

Guided by the spirit of God, St. Luke's is an inclusive community of faith, seeking to meet people where they are, growing together 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.

Ministers

All people of St. Luke's.

Staff

- Dr. Richard Evans - ext. 13.....Senior Pastor
- Rev. Fred Venable - ext. 12.....Pastoral Staff 1/2 time
- Rev. Dave Money - ext. 33.....Pastoral Staff 1/4 time
- Dalai Dy - ext. 19.....Missionary-in-Residence
- Steve Riley - ext. 22.....Executive Administrator
- Bonnie Funk - ext. 10.....Church Secretary
- Jim Ramsey - ext. 23.....Director of Music Ministry
- Carrie Mallery - ext. 48.....Associate Director of Music
- Aaron Shipman - ext. 14.....Director of Youth Ministry
- Pat Dunnigan - ext. 11.....Co-Director of Children's Ministry
- Jenita Rhodes - ext. 27.....Co-Director of Children's Ministry
- Tammy Bell - ext. 20.....Director-Ministries Development Team
- Cindy Holmstoen - ext. 16.....Financial Secretary
- Carole Sue Woodrich - ext. 49.....Financial Treasurer
- Kay Swanson 303-791-1982.....Director of Little School

Editor: Bob Oliver 303-791-7302

Deadline for The Chronicle

All articles for the DECEMBER/JANUARY issue of The Chronicle are due

December 4th

Please place them in The Chronicle folder at St. Luke's or e-mail to chronicle@stlukeshr.com

PHONE/E-MAIL/WEB SITE

For more information please contact the church office.

Phone: 303-791-0659

Fax: 303-470-5615

SLY-line: 303-791-0659 ext. 45

E-mail: office@stlukeshr.com

www.StLukesHR.com

..... Emergency .....

Dick Evans: 303-683-6965

Fred Venable: 303-690-5759

Dave Money: 303-932-1035

Steve Riley: 303-887-4878

# The Chronicle

A NEWS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE FORUM

NOVEMBER 2001

*We Are Thankful!*



The Spirit of St. Luke's is Abundant this Fall! Third graders were presented with Bibles, the SLY Pumpkin Patch once again bustled with activity and the Fall Fix-up brought record numbers to spruce up our church home.

The Hanging of the Greens is a festive occasion when families of St. Luke's (whether members, visitors or constituents) gather together to decorate our church home for the holidays. The church transforms during this special day as we hang wreaths and garland, set up and decorate the Christmas tree, and string lights as Christmas carols fill the air. Be a part of St. Luke's family tradition on Saturday, December 1st from 9am till noon. St. Luke's Churchwide Ministry Team will be providing a continental breakfast. Hope to create more special memories with you during the Hanging of the Greens.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

*Mary & Joe 4 Ever*

A Drama Ministry Musical presentation - Fri. & Sat., November 30th & December 1st 7:30 pm

*Why the Chimes Rang*

A Christmas Musical presented by the Cherub's Choir Kidz Prayz I, and Kidz Prayz II - Wednesday, December 12th 7:00 pm

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...AND MUCH MORE!

Anonymous Donor Brings Elevator Campaign to a Quick Close

by Coleen DeGroff

Remember when the elevator signs began appearing around the church this summer? Remember how we needed a whole buncha money to complete the project? Well, guess what—we're DONE!

Thanks to the congregation, who opened their hearts to make St. Luke's accessible to all, the elevator campaign finished in record time.

St. Luke's Youth raised more than \$500 towards the elevator fund selling flower bulbs. Members of our congregation made donations during the awareness campaign, and many people donated to the elevator fund before the campaign kicked off this summer.

With approximately half of the \$65,000 left to raise, an anonymous donor stepped forward to contribute the rest.

Dick Evans was touched by the person's charitable heart. "Here's somebody who truly understands stewardship," he said. Executive Assistant Steve Riley was bowled over when he heard the news. "What a blessing St. Luke's has received! How incredibly generous. The donation was made to intentionally support the mission of St. Luke's and our core values."

And building the elevator is a tangible sign of St. Luke's commitment to being invitational to all who come here.

Dave Rhodes is taking bids for the job. If all goes well, our new elevator should be UP and running by first quarter 2002.

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

# The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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# Pastors notes

## Getting Life in BALANCE

A few weeks ago a man came out of church and said, "I'd like to have lunch with you sometime. I want to talk about getting my life back in balance." A couple of e-mails later, we were having lunch. He said to me, "St. Luke's is just a building, but as a community of faith, we gather on Sunday, then take that back into the world... Out there you get drained, beat up, knocked down, then we come back together... Church is a part of a community that I take everywhere. 'Invitational, Relational and Missional'... Christ's life was about the acceptance of everyone." He liked the fact that at St. Luke's, we "invite people to think about things." We "have a vision, then let people's talents come out." He said he wanted to make a donation to St. Luke's, not to the general fund, but to enable us to do some things we otherwise wouldn't be able to, or not do as well. "\$100,000," he said. "I want to do this because I'm a servant of Christ, not just a nice person... If you want to help people, you have to wake up... Did I get a good balance? Help people in Christ's name? Finding balance in life is not about helping you with your checkbook, but about values and beliefs." As we stood by our cars, I asked, "How does this work? What's the next step?" "Would you like for me to write you a check right now?" "Sure." So he wrote out a check for \$150,000. What would that check have to do with getting life in balance? Writing this column right now, I see that I didn't ask one of the obvious questions: "How is your life out of balance now?" And I don't know if this is true for him or not, but I know it is true for a lot of us-our feelings about money can keep life out of balance. We can live life fearfully and miserly, or openly and gratefully. I think open and grateful is better. Seems like Jesus did too. How's your balance?

