

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

Sunday Worship Services

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

Sunday School Classes

9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. – Adult, Youth & Children's Classes

Nursery available for all services.

Staff

- Rev. Janet Forbes Senior Pastor - ext. 13
- Rev. Fred Venable Associate Pastor - ext. 12
- Rev. Dave Money Associate Pastor - ext. 33
- Pam Rowley Pastoral Care Ministry- ext. 32
- Bonnie Funk Administrative Assistant - ext. 10
- Tammy Heister Financial Secretary - ext. 16
- Carole Sue Woodrich Financial Treasurer - ext. 49
- Jenita Rhodes Director of Children's Ministry - ext. 27
- Lynne Butler Pre-School & Childcare Coordinator - ext. 11
- Kay Swanson Director of Little School - 303-791-1982
- Lynda Fickling Director of Membership Ministry - ext. 20
- Jim Ramsey Director of Music Ministries - ext. 23
- Carrie Mallery Associate Director of Music - ext. 35
- Kay Coryell Assistant Director of Music - ext. 43
- Chris Wilterdink Youth Minister - ext. 14
- Martha Boon Youth Ministry Coordinator - ext. 19
- Terri Beecher Data Base & Special Projects - ext. 22
- Dan Kuhl Facilities/Custodian - ext. 44
- Childcare Reservation Line ext. 47

All articles, photos and notices for the MARCH issue of *The Chronicle* are due

FEBRUARY 15

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

chronicle@stlukeshr.com

Editor: Jack Kennedy 303-927-6221

PHONE / E-MAIL / WEB SITE

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www.StLukesHR.com

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Janet Forbes: 303-241-9312

Dave Money: 303-932-1035

Pam. Rowley: 720-348-1528



The Chronicle

Trustee's Corner

Now that you've hung your new calendar for 2005, please mark these three dates for our half day Work Days! We'll begin at 8 and complete by noon on:

February 19 -- focus on interior clean up tasks.

June 4 -- primarily exterior landscape clean-up and a few interior tasks

August 27 -- clean-up before our fall kick-off celebration

No matter what the weather, we gather on these dates to swarm projects needing attention. We truly appreciate volunteers of all ages and capabilities as there's always tasks we can find for individuals, families and teams!

In the meantime, we're working on smaller weekly projects we can really use help with as well. If you have packed weekend dates full of various activities, but have limited availability on week days -- maybe all or part of one day for example, please contact Ken Fong via e-mail kfong@worldnet.att.net or phone Dan Kuhl on 303.791.0659 x 44.

These projects range from painting to cleaning to working our own 'honey do's' we creatively refer to as Work Orders, and you're most welcome for all or part of these days. For example, this past Wednesday 4 of us worked together painting the entryway and cleaned it in time for Wednesday Night Live! Take a look!

Lastly, we're interested in your ideas for our own kind of "Adopt-A-Room" volunteers. Using this approach we're hoping to establish ownership for maintaining smaller defined areas under the oversight of the Trustees. This process will help us to stay well connected with easily maintained finishes that complement each other and hopefully keep from overwhelming any one of our small groups.

Please forward your ideas from your team leader to Karen Meade directly for inclusion in our planning process via e-mail at kmeade7890@msn.com.

Thank you for including St. Luke's in your plans for 2005! Happy New Year!

Service Opportunities

Prayerfully consider your part in St. Luke's!

Prayer Chain: The prayer chain supports our church family through a prayer ministry. Requests for prayer are phoned in, e-mailed from the website (www.stlukeshr.com) then sent to you via e-mail or mail. Please contact: Lynda Fickling at 303-791-0659x20, lynda@stlukeshr.com.

Caring Connection: The Caring Connection provides support to members of St. Luke's and the surrounding community by making companion visits, taking meals to families in need running errands or providing transportation. Please contact: Patti Speedy 303-470-2945, mark.speedy@comcast.net or Jill Jasper 303-471-1421, jilljasper3@hotmail.com.

