

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 DEC./JAN. issue of *The Chronicle* are due

November 20th

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

Editor: Bob Oliver 303-791-7302

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**

Dick Evans: 303-683-6965

Fred Venable: 303-690-5759

Dave Money: 303-932-1035

Steve Riley: 303-887-4878



ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Chronicle

A NEWS & INFORMATION EXCHANGE FORUM

NOVEMBER 2002

Hanging of the Greens

**Saturday, November 30th
10:00am to noon**

A family event to decorate our church home for the holidays. Kids 4 to 14 are invited to help decorate our Sunday school classrooms and the open area (Goliath), make an ornament to decorate our tree and one to take home. We will, of course, be doing our life-sized nativity for the wall again this year. Don't miss out!

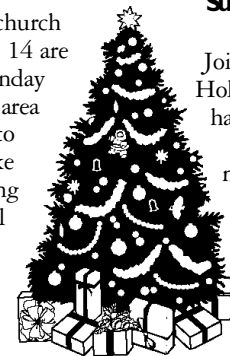
Parents, we ask that you volunteer this two-hour block of time either by decorating the main floor of the church or by helping with our festivities downstairs.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

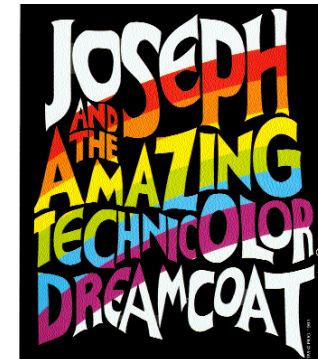
**Sunday, December 1st
6:30pm**

Join in the fun as we begin the Holiday Season (and celebrate our hard work from the day before.)

Several of St. Luke's amazing musical groups will be featured in the sanctuary before we gather around the tree, marvel in its beauty and sing a few carols. We ask each family to bring a generous plate of cookies to share following the ceremony.



Fall Festival



**Friday and Saturday
Nov. 15 & 16, 2002**

The Wesley Players are at it again! More than seventy members and constituents are joining together to put on the third annual weekend of dinner and theater with a production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. This talented team will entertain audience members of all ages with a melodious and energetic adaptation of the well-known Biblical tale of Joseph and his coat of many colors.

- 6:00pm Pre-Show Dinner in Fellowship Hall presented by the Cambodia Mission Team
- 7:00pm Sanctuary open for seating
- 7:30pm Performance

No tickets required for dinner or the show. Donation baskets will be available for free will offerings to benefit Drama Ministry and the Cambodia Mission Project.

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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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from Reverend Richard Evans

Making it Count

Numbers are symbols. Sometimes they don't have any real meaning beyond themselves; for example, 2+2=4. Sometimes they have real meaning—there is a story behind them. What story do you think is behind these numbers?

- 1. 955,729
- 2. 44,000
- 3. 1,225
- 4. 751
- 5. 20
- 6. 8
- 7. 1

- 1. Our budget for 2002.
- 2. Pounds of pumpkins we unloaded for the Pumpkin Patch.
- 3. Current number of St. Luke's members.
- 4. Number in church on Oct. 20, 2002.
- 5. St. Luke's anniversary next year.
- 6. Number in church one Sunday in October 1986.
- 7. \$1.00. The amount the "Tooth Fairy" gave Alyssa Gross, age six, Saturday night, which she gave to me on Sunday

morning. I asked her parents, Dan and Kathy, "Where'd she get the idea to do that?" "She came up with it on her own." "Did she say why she wanted to do that?" "She said, 'Because maybe someone didn't have any money, and needed help.'" Alyssa saw the church, St. Luke's, as the place to give her dollar. All of it. And she wanted to give it to me in person.

That reminded me of Jesus' story in Mark 12:42-44. "A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

That dollar from Alyssa was a gift in many ways. What would you do if you got a dollar from the "Tooth Fairy"? And why?

Shalom,

Dick



Forty-seven bibles were presented to 3rd graders during services on Oct. 20th. Over 60 bibles total will be handed out as others pick them up in Sunday School. If we missed anyone, please contact Jenita.



Prayer Chain

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

- Aaron Shipman's mother, Alicia Rieddy;
- Kathy Mossmans friend, Lisa Santos;
- Grace McCurdy;
- Ed Law's sister, Linda, and cousin, Sandi;
- Oby Nuoke's mother, Abigail;
- Sherry Merrill's friend,
- Bette Askeland and family;
- Bobbi King's niece, Shari Neece;
- Kendra Lee's mother, Dorothy Olney;
- Dorothy Day;
- Pam Zajak's father, Gene Wlazik, and friend Dom Speranza;
- William Cronin;
- Ashley Schuett;
- Sharon Scholle;
- Sharon Scholle's friend, Earl Dedman;
- Kari Wangsness' friend, Candy Tenby;
- David Neckar's dad, Bill Neckar;
- Paul Gardner;
- A. J. Nadolsky;
- Coleen DeGroff's grandmother;
- Jim Ramsey;
- Tami Clement's mother, Betty Nelson;
- and Ann Scott.

