

8 OUR INFORMATION

St. Luke's United Methodist Church invites you to find new life through Jesus Christ. Engage your heart and mind within a community of faith that seeks to integrate scripture, tradition, reason and experience. Wherever you are in your life, you will be accepted and encouraged to grow spiritually, live relationally and walk in mission, as you relate your daily life and your faith.
Join us in growing toward full humanity through living the teachings of Christ: Love, Acceptance, Justice and Hope.

Sunday Worship Services

8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School Classes

9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. – Adult, Youth & Children's Classes
 Nursery available for all services.

Staff

- Rev. Janet Forbes Senior Pastor - ext. 13
- Rev. Fred Venable Associate Pastor - ext. 12
- Rev. Dave Money Associate Pastor - ext. 33
- Pam Rowley Pastoral Care Ministry- ext. 32
- Dalai Dy Missionary in Residence - ext. 46
- Bonnie Funk Administrative Assistant - ext. 10
- Tammy Heister Financial Secretary - ext. 16
- Carole Sue Woodrich Financial Treasurer - ext. 49
- Lynda Fickling Director of Membership Ministry - ext. 20
- Jim Ramsey Director of Music Ministries - ext. 23
- Carrie Mallery Associate Director of Music - ext. 35
- Kay Coryell Assistant Director of Music - ext. 43
- Martha Boon Youth Ministry Coordinator - ext. 19
- Jenita Rhodes Director of Children's Ministry - ext. 27
- Lynne Butler Pre-School & Childcare Coordinator - ext. 11
- Terri Beecher Data Base & Special Projects - ext. 22
- Kay Swanson Director of Little School - 303-791-1982
- Dan Kuhl Facilities/Custodian - ext. 44
- Childcare Reservation Line ext. 47

All articles, photos and notices for the AUGUST issue of *The Chronicle* are due **JULY 22**

Please place them in *The Chronicle* folder at St. Luke's or e-mail to chronicle@stlukeshr.com
 Editor: Jack Kennedy 303-927-6221

PHONE / E-MAIL / WEB SITE

For more information, please contact the church office
Phone: 303-791-0659
 Fax: 303-470-5615
 SLY-line: ext. 45
 Childcare reservations: ext. 47
 E-mail: office@stlukeshr.com
www.StLukesHR.com
 ●●●●●●●●●● **Emergency** ●●●●●●●●●●
 Dave Money: 303-932-1035
 Pam Rowley: 720-348-1528



ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Chronicle

A NEWS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE FORUM

JUNE / JULY 2004



Rev. Janet Forbes introduces our latest Confirmation class on May 23. A total of 23 were confirmed at the 11 a.m. service. Phot by Ken Fong

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

ST. LUKE'S UMC • 8817 SOUTH BROADWAY • HIGHLANDS RANCH, CO 80129 • 303-791-0659

The Chronicle
 ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Women of Faith Conference 2004 "Irrepressible Hope"

July 9-10
 Friday 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
 and Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Pepsi Center

- Featured Speakers:*
- Patsy Clairmont
 - Nicole Jounhson
 - Marilyn Meberg
 - Luci Swindoll
 - Sheila Walsh
 - Thelma Wells

Musical Guests: Natalie Grant and Kathy Troccoli
 Contact Pam Rowley for more information.
 Tickets are \$69 and are selling fast.
 Deadline-May 30.

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

A community of faith

Sometimes when someone finds out that I go to church at St. Luke's, they say, "That's a liberal church." My reply is, "You haven't talked to many of our members." One of the things that I enjoy about St. Luke's is that our membership includes people who cover a broad range of the theological spectrum.

For me it helps to provide a stimulating environment for study and discussion and helps me grow in my faith. Methodism does not bind people together with doctrinal certainty and agreement, but with a commitment to living faithful lives and understanding the role of God's Grace in our lives.

St. Luke's is a community of faith, a group of people who are striving to live their lives trusting in God. The role of the community is to support each other in that endeavor and to provide the resources to help each other grow in our faith. Even though Grace is a gift, John Wesley believed there were things we could do to make ourselves more open to Grace and to give the grace in our lives perspective and context. He called these "means of Grace."

Part of a continuing series

They include prayer, fasting, study of scripture, Christian community, acts of mercy, and communion.

