



Highlands Ranch, Colorado

The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL 2017

Inside This Issue:

From Rev. Sallie.....	2
From Rev. Ryan.....	3
From Rev. Jessica.....	3
Carry On worship series..	5
Children's Ministry.....	6
UMW Update.....	8
CSE Update.....	9
SLY (Youth Ministry).....	10
Music & Arts.....	11

and much more!

Faces of Guatemala

Our Guatemalan Mission team had an exciting, fun-filled, and productive trip the week of 19 March! During our nine days together, our mission team experienced the many faces of Guatemala.

The Face of Human Need. As we worked with our families to build two, 2-room cinder-block houses, we saw their obvious need for better living conditions over their existing adobe huts.



The Face of Compassion.

During our five days working with our Guatemalan friends, we genuinely felt the need to give of ourselves to help others.

The Face of Laughter. Our group had extremely-high, off-the-chart fun, laughter, and joking components that kept us always on our toes, enjoying each moment, and waiting for the next "funny" to occur.

The Face of Camaraderie. Our team bonded through each day as we got to know each other and enjoy the unique gifts that each brought to our mission.



The Face of God. We saw God's presence in our trip and his wondrous work in our lives and the lives of our Guatemalan friends. We shared those "God moments" each evening.

The Face of Changed Lives. As we toured the water filtration plant in Antigua, we realized the health impact of clean drinking water for rural families.

cont. on page 2



Holy Week & Easter

This year's Lenten theme is **Let Justice Roll Down**. Lent is a time of reminding ourselves who we are called to be in this world. Our Lenten series is inspired by Amos, a prophet whose message is that God calls us to let "justice roll down like waters." Worship without justice is meaningless. How might our songs, our prayers, our words—what we do in worship on Sundays—move us to action on behalf of those who suffer in the world? In what ways are we willing to "give" of ourselves for the sake of the world?

Holy Week:

Don't miss the Holy Week journey!

Maunder Thursday, April 13, 7:00pm –

We will observe Jesus' last supper with his disciples in a contemplative SERVICE OF COMMUNION AND ANOINTING.

Good Friday, April 14, 7:00pm –

"God's Friday" on which Christians remember the death of Jesus on a Roman execution device, known as 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, Christians spend the rest of the day quietly. GOOD FRIDAY, April 14, at 7:00pm, we will observe a service of darkness, in which we remember the events of Jesus' crucifixion. Our St. Luke's Chancel Choir will lead us in a requiem and the service will include Scriptures and reflections throughout. We will leave in silence after planting the three crosses on the lawn. A very dramatic, moving service!

Easter Sunday:

Then, on Sunday, April 16, our EASTER SERVICES! Our service times are changing this year. We will have a 6:00am sunrise service on the front lawn (if the weather isn't cooperative, we'll move things inside.) Then we will carry on with our normal times: 8:00am, 9:30am, and 11:00am. These three services will include brass, choir, and bells.

April 16, Easter Sunday –

Revs. Jessica and Ryan co-preaching.

6:00am: Sunrise Worship Service (west lawn or Chapel)

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

Worship in the Sanctuary



Palm Sunday & Easter Fun Day Joy!



Sunday Worship Services:

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am,
Contemplative Service
(Check website for dates & times)

Sunday School:

Adult, Youth & Children:
9:30am & 11:00am

Nursery available for:

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

Church Office.....303-791-0659

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Email.....office@stlukeshr.com

Website.....www.stlukeshr.com

Little School Office.....303-791-1982

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Lead Minister of Worship & Missional Life

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All submissions for the
May 2017 issue
of *The Chronicle* are due
April 25

Editor: Sharon Oliver
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The Chronicle is published up to 10 times per year
and is emailed to those on our email blast list,
and it can be found on the church website.
Printed copies are available at church entrances.
To receive *The Chronicle* via US mail,
please call or email the Church Office.



**Rev. Dr. Sallie
Suby-Long**
Lead Minister of
Spiritual Life

Visiting Honduras

"Ideally, a human life should be a constant pilgrimage of discovery. The most exciting discoveries happen at the frontiers. When you come to know something new, you come closer to yourself and to the world". -John O'Donohue Eternal Echoes

In February, my husband Tom and I had the privilege of traveling to Honduras to visit our daughter Rachel and son-in-law Jake who are teachers in a small community there. The beauty of the landscape including a magnificent, expansive lake surrounded by mountains, was an unexpected but welcomed surprise as we traveled from the airport into the villages at higher elevations. We were surrounded by the daily Central American way of life, with a simpler, less hectic pace.

We loved visiting Abundant Life Christian School where the students engage in a bilingual curriculum. Children always have a way of making others feel welcome don't they? It was wonderful to practice our Spanish (minimal) with them and for them to practice their English (not so minimal) with us.

The towns surrounding the school were busy with daily buying and selling of goods in open-air markets of all kinds. In honor of Lent, the churches, with doors open from all sides to let in the sun and breezes, were decorated with purple cloths flowing from the ceilings. People walked in and out freely, some lighting candles, some kneeling to pray.

For us, the changes in routine, language, landscape, and culture seemed to create more internal space, inviting greater awareness and reflection. Even when we returned home, we continued to ponder our experiences. What circled back for both Tom and me was the hope to create an opportunity for others to experience this part of Central America. The Center for Spiritual Engagement Leadership Team has embraced this unfolding idea and we are in the early phases of envisioning a small pilgrimage/service experience in 2018. We will be excited to share more details with you in the months ahead.

Wishing You Peace, *Rev. Dr. Sallie*



cont. from page 1

The Face of Guatemala's Future.

The kids of Guatemala just stole our hearts – from the children at the home sites, to kids at the cornstalk school, and to the trinket sales kids outside our hotel each afternoon. They brightened our day, brought smiles and motivated us to do more.

The Face of Service.

We felt the satisfaction of serving others, our Guatemalan friends who so greatly appreciated our efforts. We continually "got it" that this life is not all about us...it's about helping others.

The trip was truly a transforming experience in my faith journey. If you are interested in going on next year's trip, or would like to participate financially to sponsor a student, fund the water filtration project, assist with a scholarship for a future team member, I would like to visit with you.