We continue to pray for:

- Corina Hall's friend, Freddy Arch Page;
- Earl Lawrence's sister, Lee;
- Paul Zavacki's dad, Stan Zavacki; and
- Brittan Griffith.

We extend our prayers and sympathy to:

- Janet Fethke and family on the death of her mother;
- Charlie Reeder and family on the death of his wife, Nora;
- Bill Lee and family on the death of his grandmother, Irene Tanner;
- Bill and Sherry Carter and family on the death of their granddaughter, Kimberly Lynn Carter;
- Pam Zajak and family on the death of their friend, David Morrey; and
- Olivia Murrow and family on the death of their friend, Breanna Hatfield.



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

- Kenny and Suzanne Sharp on the birth of their daughter, Lauren Elizabeth on 8-27-02;
- Greg and Kerry Lucero on the birth of their daughter, Nicole May on 8-29-02;
- Jed and Linda Walker on the birth of their son, Silas Walker on 9-2-02; and
- Peter and Shamina Fletcher on the birth of their son, Benjamin Semmler Fletcher on 10-4-02.

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

SLY Activity Calendar

NOVEMBER

- 3..... Regular SLY am Schedule; District Youth Worship at Grace UMC 7-9pm, SLY will lead the prayer service
- 5..... HR Breakfast Club 6:30-7am, Einstein's Bagels
- 6..... Arapahoe Breakfast Club 7-7:15am, Einstein's Bagels across from AHS WNL and The World's Most Dangerous Bible Study 5:30-7:15pm
- 8-10..... Youth Leadership Conference in Estes Park; registration details will be announced at SLY and on the SLYline.
- 10..... Regular SLY AM Schedule; NO EVENING SLY ACTIVITIES
- 12..... HR Breakfast Club 6:30-7am, Einstein's Bagels
- 13..... Arapahoe Breakfast Club 7-7:15am, Einstein's Bagels across from AHS WNL and The World's Most Dangerous Bible Study 5:30-7:15pm
- 15/16..... Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat; Dinner 6pm and performance 7:30pm
- 17..... Regular SLY Schedule
- 19..... HR Breakfast Club 6:30-7am, Einstein's Bagels
- 20..... Arapahoe Breakfast Club 7-7:15am, Einstein's Bagels across from AHS WNL and The World's Most Dangerous Bible Study 5:30-7:15pm
- 24..... Regular SLY AM Schedule; Food for All at Park Hill UMC 1-6pm
- 26..... HR Breakfast Club 6:30-7am, Einstein's Bagels
- 27..... Arapahoe Breakfast Club 7-7:15am, Einstein's Bagels across from AHS WNL but NO World's Most Dangerous Bible Study
- 28..... HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!
- 30..... Hanging of the Greens (Decorating for Christmas), 8am-noon.

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. Regular SLY PM Schedule; Christmas Video Scavenger Hunt!!!

Regular SLY Sunday Schedule

- 9:30am Sunday School
- 11:00am Friends in Faith Class with Linda
- 5pm Joy-Full Noyz Youth Choir
- 6pm Youth Dinner
- 6:30-8pm SLY Evening Fellowship

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

Dear Youth:

By the time you receive this, the Pumpkin Patch will be over, but I am expecting it to have been a great success. The only way the Pumpkin Patch ever succeeds is by the hard work of people like you. I would like to thank everyone now who has volunteered to unload, sell, and manage the Pumpkin Patch 2002. I would like to send out a special thanks to the Pumpkin Patch committee for pulling everything together for the initial order to arranging staffing. I want to give an extra special thank you to Jerry, Terry, Kristen and Kelsi Hertzler for all their hard and untiring work above the call of duty; to Mike Ramsett for faithfully counting the money, keeping our books accurate, and making daily deposits; and to each and every youth who has given up their Fall Break and other free time to be here selling pumpkins. Remember that the funds raised from the Pumpkin Patch are what enable us to participate in mission here and around the world and these funds are what will make it possible for us to attend Youth 2003 in Knoxville, Tennessee in July.

Coming up this month:

District Youth Worship on November 3rd at Grace UMC. We will lead the prayer time for this service. It was a wonderful, Spirit filled event last month, and now we have the opportunity to lead other youth in prayer and praise.

YLC in Estes Park will be November 8-10. Registrations will have been due by the time you receive this, but you can still go if there is room. The cost is \$100 (regularly \$150). Contact Beth DeBonis at x19 if you are interested. CALENDAR CHANGE: There will NOT be SLY on November 10!!!

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat November 15 & 16. There will be a dinner at 6pm and the performance will be at 7:30pm. There are many youth involved in this production so please come out and support them. Information is available by calling Jim Ramsey at (303)791-0659 x23.

Food For All is November 24. The calendar currently says Regular SLY Schedule, but that is because our calendar was printed prior to the Food For All information being sent out. For those who do not know, this is a Denver Metro Area youth program to provide Thanksgiving baskets to needy families through Denver Urban Ministries. NOTE the time change: 1pm-6pm.