Communications Team: We invite you to explore your creativity and technical skills while helping St. Luke's stay connected. We support staff and ministry teams to communicate their events, classes, missions, worship service and stewardship to St. Luke's and the community at large. Through writing, desktop publishing, web development, graphics, marketing and public relations, they continually make the invitation to get involved in activities that keep Christ at the center of our lives. Please contact Lisa Hajek 303-471-0705, jlhajek@aol.com

Chronicle Stuffers: Once a month come in and help stuff and prepare for mailing, our church newsletter! Lot's of social time! Contact Bonnie 303-791-0659x10 or bonnie@stlukeshr.com

Welcome Team: Drop off our "Welcome Tote bags" to our regular guests of St. Luke's. Be inviting and welcoming at the same time. A wonderful example of Invitational, Relational and Missional (IRM). Will be visiting people in your area, a few times a month. Contact Lynda@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659x20

Pancake breakfast successful

What a success the January 9 Pancake Breakfast was! The Women of St. Luke's made \$660 and it all goes to the Fellowship Hall redecorating fund!

Many thanks to the Men of St. Luke's who cooked all that wonderful food! Leftovers were sent to St. Paul.

The redecorating of the Fellowship Hall is in full swing! Look forward to new paint, new carpet and new artwork--the goal is to be complete by Palm Sunday!

Discernment 101 begins in March

...let each of you lead the life... to which God called you (1 Cor.7:17).

God loves each one of us, beckoning us into a relationship that is personal, intimate, and faithful. How can we hear that call? How can we help each other hear God's voice and follow where God leads? Discernment 101 explores the themes of call, discernment and community as they relate to each other.

This 8 week class, co facilitated by Leigh Ramsey, Sallie Suby-Long and Kendra Lee, will begin Sunday, March 6th 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. room location TBD.

If you are interested in joining the class please contact Leigh Ramsey at Lramz7@msn.com or 303.904.9951

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The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Message from our Senior Pastor, Rev. Janet Forbes



Music & Drama Calendar of Events

Dance Class

Tuesdays in February from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Bring a partner or come single, all are invited to learn swing, two step, fox trot and more. Steve and Cathy Collins will teach us for the 4 to 5 week time frame. They have taught hundreds of people to dance... successfully! Come and have some serious fun and learn a new step or two.

Women of Note Concert

Join the Women of Note in Concert on February 13th at 7:30. Proceeds from this concert benefit the Women of St. Luke's effort to "spruce" up the church. A desert social will be featured after the concert. Come and have a great time and support the Women of Note and the Women of St. Luke's!

Dinner Dance

March 5th from 6:00 - 9:30ish. Come and have a great time dancing the night away. Listen to your favorite old and new tunes and swing, two step or fox trot with the Ministers of Swing. A special meal will be prepared by our one and only Paul Shea (our amazing Jesus Christ Superstar chef). Tickets are \$15 for dinner and dance and \$10 for the dance and will be available in the Narthex and in the office by February 13th.

The Melodrama Returns to St. Luke's!

Pure as the Driven Snow - On March 11th and 12th at 7:30pm, St. Luke's will perform it's first melodrama in many years. Have a great time booing and hissing and cheering during this timeless classic show. Dinner will be served on Friday night as part of the show. Come one, come all and have a great time!

Other upcoming events:

April 16 at 7:30 - Ken Mervine - Organ Recital

April 27 at 7:00 - Wednesday Nite Live Concert!

May 7 at 7:30 - Jazz at St. Luke's

Membership

We will be offering the following dates for our "Next Step" class. Lunch with Rev. Forbes is included. Please select the class you would like to attend and call Lynda Fickling for a reservation 303-791-0659 ext 20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com

Sunday, Feb. 13, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Membership Ceremony on Sun. Feb. 27

*Wed., March 16, 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Membership Ceremony on Sun. March 20

Sunday, April 10, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Membership Ceremony on Sun. April 24

Sunday, May 15, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Membership Ceremony on Sun. May 22

Childcare is available with a reservation, call 303-791-0659 x47.



