



ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Chronicle

A NEWS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE FORUM

DECEMBER 2002/JANUARY 2003

ADVENT CELEBRATIONS

Dec. 11 - Wednesday

Community Dinner – 5:30 p.m.

Children's Christmas Performance – 7:00 p.m. The children of St. Luke's present "The Christmas Family Tree", a musical that celebrates the Christmas season through stories from our "biblical family tree."

Dec. 13 - Friday

Sharing Love at Christmas -

Beyond the Giving Tree – 6:30-9 p.m. Family missions event—sort the gifts for Interfaith and Urban Peak from the Giving Trees. Learn about Interfaith and Urban Peak; make Christmas cards; enjoy refreshments and Christmas carols.

Dec. 14 - Saturday

Children's Holiday Shop – 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Our Children's Holiday Shop provides a shopping experience for children up to age 12. \$0.50 to \$5.00 per gift. Adult volunteers will help the children with shopping and will wrap their gifts while they wait. Please contact Laurie Belmear at (303)471-9575 or e-mail lbelmear@valuecheck.com for more information

Dec. 15 - Sunday

Worship – 8 a.m. *In Fellowship Hall.*

Christmas Cantata – 9:30 & 11 a.m.

"Agnus Dei, Lamb of God, Born to Us."

A concert of worship for Christmas featuring songs of Michael W. Smith with over 100 people participating, including many of our musical ensembles and the St. Luke's Orchestra.

SLY Christmas Video Scavenger

Hunt – 5-8 p.m.

Dec. 18 - Wednesday

Family Advent Service – 7 p.m.

Christmas music and the traditional readings. Fred Venable will bring a meditation entitled "What Are You Giving Number One on Your List?"

Dec. 22 - Sunday

Worship – 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

SLY Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange – 6-8:30 p.m.

Dec. 24 - Tuesday

Children's Worship Service – 3 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services – 5 & 7 p.m.

Communion Service – 10 p.m.

Dec. 29 - Sunday

Worship – 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Jan. 5, 2003 - Sunday

Family Epiphany Service – 8, 9:30 & 11 a.m.

Hanging of the Greens



Tree Lighting Ceremony

More Photos on Pages 3 & 9!

Where Do We Even Begin to Say Thank You!

By Laurie Gilbert

Cambodia Mission Possible II: Over a year ago, the dream of a second Mission Possible team to go to Siem Reap Cambodia was put into motion. We have literally tried to find something for everyone, so that all of St. Luke's could be a part of the team in one way or another. We've sold "Shells to Bells", presented the Taste of Cambodia and Silent Auction, held a Yard Sale with Home Improvements, sold bulbs from Holland, hosted a Craft Bazaar, worked with the Drama team on *Mary & Joe 4Ever* and *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* by preparing the dinner before each performance, selling bricks for both our landscaping here at home and for building in Cambodia. Our team, actually, St. Luke's team has worked countless hours in preparation and dedication for this project. However, no matter how many hours we put in, without support from members, constituents, family and friends, we wouldn't be able to do what we are about to do, share life with our brothers and sisters in Cambodia.

Our Missionary in Residence, Ms. Dalai Dy, will be leaving for home Dec. 2nd. She will get to spend time with her family and friends before the teams arrive. Dalai has been, once again, instrumental in helping us put together this mission trip. Dalai has been in constant communication with Joseph Chan in Cambodia, who has been preparing the way for us to come. We are so blessed to have such wonderful people working so diligently to make all of the necessary arrangements.

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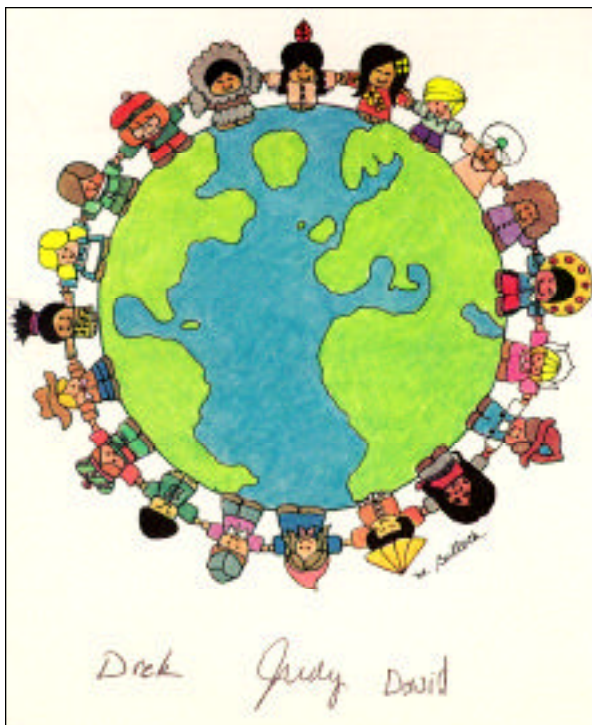
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...AND MUCH MORE!