Shalom,

*Dick*



### St. Luke's UMW Annual Candlelight Dinner: "The Gift Inside The Gift"

We cordially invite all women and young ladies of St. Luke's to join us for a magical evening of fun, fellowship and gifts

Thursday, December 6, 2001 • 6:00pm St. Luke's Fellowship Hall  
A gourmet dinner of recipes from the Taste of St. Luke's Cookbook will be served.  
Kim Tetrev, professional and motivational speaker will present "The Gift Inside The Gift"

Tickets are \$15 per person and include a gift for everyone attending.  
Tickets are available for purchase November 4th through 25th following each service outside the Narthex. Childcare will be provided.

For more information, contact Holli Sparks at 303-794-4844  
Please join us for this special holiday event!



## Prayer Chain

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

- Renie Sanek's sister, Ruth McWilliams;*  
*Norma Harris;*
- Cindy Holmstoen's sister-in-law, Robin Lee;*  
*Mary Ann Eagleston;*
- Pat Dunnigan's grandmother, Lucy Johnson;*  
*Pat Dunnigan's father-in-law, Bernard Dunnigan;*  
*Sandy Murray;*
- Jean Ann Duncan's cousin, Judy Pruitt;*  
*Louise Smith;*  
*Delores Gardner;*
- Cathy Randel's mother, Margaret Talhut;*  
*Ryan Hooke;*
- Cindy Gothard's brother, Rob Diedrich, and*  
*her grandmother, Marilla Rice;*  
*Meri Bennett;*  
*Connie Laramie;*
- Bobbi King's brother, Alon Wheland;*  
*Martha Riley's dad, Charles Riser;*  
*David Funk's mother, Jackie Funk;*  
*Mark Stahlman;*  
*Julie Beekhuisin;*  
*Ryan Swier;*
- Zach Cervi, friend of Dianne Johnson;*  
*Bill Fethke; and Irv Durban.*

We continue to pray for:

- Victims and families of the September 11 attack;*  
*Kyle Exline Boose;*
- Jan Standly, Joy Damsgard's sister-in-law.*  
*Meri Bennett's brother-in-law, Bill Jordan;*  
*and Stewart Brown.*

We extend our prayers and sympathy to:

- Dottie Mann and family on the death of her friend, Donna Cuthbert;*
- Pat Ludwig and family on the death of her mother, Gwen Quinn;*
- Sharon Scholle and family on the death of her cousin, Bill Proctor;*
- Eric Ransick and family on the death of his grandmother, Della Leonard; and*
- Jim Gilman and family on the death of his stepmother, Jane Gilman.*



Please join us in prayers of joy and thankfulness on the following births:

*A son, Weston Lee Kalani,*  
*to Marla and Bret Schroeder on 9-12-01.*

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

## SLY Activities

### NOVEMBER

- 11..... SLY Leadership Team at noon  
Regular SLY Schedule: "Aaron's Favorite Theological Videos"
- 13..... Breakfast Club
- 14..... WNL for Youth
- 18..... Regular SLY Schedule:  
"Celebration Sunday"
- 20..... Breakfast Club
- 21..... WNL for Youth
- 22..... HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
- 25..... United Methodist Student Sunday  
Aaron Preaching!?!? - 8, 9:30, 11:  
"Playing the Fool"  
NO SLY Evening Activities
- 27..... Breakfast Club
- 28..... WNL for Youth
- 30-1.... Adult Leadership Retreat

### DECEMBER

- 2..... SLY Leadership Team at noon  
Regular SLY Schedule:  
"Christmas Video Scavenger Hunt"
- 4..... Breakfast Club
- 5..... WNL for Youth
- 6..... Volunteers for UMW Dinner Help
- 9..... Regular SLY Schedule  
"All I Want for Christmas"
- 11..... Breakfast Club
- 12..... WNL for Youth - Youth to  
Prepare Dinner
- 16..... SLY Christmas Party and White  
Elephant Gift Exchange

NO SLY ACTIVITIES (other than Sunday School) AGAIN UNTIL BREAKFAST CLUB on JAN. 8th

Regular SLY Schedule =  
9:30 & 11am - Youth Sunday School  
5-6pm - Youth Choir (7th to 12th Grade)  
6pm - Youth Dinner (all youth 6th-12th)  
6:30-8pm - SLY Meets

Breakfast Club meets every Tuesday at 6:15am at Einstein's Bagels at Highlands Ranch Pkwy. and S. Broadway unless otherwise noted.

Always check the bulletin or the SLYline 303-791-0659 x45 for changes, updates and details.

SLY-Line: 303-791-0659 x45  
Youth@stlukeshr.com

Aaron Shipman: 303-791-0659 x14  
Aaron@stlukeshr.com

## ♥ SLY - a place to grow, love, pray and laugh ♥

Dear SLY Family:

Well, it has been two months now. Wow. Sometimes it feels like it has only been days, and other times it feels like an eternity. I guess that's true about life: when things are great it feels like the time has flown by, and when things are difficult, it feels like it will never end.

