



Highlands Ranch, Colorado

# The CHRONICLE

February 2007

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Inside This Issue:

- More from Les.....3
- Lenten Season.....3
- Called to Serve.....4
- Stephen Ministry.....6
- Children's Ministry.....7-8
- Music & Drama.....9
- SLY.....10
- Financial Update.....11

and much more!

### Children's Ministry Live Workshop



St. Luke's has been chosen as a site for this fabulous workshop on Sat., March 3. Parents and Children's Ministry leaders will come from all over the Denver area (some will come even further) to attend. Packed with ideas and vision for **anyone** who works with children, this one-day workshop will inspire, equip and refresh ministry veterans and beginners with new and practical tools to reach new generations for Christ. Workshop includes a course book, lunch, and a one-year subscription to *Children's Ministry Magazine*. Come and network with children's ministers in your area and get exclusive workshop discounts on resources for your ministry. We are so fortunate to have this workshop at St. Luke's. The cost is \$45 and in addition to the above, we will throw in an extra book to help you in your ministry with children. Let's show everyone how much St. Luke's loves our children!! To register, contact Lynne Butler. Childcare available with reservation. Go to [www.group.com/workshops/cmml/default.asp](http://www.group.com/workshops/cmml/default.asp) to learn more.



**The Celestial Season** became a "thin place" for the St. Luke's family, a rain of stars, a rushing of angels, a blaze of candles, a time when heaven and earth kiss. We were blessed by our music ministers' cantata, a women's dinner in candlelight, the puppet debut of the blues sheep, the gaggle of angels in the children's pageant, the giant kings visiting the baby Jesus, and the snow-laden Christmas Eve with 8 worship services—2200 persons lit candles in 5 evening services, 250 more children attended the additional family service. The new contemplative service was a keeper, capping the celestial experience with a sacred retreat. Many thanks to all who brought the season to life!

## Wesley Festival at Lincoln Center to Benefit UMCOR

Jan. 18, 2007 By Linda Bloom, a United Methodist News Service news writer based in New York.

NEW YORK (UMNS) - A United Methodist-related concert at New York's Lincoln Center will honor hymn-writer Charles Wesley as it raises funds for relief work.

The 2007 Wesley Choral Festival, presented by Music Celebrations International, commemorates the 300th anniversary of Wesley's birth. Events begin with a Feb. 15 gala dinner in Little Italy and culminate with a concert at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 18.

The idea for the festival originated with James Ramsey, the director of worship and arts at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Ramsey considers Wesley to be "the largest hymn writer known to mankind" who also had a significant impact on the denomination his brother founded. "From a historical perspective, without the hymns and without the rich history of hymn singing, the musical context of The United Methodist Church would be vastly different," he added.

Wesley, who was born in December 1707, is said to have written at least 9,500 hymns, and may have produced three hymns a week for 57 years. The familiar tunes include "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," "Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing," and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

As those hymns demonstrate, Wesley is an important musical icon for Christianity as well. "Wesley had some great inspiration and great prose and great verse," he said.

But Ramsey's goal is to do more than acknowledge Wesley's inspiration and influence. "Over the course of the last five years, we (at St. Luke's) have raised \$75,000 for mission," he explained. "It provides a passion and a purpose for making music for a cause. It transforms the experience for the performer, in my opinion."

In this case, 100 percent of the proceeds of the Charles Wesley tercentenary concert will benefit the United Methodist Committee on Relief, which will designate the funds to landmine removal in Angola.

### Singers and leaders

Concert participants include an estimated 275 singers - including choirs representing churches across the denomination's five jurisdictions and Tennessee Wesleyan College in Athens, Tenn. - and the New Amsterdam Symphony Orchestra, a community orchestra in New York. United Methodist Bishop Warner Brown of Denver is among those expected to attend the concert.

Besides Ramsey, directors of the Wesley event are Eph Ehly, professor emeritus at the Conservatory of Music, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Timothy Koch, director of music at First United Methodist Church, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The first half of the concert, to be led by Ramsey and Koch, will include familiar sacred music. "My point was to stretch the 300 years with great music that people would recognize," Ramsey said

*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 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 Minister  
Emergency: 303-241-9312

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

Rev. Dave Money.....x33  
Associate Minister  
Emergency: 303-932-1035

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

Carrie Mallory.....x35  
Associate Director of Worship & Arts

Kay Coryell.....x43  
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 Children's Ministry Director

Kristina Linn.....x40  
Childcare Director

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

Bonnie Funk.....x10  
Church Secretary

Dave Cupp.....x24  
Director of Finance

Barry Curtis.....x39  
Facilities Manager

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

All articles, photos and announcements for the March issue of *The Chronicle* are due February 15th.

Editor:  
Sharon Oliver  
chronicle@stlukeshr.com



**Rev. Janet Forbes**  
Senior Pastor

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth,*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.*

*He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.*

The Apostles' Creed is an early statement of Christian belief. It is widely used in both worship and teaching and baptism. The statements of the creed came to define, not only the beliefs, but the controversies in the early church. It appears to have been originally formulated to refute Gnosticism, an early heresy, which denied the humanity of Jesus.

I grew up repeating this affirmation weekly in worship. However, there are not a few people for whom the Apostles' Creed is a problem, either because they feel that they do not fully understand its affirmations, or because there are certain of its articles which they feel in honesty that they cannot accept.

The creed did not take its present form until the 8th century. Legend says that the creed was literally composed by Jesus' twelve disciples, known after Easter as the apostles. The story goes like this: When the Spirit came, tongues of fire settled on the disciples. They were able to speak a variety of different languages. They found no nation strange to them, no foreign speech beyond their powers of comprehension. Jesus then commanded them to journey separately to different countries to preach. As they were taking leave of each other, they settled on a common teaching, so that they might not find themselves, scattered as they would be, delivering divergent messages. So they all assembled in one place and drafted this short summary, each contributing the clause he judged fitting. They decided that it should be handed out as standard teaching to converts.

The Apostles Creed is, in fact, an expansion of Matthew 28:19. *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.* A form of the creed goes back to 100 CE and was used for baptizing those new to the faith.

The Apostle's Creed begins with four little words, "I believe in God." Many think that "I believe" means giving one's mental assent to the literal truth of each statement in the creed. But a closer translation is rather, "I give my heart to." Thus, when we say "I believe," we are saying, "I give my heart to God."

And who is that? The rest of the creed tells the story of the One to whom we give our hearts: God as the maker of heaven and earth, God as known in Jesus, and God as present in the Spirit.

When we say the Creed, we are confessing our faith in the God of the biblical story. What separates Christian faith from every religious quest is not human faith. What separates Christian faith from every religious quest is the object of our faith, the God in whom we place our trust, the God to whom we give our hearts, the God who yearns to be in relationship with every one of us.

In this continuing sermon series, I want us to consider what we believe about this relationship that is Jesus the Christ. What do we affirm? What do we question? How do we think about these early statements of faith? How do we feel when we stand within a community of faith and affirm shared commitments?

Join us every Sunday morning for worship and study!

### A SERVICE OF *Fire @ Ashes* ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season for Christians all over the world. Ashes are placed upon the forehead of those who choose the new life of Christ, confessing the old by fire so that the new may rise from the ashes. The holy oil represents the anointing of God's Holy Spirit which leads us through the forty days of the Lenten journey.

