



Highlands Ranch, Colorado

December 2007/January 2008

The CHRONICLE

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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and much more!

Celebrating the Generosity of St. Luke's through the Giving Tree



With the help of the generous members of St. Luke's, Santa was able to bring smiles and joy to many children and their families that otherwise would not have had any gifts on Christmas morning.

You provided approximately 250 gifts to families served by Inter-Faith and to the youth at Urban Peak. Children in Guatemala will have milk and many in Africa will receive animals through Heifer International.

May your celebrations be more joyful knowing you brought happiness to others.



Praying for Justice & Peace Integration Contemplation and Action with Rev. Jane Vennard

Saturday, January 12, 2008 9:00-3:00pm

25th Anniversary
Speakers Series
at St. Luke's

In our troubled world we often wonder what one person or one church community can do to ease the struggles and comfort the suffering. Sometimes we are torn between praying and acting, and other times we are tempted to give up on both. This prayer day will explore ways we can be effective in our work and prayers for justice and peace in our families, our community, and in the world. We will discover together the power of different prayer forms in the faithful work of creating peace on earth. We will attend to the transformation of our own hearts, discovering ways to pray that help us become active contemplatives or contemplative activists.

Reverend Jane E. Vennard is a spiritual director, retreat and workshop leader, and lecturer. She was ordained by the United Church of Christ and currently serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, where she teaches courses on prayer and spirituality. She is a graduate of Wellesley College, Stanford University, and the San Francisco Theological Seminary.

Registration forms are available in the church office.

A JUBILEE CHRISTMAS



PREPARE THE WAY

Once again, as on a silent night long ago, we are challenged to live and love with outrageous hope!

Join Us! All are welcome!

SUNDAY Dec. 23 -

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

"Honey, Funny Story..." -Rev. Brad Laurvick

6:00pm

Children's Christmas Pageant

CHRISTMAS EVE

MONDAY Dec. 24 -

Services of Carols and Candles

1:00 & 3:00pm (Children's)

"Outrageous Hope" -Chris Wilterdink

5:00 & 7:00pm (Traditional)

10:00pm (Contemplative Communion)

"What Child Is This?" -Rev. Janet Forbes

SUNDAY Dec. 30 -

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

"The Witnesses Who Confirmed the Hope"

-Rev. Janet Forbes

SUNDAY Jan. 6 -

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Epiphany Sunday & Celebration of the Kings Service

MAKING A STAND ON A MORAL ISSUE

by Susan McIntosh

In November, the United Methodist Council of Bishops called on leaders of the United States and other nations in the Coalition Forces to end the war in Iraq with an immediate withdrawal of troops. In an article published by the United Methodist Church ([www. umc.org](http://www.umc.org)), Bishop Jack Meadors stated, "The Iraq war is not just a political issue or a military issue. It is a moral issue." *-continued on page 9*

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

Sunday School:
Adult, Youth & Children:
9:30am & 11:00am
Nursery available for
9:30am & 11:00am 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 Minister
Emergency: 303-241-9312

Rev. Pam Rowley.....x32
Associate Minister
Emergency: 720-348-1528

Rev. Brad Laurvick.....x12
Associate Minister
Emergency: 720-296-1251

James Ramsey.....x23
Director of Worship & Arts

Kay Coryell.....x36
Associate Director of Worship & Arts

Chris Wilterdink.....x14
Director of Youth Ministries

Susan Johnson.....x19
Assistant Director of Youth Ministries

Jenita Rhodes.....x27
Director of Children's Ministry

Lynne Butler.....x11
Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

Kristina Linn.....x40
Childcare Director

Lynda Fickling.....x20
Director of Servant Ministry

Bonnie Funk.....x10
Church Secretary

Dave Cupp.....x24
Director of Finance

Janet Maxwell.....x16
Assistant Director of Finance

Barry Curtis.....x39
Facilities Manager

Kay Swanson...303-791-1982
Director of Little School

All articles, photos and announcements for the February issue of *The Chronicle* are due January 20th
Editor: Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

The Season of Epiphany: LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

One day a boy was watching a holy man praying on the banks of a river in India. When the holy man completed his prayer, the boy asked him, "Will you teach me to pray?" The holy man studied the boy's face carefully. Then he gripped the boy's head in his hands and plunged it forcefully into the water! The boy struggled frantically, trying to free himself in order to breathe. Finally, the holy man released his hold. When the boy was able to get his breath, he gasped, "What did you do that for?" The holy man said: "I just gave you your first lesson." "What do you mean?" asked the astonished boy. "Well," said the holy man, "when you long to pray as much as you longed to breathe when your head was underwater – only then will I be able to teach you to pray."

Like the disciples, we stand awe struck before our teacher, Christ Jesus. Where did Jesus get his power? Peter, Andrew, and the rest knew that prayer was the source. The disciples struggled with their own ineffective connection to God. So, from their intimate friendship with Jesus, they made the request, "Lord, teach us how to pray."

As we unfold this theme for the season of Epiphany, Robin E. Van Cleef offers this prayer.

*Lord, at the beginning of this season,
I sense my need of you.
Yet I'm not quite sure how to reach you.
I heard someone say, "Read your Bible,"
but too often the words are like bullets
that ricochet off my brain.
I heard someone say, "Pray,"
but my prayers, hurled heavenward,
fall back to earth like lifeless stones.
I heard someone say, "Meditate,"
but my wandering mind was lost
in a desert of random thoughts.*

*Lord, speak to me through your word,
and let it penetrate my mind, my heart.
Lord, speak to me through my prayers,
and turn the lifeless stones to bread.
Lord, speak to me in the midst of meditation,
that I may see, amid life's wilderness,
the way, the truth, the life.*

Join us for this winter journey.
Lord, teach us to pray.

Offer Assistance to Those Who Ask

On Sunday mornings, persons frequently come to the church seeking assistance: gasoline, food, lodging, bus fare. It is usually not timely for the pastors to speak with these persons until 12:00 noon, following the morning services of worship. Please invite those who make such requests to attend worship and fellowship. Be hospitable. If a pastor (or staff person) is not available, you may respond to the need on behalf of the congregation. During the season of Advent and Lent every year, we receive a special offering to assist persons in these ways. "The Benevolence Fund" is a source of support for you so that you may respond to the request for help. You may take persons to the grocery store and purchase a gift certificate for groceries. You can take the family to the gas station and fill their tank. You may offer to buy a meal. You may direct persons to Interfaith Community Services. You may assist with bus fare. You may pay a cab fare in advance, if necessary. **THE BENEVOLENCE FUND CAN REIMBURSE YOU FOR ANY EXPENSES YOU MAY INCUR WHILE OFFERING ASSISTANCE.** Please do not feel that you need to use your own resources. The congregation has planned well for the giving of this kind of assistance. However, we recommend that you do not give cash, unless there are no other alternatives for assistance. Thank you for your care of persons in need.