Ron Miller, 720-381-9452, ronmiller74@gmail.com



Rev. Ryan Canaday
Lead Minister of
Worship &
Missional Life

Carry On: Finding Peace & Healing in the Journey

Post-Easter Worship Series 2017

*“for in its welfare you
will find your welfare”*
—Jeremiah 29:7



I want to share a word with you about our upcoming 5-week worship series

CARRY ON:

FINDING PEACE & HEALING IN THE JOURNEY.

The book of Jeremiah reflects the events surrounding the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians in 587 BCE. The Israelites were taken from their homeland and forced in the foreign land of Babylon. We pick up the story a few years later. Most of Israel is in Babylon, some prophets are telling the people their exodus from the Babylonian captivity is imminent. This would have been exactly what every Israelite in exile would have wanted to hear. Then along comes the prophet Jeremiah, with a letter from the Lord. He begins speaking a not-so-popular message:
4 Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:
5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce.
6 Take wives and have sons and daughters...
7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will find your welfare. —Jeremiah 29:4-7

In other words: “Unpack your bags. You’re going to be here for awhile. You might think about investing in real estate. Oh and get friendly with the neighbors...yeah, the ones who forcibly brought you here. Your well-being depends on it.”

How often do we find ourselves in exile—separated from an awareness of God’s presence, feeling separated from the sacred and familiar, feeling surrounded by injustice, lacking hope?

Some prophetic voices come along shouting: “Revolt! Revolution!” But Jeremiah’s form of resistance is different: “Carry on. Engage. Plant roots, and pray that you might find love and compassion for the place in which you are planted. Look out for the well-being of this place and these people. When you do this, you will discover your own peace, your own healing.”

In this series we want to point to the places of healing in our world. Where is it and happening, what does it look like, and how can we be a part of it? When we concern ourselves with the peace and healing in the world around us, we somehow find a sense of our own peace and healing.

During this series we are inviting some guest speakers to join us—because we want to see where peace and healing is happening, not just among ourselves and in our tradition, but where it’s happening all over the world and even in other traditions. **See a brief synopsis of each week throughout the series on page 5.**

Grace & Peace, Rev. Ryan



Rev. Jessica Rooks
Lead Minister of
Community Life

Filled With Potential

“Waking up this morning, I smile. Twenty-four brand new hours are before me. I vow to live fully in each moment and to look at all beings with eyes of compassion.” —Thich Nhat Hanh

We began our morning devotions in Guatemala with this quote from Thich Nhat Hanh. It was meant as a reminder for each of us, that our time in Guatemala was filled with potential: the potential of experiencing God’s presence in every moment, and the potential of sharing God’s grace in every interaction.

This was my first mission trip to Guatemala, and I made a conscious effort to avoid creating expectations about the country, the people, the work, and our group. I wanted to begin the journey with a clean slate, an open mind, and a hopeful heart. Thich Nhat Hanh’s quote helped me stay open to the possibilities of each new day.



On Wednesday, our group visited Sister Helen and Sister Connie, two Maryknoll sisters who live in Lemoa. During our conversation, Sister Connie asked our group a question that continues to weigh on my heart. Her question was something like this, “How has the St. Luke’s community been changed by your work in Guatemala?” I found this question profound and appropriate. We often focus our conversation on how our work trips are changing the lives of families in Guatemala, and yet Sister Connie asked a different question — *how have we been changed by our mission trips?*

St. Luke’s UMC is in the midst of our Lenten series, **Let Justice Roll Down.** Throughout scripture, God calls the people to act with love, kindness, compassion and grace. This is in part for the betterment of others, but it is also about the transformation of the individual. When we serve God’s people through mission, through outreach, through words of compassion and grace and acceptance, we are ourselves transformed by God’s spirit.

I have been reflecting on Sister Connie’s question since I returned home. How have I been changed by my week in Guatemala? The easy

answer is that I return home with a new appreciation for the simple things — running water that is safe to drink, the ability to flush toilet paper in the toilet, and not needing to carry around hand sanitizer for every meal. But more importantly, I find myself appreciative of the families I worked with in Guatemala, and the value of family present in their communities. I find myself looking around and wondering what priorities I’ve set, and how my priorities might change. I find myself slowing down and spending more time in conversation and relationship, and less time thinking ahead to the next thing.

I’ve only been home for a week now, and I hope that Sister Connie’s question remains with me long after the sunburn fades. How have I been changed, how has our community been changed, by our time in Guatemala. How have we been transformed by serving others, and are we open to this continual transformation God calls us to?

Grace & Blessings, Rev. Jessica



Seasoned Voyagers Update

Seasoned Voyagers are On the Go and Giving!

The March Senior voyage was to the Denver Art Museum exhibit of *Star Wars* costumes. For some it was the characters, from Yoda to Chewie. For most, the designing of the costumes, revealed in detail was a major discovery. And Seasoned Voyagers had their own mission for this trip contributing \$245 to United Methodist missionary Donna

Pervo who works at the Clinton Indian Church and Community Center in Oklahoma with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians whose ancestors lived in our present area of Colorado.

Our April mission of the month is the annual UMCOR Sunday Offering on April 2 for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. We also had a wonderful afternoon at the



Highlands Ranch Mansion on April 11 and learned of the rich history of our home town.

We celebrate Cinco de Mayo on May 11 at with church with a catered meal of authentic Mexican food. The mission for this event is Denver Inner City Parish helping the Senior Programs in the Latino community of West Denver.

In June, we visit Denver on Banjo Billy's bus and in July we attend a Colorado Music Festival program Classical Jazz in Boulder's Chautauqua auditorium.

Check out at the Seasoned Voyagers table in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, pick up a brochure or contact Rich Krening, rkrening@msn.com.



by Rev.
Les Ludlam

More from Les: *The Exxon Valdez & the Good Friday Disaster*

It's hard to act on faith alone. There are times, however, when we must. When they come, we act, with trust in God, not really knowing what may happen. I learned a powerful lesson about this, 28 years ago.