Please check your calendar for other dates and the SLYline (303)791-0659 x45 for updates and further information.

Grace and Peace,

Aaron Shipman

Dir. Of Youth Ministries



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



Music Notes: Something for Everyone!

St. Luke's Orchestra: We're looking for a few instrumentalists to play in the annual Christmas Cantata on December 15. If you play any stringed instrument, clarinet, oboe, bassoon or French horn and would like participate in a wonderful ensemble and have a great musical experience, please contact Jim at 303-791-0659 x23. We'll begin practices on Saturday mornings in mid November but please call ASAP.

Christmas Season Musical Events

] Children's]
Christmas Musical

**Wednesday
December 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.

Annual Christmas Cantata
] Agnus Dei]
Lamb of God, Born to Us

**Sunday
December 15, 2002
9:30 & 11:00am services**

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. Come and enjoy the traditional and contemporary sounds of Christmas.

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.



Prism Concert was a Huge Success!!!

A big thank you to all who came out Oct. 5th and enjoyed a wonderful evening of music, both classical and contemporary. We raised a very much needed \$900 for the music program! I'd also like to thank everyone who gave so much of their valuable time to make this a great concert: Marge Harper, Carl Fitch, Erik Wangsness, Dave Rhodes, Glenn Harm, Ray Godsey, Linda Moore, Ruth Smith, Randy Smith, Kari Wangsness, Lisé Takayama, Jon Takayama, Chris Richards, Alan Mallery, Joe Heath, Kay Coryell, Ed Coryell, Janet Harm, Stuart Goldman, Elizabeth Bauer, Stephanie Roth, Linda Harris, Scott Schafer, Brandon Rapp, John Harper (sound) and especially Carrie Mallery for the many hours of organizing and accompanying the various ensembles and solos. BLESSINGS TO ALL!!!

- Jim Ramsey

If you weren't able to make the concert but would like to make a donation to the music program, please either contact Jim or Carrie at 303-791-0659 x23.



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 Wangsness

Ministers of Swing

James Ramsey

Cherub's Choir

Stacey Baird

Children's Choir

Kay Coryell

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 8:45-9:30am
Joy-Full Noyz Youth Choir
5:00-7:00pm

Tuesday

Tintinabulators Handbell Choir
7:00-8:30 pm

Wednesday

Cherub's Choir 6:15-7:00pm
Kidz Prayz I 6:15-7:15pm
Kidz Prayz II 6:15-7:15pm
Sonrise Band 7:30-9:00pm

Thursday

Women of Note 6:30-7:30pm
Chancel Choir 7:30-9:00pm

Saturday

Flute Ensemble 8:00-9:00am
Brass Ensemble 9:00-10:00am
Ministers of Swing 10:00-11:15am



Welcome! New Members: Sept./Oct. 2002

Mark and Veronique Birkholz
284 W. Willowick Circle
Highlands Ranch
(Christine and Nicholas)

Bill and Kelly Hess
10435 S. Brookhollow Circle
Highlands Ranch
(Jackson and Robby)

Tim and Sherry Crowley
1534 E. Arrowhead Road
Highlands Ranch
(Matthew and Madalyn)

Ken and Francine Ferguson
9763 Clandan Court
Parker

Walter and Pauline Havens
1402 Northcrest Drive
Highlands Ranch

Nicole and John Greene
4190 Timber Hollow Loop
Castle Rock

Angela and Trevor Holbrook
10498 South Hollyhock Court
Highlands Ranch

Sandy Hutchinson
9491 S. Joyce Lane
Highlands Ranch

Kathleen and Jack Kennedy
2268 W. Ashwood Lane
Highlands Ranch



Beth DeBonis, Associate Youth Minister

By Jennifer Jiang

The newest addition to St. Luke's staff is the Associate Youth Minister Beth DeBonis. Beth Was Born in Missouri but raised in Tulsa Oklahoma. She left OK to attend college at Arizona State University where she completed her BA in Elementary Education. While in Arizona she also met her husband Jonathan, a New Jersey native. After getting married in August of 1995, the two moved to Sacramento California. Beth taught 1st grade for two years there and Jonathan worked for Maytag. Beth and Jonathan's hearts were in Colorado so they quit their jobs in 1998 and decided to move to Boulder. God was watching over them as they took this leap of faith to follow their hearts. The gentleman that had Jonathan's position in Colorado quit, so the company offered him the job. While in Boulder, Beth was a literacy resource teacher for one year. Beth now has two boys, David (3) born in June of 1999 and Daniel (19 mo.) born in March of 2001.

Beth and Jonathan moved to the Highlands Ranch area in June of 1999 and began looking for a new church home. After the first Sunday of visiting St. Luke's they knew this was the church for them. Beth began volunteering with SLY and really enjoyed their energy, spirit, and talent. When the position of Assoc. Youth Minister came up Dick, Steve, and Aaron all three independently came up with the idea that Beth would be the best candidate and approached her with the position.