Caring for One Another: Entering Cold and Flu Season

As we enter the season of Advent, we also enter the winter season for colds and flu. In an effort to care for one another, let's be sensitive to those who wish to refrain from shaking hands. We can carry hand sanitizers, wash our hands frequently, and enjoy the tissue throughout the sanctuary and classrooms. After Rev. Janet took every cough drop from the Chancel Choir one Sunday morning, she has made a commitment to keeping a good supply on her desk. Please help yourself to the relief! Stay well as we care for one another.

Nametags

Names are given to us at birth. We cherish the story behind our name and love when people recognize who we are by our given name. Help us all to share that blessing by purchasing a nametag at the "Get Connected" table for only \$3.50. These magnetic tags are just a symbol but help us to become relational with one another.

FROM REV. BRAD



Rev. Brad Laurvick
Associate Minister

I have been watching something really interesting recently—a beautiful and amazing process I had never seen. I have been watching wood floors be refinished. Have you ever seen this?

First, they came in and with a giant sander they removed the old layer of varnish. A single swipe and all of the scratches and dents, the discoloration and stains, and the rough spots on the surface were all gone.

Once the floor had been returned to its purest and most natural state, they layer filler over it. They took a mud like concoction and slathered it over the floors to fill any cracks and hole that might have worked their way into the wood—any imperfections that went deeper than the surface. Once again they sanded—the floor returning to that pure state, only this time even the deeper imperfections had been repaired and removed.

I am still waiting to see what the staining and sealing, I am sure there will be another experience of deep meaning, even these first few steps offer something profound to reflect on, especially at the beginning of the new year.

In your life, what would you say are the old layers, the scratches and dents, the discoloration and stains, and the rough spots—even the ones that go much deeper than the surface? And what would it look like to have them removed?

“See I am making all things new”—Rev. 21:5

In this time of new beginnings at Christmas and the new year, this is a promise of hope that is made to us by God through Christ.

This idea of being made new however, is not only self focused. As we, as a community celebrating “Jubilee!” both at Christmas and in our 25th year, we are asked by God to make all things new. Looking at God’s world, we see old layers, the scratches and dents, the discoloration and stains, and the rough spots. God asks us to respond to these conditions, so God might work through us. We are called to action in the world. This is something we do through mission, giving, and most importantly- thorough personal relationship.

On every level: personal, local, global- God is asking and using us to make all things new- not only at Christmas and the new year, but every day. All the while we ourselves have the promise of hope that we too can be made new. So underneath the yellowed surface- the one that has been walked on, scratched and often ignored- lies a beautifully hand-crafted life that awaits Jubilee.

May you be blessed and be a blessing, at Christmas, in the New Year, and always.

—Rev. Brad

A BOLD VENTURE



A Bold Venture UPDATE:

BUILDING PLANS TO DOUGLAS COUNTY

The Bold Venture Building Committee will meet with architect, Jim Morgan, on Wednesday, December 12 to approve the plans for submission to the Douglas County Planning Commission for the new youth/adult education/chapel addition to the west of the current facility. On Sunday, December 16, members of the Building Committee will be available in the Fellowship Hall between services to show the interior floor plans and exterior elevations to interested persons.

Once we have an estimate of the cost projections, the Executive Board will meet to determine the allocation of the capital campaign funds between construction, refurbishment, and debt reduction. The construction project is on schedule to break ground in the spring and to open in September 2008.

Thank you to the Building Committee: Scott Kohrs (chairperson), David Rhodes, Randy Larson, Joyce Carnes, Dee Duncan, Ken Fong, Sandi Miyaki, Marge Harper, Peter Waldheim, Tim Krening, and Terri Ary. Dave Cupp and Janet Forbes are staff liaisons.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Learn More About General Conference

United Methodist Communications Offers General Conference Training Online

United Methodist Communications is offering a five-session online course for those who want to learn more about the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. The free course has garnered more than 150 participants in only the first three days, and is expected to gain momentum as General Conference 2008 approaches.

“The course is ideal for anyone attending the 2008 General Conference, including communicators and delegates, as well as United Methodists interested in learning more about how the denomination makes decisions,” said site administrator Cheryl A. Hemmerle. “Participants can begin the course at any time between Nov. 15 and Dec. 26, 2007, and move through the sessions at their own pace.”

“I will be attending General Conference as a marshal,” said Betty Jackson of Ebenezer United Methodist Church in New Johnsonville, Tenn. “I’m really excited about going. I’m taking this course in hope it will give me an idea of what will be going on.”

In addition to many interactive features such as videos and quizzes, participants can engage in facilitated discussion forums to ask questions and share ideas. The goal of the course is to give participants a basic working knowledge of the church’s legislative process through General Conference.

“I have been a member of The United Methodist Church since 1986 after spending most of my life in two other denominations,” said Arthur Sponagel of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church in Las Cruces, N.M. “One thing I like about Methodism is you are expected to continue studying. I hope to learn more about how the church operates.”

Course materials include information about:

- The history, role and purpose of General Conference
- How delegates are elected, their role and responsibilities
- How petitions, the general church budget and other important matters are decided through General Conference
- Social issues facing The United Methodist Church and the denomination’s stance on those issues
- The highlights of the 2004 General Conference and what’s ahead for 2008

To register for the course, visit <http://training.umcom.org>. For more information, call (888) 278-4862 or e-mail training@umcom.org. Additional sessions will be offered from January to May 2008 leading up to the 2008 General Conference.

Chronicle Note: Rev. Janet Forbes will be attending General Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, April 23 to May 2, 2008 at the head of the delegation from the Rocky Mountain Conference (Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming).



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry

denverslade@msn.com or Dick Frame 303-791-4251 rframe5492@aol.com

Greeters: We are the hosts and our mission is to make our guests (and members) feel at home on Christmas Eve. Contact Karmie Hilleary 303-683-4696 karmie@comcast.net or Valerie Goodstein 303-799-0907 valgoodstein@hotmail.com

Refreshments: Help serve and maintain our Hot Cider and Cookies table! Needed in between our 1:00(includes set-up), 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00pm(includes clean-up) services. Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com

Shuttle Drivers: Drive people (in your own vehicles) who attend the 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm or 7:00pm services to and from the parking lot across the street (Northridge Rec Center). Contact Ken Fong 303 346-7057 or kfong@att.net

Parking Lot Attendants: Youth are needed to direct traffic in our parking lot for the 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, or 7pm services. Contact Chris

Servant By Design

Sundays 6:30-8:00pm beginning Feb. 10th
8-week course Cost \$21.00

Discover who you are... Why are YOU here? What do YOU do best? What are YOU passionate about? What do You value? What are Your priorities?