On April 24, Good Friday, 1989, the supertanker, "Exxon Valdez" struck Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska. This tragic event triggered the most devastating marine oil spill in U.S. history at that time. It changed the oil industry, it changed Alaska, its residents and the State regulatory agencies; it changed the Federal Government through its oversight with the U.S. Coast Guard and the E.P.A. Unexpectedly, it changed me.

As I listened to the reports and watched on TV as the oil slick spread with little effect by the efforts of the Alyeska response crews, my first response was disbelief, then shock, then dismay. I was devastated! How could this happen?

Then my feelings evolved into the same anger I could see among my neighbors and co-workers. I felt somehow responsible, as Manger of the Alaska Field Office for ARCO Pipeline and an employee of the industry that had developed the huge North Slope oil fields and built the pipeline and marine terminal that delivers crude oil to huge oil tankers that course the Prince William Sound.

I realized that I must do something to deal with this terrible tragedy. So, I called my boss in Long Beach and told him, "Bob, I'm not going to be worth much to the company if I can't do something to help!"

Those words opened a Pandora's box. In response to my call, Bob asked if I would be willing to "volunteer" for a special task force being formed to develop a new, more effective tanker spill prevention and spill cleanup plan for Alyeska.

He warned me, "I'm very happy you want to help, but you need to understand, Les, that if you go to work with this special task force, you will be away from your job for several months and we will have to assign someone else to your present position. We cannot guarantee that when your assignment is finished, there will be something for you to do when you return.

But, I wanted to do something. I needed to do something! It was a life-changing decision, one that I knew closed some doors, but I felt strongly that it was the right one. I was assigned to work with the task force, and moved to another office building in Anchorage and began working with the team.

The task force work was challenging; our charge was to look at every aspect of transporting crude oil through the Prince William Sound and define the action necessary to improve spill prevention and cleanup capability. Many of the decisions and commitments made were revolutionary and initially not well received by other companies in the industry.

In the months following the formation of the task force, Atlantic Richfield's Board decided to take remedial action, as a Trans-Alaska Pipeline co-owner; the entire Alaska Division of ARCO Pipeline was transferred from California to Anchorage. There would no longer be an Alaska Field Office. Bob, our president, left the company.

My job with the task force lasted for about a year and the results of the team's work can be seen in the Prince William Sound today.

Each of the individuals who participated in the task force was given a plaque showing a loaded tanker being escorted into the Prince William Sound, depicting one of the new safety measures put into place. Written below the picture are these words:

"Difficult tasks are usually best done by a team that is a little too small and a little too stretched to do it easily. The Tanker Spill Prevention and Response Plan for Prince William Sound was prepared by such a team of talented, dedicated people, The Alyeska Calais Group. This memento represents a token of thanks for a job well done."

Acting on faith alone, I had volunteered to work with a group that was quickly formed and started working quickly. By the end of our task, we had made a significant positive difference in the marine transport of crude oil. I'm proud of my small part of that huge effort. The plaque hangs in my office at home.

Acting on faith alone is difficult, it means giving up a sense of control. And so often, the decisions that must be made offer no clue about the eventual outcome. *But it seems that the best things we do are the ones where we act, trusting in God, holding the vision of where we are to go.*

God bless us all. -Les

Synopsis of each week throughout the CARRY ON worship series

April 23 - Darren Tipton, Founder & CEO of Project Humanity, "How Chickens, a Cow, and a Delivery Room Brought Me Healing" Psalm 34:8

There are too many suffering and hurting people in the world. And those with resources and a desire to share healing set out on long journeys to meet those who have no hope. On the journey, we meet people with immeasurable struggles and hardships—and often find a true, unbridled happiness that carries them in life. We mistake this inward happiness as hospitality, but when we pull back the layers of their stories, we realize it is a deep abiding faith in God and wholeness that comes only from their embracing the struggles in life and from the healing they found in being rather than doing.

April 30 - Dave Money, Director of Special Operations Care Fund of Atlanta, "A Disturbing Lack of Faith" Mark 5:24-34

Why do we have such faith in earthly matters—think about all the times you've boarded an airliner with no greater concern than your seat assignment—and yet, we often show great skepticism about many things with a spiritual dimension? Nowhere is this paradox more apparent in our modern society than in the matter of healing: physical, mental and emotional. But some of the most inspirational examples of the inescapable connection between faith and healing—in a much broader sense than you might think—can be found in the stories of our nation's war fighters.

May 7 - Iman Jodeh, Executive Director of Meet the Middle East, "Healing and Forgiveness By Way of Salam"

Islam is the way of life for 1.5 billion people around the world. But what many are unaware of is the importance of peace, forgiveness and healing in the tradition. The root word of Islam is salam, or peace in Arabic. Salam, is the Muslim salutation when greeting anyone and the same when departing. Implementing the concept of peace through a Muslim's daily life is vital to salvation in the hereafter since it breeds forgiveness and healing. But in today's world of political unrest and bigoted sentiments, Islam teaches the importance of forgiveness. The Prophet Mohamad (Peace Be Upon Him) said "It is forbidden for a Muslim to abandon and remain angry with another more than three nights, so the person that says salam first is the better of the two."

May 14 - Rev. Jessica (UMW Sunday), "Leap of Faith" Micah 6:6-8

The United Methodist Women began in 1869, with 8 women in Boston, after hearing a report from two wives of missionaries about the spiritual and physical needs of women and children in India. These eight women were saddened and distressed, and so they organized – they organized as a small group with a purpose of helping women and children. From that small group in 1869, millions of women and children have been served around the globe. The history of the United Methodist Women continues to call us to action and service, in our community and around the world. Their story is a reminder to us, of the power and potential found when we respond to God with love and faith. How is God speaking to you? How might you respond to God with love for others?

May 21 - Rev. Ryan, "The Next 13" Jeremiah 29:1-7

The World Health Organization predicts that by 2030 depression—not heart disease, not cancer, not diabetes—will be the single leading cause of disability globally. We are surrounded by disconnection, isolation, and despair. How do we step out of the cycle of thinking that only stagnation is real—that there is no such thing as change, that nothing good will ever come? As Rob Bell says: "Despair is a spiritual condition that tomorrow will be exactly the same as today, when we know from observing the world that this is simply not true." We are all in need of re-connection. Perhaps a sense of peace and healing is experienced in the ordinariness of: carry on.2030. How might we respond? What will the next 13 years look like for us?