The time that I have spent with you unloading or selling pumpkins has been magical for me. I felt like we were the family from WB's 7th Heaven: we got along, we got something accomplished that was greater than ourselves, we laughed, we cried, and everything wrapped up neatly in the end. The times when I have been able to sit down with some of you one on one or share a meal at your home with your family, truly made me feel like St. Luke's has become my church also. The high points of the retreats, or when we have discussions about your issues which are faith issues, I feel the Spirit of God moving in and through you.

Sometimes though, we don't always make our time together as good as it can be. When I get calls from youth who don't feel welcomed here at SLY, my heart aches. When I see the frustration on the faces of the counselors or other youth when we are trying to move into our discussions and others are being disruptive, my heart aches.

I believe that you are a wonderful group of youth, created in God's image with power and imagination to change not only St. Luke's and Highlands Ranch, but the world. All of you, and I do mean all of you, possess the love of God deep within your souls. Some of you have tapped that source, and others are still searching, and wherever you are in that journey is great. SLY should be that place where we come together on that journey towards our center which is also our journey towards God, ourselves, and one another. I believe we can do that with great love and humility.

Whether we are carving pumpkins, on a retreat, going on a video scavenger hunt, or discussing what it means to believe in an age of disbelief, we can have fun, be silly, goof off, and still be welcoming to new persons. I challenge you to challenge each other to make SLY the most open and friendly place for youth to be on a Sunday night. I challenge you to make SLY a place where youth know that they will grow in their knowledge of God and themselves. I challenge you to make SLY a place where youth can make friends that will last a lifetime.

Nothing worth doing is easy. The disciples probably would have preferred to have been paid for leaving their families and jobs to follow Jesus. The rich young ruler probably would have preferred Jesus telling him an easier way to get into heaven rather than give up his possessions. Jesus probably would have preferred not to have been nailed to a cross. Without the disciples spreading the good news there would be no church; without choosing to put God first, there would not be justice or charity; without the cross, there would be no salvation.

Without you living the love of God in your lives, there would be no SLY. So love like you mean it, and make SLY the place to be on Sunday nights!

In Christ's Service,

*Aaron*

Aaron J. Shipman





## Music Notes:

**The Kidz Prayz program** as part of Wednesday Nite Live has been resoundingly successful. The Spring program will begin January 9. Registration forms will be available in December.

**String, woodwind, brass & percussion players** – orchestra rehearsals for the Christmas Cantata will begin on November 10 at 9:30 in the Asbury room. If you would like to join in this musical extravaganza, (the performance is December 16 at the 9:30 and 11:00 services) please contact James Ramsey.

**The Tintinnabulators Handbell Choir** are preparing to "ring in the Advent season" on December 2. The bells will play at all three services, presenting several special pieces.



The Ministers of Swing presented a swingin' jazz benefit concert on November 3, featuring guest artist, Dave Glenn, a professional trombonist from Washington. Proceeds benefitted Denver Urban Ministries and SLUMC's Music Ministry.



## St. Luke's Music Ministry

Please contact James Ramsey at the church 303-791-0659 ext. 23 with any questions.

### Alpha Ringers Handbell Choir

Rehearsal time: Tuesday 6:00-7:00pm  
Lisa Lewis

### Ministers of Swing (Big Band)

Rehearsal time: Saturday 10:00-11:00am  
James Ramsey

### Brass Ensemble

Rehearsal time: Saturday 9:00-10:00am  
Erik Wangness

### Chancel Choir

Rehearsal time: Thursday 7:30-9:00pm  
James Ramsey

### Children's Choir

Rehearsal time: Sunday 8:45-9:25am  
Kay Coryell

### Flute Ensemble

Rehearsal time: Saturday 8:00-9:00am  
Ruth Smith

### Youth Choir

Rehearsal time: Sunday 5:00-6:00pm  
James Ramsey

### Wednesday Night Live Music:

Rehearsal time: Wednesday 6:15-7:00pm  
Cherubs Choir: age 3-kindergarten  
Janet Harm  
Kidz Prayz 1: 1st-3rd grade  
Carrie Mallery  
Kidz Prayz 11: 4th-6th grade  
James Ramsey

### Sonrise Band

Rehearsal time: Monday 7:30-9:00pm  
Jim McCurry

### Tintinnabulators Handbell Choir

Rehearsal time: Tuesday 7:00-8:30pm  
Lisa Lewis

## FRED VENABLE – BITS & PIECES

- Born in Alabama
- Married to wife Mary for 48 years
- Three children: one daughter, married, lives in Aurora; one son, married, lives in Littleton with his wife and two sons (and one of the sons has a son, which makes Fred and Mary great-grandparents); another daughter lives in Arlington, Texas.
- Life growing up: "I was raised in a bike shop. My dad got his first bike shop during the Depression when I was eight years old. We lived in the back of many of the shops. From the time I was nine years old I had a wrench and pliers in my hands fixing bikes. My 77 year old brother runs the family bike shop in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Two member families of St. Luke's know this bike shop and have been there."
- Military experience: In the U.S. Army from 1944-1946.
- Favorite colors: Red and black
- Pet peeves: "I don't know that I have any, really. Though this morning I was given the finger by a woman in a car, and she wasn't even driving. That wasn't very nice."
- Hobbies: Woodworking. "I build furniture. The last big thing I made was a bed." Fred also describes himself as a "fixer guy."
- Places he's lived: South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Oregon.
- Favorite places he's lived: He's loved them all, though he really liked Oregon. "If we didn't have two kids here we'd probably still be there," says Fred.
- If he could have dinner with anyone, who would it be and why?  
"I've had dinner with some neat folks. Once I was at a dinner with Ronald Reagan where he spoke and I prayed. I got to sit at his table and hear some of his stories about sportscasting and the like."  
"I think I'd like to have dinner with Episcopal Bishop Jack Spong who teaches at Harvard. He's a reformer-type personality. Most Episcopalians look at him as some sort of heretic, but I think he's a neat guy. I'd love to speak to him about what ought to be happening with the church and Christianity."
- Other thoughts he'd like to share with the people of St. Luke's? "I don't know—keep open, I guess."