A Service of Fire and Ashes will be held in the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00pm. Everyone will be invited to write or draw a confession or a commitment to growth and give it to the flash of the fire! Then, everyone will receive the mark of the ashes and oil on the hand or forehead. This is a 45 minutes family-friendly service in which school-age children can participate fully. Very young children will enjoy the help of a parent.

*Catch us, O God, in our aimless scurrying from you and others and hold us in this Lenten season. Hold our hearts to the beat of your grace and create in us a resting place, a kneeling place, a tiptoe place where we can listen for your whispered summons and be attentive to your healing love. In the name of the Holy One of Nazareth. Amen.*

## More from Les

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

*Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name. The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me. (Psalm 142:7)*

How did you feel during the snowstorms that covered this area before and after Christmas?

When snowdrifts blocked our front door and driveway, Betty and I were a bit overwhelmed! We had plenty of food in the house, the electric service remained steady, the furnace performed as expected and our TV and Internet services remained available, but we felt "trapped!" We couldn't easily come and go at will!

We had been deprived of things that we had started to take for granted.

So what did I do? I began calling and e-mailing family members and friends. "We're OK, but wow! You should see the depth of the snow outside!"

"The Post Office even shut down our mail deliveries for a day!"

There seemed to be an intense desire for us to communicate with others, outside our snow-stricken area, and tell our story, to reinforce the fact that we are all connected with each other and do not endure all this alone.

And when we were able to get out and drive to a local grocery store for milk, bread and other essential supplies, we quickly learned that the delay of delivery trucks (and almost panic buying by some customers) had left many of the grocery store shelves bare! Local service stations were running low on gasoline, and the morning newspaper, to which I'm addicted, was not being delivered. This was a real crisis! So I started calling.

I believe there is a deep-seated reason why we reach out in times of crisis to those whom we know care for us. We need expressions of support and care from those who love us; we need reinforcement of the fact that we do not live life alone, especially when we feel uncomfortable or threatened. We need to be reminded there are others who praying for us. Burdens shared with another are easier to bear.

And that which is important to us in our crises, may be even more important to someone else going through their own testing time. Words like, "I care about you, I love you, let me help you work through this difficult time," can be priceless.

"Bring me out of prison, so that I may give thanks to your name," says the Psalmist, and that release from the weather-imposed, or self-imposed, prisons can come from a simple word or expression of love and concern.

God bless us all.



**Crop for the Cure, held Nov. 11, 2006 at St. Luke's, raised \$260 for the Susan G. Komen Fund. Several ladies would like to do it again in the spring and make it a 2 time a year event. Lots of album pages were completed, ideas shared, and fun had by the 13 ladies who attended. It was a great time with friends both new and old.**

## Anticipating the Lenten Season:

# THE ROAD WHERE FAITH IS FOUND

*Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,  
The path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in desert, and winds the mountain round,  
Then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.*

-*Sylvia Dunstan*

All of life is seen as a form of pilgrimage. It is precisely along this life path that each Christian must make his pilgrim's progress. Recognizing that every Christian must, in some sense, experience a wandering in the desert before attaining the promised land, it becomes apparent that every sojourner must be equipped mentally and spiritually for the journey. THE ROAD WHERE FAITH IS FOUND will be our Lenten theme for both study and worship as we explore the movement from nomad to pilgrim. We will explore the ways that we be-friend each other on the spiritual path.

The word "soul friend" is Irish in origin. It is derived from the Gaelic word anam, which means soul, and cara, which means friend. Essentially, the practice of anamchara is about the art of being present to another person who is seeking God and who needs to share their struggle with an empathic mentor, a David for Jonathan, an Elizabeth for Mary, a Barnabas for Paul. It can simply be a conversation between two people on the spiritual life and the ways of prayer. Or it can be the practice of active listening to a seeker's personal story and interlacing the Christian story as in life coaching or study groups or Stephen Ministry. It is primarily the task of the soul friend to help the seeker to formulate a rule of life. A rule consists of the practices of the spiritual life: worship, prayer, service, vocation, companionship, and care for the body. Its intention is to help the seeker to attend to the Spirit in daily life.

We will publish a congregational Lenten devotional booklet, St. Luke's Trail Guide for the Spiritual Journey. In this weekly guide, writers will assume the role of soul-friend and offer counsel to other pilgrims through story, testimony, daily scripture readings, and reflective questions. Rev. Janet will preach a sermon series based on The Last Week by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, in which she will interlace Jesus' walk to the cross with our writers' journey insights.

The spiritual life at St. Luke's is not unlike the experience of pilgrims who come upon an intersection or a way-station, choosing to embrace the companionship of other travelers. We open ourselves to the possibility of trusted community and soul friendship.

*Dear Companion God*

*I have journeyed to this place and here I pause.*

*My life so far has brought me here.*

*My future stretches further than the eye can see.*

*If, thus far, my journey you have shared, accompany me now.*

*Give wisdom, light and always joy*

*so that in thought, and gift, and love*

*my life shall be to fellow travelers*

*a witness to your Presence in the world.*

-*Ray Simpson*



**Lynda Fickling**  
Director of  
Servant Ministry

## We are Called to Serve Serving Opportunities February 2007

*"The Third Principle of Biblical Servanthood: Finding ways to use our giftedness for God requires conscious commitment. God leaves the choice of serving or not serving in our hands."* Lifekeys, Discover Who You Are. (Servant by Design Class, offered here at St. Luke's)

### Join one of our Ministry Teams

**Missions:** Select one of the teams or many to serve in Mission at St. Luke's: Missions Team, Care Team, Caring Connection, Church & Society Team, Stephen Ministry. **Contact Advocate: Brad Martin 303-470-8606 BMa8704@aol.com**

**Education:** Select one of the Education Teams or attend the class: Adult Education Team, Children's Education Team, Youth Education Team, Library Ministry Team, Nursery/Childcare, God & Country Program, SLY (St. Luke's Youth), SLAM (St. Luke's Youth at the Movies), Confirmation, Doughnut Whole (Youth bible study at Mountain View HS), Parents of Teens, SLY, Jr., Faith in Action, GAP Group, Pastor Book Club, Servant by Design, Short Term Disciple, Disciple Classes, Living the Question, Study of Christian Thought, Women's Faith Based Book Club, Christian Connection and Live, Laugh & Love Club. **Contact Advocate: Sandy Larson 303-773-6872 Larson6872@msn.com**

**Operations:** Select one of these teams to be active in the Operations of St. Luke's: Communications & Outreach, The Chronicle (monthly newsletter), Website Team, Trustees, Grocery Certificate Team, Wedding Planning Team, and the Funeral Team. **Contact Advocate: Ken Fong 303-346-7057 ken@stlukesbr.com**

**Worship Team:** Select one of these teams to be a part of our Worship and Hospitality: Music Ministry (choirs, handbells, instrumental), Drama, Puppet, Acolytes, Altar Team, Sound & Video Team, Bread Bakers, Greeters, Guest Calling Team, Guest Welcoming Team, Ushers, and our Guest Service Station. **Contact Jim Ramsey x23 jim@stlukesbr.com or Lynda Fickling x20 lynda@stlukesbr.com**

**Fellowship & Support:** Select one of our many groups: Bridge, Cancer Support Network, Children's Holiday Shop, Common Thread, Cycling Club, Dinner for 6, 7, & 8, Family Camp, Fellowship Events Team, Marriage Encounter & Flame Marriage Encounter, Men's Breakfast Club, Parent's Night Out, Scrap Booking, Seniors Dinner Out, Softball, St. Luke's Playgroups (0-5yrs), Women of St. Luke's, Women's Book Club, Women's Night Out and Yarn & Yak. **Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 lynda@stlukesbr.com**