If you look at all of the programs that the St. Luke's community supports and participates in, you will see that means of Grace are a part of all of them. Which programs should you be involved in? Any of them that help you understand the role of Grace in your life and help you live faithfully. Jim Ramsey's great music program, the mission committee's splendid program, fellowship groups, the prayer chain, Disciple Bible study, adult and children's Sunday school, or Communion the first Sunday of every month, all are here to support you.

If you enjoy living in a community of people with diverse beliefs, but a commitment to faithful living, St. Luke's can provide a church home for you.

Monty Hoffman

A few last words from your former senior pastor (until fall, anyway)



WOW!!

Thank you for your warm welcome of Janet Forbes as your new pastor. All my senses tell me that she is the person to be our pastor at this time. She will be different from what you have had in the past, and it is not just a male/female difference. I can tell you she hit the ground here a-running. Our website, for longer that it should, had a byline about St. Luke's like, "One of the fastest growing churches in the Rocky Mountain Conference."

And it was. But that growth slowed down, and became a plateau about the time I came on the staff in September of '01. No! I don't think the two are connected, just coincidental. What caused it? The causes are not as important as our taking a deep breath, and getting a fresh start on being the church we need to be, and can be. A new pastor is a first step in getting that fresh start, and Janet is the chosen one.

My "WOW!!" above is my reaction to my time being on staff here, especially the last ten months. This has been a dream come true for me. I feel St. Luke's has served me more than I have served. In my active career I had twenty-five consecutive years as senior pastor of three different churches, all with memberships above 1,600, the largest having 2,600 members. I think there is great value in the large church. I am sure that St. Luke's is getting back on track and becoming again "one of the fastest growing."

I have heard Janet say on more than one occasion, and she says it so quietly that it is almost never heard: "I grow churches." And her record bears this out.

Of course size and numbers are not the goal. But size and numbers mean more possibilities and opportunities for the real goal: serving the people, the community, and advancing the Kingdom of God.

I bless you and Janet as you get started together in a great future, and I hope to be back in September after a time of reflection and rejuvenation.

Fred Venable

Prayerfully consider your part in St. Luke's!

Communications Team: We invite you to explore your creativity and technical skills while helping St. Luke's stay connected. Through writing (we need reporters, too!), editing, web development, graphics, marketing and public relations, this team continually makes the invitation to get involved in activities that keep Christ the center of our lives. Contact: Yvonne Amrine 720-733-1491

Acolytes: Attention all 3rd-6th graders who would like to become an acolyte please contact Diana Stephens at 303-470-6086

Bread Bakers: This important ministry is has openings for regular and substitute bakers. Please contact Laurie Ross at 303-683-2380 or rosses6@qwest.net

Prayer Chain Update

Please keep these members, friends and concerns of St. Luke's in your prayers:

Diane Whetson;
Jon Streaty's brother, Bob Streaty;
Kelli Michel;
Linda Adams, Kay Swanson's friend;
Norma Harris;
Joan Venable;
Sandy Larsen;
Nancy Chase's friend, Wendy Johnson;
Rex Cochran;

□ Chris Richards' friend, Scott Mattox;
David Funk's mother, Jackie Funk;
Robin Fort's mother, Earline Yoshida;
Katie Johnston's cousin, Madilyn Johnston;
Kris Kinney;
Trudy Turner's mother-in-law;
Kay Swanson's mother, Carol Bryden and father, Doug Bryden;
Trudy Turner's brother-in-law, Tom Baden;
Marcia Hannon's mother, Peggy Lamberth; and
Carolyn Dean.

We continue to pray for:

William Damsgard Cronin;
Corina Hall's friend, Freddy Arch Page;
Kay Swanson;
Angela Evanson, Michele Banza's friend;
Bob McGill, Sharon Oliver's father;
Diana Carlat, Michele Italiano's sister; and
Dorothy Olney, Kendra Lee's mother.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to:

Cindy Raap and family on the death of her grandmother, Dorothy King;
Jan Lanham and family on the death of her brother, Fred Olds;
Heather Cogswell and family on the death of her grandmother, Ferne Willis;
John Norman and family on the death of his father; and
Steve Roper and family on the death of his father, Lloyd "Smitty" Roper.