Pastor's notes

from Reverend Richard Evans

Holiday Greetings!



*In this season of
sharing, we rejoice
in the gift of the Christ,
the gift of one another,
the gift of community,
the blessing of hope,
and the hope of peace...*

*...for you
and the whole
Family of God.*

Cambodia continued from Page 1 To date, thanks to all of you, we have collected over \$21,000.00! The final count will be even higher. At this time, \$15,000.00 has already been wired to the site to get the supplies and start the foundation. All of the donations will go to build and complete an 8m x 30m Multiple Purpose Building. Our teams will be busy with all the aspects of constructing the newest addition to the Siem Reap Regional Community Learning Center. We will be hosting a 4-day Day Camp for 60-80 children filled with music, crafts, Bible stories and more. We will also be painting and doing repairs for the Khnar Thmei Methodist Church, plus doing our best to teach English.

We have 25 team members going: Dale Balu, Tammy Bell, Joyce Carnes, Mark Carnes, Kyle Coleman, Steph Datson, Robert Datson, Dalai Dy, Ken Decker, Catherine Dunwody, Ken Fong, Betsy Keyack, David Fornof, Marie Fornof, Laurie Gilbert, Joel Heiman, Inge Lobel, Mark Lurch, Andrea Mezger, Steve Riley, Aaron Shipman, Brian Sorsby, Jan Stull, John Williams and Sharon Williams.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers, asking God to guide and abide within us! Also, thanks to modern day technology and some incredibly talented people, everyone can check the St. Luke's website to see pictures and emails sent from team members in Cambodia. (www.stlukeshr.com) After both teams return, please join us as we host an evening sharing the pictures and stories of our journey.

Once again, the entire CMPH team would like to say the biggest heartfelt THANK YOU for your gifts, talents, donations, encouragement, support and prayers!



Prayer Chain

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

Jan Lindquist's sister, Barbara Miller;
William Damsgard Cronin;
Brad Chase;
Grace McCurdy's dad;
Ann Scott;
Jerry Hertzler's friends, Dennis and Cheryl
Zubieta and son Chad;
Adam Funk's friend, Grant Weaver;
Kay Swanson's son, Derek;
Rachel Nolder's friends' son, Henry Ward;
Laurie Cunningham's friends, Laura Pokorney,
Julie Hayes, and Deborah Pollard, and her
mother, Madeline Jewell;
Matthew King;
Tammy Heister;
Kerry Timm;
Joan Venable;
Paul and Delores Gardner;
Sara King's aunts, Bobbi Eaton
and Jerilyn Clayton;
Jana Money's father, Reuben Baril;
Eric Ransick's dad, Clarence Ransick;
Joy Damsgard's cousin, Craig Mitchell;
and Maureen Martin.

We continue to pray for:

Tami Clement's mother, Betty Nelson;
Earl Lawrence's sister, Lee;
Paul Zavacki's dad, Stan Zavacki;
Corina Hall's friend, Freddy Arch Page;
and Coleen DeGroat's grandmother.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to:

The family and friends of Dorothy Day,
upon her death on 10-27-02.
Carl and Dottie Braun and family
on the death of their friend, Diane Burr;
Kerry Timm and family on the death of
her mother, Nancy Sullivan;
Tom VanDenover and family on the death
of his mother, Arlene VanDenover;
Renee Sanek and family on the death
of her brother, Don Palidwar;



We extend our congratulations and
add our prayers of joy to:

Brad and Nancy Chase on the birth
of their grandson, Bradford Steven Koerner;
Jennifer and Rake Jiang on the birth
of their son, Benjamin, on 11-3-02; and
Nicole and John Green on the birth
of their son, Michael Thomas, on 11-12-02.

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



Welcome!
**New Members:
November
2002**

Wayne and Julie Barrette
2364 E. Terrace Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Guy and Debbie Britt
892 Graland Place
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Roger and Irene Bowden
2605 Huntsford Place
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Bill and Bonnie Feight
21828 Mt. Snowmass Lane
Parker, CO 80138

Jill Jasper
10799 Chadsworth Pt.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Jason and Valerie Koenig
624 English Sparrow Trail
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Amy Montgomery
322 W. Jamison Place #43
Littleton, CO 80120

Charlie and Jan Rufien
5240 W. Ontario Avenue
Littleton, CO 80128

Tom and Lisa Weddel
7145 E. Newhall Drive
Highlands Ranch, CO 80130



Dr. Richard Evans, Senior Minister

By Yvonne Amrine

Dr. Richard Evans came to St. Luke's United Methodist Church in July of 1993. Before that, he was at Littleton UMC from 1972-1993. In his role as part-time associate minister of St. Luke's, Dick did counseling for members of the congregation and for the community at large, as well as other pastoral roles. He assumed the position of senior minister at St. Luke's when Bill Selby left in July of 1995. Dick's wife of 24 years, Judy Evans, works as a human resources consultant at the Mountain States Employers Council. Their son David, now 23, continues to live in Highlands Ranch and still finds his dad telling stories about his son from the pulpit.