## Rev. Fred Venable

by Coleen DeGroff

Hey! Who's that tall dapper gentleman hanging out on the altar every Sunday with Dick? (No, not Dave Money—he's dapper but doesn't meet the height requirement - we'll get to him in another issue).

It's our new associate minister Fred Venable!

First ordained in 1953, Fred Venable has left priestly tracks all over the United States. He started out as an associate minister in Colorado Springs. Future appointments took him to Salida, Salt Lake City, Denver, Littleton, Boise, and then Hillsboro, Oregon. He retired in 1993, then dusted off his minister duds in 1995 and took a position with a non-Methodist, independent, very liberal church in Wilsonville, Oregon called the Living Enrichment Center.

After 21 years away from Colorado, Fred and his wife Mary moved back in 1996 to be nearer to their children, two of whom still live here. Fred referred to this move as "The Prodigal Parents returning home."

He looked for a ministerial job in Colorado but had no luck finding one. With the support of his wife, Fred took a part-time job with Lowe's Hardware Store in 1999.

"I've always been a handyman, and I have a terrific workshop at home," says Fred.

He worked in the Tools and Hardware department selling screwdrivers, hacksaw blades, re-keyed locks and the like. He loved the people he worked with, and loved meeting the customers, though he didn't care for management.

"They never seemed to think their employees had anything important to contribute," says Fred.

So how did he get to St. Luke's?

Dick was an associate minister at Littleton United Methodist Church when Fred was senior minister there. They kept in touch through the years.

"I preached at St. Luke's in November 1997, and saw Dick in January 1998. I hadn't heard from him since then," Fred remembers. When he got a call from Dick in August to come to services, Fred just figured Dick wanted him to hear his sermon and give it a good minister-to-minister critique.

"It was a good sermon, but nothing special. So when he asked me back to his office I didn't know what to tell him."

To Fred's relief, Dick wasn't looking for a sermon critique at all. He asked Fred if he'd like to join St. Luke's as the new associate minister.

Fred's answer? "What time do you want me to start tomorrow?"

The arrangement is truly unique, and possibly even unprecedented.

"It took Dick quite a lot of guts to do this. While I was at Littleton, I probably had 14 or 15 associate ministers over that time. Dick is the only one I'd consider doing this for," says Fred.

Since joining the St. Luke's staff on September 9, Fred's main concentration is managing the Adult Education program, though his job responsibilities are sure to grow.

Right now he's trying to put together a program called Remedial Christianity, to teach people who may not have learned a lot about their faith the first time around. He's recruiting for the class, so if you're interested in helping out or taking it, Fred would love to hear from you.

How does he like his St. Luke's experience thus far? "Wonderful! The people of St. Luke's are great."



Corner

Trustees

Well, the Fall Fix-up was FABULOUS! We want to express our appreciation for the choir for co-sponsoring a terrific effort. In about a half days time we pulled a zillion weeds, finished the children's playground landscaping by hauling loads of new cobblestones. Polished up our front porch by scraping, sanding, and staining the wood doors, and tackled the back 40 with a power mower. Our thanks go out especially to Diane Tolleson for an amazing effort of organizing the tools, supplies, and work schedules! The choir even went the extra mile along with our friends at Fazzoli's who together provided us a fantastic lunch! This was our best turn out yet, so for all who participated, thank you, thank you, THANK YOU! And if you missed out on the fellowship and fun, you won't want to miss our February Winter Washing and Waxing! We're looking for a co-sponsor team or two, so please give us a thought as you plan your groups' winter activities. You can contact Ken Fong to volunteer as a group, or just come on down and be a part of ours. Be sure to watch for the date in the bulletin! Again, we thank you and our church home thanks you!



New Members - October

*Welcome!*

Dorsey and Bill Beggs  
9814 South Fox Hill Circle  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126  
720-344-6842  
Hannah & Alicia

Laurie & Glen Cunningham  
8665 Cresthill Lane  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130  
303-683-1701  
Shane & Justin

Deliah Dykes  
9669 S. Timber Hawk Circle #22  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126  
303-471-0681

Barbara & Jim VanderPas  
9245 South Sugarstone Circle  
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130  
303-346-7322  
Matt



Children's Ministries Team Update

**Want to be a part of the Future?** The Children's Ministry Team is looking for new team members. Openings are now available for people who are want to be a part of the future of St. Luke's - our children's ministries. Women with children are not the only people who can be a part of this fun group. Men are welcome too! As are people who don't have children yet or any more. The only criteria for joining the Children's Ministries Team is a willingness to be involved. We meet once a month in the evenings and plan Advent and Lent activities, Easter Saturday, Children's Dinner Theater, and help with Sunday School, Seven Summer Fun Days and Vacation Bible School. If interested please contact **Pat Dunnigan or Jenita Rhodes at 303-791-0659**. Or you can talk with any of the current team members: **Sandy Larson, Danny McIntosh, Deb Whitelam, Sheri Larsen or Susan Harned**. Come join us. We'd love to have your great ideas!

