

The CHRONICLE

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

APRIL 2009

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and much more!



Blanket Bee

Sunday, April 19

12:30-2:30pm

St. Luke's is hosting a special BLANKET BEE and you're invited!

Spending time with good friends and family is like cuddling up with your favorite security blanket.

This is an event for everyone. Take your kids shopping for a yard or two of cozy fleece, bring scissors and pack a lunch and join us in the fun of creating blankets, Sunday April 19 from 12:30 to 2:30pm. Let's show our community how much love St. Luke's can spread to those who have suffered great tragedies.

If you can't make it to the BLANKET BEE you can drop off donations of finished blankets or fleece through April 19.

Blankets will be donated to Project Linus. *(In honor and memory of the Columbine High School Community.)*

The Good Friday Tenebrae



April 10 is "God's Friday" on which Christians remember the death of Jesus on a cross outside Jerusalem. In many churches there is a service at or before three o'clock, when it is thought he died. In some

countries, believing Christians spend the rest of the day quietly. But, Seville, a city in the south of Spain, is crowded on Good Friday by thousands of people, all hoping to see the spectacular processions which wind through the streets when darkness falls. By the light of hundreds of flickering candles, richly dressed statues which portray scenes from the last days of Jesus' life are carried aloft.

In England, most people, whether Christian or not, like to eat hot cross buns: spicy buns decorated with an egg paste cross, which is a reminder of the cross of Jesus. But the custom of making cakes with crosses is even older.

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Sweet Retreat!

On Saturday, Feb. 28, forty-nine women enjoyed the *Chocolate*

Boutique Women's Retreat at St. Luke's.

The day was filled with music, scripture, small group discussion, laughter and quiet reflection time. Of course, chocolate was sprinkled throughout the day and everyone enjoyed the extravagant Chocolate Fountain for our lunchtime dessert. Large group and small group sessions were all facilitated by members of the St. Luke's community; thanks to everyone who helped make this a special day. The feedback from the event was overwhelmingly positive and the UMW hopes to host a similar retreat next Spring.



LENT 2009 at ST. LUKE'S

from ASHES to EASTER

COMPANIONS ON THE WAY

A post-modern look at the Passion of Christ:

Requiem for a Superstar

Fri., April 3 – Show 7:00pm

Sat., April 4 – Show 7:00pm

Sun., April 5 – Show 2:00pm

Featuring the music of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Requiem* by Karl Jenkins. Donations benefit *Nothing But Nets* and St. Luke's Music and Drama. *Don't miss this powerful experience!*

Easter Fun Day

Sat., April 4 – 10:00am-noon

Fun for the whole family!

Egg hunts, bunnies, carnival games and crafts!

PALM SUNDAY Services

April 5 – 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

"In the Presence of Suffering" –Dr. Janet Forbes

Music by Kidz Prayz, Off-Notes Youth Choir, Chancel Choir

7:34pm – Fusion

"Even in the Midst of Trouble" –Rev. Bradley Laurvick

MAUNDY THURSDAY Service

April 9 – 7:00pm

"A Betrayer in Our Midst – Judas" –Dr. Janet Forbes

Contemplative communion service reflecting on the journey of Jesus in his last week, fulfilling his purpose for coming to us.

GOOD FRIDAY Service

April 10 – 7:00pm

"Our Reflection in His Mirror" –Dr. Janet Forbes

A Tenebrae Service of Darkness featuring the Chancel Choir and St. Luke's Orchestra and readings that reflect upon Jesus' final act of compassion.

EASTER April 12

6:00am – Sunrise at Red Rocks

"Grave Clothes or Angel Robes?" –Dr. Janet Forbes

Featuring the Women of Note and Band, Dr. James Ramsey, and Kenrick Mervine

6:00am – Sunrise at Shea Stadium

Youth Sunrise Service with St. Andrew UMC featuring combined Youth Choirs

Worship at St. Luke's:

8:00am –

"How About Now?" –Rev. Bradley Laurvick

Featuring music by Off-Notes Youth Choir and Marge Harper

9:00, 10:00 & 11:00am –

"Grave Clothes or Angel Robes?" –Dr. Janet Forbes

Featuring music by the Chancel Choir, Tintinnabulator Bell Choir, and Brass Ensemble with Organ

7:34pm – Fusion

"How About Now?" –Rev. Bradley Laurvick

Sunday Worship Services:
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
7:34pm: Fusion

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

Laura Hehner.....x49
Pastoral Intern

James Ramsey.....x23
Director of Music Ministry & the Arts

Kay Coryell.....x36
Associate Director of Music Ministry

Ken Mervine.....x42
Organist/Accompanist

Josh Carr.....x44
Fusion Worship Leader

Carrie Mallery.....x35
Assistant Fusion Worship Leader

Chris Wilterdink.....x14
Director of Youth Ministry

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

Marcus Carlson.....x27
Minister to Children and their Families

Joely Maddux.....x11
Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

Kristina Linn.....x40
Director of Childcare

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

Bonnie Funk.....x10
Church Secretary

Dave Cupp.....x24
Director of Finance

Lisé Takayama.....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
May issue of *The Chronicle*
are due **April 20**
Editor: Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

From Ashes to Easter: Companions on the Way The Easter Greeting

Very early in the morning, as soon as the sun came out and they dared go outside, they hastened to the tomb. The first ones who came were the women, those who had loved him so very much. They were loaded with linen, oil, and perfumes, because they came to bury him properly.

The men only came afterwards, when the news about the empty grave reached them. They were running very fast, as fast as they could. John, being the younger, overtook Peter, but, being the younger, he waited for Peter to enter the tomb. They all gazed into the tomb before entering it, full of hesitation. They were all surprised, very surprised.

The story is, of course, about what happened to Jesus, and yet when you read it, it is all about them. First, it happened to Mary; then it happened to the other women; then it happened to John and Peter; then to the others; and finally to Thomas. They believed; something happened to them!

Certainly something had happened to Jesus. No doubt, he rose from the dead. Yes, he overcame darkness and evil. But the story is really about what happened to them when they saw the empty tomb, when he appeared to them, a first time, a second time, in the house where they met, outside at the lake, seeing him walking over the seas, eating bread and the fish he fried for them.

The story is about them; they believed! That is how we should celebrate Easter. What happened to Jesus is, of course, the main thing. It is the beginning and the end, the foundation and the pinnacle. What we are asked to celebrate is what overcame them and what should overcome us.

Recently, I talked with a my great-aunt, a woman of wisdom and hope. She told me: "As you know, life has its ups and its downs. The older you become, the better you know: it is light and darkness, sun and shadow, sweet and bitter, good and evil, sickness and health, virtue and vice, progress and regress, falling and rising, life and death, Good Friday and Easter!"

This is all true, but what the witnesses started to believe at that empty tomb, as they ran home, when they saw him – is that good will overcome, that death will disappear, that light will triumph, that up will prevail over down, the up of the resurrection over the down of the cross.

They were not only willing to believe, they were willing to live that belief in their lives, themselves risen from all death!

There are several stories that I tell every Easter. When the world was locked in the midst of the cold war, the lecturer paused in his speech before summing up. His large audience listened fearfully. "Therefore," he said, "there is no God: Jesus Christ never existed; there is no such thing as the Holy Spirit. The church is an oppressive institution, and anyway, it's out of date. The future belongs to the State, and the State is in the hands of the Party."