Lifekeys will help you begin your journey to a God-centered life by discovering how you are designed to serve. Discover your:

- Life gifts and spiritual gifts (What you do best!)
- Personality type and values (The places or atmospheres that give you the most energy)
- Passion (The purposes God placed in your heart)

"In entering this journey of servanthood and becoming servants of Jesus, you will become deeply involved in spiritual community as you live and serve God-centered and others-focused ways." - Full Service by Siang-Yang Tan

Contact: Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com

ADULT ED – New classes are beginning soon so check the sign up table in the Narthex. Here is an overview of new classes:

Breaking the Code - facilitated by Les Ludlam, beginning in January, The book of Revelation contains passages of great beauty and comfort, as well as passages that strike the casual reader as bizarre, bewildering, and sometimes frightening. How are readers today to discern God's message in

this peculiar part of the Bible? In this book Metzger presents solid scholarship in a nonacademic style.

Short Term Disciple - Introduction to John - facilitated by Les Ludlam, during Lent.

Parables from the Back Side: Bible Stories With a Twist (Behind the Pages) by Ellsworth Kalas - facilitator and time not available at press time, check the sign up sheet in the Narthex. The "Backside" books give a different perspective from



Week Ending December 7, 2007

To add or remove someone from the prayer chain,
contact Bonnie Funk 303-791-0659 x10 or Bonnie@stlukeshr.com

Gerry Wright (Gail Abernathy's mother)
John Poole (friend of Joy Damsgard)
Beth Turner
Walt Brewer
Jenni Keefer (Mike Hutchins' daughter)
Avis Stanley (Joy Damsgard's mother)
Jim Hertel (Sandy Thompson's father)
Brian Day (Eileen Law's nephew)
Brent Webber (friend of Cushing family)
Peter Quick
Norma Harris
Betty Kieser (Bonnie Funk's mother)
Kendall Griggs (Susan Hooke's uncle)
Fanelle Laughlin (Lisa Williams' aunt)
Becky Williams (Jeff Williams' sister)
Charles Hardin (family friend of Lisa Williams)
Burt Sahli (Diane Whetson's father)
Brian Keefer (Mike Hutchins' son-in-law)
John Covey (friend of Ross Barnard)
Amber Cunningham (friend of Amy Antinoro)
Joyce Martin (friend of Kam Boles/Lise Takayama)
Ernie Wight (Elizabeth Laurvick's father)
Sharon Zona (Bonnie Funk's friend)
Rylie Krening (grandson of Carleen & Rich Krening)
Jules Tim (friend of Betty/Les Ludlam)
Darryl Griggs (Susan Hooke's cousin)
Heidi (friend of the Hooke family)
Edna Earl West (Bob West's mother)
Jamie MacNamara (L.S. family)
Jill Wright's father
Farzan Khan (friend of Manijeh B.)
Gordon Lewis (friend of Ken Fong)
Alex Pass (son of a friend of Julie Polikoff)
Lonnie Roberts (friend of Susan Hooke)
Patricia Ludlam (Les Ludlam's mother)
Ed Herring (Les Ludlam's nephew)
Kristi Fesler (Mona Daniel's friend)
Terri Gaertner (Kam Boles/Lise Takayama's friend)
Norm Keller (Candy Keller's father)
Jeanine Quick
Kami Lamb (friend of Cindy Barlow)
Beverly Parmalee (friend of Betsy Keyack & Ken Fong)
Scott Ransick (Eric Ransick's brother)
Craig (Joy Damsgard's friend)
Pat Clem (neighbor of Doug Wagner)

Joel Breneman (Lynda Fickling's nephew)
Theresa Arbogast (friend of Eileen Law & Roberta Hamilton-Griggs)
Tracy Haffner (friend of Eileen Law)
Gene White (Fran West's nephew)
Gramma Ruth (Adam Hutzell's grandma)
Leslie Davis (Yvonne Amerine's friend)
Alberta Haas
Randy Staton (friend of Bonnie Funk)
Warren Goss (Charlie William's friend)
Jim Bailey (Melissa Moberly's father)
Ronda Olson
Paula Strader (Sandi Miyaki's sister)
Bonnie Berardi (Bobbi King's friend)
Konnor Toelke (friend of the Coryell's 5yr. old grandson)
Chris Raasch (Kay Coryell's brother-in-law)
Nancy Smith (Ray Godsey's sister)
Judy Austin (Mary Jo Weber's sister)
Mildred Johnson (Connie Shoemaker's mother)
Gail Carlson (Mike Hutchin's neighbor)
Judy Hawkins (Virginia Young's sister)
Tim Allison (Mary Godsey's brother-in-law)
Rhonda Seale
Lois Thompson
Courtney Nyberg (Kay Swanson's niece)
Caitlin Bauer
Pat Dublin (Bob Davis' mother)
The Lucero family
Greg Liptak (friend of Andrea Mezger)
Beryl Abbott (Nancy Abbott's mother-in-law)
Robert Abbott Sr. (Nancy Abbott's father-in-law)
Bonnie Anderson (Nancy Abbott's sister-in-law)
Juanita Owens (Nancy Abbott's friend)
Ralph Owens (Nancy Abbott's friend)
Al Tulenko (Bobbi King's neighbor)
Ann Hamilton's Mother-in-Law
Tracy Adams (Ms. Kay-LS)

Sympathies:

To Brad & Lorie Martin and family on the passing of Brad's father, Jack Simmons, Dec. 3;
and to Jennifer & Rake Jiang and family on the passing of Jennifer's grandmother, Doris Berg, Dec. 3.

The Adult Education Team meets monthly and always welcomes new members to our team. Please contact Lynne Butler at lynne@stlukeshr.com, for more information about the meetings.

THE SPIRIT OF ST. LUKE'S



Rev. Les Ludlam
St. Luke's Lay/
Associate Pastor
1993-1997

More from Les: Teddy Bears

Teddy Bears are great!

They'll cuddle you, they can keep you warm. They don't bite, they don't make a lot of noise, you don't have to take them to the Vet, and they certainly don't demand a lot from you.

They're comfortable and they're cute.

I suppose it's not the sort of thing a grown man should admit, but I LOVE Teddy Bears!