**Sunday School Workshop!** Mark your calendar: The next Sunday School Teacher's workshop will be November 17 from 9:00am to 11:00am. Dr. Evans and Tammy Bell will be with us to discuss what our role is as Sunday School Staff in ministering to our children and how does this fit into who we are as a people of St. Luke's. The Winter curriculum will be distributed, teams will meet to set the next quarter's schedule and we will all be enriched by each other's spirit. Child care will be provided. Hope to see you there!

**Children's Hanging of the Greens** will be December 1 from 9:00am to 11:00am. We are looking for volunteers to help plan and organize this fun event. Children (of parents working on decorating the upstairs and outside of our church) will participate in activities to decorate the Sunday School area downstairs. Kids of all ages and adults are welcome to help. Call Jenita or Pat to volunteer!

**BUILDING A WORLD OF LOVE: Sunday School 2001-2002**  
A big THANK YOU to all the parents who have already volunteered to help in their child's Sunday School Class. If you have not signed up yet, please do so the next time you are at church. Parent volunteers are an important part of our Sunday School program and the kids really enjoy the attention!

We are always looking for **ADDITIONAL STAFF** to volunteer in the Sunday School classroom. Nursery Check-in and Superintendents are especially needed. If you would like to share your Sunday morning's with the children of St. Luke's, please contact **Pat Dunnigan or Jenita Rhodes at 303-791-0659**.

**Making a Joyful Noise!** Music is now being provided at the 9:30am Sunday School Class. Every Sunday the 3 yr. olds, 4 yr. olds, 5 yr. olds and 1st grade classes will take part in ten-minutes of music worship at the beginning of their class time. The 2nd through 5th grades will do the same every other Sunday at the end of the Sunday School hour. We could still use help and a guitar player for the 2nd through 5th graders. Contact Linda Walker at 303-470-6145 or Jenita Rhodes at 303-791-0659. Thanks to **Linda Walker, Stephanie Babcock, Marie Larsen and Bonnie Funk** for organizing the 9:30am Kids Music Worship.

**REMEMBER** to watch for your **FAMILY NUMBER** if your child is in the Nursery or Sunday School. The number box is to the right of the altar (above the choir seats.)

Would you like to receive e-mails regarding Children's Ministries information? Go to St. Luke's website, [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com), click "Join an E-mail List" and sign up.

Blessings from Little School

Our enrollment is filling up and our exciting new teachers are settling in with our already wonderful staff. Classes have been busy learning all about the seasons, the changing colors of the leaves and our busy Fall Festival time. Everyone enjoyed decorating pumpkins for our decorating contest and all of our classes took advantage of the beautiful weather by visiting the pumpkin patch. Costumes were seen all over the school with our big Halloween celebration, even the teachers got into the act! Ms. Pat's Explorers took a field trip to see the Giant Corn Maze and had a super time.



November brings us many blessings that we are thankful for. All of the children will be hearing the story of our first pilgrims and their feast. We will have our own Thanksgiving Feast, including turkey and all the trimmings! The children will dress in pilgrim and Indian costumes (even Ms. Kay), sing Indian songs and be very thankful for all that they have. Our classes are filled with colorful artwork, yummy smells and celebrations of the fabulous fall colors and seasonal changes. We also will have fun learning about animals and how they prepare for winter and storing food.

The children are loving their new play area, and we have one new larger piece of play equipment for our smallest students. We are working on getting another large play piece before the snow flies. Thank you to all that have made this possible.

With all that is going on in our world, Little School is working very hard to keep our children happy and safe. Now, even more than before, we are holding our children closer, enjoying their wonderment and trying to appreciate this world through their eyes. Teachers are amazed and reminded daily of the childlike faith that reassures us that there is a future to look forward to.

Little School wishes all of you a Blessed Thanksgiving and be sure to come and visit!

*Lovingly,  
Ms. Kay ☺*

P.S. We still have afternoon fours openings (and a couple morning 4's) tell your friends!

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON RECEIVING

## It's a BIG World

By Dennis Becker

Laurie Gilbert lives in a BIG world! At home she is a wife to Gary and mother to Jason, 20, Kara, 17, and Alaina, 7. Being a wife and mother is a very important full-time job for Laurie. The Gilbert family has been attending St. Luke's for about seven years. At St. Luke's Laurie is a Disciple IV learner and has been involved in various mission projects. She is best known for her passion for missions and is the newly appointed Missions Ministry Team convener. She says, "I've always been interested in mission work. I can't think of a better way to share my God, my faith and my love for all God's people."

Laurie's long-time interest in missions has led to growing involvement. She has transported food to DenUM, worked with Habitat for Humanity, served on the Missions Committee and participated in mission trips to Zimbabwe and Cambodia.

The mission trip to Zimbabwe ignited a new passion for missions in Laurie's heart and life. Moving home-made bricks to build a structure to house a grinding mill that St. Luke's purchased may not sound too exciting. But coming in contact with the workers, visiting an orphanage and seeing over 1,000 people, many who walked several miles, singing and dancing and celebrating the completion of the mill was overwhelming. She says, "I'm going back some day!"