Renae Parra
Director of
Servant Ministry

Get CONNECTED

Get Connected at St. Luke's.

To learn more about opportunities for you to get involved, contact Renae at renae@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659 x117



Spiritual Gifts

Tami Canaday and I just wrapped up a class of Servant by Design. It has been so fun to walk with people as they discover their gifts, values and passions.

Sometimes these gifts are

right in front of their nose and not being used and other times people are using their gifts but never put the label of "gift" on their contributions. Watching people process this information has been very rewarding.

Are you paying attention to where God is calling YOU? God calls each of us; your calling may be right within your own family or it may reach hundreds of people. No call is insignificant.

Do you know your Spiritual Gifts? You can always take our online assessment (<http://stlukeshr.com/spiritualgifts/>); answer the questions quickly with your initial gut reaction. The results of this assessment will help you discover and define the gifts God has given you. Then, put your faith in action and try using your gifts in service and tweak until the setting feels right for you. I would love to talk with you about your gifts at any time. I also have a few copies of the book we use in our class available if you would like to do the work independently.

To find the gifts God gave you will empower you to find your true self!



Altar Team

Easter Lily Sales ~ Thank you for your Easter Lily Order from the Altar Team. Plants may be picked up after the 11:00am Easter Sunday Service.

Flowers are Celebrations of Life ~ The Altar Team invites you to help us decorate our Altar each Sunday by Celebrating Your Life, Your Family and Your Friends. The two bouquets

designed by our Floral Designers cost only \$35. You may take the Bouquets home after the 11:00am service. Vases may be returned the following week and placed at the sink area in the Narthex. Call the office to reserve your "Special Flower Sunday". Send your \$35 check payable to St. Luke's UMC with Sunday Flowers in the memo line.

Children's Ministry News

Praise, Play & Prayers

CHILDREN'S CALENDAR:

(check our website for full calendar)

Spring & Summer is a great time to serve in Sunday School!
SIGN UP online stlukeshr.com

April 16 (SUN) - **EASTER** Services 6:00, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am (No Sunday School)

April 19 (WED) - **NEW! STORY TIME** 9:00-10:00am - Age 3 and under and caregivers. Contact Ms. Sam for more info.

April 23 (SUN) - 9:30am **JOY TREK** (PreK: 2-4 yrs.) Sunday School begins 2-week lesson "The Great Commission"

April 23 (SUN) - 9:30am **PEAK** (K-4th grade) Sunday School begins 3-week rotation "Paul" Sign up to serve online!

April 24 (MON) - 2:00pm **VBS Registration** begins **ONLINE**

May 3 (WED) - **NEW! STORY TIME** 9:00-10:00am - Age 3 and under and caregivers. Contact Ms. Sam for more info.

May 9 (TUE) - 6:30pm **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM** meeting

May 5 (FRI) - **Children's Dinner Theater PERFORMANCE** "We Are Monsters" Dinner 6:00pm, Show 7:00pm. ALL are welcome. No ticket Needed. Donations go towards funding the event and our Guatemala Water Filters Project.

May 6 (SAT) - **Parent's Time Away** 9:00am-noon Contact Ms. Sam to rsvp and info

May 7 (SUN) - 9:30am **JOY TREK** (PreK: 2-4 yrs.) Sunday School begins 3-week lesson "Fruits of the Spirit"

May 7 (SUN) - 5:30-8:00pm **SLY, Jr. - Progressive Dinner!**

May 12 (FRI) - **PNO Parent's Night Out** 6:00pm Contact Ms. Sam for more info

May 12 (FRI) - **Family Movie Night "Moana"** 6:45pm

May 14 (SUN) - 9:30am **PEAK** (K-4th grade) Sunday School "Pentecost"

May 17 (WED) - **STORY TIME** 9:00-10:00am

May 21 (SUN) - 9:30am **PEAK** (K-4th grade) & **JOY TREK** Preschool Sunday School "Year-End Celebration"

May 21 (SUN) - 5:30-7:30pm **SLY, Jr. - YEAR-END PARTY!** Potluck dinner with SLY.

May 28 (SUN) - **Memorial Day** - Family Worship (No Sunday School)



Welcome New Acolytes!

Addisyn Shuffield, Ty and Zoë Brandt, and Anna Szymanski recently completed Acolyte Training on March 29. Congratulations!



Sharon Oliver
Director of Children's Ministry
sharon@stlukeshr.com



Samantha Leahy
Director of Early Childhood Ministry
sam@stlukeshr.com



Stephanie Kirk
Children's & Family Ministries Coordinator

St. Luke's Kids
Growing with God



Wacky Wednesdays

Each week children will enjoy music, crafts, chapel and games.

The theme this year is:



Open to all children age 2 1/2 years through entering 3rd grade!*
(Must be potty-trained to attend.)

TIME: 9:30am-noon

WEDS.: June 7, 14, 21
July 12, 19, 26

Registration is \$25 per day per child.

If you have any questions regarding registration contact: Tami Clement at tami@stlukeshr.com

Registration forms available now!

***Young Toddler Option** 18-30 mos. Contact sam@stlukeshr.com for info

Vacation Bible School

Registration Opens Online
April 24 at 2:00pm

MORNING session:
June 26-30: 9:00am-12:00pm

EVENING session:
July 11-13: 5:45-8:00pm
(need minimum of 30 registrants by July 1)

www.stlukeshr.com

\$40/per child, per session

(Age 4 by 9/30/17 through entering 5th grade)

Adults: Volunteer to help all days of your child's session and get one free registration.

Children's Dinner Theater

Friday May 5:

Dinner 6:00pm, Show 7:00pm



St. Luke's Kids 1st-6th grade tell the musical tale **We Are Monsters**. We will follow human kids into a monster cabaret filled with quirky monster characters. These monsters and

kids discover the importance of friendship and celebrating in the attributes that make each of us different and unique. Enjoy food and fun!