Travel to the Holy Land this November

Rev. Janet Forbes and Bob Davis will be leading a 10-day educational tour/spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land (Israel and Palestine), leaving on Monday, November 7, 2005. Janet and Bob have traveled with Educational Opportunities Tours to the Holy Land several times and trust their assurances of safety. Holy Land tourism worldwide has returned to near record levels.

This journey of a lifetime includes round trip airfare from Denver to Tel Aviv, deluxe motor coaches and guided sightseeing to the major biblical/archeological sites in the Galilee, Nazareth, Megiddo, Caesarea, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, and Qumran. Lodging is in first-class hotels in Tiberius and Jerusalem with full Israeli breakfast buffets and dinners each day.

The educational theme of the tour is "Jesus: His Life, His Time, His Land, His Hebrew Faith". The evening Lecture Series by biblical scholars includes Jerusalem in the Time of Jesus, Jesus' Ministry in the Galilee, Impact of the Galilee on Jesus, and Geography

and Its Impact on the Bible.

Highlights of the trip will include Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Museum; Masada (King Herod's mountaintop fortress overlooking the Dead Sea); the opportunity to renew baptism in the Jordan River, a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee, and a "float" in the salty Dead Sea.

Janet and Bob will be hosting three information gatherings: Wednesday, February 2 at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday, February 5 at 10:00 a.m., and Monday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.

You may view an itinerary at eo.travelwithus.com. Click on the links to the Classic Holy Land Tours. You may register on-line or pick up a Registration Form in the church office. The tour host is Rev. Janet Forbes. The tour number is 31780.

In September, Janet will offer a class on the "The Geography, Politics, and Religions of the Middle East" to review how the issues of land, spirituality, and relationships continue to shape the Holy Land today as Christianity, Judaism, and Islam intersect.

Communication the key to getting involved!

If you would like to know what is happening at St. Luke's first, make sure we have your e-mail address! We send out weekly news items and urgent news to the congregation via our broadcast news-e-mails. Send your e-mail address to lynda@stlukeshr.com and we will hook you up!

Nametags... yes, NAMETAGS!

In order for us to be a community, to really be St. Luke's, we should put a larger effort on

being relational. Please remember to wear your nametag. Not only will it help Rev. Janet (!), it will help all of us to become more relational with one another.

Please take a moment prior to the service and search for that nametag. There will be sign-up sheets hanging for you to request one or for a replacement. They will be organized in alphabetical order, so please help to maintain them that way. Thank you for participating! And remember that together we can be a relational community!

Lynda Fickling
Director of Membership Ministry

South Asia Earthquake and Tidal Waves

Please visit www.umcor.org for further information.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief has issued an urgent appeal for donations to assist thousands of Southeast and Southern Asians survivors of one of the most devastating earthquakes and series of tidal waves in recorded history.

UMCOR will be working with partner church-related and other humanitarian agencies in providing food, clean water, shelter, and sanitary services in a broadband of nations from Asia to Africa. Virtually all of the Indian Ocean area was affected by the December 26 earthquake that set off tsunamis (tidal waves) of massive size and force.

If you would like to give towards effort, please give to Advance #274305 and designate "South Asia Emergency" on the memo line of your check. Give through your local United Methodist church or mail contributions to: UMCOR, 475 Riverside Dr., Room 330, New York, NY 10115. You can also call 1-800-554-8583 to make a credit card donation. One hundred percent of your gift goes to relief and recovery efforts.

Please contact Dale or Kathy Balu, 303-683-8325 if you have questions.

Mission to Guatemala leaves in March

St. Luke's is sponsoring a missions team to Guatemala in early March. Team members will participate in an ongoing building project. In addition to the construction, we will be teaching bible school to about 500 children in the village.