He was about to sit down when an old priest near the front stood up. "May I say two words?" he asked. (It's three in English, but he was, of course, speaking Russian.) The lecturer, disdainfully, gave him permission. He turned, looked out over the crowd, and shouted: "Christ is risen!" Back came the roar of the people: "He is risen indeed!"

They'd been saying it every Easter for a thousand years; why should they stop now?

We join that endless parade of Christian brothers and sisters around the globe who gather to proclaim the ancient greeting. Join us this year for the Holy Week journey: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday Communion, Good Friday Tenebrae, and the Easter Festival.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Good Friday continued from page 1

Two were found, still with their crosses on them, in the remains of the Roman town of Herculaneum, which was buried under mud when the volcano Vesuvius erupted in A.D. 79. The custom – perhaps even the recipe – was brought by the Romans to Britain, and bakers are still producing them by the million every Holy Week.

At St. Luke's, we are planning to observe Good Friday with a service of Tenebrae, or 'shadows'. As the events of Holy Week unfold, there is a gradual extinguishing of the lights and candles in the sanctuary. The Chancel Choir will flavor our remembrance with songs of a requiem. A requiem is a service of remembrance for one who has passed. The music of a requiem prays for the soul of the dearly-departed. A requiem also invites the telling of a story:

*A very personal, very public story
Of a friend who died, the friends who
didn't understand
Didn't comprehend who he was,
What his personage meant,
The power he had
Over life, over death, over our lives.*

You will want to plan your observance of Holy Week – from the palm procession to the celebration of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday, from the Good Friday Tenebrae to Easter Sunrise Service at Shea Stadium or Red Rocks. We culminate our journey in a celebration of new life on Resurrection morning in the Sanctuary.



We are All Ministers

Every year the St. Luke's Little School holds a career day.

Rev. Brad Laurvick
Associate Minister

The four and five year olds tromp through

the church visiting different people in every room: a surgeon, a realtor, a chef, firefighters and police officers... an amazing group of professionals. The firefighters bring their truck, the chef lets the kids bake pizza, the realtor even brought a "house" in and the kids made a virtual tour! And then sitting in the chapel is the minister. Just what every four year old wants to be...

The last two years I have enjoyed being a part of Career Day,

Rev. Janet and I each take a day

and share with the kids what ministers do.

We talk about baptism and communion.

We talk about service and care.

We talk about the Bible and sharing stories.

But when it comes down to it, how do you really describe what a minister does?

Ministers tell people how much God loves them. Ministers help people. Ministers share stories about Jesus. Ministers make the world a better place... and if you ask a pre-schooler if they can do those things too, you get a loud chorus of, "YES!" And they are right.

We all can share God's love, help others, share in stories of life and faith. And while some people are called to Ordained Ministry as a profession to lead the Church, all people are called to ministry. It is a part of being God's people. We all are ministers.

It is a special day each year when I get to invite our children to be ministers every day of their lives, and I extend the invitation to you... and if you want to come try on a stole too, just let me know.

Be Blessed and Be a Blessing in Your Ministry, *-Rev. Brad*



You are Invited to the Common Table, Monday, April 13

Occasionally, I'll have a finger hiccup when I type the words, "The United Methodist Church". Instead, I will type, "Untied!" I smile at the mistake, knowing that relationships are the ties that bind us together as a congregation, not our denominational heritage, or our doctrine, or our beliefs. We

are a people who live "tied together" by our belonging to the body of Christ at St. Luke's.

St. Luke's is living into a new model of organic organization called the Common Table. Our congregational governance will now reflect the flexibility of our decision-making and ministry oversight. The image of a net provides the symbol of persons of different ages, meeting in groups and classes of differing interests, worshipping in different services, gathering from different backgrounds, longing for different spiritual journeys who are all linked together in the fullness of Christ's body.

Certain persons will have the responsibility to keep the net strong, connected, and repaired if there is a lapse in communication. The Executive Team and the St. Luke's staff carry this primary task. The Common Table will be an open gathering of the Executive Team, ministry team leaders, and persons from the congregation to share a meal, and to learn and discern, and to communicate and calendar.

The first meeting of the Common Table will be Monday evening, April 13 from 6:00-8:00pm. Audrey Elling will serve as our facilitator. We will begin with a meal and spend our time learning about organic organization and spiritual decision making. We will end with conversation about our fiscal health and our calendar through the end of 2009.

All members and friends are welcome to come and participate. The staff and clergy will remain in the Fellowship Hall for another thirty minutes after adjournment for more informal, one-on-one conversation. *-Rev. Janet*

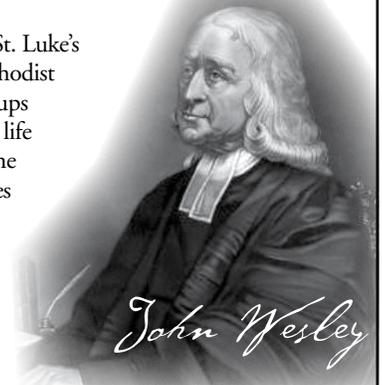
Monty's Methodism Musings: A Church, A Community

St. Luke's has a large number of small groups, many of which are social in nature. Usually they are built around a common interest and give people an opportunity to interact with other people from St. Luke's at a time and place other than Sunday morning worship. If we are a Church, why do we have strictly social groups? Because it is a Methodist tradition to be a community as well as a church.

The Methodist movement was formed at a time of great social upheaval in 18th century England. The Industrial Revolution was beginning and the feudal society that had dominated the social structure of England for hundreds of years was dying. Peasants were being removed from the estates where their families had lived for generations because machines could now do their labor. They were cut off from the communities that their parents and grandparents had been members of. As John Wesley formed Methodist societies, these provided the first sense of community that many people had since they left their villages and came to the cities. They provided support, education, encouragement and accountability to people who had little idea how to survive in their new environment.

When the Methodist church started in America, it was the church of the frontier. Many people lived on farms isolated from their neighbors. The church organized camp meetings. People would gather together for a few weeks in camps. They would hold worship services but they would also have an opportunity for social interaction that was missing from their lives during much of the year.

In Highlands Ranch, many of us are new to the area. St. Luke's provides a community in the same manner as the Methodist societies and camp meetings. It is within the small groups that we get to know people at a level that we can share life with them. It is within the small groups that we find the encouragement and support to deal with the difficulties of life. I encourage you to seek out groups that you share common interests with and become part of those groups. When you became a part of St. Luke's, you became a part of a community as well as a church. *-Monty Hoffman*





Week Ending March 27, 2009

Please stop by the Information Center, by the front door, where you will find the updated Prayer Concerns List (on yellow paper) and the Armed Forces Prayer List (on blue paper). Look it over and Bonnie know if you have any additions/removals from either list. 303-791-0659 x10, leave a note on the front desk, or email at bonnie@stlukeshr.com



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry

Opportunities to Serve

"Everybody can be Great because everyone can serve" —Martin Luther King

In our "Servant by Design" class, we are met with the challenge of our journey...
How may I serve God in the ministry he

has led me to? All of us are on the path to serve as in the early church when Jesus picked his disciples, equipped them, then sent them out.

I challenge you to participate in your own ministry to serve, wherever it may be (missions, music, teaching...). We have over 100 small groups for you to participate in here at St. Luke's. Please visit the

Get Connected Center in the Narthex on Sundays. At our website www.stlukeshr.com download our "Ministry Catalog" and *The Chronicle* (newsletter) for even more information on how and where you can serve in our community and beyond.