We off our prayers of joy and thanksgiving on the birth of:

a daughter, Isabella Alexandra, to Jim and Suzzie Winton on 3-27-04;
twin daughters, Emilie Marie and Caitlin Jane, to Rachel and Brian Owens on 4-24-04;
a son, Luke Joseph, to Jim and Leigh Ramsey on 5-11-04.

If you have a prayer concern, please contact the church office or Dianne Johnson (303-791-3477).

Prayerfully consider your part in St. Luke's!

Altar Team: Looking for a few people who normally attend the 8 a.m. service to help set up Communion once a month. Please call Linda Palmer at 303-683-3497.

Grocery Certificates: We need your help once a month, to help sell these certificates before and after the 9:30 service. It is very rewarding to meet and get to know people in a job that is SO easy! Please contact Deb Payne at 303-795-2685.

Sign Helper: Looking for someone who is interested in helping keep the sign in front of our church updated with the latest events. The words posted on the sign are changed every one or two weeks, usually some time on Monday, Please contact Ken Fong at (303) 346-7057 (kfong@att.net).

Photos by Sharon & Bob Oliver



May 8 Variety Show features talent from all ages, features St. Luke's big band, The Ministers of Swing.

Trustees' Corner

At Last! Success with the stucco! Many thanks to the diligence and, no kidding, years of research and fact finding by Ken Decker, it looks like this year we're finally winning the duel with the woodpeckers! Whew, a positive sign of things to come!

Please extend our thanks also to our latest group of workday volunteers the next time you see them. Our Scout Troop landscape clean up was lead by Eric Ransick, quarterly lighting improvements lead by Tim Boles and his hydraulic lift bound assistants, roof rafters were painted by the Men's group, our memorial garden is taking shape with the leadership of Brian Sorsby and crew, inside classroom painting by the Miyakis, and overall leadership and organization by our director, Ken Fong.

Projects we continue to pursue include: Gift Policy / donations - Dee Duncan, Doug Rowley; Long term maintenance and capital needs plan - Eric Ransick; Insurance - Karen Meade, Doug Rowley; Our next workday is scheduled for September 11 again from 8:00 - Noon.

If you'd like to be a part of any of these efforts or simply join the trustees team, we welcome new team members at monthly meetings 7 p.m. 7/8th grade classroom — June 14, July 12, August 9 and thereafter every second Monday evening of the month.

Thank you all!

Music Ministry

Northside UMC Youth Choir

On June 13th, we will be hosting the Northside UMC Youth Choir from Atlanta, GA. The choir will present a special program originally written for them at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Please come and join in what promises to be a special evening of inspiring music. There will be a reception after the concert. Make plans now and hope to see many of you there to support this wonderful Youth Choir.

Summer Choir Retreat

June 19th
9:00 - 11:30 a.m. (lunch is provided)

Summer Choir

The summer provides an opportunity for those who love to sing but either have a busy schedule during the regular season or simply want to try singing again without a huge commitment of time. The Summer Choir season begins with the choir retreat on June 19th at 9:00 a.m. You'll learn all the music we'll sing throughout the summer on this day. Regarding dates and times, we will sing both services on June 20th, July 11 and August 8. Even if you can only make one or two of those dates because you'll be out of town, please come and join in the fun of singing and serving the community of St. Luke's through music.

Special Musical Guest

On August 8th, Jorge Lockward will be joining our congregation to inspire us with song. He comes to us from New York City where he is Coordinator of the Global Praise program at the United Methodist Church's General Board of Global Ministries. In addition, he is conductor of the New York based group, Cantico Nuevo, and most recently appeared on stage as part of the music team at General Conference 2004.

Prayerfully consider your part in St. Luke's!