Teddy Bears serve a very useful function in our lives. They give us something to care for that demands nothing in return. No commitments are necessary.

Teddy Bears go well with Christmas. They're a gift that's suitable for nearly all ages and persuasions. They are easily wrapped, they don't go out of style or spoil, and they are abundantly available.

Teddy Bears seem to epitomize the love and warmth we want to experience this time of year.

We all want the Christmas season to be a time for hopeful stories with happy endings. It's a time for expressing joyous emotions and for making contacts with those we don't talk to that much during the rest of the year.

And, it's one of the few times when we can be as mushy as we like and no one seems to mind too much. Teddy Bears fit this very well.

However, there is one negative factor.

Teddy Bears, at least the ones I've met, can't talk to us or return our affection. But, considering the popularity of this toy, this negative aspect is apparently not a major problem for the Bear purchasers and owners.

Why not? Perhaps because there are times when we don't want any feedback or demands for our time. And perhaps there are times when the only voice we really want to hear is our own.

Sometimes we just want a Teddy Bear that will just listen and not talk back.

As Christmas approaches, it occurs to me that we can easily slip into what I'll call a "Teddy Bear" attitude about Christmas. We focus on good feelings and warm relationships. We find ourselves talking of the Christ child as an abstract, beautiful, innocent, helpless newborn lying in a manger, and not an active presence in our day-to-day lives.

Well, it's O.K. to lovingly think of the baby Jesus, lying asleep in his mother's arms.

And it's O.K. to see Jesus as a friend. It's especially O.K. to celebrate his birth. Like a Teddy Bear, Jesus comforts us; he brings meaning to our lives and he nourishes our spirit.

But, Jesus is not a Teddy Bear!

It's easy to forget that the glory and promises that surround the birth of Jesus Christ are but one part of a two-way story.

Jesus is not just a comforting device to help us feel good.

Unlike a Teddy Bear, Jesus expects and even demands that we take personal responsibility for the spiritual and physical well being of those around us, the hungry among us, the lost and orphaned, and even for those who hate us.

Let us not only love him, but also respond to his call.

God Bless Us All, -Rev. Les

MISSIONS

WANTED:

Gently used children's shoes for Guatemala.

Missions Needs:

The group tutoring refugee children at Whiteman Elementary are asking for warm clothing for their little students. Most of these refugees have come from warm climates:

Myanmar, Africa, Thailand etc. and have nothing to keep them warm during a Denver winter. Clothing sizes 3-12 should be put in the Mission Closet marked WHITEMAN or taken to the Little School.

How to Help in Bangladesh

On November 16, Cyclone Sidr hit Bangladesh, devastating the country and killing over 3000 people. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is helping to respond to the crisis by working through partner agencies in Bangladesh - Action by Churches Together (ACT) and British-based Muslim Aid. If you would like to contribute financially to the relief effort, you can make a check out to St. Luke's UMC and put on the memo line "UMCOR Bangladesh - Advance #202400."



St. Luke's Race for the Cure team

(Alisa LaVance, Cindy Raap, Sally Brown, Mary Godsey). On Sunday, October 7 at 7:00am at the Pepsi Center, we walked along with approximately 70,000 other women, men, and children in honor and memory of friends and family in an effort to help win the battle against Breast

Cancer. This year, we walked in honor of 3 friends of our St. Luke's friends, Kam Boles and Lisé Takayama. There were 3 separate walks that morning. Carol and Dick Frame walked in a later race. Next year, won't you join us?

Book Review: *Three Cups of Tea*

I just finished reading an amazing and terrific book, *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. It is about an American climber, Greg Mortenson, who lost his way after a failed attempt to climb K2 peak in Pakistan. He was taken in and cared for by the people of a remote village. As Mortenson left the village, he promised to come back and build a school. The book is the story of how he fulfilled that promise and built dozens of other schools, mostly for girls, in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Actually, Mortenson didn't build the schools - he enabled the local people of many mountain villages in these two countries to build them. The book is filled with faced-paced adventure. It educated me on the Muslim faith, as well as the culture, geography and current events of Pakistan and Afghanistan. The book contains sparkling jewels of wisdom about human relationships among people of different cultures and faith traditions, what it means to promote peace and the power of education. After I finished the last page I said, "Wow!" I hope some of you have time to read this book and have the same inspiring experience I did! -Betsy Keyack

Share with us! If you'd like to submit a book review send to chronicle@stlukeshr.com



Jenita Rhodes
Director of Children's
Ministries



Lynne Butler
Assistant Children's
Ministries Director



Kristina Linn
Childcare
Director

St. Luke's Holiday Shop 2007 was an amazing success!

Thank you to all of the many wonderful people who generously volunteered their time, gave donations of wrapping supplies and gifts, and to those of you who brought your children to shop. Over 150 children

participated! St. Luke's family—you are wonderful!! With your help, we raised \$550 to donate to Children's Ministries for Vacation Bible School (VBS).

This will provide volunteer lunches



The Holiday Shop is a wonderful opportunity to nurture the giving spirit within our children.

during the week of VBS and scholarships to children who need financial assistance. We are so pleased to be able to help out with such an important program!

Planning is already taking place for Holiday Shop 2008. If you are interested in volunteering either now or later this year, please call the number below. Also, if you have found old wrapping paper, new items that you were planning to re-gift, extra ribbons, gift boxes, tissue paper, tape, etc. as you are getting out or putting away your holiday things this season, please consider donating them to the Holiday Shop. We accept donations any time during the year! Please contact Amy Antinoro at 303-663-6656 if you have any questions, would like to volunteer, or have a donation.

Candy Cane Sunday in Children's Sunday School

Come to Sunday School on December 16th and learn how the Candy Cane represents the Christmas Story. Every child will receive a book mark and candy cane to enjoy and take home. Thank you to all the individuals who helped put these candy canes together.

Second Annual Children's Christmas Pageant

This year's Christmas pageant, "Christmas with the Star" is Sunday, December 23rd at 6:00pm. Join us for this joyous and musical retelling of the Christmas story.



Christmas Eve for Children Children's Ministry would like to invite all children, young and old to experience a Jubilee Christmas at either the 1:00 or 3:00pm Christmas Eve Service. Along with the story, carols and candles, our amazing Puppet Ministry Team will there to help us celebrate the birth of Christ.

5th & 6th Grade Fellowship – Sly, Jr.