If you need help discovering your call, please contact me and I will be happy to walk the path with you! **Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry 303-791-0659x20 Lynda@stlukeshr.com**

The next "Servant by Design" class will be in Sept. 2009. Don't miss this exciting class that helps you to discover your Life Gifts, Spiritual Gifts, Personality, Passions and Values.

"Rather than waiting around for God's special plan for your life, you should just go find where God is at work and join in."

— Shane Claiborne

Café St. Luke's:

Join us for Coffee & Conversation about our community 9:30am the 2nd Sunday of the month. Meet your Barista Lynda Fickling at the coffee station located in the Fellowship Hall.



Check Out Our New Get Connected Center!

Have you ever had a vision come true? I have — thanks to George Carlstrom (pictured, far left) who beautifully handcrafted our new Get Connected Center, designed by Dave Cupp. I

had longed for a space that would be created to help people connect with the many ministries, missions and programs offered here at St. Luke's. And now we have it! Come visit our Center for the latest news, sign up for a program, or just say hello to our wonderful folks that are there to help you: Julie Ramsett, Robin Fort, Dawn Johnson, Ann Smith, Elena Lynch, Lori Smith, and Carleen Krenning. If you would like to be a part of this team, please contact Lynda Fickling: Lynda@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659x20.

Again, Thank you to George for making one of my visions for St. Luke's a reality. It really does take a community!

Gerry Wright (Gail Abernathy's mother)
Jennie Keefer (Mike Hutchins' daughter)
Norma Harris
John Covey (friend of Ross Barnard)
Norm Keller (Candy Keller's father)
Pat Clem (neighbor of Doug Wagner)
Jim Bailey (Melissa Moberly's father)
Ronda Olson
Paula Strader (Sandi Miyaki's sister)
Judy Austin (Mary Jo Weber's sister)
Robert Abbott, Sr. (Nancy Abbott's father-in-law)
Al Tulenko (Bobbi King's neighbor)
Matthew Peterman's cousin, Matthew
Julie Hayes (friend of Susan Werthington)
Susan Johnson
Sharon Liston (Cindy Raap's mother)
Beverly Dodds (Terri Korpak's mother)
Brent Webber (friend of Nancy Cushing)
Paula Peterson (friend of Rachel Nolder)
Amy Spicher (Doug Spicher's mother)
Lori Lieberman (friend of Jane Damsgard)
Thelma Hodge (Meryl Cupp's mother)
Diane Wieland (friend of Bobbi King's)
Loraine Berg (friend of Bobbi King's)
Janusz Daszuta (pastor from Poland)
Andrew Jones (friend of Renee Sanek)
Dustin Baird (family friend of the Lucero's)
Janet Wilson (Betty McIntyre's sister)
Richard Beaman (friend of Jenny Stevenson)
Shirley Quail (Kay Swanson's friend)
Marcia Enger
Charles Annett (LS-Suzanne MacCorkell's grandfather)
Carol Burtron (Melissa Hemphill's friend)
Jan Stanley (Joy Damsgard's sister)
Shirley Sutcliffe (Leigh Ramsey's mother)
Daniel Lund (family friend of the Miyaki's)
Ryan Fielger (Karen Engler's nephew)
Kajsa Gotlin (Susan Hooke's friend)
Helen Mueller
Karen Edwards (friend of Eileen & Ed Law)
Dwain Barcellini (Mike Hutchins' uncle)
Dwight Griggs (Susan Hooke's father)
Cate Hootman (friend of Ed & Eileen Law)
Lucille Hallowell (friend of Nancy Abbott's)
Lauren Nelson (family friend of the Weispenings)
Chrissy Booth (Kam & Tim Bolé's friend)
Bill Lee, Sr. (Bill Lee's father)
Ky Helmer (Laura Helmer's husband)
Suzie Burk (Melissa Ester's mother)

Kay Conklin (friend of Peggy Olson)
Debbie Davis (friend of Val Goodstein)
Schelly Thompson (Sandy Thompson's sister-in-law)
Nancy Jackson
Betty Kieser (Bonnie Funk's mother)
Jed Bennett (Fred & Jean Bennett's son)
Virginia Emerson (Nancy Cushing's mother)
Joanne Shryock (LuCinda Miller's mother)
Tammy Hess (Bonnie Funk's friend)
Ron Newby (Lee Newby's father)
Marilyn Whitelaw (David Whitelaw's mother)
Oliver Bhatnaga (John Church's gr. Nephew)
Michelle Johnson (Sharon Scholle's friend)
Peggy Olson
Alon Wieland (Bobbi King's brother)
Cindy Hamilton (Mike & Diana Stephen's friend)
Jennifer Morgantaler
(Teacher friend of Mike & Diana Stephen's)
Kirk Watkins (Keith & Marilyn Ayers son)
Paula Walrath (Darwin Walrath's Sis-in-Law)
Bill Dearasaugh
Carol Carnahan (LS teacher)
Jill (Jenny Hanna's friend)
Susie (Joy Damsgard's friend)
Kellen Brady (Jenna Wilcox's nephew)
Annie Van Hoosen
Cathryn Swier (Kathy Swier's mother-in-law)
Frank Stanley (Joy Damsgard's brother)

ARMED FORCES:

Josh Meissner, William Bader, Zac Henshaw, Denton & MaryBeth Dye, Joseph Plumb, Kenneth Berube, Erick Munoz, Joel Fritts, Robert Radle, Brian Armstrong, Matthew Gurley, Jeffrey Ransick, James "Jim" Harding, Amber Marshall, Graham Thorne, Jerry Mendiaz, Mark Thompson, Sean M. Pippitt, Jeff Hamer, Josh Brady & Jeremy Brady, Colin Gabriel

SYMPATHIES:

To Chris & Emily Wilterdink on the passing of Chris' grandmother, Helen Wilterdink, Mar. 4.
To Edee Worth on the passing of her brother, Bob Ross, March 19.
To Troy & Mona Daniels and family on the passing of Troy's grandmother, Mattie Pitchford, March 24.

NEW BABY CONGRATULATIONS:

Congratulations Aletha & Aloysius Fahn on the birth of a daughter, Loshletha Fahn, born March 7.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



"The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

St. Luke's UMW Mission Team meets the 2nd Sunday of each month, following the 11:00am service. Due to Easter, in April we are meeting on April 5 and April 19 to plan the Spring Tea event. If you would like to help plan this event please contact Fran West.

Current officers: President — Fran West, Vice President — Sharon Smith, Secretary (& Communications) — Lori Smith, Treasurer — Amy Curtis, Secretary of Program Resources — Renae Parra, Conference Liaison — Betty Ludlam. We currently have openings on the UMW board. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Fran West.

continued on page 8



Rev. Les Ludlam

St. Luke's Lay
Associate Pastor
1993-1997

More from Les: "It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it."

Raymond was the biggest, strongest and the scariest kid at Fruitvale Elementary. He had a gruff personality; he tended to get into a lot of trouble with the teachers; there were rumors that he had taken three years to complete the second grade. Raymond's sheer size seemed to intimidate others. And he tended to keep to himself a lot.

Raymond didn't live too far from my house, so I would often see him as I walked to and from school. I was so afraid of him that I would make sure that I walked on the opposite side of the street from his house when departing for or returning from school. I certainly didn't want to have to deal with any encounter with Raymond! And this non-relationship would have continued unchanged if there had not been an encounter with William, the 6th grade, spoiled "bully," who also lived nearby.