No ticket needed. Free-will donation. Proceeds benefit our Guatemala outreach.

ST. LUKE'S **FAMILY CAMP**

July 21-28
come for any or all days

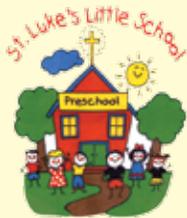
Snow Mountain Ranch, Granby, CO

Sign-up NOW through April 15

www.stlukeshr.com/familycamp/



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School



Little School News:

April Showers Help Children Bloom

Happy Spring to everyone! We are excited to see signs of the season around our playground and the city! Apple blossoms and daffodils are already blooming and heavy snow coats are turning into rain jackets and rain boots! It is such a fun time to see the earth coming back to life after many dry winter days.

All things in April will be focused on our **BIG Annual Art Show on April 20.**

The children have been working all year to prepare for this very special event and we are always so excited and proud to present such an outstanding art evening! IF YOU HAVE NEVER ATTENDED THIS SHOW, YOU WOULD BE AMAZED AT ALL OF THE COLORFUL ART WORK, THREE DIMENSIONAL SCULPTURES AND IMAGINATIVE EXPRESSIONS OF "My Favorite Memories." You won't be disappointed if you walk through the show, Thursday April 20th from 5:00 to 7:00pm. You must enter by the lower north door and follow the gallery of art all the way to the south end of the building! Here are a couple of



photos from last year just to give you an idea of what it looks like! Hope to see you all there!

April is also filled with Palm Sunday and St. Luke's Easter Fun Day and of course Easter Sunday and our wonderful church services. In April school will offer Speech screening to our families as well as free Vision screening by our local Lion's Club. These have

always proved beneficial to our families and several children have been able to obtain help with their speech or their vision!

We still have a few openings in our classes for fall, so it is not too late to register but HURRY, as class choices are limited. Remember that we start at 2.5 years of age (potty trained) to almost 6 yrs. Tours are still offered on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 11:00am.

Enjoy God's creation and celebrate the gift that God gave us at Easter time! Be Kind, help others and be thankful every day!

Blessings from Ms. Kay and the Staff

"Children go where there is excitement and stay where there is love."



St. Luke's Little School -
Best Preschool in Douglas County
2013, 2014, 2015
& 2016!

New Ministry Team Taking Shape – Faith & Justice

Over the winter and spring, a number of questions have been asked and conversations begun about the role of faith and faith communities in regards to events and social structures in our country, and our world. Based on these questions and conversations, the 'Current Events Conversation' series arose. At the same time, we planned the Lenten worship series, *Let Justice Roll Down*, and the Post-Easter series, *Carry On: Finding Peace and Healing in the Journey*. These questions will continue long after the worship and conversation series conclude, and so we are developing a new ministry team, the Faith & Justice Team.

If you are interested in engaging the conversation about the role of faith and the church in local, national and global social issues, we invite you to attend the first meeting on Wednesday, May 10 at 6:30pm in the Chapel. This initial meeting will help guide the structure and purpose of the team, and offer ideas and direction for next steps. If you have questions, ideas or comments, please contact Rev. Jessica Rooks at jessica@stlukeshr.com.

Our Love INC Connection is Strong!

On Sunday, March 12, Carl Cleveland, IMPACT Coordinator, and Kathryn Roy, Executive Director, from Love In the Name of Christ (INC) accepted a check from St. Luke's UMC for \$4000 to support



their mission to "Transform lives and communities in the name of Christ." They expressed appreciation for the

valuable support St. Luke's has provided Love INC over the years, including leading the Renewed Treasures Resale Shoppe, providing dozens of volunteers in various roles, conducting their most successful diaper drive in 2016, and giving generous financial support, both as a congregation and as individuals. They shared, "We are deeply grateful for the strong partner St. Luke's UMC is for Love INC. Thank you!"

Cleveland and Roy also shared the excitement of where God is leading Love INC, with IMPACT, their Comprehensive Transformational Ministry Program. IMPACT will engage volunteers to walk alongside



families in our community that are struggling with debt and/or relationships. IMPACT will take place on Thursday nights at Skyview Presbyterian Church and will include dinner, child care, life skills classes, mentoring, and incentive packages, all covered with prayer.

We are also collecting diapers and baby wipes for Love INC through Easter and the donations are pouring in!

If you would like more information about how you can serve those in our community with Christ's love, through

IMPACT, or other Love INC volunteer opportunities, please email volunteer@loveincittleton.org or call 303-798-0037. Or, come to the next volunteer information session on Tuesday, April 18 at 10:00am at the Love INC office, 5854 S. Datura St. Littleton 80120.

Get to Know Barry



Barry Curtis

I worked hard and earned a BS degree in Geology from Fort Lewis

College in Durango, that was way back in the mid 80's. Durango was a great place to be at that time in my life – So much camping, fishing from my little aluminum boat, skiing, learning to fly and meeting Amy, my wonderful wife of 27 years this June. Yep, it was great, then you start to wonder what you want to do with the rest of your life. The market for geologists was pretty dismal so I decided flying was my passion, off to Greeley to spend lots of money and get all my flight certificates and



ratings. Flight school was fun but I still had to find a job. Lucky for me a flight school in windy Cheyenne, WY was looking for a flight instructor and they chose me. So I defied gravity for about a 1 1/2 years while students tested my flying skills but I was getting tired of keeping the airplane right side up. I was very thankful for my flight instructor job but the pay was a little weak and Amy and I were getting closer to marriage, time to get serious about this life thing. So, I worked in Denver at Jeppesen, using my aviation knowledge to make charts for pilots. Very cool, first job offering vacation and a 401k. Amy and I tied the knot in 1990 and what a great knot it is, we love each other more than words can describe! We decided to have beautiful children, along came Kyle, 2 years later, Hannah arrived. Now 4 mouths to feed, why not be in business for ourselves, that sounds fun and can support our family. In Feb. 1997 we open Cookies by Design in Aurora, in Apr. 2006 we sell cookie store. The store did support our family and there was some fun but time to move on. I came to St. Luke's Sept. 2006 as a part-time Facilities Manager. I could fix stuff and usually friendly so I must be a good match. I still like aviation and work PT for United Airlines and STILL build my airplane in the garage at home. Life is beautiful – think big dreams, stay positive and never sell yourself short because you are loved more than you know.