**For further information on any of these teams, please go to the website, pamphlets, ministry catalog or pick up a Ministry Catalog at the Information Center.**

**Note of Thanks:** Thank you to everyone for the kindness and concern during my recovery from surgery, especially the Caring Connection for their help in taking me to my doctor appts., etc. Wishing you the light of God's love, the warmth of his presence, and the comfort of his healing. God Bless, *Norma Harris*



### Week Ending January 19, 2007

- Gerry Wright (Gail Abernathy's mother)  
Carolyn Dean  
Nancy Rawls (Betsy Keyack's sister)  
Dorothy Lloyd (Sheri Shea's mother)  
Lisa Maciejewski (Jennifer Jiang's sister)  
Wendy Walker (friend of Sheri Shea)  
Sturgis Wetherington  
Jerry Heinz (Rachel Nolder's father-in-law)  
Bill Lee, Jr.  
Grant Larson  
Linda Kercheval (sister of Tony Palizzi)  
Richard VanderKooy (brother-in-law of Rick and Robin Fort)  
Janet Blatchford (friend of Samantha Leahy)  
Louis Pressel (Carolyn Warden's cousin)  
John Poole (friend of Joy Damsgard)  
Chris Goldsberry  
John Sudol (Joyce Carnes' cousin)  
Jessie Meyer (friend of Gail Abernathy's)  
Dick DeWire (friend of Pat Ludwig)  
Joey Miyaki  
Kim Friel (friend of Lynda Fickling)  
Amy Curtis' sister, Kay  
Beth Turner  
Al Bierman (Sandi Thompson's friend's husband)  
Walt Brewer  
Julia Muse (Karin Weispfenning's friend)  
Jenni Keefer (Mike Hutchins' daughter)  
Landon Orcutt & family (Linda Walker)  
Joseph Streaty (Jon Streaty's brother)  
Eric Edelen (Lisé Takayama's nephew)  
Bob Streaty (Jon's brother)  
Norm Keller (Candy Keller's father)  
Julie Monroe (former member, friend Laurie Gilbert)  
Maureen Genger (Sharon Scholle's friend)  
Avis Stanley (Joy Damsgard's mother)  
Jim Hertel (Sandi Thompson's father)  
Kathryn Bauer (Elaine Carlstom's mother)  
Loyle Mason (Jim Ramsey's gr. uncle)  
Tammy McLeod (Betty & Amiel Smith's friend)  
Brian Day (Eileen Law's nephew)  
Mark Roper (friend of the Miyaki's)  
Janice Van Hoosen (Jay Van Hoosen's mother)  
Karen Esue (Pam Taylor's cousin's sister-in-law)  
Betsy Riner (Susan Stanley's friend)  
Peggy Dunnigan (Kristina Linn's grandmother)  
Wilma Ashbaugh (friend of Marilyn Ayers)  
Brent Webber (friend of the Harry Cushing family)  
Paul Dunlap  
Cheryl Grey (Lisé Takayama's former sister-in-law)  
Sandra York (Pam Rowley's friend)  
Carol Merrill (Sherry Merrill's mother)  
Joe Forbes (Janet Forbes' brother)  
David Hartman (Jill Wright's brother)  
Carolyn Lehnus (Lisa Lehnus' sister-in-law)  
Phyllis Swift (Barb Decker's mother)  
Deena Rice (friend of Cindy Barlow)  
Sara Evans (Gary Gilbert's co-worker)  
David Koch (Kay Swanson's assoc. pastor)  
Amy Tharp's sister  
Brian Owen's nephew, James  
Peter Quick  
Jane Riegel  
Jackie Lehnus (Lisa Lehnus' mother)  
Yates Power (friend of Andrea Mezger's)  
Courtney Nyberg (Kay Swanson's niece)  
Carol Bryden (Kay Swanson's mother)  
Norma Harris  
Eldora Wieland (Bobbi King's mother)  
Betsy Keyack  
Michael (brother of Karen Meade's friend)  
Lauren Welsh (Kathy Swier's gr. daughter)  
Maurine Hoffman (Monty Hoffmann's mother)  
Olivia & Daniel DuPont (family friends of Carolyn Warden)  
Betty Kieser (Bonnie Funk's mother)  
Kendall Griggs (Susan Hooke's uncle)  
Trudy Turner  
Maxine Goodloe (Emily Hollowell's gr. mother)  
Frank Rhodes (Dave Rhodes' father)  
Diana Stephens  
Ross Barnard's grandmother BuBu  
Denny Chalus (Ken & Barb Decker's friend)  
Devin Butler (family friend of Angela Chaplin)  
Ann Reck
- Sympathies:**  
To Jenny & Jake Stevenson and family on the passing of Jenny's grandfather, Edward Etherington, Jan. 12 and on the passing of Jenny's friend, Jan Winter on Dec. 16;  
To Jenita & Dave Rhodes on the passing of a family friend's daughter, Kate Merritta, Jan. 17 and on the passing of Jenita's aunt, Dorothy Lindquist, 1-8;  
To Cheryl & Jim Wolff on the passing of Cheryl's aunt 1-7;  
To Carol & Dick frame and family on the passing of Carol's brother, Edward Toll, 1-8.

## WEATHER

## Planning for Severe Weather

**In the event of inclement weather, the pastors and staff of St. Luke's have adopted these procedures:**

**During the week:** When North Douglas County cancels school, St. Luke's will close the church office and cancel daytime classes, meetings, and events in the building. All childcare for the day will be cancelled. Check the Douglas County schools website for info: [www.dcsdk12.org/portal/page/portal/DCSD](http://www.dcsdk12.org/portal/page/portal/DCSD)

Group leaders will determine by 3:00pm if evening classes, meetings, and events will be held beginning at 6:00pm. There will be no childcare.

When North Douglas County schools announce an early dismissal, St. Luke's will close the office at noon and cancel all afternoon and evening classes, meetings, and events.

When North Douglas County delays the start of the school day, the morning classes, meetings, and events will be cancelled. The church office will open at noon and the afternoon and evening classes, meetings, and events will continue, weather permitting.

**On weekends and holidays:** The church staff and group leaders will determine whether classes, meetings, and events will be held.

These closures will be posted on the St. Luke's web site ([www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com)) as soon as a decision is made. The closure of the St. Luke's Little School will also be given to local television and radio stations.

**Yarn & Yak:** Yarn & Yak began as a group of women crocheting hats for newborns. We've expanded into creating lap robes for residents of nursing homes, hats and scarves for homeless people, lots of items for residents of Warren Village, and plastic tote bags. We also make prayer shawls for folks at St. Luke's who are ill or having surgery. These are prayed over by friends of each person, then those blessings are wrapped tightly inside for safe delivery. Oh, and we now have knitters as well! We meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 7:00-8:30pm in Classroom C, and would love to have you join us. Skills a little rusty? No skills at all? Not to worry—several members are very patient teachers. If you can't come to the group, we can always use "care squares," blocks of crocheting or knitting of any size, any color, or any shape, which are assembled into lap robes. We can always use extra washable yarn, too. So put any of your extra yarn in our big blue basket in the Narthex. In the basket you'll also find baggies of supplies and directions for making care squares. Thanks!