Since the 1999 inaugural 'Meet the Staff' article about him, I asked what had changed at St. Luke's. In the first article he had wished we were more diverse. Well, Dick is happy to say that we are. "At least for Highlands Ranch," he adds. We have members from many different ethnic and faith backgrounds, including some you might not readily associate with Christians. More importantly, Dick sees St. Luke's as a place where members and constituents continually expand their experience with God's family—whether it's traveling 15 thousand miles away or to a downtown shelter. "Most churches send money—not people. St. Luke's is preparing to go on our second mission trip to Cambodia! We really try to live out our vision of being invitational, relational and missional," said Dick.

I also asked Dick how he had changed since the last article. He thoughtfully said, "I guess I'd have to say for one thing I have a better understanding of leadership. I also have an increased appreciation for our church community and all the people that make St. Luke's thrive." For fun, Dick likes, "to play basketball with David, ride my bike, work out, read, occasionally play a little guitar or banjo and... floss. Well, flossing isn't fun, but I do it anyway." When asked about his new beard, Dick said, "Since the descriptions have ranged from Obi Wan Kenobe to Papa Smurf to a hobo to Moses... I think I'll keep it another week or two, just for fun and to experience what people see. It's sort of a pastoral Rorschach!"

Somehow, I know that no matter how we change and grow as a church or as individuals, Dick will be there, leading us to experience a more authentic life. As Dick says: "Whoever you are, and wherever you are in your life, there's a place for you here." I for one am thankful that Dick's place is at St. Luke's.

DICK EVANS – TIDBITS

- Year you joined St. Luke's: We came in 1993. United Methodist ministers don't actually "join" churches, but are appointed annually by the bishop.
- Favorite color: Blue.
- Hobbies: Maybe I need more hobbies. After I finished my Ph.D. comprehensive exams, I built a remote-control airplane/sailplane to celebrate. Crashed it on the test flight, rebuilt it, and haven't flown it since!
- Pet Peeves: Arrogance. People who take two parking places, especially if they back in.
- and, last but not least, the ever famous question... If you could have dinner with anyone who would it be? My dad. Although he died in 1990, as Mark Twain observed about fathers, he sure did get wiser as I have gotten older. I would love another talk with him. My mom is still living, heartily, and I enjoy talking with her.



They'll Be Teenagers Before You Know It!!!

Join us during Wednesday Night Live for our new support group:

Support for Parents of 8-12 year olds

Come and meet with other parents who are learning how to support their pre-adolescent child. Children are developing at an earlier age, and are dealing with a wide variety of social, emotional and physical issues as early as 3rd and 4th grade.

Many of these issues are overwhelming our children.

Please join us on the 1st & 3rd Weds. in room 9 as we form this new group!

Dec. 18: 6:15-7:15pm - Discussion, Sharing, Listening & Learning

Jan. 15: 6:15-7:15pm - Children & Nutrition – presentation and discussion

Contact Sandi Thompson if you have any questions – (303)791-3407.

The wonderful sights of Christmas at Little School



This is a very exciting time of the year at Little School with our children full of wonder and amazement! It gives us the opportunity to share many kindnesses with each other and those outside of Little School. Ms. Joy (Damsgard) has joined us to provide a monthly chapel talk and baby Jesus' birthday is our main focus! We just love telling the story over and over. Our school is filled with wonderful music with Ms. Laura teaching us lots of cheery Christmas tunes. At the beginning of December we always have a surprise (secret) visit from St. Nicholas who leaves pennies and candy in our shoes and we cap off our December month with another special visitor (Santa) and our annual Christmas Musical programs. Little School has a winter break from December 20th until January 6th. We all look forward to spending time with our families.

January, is our fun month packed with winter activities including snowmen, snowflakes and snow ice cream! We love learning about how our animal friends survive the cold and what you do in the winter! We like to play outside in the snow, so we hope we have lots more this year! January holds our week of "Western Stock Show" fun, including making horses, singing campfire songs and roasting marshmallows! You should come and see our campfire!

January also brings REGISTRATION time for FALL OF 2003. Current families and church members have priority registration beginning the 3rd week in January. Visitors are welcome to tour our school on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. We like to do this to give you our undivided attention! PLEASE WATCH THE CHURCH BULLETIN FOR DETAILS AND CLASSES OFFERED! DON'T MISS OUT BECAUSE LITTLE SCHOOL DOES FILL UP QUICKLY!

All of Little School staff wishes you a Happy New Year and we hope that 2003 will be a year filled with promise and joy!