When she returned to the states, Laurie realized that she had so much and the people in Zimbabwe have so little. She asked, "What can one person do to remove or at least close the gap a little between those who have much and those who have little?" Sending boxes of clothing that she collects as her answer. In the last four years, she has send approximately 160 boxes of clothing to Zimbabwe and has 40 more boxes ready to go. Many people at St. Luke's have contributed clothing and Steve Plain has helped with mailing. Laurie says, "We are thankful for what we have, not because we have so much. But because we have so much, we can give and share with others who have less. I cannot solve the problem of world hunger or AIDS, but I can send clothes."

Participation in mission activities at St. Luke's has led to the invitation for Laurie to assume the new, volunteer position of convener for the Missions Ministry Team. As convener, Laurie is a coordinator, encourager, resource person and liaison between staff and group leaders for the many diverse mission activities at St. Luke's. Her responsibilities also include sharing information with the various groups and congregation and encouraging additional people to become involved in mission activities. Obviously this is a very challenging and exciting position. But Laurie says, "If I just push out of my comfort zone even a little, enough to put God's love into action, God always takes care of the details."

Laurie says that her involvement in missions has been a very rewarding experience. "It is a joy to meet other people who are excited and passionate about missions. I find satisfaction in being helpful and productive while focusing on needs beyond myself and my immediate family. I have learned so much about other cultures and see people differently than I did before. And I see myself differently."

Laurie's world has grown from herself, her family, her church to an international missions focus. When she or another member of the Missions Ministry Teams share their excitement for missions with you, be sure to listen and hear how your world can grow.

## Remedial Christianity ... is for YOU!

Remedial Christianity is a new adult class using a text entitled, of all things, "Remedial Christianity." It was written by Paul Laughlin whose first claim to fame was as a classmate of Dick Evans at the Candler School of Theology, many moons ago.

Remedial classes are generally required of students who did not do well the first go-round. Either they had poor texts, or poor teachers, or were poor students. In learning our Christian faith we all had some bad texts (although the Bible was OK), some bad teaching, and we all could have been better students. "Remedial Christianity" is an excellent text (it's fresh, independent, immediate) which, coupled with the Bible, means we've got the first element wrapped.

Next come the shakier elements; I'll be the teacher, and I'm asking you to be the students. Actually, we all are just students. This class is for those future teachers, or would-be's. You would spend class time with me, and then when you're ready, begin your own class. No one would be launched before they're ready, and willing.

I'm looking at two possible times: Wednesdays at 6:30, as a part of Wednesday Night Live, and/or Sundays at 11:00. Think it over, get a friend to join with you, and give me a call. Fred Venable, associate minister, at the church, 303-791-0659 x12, or Fred@StLukesHR.com, at home, 303-690-5759, or revfredjoan@msn.com. You'll have fun, and you'll be at ease; 'cause I'm easy. 'Let me know ASAP; we need to get this puppy moving.

## Way to go, Terry!

SLUMC member Terry Gothard competed in AND completed the Leadville Trail 100 - "The Race Across the Sky". Visit <http://www.leadvilletrail100.com> for more details about the race. To have your time recorded, you have to complete the 100 miles in under 30 hours.

The Wesley Players Present



St. Luke's Wesley Players are back this Fall with a brand new musical production for Advent! **Mary & Joe 4 Ever** is a fun, fast-paced musical tale of Mary and Joseph's meeting. The musical features a dozen songs in a variety of styles from Broadway to Gospel. More than 25 members of St. Luke's are participating in the production which is sure to become a holiday favorite!

The Wesley Players will present **Mary & Joe 4 Ever**  
**Friday, November 30th and Saturday, December 1st**  
 at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

More information will be available in the coming weeks, so watch your bulletin and Sanctuary announcements for performance details!

We hope you will join us for this new Advent celebration!



## A Thank-You Letter from Dalai

"...for with God all things are possible." - Mark 10:27

First and foremost, I wish to thank our Lord God who makes all things possible. My life has truly been blessed.

Thanks to my immediate family: Mom and Dad: I will always be grateful for your constant love, guidance, support and encouragement. To my older brother David: you have always been there for me as my "Big Brother." I will always be grateful for your praying for me every single day. To my younger brothers, Socheat and Sihab: thanks for putting up with my always being far away from home. I love you both! To the rest of my family and friends in Cambodia: thanks for all of your love and prayers.

To pastors, Richard Evans and Esther Cho: thanks for being wonderful pastors, for introducing St. Luke's to the mission work in Cambodia, and for helping to make it possible for me to come to Iliff School of Theology, and, finally, for your continuous support for my studies.

Special thanks to Laurie and Gary Gilbert: thanks for flying me here from Cambodia. Above all, thanks for all your support and unconditional love.

To Marie, David and Shelly Fornof for hosting me for almost three weeks while I was preparing to move to my on-campus apartment, and for treating me just like a family member.

To the Cambodia Mission Team: Dale Balu,

Rich Boon, Joyce Carnes, Nita Dunn, Richard Evans, Esther Cho, Ken Fong, Marie Fornof, Laurie Gilbert, Linda Harris, Debbie Lawrence, Andrea Mezger, Mark Moore, Steve Plain, Dan Raap, Steve Riley, Brian Sorsby, Sharon Stonecipher, Jan Stull and Brett & Marla Vasten: thanks for your great love for mission work. What a great team and brave team you are! Thanks for giving me an apartment shower and everything I needed. Words simply cannot express fully how thankful I am.