## MISSIONS

## Mission of the Month: "YOU'VE GOT MAIL" Support Our Troops

Chaplin Jim, a Methodist Minister stationed in Iraq, has asked if we can show support for the young men and women currently serving in Iraq by donating items that our troops have asked for. The Mission Team has chosen "You've Got Mail" as the Mission of the Month for February. Regardless of personal feelings about the war, we believe members of St. Luke's will gladly join Chaplin Jim and missions in sending a little bit of home to our young kids. A few of the items they have asked for are: *baby wipes, granola bars, DVD's, ziplock bags, gum, candy, AA & AAA batteries, beef jerky, magazines (Time, Newsweek, People, sports, etc.), Starburst, jelly beans, and more.* We have volunteers who will package and mail all donations. Questions or for more information, contact Jan Rufien at 303-979-3491 or [jc.rufien@comcast.net](mailto:jc.rufien@comcast.net)

## ADULT EDUCATION - WINTER UPDATE

### Sunday Mornings

**9:30am - Christian Connections**, Classroom B (upstairs just outside the Sanctuary)

Facilitator: Scott Wesson 303-683-0196 [swesson@aimco.com](mailto:swesson@aimco.com)

New study beginning Jan. 14th "It's Not About Me" by Max Lucado

- Pop culture tells us to make ourselves the center of the universe in order to be happy. Some churches have communicated the idea that God exists to give us all that selfishly want.
- Max Lucado calls for a "Copernican shift"—it's not about me, he reminds us, it's all about God. God exists to proclaim God—and we exist to do the same. It is through this shift in thinking that we can truly live an unburdened, happy life. This book urges us to calibrate our lives so that God and His glory alone are the center of our world. Come join us!

**9:30am - Study of Christian Thought**, Classroom A (upstairs just outside the Sanctuary)

Facilitator: Ann Roadarmel, [aroad@ix.netcom.com](mailto:aroad@ix.netcom.com) 303-792-5110

Les Ludlam will lead a unit called "Confronting the Controversies, Biblical Perspectives on Tough Issues," and will look at what the Christian Bible relates to contemporary social issues. Some of the issues to be addressed are "Separation of Church and State," "Creation and Evolution in the Public Schools," "The Death Penalty," "Abortion," and "Euthanasia."

### Sunday Evenings

**Faith in Action:** Sundays, 6:30pm downstairs in the Matthew room.

Learning and acting with compassion and justice. "Affluenza" in January. Drop-ins welcome!

Facilitator: Susan McIntosh 303-347-0727

### Fourth Monday of the Month

**St. Luke's Book Club with Rev. Janet**

Matthew Room (downstairs-to the right) January book: "Peace Like a River" by Lief Enger.

### Wednesday Night

**Short Term Bible Study** continues at 6:30-8:00pm through May.

Facilitator, Rev. Les Ludlam [lludlam@wyoming.com](mailto:lludlam@wyoming.com)

We will finishing our study in the Old Testament on January 31 and will begin a new study in Romans beginning February 7th. Student books will be about \$9.

**Servant by Design** - \*Class is full this winter. Will have another 8 week class in the fall (possibly the summer!) Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com)

### Thursday Morning

**Living the Questions** - A new class beginning Thursday, February 1, at 9:30am. For questions, more information or to sign up, please contact Lynne Butler at x11 or [lynne@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynne@stlukeshr.com). People know that at its core Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask. Living the Questions is a 12-week DVD and web-based small group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many seem to be stuck. Speakers featured on the DVD include Marcus Borg, Nancy Ammerman, John B. Cobb, Jr., Leslie Griffiths and John Shelby Spong. We won't discover all the answers, but we'll have fun discussing the questions!

## FELLOWSHIP

**New Nametags Are In!**

If you ordered a nametag, please pick them up in the Narthex (outside the Sanctuary) on Sunday or with Lynda Fickling during the week. Leave the \$3.50 in the basket (make the check out to St. Luke's, memo line Nametag. If you would like to order one, please sign up at the Getting Connected table also in the Narthex. \*You may continue to use the old nametags (no fee). Order the paper/pin-on tags also at the Getting Connected table!



We now have a center for connecting to St. Luke's! Visit our "Get Connected" table in the Narthex on Sundays for all the latest news on our programs, classes, new member information and ministries. Don't be left out in the dark... Get Connected!

If you are interested in serving on this team please contact Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry. All you need is the ability to talk to everyone about everything! 303-791-0659 x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com

**NEW! Orientation of St. Luke's**

Come Explore St. Luke's on the second and fourth Sunday in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30am. Grab a cup of coffee, a donut and meet some new friends to explore all that St. Luke's has for your spiritual journey. During this 45 minute orientation, we will discuss the ministry programs, fellowship opportunities, and the mission and vision of our church. Along with the information, we will answer any questions you may have. Contact Lynda Fickling our Director of Servant Ministry x20 or email lynda@stlukeshr.com

**Joining St. Luke's – A NEW Process:**

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 from all Christian churches. Any person who has received Christian baptism does not need to be baptized again. Baptism is a covenant between an individual and God. If you have not been baptized, please contact Rev. Janet, Rev. Pam or Lynda Fickling, our Director of Servant Ministry.
3. Fill out the membership card located in the "Friendship Pad." During the Hymn of Grace, persons are invited to come forward to be welcomed into the family of St. Luke's. Or you may simply hand the membership 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 give and receive additional information and have a picture made.
5. Although not required, we encourage you to attend the "Orientation to St. Luke's" held monthly to explore St. Luke's programs, ministry and missions.
6. You will be invited to attend a New Member brunch! We will welcome you with food and fellowship and introduce you to our staff.

**The Commitment:**

- To worship regularly.
- To grow in faith by participating in a small group.
- To participate in hands-on mission to the congregation, the community, and the world.
- To reach out in care and hospitality.
- To grow in generosity through giving to our shared life.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

**Ministering Behind the Scenes**

by Sherry Merrill

On Epiphany Sunday we watched in awe as our larger-than-life wise men visited Jesus, revealing him as King of Kings! Many of us watched with similar wonder as St. Luke's commissioned ten new Stephen Ministers who reveal Jesus as healer and friend in time of need. Each of them has demonstrated his/her commitment to follow Jesus' example of serving others, completing 50 hours of training to enhance their caregiving skills. They join 19 active Stephen Ministers, who have been serving our community since their commissioning in January, 2006.

**Although this may be a quiet ministry its impact on our community can be profound.**

So what has gone on in this ministry throughout the past year? Don't feel left out if you don't know; Stephen Ministry is more of a quiet,

behind-the-scenes type of calling. Each of our ministers has walked side by side with one or more care receivers, dealing with a variety of difficult situations. Many have faced loss, grief, loneliness, family, and/or spiritual crises. Our Stephen Ministers meet with these hurting people weekly, then support each other through twice a month peer supervision groups. They pray for one another, for their care receivers, and receive the spiritual nurturing they need to trust that God will continue to work through them.

An important part of Stephen Ministry is ongoing training and the opportunity to share resources that are available both at St. Luke's and within the community. Topics this year ranged from "Caring for Aging Parents" to "Understanding Depression and Bi-polar Disorder". Other monthly continuing education sessions addressed "What Those with Cancer Want You to Know", "The Gift of Forgiveness", and a panel discussion on "Divorce Recovery". Based on past and current caring situations we have scheduled additional training in 2007, which includes "Recovery from Childhood Abuse", "Eating Disorders" and "How to be an Assertive Christian".