Mark you calendars for the next several dates when Sly, Jr. will gather for lots of food, gobbs of FUN and, of course, to learn about the different religious practices around the world. On January 6, we will celebrate the Three Kings "Caribbean style". Dinner is at 6:00 and we will conclude our activities by 8:00pm. Then in February is our long awaited and much anticipated LOCK-IN. We will begin at 6:00 on Friday evening, February 1st with dinner and after a restful night's sleep (NOT!!) will be ready for pick up at 10:00 Saturday morning. Make sure you invite a friend (just one please) and RSVP to Jenita by phone or email before Wednesday, Jan 30th. We will have activities, games, a movie, snacks and a great time with our friends. Our focus will be on the Muslim Religion and Islamic traditions. It will be a night you won't want to miss.



PEAK Adventures – Rotation Workshop Sunday School for Elementary children at 9:30.

For Advent our PEAK kids will be viewing the Christmas Story from "In the Manger." We learn that;

- Jesus is called Emmanuel - God with us and explore what that means
- Jesus is the Messiah and talk about what that means
- Jesus came not as a Warrior King but as a baby born in a humble place
- Jesus has a special connection to the weak and the poor
- Jesus connects to people of all ages and places
- The Nativity Story is found in the book of Luke (and how to look it up)
- You can tell the same story through the eyes of the animals

It the same story as last year and the years before, but I have invited our leaders to look at it with new eyes and an open heart that will allow them to share God's love with our kids. We must remember,

It's not about Christmas, It's about Christ.

My hope is that this spirit will also be present in our homes and continue through out the new year.

The Cooking Workshop has the advent rotation off and Art Workshop is off for the January rotation.

CALENDAR

Sat. Dec. 15

Discovery Club, Respite Program for Special Needs Children and siblings

Sun. Dec. 16

Candy Cane Sunday in Children's Sunday School 9:30 & 11:00am

God & Country Program
12:15-1:30pm

Sun. Dec. 23

Regular Worship and Sunday School

Children's Christmas Pageant
6:00pm

Mon. Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Services
1:00 & 3:00 (Children's),
5:00, 7:00 & 10:00

Tues. Dec. 25

Merry Christmas!

Sun. Dec. 30

Regular Worship times
No Sunday School
Nursery at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Tues. Jan. 1

Happy New Year!

Sun. Jan. 6

Epiphany Sunday
No Sunday School
Nursery at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00

Sly Jr. 5th & 6th Grade Fellowship

6:00-8:00pm Caribbean-style:
Three King Sunday

Sun. Jan. 13

PEAK Adventures 4th Rotation -
Bible Knowledge: The Beatitudes

Sun. Jan. 20

God & Country Program
12:15-1:30pm

Sat. Jan. 19

Discovery Club, Respite Program for Special Needs Children and siblings

Sun. Jan. 20

Acolyte Mid-year Training
Fellowship Hall 12:15-1:00pm

Fri/Sat. Feb. 1 & 2

Sly Jr. 5th & 6th Grade Fellowship
Lock-in 6:00pm Fri.-10:00am Sat.

There is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON DEC. 30 AND

JAN. 6. Then on Jan 13 we start Rotation #4 The Beatitudes! This is a fun lesson that takes us into the Bible to learn about the Shema, Jesus' new commandment and the Beatitudes and their meaning.

Beginning January 13th our workshops will be focusing on the Bible Teachings found in Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Matthew 5:1-12, and Matthew 22:37-39. The Bible is the special book of our faith and contains God's teachings that help us know how God wants us to live our lives. By the end of this unit children will:

- Learn that, when we read the Bible, we can discover what God expects us to do and be;
- Explore the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) and its importance;
- Examine the Beatitudes and their meaning;
- Study Christ's commandment to "love our neighbor as ourselves";
- Be challenged to think about ways Jesus' teachings were very radical and new.

Joy Trek – Preschool Sunday School for 2 year olds through Kindergarten at 9:30.

During the Advent season we need to once again remember the importance of helping our children focus on the birth of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas. Our Joy Trek kids will hear the Good News of the promise the Baby Jesus brings. They will learn about the angels and welcome Baby Jesus along with the shepherds. The story booklet they bring home every week will help the parents to continue the excitement and wonder at home throughout the season.

In January our Joy Trek kids will learn about the parables of the Good Samaritan, the Lost Sheep and the Mustard Seed.

Family Movie Outing! VeggieTales presents a new movie arriving in theaters in January: *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything*. We are so excited to see this movie and want to invite our church family to attend with us. Jenita and Lynne will be attending the movie on the afternoon of Sunday, January 13th. From the creator's of 2002's wildly successful *Jonah - VeggieTales Movie* comes a new story of heroism in the beloved VeggieTales' world, *The Pirates Who Don't Do Anything*. Now, we follow the comic misadventures of three animated veggie pals who reluctantly set sail for adventure and discover that real heroes don't have to be tall, strong, handsome...or even human. Please let one of us know you want to attend as we will be purchasing group tickets. More details will follow as we have times available.

A Special Thank You to our Sunday Morning Servants and a Request to All Others:

Children's Ministry is so blessed to have such a great team of Workshop Leaders, Guides, Preschool lead teachers and assistants. These are the individuals who are responsible for planning all the wonderful lessons and for the many ways in which they touch our children's hearts. Thank you for your dedicated service.

To the rest of the St. Luke's community: Please take time to include these special people in your prayers. Get to know them as you drop your children off, or if you haven't been "downstairs", take time one Sunday to come down to encourage, thank and show appreciation to the many servants who are nurturing the spirits of our children.

May God's Blessings be with you this Holiday season.

—Your servants in Christ, Jenita, Lynne and Kristina



LITTLE SCHOOL **News**



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School

Tis the Season To Be Jolly

Little School will be dashing through the month of December with only three weeks of school to pack in many fun festive learning activities! The beginning of December we will be celebrating St. Nicholas Day and the Holland tradition of putting our shoes outside our classroom, just waiting for the surprises that will appear. Children will hear the story of a kindly man that helped the poor and went around filling their shoes with treats. Our figure of Santa Claus is based on giving and kindness just like this Saint. In Chapel we will be learning about "Helping our family members without being asked", our Fourth Commandment for Children which is perfect for the month of December. We will also have our fun Pancake Breakfast (for 4's & 5's) and Pajama Day for the whole school, which includes a visit from Santa himself! Our Christmas Programs will be Dec. 19 & 20th at 9:30am in the sanctuary, directed by our wonderful music teacher Ms. Laura. Our theme will be "Around The World For Christmas" as during December the children have been learning about different customs from all over the world. Little School will be closed for their Christmas break starting December 21st and we will return for the New Year on January 7th.

January Means Winter Fun and New Families!