To St. Luke's staff: thanks for allowing me to be a part of the staff. I am looking forward to working together with all of you in this inclusive community of faith and to learning from all of you who have many wonderful gifts.

To my very, very extended family at St. Luke's: thanks to the entire congregation, to those of you who are very new, and not very new members and friends of St. Luke's alike, and to each and every one of you, you know who you are. Thanks for your love and acceptance. I am always told: "just pick up the telephone and call whenever you need anything, a drive or a good cry." I will always be grateful to be a part of St. Luke's. I am looking forward to several more years being together as God's family. What a true blessing it is to be here at St. Luke's among all of you!

And last but not least, I would like to thank all of you again. Sorry if I missed someone or something that you did for me. God bless! Peace!!!



## St. Luke's Adult Softball Team: League Co-Champs with 7-1 Record!

The adult St. Luke's coed softball team had a great season this year. They lost their season opener game but were undefeated the rest of the season. They were co-champs of the league with a record of 7 and 1 and were the tournament champions at the end of the league. They are very proud of their hard-earned trophies.

They played on Sunday afternoons and had a few hot ones but had some cloud cover for most of the games. They were forced to cancel one game because of lightning and hail. They had a roster of 21 players with usually no more than about 12 at a game at one time (due to vacations, work schedules, etc). For some it was a family outing every Sunday as there were several families represented: Jay, Courtney and Katie Hjellum; Bruce, Julie, Jeff and Kim Betschart; Scott and Debbie Kellar and Geoff and Jimmy; Steve and Kyle Colman and Tim and Lindsey Lennek. Other players were Kate Duncan, Steve Vanderink, Chris Goldsberry and Candy Keller, the coach. There were some great performances from everyone and fun was had by all. Julie Betschart was drafted the first day as the official scorekeeper. She did a great job keeping both teams on the right score. Candy Keller's expertise and willingness to coach the team was definitely appreciated. Thank you to all of the players, coaches and scorekeepers in representing St. Luke's so well!

## UMCOR Helps in Wake of September 11 Tragedy

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is working with other relief organizations in the US and in Afghanistan to provide aid in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy.

UMCOR is assisting its ecumenical partners in providing over 8000 family shelter kits to refugee and internally displaced Afghan people. There are plans to provide primary shelter to about 50,000 people. Afghan refugees are the world's largest refugee population and constitute 3.6 million of the total 12 million global refugee population. The shelter kits include a family-sized tent, ground cloth, plastic sheeting and blankets.

UMCOR is also supporting an emergency quilt project among refugee women in Quetta, Pakistan. Afghan women will earn money by producing 40,000 quilts over the next 3 months, which will be purchased by relief groups and distributed to those who have been displaced from their homes. In addition, UMCOR staff in Tajikistan are working with international partners to provide food to Afghan citizens in the border region of Afghanistan and Tajikistan.

In the New York area, volunteers have been staffing listening posts at several city churches. A special emphasis is being placed in working with people from marginalized communities who have been affected; these include undocumented people from Latin America and Native American steelworkers. UMCOR is also offering a grant program called "Honoring Differences in the Midst of Hate and Violence." This program provides a way for local churches to create innovative joint projects with Islamic and American-Arab organizations to increase understanding, trust and respect.

UMCOR is accepting donations for these relief efforts. You can write a check to UMCOR, with the notation, "Love in the Midst of Tragedy," Advance #901125-3. If you want to specifically help the Afghan refugees, write "Afghan Refugees" on the check also. You can drop your donation in the collection plate and it will be sent to UMCOR.

In memory of those who lost their lives in the September attacks, you can make health kits. These kits will be sent to people around the world, including Afghan refugees. Each kit includes: 1 hand towel; 1 washcloth; 1 regular-size hair comb (not pocket size); 1 nail file or nail clipper; 1 bath-size bar of soap in original wrapper; 1 toothbrush in original sealed package; 1 large tube of toothpaste (no sample or travel sizes); 6 adhesive bandages (such as Band-Aids). Wrap the brand new items in the hand towel, tie it with string or yarn, and place inside a sealed, one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure. Send completed kits to: UMCOR Depot, 131 Sager Brown Road, Baldwin, LA 70514-0850.

Source: UMC GBGM Web Site: [www.gbgm-umc.org](http://www.gbgm-umc.org)



## Missions Happenings



November 8 – 7:00pm, church. Missions Team meeting. Anyone in church invited. We will be making the tags for the Christmas Giving Tree for Interfaith Community Services and

Urban Peak as well as the Heifer Project Giving Tree. (No business meeting).

November 10 – Missions Team will deliver meals to terminally ill people for Project Angel Heart. Followed by lunch. Anyone in church invited. Meet in church parking lot at 10:15am. Return around 3:00pm.

November 13 or 27 – Help with the main dish for the teenagers at Urban Peak. Sign up on the Missions bulletin board or call Patti Hildebrand at 303-470-9990.

November 18 – at church services. Thanksgiving Food Drive for Denver Urban Ministries and Interfaith Community Services. Bring non-perishable items to the church service.

December 1 – 10:30am to 1:00pm – Come to Denver Inner City Parish to help prepare and serve lunch and socialize with Senior citizens.

December 13 – 7:00pm – Missions Team meeting. Anyone in church invited. Join us for an hour of refreshment for the soul and spirit. (No business meeting).