Lovingly,
Ms. Kay ☺

Another Chance By Tim Richter

My wife never hesitates to point out that deep down I'm a shallow person. Given the number of years she's had to form her opinion, I accept her assessment. A couple of weeks ago, while driving to work, I heard a guy on the radio (I wish I knew his name so I could give him proper credit) say, "If you woke up breathing this morning, congratulations, God has given you another chance." All the deep-thinking listeners probably gave the statement only a moment's thought, while I was left to ponder it for several days. "If you woke up breathing this morning, congratulations, God has given you another chance."

Too often, we come home from work tired and stressed, taking our crankiness out on our loved ones. But when we wake the next morning, we find God has given us a chance to redeem ourselves. The majority of us fail to take an active role in our church and community, leaving all the volunteer time, hard work, and details to others. But God gives us a new chance each and every day. Most of us rarely take the time to tell family and friends how important they are to us, but God continues to give us chance after chance. Many of us are not as close to God as we know we should be, but everyday, he gives us another chance to improve our relationship with him.

I could go on and on, but in general, through the hustle and bustle of everyday life, too often we are not the people or the Christians we really want to be. But God doesn't give up on us. "If you woke up breathing this morning, congratulations, God has given you another chance." Among the many things to be thankful for this holiday season, we should be especially thankful for the countless chances our loving God consistently gives to us.



The St. Luke's United Methodist Women (UMW) would like to sincerely thank all of you who have supported our events and missions throughout this past year. We certainly could not have had such a successful year of giving without your help. We were able to donate over \$4,500 to several missions and organizations:

- UMW District \$1,200 • St. Luke's Backyard Fund \$1,000 • St. Luke's VBS Scholarships \$200 • Warren Village \$400 • Douglas County Crisis Center \$500
- Women's Bean Project \$400 • St. Paul Sunday Meals \$400 • Grant Street \$400

Thank you St. Luke's! You made a lot of people happy with your generous donations!

UMW 2003: The United Methodist Women (UMW) of St. Luke's would like to invite any and all women to join them for their next year of fun and fellowship. Don't delay so that you can be a part of our upcoming events already scheduled for next year:

• January 18th: UMW District Meeting

(held at St. Luke's for all UMW women in the Denver and Pike's Peak area)

• February 16th: Pancake Breakfast

• May 10th: Spring Fling

• October 11th: Apple Pie Event

• December 4th: Candlelight Dinner

For more information on UMW please pick up a brochure in the Narthex or call Linda Walker at (303)470-6145. We hope to see you soon.

Why "St. Luke's 101?" "St. Luke's 101" class provided me a stronger foundation from which to continue to explore the Christian faith. It helped me to move forward on my spiritual journey by answering SOME questions and by challenging me to ask MORE questions. If you want to know what you really believe and why, I'd recommend this class!

- Carolyn McIntosh

PEAK is the new Sunday School program at St. Luke's. I like it because you get to learn about the bible story in different ways, like drama, cooking, art, videos, bible knowledge and games. My favorites are art and cooking.

- Carrie Whitelam, age 8



Corner

Gift Challenged?

By Sandi Miyaki

A long time ago, in a part of the world few of us will ever visit, a new baby brought hope into the world. The news of the amazing and wondrous event spread and from points near and far, people from all walks of life considered what gifts they might offer to him to ensure his success. One of those stories tells of a little drummer who decided to share himself by sharing his music with the new baby, because in his situation, this was the thing he could do. Today, as members and constituents of St. Luke's we're being asked now to consider what we can offer in support of our community and each other to ensure our success and that of our expanding programs.

The Trustees team would like to offer a suggestion to you for sharing your talents. Here's a pretty neat statistic: our membership now numbers over 1,200. In addition to the three Sunday services we've got lots of small groups and large groups on week-ends and week days. Hundreds of people come and go from our building on a daily basis. Here's another number for you to remember: 8. Sometimes its 10 or 11, but usually its 8.

You see, that's the number of members in St. Luke's Trustees group. One of the goals of our group is to provide an environment that's invitational to all who meet here either as a part of St. Luke's or our new friends from St. Mark's. We want to make a good first impression, and then we want to do that again each time you return. We want you back, and we want you to bring your friends and invite others who you'd like to join us.

So if you'd like to help us with this goal either as a full member of the Trustees, or an occasional helper, we'd be very happy to have you with us. We meet on a monthly basis, every second Monday evening in the 7th grade classroom. Then once a quarter, we hold the half day Saturday workdays. For those of you who need a bit more flexibility, we have other options as well. We have a folder we keep with work orders—kind of like the chore list you may keep at home. Here you can volunteer a day or a few hours and complete a work order or two.

Interested? Call Ken Fong (303) 346-7057. Thank you for your gifts to St. Luke's and Merry Christmas from your Trustees!

New Children's Ministries PC Lab Update

By Steve Riley

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation and the elbow grease provided by a number of tech and 'wanna be' tech guys, Children's Ministries has a new, modern, PC lab for use with the new PEAK curriculum.