SAVE THE DATE STAR THE DATE CIRCLE THE TIME

UMW Annual Spring Event:

UMW
Spring
Celebration



April 30
2:00-4:00pm

St. Luke's United Methodist Women (UMW) invite

you to a **"Spring Baby Shower"** to benefit Baby Haven. Baby Haven is a licensed day care facility for children from birth to five years old that provides a safe, nurturing and educational setting for children of mothers attending treatment for drug abuse and co-occurring illnesses. The facility also helps the parent develop the skills needed to enable the mother and child to remain together.

The UMW has always had the mission of serving mothers and children. Please help us continue this vital service. More information on the needs of Baby Haven is coming shortly. Find additional info about the event at the "Get Connected Table" and in the "Ministry Moment" to be aired on April 9th at the start of the service. Tickets for the event will be on sale April 2, 9 and 23 between church services. The cost is \$10 for an adult and \$5 for each child under 12.

Please join us for an educational and fun afternoon with food and entertainment to help the UMW continue our annual spring event which has aided so many worthwhile and diverse missions.

Save the Dates:

Join our Celebrations, Educational Studies and Volunteer Mission Projects

- **April 22-23:** Spiritual Life Retreat, Estes Park YMCA, registration online rmcumw.org
- **April 30:** 2:00-4:00pm: UMW Spring Event- "Spring Baby Shower"

United Methodist Women

enhance your Spiritual Journey; Support you in Friendship and Fellowship; Keep you in Prayer, Satisfies Mission Needs, and Supply you with Renewal. Let us be a part of your journey. If you would like to join us at any of these events, please contact umwinfo@stlukeshr.com



"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."

Interest Groups of UMW at St. Luke's:

- Book Club** ~ Fiction/ Non-fiction/Informative/ Fun. Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm (potluck 6:15pm) Contact: Renae Parra (renaeparra@aol.com)
- **April 24** - "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Kreuger
 - **May 22** ~ "The Light of Paris" by Eleanor Brown

Common Thread ~ Friendship/Fellowship/ Caring/Sharing. First Thursday of each month, 10:00am. Meets at the church. Contact: Caroline Butler carolinebutler@q.com or Betty Smith 303-797-3225

Itch to Stitch ~ Crochet/ Knit/Sew/Quilt for Charities. Meets 2nd & 4th Saturday from 10:00am-12:00pm in church basement. All skill levels welcome Contact: Fran West 303-797-7107. Check out Our Facebook page!!! - "St. Luke's UMC Itch to Stitch Guild"

For more information about UMW: Email us at umwinfo@stlukeshr.com. Look for our brochure at the church entrance ~ AND we are on Facebook www.facebook.com/stlukeshrumw "St. Luke's United Methodist Women - Highlands Ranch, CO" RMCUMW.ORG for info around Rocky Mountain Conference and Mile High Pikes Peak District.



Our Mission: To promote healing and wholeness by creating opportunities for authentic connection, and by providing experiences that inspire and transform.

stlukesce.org to learn more!

Classes, Experiences and Workshops: Our Classes, Experiences, and Workshops that began in January and February of 2017 (go to www.stlukesce.org to see a complete list of our 2017 classes) have offered opportunities to many to connect with fellow sojourners, as we all reflect on the past, consider the present, and plan new opportunities for personal growth in the future. Thank you to all who participated in these experiences.

Gargi Agarwala's Level 1 Group Lyfe Coaching class concluded on March 16. Participant comments included:

- "I have acquired so many more tools to use for self-care and stress management."
- "I have developed daily anchoring rituals and implemented tools for reducing stress"
- "I love Gargi's beautiful spirit and her willingness to share examples from her own life story."

Gargi will be offering a **Level 2 Group Lyfe Coaching class** in the Fall; stay tuned for the dates www.stlukesce.org.

Class opportunities continue on a drop-in basis through the spring. We welcome you all!

- **Gracious Space with Jenita Rhodes** meets the 2nd Friday of each month. Drop-in whenever you can. Jenita's gracious spirit creates time and space to renew, to refresh, and to regenerate. There are devotions and lessons, as well as time to explore and express through various art forms. (Jenita@pcisys.net).
- **Morning Yoga with Gargi** meets Thursday mornings, 9:00-10:15am in St. Luke's beautiful Chapel. Classes continue through May 18. Through yoga poses and reflections, Gargi invites us to love ourselves, and to reflect that love to others. All abilities are welcome. Drop in once, and you'll want to come as often as your busy schedule allows. Bring a yoga mat. Suggested donation \$12/class (renaeparra@aol.com).
- **World Labyrinth Day** is Saturday, May 6. Check with Jenita Rhodes (Jenita@pcisys.net) if you'd like to "walk as one at 1:00pm" on the St. Luke's labyrinth (behind St. Luke's near the gazebo).
- **SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, July 29 - Yoga on the Rocks.** We'll carpool and arrive in time for sunrise at Red Rocks, then enjoy a one-hour yoga class. A breakfast tailgate will follow. This can be a wonderful mother/daughter opportunity. Contact Renae to purchase tickets, \$17/person.

Outdoor Adventures:

Come join us this spring as we explore beautiful places in Colorado's Front Range:

- A beautiful warm day on March 18 forced a change of plans, from snowshoeing to an early spring hike. We noticed new greenery peeking through the dormant meadow; we smelled sun-warmed pine needles; we discovered in **Elk Meadow Park** an attractive new destination to enjoy the beauty of Colorado's Front Range. Julie Polikoff read a beautiful Lakota prayer and demonstrated how she hikes with her holding cross, which helps to keep her centered and present.
- Come join us on Saturday, April 22 for a hike in **Matthews/Winters Park** near Morrison. With the abundance of warm, sunny days we've enjoyed, we might expect to hear returning birds and to discover early wildflowers. Sights along the way include an early 1800's homesteading cemetery, Colorado's beautiful red rocks formation, and views of Denver and the plains. (janet.johnston@comcast.net).
- **SAVE THE DATES:** Saturdays, May 20 & June 10



Spiritual Engagement – Children & Teens: We still have copies of *The Golden Cord* by Rev. Leanne Hadley for sale. This book gently explains death to a grieving child. Books are at St. Luke's for \$15. See Rev. Sallie or Renae Parra (renaec@stlukeshr.com).

