompson, Allison Wesson, Ethan Goddard, Stephanie Hensen, Blair Larson, Carrie McMullen, Kim Ransick, Matthew Thompson, Karen Bobkowsky, Katie Drinkard, Christian Fickling, Mackenzie Hutchins, Christi Thompson.

FELLOWSHIP

Attention Young Adults... and Parents of: Are you between the ages of 18 and 27? Are you in college, working, single, married? Well, there is a new group at St. Luke's interested in you. Join us May 20, 4:30pm at Dekovend Park, Shelter A for a Bar-B-Que, Volleyball, Frisbee and just hangin' out. We've got plans for monthly social activities, a 4 day mission trip in July and a weekly discussion/study opportunity. Come check this out!

We do need help with contact information, so that we can get this word out! If you are interested or if you have a family member who fits this description, please provide us with contact information, especially email. For questions and to provide contact info: Call ore email Chris Wilterdink 303-791-0659 x14, chris@stlukeshr.com or Sarah Boon, 720-839-5241, skboon@ouray.cu.denver.edu

Improving Building Security

by Sandi Miyaki



One of the primary roles of St. Luke's Trustees organization is to make sure we're doing everything we can to maintain the investment of our church home. While St. Luke's is very blessed to host so very many small and large teams throughout all hours of the day and night, one challenge we must solve together is managing building security.

Based on our past experiences and input from different people within St. Luke's and other similar organizations, beginning in April, the Trustees are launching a four-pronged approach to improving building security.

First, as you may have noticed on signs posted around our building, operations notes in our weekly bulletin and preliminary information shared within some groups, we're changing all of our exterior door locks. There have been so very many keys issued and later reported lost since the launch of our newest building that it's the only way we can reliably implement the new security policy and procedures.

The second aspect of improving security is to introduce a more disciplined process to the management of these new keys. If you need access to St. Luke's outside of business or worship hours, please get a new key from Bonnie in our office. She'll explain our policy and procedures, sign a key out to you and collect a \$25 non-refundable charge per outside key.

Third, as people are entrusted with keys, they're also entrusted with being accountable to check with others in the building before they leave to verify if they're the last one out that evening and to lock the front door. We're implementing a more formal sign-out process using a log book both as a reminder and a record.

Lastly, we're directing all traffic in and out the front door; the routing will minimize the numbers of locks and expense if keys are lost in the future.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support as we work together to keep St. Luke's and our visitors secure. If you have additional ideas we need to consider to further enhance safety and security at St. Luke's, please send an email to Ken Fong, kfong@att.net, or drop a note off at the office.



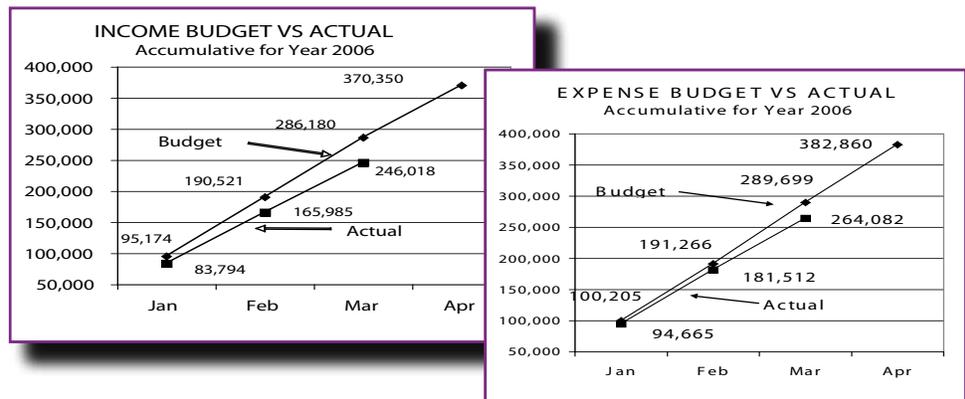
Dave Cupp
Director of Finance

First Quarter Financial Results: I'm pleased that the accounting system conversion is now close enough to completion that up-to-date financial reports can be provided for your information and management purposes. The two charts included in this issue of *The Chronicle* will give you information about our performance for the first three months.

Unfortunately, you will note that our income is about \$40,000 short of what we had budgeted. It is my hope that providing you with this information periodically as we go through the year will serve as a reminder for you to make sure you are current with your giving. This should work much better than waiting until Fall and getting in the panic catch-up mode. We have worked the budget to the point that we should be very close to meeting our goal of breaking even at the end of the year. This will happen if everyone provides the support promised.