The lab consists of 10 900mhz generic PC's (no particular manufacturer; we bought parts and assembled them.) Each workstation will have a host of software applications including Microsoft Office and child oriented Bible game and Sunday School software. The workstations are networked and have (controlled) internet access. One of the PEAK modules calls for a PC lab so these computers will be an integral part of the children's Sunday School curriculum. Future plans may include offering use of the lab to Little School and SLY for an after school program.

**Thoughts and Insights from "St. Luke's 101"**

By Rev. Fred Venable, associate minister

The current classes of "St. Luke's 101" are coming to a close. We may not have achieved all we hoped, but we've had excellent, stimulating sessions. What, pray tell, you may ask, is "St. Luke's 101?" It is an original, somewhat experimental class that attempts to define the ethos of St. Luke's: what is our true character, what makes us unique, what is our core message, what about us would make someone choose St. Luke's over the proliferation of other possibilities? Admittedly it has been theological, what we believe, what we think, how we conceive of ourselves. But we haven't drowned ourselves in deep theology.

We began by defining orthodox theology through the years, something with which even our seasoned veterans struggled. Then we asked if it has changed at St. Luke's, and in the Methodist Church, and if so what caused the changes. We looked at what biblical scholarship of the last 150 years has done to change our faith. And then we saw how science, psychology, medicine and other disciplines have created change. And we have tried individually to see how we each find our own faith, and how it relates to what's happening at St. Luke's. In a sense, we've each tried to bring our faith into the 21st Century.

The next classes will begin in early January and will last for 16 weeks. There will be sessions Sunday morning, Wednesday evening, and possibly more. Who is "St. Luke's 101" for? **Everyone**. The person brand new to church, to faith, and those who've been around, been involved for a long time. Those who know little, and those who know a lot. Especially, it is for persons who have some responsibilities in St. Luke's such as team members, teacher, officers, staff, all those who make decisions affecting St. Luke's. In other words, YOU. Look elsewhere in this issue of *The Chronicle* for words from current members of the class. We'll have sign-up opportunities for you soon.

New Adult Education Class! *The New Revelation, A Conversation with God*

by Neale Donald Walsch invites us to heal our religious ideas of separation and join together in a world of peace. Some of the ideas we'll explore in this interactive study group are: • God has never stopped communicating directly to human beings, • Every human being is as special as another, • No path to God is more direct than another and • You cannot die, and you will never be condemned to eternal damnation. These ideas and more will be explored in this class—this is an invitation to grow and expand your beliefs about God and Life itself. Please read *The New Revelation* before or during the study group weeks, in order to be more familiar with the topics we'll be discussing. The class will be 9 weeks, starting Feb. 2-March 30 at 9:30 a.m. Contact Janelle Washburne (303)220-9551 for more information.

The "Lay"test News: The Wesleyan Tradition—Part II: Faith A Message from our Lay Leaders - By Monty Hoffman

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Even though the Moravians had told Wesley that the key to entering into a new relationship with God through Christ was by living a faithful life and inviting God's grace into his life, Wesley did not take this to heart immediately. After encountering the Moravians on his voyage to America, John experienced a spectacular failure in his mission and parish efforts. On his return to England, he was ready to quit the priesthood, but one of his Moravian mentors told him that he needed to preach faith until he got faith. During his Aldersgate Experience, Wesley felt that he had connected with God through his faith and that God had forgiven his sins.

What is faith? I have had people tell me that all I had to do was believe, but in my experience, faith is a little more complicated than that. As Dr. Evans pointed out a few months ago, the Greek word that we translate into faith has a deeper meaning than just believing. More than describing an action, it also describes a relationship. In my experience, faith is about being open and accepting of God's will. It is also about trusting God and doing his will even when we can't foresee the consequences.

At St. Luke's, you will hear people talking about growing in their faith. It is an acknowledgment that as we live our lives we can learn to be more open and accepting of God's will. As we mature in our other relationships in life, we also mature in our relationship with God. If we invite God's grace into our lives, it will help us be more faithful.

Next month: Grace

Why "St. Luke's 101?"

"St. Luke's 101" has given me the place to connect with others and ask any question that I ever wanted the answer to. It also gave me a feeling about the direction and beliefs of our church. This class takes one from their childhood Sunday School ideas to ADULT understanding. Thanks.

- Janelle Washburne

JANUARY 12

First Sunday in PEAK

Adventure and Little PEAK 4th

Rotation, "Miracles of Jesus."

The children and adults will learn that Jesus used miracles to point people to God's power and love.

Joseph: An Amazing Technicolor Success!

Thanks to everyone who supported the St. Luke's Wesley Players production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." Almost 900 members, constituents, family, friends and neighbors attended the two performances. The generous free will offerings for the pre-show dinner in addition to the show donation baskets amounted to approximately \$6,000! After expenses, the St. Luke's Wesley Players expects to contribute \$4,000 to the Cambodia Mission Project. Thanks again for your generous support of St. Luke's Drama Ministry!