Trustees Corner

If you're new here, you might be interested to know that it was through the support of area churches and a small team of founding members, that St. Luke's opened our 1st building in 1983 in the space we now use as our Fellowship Hall where our earliest services and classes were held in various chair formations! The second addition brought us a few classrooms downstairs – with that we launched the Little School program, and completed the main entrance and Narthex /Get Connected spaces we have today.

Service Saturday

8:00am-noon

Saturday May 13

Childcare available with advance notice. Reservations: sam@stlukeshr.com

Our third and largest addition included the sanctuary and several children's classrooms below – and Little School exploded into the larger program format we still have today! Finally, our 4th and last addition gave us our Chapel, and dedicated youth meeting and classroom space below. Since we were first formed, with your help, and those who came before, St. Luke's volunteers and donors have come together to accomplish bold goals that have brought us to our current space.

Following completion of each phase of construction, our programs have grown within our walls, and well into our community with a variety of outreach, education, and support groups where many of you serve as leaders, planners, participants, and in so many roles!

This spring, working with our Finance Team, Trustees are working to improve maintenance of our building and grounds, and as a community, and we'll be asking for your help as we begin to tackle deferred maintenance and routine updates much like you do in your own homes with the support of friends and family. In the meantime, we're interested in hearing from you. **Would you please note projects/honey-do's we should be addressing and drop them into the Suggestion Box on the file cabinet near the elevator door?** We invite you to let us know about any concerns you've noticed, if you're able to assist with completion, or have recommendations. It truly takes all of us working together to maintain and improve our investments.

In the words of John Wesley: *"Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can."*

With your help, We Can!



Upcoming Events!

- ✦ **April 2 -**
9:30-10:30am: SLY AM - Karin
1:00-3:00pm: Confirmation
 (Parent meeting 2:00-3:00pm)
5:30-6:00pm: SLY Dinner \$2
6:00-7:30pm: SLY PM - Irish Dance
 Team Performance!
- ✦ **April 9 -**
9:30-10:30am: SLY AM- Paul
1:00-3:00pm: Confirmation
 (Parent meeting 2:00-3:00)
5:30-6:00pm: SLY Dinner \$2
6:00-7:30pm: SLY PM- Make
 lunches for the homeless
- ✦ **April 12 -**
5:30-6:30pm: Homework Hour
6:30-8:00pm: Wed SLY- Make
 Blankets for the Animal Shelter
 (\$5 to make one for you!)
- ✦ **April 16 - HAPPY EASTER!!**
NO SLY EVENTS!
- ✦ **April 30 - Cold Stone Fundraiser**
- ✦ **2017 dates to put on the
 calendar NOW:**
April 22 - Confirmation Service 6:00pm
April 30 - Progressive Dinner!!
*May 7 - Jr. High Mission Team Meeting
 at 11:00am*
*May 7 - Sr. High Mission Team Meeting
 at 12:30pm*
May 21 - Graduation Sunday
- ✦ **Sign up to receive our emails
 and Check stlukeshr.com
 and click on "Youth"
 or "SLY" for
 up-to-date info on
 programs, activities,
 opportunities and
 more!**



ON THE SLY: Springin' It!

Well, as if we weren't spoiled enough by the beautiful weather Colorado has given us, it seems nearly half of our SLY members enjoyed their spring break somewhere they could really soak in the sun! Our director Dave took his lovely wife to the big island of Hawaii for a special anniversary celebration while assistant director Jeremy hung out with the monkeys in Costa Rica! Amy kept things running smoothly at home while enjoying all sorts of fun Colorado has to offer for her spring break. Now that all that down time is over, we are back in full force planning for the end of the school year and an awesome summer!

Graduation Sunday will be here before we know it! We are as always so proud of our graduating seniors and the kind and caring people they are becoming. We are still missing lots of kindergarten and senior photos for our celebration in May. If you have not yet given us your photos and info please do that asap, we want to make sure to celebrate you with the whole congregation!

Our **summer mission trips** are coming together nicely. Our Sr. High will be going to Moore, OK to do disaster relief in June and our Jr. High will be heading to Albuquerque, NM in mid July! These trips are just about full so contact Dave ASAP if you know a youth who is interested in going! The next meetings for these trip will be held after services on Sunday May 7th. Keep an eye out for our last minute fundraisers as well and as always, thank you to all those who support our youth and their awesome opportunities.

Speaking of fundraisers, our **Guatemala trip** is coming up fast and we have one last fundraiser coming up. On Sunday April 30th our Guatemala missions team will be taking over Cold Stone Creamery at town center and scooping up some fun and ice cream to raise money for materials needed. They will be building houses down in rural Guatemala as well as enlarging the water filtration project to hopefully another 100 homes! Stop by, eat some ice cream, and support these youth and young adults going out and making the world a better place!

Yours in Christ, Dave, Amy & Jeremy



Dave Laurvick
Director of
Youth Ministry



Amy McMullen
Assistant Dir. of
Youth Ministry



Jeremy Brown
Assistant Dir. of
Youth Ministry



Get to Know Brenda



Brenda Schafer



Brenda has been St. Luke's Office Administrator for the past 8 years. Previously, she worked in the IT industry for 20+ years, traveling all over the US, Canada and Europe. She lived in Brussels, Belgium for 3.5 years and enjoyed traveling and sight-seeing as much as possible. Growing up in Indiana, she attended Purdue University and played softball. BOILER UP! She also attended Regis University. Moving to Colorado in 1986, her love of the outdoors made Colorado the ideal place to live. She enjoys traveling (Guatemala), photography, camping, hiking, reading, sports (softball umpire), making cards, and all things DISNEY (I have an annual pass!). Her parents, sister and brother-in-law all reside in Florida and she tries to see them a couple times a year.