Women's Night Out: This small group sponsored by UMW, is seeking one or two people to lead/co-lead this fellowship group. Meeting once a month at local restaurants (NO cooking involved!). Please contact Amy Holton at 303-683-5407 or aeholton@msn.com

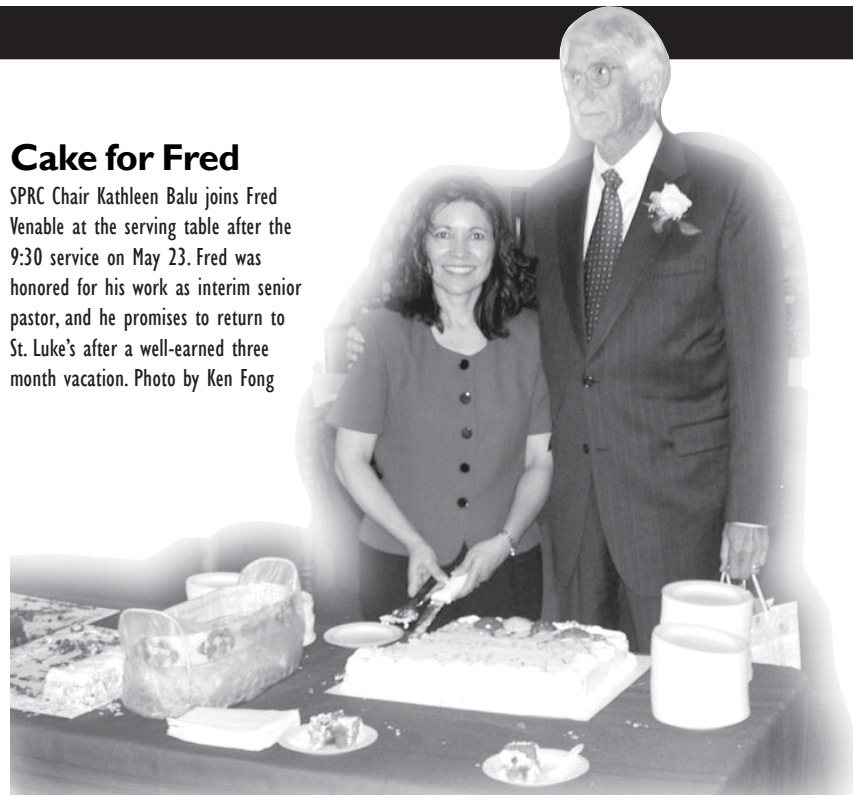
*Don't forget to check www.stlukeshr.com for more "Opportunity Alerts" located on the home page