After nine months of work, I've learned there is no way to be exactly correct in income projection. However, that is no reason not to try. A procedural approach is much more accurate than no approach. The best we can do is to use our giving history to determine what percent of our annual income we can historically expect each month. The budget this year includes that monthly percentage distribution using the last three years. This approach did work pretty good for the last months of last year.

The chart for the expenses is showing we spent about \$25,000 less than budgeted. That is great. However, I'm not sure if the money was not spent because the budgeted amount was too high or if the timing in the budget was incorrect. I'm working on a report that will allow me to address the timing issue better for future reporting.



First Quarter Giving Statements Mailed: You should have received your first quarter giving statement by now. They were mailed on April 10. Please review your statement and let me know if corrections are needed.

Check Writing Policy: My policy is to write checks on Wednesdays for signatures and disbursement on Thursdays or Fridays unless some type of true emergency occurs. If you spend personal funds for which you are to be reimbursed, keep in mind the process may take 7 to 10 days from the time you get your reimbursement approved and delivered to me. Also, keep in mind that I'm only allowed to sign small checks in true emergency situations. Otherwise, the checks are signed by the Treasurer or Finance Team Leaders.

Vacation Time Is Near – Don't Forget to Sign Up For Electronic Funds Transfer: Why worry about getting your checks to the Church while your away on vacation or business? Give yourself some relief. Sign up for the Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) program that will automatically do the paperwork for you. It's easy. You fill out the form indicating monthly or semi-monthly withdrawals, the date(s) you want withdrawals to happen and get the form along with a voided check to me.

SADAYA ("GOD'S GRACE")
Marie Sehkar
(St. Luke's-sponsored Liberian family)
Hair braiding, Extensions, Weaves,
Cornrows, Patterns, Single braids
303-734-3674
Littleton Area



The CHRONICLE

St. Luke's United Methodist Church
 8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
 303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

NON-PROFIT
 ORG
**U S POSTAGE
 PAID**
 PERMIT #7
 LITTLETON, CO

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

- WRESTLING WITH QUESTIONS PEOPLE ASK:**
HOW DO WE FIND COMMON GROUND? – *Rev. Janet Forbes*
- May 14:** Raising a PG Kid in an X-rated World
 - May 21:** A Water-Cooler Response to *The Da Vinci Code*
 - May 28:** War and the Way of Jesus
 - June 4:** Living in an Inter-Faith Community
 - June 11:** Choices that Turn the World Upside Down
 - June 18:** An Open Letter to a Gay Son

St. Luke's United Methodist Church welcomes you to our Christian family, where we share life. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are accepted and encouraged to grow spiritually.

Join us in growing together toward full humanity through living the teachings of Jesus: Love, Acceptance, Justice and Hope.

MAY 2006 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 30 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship 11am: Next Step Class 6pm: SLY PM	May 1 6:30pm: Women's Night Out	2	3 6-9pm: WNL	4	5 CHILDREN'S DINNER THEATER 6pm: Dinner 7pm: Show	6 4pm: SLYJO Dinner
7 MISSION SUNDAY 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship 9:30am: Called to Serve 6pm: SLY PM 6pm: SLY Jr. SLYJO at Ft. Morgan	8 7pm: Trustees Meeting	9	10 6-9pm: WNL	11	12	13 7pm: ENSEMBLES CONCERT
14 MOTHER'S DAY 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship 9am: Library Dedication Ceremony NO SLY Activities	15 7pm: SPRC Meeting	16	17 9:30am: Little School Graduation 6-9pm: WNL	18 9:30am: Little School Graduation	19	20 8am: Work Day 10am: Discovery Club 10am: Sound of Music Auditions
21 GRADUATION SUNDAY & DISCIPLE RECOGNITION 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship 1pm: Sound of Music Auditions 6pm: SLY PM	22	23	24 6-9pm: WNL	25	26 Choir Trip to Europe	27 Choir Trip to Europe
28 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship NO SLY Activities Choir Trip to Europe	29 MEMORIAL DAY Choir Trip to Europe	30 Choir Trip to Europe	31 6-9pm: WNL Choir Trip to Europe	JUNE 1 Choir Trip to Europe	2 Choir Trip to Europe	3 Choir Trip to Europe