Although this may be a quiet ministry its impact on our community can be profound. The care receivers and their family and friends benefit through both emotional and spiritual healing. The Stephen Ministers experience growth through their Christ-like care of others on our behalf. It creates a ripple effect throughout our congregation and others who touch our lives. Well, maybe it isn't so quiet after all. If you listen closely you can hear the Spirit working in the hearts of both hurting and caring people.

If you would like to receive or give care as part of this ministry please contact Rev. Pam Rowley at 303-791-0659 x 32 or Sue Townsend, Stephen Leader, at 303-220-8830.



**Newly commissioned Stephen Ministers:** Left to Right: Nancy Abbott, Carol Carnahan, Audrey Elling, Mike Hutchins, Betsy Keyack, Laura McCarthy, Jerry McLeland, Wally Sackett, Kay Swanson & Bob West.

**Family Movie Night!**

Friday, February 16th at 6:30. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a newly released Veggie Tale movie and then watch Open Season. This animated movie is rated PG and will be released early February on DVD. Popcorn and water will be provided.

**Vacation Bible School**

Save the Date! June 25-29, Children's Ministry will soar to new heights as we learn how high God's love for us will go. Vacation Bible School will transform the lower level of St. Luke's into a hot air balloon paradise.

**First Aid/CPR/AED training**

St. Luke's has an Automated Electronic Defibrillator, now we just need to learn how to use it. On Saturday, February 24, St. Luke's will offer a First Aid/CPR/AED training from 8:00am-3:00pm. The cost is \$45 per person. To make reservations, contact Lynne Butler at [lynne@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynne@stlukeshr.com) or x11. We have the potential to save lives, but it is important that we know how!



**The Children's Ministry's 1st Annual Christmas Pageant was a beautiful success.** Over 100 children participated in the show which included singing, scripture readings and children dressed up for a Nativity Scene. A huge thanks to Linda Walker who spent countless hours working to make our show the success it was and we also appreciate all the parents who helped with costumes, music, props, during the show itself and with goodies after the show. This was a great way to start a wonderful new tradition!



**The puppeteers had a wonderful time in December presenting their ministry message, "The Littlest Gifts,"** to the congregation. Over three hundred people attended! The support the church gave to us that night and throughout the whole year is an absolute blessing. We especially enjoyed playing our wonderful, new 'instruments' for the congregation for the first time. Yes, you'll probably see them again.

And yes, we really did use a gas tank from a Volvo and one from a BMW. We have no idea where the muffler came from. All of us really enjoyed presenting part of our ministry message in blacklight, but almost all of the puppeteers agree that our favorite segment was "Manger Zone." There's just something about angels in jet packs, a camel jamming on a guitar, and three sheep in sunglasses.

Our next major ministry message is one that we will be presenting to the Sunday School starting in mid-April on "Psalms and Songs."

Thank you again to all of you who came to see our ministry message and for the anonymous donor who helped supply the start-up funding for the ministry, we again say, thank you. To St. Luke's we say, you have blessed the entire puppet ministry with your generosity and your warmth and acceptance.



## LITTLE SCHOOL News



**Kay Swanson**  
Director of  
Little School

**February Full of Love!**

February finds our halls full of love and laughter and lots of pink and red! The children always look forward to our very special Dad's Saturday on Feb. 10th! Daddies get to come to Little School for a morning packed with creativity, making special Valentine projects! We love seeing the fathers and they really seem to enjoy time with their children! It is a very special day for us all!

**REGISTRATION!** All registration forms for Fall of 2007 should be completed and turned in to the Little School office no later than Feb. 1st!!! With the exception of our Explorer class, we are hopeful that all interested families have been able to get their forms in! Parents should hear something from us the beginning of March. If you are curious or have not heard from us, please EMAIL us at [littlestlukeshr.com](mailto:littlestlukeshr.com) as this is THE best way to be in touch with us for a quick reply. Please remember that many changes happen concerning our registration so please be patient with us as we go through this process! We try to make everyone as happy as possible and this is a HUGE task! :-)

We are so pleased to announce that our school combined with another smaller school donated 475 pounds of Halloween Candy to the Colorado AIDS project. They were so pleased and appreciative! Even after handing out lots of candy they still have some left! Because we know that this is a very good cause, try to remember us next year when you are emptying your candy bowls and putting away the Halloween decorations! We will be MORE than happy to take your candy for this worthy charity!

Thank you for all of your support for Ms. Kay (Director) and Ms. Carol (Assistant Director), who have both been commissioned Stephen's Ministers at St. Luke's. We are very excited about being part of such a wonderful ministry and look forward to serving St. Luke's in this very special way!

A Big thank you to Mr. Barry (Curtis), who has been so good to us, keeping our sidewalks clean and safe. We really appreciate all of his hard work and we are extremely pleased to have him working at St. Luke's to help us all out!! Thank you also to parents who have been so understanding about our parking lot and snowy weather. :-)

We wish everyone a month of fun, safety in the snow and hopefully Mr. Groundhog will NOT see his shadow, so this crazy winter will soon be over!

Warm hugs!

*Blessings, Ms. Kay ☺*

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

On Jan. 28th, Jennifer Tyler of Tyler & Associates will present the results of the Capital Campaign Discernment Study to the congregation. This will give us an idea of whether we, as a community of faith, can move forward with our capital campaign goals: 1) reduction of mortgage debt 2) addition of youth/multi-use educational space 3) refurbishment of our existing building and 4) construction of a Memorial Prayer Chapel. Look for more information to come soon. Please keep St. Luke's in your prayers as we move forward and grow together into our 25th year!



**Jenita Rhodes**  
Director of Children's  
Ministries



**Lynne Butler**  
Assistant Children's  
Ministries Director



**Kristina Linn**  
Childcare  
Director

## PEAK Adventures –Sunday School at 9:30

Workshop Rotation Unit for January 21-February 25 “Jesus and the Children.” This unit uses the Bible story included in Mark 10:13-16. Jesus proclaimed through his words and actions that children are valued by God.

Children have important roles to play in the community of faith. By the end of this unit, children will have had the opportunity to:

- Hear the story of Jesus welcoming the children.
- Experience being a valued part of a faith community.
- See that we are all, young or old, children of God.
- See that every person is someone of worth.
- See that children have things to teach adults.

## Phillips, Craig and Dean Concert

Our Sly, Jr. kids, friends and adults are invited to attend this concert on Friday, February, 23 at Denver's 1st Church of the Nazarene. Youth tickets are \$8.50 and adults are \$14.50 and can be purchased from Jenita Rhodes. We will meet at the church at 5:45 and leave for the concert at 6:00. A permission slip must be on file for each child attending the concert. Don't wait! Get your ticket, NOW!

## Girl and Boy Scout Sunday

On Sunday, February 11, St. Luke's will honor all past and present Scouts during the Sunday Services. All Scouts are asked to wear their pin or uniform and be recognized for the outstanding job scouting has done to enrich the lives of it's members and those their projects benefit. St. Luke's sponsors a Girl Scout Troop which meets at the church on Tuesday evenings and a Boy Scout Troop that meets at the church on Monday nights. For more information about those troops contact Jenita Rhodes.