As the Associate Youth Minister, Beth works with Aaron to coordinate programs for the youth of St. Luke's. They provide opportunities for the young people to experience a positive Community of Faith, with a strong emphasis on both community and faith. One current example of how this is put into action is the pumpkin patch and the fall festival. Beth specifically works with the 7th-8th graders or Jr. High youth. After general planning with Aaron, she tailors the programs to be sure they are age appropriate for her Jr.

Highers. Beth also teaches the 7-8 grade Sunday school classes. She Created a Youth Center down stairs from an old storage room. It now has couches, some game tables, and is a great spot for the jr. higher to call their own. Beth's goal in this position is "to provide opportunities for the youth to be Invitational to others and be invited as well. To develop relationships and have opportunities to be missional by serving others." They have also begun a program that will provide each youth with a one on one mentor in a specific area of interest. One of her visions for the church includes organizing a young adult program.

BETH DEBONIS - TIDBITS

- Joined St Luke's in: December 2000
- Favorite Colors: Green and Blue
- She and her family enjoy the great outdoors, hiking, fishing, and nature in general, and Colorado is a great place for this.
- Pet Peeve: gum on the bottom of her shoe
- If you could have dinner with anyone, who would it be? "Jesus."

A Great Chance For You To Be Missional

The "energy line" at St. Luke's is perfect:
• Invitational, you're invited, you are here.
• Relational, you've found your home.
• Missional, you find your service.

Missional does not have to be an interest in Cambodia or Africa. It can be a service here, local, "in house," immediate, "before your very eyes."

I'm talking about ushering. If you're looking for your passion, your mission, I'm suggesting you consider ushering.

Currently, more ushers are needed at all three services. If you are friendly, and can show it, ushering is a perfect Missional effort for you. Yes, we'll have training for you. And the current schedule is to usher for one month, three times a year. Usher for one month, then take three months off. Easy.

Call Ken Whitelam (303-795-6042), or me, Fred Venable, (303-791-0659 x12), or the church office (303-791-0659).

Fall Frolics at Little School



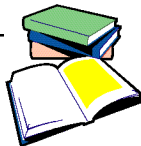
Little School has had a wonderful start to their new year and have really been blessed with outstanding weather to play on our playground! The halls are decked with fall leaves, pumpkins and scarecrows. The children are learning all about the changing of God's seasons and are watching as animals prepare for winter. Halloween is always a fun time with a pumpkin decorating contest, costume parade and fun parties. Ms. Laura our music teacher, has been tickling us with many silly songs for fall, Halloween and Turkey time. We started our new Chapel time once a month upstairs with Aaron, Pastor Dick and Jenita, talking to us about the church and fall. In November Ms. Joy (Damsgard) will be joining us for Chapel time on a regular basis!

November is a special time at Little School to reach out to others with our annual food drive and Thanksgiving feasts. The pilgrims and native Americans will join together to celebrate our many blessings. We always stuff ourselves with turkey and all the trimmings! We like to spend a lot of time thanking God for all the wonderful things he does for us!

Little School is blessed with many wonderful children and we love to show off our school to visitors. If anyone has a talent or profession that the children would like to learn about please let us know! If you love to read to children, and miss your grandkids, come and read to our kiddos—they love to have visitors!

Have a Blessed fall and know that we are truly THANKFUL for your prayers and support!

Lovingly,
Ms. Kay ☺



The winners of the Fall Festival drawing sponsored by the Faith Harder Memorial Library were:

Keith Newby - *The Fellowship of the Ring and The Two Towers*

Justine Cunningham - *Veggie Tales Jonah Book and CD*



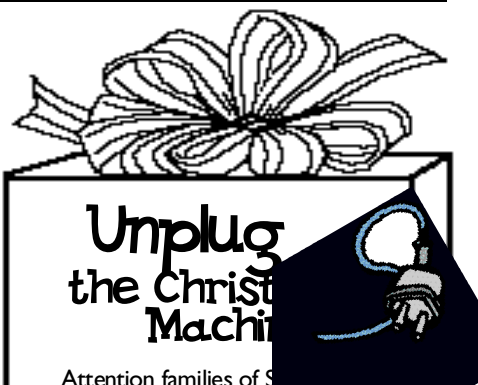
UMW made 160 pies on Sat., Oct. 12! It was fun and all the incredible volunteers worked very hard. All proceeds will be going to local charities such as the Douglas County Women's Crisis Center and St. Paul's parish food bank. UMW would like to thank all who purchased pies for such great causes.



St. Luke's UMW Children's Holiday Shop is Saturday, December 14th from 8:00am to 2:00 pm. Our holiday shop provides a Christmas shopping experience for children up to age 12. They can purchase gifts for mom, dad, sisters, brothers, grandparents, teachers, and other. They can avoid mall shopping and get great gifts at discounted prices. \$0.50 to \$5.00 per gift. Adult volunteers will help the children with shopping and will wrap their gifts while they wait. Adult Volunteers are needed to help set up on Friday December 13th from 9:00 am to Noon. Also, adult volunteers are need to help on Saturday either 8 to 11am or 11am to 2pm. If you would like to volunteer please call Laurie Belmear at 303-471-9575.