One morning, William approached me just as I was nearing the school building. He grabbed me by the arm and began to twist it. "Gimme' your lunch money!" he snarled. I tried to pull away. "Give it to me!" he shouted. I began to cry and started to reach into my pocket. "And I'll wring your neck if you tell!" William was a master of intimidation!

I was no match for him. That is, until Raymond arrived! We had not noticed the very large frame of Raymond approaching us, but suddenly, there he was! "What's going on?" Raymond asked. "Nothin'" replied William, letting go of my arm and moving back from Raymond. I said nothing; I was trying to gather myself and stop crying.

"Don't seem like nothin'" replied Raymond. Then he looked at the coins I was holding in my hand. "What's that money for?" "My lunch money," I respond timidly. (I thought to myself, "Maybe they're going to fight over it and I can escape!") "He's giving it to me!" said William sullenly and grabbed the coins. "Oh, yeah, what are you going to use it for?" asked Raymond sarcastically. "None of your business!" shot back William.

Then Raymond grabbed gripped William's arm, held it tightly, and put his face as close to William's as he could and said, "I've been watchin' you; I know what you've been doin'. You better give him his money back before I break your arm." and he twisted William's arm more tightly. "And you better not bother him again, or you'll have to answer to me!"

William sputtered something incomprehensible, dropped the money and pulled back as Raymond let go of his arm. I picked up the coins and put them back into my pocket. William ran into the school. Raymond was my hero! He had saved my lunch money and just possibly my life! But now there were just the two of us, standing next to the school building. I knew I had to say something. I sensed that here was something more to this and I was a little afraid to find out what it might be. Finally, I blurted out, "Thanks, but why?...."

"I know you are pretty good with arithmetic," Raymond said tersely, "You can help me out?" I certainly was not about to say "no"!

So for the next nine weeks, Raymond and I would walk to his house after school and go over the day's arithmetic lessons. And, we'd talk about a lot more: like the fact that his dad had died in a mining accident, that his older sisters were gone from home a lot and that his mom had sort of a "drinking problem". "Gets kinda' lonesome sometimes," he would say.

We became 'sort-of' friends; Raymond did a little better in arithmetic, but he still wasn't exactly a top student. And we continued to make a point of walking to and from school together. And, best of all, William seemed to totally ignore me after that.

Raymond left Fruitvale after the 6th grade; his mom had decided to try to make a new start on the Eastern Slope somewhere, and they moved away that summer. I haven't heard from or about Raymond since then. Sometimes

I wonder how he's doing...

Raymond's response to me was based on a need; he needed help with something that I happened to be good at. I sometimes wonder, did my helping him with arithmetic really make that much difference, or did he just need a friend to talk to? I may never know. But, I have thought: Why me? Why then? And then, I conclude, "Well, why not!"

Raymond, for some unknown reason, did pick me. He picked this particular time because he was having trouble in arithmetic. He could have picked someone else equally competent in arithmetic but he chose me. And his timing was excellent; I was in sore need of a knight in shining armor!

Sometimes you and I may be needed, but we do not realize it. We may have something that another person needs desperately, but completely unaware of the need. And there are times when we are called to be a resource for someone else, to do something difficult, to stretch ourselves in some new direction, to go some place we may fear And we ask, "Why me? Why now?" "I must give of myself! I will have to let myself be a little more vulnerable! I feel so ill-prepared! I would really like more control over the situation and my life." And we must decide what to do.

Jesus, in a similar situation, says, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work." He knew the danger and proceeded anyway. He traveled to Jerusalem and to the cross; and through his actions, he changed our lives forever.

God bless us all. —Rev. Les



The St. Luke's Puppet Team has been busy this spring.

In March they competed at a Regional Puppet Festival. There were about twenty other puppet/ministry teams. The St. Luke's team performed an original song lyric piece to the tune of Eleanor Rigby by the Beatles. The Sonrise Band helped to record the tune. This piece tells the story of how Peter denied Jesus and how Thomas doubted Jesus. The puppet festival theme was Reflecting Christ and the team received a certificate for Best Portrayal of the Puppet Festival Theme, a certificate for Originality and a Silver Award for their overall puppet performance.

For the month of March, you will see the puppeteers teaching Sunday School. They are telling the story of how Peter denied the Savior and the events leading up to Easter. The children are mesmerized by the puppets and love having the big kids around to teach and help.

Puppeteers: *Katie Johnson, Keith Newby, Simba Jones, Chris Stevens, Bennett McIntosh, Natalie Murrow, Ryan Hooke, Elise Collins, Liza Nolder, Michael Lee (not pictured)*
Directed by: *Steve and Cathy Collins*



Marcus Carlson
Minister to Children
& their Families

Children & Family Corner: Questions???

One of the new things we have been doing with our elementary kids on Sunday morning is allowing them to write down questions (or have their teachers write them down) that they have about God, church, or anything like that. We have had some incredible

questions, and I sure have felt at times like I was in seminary all over again! The reason we are doing this is not to answer all the questions (but I will answer them all the best I can), rather the reason is to let our children know that it is always good to ask questions and it is safe to ask questions. We especially want St. Luke's Kids to be a place where it is safe to ask questions. In reality, questions are often more important than the answer. Faith often involves a lot more questions that answers and so many of the events of life leave us with more questions with answers. So it is with God. Much about God is a mystery and may remain a mystery. It is in the question asking relationship with God that we find life. I have been honored to answer some of these wonderful questions and would encourage everyone to keep seeking God in the answers, but more important in the questions. Here are some samples of how wonderfully inquisitive the children (Kindergarten through fourth grade) of St. Luke's are:

- » Does Jesus have any brothers or sisters?
- » Does Jesus have any cousins?
- » Did Jesus have any pets?
- » Why do we call God our father?
- » Was Jesus happy when he died?
- » How do we know the stuff from the Bible is true?
- » How do we know exactly what happened to Jesus?
- » Did somebody follow him around?
- » Is heaven on the cloud or on the ground?
- » Does God always know what you are doing? Dreaming?
- » Is God always watching you?
- » Why do we have church?
- » Why do we have Sunday School?
- » Why would someone kill Jesus?
- » Why do we have donuts?
- » And my personal favorite: Why are you so weird?

—Mr. Marcus & the Children's Ministry staff

Calendar:

April 4	10:00-noon Easter Fun Day
April 5	4:00pm SLY, Jr. - Seder dinner with SLY
April 8	Discovery Club
April 19	10:30-10:55am Breakfast with Mr. Marcus, grades 1-6
April 28	6:30-8:00pm-Children's Ministry Leadership Team Meeting
May 1	6:00pm-Children's Dinner Theater: A Hairy Tale
May 3	SLY, Jr.-End of the Year BBQ and district worship with SLY!
May 16	Discovery Club
May 17	10:30-10:55am Breakfast with Mr. Marcus, grades 4-6
May 24	10:30-10:55am Breakfast with Mr. Marcus, grades 1-3
June 22-26	Camp EDGE Vacation Bible School

St. Luke's Kids Growing with God

News & Notes:

Don't forget to check out the website! The children's section of St. Luke's website (www.stlukeshr.com) is updated regularly and is filled with information, flyers, and much more.



Joely Maddux
Assistant Director of
Children's Ministry



Kristina Linn
Director of
Childcare

Safety Reminders:

- Reminder to all parents and grandparents that an adult must check their child in and out of Sunday school for the safety of all children. Please be sure to keep your second tag with you and turn it in when you pick up children. Thanks for helping keep everyone safe!
- In case of a fire or other emergency situation where we evacuate the building, children are to be picked up from teachers at the back of the building near the fountain. This applies to children of all ages.