## God and Country Awards Presentation

Since October five young people and their parent mentors have been meeting once a month to complete their part of the God and Country Series. They will receive their medals or badges during the 11:00 worship service on Scout Sunday, February 11th. Completing the God and Family Program for grades 4th and 5th are Cody Johnston, Thomas Winterburn and Spencer Tolleson and completing the God and Me Program for grades 1st through 3rd are Kaitlyn Johnson and Jenna Wesson. The God and Country Series is a program designed to help young people grow in their understanding of the Christian faith, to make it an active part of their daily living and explore how to turn faith into action. These young people and their mentors have work very hard in reaching this milestone in their faith development. We congratulate them all!

## Discovery Club

On Saturday, February 17, the kids of Discovery Club will celebrate Valentine's Day in fine fashion. Discovery Club is a respite program for special need kids and their siblings that provides engaging activities for the children and a much needed time off for parents. We meet from 10:00am until 4:00pm on the third Saturday of the month, October through May. Easter Seals of Colorado is the sponsoring organization and coordinates each month with several additional agencies including nursing student volunteers from Regis and Arapahoe Community College, Tri-County Health, Denver Options and, of course St. Luke's. Please invite families you know who might benefit from this program to call Nancy Hanson at 303-233-1666 x237 and register their children to attend this program.

## Nursery News

Happy New Year to all of our nursery families! It was a pleasure taking care of your children in 2006 and I can only expect it to get even better in 2007. We all feel so blessed to have the opportunity to take care of your children. There is no greater reward than those smiles and hugs we receive each day.

## New Moms and Dads

I'd like to invite all our new Moms and Dads to come and visit the nursery on Sunday mornings. Our doors are always open to new faces. I believe it's good for the parents to see where their child will be staying and meet the staff that will be taking care of them. There is no one more important than your child and we want you to know we feel the same way. Our staff on Sundays are the same people each week so that your child will feel the safety of knowing who they're going to be with, no surprises. We encourage you to bring your child in as soon as you both are comfortable so that we can help you both make an easy transition. If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by or contact Kristina Linn at kristinalinn@netzero.com or x40.

## Nursery Hours

Sundays	8:00am-12:00pm
Tuesdays	9:00am-12:00pm 7:30pm-9:00pm
Wednesdays	6:00pm-9:00pm
Thursdays	9:30am-11:30am 7:30pm-9:00pm
Saturdays	8:00am-12:00pm

If you have a group that needs childcare, please contact Kristina Linn at kristinalinn@netzero.com or x40. Any childcare requested outside of the above times will have a minimum of a \$20.00 charge per hour to the group. There must be a nursery room available and we must be able to get St. Luke's childcare providers. Please contact Kristina Linn with any questions.

## CHILDREN'S CALENDAR

### Fri./Sat. Feb. 2 & 3

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

### Sun. Feb. 11

*Scout Sunday: 9:30 & 11:00am*

### Fri. Feb. 16

*Family Movie Night 6:30pm*

### Sat. Feb. 17

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

### Sun. Feb. 18

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

### Tues. Feb. 21

*Ash Wednesday -Soup Dinner at  
5:45 and Service at 7:00pm*

### Fri. Feb. 23

*Sly, Jr.-Phillips, Craig and Dean  
Concert \$8.50. Meet at St. Luke's  
at 5:45pm*

### Wed. Feb. 28

*Soup Dinner and Lenten Devotion*

### Sat. Mar. 3

*Children's Ministry Live Seminar  
by Group Publishing at  
St. Luke's 8:00am to 4:30pm*

### Sun. Mar. 4

*PEAK Adventures 9:30 Elem SS  
5th Rotation – The Easter Story*

*Sly Jr. 5th & 6th Grade  
Fellowship 5:30-8:30pm*

### Wed. Mar. 7

*Soup Dinner and Lenten Devotion*

### Wed. Mar. 14

*Soup Dinner and Lenten Devotion*

### Sat. Mar. 17

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

### Tues. Mar. 20

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

### Wed. Mar. 21

*Soup Dinner and Lenten Devotion*

### Wed. Mar. 28

*Soup Dinner and Lenten Devotion*

### Sat. Mar. 31

*Easter Fun Day 10:00am-noon*

## MUSIC &amp; DRAMA MINISTRIES



**James Ramsey**  
Director of  
Worship & Arts



**Carrie Mallery**  
Associate Dir. of  
Worship & Arts



**Kay Coryell**  
Associate Dir. of  
Worship & Arts

## Drama: **God's Favorite is coming**

The story of the book of Job is modernized into a comedy by Neil Simon and proves to be a wonderful and entertaining evening for nearly any age. Make plans now to see this great story of the bible set in New York. You won't want to miss this great performance by our very own Wesley Players. The performance is free, however, donations will be accepted to benefit the St. Luke's Missions program. A pre-show southern dinner will be served on Saturday at 5:30. Tickets for the dinner are \$35 and benefit the Youth Missions Team trip to Mississippi.

**When: March 16, 17 at 7:00pm & March 18 at 3:00pm**

## Music: **Instrumental Benefit Concert**

Come and enjoy the wonderful and talented sounds of the Ministers of Swing, Wind Ensemble, St. Luke's Youth Jazz Orchestra and the Brass Ensemble in concert on February 24th at 7:00pm. All proceeds will benefit the Missions Team at St. Luke's.

## Dinner Dance

This year's dinner dance will be on March 10th at 6:00pm. Enjoy the sounds of yesterday and today as the Ministers of Swing play the night away. You dance til your hearts content or just listen to great music. Support the music ministry and have a great time. Tickets will be available by mid February and are \$10 for the dance and \$15 for the Dinner and Dance.

## Wesley Choral Festival

On February 18th, nearly 25 people from St. Luke's will either be performing or attending the Wesley Choral Festival celebrating Charles Wesley's 300th year at Lincoln Center in Avery Fisher Hall—the home of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. St. Luke's has commissioned a work honoring the memory of Charles Wesley entitled "Directions for Singing" for narrator, baritone and soprano soloists which will have it's world premiere in New York. James Ramsey will conduct the nearly 300 voice choir on the first half of the concert consisting of choral icons over the last 300 years and our very own Rev. David Money will present his finest rendition of John Wesley in the world premiere of "Directions for Singing" by Andrew Fowler conducted by the world renowned conductor Eph Ehly during the second half of the concert. All proceeds from ticket sales will benefit UMCOR and their landmine removal project in Angola. See related story on page 1.

## Weekly Schedule for Music Ensembles

(Musical Groups to start up the week of January 7th.)

### tuesday

6:30pm Youth Handbell Choir  
7:30pm Tintinabulators

### wednesday

6:30pm Kidz Pray I and II  
6:30pm Cherubs Choir  
7:00pm Tone Chimes  
7:30pm Sunrise Band

### thursday

6:30pm Women of Note  
7:00pm Grace Notes  
7:30pm Chancel Choir

### saturday mornings

8:00am Flute Ensemble  
9:00am Brass Ensemble  
9:40am Ministers of Swing  
10:30am Wind Ensemble

### sunday

8:30am Children's Choir  
4:00pm Youth Jazz Orchestra  
5:00pm Off-Notes Youth Choir

Bluegrass/Old Time Gospel Group (Matt Rose) - tbd  
Rhythm Saints (Mel Scott) - tbd

**All are invited to join the music and drama program.**

Questions about any ensemble, please contact Jim at x23 or jim@stlukeshr.com or go to our website **www.stlukeshr.com** to read descriptions about each group.

*continued from page 1* Carlton Young, editor of The United Methodist Hymnal, also has edited an anti-war hymn taken from Wesley's first hymnal, which will be used for congregational singing and mass choir and orchestra.