June & July birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1-Jun Pam Camelio | 3-Jul Betsy Keyack |
| 1-Jun Kenny Sharpe | 3-Jul Debbie Hjellum |
| 3-Jun Dale Balu | 5-Jul Marv Pugh |
| 3-Jun Kevin Hall | 5-Jul Jeff Barber |
| 4-Jun Barb Fink | 6-Jul Dave Fyke |
| 4-Jun Kay Lauree Siegel | 6-Jul Jean Carpenter |
| 4-Jun Jonathan DeBonis | 7-Jul Richard Frame |
| 5-Jun Larry Seep | 7-Jul Kathleen Balu |
| 5-Jun Bill Pennstrom | 7-Jul Deb Whitelam |
| 5-Jun Peter Corwin | 8-Jul Trudi Mathews |
| 5-Jun Ken Ferguson | 8-Jul Liz Palizzi |
| 5-Jun Steve Harwell | 8-Jul Emily Middleton |
| 5-Jun Lisa Barnard | 9-Jul Maurine Hoffman |
| 5-Jun HJ Lee | 9-Jul Lori McMullen |
| 6-Jun Ed Law | 9-Jul Lisa Weddel |
| 6-Jun Bill Hess | 10-Jul Ken Smith |
| 7-Jun Robert Green | 10-Jul John Merchant |
| 9-Jun Lori Foglia | 10-Jul Jenny Lee |
| 9-Jun Cyndi Fyke | 11-Jul Dave Money |
| 9-Jun Matt Henry | 11-Jul Irene Bowden |
| 9-Jun Michelle Lamoreaux | 11-Jul Amy Ash |
| 10-Jun Sherry Merrill | 11-Jul Bill Haas |
| 10-Jun Susan Hubbard | 12-Jul Jack Kennedy |
| 10-Jun Stacey Baird | 12-Jul Audrey Elling |
| 10-Jun Scott Meade | 12-Jul Beth DeBonis |
| 11-Jun Bruce Cartwright | 13-Jul Patti Hildebrand |
| 12-Jun Maxine Campbell | 14-Jul Bruce Smith |
| 12-Jun Anne Latham | 14-Jul Dan Pinette |
| 12-Jun Cindy Ross | 14-Jul Michelle Folkerts |
| 14-Jun Judy Evans | 15-Jul Ralph Lawrence |
| 14-Jun Brenda Ewert | 15-Jul Cate Millard |
| 15-Jun Peg Long | 15-Jul Lynne Butler |
| 15-Jun Dawn Swift | 16-Jul Suzanne Humphreys |
| 15-Jun Ryan Sims | 16-Jul Carol Frame |
| 16-Jun Craig Marlow | 19-Jul Pamela Rowley |
| 17-Jun Lisa Bryan | 20-Jul Tom LaRock |
| 17-Jun Ann Van Hoosen | 20-Jul Paul Kinney |
| 18-Jun Terri Ary | 21-Jul Don Enger |
| 19-Jun Jean Brown | 21-Jul Carson Mallory |
| 21-Jun Johann Vandenberg | 21-Jul Kent Courtnage |
| 22-Jun David Necker | 21-Jul Ross Barnard |
| 22-Jun Susan Roth | 21-Jul Michael Babcock |
| 23-Jun Kim Gifford | 22-Jul Marvin Mauck |
| 25-Jun Robert Kalutkiewicz | 22-Jul Linda Smith |
| 26-Jun Kim Smith | 23-Jul Daniel Kuhl |
| 26-Jun Travis Haas | 24-Jul Stephanie Gilman |
| 27-Jun Sid Richardson | 25-Jul Jeanne Thorne |
| 28-Jun Bert Stull | 25-Jul Shamina Fletcher |
| 28-Jun Kendra Mitchell | 25-Jul Betsy Brown |
| 28-Jun Brad Ash | 26-Jul Gail Sherman |
| 29-Jun Anne Bobkowski | 26-Jul Rick Fort |
| 29-Jun Sean McCurdy | 26-Jul Michael Ross |
| 30-Jun Jimetta Pyles | 27-Jul Don Haas |
| 30-Jun Loree Kohrs | 27-Jul Jill Jasper |
| 30-Jun Diana Stephens | 27-Jul Sharon Oliver |
| | 27-Jul Chris Lamee |
| 1-Jul Ron O'Herron | 28-Jul Ed Coryell |
| 1-Jul Pat Ludwig | 28-Jul Bill Ballas |
| 1-Jul Gretchen Armijo | 29-Jul Bill Goddard |
| 2-Jul Marcia Enger | 30-Jul Tom Wetzal |
| 2-Jul David Guevara | 31-Jul Bob Carlson |
| 2-Jul Troy Daniels | |

Cake for Fred

SPRC Chair Kathleen Balu joins Fred Venable at the serving table after the 9:30 service on May 23. Fred was honored for his work as interim senior pastor, and he promises to return to St. Luke's after a well-earned three month vacation. Photo by Ken Fong



Welcome New Members - May 2004

- Bruce Buccio
 Curtis Chambers
 Rex Cochran
 Andy & Virginia Hinds (Eric and Riley)
 John & Stephanie Menzel (Colton, Bryn and Julia)
 Emily Middleton (Husband Peter, daughter Lauren)
 Martha Persons (Husband Pat, son Ryan)
 Peter & Jeanine Quick (Colin and Sean)

Volunteers honored

On Friday, May 14, 2004, Andrea Mezger, Betsy Keyack and Laurie Gilbert attended the DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies) "We Count On You" Awards Luncheon.

Linda Backus, who is on the missions committee, nominated the St. Luke's refugee/mission team for sponsoring Sharon Jargba and her 4 children, since their arrival to the United States from Liberia. Andrea Mezger was a special nominee on her own, for her dedicated work with the Douglas County Adult and Senior Service programs. Way to go Andrea!

We were treated to a wonderful lunch and had the great pleasure of learning about the many wonderful projects other nominee's are currently active in. On behalf of the many participants who help the Jargba family, we received a very nice certificate to bring back to St. Luke's. At this time, we would like recognize a few of the people who visit with the Jargba's on a regular basis, Jan Rufien or better known as Grandma Jan, Caroline Merchant, Diane Tolleson, Marie Thomas, Betsy Keyack, Laurie Gilbert, Leslie Reingold, and Joan Theodore.