Breakfast with Mr. Marcus: Twice each month (usually on the second and fourth Sunday) Mr. Marcus will host 5 children for breakfast in the conference room at 10:30. Breakfast will include doughnuts, orange juice, bananas, and a breakfast sandwich. This is a great opportunity for children to ask Mr. Marcus questions and for all to get to know each other. One parent is asked to join as well. The second Sunday will be for children in grades 4-6, while the fourth Sunday will be for children in grades 1-3. You can sign up with Mr. Marcus on Sunday mornings or by contacting him by phone or email. Breakfast is provided at no cost. Please contact Marcus with questions. Breakfast with Mr. Marcus does not meet in June, July, or December. Please note on the calendar, the schedule is changing for April due to Easter and other events!

TWEENS ROCK! We have two more SLY, Jr. gatherings this school year. On April 4, we will be joining SLY (St. Luke's Youth Group) for a Seder dinner. On May 3, we will have a BBQ with SLY and then join together with other area churches for district worship!

Wacky Wednesdays registration has begun. Children must be 3 by September 15, 2009 and need to be independently potty trained to attend. Dates are June 3, 10, 17 and July 8, 15, & 22. Registration is \$15 per day per child. Contact Tami at 303 791-1982 for more information. Flyers are available on the children's section of the website.

Vacation Bible School: Camp EDGE June 22-26, 9:30-noon: Cost is \$25 per child for the week (maximum \$75 per family.) Children of families who serve for the entire week attend free. We ask that parents/grandparents serve for at least one day to be a part of the VBS experience with their children/grandchildren. VBS is open to children age 3 through grade 6 (must be 3 by Oct. 1, 2009). Camp EDGE will, of course, be a camping theme with many fun things in store. Registration begins after Easter Fun Day. We will be looking for lots of support this year as well. We will be making some minor changes including our Camp EDGE tree where congregation members can take a pinecone with an item on it and donate it to VBS which will allow us to keep costs down and offer the same price to families including giving a much steeper discount to families who have parents serving all week. VBS is a great opportunity to reach out to the community and to care for the families of St. Luke's and everyone can be involved. Stay tuned for more information.

Serving Opportunities! There are many opportunities to serve. We are currently working on a new list of roles and a new leadership structure, so stay tuned. *Please contact Joely or Marcus if you are interested in or have questions about any of these programs or opportunities.*





Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School



Little School News:
April Springs Budding Artists at Little School!

April will be a fun month with the celebration of Easter and many activities surrounding new birth and springtime! Our children will hopefully have lots of opportunities to play outside and enjoy Colorado in the spring, but God never ceases to surprise us! Our chapel time will be centered around "Rainy Day Friends" and Rev. Brad will be teaching us more about Friendship. We will have a Monday (April 13) off after the important Easter weekend.

April is a busy time with class pictures on the 6th & 7th and most important is our **4th ANNUAL CREATIVE CRITTER'S ART SHOW on April 23rd!!! 5:30-7:30pm.** (No Little School in the morning for preparation time.) This is an absolutely amazing display of the children's artwork centered on the theme "Letterland" (our curriculum for teaching the alphabet.) Over 2700 pieces of three dimensional art work! **YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES!** If you have never had the opportunity to see what YOUR preschool does, please take time to stop by! Entrance will start at the south end of the building and wind through the entire lower level! We especially invite all of our alumni. If you have choir practice or a meeting that night, **COME EARLY** and enjoy our creative show! Great entertainment for the whole family!

May God richly bless you and your family this Easter season with joy and thanksgiving for the gift of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

Blessings, -Ms. Kay & Staff:-)



Don't Fret... FET is here!

by Katie Newell

There's a team behind the scenes at St. Luke's, and they're whistling while they work. They are the Fellowship Events Team (FET) and consist of Lisa Lehnus, Mona Daniels, occasionally the extraordinary culinary skills of Dave Rhodes, and a mix of 20 plus volunteers.

FET was formed about three years ago, and their purpose is to work in partnership with other St. Luke's groups by helping them host events that require preparation and service of food. Those events can range from a simple breakfast, all the way up to an elaborate waiter-served dinner. FET has hosted Gala Dinners for drama presentations, breakfast events (including the 25th Anniversary Brunch), dinners for the Children's Dinner Theater, the UMW Chocolate Boutique breakfast and lunch, and most recently food for Dancing with DenUM.

Lisa says, "Being in the group to me is about the opportunity to serve and about the people. It's about the fun and fellowship from the preparation of food all the way through the clean-up." She says they have absolutely the best group around and that the volunteers make it all happen. She feels it is a personal pleasure to be able to serve the St. Luke's family and friends via FET events.

Echoing her joy to serve is Mona, who explains that "we just have such a fantastic rapport with one another. We laugh all the time! We're such good friends that it's really just so much fun!" She said that they don't get to go to the events most of the time, but it doesn't matter. They make the events happen and that's what's it all about.

So next time you're munchin' on something yummy, poke your head into the kitchen and give the Fellowship Events Team a smile and a big "thumbs up!" If you think you might be interested in volunteering with this fun group, contact either Lisa or Mona through the church office.

Children's Dinner Theater - Friday, May 1



Don't miss our annual dinner and play production! This year we will be presenting a comical story of love, sacrifice and lots of HAIR called *A Hairy Tale!* Join us for a dinner of tacos, quesadillas, chips/salsa, veggies, dessert and drinks at 6:00pm and the show at 7:00pm on Friday May 1. The show's cast is made up of St. Luke's kids in 1st-6th grade and they have been working really hard on their performance. This year, the United Methodist Global Family theme is "Love". In keeping with this theme, we have chosen to support the

Denver Dumb Friends League as our Children's Dinner Theater Mission. Animals show us unconditional love and only ask that we treat them with love and respect. Isn't that what Jesus asks us to do for each other? A representative from the DDFL will be coming to speak with the children about understanding animal needs and how to care for them. We will also be collecting the donations listed below and will take them to the Buddy Center in Castle Rock for delivery after the play. While there, we will be given a tour of the facilities and animals. Please help us support our children in their efforts to show love and respect to the animals by donating what you can. Bins will be set up in the Fellowship Hall near the donuts and will remain there until Sunday, May 3.

Items to donate: Money is always welcome but the DDFL needs the following items as well: **For Cats:** washable stuffed animals, Cat treats, Colorful cat collars

For Dogs: Dog treats: hard and soft, peanut butter, hot dogs, cheese, Dog toys: Nylabones, Kongs, white rawhides, pig ears, Meat-flavored baby food without onions or garlic

Miscellaneous: MR or Esblic milk replacement formula, Bleach, laundry and dish soap, Towels: all sizes from face cloth to bath size, Rugs or mats with rubber backing, Sponges, Lint rollers, Baby scales, Plastic food bins: holding up to 50 lbs., Baby gates and play pens, Housetraining pads, Paper towels, Trash bags: 45 gallon or larger, Brushes, combs, nail clippers, Large stuffed animals (at least 24" tall), AA, AAA and D batteries (preferably rechargeable), Dry erase markers (red and green), Office supplies: (pens, scissors, staplers, staples, binder clips, Post-it notes), Canned tuna fish.

NO cat or dog food is needed at this time.