The concert's second half will feature the world premiere of "Directions for Singing," by Andrew Fowler, a composer from South Carolina. The work, which celebrates the life and writings of Charles Wesley, takes its title from the series of seven instructions written by Charles and included in John Wesley's Select Hymns, 1761.

"Directions for Singing," directed by Ehly, is a 40- to 45-minute piece with soloists and full orchestra. Fowler will be at the piano. The Rev. David Money, associate pastor at St. Luke's, will serve as narrator, portraying John Wesley.

Ehly is a guest conductor at Carnegie Hall in New York several times each year. He also has conducted more than 80 all-state choirs and 500 festival ensembles. As a lecturer, clinician and conductor, he has appeared in 48 states, Canada, Brazil, Japan, Mexico and several European countries and made presentations on more than 100 college and university campuses.

### The landmines crisis

All of the proceeds from the \$35 to \$55 ticket sales will go to UMCOR's landmine removal program in Angola. The agency is using lessons learned

from its de-mining work in Mozambique to help the Angolan government train its own de-mining teams. UMCOR is also teaching mine awareness to prevent further fatalities from these hidden explosives.

The work involves local communities as well. When de-mining activities begin in an area, people immediately start preparing for their return, making the bricks that will be their homes and schools and setting up tents at the edge of the site.

The Rev. Janet Forbes, St. Luke's senior pastor, was made aware of the landmine crisis in Angola when she visited there as a member of the denomination's General Council on Ministries in the late 1990s.

Meeting with members and clergy of six United Methodist congregations at an Angolan refugee camp, she heard the story of how an elder chief, their "angel," had led the group some 400 miles from their villages to the camp without losing anyone to landmines. "They were celebrating that God had led them, like Moses," she recalled.

Forbes, who is singing in the Lincoln Center concert, is pleased it will benefit the UMCOR work in Angola. "It's, for me, a very important project for us to be involved in," she said. "They'll never have their country back until the landmines are cleared."

To order tickets, visit [http://www.lincolncenter.org/show\\_events\\_list.asp?eventcode=13723](http://www.lincolncenter.org/show_events_list.asp?eventcode=13723) online or call Center Charge at (212) 721-6500 from 9:00am to 9:00pm daily.

★ **Spring Break Mission Trip Fundraisers:**

- **“Ministry In Motion” license plate holders** \$10/ea. or 2/\$15.
- **Super Bowl Sunday Subs** \$5 each. Made fresh for pick up on February 4.



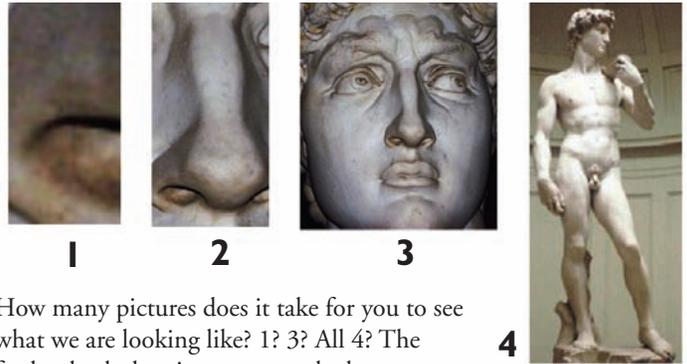
**Chris Wilterdink**  
Director of Youth Ministries

**Susan Johnson**  
Assistant Director of Youth Ministries

**CHRIS's CORNER**

**Eternal Perspective**

Romans 12:1-2 *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*



**1**                      **2**                      **3**                      **4**

How many pictures does it take for you to see what we are looking like? 1? 3? All 4? The farther back the picture starts, the better your perspective becomes, and since God has been around since the beginning, God has the best perspective of all: The Eternal Perspective. In February all SLY programs will explore a little bit of this “Eternal Perspective”, so that you can begin to pick apart the important things from the unimportant, and not live within the “pattern of this world” when that pattern influences you to make bad decisions. We’ll discover together about Self Control, Temptation, Materialism, Stress Management, Dealing with Circumstances, Attitude, Self-Image, Emotions, and Coping at School.

There are also several special SLY events coming up to change your perspective: The Faith & Sexuality Weekend February 9 & 10 for grades 6-12 with St. Andrew Youth, the Sr. High Ski Retreat in Breckenridge February 16-19, and the Jr. High YouthQuest Retreat for grades 6-12 from March 9-11. Check out the youth info walls for registrations for all these perspective changing events.

Blessings,

★ **Faith & Sexuality Weekend** Feb. 9 & 10, \$25, register by Feb. 7.  
6-8 grade group, 9-12 grade group.

★ **Sr. High Ski Retreat \$150**, February 16-19 Registration sheets available on info wall between coke machines.

★ **Jr High YouthQuest Retreat 2007:** March 9-11, Buena Vista. This year's theme is Viva La Jesus! \$150 cost, Register ASAP!

**DON'T MISS!**

**February 2007**

- 2/4 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am  
- Bible Boot 9:30am (9-12 Grades)  
- SLY PM Super Bowl Party, 4pm
- 2/7 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
- 2/9 & 10 – **Faith & Sexuality Weekend w/St. Andrew Youth (6-12 Grades)**
- 2/11 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am  
- Bible Boot 9:30am (9-12 Grades)  
- SLY PM 6:30-8pm
- 2/16-19 – **Sr. High Ski Retreat: Breckenridge**
- 2/18 – Jr. High & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am  
- Bible Boot 9:30am (9-12 Grades)  
- SLY PM 6:30-8pm
- 2/21 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
- 2/25 – Jr. High & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am  
- Bible Boot 9:30am (9-12 Grades)  
- SLY PM 5:30-8pm District Worship at Park Hill UMC
- 2/28 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm

**March 2007**

- 3/4 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am  
- Bible Boot 9:30am (9-12 Grades)  
- SLY PM 6:30-8pm
- 3/7 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
- 3/9-11 – **Jr. High Youth Quest Retreat**
- 3/11 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am  
- Bible Boot 9:30am (9-12 Grades)  
- SLY PM 6-8:30pm
- 3/14 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
- 3/18 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am  
- Bible Boot 9:30am (9-12 Grades)  
- SLY PM 6-8pm
- 3/21 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
- 3/25-31 – **Spring Break Mission Trips to Mississippi & Guatemala**
- 3/25 – Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am  
- Bible Boot 9:30am (9-12 Grades)  
- SLY PM 6-8pm
- 3/28 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
- 4/1 – **Palm Sunday**  
- Jr. & Sr. High SLY AM 9:30am  
- Bible Boot 9:30am (9-12 Grades)  
- SLY PM 6-8pm
- 4/4 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
- 4/8 – **Easter, No SLY AM or PM**
- 4/13-15 – **Sr. High Up With Youth Retreat**

**St. Luke's Holiday Shop 2006 was a Great Success!!**



Thank you to all of the many wonderful people who generously volunteered their time, made cookies, donated wrapping supplies and gifts, and to those of you who brought your children to shop! With your help, we raised \$550 to donate to Children's Ministries for Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2007. This will provide volunteer lunches 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! We will also be able to replace the card tables that are kept in the missions closet thanks to the money raised.