- Leigh Ramsey, Drama Ministry Co-Chair.





Children's Ministries Update

By Jenita Rhodes

With Thanksgiving behind us and the preparation for Christmas in full swing, I want to stop for just a minute to count the blessings I have seen in Children's Ministry. These blessings are all the wonderfully generous people who have given of themselves to the programs of Children's Ministries over the past year.

I remember last year's Hanging of the Greens with diligent workers putting countless little squares of colored paper on our life-sized nativity while others were helping to make Christmas ornaments for the tree and glue drippy, glittery, sparkly stars that filled the ceiling above the nativity.

I remember the Children's 3:00 Christmas Eve Service and the fifth grade Sunday school class dressed up as they became Joseph and Mary, wisemen, angels and shepherds.

I remember the Little School Players who, for the Children's Dinner Theater, practiced for hours after spending their days with preschoolers to give us a stunning production of "Fun in the Son." And how could I forget the delicious meal of hotdogs, Mac & Cheese and Dino nuggets prepared by our resident chefs.

Then there was the Easter Celebration on Palm Saturday. Sandy Larson, Sheri Larsen and their countless helpers planned for months preparing the carnival games, petting zoo, egg hunt, face painting and balloon sculptures. What a wonderful way to share the joy of Easter with our children.

The summer was filled with Seven Summer Fun Days and Vacation Bible School (in Son Canyon). Over 260 children were able to come together to sing, dance, play games, create a craft, enjoy a snack and learn about God's love thanks to the loving individuals who planned, prepared and presented these programs. In Summer Sunday School we splashed splashed our way through the water stories of the Bible. The crew was small and we had to do some creative grouping because of the small number, but those who were there provided an ocean of love to our kids.

Then while they could have been relaxing by the pool, some were at church planning for the next Sunday school year and a uniquely different program called PEAK Adventures. The time, effort and creativity that have been put into this program still warms my heart. WE STILL NEED RANGERS AND GUIDES TO STAFF LITTLE PEAK AND PEAK ADVENTURES FOR BOTH THE 9:30 AND 11:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL HOURS.

Blessings to:

- Parents who helped prepare and serve at the reception for the third graders receiving Bibles, angels who have cut and assembled felt nativity scenes for our preschool classrooms, handy craftsmen who have built coat racks, closet organizers, Little Church offering boxes for our preschool classes, crosses for our altars and an amazing Noah's ark for the nursery.
- WNL Kidz club: Doug and Susan Johnson for creating a fun fellowship group with a focus on service projects in and outside the church.
- Our ministry teams that direct the various program areas:
 - * Nursery ministry team, lead by Lynne Butler and staffed by an incredible group of caregivers.
 - * Library team (right now only Terri Beecher) for the decorating, organizing, cataloging and maintenance of the Faith Harder Library and Vern Harder for his generous financial support.
 - * PEAK Ministry team: Mike Hutchins, Vickie Ferguson and Stephanie Babcock.
- The congregation and Steve Riley, Ken Fong, Mike Hutchins, Bob Carlson, Bobby Chaplin, Bob Oliver and Mike Ross for contributing to and setting up the computer lab.
- All the dedicated volunteers who have helped in Sunday School from Nursery check-in and Superintendents to each classroom, the various programs, PEAK, Little PEAK.
- The wonderful program we have because of the volunteer support and tireless effort of the Children's Ministry Team.

If you haven't gotten involved in Children's Ministries, please do. It is true that the blessings you give will come back to you many times over.



nursery news

We are very thankful for ALL of our dedicated caregivers. If

you have a minute, please thank these fantastic people for the care they give to all of our very precious children.

Our Caregiver of the Month for December is JoAnn Valentine. She has not worked for us very long but she has stepped in and done an incredible job. She also works at the Westridge Rec. Center. We are very fortunate that she chose to work for us, too! Our Caregiver of the Month for January is Kristina Linn. She has been such an important part of the success of the nursery. The care she shows the children makes her a very valued part of the our childcare team!

Remember—you may make reservations from the link on the St. Luke's website or by calling our Nursery hotline at 303-791-0659 ext. 47.

The LITTLE PEAK Program: Sunday school for 2 yrs – K

As Little Peak wraps up the year we look back on what has made it such a success so far. Was it the wonderful curriculum that people like Maria Fox put so much time into? That is certainly a big part of it. But another big reason for our success has been the people that gave their time to teach the little children of St. Luke's. We are so blessed to have these wonderful, dedicated women and men (yes, men teach too!) What happens when these people move or they need time off? We don't want to wait until this happens to find out. If you have children in the Little Peak age group you will soon be receiving a call asking for help in teaching Sunday School. Everyone will be encouraged to volunteer four to five times a year at 9:30 and eight to twelve times a year at 11:00. Little Peak needs everyone possible to give their time to make this program work. Please know that Sunday School is not difficult to teach. You will receive support, training, lesson plans and supplies. We are so thankful for your understanding and support! If you have any questions please contact Lynne Butler at 303-791-0659 ext.11 or lynne@stlukeshr.com. Have a wonderful, safe, and blessed holiday season!