6th Annual St. Luke's Golf Tournament
Mark Your Calendar

The tournament will be held at Highlands Ranch Golf Club on Sat. August 15, 2009—Shotgun start at 2:00pm. Youth are invited!

Welcome

Sarah Dunlap (not pictured)



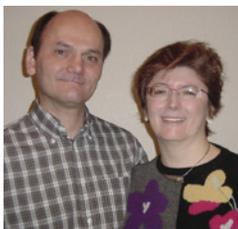
Bob & Barb Chapman
*"The many activities offered.
The ministers Janet, Pam and
Brad. Love the music!"*



Andy Lurie, Mae
*"We would like to be part of a
cohesive, loving community."*



**Marcus & Jessica
Carlson,
Micah & Abbey**
*"To have a family church and
participate more fully in the
work of the church. Because it
is home."*



**Gregory & Marielena
Tripple-Sandoval**
"Fellowship."



Servant Spotlight:

Bryan Hutchinson

by Katie Newell

Denver native Bryan Hutchison, a Stephen Minister at St. Luke's, has an upbeat spirit about him. Perhaps it started with being a drummer in his high school band! Bryan received his undergraduate in

psychology at CSU and his masters at Idaho State. For the last 13 years, he and his family (wife, Sandy, and daughters, Arianna, 21, and Bria, 16) have been active members at St. Luke's. He shared some insight into his life and how he's able to use his gifts at St. Luke's.

How did you find St. Luke's? I was a long time member at First Plymouth Congregational Church. We started looking for churches and had some pretty interesting experiences! But we knew almost immediately when we found St. Luke's that it was going to be the right place for us. We loved the warmth and openness of St. Luke's when we walked through the doors for the first time 13 years ago. What I think I appreciate the most about St. Luke's is the non-judgmental attitude and that they are "willing to meet you where you are." We definitely felt that the Spirit was with us at St. Luke's at the very beginning and still do to this day!

Tell us about your wife, Sandy: What's funny about that is that Sandy and I both attended Thomas Jefferson High School and knew one another but didn't get together until our 10th reunion. What did I love about Sandy? Absolutely everything! She's wonderful. Sandy has been working in the nonprofit field and is really doing a great job making a difference, attending seminars and learning everything about the nonprofit world to be able to make positive impact.

Tell us more about your involvement with Stephen Ministry: It started about four years ago with Janet, Pam and Doug, and several others who wanted to start the program. I was in the first class that came through. I am grateful to be involved in the internal ministry of a church and to be able to help members of the church community. Regarding the Stephen Ministry opportunity, I feel strongly that we are here to help each other. We're able to take some of the load off of the ministers and I feel it is extremely important that people have a safe place to share their feelings. In my view, we aren't here to judge... just listen.

How has your background helped your service with St. Luke's? In my professional life, I work in mental health and substance abuse. I am able to stay neutral and just be there for someone struggling with many types of problems. We all go through things in our lives and having someone there to listen can make a huge difference. I bring that background to my work as a Stephen Minister and I appreciate the opportunity to be able to serve in this way.

Are you seeing changes with the difficult economy? There are definitely more people facing challenges during these difficult economic times. Many people have lost their jobs through absolutely no fault of their own. There are many people struggling financially right now. It's extremely difficult to go through.

Is the nest getting a little empty? Our daughters are getting older, but we are happy our oldest is at DU where we can be involved. We still have several years before we'll be empty nesters. We are both involved in St. Luke's and find opportunities where we can serve and know that in the future we will have that connection. St. Luke's has so many opportunities to be involved that if you can't find something... you're just not looking!

Where else have you served at St. Luke's? I sing in the choir and occasionally serve as a worship leader during services reading the scripture, call to worship or providing the prayer.

What would surprise people to know about you? Ha! I guess what would surprise people to know about me is that I am learning to ride a motorcycle! That's right... I'm taking lessons to learn how to ride a motorcycle!

continued from page 4

Books purchased for the Library:

The UMW has purchased eight books that are part of the 2009 Reading Program sponsored by the National UMW. The books are available in the office. The shelf is on the far left bookcase, bottom shelf. Check them out!

UMW Mission Project: We have chosen UMCOR as our on-going mission project. We are collecting supplies for Bedding Kits, Sewing Kits and Layette Kits. These are the kits UMCOR needs the most. They are needed for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. Supply lists and a collection box can be found by the UMW bulletin board.

Upcoming Events:

- **Women's Night Out:**
Monday, April 6 at Mimi's Cafe at 6:30pm. (NOTE: location change!)
- **Sunday, May 3 2:00pm Spring Tea:**
Ticket sales April 19 and 26; Tickets will be \$5 each and all ages are welcome to attend!
- **Saturday, June 13 8:00am-2:00pm:**
Parking Lot Sale

Subgroups of UMW at St. Luke's:

Evening Book Group: Fourth Monday of the month, 7:00pm Conference Room. For April we are reading *"The Tortilla Curtain"* by T.C. Boyle. The meeting is Monday, April 27 at 7:00pm. Please call Fran West 303-797-7107 or Renae Parra 303-683-0872 for more information.

Itch to Stitch: Second Wednesday of the month, 7:00-8:30pm, Mark Room. Call Fran West 303-797-7107 for info. Enjoy the fellowship of others while knitting, quilting and crocheting to benefit those in need. We can use all your left-over washable yarn, as well as cotton, flannel or fleece fabric. Place your donations in the big blue basket in the Narthex. Need a refresher course? Several members are patient teachers!

Scrapbooking Circle: Every other month, 7:00-10:00pm, Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Christy Wohlleber 720-344-3516. If you have many unfinished albums on the shelf, you are finishing your first, or your pictures are piled in boxes, join us! Bring all your cropping materials and get some pictures in an album. Enjoy hours of uninterrupted time with lots of space to work. Just think of the possibilities!

Women's Night Out: First Monday of the month, 6:30pm various locations. For information, contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com or Renae Parra 303-683-0872 renaeparra@aol.com.



Requiem for a Superstar

Show dates: April 3, 4 (7:00pm) & 5 (2:00pm)

Dancing for DenUM

The dance on March 14 was a great success with nearly 80 people in attendance. There was a lot of great dancing going on throughout the night! Denver Urban Ministries (DenUM) was very grateful for our contribution of talent and energy to the fundraiser. Special thanks goes to the Ministers of Swing for their fantastic music making and members of our Fellowship Events Team who coordinated the wonderful menu choices. The light and heavy appetizers seemed to fit the evening quite well. Kudos to everyone who participated to make this such a special event. Also, a sincere thank you to the wonderful folks at Southridge Recreation Center who helped us make this event possible for DenUM. We're already looking forward to next year! Blessings and thanks to all who helped out. Hope to see new faces next year!



James Ramsey
Director of Music
Ministry & the Arts



Kay Coryell
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry



Ken Mervine
Organist/
Accompanist



Presenting the First Year of PAA Jr. Players Drama Camp!

St. Luke's Performing Arts Academy is proud to offer the Performing Arts Academy Jr. Players production of *100% Chance of Rain*. The Biblical story of Noah and the Ark comes alive with this adorable musical version. It incorporates lilting melodies, infectious humor, and theologically sound text, ending with the promise of "100% chance of love!" This is open to all children in grades 1-6* (*as of the 2009-2010 school year.) There is plenty of space open in this weeklong after school drama camp so invite all your friends to join you! All who sign up will be in the show from start to finish. The music is fun and easy to learn! Registration is currently underway and is open until April 1. A small tuition fee of \$25 is required for all participants and includes Sheet Music, Music CD, a Jr. Players t-shirt, snacks, and costumes. Rehearsals for *100% Chance of Rain* will run June 8-12 from 4:00-6:00pm with a dress rehearsal on June 13 from 9:00am-noon. We will be performing the entire musical at each service Sunday June 14. Registration and payment information can be found at www.stlukeshr.com.