Planning is already taking place for Holiday Shop 2007. 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, etc. as you were putting away your holiday things, please think about 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.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE



**Dave Cupp**  
Director of Finance

## Good News-Bad News and then the Snow Came and then More Snow Came...

The good news is that our financial statements will show we finished 2006 in the black by a small amount for only the second time in the past 6 years. This reflects your generosity in giving and budget management by your dedicated church staff and the team leaders who are responsible for spending our funds to run their programs. This has to be our collective goal every year.

The bad news is that we only paid \$46,810 toward our Wider Mission apportionment amount of \$110,239 to the Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church (RMC). This apportionment represents our apportioned share of the RMC budget that we, including your delegates, approved at Annual Conference. To put this in perspective, this is only about 37% of the asking while the average of all churches in the RMC is around 70% and some of the nearby churches of our size pay 100%. We had budgeted to pay about 70%—and then the snow came which is partially the reason why we didn't receive as many funds as pledged and planned. The specific final numbers and analysis for 2006 are not ready as of this writing. They will be shared in a future *Chronicle* article.

**New Tax Law for Givers Who Use Cash Donations as Tax Deductions:** In 2007, to deduct any charitable donation of money, a taxpayer must have a bank record or a written communication from the charity showing the name of the charity and the date and amount of the contribution. A bank record includes canceled checks, bank or credit union statements and credit card statements. Donations of money include those made in cash or check, electronic funds transfer, credit card, and payroll deduction. Prior law allowed taxpayers to back up their donation of money with personal bank registers, diaries or notes made around the time of the donation. Those types of records are no longer sufficient. We have always gone beyond the requirement of issuing a giving statement only to those who make a one time donation of \$250 or more. We record all donations that are identifiable and provide a written giving record to the donor reflecting those gifts. Identifiable means we receive the money in a manner that allows us to know who is giving the money and how much is being given, i.e., checks, EFT, church provided giving

envelopes with the donors name and the amount written on them legibly, etc. We keep copies of these documents on file in the event an issue develops that could be resolved by looking at our source for making our entries on your record. This includes copies of checks, the envelopes we receive with cash donations, and copies of the EFT records. We encourage you to use the envelopes you can find at the back of the sanctuary or in the fellowship pads for your cash donations. And, please make sure you put your name (first and last) and the amount of the gift on the envelope.

### Electronic Funds Transfer Program

**(EFT):** This program continues to grow. We are now over the \$175,000 annually mark for pledges and over \$65,000 for grocery certificates. We have 60 families for pledges and 32 for grocery certificates. Each month we have more participants in the program both for general pledges and for grocery certificates. Don't forget that you get a free \$25 certificate if you sign up for the grocery certificate EFT program. See the announcements about this free certificate program for details.

## TRUSTEES CORNER

## You Made a Difference!

The Trustees organization would like to recognize the SPRC for adding Barry Curtis to the staff of St. Luke's. In just a few weeks, Barry has already made a difference in caring for daily maintenance issues on everything from changing light ballasts, assisting with set-ups, helping us to manage the freezing and thawing of our snow mountains and everything in between!

Since Barry can't be with us around the clock, we'd also like to join the staff in appealing to everyone in our St. Luke's family to help us to manage our custodial and maintenance chores by picking up stray litter, finishing our treats before we enter the sanctuary and helping our little ones to do the same. Through these strengthened efforts we hope to extend the life of our carpets and upholstery.

In support of the study to improve our meeting and worship spaces, the Trustees have created and published a list of improvements and capital needs including continuing our flooring updates, replacing aging furnaces, etc.

As you review the list, if you have additional suggestions, or any questions we'd appreciate it if you'd send an email to: [kfong@worldnet.att.net](mailto:kfong@worldnet.att.net) or drop a note to the attention of the Trustees in the office. Thank you for helping us to care for our church home; we couldn't do it without you!



**Barry Curtis**  
Facilities Manager

### A Little Bit About Barry

I graduated from Fort Lewis College in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science in Geology. While in College I developed an interest in aviation and started flying lessons prior to graduation, earning my Private Pilots

License in Dec. of 1986. I continued pursuing my passion for aviation and worked as a Flight Instructor in Cheyenne, WY until moving to Denver in 1990 where I worked for Jeppesen creating aeronautical charts for pilot use. In 1997 Amy and I opened the Cookies by Design in Aurora, after 9 years, we decided to sell in 2006. My beautiful wife Amy and I have been married for 16 years, we have 2 children, Kyle and Hannah. We have been members of St. Luke's since 1991. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my family exploring as many wonders as possible.

## Church Staff Job Opening:

**JOB TITLE:** Assistant Director of Finance

**CONTACT:** Dave Cupp, Director of Finance

**RESPONSE TIME:** Resumes must be received on or before February 12, 2007. Submit to the church office, attention Dave Cupp, either by mail, fax to 303.470.5615 or email to [davec@stlukeshr.com](mailto:davec@stlukeshr.com).

**JOB SUMMARY:** Assist Director of Finance in administering the financial business of the church.

**HOURS:** Normally, five to 17 hours per week as determined by work load and funding. Work to be performed during normal business hours. The schedule is flexible and may vary from week to week.

### EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

**REQUIREMENTS:** Must have education, training and/or direct work experience in accounting, bookkeeping and computers as needed to meet the minimum requirements of this position. Computer skills must include proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel Spreadsheet software.



# The CHRONICLE

**St. Luke's United Methodist Church**

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

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LITTLETON, CO

*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.*

**Lenten Dinners:** Please join us on Wednesday nights through Lent for a soup, bread and salad dinner beginning at 5:45pm. The dinners are supported by a free will donation and provided by the various Wednesday night groups and the Hospitality and Events Team. There will be no dinner the Wednesday of Holy Week.

**Women's Night Out** invites you to join us on Monday, February 5 at 6:30pm at Buca Di Beppo in Aspen Grove. Bring a friend or two! If you have any questions, call Kathy Eccles, 303-798-9188 or kateccles@msn.com. Join the fun!

## FEBRUARY 2007 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship "What about Heaven and Hell?" 4:00pm: SLY Super Bowl Party 6pm: SLY PM	5 6:30pm: Women's Night Out	6	7 WNL	8	9 Faith & Sexuality Workshop	10 Little School "Dad Saturday" Faith & Sexuality Workshop
11 SCOUT SUNDAY 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship "Continuing Controversies" noon: YLT 6pm: SLY PM	12	13	14 VALENTINE'S DAY WNL	15 Wesley Choral Festival NYC	16 6:30pm: Family Movie Night Sr. High Ski Retreat Wesley Choral Festival NYC	17 10am: Discovery Club Sr. High Ski Retreat Wesley Choral Festival NYC
18 Guest: Rev. Burl Kreps preaching 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship Sr. High Ski Retreat 6pm: SLY PM Wesley Choral Festival NYC	19 PRESIDENT'S DAY Church Closed Sr. High Ski Retreat Wesley Choral Festival NYC	20 5:30pm: Fat Tuesday Dinner	21 ASH WEDNESDAY WNL 5:45pm: Lenten Supper 7pm: Service of Fire & Ashes	22	23	24 Stephen Ministry Pot Luck 8am: CPR/AED Training 7pm: Instrumental Benefit Concert
25 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship noon: YLT 6pm: SLY PM	26	27	28 WNL 5:45pm: Lenten Supper	March 1	2	3 Children's Ministry Live Workshop
4 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship noon: YLT 6pm: SLY PM	5 6:30pm: Women's Night Out	6	7 WNL 5:45pm: Lenten Supper	8	9	10 8am: Work Day 6pm: Dinner Dance