Music Notes: Christmas Cantata: Dec. 15th!

(from the "Agnus Dei" Songbook)

Agnus Dei brings the timeless message of the birth of our Savior to light in a fresh, new way. This concert of worship features the songs of contemporary Christian artist Michael W. Smith combined with some of the best-loved songs of the season. **Agnus Dei** comes from two Latin words: agnus, meaning "lamb" and dei, "of God." In John 1:29, John the Baptist declares, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" Nowhere has there ever been sung a more glorious song than this: "Today is born for you, a Savior." In every generation since the angels first sang that chorus, musicians have tried to echo its glory—to express its hope in the language of their own time. Join over 100 musicians participating in our 4th annual St. Luke's Christmas Cantata, "**Agnus Dei, Lamb of God Born to Us**" as we sing out the good news of Jesus' birth on Sunday December 15th at the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services.

Children's Christmas Musical

Wed., Dec. 11, 2002, 7pm

The children of St. Luke's present "The Christmas Family Tree", a musical that celebrates the Christmas season through stories from our "biblical family tree." Children will sing about Rahab's bravery, Ruth's loyalty, David's repentance, Josiah's wisdom, and Mary and Joseph's obedience. Along the way, the children learn how they are also a part of the Christmas family of faith.

Dinner Dance:

Coming Soon to a church near you! The annual St. Luke's Dinner Dance will take place on February 14th at 6:30. That's right, VALENTINE'S DAY. Bring your dance partner or just come to enjoy the food, fun and fellowship of a great night of swing and dance. The Ministers of Swing will host this very popular event playing music from all the greats!!! Tickets will go on sale in January. Make room now in your busy calendar and let loose on Valentine's Day! Proceeds to benefit the music program at St. Luke's.



***KIDZ PRAYZ I and II begins again!** *When?* January 15 at 6:15 p.m.
Where? Asbury Music Room. Call or email Jim or Carrie to ask questions or sign up for the spring Kidz Prayz programs.



*To our St. Luke's
Friends & Family -*

*Warmest blessings
of peace and joy
for Christmas and
throughout the
New Year!*

*James, Leigh & Jack
Ramsey*



St. Luke's Music Ministry

Music Team Coordinators & Directors:

James Ramsey, Director of Music Ministries

Jim@stlukeshr.com

303-791-0659 x23

Carrie Mallery, Associate Director of Music

Carrie@stlukeshr.com

303-791-0659 x48

TinTinabulators

James Ramsey, interim director

Flute Ensemble

Ruth Smith

Brass Ensemble

Erik Wangness

Ministers of Swing

James Ramsey

Cherub's Choir

Stacey Baird

Children's Choir

Kay Caryell

Joy-full Noyz Youth Choir

James Ramsey

Chancel Choir

James Ramsey

Kidz Prayz I and II

James Ramsey/Carrie Mallery/Janet Harm

Sonrise

James McCurry

Women of Note

Sallie Suby-Long

Rehearsals Week at a Glance

Sunday

Children's Choir 8:45-9:30 am

Joy-Full Noyz Youth Choir

5:00-7:00 pm

Tuesday

TinTinabulators Handbell Choir

7:00-8:30 pm

Wednesday

Cherub's Choir 6:15-7:00 pm

Kidz Prayz I 6:15-7:15 pm*

Kidz Prayz II 6:15-7:15 pm*

Sonrise Band 7:30-9:00 pm

Thursday

Women of Note 6:30-7:30 pm

Chancel Choir 7:30-9:00 pm

Saturday

Flute Ensemble 8:00-9:00 am

Brass Ensemble 9:00-10:00 am

Ministers of Swing 10:00-11:15 am

SLY Activity Calendar

DECEMBER

- 1..... Regular SLY am Schedule;
Tree Lighting 7-7:45pm;
NO EVENING SLY ACTIVITIES
- 3..... HR Breakfast Club 6:30-7am,
Einstein's Bagels
- 4..... Arapahoe Breakfast Club 7-7:15am,
Einstein's Bagels across from AHS
WNL and The World's Most Dangerous
Bible Study 5:30pm-7:15pm
- 8..... Regular SLY am Schedule; Wild Lights!
At the Denver City Zoo, 6-9pm
- 10..... HR Breakfast Club 6:30-7am,
Einstein's Bagels
- 11..... Arapahoe Breakfast Club 7-7:15am,
Einstein's Bagels across from AHS
WNL Children's Christmas Musical;
NO WMDBS.
- 15..... Christmas Cantata. NO Youth Sunday
School. SLY 5-8pm;
Christmas Video Scavenger Hunt!!!
- 17..... HR Breakfast Club 6:30-7am, Einstein's
Bagels
- 18..... Arapahoe Breakfast Club 7-7:15am,
Einstein's Bagels across from AHS
WNL and The World's Most Dangerous
Bible Study 5:30pm-7pm;
Family Advent Service 7pm
- 22..... Regular SLY AM Schedule.
SLY Christmas Party and White
Elephant Gift Exchange, 6-8:30pm.
- 24..... Christmas Eve Services, 3, 5, 7 & 10pm.
- 25..... Merry Christmas!!!
- 29..... Regular SLY am Schedule (subject to
change); NO Evening SLY activities.
- 31..... Happy New Year's Eve!!

Regular SLY Sunday Schedule

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| 9:30 am | Sunday School 7th-12th grades |
| 11 am | Friends in Faith Class with Linda |
| 5 pm | Joy-Full Noyz Youth Choir |
| 6 pm | Youth Dinner |
| 6:30-8 pm | SLY Evening Fellowship |

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

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

Beth DeBonis: 303-791-0659 x19
beth@stlukeshr.com

* SLY - a place to grow, love, pray and laugh *

Dear Youth:

Happy New Year, and a Blessed Advent to you! No, I didn't get it backwards. November 24th was Christ the King Sunday which is the new year in the Christian Calendar followed by the season of Advent. Though every store in the mall would have you believe that Christmas began in October, it doesn't really begin until December 25th and lasts 12 days. So for those of you who were jealous that your Jewish friends received a present for each of the seven days of Hanukkah, tell your parents that in the Christian tradition you are supposed to get a gift for each of the 12 days of Christmas, plus an Epiphany gift! *Practical things you learn in church.*

During this Advent season, though, we will be preparing for the birth of Christ with several fun, and traditional SLY activities including the **Xmas Video Scavenger Hunt** (I promise not to sing if I am holding the camera this year) and the **White Elephant Gift Exchange and Christmas Party**. Also this year, we will be going to **Wild Lights!** at the Denver City Zoo. Make sure you take note of the time changes listed in this calendar for those events.

Coming up in January, we will resume **SLY evening activities** on the 12th and the **World's Most Dangerous Bible Study** on the 15th after the Christmas break. We will be going to the **Stock Show** on January 19th to support our youth participating in that event, and maybe buy a pig or other large animal as our SLY mascot (*just making sure you are reading this*). There will be **Swing Lessons** again for beginners and intermediates beginning on the 23rd, leading up to the **Sweetheart Dinner Dance** on February 14th. And of course, our **Superbowl Party** on January 26.

There are many other events coming up in the Winter and Spring, like a **Senior High Winter Mission Trip**, a **SLY Ski Retreat**, **Youth Quest**, **Up with Youth**, **Youth Sunday**, **Confirmation**, and a whole host of wonderful and exciting activities and events guaranteed to lift the spirit, challenge the mind, impress your friends, fit in the palm of your hand, and be a riotous good time! Watch the mail for your winter calendar and newsletter.

By the way, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Grace and Peace,



Aaron J. Shipman
Dir. Of Youth Ministries

Getting in to the Holiday Spirit



*Sunday, Dec. 1st:
Aaron preaching and
Tree Lighting
Ceremony*

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 together toward full humanity through living the teachings of Christ: Love, Acceptance, Justice and Hope.

Sunday Worship Services

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

Sunday School Classes

9:30 am & 11:00 am - Adult, Youth & Children's Classes
Nursery available for all services.

Ministers

All people of St. Luke's.

Staff

Dr. Richard Evans.....Senior Minister - ext. 13
Rev. Fred Venable.....Minister (1/2 time) - ext. 12
Rev. Dave Money.....Minister (1/4 time) - ext. 33
Dalai Dy.....Missionary in Residence - ext. 19
Steve Riley.....Executive Administrator - ext. 22
Kristi Frush.....Director of Ministry Development - ext. 20
Bonnie Funk.....Church Secretary - ext. 10
Jim Ramsey.....Director of Music Ministries - ext. 23
Carrie Mallery.....Associate Director of Music Ministries - ext. 35
Aaron Shipman.....Director of Youth Ministry - ext. 14
Beth Debonis.....Associate Director of Youth Ministry - ext. 14
Jenita Rhodes.....Director of Children's Ministry - ext. 27
Lynne Butler.....Pre-school & Childcare Coordinator - ext. 11
Carole Sue Woodrich.....Financial Treasurer - ext. 49
Tammy Heister.....Financial Secretary - ext. 16
Kay Swanson.....Director of Little School - 303-791-1982

All articles for the FEBRUARY issue of **The Chronicle** are due

January 20th

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

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The Chronicle

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