Get to Know Renae

Renae Parra



Renae has been a member of St. Luke's since 2005 and recently joined our staff in late 2016 as the Director of Servant Ministry. Prior to coming on staff she served our faith community in many different ways including Lay Leader and UMW Board

member. She has led and co-led a variety of educational and spiritual growth classes and women's retreats, facilitated the UMW Evening book club and has represented our congregation at District and Annual Conference events. As a staff member, Renae wants people to know their authentic selves and spiritual gifts so they can serve from a place that feeds their soul. Renae has a degree in Management Information Systems from the UT-Austin and loved her time working for Apple in California before relocating to Highlands Ranch in the mid 90's. Renae is married to Steve and they have two young adult children, Clark and Jackie. Renae is a huge fan of college football and Rockies baseball and enjoys card making, reading, walking and participating in the Center for Spiritual Engagement leadership team.

Godspell 2017 - Oh Bless the Lord, My Soul!

What a great weekend! More than 600 people joined The Wesley Players on March 10-12 as they told the stories of several different parables using a wide variety of games, storytelling techniques, and a hefty dose of comic timing!



The audiences enjoyed an eclectic blend of songs, ranging in style from pop to vaudeville, as the story of Jesus' life danced across the stage. Dissolving hauntingly into the Last Supper and Crucifixion, Jesus' messages of kindness, tolerance and love came vibrantly to life. Directed by Roberta Hamilton-Griggs and featuring St. Luke's regulars, the production was a fundraiser for our Guatemala mission team.



Congratulations to everyone who made *Godspell* a success!!



James Ramsey
Director of Music & Arts Ministries



Kenrick Mervine
Associate Dir. of Music Ministry/
Organist



Kay Coryell
Dir. of Handbells & Children's Music
Ministry



Kristi Pawley
Music & Arts Admin. Assistant/
Accounting Clerk

Upcoming Events:



Easter – Sunday, April 16 at 6:00, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Children's Dinner Theater – “*We Are Monsters*”
Friday, May 5 at 6:00pm

Arapahoe Philharmonic – Saturday, May 20 at 7:30pm

Mother's Day Dinner Dance – rescheduled to a Fall Dance. Stay tuned for details... more time to break in your dancing shoes!

Meet the Music Ministry

Welcome back to our series Meet the Music Ministry!

WIND ENSEMBLE

Is your high school band instrument sitting in a closet? Are you wondering what to do with it? St. Luke's Wind



Ensemble has the answer! Please come join our instrumental ensemble; we've been looking for you! St. Luke's Wind Ensemble is the perfect place for you. We are a cross-generational group

that simply loves to play. We have two seasons: the winter session culminates in a Wind Ensemble Sunday at church and the second session begins April 1. We will begin our Saturday morning rehearsals in April to prepare for a concert at Windcrest on April 29. The literature ranges from traditional band music to sacred repertoire, folk songs to film scores, and everything in between. Think you're too old...or too young...to join us? We range in age from 12-89; we've got a place for you. Please join us! Contact Kay Coryell at kayc@stlukeshr.com for complete information and rehearsal schedule. See you at rehearsal!
For information on all the music groups, please browse the Music and Arts brochure at www.stlukeshr.com/PDFs/brochures/MusicArts.pdf.

The Gathering

Where new friends at
St. Luke's connect



Join Us!

May 7 ~ 2:00pm Chapel

Welcoming those who are newly connected to our community. Gather to meet new friends & staff. Enjoy food & conversation.

Contact jessica@stlukeshr.com

Would you like to engage in conversations regarding current events within the Church, country and world? Are you interested in learning from people who think differently than you? Join us for our series of

Current Event Conversations

Save the dates:

April 23 & May 7 at 4:00pm



St. Luke's United Methodist Church

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

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.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE



Brenda Schafer
Office Administrator

*Don't you be afraid,
for I am with you.
Don't be dismayed,
for I am your God.
I will strengthen
you....* —Isaiah 41:10

PRAYER CONCERNS

Contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long or Brenda Schafer if you have any additions/removals 303-791-0659 x132, leave a note at the front desk, or email sallie@stlukeshr.com or brenda@stlukeshr.com

LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

<i>Natalie Murrow</i>	<i>Michelle Bergman</i>	<i>Jackie Durban</i>
<i>Debi Sheppard</i>	<i>Sherrie Miller</i>	<i>Shawn Sheppard</i>
<i>Kay Swanson</i>	<i>Beverly Paul</i>	<i>Karen Herr</i>
<i>Peter Waldheim</i>	<i>Camille Almas</i>	<i>Marj Mack</i>
<i>Peggy Link</i>	<i>Fran West</i>	

SYMPATHIES TO:

Jay & Jill Lee on the passing of Jill's grandmother, Tsuyu Oyama
Laura McCarthy on the passing of her friend
Penny Harris on the passing of her aunt, Jo Ann Shepard
Little School family, Lindy & Michael Busbee on the passing of their unborn son
Julie Polikoff on the passing of family friend, Devon Strauss
Ron & Sherrie Miller on the passing of Sherrie's mother, Wanda McMinn
Edee Worth on the passing of her sister-in-law, Kathy Ross
Bob & Fran West on the passing of Fran's brother, Lucius Fouche
Kris Reif on the passing of her brother, Jim Eckberg
Corbett & Kristin Foster on the passing of Kristin's grandmother, Margaret (GG) Johnson

Mountain Sky Area News

As you may know, during the week of April 25, 2017, the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church will be meeting in New Jersey to deliberate about the election of our Bishop, Karen Oliveto. We, as the Mountain Sky Area, will be in prayer for Bishop Oliveto, the Judicial Council, and all of the parties that are part of this process. During this time, the Mountain Sky Area office will be in communication with United Methodists across the region with updates on the details of the proceedings. Our goal is to ensure the conferences get the most timely and accurate information on Judicial Council proceedings.

We also want to extend an invitation for your community to participate in our upcoming prayer vigil spanning the entirety of the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area. Starting at 12:00am on April 23 and running all the way until 9:00am on April 30, we are asking you to volunteer to hold all those involved in the Judicial Council's April meeting in prayer for an hour.