Wind Ensemble Concert & Dessert Reception



The St. Luke's Wind Ensemble hosted a very special evening of instrumental music on March 20. Special guests for the event were members of the St. Andrew Orchestra. After enjoying music from traditional marches to classical tunes, favorite hymns to concert overtures, Beatles tunes to Disney themes, everyone shared in fellowship during the dessert reception. Sincere thanks and blessings to all the music participants for sharing their gifts.

The Two-Week Intensive Is Back!

St. Luke's Performing Arts Academy is back this year with our two week intensive. Just as the name implies, this two weeks will be fast-paced, hard hitting and full of learning and fun. Students will take classes in voice, acting, musical theory and dance as well as rehearse and perform a full-length Junior or Kids production complete with costumes, props, lighting and sound. Students grades 2-6 will perform "*A Year With Frog and Toad Kids*" and students grades 7-12 will perform "*Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.*" All students who register will be cast in the shows and we will hold auditions to cast the two productions in the first week of June. Classes and rehearsals run July 6-17, 9:00am-4:00pm. Both productions will be performed back-to-back on July 16 and 17 at 6:00pm. Tickets for the performances will be \$5 each and the proceeds from the shows will go to support missions. A non-refundable \$100 deposit is due at registration. Check out www.stlukeshr.com for more information. There are only 50 slots available for each show so call your friends and register early to ensure you have a spot!

Get The Chronicle via email!

If you'd like to receive *The Chronicle* in pdf format on your computer, send an email to Lynda at lynda@stlukeshr.com to remove you from the *The Chronicle* paper mailing list. We'll stop sending you paper copies and save postage costs. For those who would still like to have a paper version of *The Chronicle* mailed to your home, not a problem, that option will still be available for everyone who does not sign up for the electronic version.



Junior Prayz to attend Choral Festival April 25

Members of Junior Prayz will be singing the day away on April 25 as part of a Chorister's Guild Music Festival. Our 18-member ensemble will travel to Wellshire Presbyterian Church for rehearsals with renowned clinician, Lee Gwozdz. Church choirs from Boulder, Denver, Colorado Springs and Greeley will gather together for the event, which culminates with a Worship Service at 3:00pm. All are welcome to attend the Worship Service and support our young choristers!

Don't miss

- ✧ **We need Senior Pictures!** We want to include as many graduating seniors in our video honoring them on Graduate Sunday (May 17)! We need a senior picture of your youth, a kindergarten picture, as well as your youth's name, graduating high school, and their plans for next year (name of college or otherwise) Please email to chris@stlukeshr.com or drop off hard copies of pictures to the church main office by April 26. *We also need pictures of this year's college graduating class if you have a college-age youth!*
- ✧ **Youth Sunday School** in April will focus on "Walking Humbly with God", the third line from the benediction we sing in worship. We have Sunday School classes at 9:30am every Sunday of the month except for April 12 (Easter Sunday).
- ✧ This year's **Progressive Dinner** will be the evening of April 19 for both Jr and Sr High. Formal dress is recommended, as is a healthy appetite!!!
- ✧ **Mission Trip forms** are now available! You have until the end of April to get forms turned in, but there is no need to wait! Each Mission trip application consists of one application form, two recommendation forms, and a \$100 deposit to reserve your spot on the trip.
 - » The Jr. High trip, going to Cedar Rapids, Iowa is from June 28-July 3. This trip is for incoming 7th graders through graduating 8th graders and costs \$350.
 - » The Sr. High Trip, going to urban areas around Chicago is July 19-26. This trip is open to graduating 9th graders through graduating 12th graders and costs \$425.
- ✧ **Do you remember** if you earned a scholarship by working the Pumpkin Patch? Email susan@stlukeshr.com if you need a reminder!!!
- ✧ **Sunrise Easter Service** taking place at 6:00am at Shea Stadium. We help arrange this annual worship with the youth from St. Andrew. The last few years have been cold on the body, but warming to the heart. Whether you have youth or not, we'd love to have you come and share in this experience. Bring a blanket and some hot cocoa, coffee, or tea for yourself!



Chris Wilterdink
Director of
Youth Ministry



Susan Johnson
Assistant Director
of Youth Ministry

CHRIS'S CORNER

An Unexpected Superstar

Spring is upon us, greener grass, brightly colored flowers. Budding leaves being to breathe, and we are surrounded by a world coming

to life once again. Likewise, Easter is upon the church. The springing to life of an unexpected superstar, the resurrection of the Messiah that shattered expectations 2 millennia ago...

The people of Jesus' time were indeed awaiting Emmanuel, God-With-Us, to trample dust and walk in human footsteps and become a Savior to the people of Israel. There were many expectations and prophecies in place about what this Messiah would need to do and who they would need to be. In many cases, scholars had interpreted existing ancient prophecies and had a fixed idea of not only what the Messiah would come to do, but also how this Savior would accomplish their purpose.

Too many interpretations had the Messiah coming to overthrow the oppressive authorities using military tactics and leading Israel to freedom by brute force. However, Jesus looked at these prophecies in a different light, and sought to lead God's people into a revolution of spirit and a reordering of priorities that didn't involve physical fighting. He was and is an unconventional Messiah, meeting prophecy and expectations in very unexpected ways. In fact, just when His disciples thought their world was beginning to make sense, their leader was crucified unexpectedly as a criminal for His actions. Chaos ensued, and in an even more unexpected twist to the story, Jesus is resurrected back to life!

I hope that the spring holds many surprises for each of us. I hope we can define ourselves in new and unexpected ways, and that we can live life itself in unconventionally meaningful ways. I pray that just as the world renews itself in this season, we can be renewed and be delighted by what we become... **Happy Easter!**

—Peace & Love, Chris

Missions Progress in Guatemala: Amilcar Solórzano to Visit St. Luke's April 19



Pura Vida's Benefit Dinner & Celebration April 24



Considerable progress is being made in the Guatemala mission work that St. Luke's does with Pura Vida Ministries. There will be two opportunities to hear more about that progress in April.

Amilcar Solórzano, Director of the John Wesley School in Guatemala, will be at St. Luke's on Sunday, April 19, to share his gratitude for our support and his insights regarding education in the western highlands of Guatemala. He will be introduced and thank the congregation for their ongoing support at all three

morning worship services, be available to answer questions between services, and he will offer a presentation after a lunch following the 11:00 service that day. Plan to stay for the lunch conversation with Amilcar in the Fellowship Hall.

If you miss him on April 19, Amilcar will be speaking in more detail on the challenges of education in Guatemala at Pura Vida's Benefit Dinner and Celebration on Friday, April 24, in downtown Denver. St. Luke's has been instrumental in that success through mission trips, financial and prayer support for several years. For ticketing information, go to www.puravida.org/dinner, or call 303-215-0994.

St. Luke's mission teams have worked to provide new housing for 7 widows and orphans of the civil war in the 1980s. They have also provided much needed medical care, worked on an addition to the orphanage in the village of Lemoa and assisted in construction projects at the Methodist Retreat Center. They take much needed school supplies, shoes and love to share with the children of these rural villages in the western highlands of Guatemala. Pura Vida and St. Luke's have also been critical to the success of the John Wesley School in Santa Cruz del Quiché, Guatemala.