We would also like to thank the many wonderful members who help with so many different items needed for a single mother raising 4 children on her own. It was a real treat to be a part of this special afternoon, once again, thank you Linda and thank you DOVIA!

Laurie Gilbert

Little School finishes exciting year

Little School has finished another wonderful, fun-filled, exciting, nurturing, zany, energetic, outstanding year! We just graduated another amazing group of little people, 125 smiling, happy faces! We always feel joy and sadness during this time, but we are very blessed to know that we have well-prepared these precious gifts from God for a new adventure outside of Little School.

A great BIG thank you to St. Luke's for all of their support, prayers and care for our Preschool. On a personal note, I would also like to thank the St. Luke's staff and congregation for their comfort, prayers and support through my cancer year. Treatments are soon ending and I am looking forward to a restful summer to regain energy and momentum! Just like my self, Little School is looking forward to a summer of planning and goal setting to celebrate our 10TH YEAR starting next fall! We can't believe that we have seen so many children graduate from our program and some are now in the fourth grade!!! We plan a year full of special celebrations and we hope that many of you will plan to attend!

Please have a summer filled with carefree days and sunny family times. If you need to reach Little School through the summer, you may leave a message at school (303-791-1982) or you may e-mail us at little-school@stlukeshr.com (e-mail is faster!) and we will be in touch with you. Little School will begin with a parent open house on September 2nd and a children's open house on September 7th. School will officially begin on Wed. September 8th. SEE YOU THEN!

Blessings, Ms. Kay and the Little School Staff

Children in need – Can you help?

Airline Ambassadors International periodically delivers items to El Salvador, where years of civil war and natural disasters have left many villages in shambles and people displaced to refugee camps and numerous orphanages.

These people desperately need help. We have resources; they have needs.

Please bring your like-new contributions, marked "El Salvador," to the Missions Closet at St. Luke's. These are the items that can be delivered:

1. Hot-weather clothing (not shoes) for babies, children, and small adults.
2. Hot-weather maternity clothing.
3. Like-new (small) toys and stuffed animals.
4. Certain medical supplies.

If you have questions, please call Marcia Enger at 303-471-7463 or Linda Rathbun at 303-674-8017. Thank you!



For information about any Children's Ministries events or to volunteer, please contact Jenita Rhodes, Director of Children's Ministry, or Lynne Butler, Preschool and Childcare Coordinator.

Library benefactor Vern Harder dies

On April, a beloved member of our church, Vern Harder, passed away. If the name seems familiar to you, it is because our children's library, the Faith Harder Memorial Library, was named after Vern's wife Faith, who passed away in 1997. Both Faith and Vern were teachers and administrators in the public schools. Their love for children and books is a lasting legacy.

Vern was the primary benefactor for the library, both financially and spiritually. In his honor, we will be dedicating a new parenting and teacher resource section. If you have any suggestions for new acquisitions or would like to help care for the library, please contact Jenita Rhodes 791-0659 x 27 or Terri Beecher x 22.

Read to Feed – Children Changing the World

This summer we will be launching Heifer International's Read to Feed program. As a group, our children will view THE PROMISE video, about two children who share the same dream—hope for a life free from hunger and poverty. We will provide a suggested reading list, or children may chose books they are interested in. The children will collect sponsors, who will pledge money for each book read.

Heifer International provides a "living loan" of an animal and extensive training in animal care, community development and earth-friendly practices. The family's health and standard of living improves by the many benefits their animal can provide—milk, eggs, wool, fertilizer, draft power, etc.

The family repays the living loan by passing on one or more of their animal's offspring to another needy family. And that family passes on more offspring... and so on... and so on. Just one gift animal can eventually transform an entire community.

We hope you will support this effort by St. Luke's Children to provide a cow, goat, sheep, bees, ducks, geese, chicks, llama, water buffalo, rabbits or pigs to help less fortunate families all around the world.



United Methodist Women Update

A huge welcome to our new members, Jenn Mell and Erika Brimberry! We're so glad to have you join us!

CIRCLE UPDATES

Playgroups

Do you have a child between the ages of 2 1/2 - 3 1/2? Bring them to a playgroup! If interested, contact Amy Antonero. A playgroup for children between the ages of 18 months and 2 1/2 might be started soon. Let Kristin Perry know if you are interested.