Little School returns in the cold of Winter (however it is Colorado you know!) and will be learning about how animals live during the snowy months. Teachers will be preparing their observations for talks with parents to let them know how their children are doing. This is always an exciting time as the children have grown so much since fall and we are really beginning to see them blossom! Hopefully we will have time to play in the snow, make snow-cream and enjoy the outdoors! In January we will focus on our 5th Commandment "Take care of all living things, people, animals and plants". This is especially important during the long cold winter!

REGISTRATION FOR FALL OF 2008 WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 22ND and registration forms will be available for current families, siblings, church members and alumni. PLEASE COME TO THE LITTLE SCHOOL OR CHURCH OFFICE TO PICK UP YOUR FORM, OR VISIT OUR WEB SITE. DO NOT DELAY AS OPEN REGISTRATION FOR NEW FAMILIES IN THE COMMUNITY WILL BEGIN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 28th. It is important to be on time as Little School fills up quickly. You can email the school at LittleSchool@stlukeshr.com with questions. TOURS are available on Wed. and Thurs mornings beginning the week of January 14th at 10 AM, no appointment is necessary and children are more than welcome to come with you!

We count our blessings during this season of joy and goodwill. We are thankful for the birth of the baby Jesus and joy that comes with knowing him as our Lord and Saviour. May your days in the new year be filled with promise and hope.

Come Let Us Adore Him and then Go Tell It On the Mountains!

—Lovingly, Ms. Kay & Staff:—)

WELCOME

New Members: November 2007

Chad & Susan Barnard, Brooke, Dylan and Brayden

"Enjoyed services, appears to offer lots of classes, preschool looks nice, too. Want kids to start Sunday school."

Jeff & Meg Henrickson, Jack, Will & Annabelle



Linda Burdick

"The music program and warmth of the church. Also, all sermons are entertaining and keep me awake!"



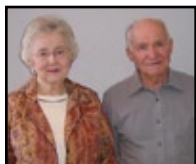
Dan Boose & Kyle Exline, Evan Ann & Quentin

"It was time after six years of regular attendance. We love the mission statement and sense of community at St. Luke's."



Peter & Kara Emig, Francesca, Charlotte & Eloise

"We love the welcoming atmosphere and all the opportunities for our children."



Betsy & Jack Goodman

"Smaller church and more convenient."



Matthew & Nancy Martinucci, Madeline & Alexandra

"The environment at St. Luke's is one that is so welcoming, sincere and inspiring to us. We have found a home and the genuine spirit of God here."



Paula Pahl

"The warm and friendly atmosphere, amazing music program, commitment to missions-putting your money where your mouth is."



Mary Jo Weber



Amy & Jason Koenig, Callie & Sofia

Welcome to St. Luke's – Membership:

1. Persons may join the church any Sunday by transfer of their membership or by profession of faith in Jesus Christ.
2. We recognize the Sacrament of Baptism by all Christian churches. Any person who has received a Christian baptism, need not be baptized again. Holy Baptism is a Covenant between an individual and God. If you have not been baptized and are ready to take this step, please contact Rev. Janet, Rev. Pam or Lynda Fickling our Director of Servant Ministry.
3. Simply fill out the membership card located in the "Friendship Pad." During the singing of the final hymn persons are invited to come forward to be received and welcomed into the family of St. Luke's. Or you may hand the card to one of our Pastors at any time.
4. Persons joining are asked to stay after the service to meet with our Director of Servant Ministry, to be welcomed, give and receive additional information and have a picture made.
5. Although not required, we encourage you to attend our Orientation of St. Luke's held monthly, to explore St. Luke's programs, ministry and missions.
6. You will be invited to attend a New Member "Meet & Greet" to meet and greet other new members and staff!

Expectations of Membership:

- To worship regularly
- To continue to grow in your faith by participating in a small group study
- To serve God with your hands, by volunteering in service to the congregation and the community and the world
- To care for one another
- To give in proportion to your income

Please contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com to become our newest members of St. Luke's.

Medical Mission to Guatemala 2008

Sponsored by St. Luke's with Pura Vida and Salud y Paz

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" –Isaiah 6:8

Dr. Doug Rowley, surgical leader of the Guatemala Medical Mission Team 2008 shares detailed information about participation in this experience.

- There is a huge need for basic surgery in rural Guatemala. Hysterectomies, hernia, and cleft palate repairs are especially needed. Many local residents have no access to surgical care whatsoever, and teams such as these are the only opportunity they may have.
- We will be based in the village of Camanchaj, the Quiche department in the western highlands of Guatemala. We will be working with the Guatemalan Methodist Church and a local missionary organization, Salud y Paz.
- Currently we have about half of our medical team recruited. The current needs are for more operating room and/or PACU – trained nurses (we will need 6 total). We need 3 or 4 scrub-techs. We need 4 anesthesia persons (CRNA or MD). (We currently have 2 very likely and need 2 more). We need 4 gynecologists. (We have 2 and need 2 more.) We could use 2-3 general surgeons. Non-medical personnel are needed to support the surgical teams.
- Dates for the trip will be Aug 29 (Friday) thru Sept 7, 2008 (Sunday) inclusive. The cost will be approximate \$1500 per person. A deposit of \$250.00 will be needed by February 3 to secure your place. For those people coming from outside the Denver area, we will meet in Dallas for the final flight to Guatemala city.
- When we arrive, we will drive to Chichicostanango and check into our hotel. The hotel is very nice with private bath, hot water, fireplace, and great food. We plan for double –occupancy.
- The clinic is in Camanchaj, a 30 minute bus ride form Chichi. We spend Saturday and Sunday registering patients and getting set up. Surgeries start Monday and go through Friday morning. We dismantle the surgical suites on Saturday and travel to beautiful Antiqua for some sight-seeing and leisure before traveling home on Sunday.

If you would like to visit Dr. Doug Rowley about participating in the this surgical mission experience, contact rdmd07-mission08@yahoo.com

MUSIC & DRAMA



James Ramsey
Director of
Worship & Arts



Carrie Mallery
Associate Dir. of
Worship & Arts



Kay Coryell
Associate Dir. of
Worship & Arts

The Music Man Recap

After the dust settled from the 2 and 1/2 hour set strike, the 86 member cast, the 20 member orchestra, and nearly 40 member behind the scenes crew along with a very supportive congregation/audience of nearly 1,100 people can be proud to say that we raised over \$10,000! It was a huge success not only for the mission programs we supported but also for the community building and relationships established or strengthened through the drama production. Kudos to the drama production team, cast, crew, orchestra and staff who helped make *The Music Man* such a wonderful event that will go down in the history books of St. Luke's as the biggest production ever!