December 23 - 8:15am - 10:30am - Come to St. Paul's United Methodist Church to feed a meal to homeless people. Sign up on Missions Bulletin board. St. Paul's is at 16th and Ogden.

### Special Drives in November/December :

- Sleeping bags, blankets, and coats for homeless people and others in need. Donations will be taken to Denver Urban Ministries.
- DenUM also needs diapers (medium, large, extra large), infant formula and plastic grocery bags.
- Inner City Parish kitchen needs plastic containers with lids (1 gal. to 7 gal. size)
- Give blood at Bonfils in Highlands Ranch!
- Christmas Giving Tree for Interfaith Community Services and Urban Peak
- Heifer Project Giving Tree for Christmas

## The "Lay"test News: Walk Humbly

A Message from our Lay Leaders - By Monty Hoffman

*He has told you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justice, to love kindness, And to walk humbly with your God? - (Micah 6:8)*

You probably recognize this verse as the text of the musical benediction that we close worship service with every week. Why do we use it? Despite the fact that it was written thousands of years before John Wesley's birth, it is a good summary of the basic tenets of the Wesleyan tradition that United Methodism is grounded in. I want to spend some time over the next few months writing about these basic beliefs so that when you sing this every week, it will hopefully have a deeper meaning for you.

The assurance experience, the experience that we have when we feel the power of God's love and grace for us, is one of the most powerful spiritual experiences there is. Many people have felt it and decided that they have received this experience because of who they were. In fact, the doctrine of election states that those who are worthy of God's love and grace are predetermined or elected and that the rest of mankind is beyond redemption. This Calvinist view was the predominant view of salvation during Wesley's time.

John Wesley, in his humble relationship with God, decided that what was special was God's love and grace, not him. After his Aldersgate experience he wrote, "an assurance was given me that Christ had taken away my sins, even mine". For Wesley, the assurance experience and God's love for him were not proof of his election, but rather proof that God's love was for all people. The assurance experience is a primary emphasis of Methodism, but it is not a "measurement" of personal faith or of salvation. If we walk humbly with our God, it is a reminder to us that we are all God's children and all are loved by God. If we are humble in our relationship with God, we look for God in all people.



## Like to Play Cards? Join the St. Luke's Bridge Group

When: First Saturday of Each Month at 7:00pm  
 Where: St. Luke's UMC  
 Next Meeting: December 1st, 2001  
 Who We Are: A Social Gathering for those who enjoy playing bridge.

The group is open to anyone who wants to play regardless of skill level, and because of the way we switch partners, a beginner can do quite well. We aren't avid blood-thirsty players who know every card in everyone's hand by the third trick. We are your run of the mill social players who sometimes aren't even sure what our own cards are. We welcome beginning players. If you are just learning to play, don't hesitate to call one of our 'experts' if you have a question.

For the challenge of an exciting evening of bridge, come join the St. Luke's Bridge Group.

We meet every first Saturday of the month at the church except on holiday weekends. Our next meetings are on December 1st and January 5th, Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. at St. Luke's. If you have any questions or would like to join us for an animated evening with the Bridge Group, please call: John and Andrea Mezger at 303-791-7350 or Harvey Eastman at 303-791-1519 (or email at [hseastman@mactec.com](mailto:hseastman@mactec.com)).

Be sure to bring a dish of your favorite snack or dessert! Our bridge games can bring out an appetite.

## We'll Not Do That Here

by Rev. Fred Venable

Recently I received a stewardship campaign letter from another church which included this sentence: "Perhaps you can increase your giving by at least 10% this year." It was a blanket asking, to all members. St. Luke's is not going to make such a blanket request to you for the year 2002! And I will tell you why.

In 1967 I went to be the senior pastor at Littleton UMC when a financial crunch was on, so we had to ask for increases for 10%. I didn't know any better, so we included this idea in our promotion, asking a ten percent increase from everyone. One man, a very vocal and involved man in the church, a man from all appearances with a substantial income, did just that. He increased his giving by 10%, exactly what we asked him to do. Remember this was 35 years ago, before some major inflation hits. What he did was raise his giving from \$2.00 a week to \$2.20 a week! Exactly what we asked.

His \$2.00 a week could not have been even 1% of his income. I learned a lesson: if a person is giving at the rate of about 7 or 8 percent of his income, then, fine, ask for a 10% increase. But if a person is giving at 1% or 2% ask for a 200%, or at least a 100% increase.

Example: Say two St. Luke's members have the same income of \$50,000. (I'm sure that is below the average.) "A" gives at 8%, or \$4,000. "B" gives at 2%, or \$1,000. If each increases by 10%, "A" gives \$400 more, but "B" gives only \$100 more. To challenge "A" to give 10% more is OK. But to challenge "B" to give 10% more is a very weak challenge. He should be challenged to give 100%, or even 200% more. With the same income, "B" could increase 40% (\$400), as easily as "A" could increase 10% (\$400). St. Luke's is not asking for a blanket 10% increase. From a large percentage of our congregation, St. Luke's is asking much, much more. St. Luke's is suggesting you think of increasing at least a "level," for instance, from 2% of annual income to 3%, or from 5% to 6%, or above.

Jesus sounded almost frustrated when he spoke of tithing (10%) saying, "Of course you tithe. That is basic. That is understood. That is the first step. What I am concerned about is that you go beyond tithing to practice justice, mercy, faith, and love." Check that out at Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42, and check out where you are in Jesus' progression.