Bible Study

The Friday Bible Study is full, but the Wednesday Bible Study still has room for anyone who would enjoy studying God's Word and fellowshiping.

Parent's Night Out

We still have openings for three families. Come enjoy a night out (and remember what it was like *before* you were a parent!) on the 2nd Friday of every month from 6-10 p.m. All that's needed is for you to volunteer 2-3 times per year.

Crochet

These ladies have been crocheting their hearts out! In December, lap blankets were given to five area nursing homes. They were received with much pleasure!! In February, hats of all sizes were given to The Needy Newborn Program at Denver Health, The Ronald McDonald House, and The Gathering Place. Every organization that received these hats were very grateful as there were many needy people who could use a warm wool hat. Thank you ladies for your efforts! They will be breaking for the summer, but will be working their fingers and needles again come September. However, the yarn supply is dwindling. If you have some yarn that you would like to donate to the Crochet Circle, please contact Lynn Montagne.

FELLOWSHIP

The Spring Couples Social was great fun! Ten couples enjoyed the wonderful evening that the Holton's put together.

The Women Living in Faith Retreat was held on May 7th and 8th. Spiritual uplifting and wisdom gathering was experienced by those who attended.

The June Social is tentatively set for June 18th. It will be a UFO night (unfinished objects) where you can bring whatever you want to work on and enjoy an evening of socializing. Contributions will be \$15 with \$5 donated to the Women's Crisis Center, \$5 to the Women's Bean Project and \$5 for pizza!! Come enjoy the fun!

DONATIONS

\$500 was pledged to the district from UMW.



SENIOR DAY Rev. Dave Money reads excerpts from *The Places You'll Go*, as part of the recognition of our graduated seniors on May 23. Rev. Money took a chance and began his few moments of advice with, "When I was your age..." but managed to keep everyone's attention. Photo by Ken Fong

Confereencing as means of grace is theme of May 19 church meeting



Nearly 100 church members heard about the General Conference from two of our leaders who were actually there. The presentation helped balance what some saw as incomplete and sometimes controversial coverage by state and national media.

Resolution on Church Unity
As United Methodists we remain in covenant with one another, even in the midst of disagreement, and reaffirm our commitment to work together for our common mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

Adopted by the 2004 General Conference of the United Methodist Church May 7, 2004



Above: Brad Laurvick, member of St. Luke's since 8th grade, and recent graduate of the University of Colorado, Boulder, was a lay delegate to the General Conference in Pittsburgh, and joined Rev. Janet Forbes, recently installed senior pastor of St. Luke's, a clerical delegate to the Conference, to discuss what happened at the Conference.

Quotable

Janet Forbes and Brad Laurvick were among the nearly 1,000 delegates to the UMC general Conference in Pittsburgh.

General Conference was amazing. Full of ups and downs... 18-hour days, 14 days straight. I'm 22, and I was hurting... I don't know how some of the others managed.

Brad Laurvick

During the Conference, the Church embraced the Methodist Church of the Ivory Coast, and grew by one million members.

Rev. Janet Forbes

Only 8 percent of the residents of the state of Washington are churched, and the UMC in the West has declined by 20 percent in the past ten years... I grow churches... that's my agenda.

Rev. Janet Forbes

People from the Southeast church see me as liberal. I'm conservative to the West. People need to care about the "Methodist middle."

Brad Laurvick

Their view:

Issues facing the church

- Aging clergy. Specifically taking care of those who took care of us. Pension plans for retired clergy are requiring increasing dollars.
- Initiative regarding youth and young people received all the funding the committee leadership asked for.
- The public media campaign, called "Igniting Ministries," received \$22 million over four years to expand church presence on cable television, especially in the three weeks before Christmas and Easter, and during the fall kick-off.
- The World AIDS Fund received \$8 million in funding.

DID YOU KNOW?

Of every \$1 you give...

83 cents stays at St. Luke's... 12.8 cents goes to our jurisdiction and annual conference and annual conference (with largest line item paying health insurance for retired clergy... and 4.2 cents goes to the general Church.

Want to learn more about the 2004 General Conference?
Your best source is on the World Wide Web, at <http://www.umc.org>. Follow the hyperlinks to General Conference News Archives, and look for the Overall Wrap Up article by Linda Bloom.

The next General Conference will be in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2008.