Jazz at St. Luke's

The CU Jazz Ensemble I visited St. Luke's for a benefit concert in November. The concert also featured great performances by the St. Luke's Youth Jazz Orchestra and Ministers of Swing. All three ensembles were met with great enthusiasm and applause throughout the evening. The concert proceeds went to the Nuba Water Project co-founded by our very own Steve Riley and supported by our Missions Team. We raised nearly \$3,500 for the project and look forward to hearing about the results what a difference we were able to make. Kudos to all the musicians and many thanks for their gifts and talents.



OUR COMMUNITY

continued from page 1

In this resolution, printed below, the Bishops go beyond calling for national leaders to act. The resolution is particularly challenging, because they call on us, all "United Methodist people throughout the world," to "be peacemakers by word and deed." They ask each of us to take a stand to transform the world.

Advent and Jubilee both mark new beginnings, and the Bishops' resolution calls us to be agents of these changes. I'm taking this challenge personally. During Advent, I will prayerfully consider how I will stand to show that I am a follower, in thought and action, of Christ. Not just on the issue of the war, but in other areas as well. What new beginning will you find as you rest and reflect; what actions will you take to renew and rejuvenate the world? Will you join a prayer vigil for the soldiers and civilians who have died in Iraq? Will you help ensure that every person with a name on the Giving Tree gets a Christmas gift? Will you commit to taking a mission trip in 2008? Will you share your singing or teaching talents with the children of the church?

If you want to stand with the Bishops as they call for a withdrawal of troops, please go to www.umc-gbcs.org/IraqOutNow to sign the petition supporting this resolution. Let us join the Jubilee!

[Full text of the resolution]

United Methodist Council of Bishops Resolution on the Iraq War

Whereas, the Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, meeting Nov. 9 at Lake Junaluska, N.C., is committed to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world; and

Whereas, the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, calls his followers to be peacemakers (Matt. 5:9); and

Whereas, "We believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ" (Book of Discipline 2004, Par. 165.C); and

Whereas, the cost of the war in Iraq as of Nov. 7, 2007 has been the lives of 3,843 members of the U.S. military, 171 members of the United Kingdom military, 132 members of the other Coalition military, 28,385 U.S. military wounded, and the lives of at least 76,241 Iraqi civilians; and

Whereas the war in Iraq has displaced 2 million persons and forced another 2 million persons into refugee status;

Whereas, every day the war continues more soldiers and innocent civilians are killed with no end in sight to the violence, bloodshed and carnage;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS calls on the President and Congress of the United States and the leaders of all the nations in the Coalition Forces:

- *To begin immediately a safe and full withdrawal of all military personnel from Iraq, with no additional troops deployed;*
- *To declare that there will be no permanent military bases in Iraq;*
- *To increase support for veterans of the Iraq war and all wars;*
- *To initiate and give strong support to a plan for the reconstruction of Iraq, with high priority given to the humanitarian and social needs of the Iraqi people, such as healthcare, education and housing;*

FURTHER, THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS calls United Methodist people throughout the world:

- *To pray for peace and to have regular prayer vigils for congregations and communities;*
- *To care for all impacted by the war, including combatants and noncombatants by honoring the dead, healing the wounded and calling for the end of the war;*
- *To be peacemakers by word and deed that we may be called the children of God.*

DON'T MISS!

December 2007

- 12/19 – SLAM 6:30pm
 12/20 – Donut Whole 6:45am
 12/23 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am
 - Bible Boot 9:30am
 - SLY PM: *Zoolights* \$10, 5:30pm
 12/24 – **Christmas Eve:** Children's
 Services at 1 & 3pm, All Ages
 at 5, 7, & 10pm. All services are
 candlelight.
 12/25 – *Christmas Day Hooray!*
 12/30 – No SLY AM or SLY PM

January 2008

- 1/6 – No SLY AM or PM
 1/13 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am
 - Bible Boot 9:30am
 - SLY PM
 1/16 – SLAM 6:30pm
 1/17 – Donut Whole 6:45am
 1/20 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am
 - Bible Boot 9:30am
 - SLY PM: Dance w/ Littleton
 UMC
 1/23 – SLAM 6:30pm
 1/24 – Donut Whole 6:45am
 1/27 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am
 - Bible Boot 9:30am
 - Confirmation Classes begin 11am
 - SLY PM
 1/30 – SLAM 6:30pm
 1/31 – Donut Whole 6:45am

February 2008

- 2/3 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am
 - Bible Boot 9:30am
 - Confirmation 11am
 - SLY PM:
 2/6 – SLAM 6:30pm
 2/7 – Donut Whole 6:45am



Chris Wilterdink
 Director of
 Youth Ministries



Susan Johnson
 Assistant Director
 of Youth Ministries

CHRIS'S CORNER

Making Room

So, you thought I was joking with our Extreme Makeover theme did you? Well, I'll show you... **SLY PM is moving!**

Everything about Sunday afternoons and evenings will look very different beginning on January 13. Every program we offer through SLY will begin a half-hour earlier. Of course, they'll end a half-hour earlier as well, but basically it means our basic Sunday schedule will look like this:

- **SLYJO (Jazz Orchestra): 3:30-4:30pm**
- **SLY Dinner: 5:30-6:00pm**
- **OffNotes (Choir): 4:30-5:30pm**
- **SLY PM (Youth Group): 6:00-7:30pm**

The reason for the change? Daylight savings time? (NO!) An extra ½ hour for homework on Sunday nights? (NO!) Something really deep and theological? (YES!) - A church is supposed to work toward being the body of Christ in the world, and all body parts should support and complement each other. So instead of having one foot tripping over another, SLY has an amazing opportunity to grow and change and make room for St. Luke's new and different 4th worship service: *Fusion*.

Rev. Brad Laurvick will lead this worship experience every Sunday night beginning in January, and the youth that have come to the preview nights this fall have enjoyed the community and spirituality immensely. With the obvious need for this kind of worship, the only question was how can we allow continued growth for both Fusion and for SLY on Sunday nights. By making sure they support each other as they grow of course!

So here's the deal: Youth can still choose to come and be a part of jazz, choir, and/or youth group until 7:30. After that, if youth are interested in sharing a worship experience (along with weekly communion!) with a mixed age group they are welcome to stay. In turn, it is our hope that new folks (both youth and adults) who can find an hour to experience a Sunday night worship will find another hour or two to come earlier and become involved in SLY as both participants and adult sponsors.