St. Luke's Annual Candlelight Dinner is Thursday, December 5th at 6:00 pm. We cordially invite all women and young ladies of St. Luke's to join us for a magical evening of fun and fellowship. A gourmet dinner will be served. Leigh Ramsey will be presenting a motivation program along with music from the Women of Note. Ticket's are \$15 per person and include a gift for everyone attending. Tickets are available to purchase November 3rd- 24th following each service. Childcare is available. For more information, please call Marcia Enger at 303-471-7463.



Attention families of St. Luke's UMW invites you to come, relax and hear an inspiring speaker on how to tame the hectic Christmas season. Does thinking about the upcoming holiday season make you feel overwhelmed? Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, Nov. 19th, 7:00-8:30pm** in fellowship hall. Child care is available upon request.

Do your family a favor and "Unplug the Christmas Machine!" Based on the popular book by Jo Robinson and Jean Staeheli, this interactive workshop helps families reduce their stress and increase the enjoyment of this important event. Participants will examine current holiday traditions and roles, define Christmas values and combine new insights with working traditions to develop a plan for a joyous and simplified holiday season.

If you have any questions, please call Mandy Fortier at 303-346-9508.

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!

Nov. 6 & Nov. 20: 6:15-7:15pm- Discussion, Sharing, Listening & Learning

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



Kristin and Hans Wangsness check out the new hallway mural downstairs. Kristine Johnson from *Art For You* was the artist.

You belong in this picture!

You are invited to be a part of the Children's Ministry Planning Group. Come to a special dinner Dec. 3rd at 6:30pm to celebrate the successes of the past year. RSVP to Jenita or Lynne.



nursery news

Our Caregiver of the month for November is Donna Trunz.

Donna works Sunday and Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. She is very passionate about the children and it shows in how she cares for them. She is also a very talented jewelry designer and makes beautiful pieces. St. Luke's is blessed to have such a wonderful person working in the Nursery. Thank you to everyone who has made reservations.

It has really helped in scheduling our Caregivers! 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

Little Peak's first rotation "Joseph and his coat of many colors" has come to an end. For Celebration Sunday, October 20th, the kids had a great time watching a video about Joseph. Our next rotation is about how we can all help others. Special thanks to Maria Fox for developing a fantastic curriculum for this four week rotation.

Come be a part of Sunday School and help teach!

It is really easy and you will receive all of the necessary instructions. The only requirement is a love of children and a willingness to help. Please consider helping to make a difference in the lives of our littlest children and volunteer to teach. We have an immediate need for teachers for the 11:00 classes. Contact Lynne at ext. 11 or email at lynne@stlukeshr.com.



Children's Ministries Update

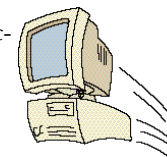
PEAK up-date: Our new Sunday school program using the Workshop Rotational Model has completed its first Rotation 1 featuring Joseph, living in a land of Many Colors. If your child has been attending, ask them a question, any question, about Joseph and they will probably know the answer. But watch out! They may throw a question back at you that you won't be able to answer!

Rotation 2 began Oct. 27 and is about Stewardship. Using the Parable of the Talents and the story of the Widow's Mite, we will visit the Art, Drama, Game and Bible Knowledge (which isn't as boring as it sounds) workshops. We will learn that God is the light of the world and that His light can shine through us, how to see our talents and use them in mission, that we need to risk using our talents for God and that God's love helps us open our eyes to see the opportunity for treating others who are in need. There is always an opportunity for kids (climbers) and adults (rangers and guides) to join in.

We need several teachers for the December - Advent Rotation and the January/February Miracles of Jesus Rotation. Call Jenita to find out how!

Our mission project is collecting small toys, books, school supplies, toiletries and hard candy for Operation Christmas Child. Look for the collection boxes for the different age and gender groups located in the downstairs open areas (David and Goliath).

The PEAK program is very successful, but we have one disappointment. The donated computers were unable to support the software needed to use in our lessons. Our DREAM is to assemble a Computer Workshop with ten (10) new computers. It would cost an estimated \$6,000 to complete. Our HOPE is that the members of St. Luke's would each invest a small amount toward this goal. Our third rotation does use a Computer Workshop and will begin December 1st. Send your checks marked computers to the church office and help our DREAM come true.



The "Lay"test News: The Wesleyan Tradition

A Message from our Lay Leaders

- By Monty Hoffman

Methodism is not a doctrinal denomination, but a non-confessing denomination. That means that there is not a set of doctrines that you have to agree to become a Methodist. This bothers some people because they are looking for more clarity in doctrine, but tolerance of differences is a fundamental part of Methodism.

Rather than using doctrine to establish what it means to be a Methodist, we have a guide to how to live our lives and how to develop our own beliefs. This guidance is called the Wesleyan Tradition, after the founder of Methodism, John Wesley. I would like to take the next several months of this column to talk about that tradition and how it has helped me in my life and in my faith.