Work Day Success!

Joined by several members of the Men's Breakfast Club, AA Support Groups, Boy Scouts, and other volunteers, the Trustees finished lots of our spring "To Do List" maintenance items. In just 4 hours we replaced nearly 100 light bulbs, wiped down windows, chairs and tables in the Fellowship Hall, cleaned doormats, and replaced light fixture ballasts. We repaired a window, organized lots of chairs, painted the Cooking/Little School Music/Support Group meeting classroom, and expanded storage in the new Youth Room. Outside projects included lots of general landscape planting bed clean-up, replacing lawn edging, completing fence repairs, and a thorough sifting of all of the sand in our two huge sand boxes in our playgrounds. Thank you to everyone who devoted their time, experience, and strength, we appreciate it!



Calling All Gardeners!

As the weather warms we'll be finishing the install of soil amendments and sod, and starting the sprinklers. Volunteers have stepped forward to complete mowing and trimming tasks this year in an effort to help us to hold expenses – we invite others who would like to assist with this if you're available. We'd truly like to spruce up our memorial garden on a more regular basis, but will need to enlist others to help us with this task. If you're interested in helping us to maintain our lawn and planting beds, please contact Ken Fong at kfong@att.net or leave your name with Bonnie in the church office.

Missions Opportunities

Here are some great *Volunteers in Mission* opportunities for you:

1. GUATEMALA medical mission, Sept. 2009 - need surgeons (general, OB/GYN, plastic) and nurses. Contact: Mark Ely, marcos@puravida.org.
2. VBS - EVANSTON UMC, Denver would like volunteers to help with their VBS this summer. Attendees would be mostly preschoolers and 10-15 youth older than 5th grade. Contact: Pastor Yvonne Lee, 303-722-7217, evanstonumc@gmail.com.
3. BETHEL UMC, Boulder would like a team to come and help with outside painting, landscaping, cleaning, sprinkler repair/addition and more. Showers at YWCA. Contact: Pastor Warren Napier, 303-744-9353, Wnapier@aol.com.
4. EARLY RESPONSE TEAM (ERT) Training - Sat., April 28 - UMCOR will be conducting training for people to become members of ERT's - Early Response Teams. ERT members are SELF-SUFFICIENT volunteers who help in the relief phase of a disaster; clearing debris with chain saws and making houses safe and secure. Training location in Denver area. If you are interested in becoming an ERT volunteer, please contact Betsy Keyack, bkeyack@att.net.
5. MISSIONS PARADE at Annual Conference - It's that time already! At Annual Conference we will again celebrate missions through a DVD presentation. We are looking for pictures of any kind of mission work - local volunteering, mission trips, relationships with missionaries, Mission fund-raisers and awareness events. Please send pictures as soon as possible to Betsy Keyack, bkeyack@att.net. DEADLINE IS APRIL 10!
6. TRINITY UMC, Denver - would like a team to help with VBS June 22-26. Contact: Kathy Gibb, kgibb@trinityumc.org.
7. KENYA Mission Trip - June 28-July 14 - Contact Jon Kottke, jfk@kittkeandbrantz.com.
8. RUSSIA Mission Trip - September - Contact Hope UMC, 303-779-1040, Team leader Donna Ralston.
9. NEW ORLEANS - May 31-June 5 - Sandi Johnson, sandij@fumc-cs.org.
10. CONGO - May 29-June 10 - Women's Economic Development Center - Contact Barbara Schafer, barbdadd@aol.com.
11. MISSION TRIPS - let Ann Fort know about your planned Mission Trips!



Dave Cupp
Director of Finance



Lisé Takayama
Assistant Director
of Finance

2009 Budget Approved

The Finance Team presented a balanced budget for 2009 to the Executive Team for

approval at the Executive Team meeting on March 16. It was approved unanimously as presented. The budget is based on a spending limit within the same revenue stream we had for 2008. The first two months of 2009 have validated this as a reasonable expectation unless the economic downturn begins to affect us more than it has to this point.

Thank You For Your Continued Support. Income for the first two months of 2009 has met our budgeted expectations. For that, we are very grateful to you for your part in making this happen and insure we're able to continue our ministry programs at the levels we've grown to expect. You can be assured that your Finance Team, Staff, Leadership Teams, Lisé and myself are working very hard to make sure we stay on track and keep us financially sound through these turbulent economic times. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of my great St Luke's family.

I'm looking forward to providing you detailed information about the budget and how we're doing in the giving record mailing we will be sending to you at the end of the first quarter. Remember, I'm here most all of the time and I welcome your emails and phone calls when you have questions about your giving record or our finances: davec@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659x24.

Pick and Choose Your Method Of Giving to

SLUMC. We have many ways for you to make your giving to SLUMC easy and convenient. We currently receive approximately \$550,000 of our general fund and bold venture capital campaign fund donations from the electric funds transfer (eft) and online methods—over 100 transactions per month. Plus, we sell about \$70,000 dollars of grocery cards each year through these methods. You may want to consider one of these convenient methods for your contributions.

In addition to cash and checks, we offer online credit card transactions, stock transfers and scheduled automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts. The following is a general summary:

1. **General Fund and Capital Campaign:** All methods.
2. **Grocery Cards:** Cash, check, scheduled automatic withdrawal from checking accounts.
3. **Special Events:** Depending on the type of event may include cash, check, paypal and online credit card 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.
4. **Plus:** We're anxious to consider any reasonable method you know about that we haven't adopted.



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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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.

A P R I L 2 0 0 9						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Janet Forbes 5:30pm: SLY PM 6:30pm: Tune in to God - Lent class 7:34pm: Fusion	30 7:00: Trustees	31	APR 1 5:30pm: Lenten Soup Supper 6:30pm: SLAM	2	3  7:00pm: Requiem for a Superstar	4  10:00am-noon: Easter Fun Day 7:00pm: Requiem for a Superstar
5 Palm Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Janet Forbes 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's noon: UMW Mission Team Mtg. 2:00pm: Requiem for a Superstar 4:00pm: SLY PM & SLY, Jr. Seder Meal 7:34pm: Fusion	6 7:00pm: Women's Night Out	7	8 6:30pm: SLAM	9 7:00pm: Maundy Thursday Service	10 7:00pm: Good Friday Service	11 7:30am: Men's Breakfast 11:00am: Youth Rehearsal for Sunrise Service
12 Easter 6:00am: Sunrise Service at Shea Stadium 6:00am: Sunrise Service at Red Rocks 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00am: Worship Services 7:34pm: Fusion	13 No Little School 6:00pm: Common Table 7:00pm: Trustees	14	15 6:30pm: SLAM	16	17	18 10:00am: Discovery Club 7:00pm: Confirmation Dinner
19 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship 9:30am: Confirmation Sunday noon: UMW Mission Team Mtg. 12:30-2:30pm: Blanket Bee 5:30pm: SLY PM 7:34pm: Fusion	20	21	22 6:30pm: SLAM	23 5:00pm: Little School Art Show	24	25 9:00am: Junior Prayz Music Festival
26 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship 5:30pm: SLY PM: Progressive Dinner 7:34pm: Fusion	27	28 6:30pm: Live, Laugh, Love Club	29 6:30pm: SLAM	30	MAY 1  6:00pm: Children's Dinner Theater	2 8:00am: Ministers of Swing at MS Walk Finish Line at City Park