Change is a good thing, especially when it makes room for another! I look forward to seeing you all at our new times beginning in January. *—Peace & Love, Chris*



✧ Confirmation Classes Information Meeting Sun. 1/13 @ 11:00am in Goliath:

Open to All Registration sheets are now available upstairs and downstairs this year's Confirmation Classes. Confirmation is open to all youth 8th grade and up (and their parents) who wish to further explore membership at St. Luke's. Classes begin on Jan. 27 with a welcome/introductory class and continue every Sunday at 11:00am through May 4. There is a \$100 class fee to cover the costs of curriculum materials and the retreat (Feb 29- Mar 2). Contact chris@stlukeshr.com with questions.

✧ **Spring Ski Retreat Registrations** will become available in January for this weekend of sun & snow. February 15-17, 2008. Open to all grade levels.

✧ **MLK Parade** Our friends at Park Hill UMC are inviting us to march with them in this year's MLK Day Parade on Monday, Jan. 21. Watch the SLY bulletin boards for details!

One Way Caravan Concert *By Meaghan Johnson*

On November 11, 2007, Christian rock group One Way Caravan played an acoustic show for the youth of St. Luke's and several surrounding churches. One Way Caravan consists of two college graduates, Adam Trotter and Kevin Schulte, and they are originally from St. Louis, Missouri. They have been touring the country doing free concerts to promote their new CD, *Finding Rest*.

The evening included several acoustic sets interspersed with question-and-answer sessions. These questions were written by the youth and adults who attended the concert and ranged from "Do you like banana pancakes?" ("The song or the food?" asked Adam, half jokingly and half seriously) to "How has your faith guided you on your journey?" After a great show, the guys participated in the closing devotion and stayed to play at the following Fusion service. If you would like more information on One Way Caravan, visit their website at www.onewaycaravan.com.



It's the Beginning

As the Trustees and the Building Committee begin to chart out our addition and renovations schedule, one focus will be project sequencing. Some of the refurbishment tasks we've been discussing can be successfully completed, vastly improving the experiences our visitors will have in our church home without interfering with the construction contractors. In our surveys and Town Hall meetings you put flooring replacements at the top of the list. As a result we've started to search for materials that will last longer, look nicer and fit the budget.

In the Fellowship Hall we're looking to provide a commercial carpet finish similar to our entry. This is a carpet tile product that will allow us to replace any areas that incur unusual damage and endure regular steam cleaning care to maintain a quality appearance over time while helping us to manage the noise challenges with our high peaked ceiling. We're looking for a finish that will look nice whether we're hosting an elegant candlelit dinner, weekly Sunday morning coffee and doughnuts, evening youth suppers, or larger group speaking engagements.

Downstairs our population has grown remarkably in our Sunday school programs, and our 5-day a week Little School preschool classes every year. Now with classes in nearly every classroom everyday, naturally we've seen significantly increased wear and tear resulting in a poor finish that until now, we simply haven't been able to afford to replace. In this kind of space, we know from experience that good looks have to be balanced with the floors looking and smelling clean and fresh every day. After looking at the expense in both installation and upkeep associated with many different finishes from carpet to tile, the Trustees are proposing we transition the lower hallways and multi-purpose areas of David and Goliath to a tile product. This type of tile is already being used in our kitchen and most of our bathrooms. We're looking at using 3 or 4 colors – a soft blue, a putty, a blue and white mix, and a warm wheat.

In our experience, this combination will soften the sometimes-clinical appearance associated with bright white or other stark colors. It will offer relatively easy daily care to be refreshed, and is one-third the expense of commercial carpet on first cost. However, it will also out-last a carpet installation between 2 and 3 times, resulting in significant savings over the lifetime of use, while positioning us to offer a superior experience in cleanliness both in sight and smell for our children and their families.

Of course, with any change comes lots of emotion on both ends of the spectrum: excitement and concern. We'd like to address the concerns by visiting areas you may know of to experience the overall feeling and acoustics (although our lower level dropped acoustic ceiling and wide low areas will help significantly with the noise). If you've seen tile installations where softer colors and more sophisticated designs are in place, please send a quick email to either Sandy Miyaki at sandi.miyaki@kw.com or Ken Fong at ken@stlukeshr.com. We'd love to visit these places soon and learn more from people there.



Dave Cupp
Director of Finance



Janet Maxwell
Assistant Director
of Finance

Another Good Month!

Thank You! November is proving to be another good month. If December goes as projected, we are very close to breaking even for the year. I can't overstress the importance of all of us continuing to work collectively to make sure we have a breakeven year. This would be a great time for everyone to consider giving just a little more than

planned between now and the end of the year.

So Many Choices Makes Giving Easy And Convenient. Cash, check, credit card transactions (either in person or online), stock transfers and scheduled automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts are all available to you for doing transactions with St Luke's. The following is a general summary:

- ✦ **General Fund and Capital Campaign:** All methods. However, you need to call ahead to use your credit card in person here at the office to make sure I'm here to process the transaction.
- ✦ **Grocery Cards:** Cash, Check, Scheduled automatic withdrawal from checking accounts.
- ✦ **Special Events:** Depending on the type of event may include cash, check, card present credit card and credit card online transactions. The method(s) available at each event will be announced at the time of the event and are at the discretion of the sponsor. I.e., Music Man methods included cash, check, online credit card reservations and credit cards for the silent auction. It appears about 40% of the reservations were made online.

Have You Started Your Financial Planning For The Year End? Shame on me for mentioning "year end" again. However, it is less than 30 days away. Here are some things you may want to consider:

1. You may want to pay the remainder of your pledges to the general fund and the capital campaign fund by transferring securities to the church and taking the advantages of the tax benefits. You could include your future year(s) pledges in the one transfer. The amounts for the future year(s) would be put in prepaid and applied in the appropriate time period. This process is very easy and we have several members taking advantage of the opportunity. Contact me for assistance and to get the routing information your broker will need to make the transfer.
2. If you need more deductions in 2007, you might consider prepaying future pledges. The amounts for the future would be put in prepaid and applied in the appropriate time period. Just mark your checks accordingly.
3. Make plans to get your last minute giving to the church on or before December 31. We will consider all collections received during 2007 as 2007 contributions unless instructed to apply them to a future year. Contributions received in the mail after December 31 will be posted to 2007 only if they are post marked on or before December 31 and we are not instructed to apply them as 2008 giving.
4. If you are 70 ½ years of age, you may be able to roll some of your IRA funds to the church and reduce your taxable income. Check with your tax adviser for this one. Also, as of now, 2007 is your last opportunity to take advantage of this benefit.

"We cannot live for ourselves alone. Our lives are connected by a thousand invisible threads, and along these sympathetic fibers, our actions run as causes and return to us as results." – Herman Melville