Let me start out by saying that I have a lot of admiration for John Wesley. I identify with him because he was a flawed person who, in spite of these imperfections, felt God's presence in his life anyway. I identify with him because he did not instantly feel that presence, but struggled with his faith for many years before he felt Christ's redemption in his life. I identify with him because when he did feel God's presence, he felt that it meant that God loved all people, not that God felt he was special.

Why aren't we strongly doctrinal? Because Wesley started out trying to use a doctrinal and rigid approach to establish a relationship with God. He kept lists of what he should and shouldn't do and graded himself on them daily. Despite this dedicated effort, he felt only failure in his efforts. It was through living a faithful life and inviting God's Grace into his life that Wesley finally felt a personal relationship with God through Christ.

Next month: Faith and Grace

St. Luke's Takes Flight

Over 50 people participated in the Roots and Wings workshop on Saturday, October 26th. The participants got a first hand account from Charter member Dave Cupp on St. Luke's beginning 20 years ago. Rev. Dick Evans and Monty Hoffman spoke about the early financial struggles St. Luke's faced and how faith and hope played a large part in overcoming those struggles. Leigh Ramsey led a thoughtful worship experience focusing on spiritual discernment. Martha Boon and Yvonne Amrine provided overviews of the structure and resources that have been developed. And Carl Cleveland took the group through planning exercises to move us into our future. The workshop left those attending revitalized and ready to move into the future with confidence.



Kelly Kates, Choreographer

By Leigh Ramsey

The *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* production team includes familiar faces Jim Ramsey (Music Director), Dave Laurvick (Artistic Director), Mark Moore and Leigh Ramsey

(Producers). But who is that brave and talented woman teaching all those crazy dance numbers? That's Kelly Kates, Choreographer. Since early September, Kelly has worked tirelessly to teach the cast almost twenty dance numbers and we thought you'd like to know more about our fearless and ever-smiling dance leader...

Kelly works full time for Littleton Public Schools where she is in her tenth year as a social worker for Options. Options is the alternative high school program for Littleton Public Schools, serving approximately 170 students at-risk for dropping out. Kelly provides leadership for the Options Student Council and Outward Bound camping trips in addition to sharing her musical and dancing talents. She directs the show choir, teaches a jazz and swing dance class, choreographs for the show choirs at Lenski Elementary and teaches a jazz dance class for girls in grades two through five.



An active performer in the local theater community, you may have seen Kelly perform with the Town Hall Arts Center, Main Street Players, South Suburban Theatre Company or Morrison Theatre Company with favorite roles in *A Chorus Line*, *The Taffetas*, *A Little Night Music*, *The Fantasticks*, *Nunsense* and *They're Playing Our Song*. Typically, Kelly is involved in 5 or 6 shows a year and although she started as strictly a performer, her talents quickly offered her opportunities to choreograph, assistant direct and now produce. She is producing her first show *Meet Me in St. Louis* this November for Town Hall, where she is also on the Board of Directors. Also look for Kelly at the spring 2003 production of *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*.



Kelly and her husband David came to Littleton 11 years ago, when David Kates started as Director of Music Ministries at Littleton UMC. And, after seeing Dick Evans at rehearsal recently she said "it took me a minute to recognize him with his new 'Grizzly Adams' look!" Kelly loves to sing in the church choir but one of her favorite activities has been as sponsor of the youth mission trips to New Orleans, Toronto and Chicago for "Habitat for Humanity." She also traveled to El Salvador in August 2001 to participate in a blitz build as part of an adult mission team from LUMC.

"St. Luke's has been a wonderful and welcoming group with which to work—and I especially appreciate all of the hard work, patience and persistence the men have demonstrated while learning their dance numbers" said Kelly. St. Luke's Wesley Players are the fortunate ones, it has been a pleasure working with Kelly and we can't thank her enough for being an integral member of the *Joseph* production team. We appreciate the time, talents, and gifts that you've shared with us—we couldn't have done it without you!



Olivia Pauline Murrow
has a new heart
and a new life

“

received by the grace of God
on June 4, 2002
at The Children's Hospital
Denver.

Olivia requests no gifts please,
but asks you to register your
family as organ donors.

Thanks so much to the entire church for your incredible support during Olivia's illness. We are so pleased to report that the blood drive in Olivia's name was the largest that Bonfils has ever had for one person! There were 58 people who gave blood and 12 of those gave plasma or platelets, which is a 2 hour commitment. We are very thrilled that Olivia inspired so many to give blood in her name. We are so amazed by the generosity and the prayers and support from our St. Luke's family.

Blessings to you,

- Dave, Julia, Olivia
& Natalie Murrow

Crafters needed to cut and assemble felt nativity sets for the preschool Sunday school classrooms. Contact Jenita ext. 27 or Lynne ext. 11.

Sharing Love at Christmas—Beyond the Giving Tree

By Betsy Keyack



This year at Christmastime, St. Luke’s will again have Christmas Giving Trees for families helped by Interfaith Community Services and for teenagers at Urban Peak. As in previous years, the trees will have “gift tags” for each recipient, specifying their age and gift suggestions.

Then, come one and all! On Friday, December 13, from 6:30-9:00pm, you and your family can see firsthand all the joy that St. Luke’s brings to people in the Denver area by participating in our first “Giving Tree Gift Sort.” After the people of St. Luke’s have generously purchased items from the tags on the Giving Trees, the gifts need to be sorted and organized for each recipient family. You’ll be amazed at the tremendous generosity of our church family and inspired as you imagine how the simplest gifts will have so much meaning for the recipients. Bring the kids—they’ll learn about the people they’re helping and will experience the real meaning of the season.

This will be a festive event, too, with hot chocolate, goodies and singing of Christmas carols. Babysitting will be provided for children under five, if desired. So mark your calendars now for Sharing Love at Christmas—Beyond the Giving Tree!

Sugar Cane, Hurricanes, Nail Clippers, and Shrimp Creole

By Betsy Keyack

In early October, Laurie Gilbert and I went on a mission trip to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. UMCOR provides relief to victims of natural and human-caused disasters, helps refugees and sponsors projects to address root causes of hunger. The UMCOR Depot is a huge warehouse that accepts, stores and ships relief supplies to people in the US and all over the world.

Baldwin, Louisiana is a small town of about 3000 people two hours away from New Orleans. Baldwin is in the heart of sugar cane country and is a poor town, with a typical income of \$12,000 per year. The UMCOR Depot was built in response to Hurricane Andrew in 1992. It sits on land owned by the United Methodist Church and previously used by the church for the Sager-Brown school.

When Laurie and I arrived in Baldwin, the area had just been through Hurricane Lili. Many people were still without electricity and clean water. We helped distribute bottled water, ice and food to local people. These necessities were provided by FEMA and the Red Cross. The Depot also provided shelter to people whose homes were damaged in the storm.

The local residents were so friendly and eager to share their stories. One family had a house that was built 8 feet off the ground on stilts and it still had 1 foot of water in it. Another woman, who evacuated with her husband and daughter during the storm, talked about getting “really restless” in a hotel room 200 miles away. There was much concern about the hurricane’s effect on the sugar cane fields, which were in harvesting season.

Laurie and I also participated in the work of processing relief supplies at the Depot. We inspected and packaged donated health kits and sewing kits, to be sent to people all over the world. We found that some of the health kits were missing the correct nail clippers/files so one of our accomplishments was to find 400 nail files and 100 clippers at Walmart and the Dollar Store.

To date in 2002, UMCOR had shipped 70,704 health kits, 7,244 flood buckets, 5,319 sewing kits, 10,767 school kits and many other items. Recipients included people in Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Brazil, Armenia, Georgia (Eastern Europe) and Azerbaijan. Last year, shipments were also sent to countries such as Serbia, Angola and El Salvador. The Depot currently had orders for 35,000 health kits with more pending. So we felt were really helping people by packaging the kits!

Like many mission trips, this one was filled with fun and fellowship. We enjoyed the delightful company of the Depot staff and 13 energetic and humorous volunteers from the Rocky Mountain region (all retirees except Laurie!). We experienced Cajun music, dancing, history and food. It was tremendously rewarding to talk with (and hug) the people who live in and near Baldwin and we learned a tremendous amount about UMCOR.

Think Turkeys, Yams, Cranberry Sauce and Stuffing!

Thank you to all who have been bringing food to church for Denver Urban Ministries (DenUM) and Interfaith. The needs are year round as many people struggle to feed their families.



Thanksgiving is just around the corner! As we thank God for our families, friends, food and shelter, Thanksgiving provides us a special opportunity to remember families who don’t have enough to eat.

On Sunday, November 24, St. Luke’s will have a Thanksgiving food drive for DenUM and Interfaith. You can bring any non-perishable food items or diapers to the church service and place them up in the front. Giving ideas include peas, cranberry sauce, yams, soup, stuffing, other vegetables, baked beans, desserts or grocery certificates for turkey or ham.

So remember to bring food on November 24 - this is one good way to celebrate Thanksgiving!

Mission Trips in 2003

If you considering taking a mission trip in 2003, here are three possibilities:

- 1) Betsy Keyack is working with Dennis Becker on a trip to **Poland** in June or August,2003.The trip would involve working with children in either a Day Camp or Vacation Bible School setting. Please contact Betsy Keyack (303-346-7057) if you would like to attend an informational meeting.
- 2) The Rocky Mountain Conference is organizing a mission trip to **Kenya**, March 8-22, 2003.This is part of an ongoing relationship that the Conference has with the United Methodist Church in Kenya.Donna Hite Krieg (303-296-1337) at the Conference office is the trip leader.
- 3) Health Care Volunteers are needed in many countries.This is a great opportunity for health care professionals to share their expertise with people who don’t have access to good medical care. In fact, you could go on a **Health Care mission trip** without actually being a doctor or nurse. Holly Ludlam (719-634-5576) is the person to contact about these trips.



Corner Taking Shape

By Sandi Miyaki

Many thanks go out to our SLY and others who generously volunteered their time and talents towards our Fall Clean-up. We accomplished a number of tasks that we’ve had on our list for some time, we truly appreciate your support of our church home. Speaking of completing some terrific projects, 2002 has been a bountiful year for us. We saw the completion of our new elevator, a much improved back yard and overall landscaping, a new parking lot, expanded children’s playground, and many smaller projects. Take a good look around, this place is really taking shape!

As we continue to grow as a church home, we’re seeing larger demands on the physical structure and grounds. As a result, we’re seeking support in the way of handy-man/custodial services. The jobs range from very small to more demanding tasks. Many can be completed in only a couple of hours. For more details either check with Ken Fong directly at (303) 346-7057 or email: kfong@att.net or Bonnie Funk in the office during any weekday.

The trustees have decided to sponsor special commemorative bricks for the patio in celebration of St. Luke’s 20th anniversary. These will include a special design and be offered for sale starting at \$50, and can be ordered in the fellowship hall before or after services each Sunday.

As always, we’re continuing to be mindful of our expense management as we close 2002. Larger categories include water, insurance, trash removal, and janitorial services. We realize this has been a challenging year for you as well, and appreciate your continuing contributions towards our building and grounds obligations. Thank You!

•••••
• The Children’s Christmas Eve •
• Service at 3:00 on Monday, Dec. 24 •
• is a service especially for our •
• youngsters or those young at heart. •
• We are looking for adults with ideas •
• and a willingness to work with our •
• children in planning and presenting of •
• this service. Please call Jenita Rhodes •
• ext. 27 to offer your talents. •
•••••

Search For Abundance

By Rev. Fred Venable

The Stewardship Team assigned me the subject of “Abundance” for this article. A short meaning of ‘abundant’ would be “more than enough,” and ‘abundance’ would be “having more than enough.” Abundance is a word currently heard in some religious circles, United Methodism usually not being one of them.

You’ll hear about abundance on ‘religious’ television especially on Pentecostal programs. I know two evangelists whose only message is abundance. Their idea is that you ‘plant a seed,’ that is, you send them money, and God will bless you with abundance. The fault with that is that God is made the guarantor of their idea. The evangelist obligates God. The other arena where you hear abundance is in New Thought and psychological ‘self-help’ style religion. Abundance there is achieved through a positive mental attitude. Holding a picture in your mind of your next car, your new home, brings it into reality. There is truth in both of these approaches, but not the whole truth in either. You plant a seed, yes, but not with the attitude that “now God must come through.” God doesn’t work mechanically. And, yes, a mental and spiritual attitude is effective, but there is no automatic lock with specific results. I believe in abundance, and I believe we all ought to believe in abundance, but abundance is not just more money, or a newer car, or a bigger home.

True abundance is material, but also emotional, and spiritual. Abundance means we’ll have “more than enough” of whatever we need, but we don’t always know “what we need.” Want? Probably. But need? Doubtful. Who knows whether we need more money, or a newer car, or a bigger home? Our need may be to take better care of what we’ve got. Did you ever get a healthy raise, say 10%, and then three months later wonder where it went? Somehow the needs and wants also took a 10% jump, so the raise disappeared. Suddenly, you were wishing for another 10% raise. Your level of abundance did not increase; you still were not “having more than enough.” One thing you can be sure of, our American culture is not about abundance, it is about “wanting more,” striving for abundance rather than having it. It is a trap, and a constant temptation.

Okay, is there anything such as abundance? Certainly. Very much so. But the key to it is elusive. People miss it because they are like the overweight guy who needed to lose forty pounds. He said, “I’ve tried everything, all the pills, all the cures, all the plans. I’ve tried it all except, of course, diet and exercise.” He had missed the essential ingredients entirely.

Abundance hides just on the other side of the arena where we do our soul struggle with God. If that struggle resolves with our submitting our entire lives to God, abundance, in many forms, begins to flourish. It may not, and probably won’t, quickly result in a new Lexus, but you will find new life, and discover that the Lexus isn’t that needful or desirable after all.

My personal witness to you is that I have abundance materially, emotionally, spiritually. My only thought about retirement planning was, “I can’t think about that,” and I didn’t, honest. I had no idea what retirement would look like until three months before it began, again, honest. Financial planning was something I never could get into. And yet, last year I had the most money income ever in my life. And beside that, I have something to do. I don’t have to get up every day and play golf, or whatever one’s fantasy of retirement is. I have a job I love, and why I get paid for it I don’t know, it just happens. I have abundance, more than enough, and I believe it is connected with God, and Jesus who said, “I have come that you might have life, and have it abundantly.”

I did do one financial thing, however. I was converted to Christ on May 25, 1947. I immediately became a tither, and have been one ever since. And my percentage of giving now is the highest it has ever been, as is the total amount. That is just a suggestion leading toward abundance that you might consider.