As always, we need your prayers and you help with supplies and handouts for the children and their families. We are collecting boxes of 8 Crayola crayons, Tylenol, multi-vitamins, toothbrushes and toothpaste. We will have a collection box labeled "Guatemala" near the missions table in the fellowship hall.

Thank for your generosity and help with this project.

Christmas thank you

My sincere thank you to all the nice people at St. Luke's for coming to the Gardens at Columbine to sing Christmas carols to me. It just made my Christmas so bright, and also thank you for the pretzels and the beautiful lap robe you gave me.

What a treat to have people think of you and do such nice things. I appreciate the visits from people at St. Luke's also.

Edith Brewer
(Sharon Scholles's mother)

WNO (Women's Night Out)

Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

2/28~ *Boston's (Highlands Ranch) -

St. Luke's fund-raising month at Boston's!

3/21~Celtic Crossing (Castle Pines Parkway)

4/18~ Rio Grande Mexican (Park Meadows Entertainment District)

5/23~California Cafe (Park Meadows)

??Please call Lynda 303-791-0659x20

Bon Appetite!

SLY

Chris' Corner

"I can't pay for that!" – Youth and parents alike have concerns about money.

Often, we refer to times as tight when we are forced to make difficult decisions in our lives that have far reaching effects on our family because money (or the lack of it) becomes the over-riding force in our days, becoming the value against which all choices are measured. A difficult situation to be sure, but a situation that should never invade ministry. Money should never affect how welcome a person feels in the body of Christ, and likewise money should not force someone to choose what activities they can act of ministry they can participate in.

Christians began by worshiping in caves! (Very low-rent worship space...) The good news spread across nations by word of mouth, preaching, dedication and faith; four things that don't cost a dime! In the beginning it didn't cost you a thing to participate in ministry, and SLY does offer many programs that allow youth to participate in ministry without having to worry about the earth-bound concept of money; however there are some larger events that youth do pay for. I wish everything that our ministry did could allow freedom from money in ministry, but in my time here I have met several youth and families that feel like they have to make choices about participating in youth ministry because of monetary issues.

Retreats, Mission Trips, and other fellowship activities should be available to any youth who wants to participate in them! Currently, there is no account set up to provide financial support for youth that wish to participate in a youth ministry activity but cannot afford it. Therefore, I am establishing a Youth Scholarship Fund that any youth can have access to at any time to help subsidize the cost of any

particular youth trip. The only catch is, there is no money in this fund as of yet. Several fund-raisers will launch in the months ahead to fill this fund, and open youth ministry opportunities to all interested youth, regardless of financial status.

FLOCKING and eating at Boston's Pizza are two ways you can currently support the youth scholarship fund. During the whole month of February, you can eat at Boston's Gourmet Pizza and St. Luke's will get 15% of the total spent by St. Luke's members back at the end of the month! All you have to do is go in, order your favorite pizza, salad, pasta, or entrée, tell them from your St. Luke's UMC and they'll take care of the rest. Your server will stamp your receipt at the end of your meal, and they'll donate 15% back to us at the end of the month.

FLOCKING, while it doesn't feed you, will allow you to cover anybody's yard you want with 50 bright-pink plastic flamingos. For a suggested donation of \$20, 4 St. Luke's Youth will spread the flock of flamingos by night, and the next morning the household will wake up to a yard full of pink. Then, the flocked family can call to have them removed, or give a donation and return the favor! Who wouldn't want to wake up and see 50 flamingos? Please help us fill the youth scholarship fund, our preliminary goal is to raise \$5,000 by the end of the school year in May. So think about a different kind of tight, not the tight that means just enough money to get by, but think about it as an acronym borrowed from this year's YouthQuest Jr High Retreat. Together In God's Holy Trinity, let us become TIGHT in the family of God by making youth ministry opportunities available for all. So FLOCK away and fill your tummies for a good cause.

*In Christ,
Chris Wilterdink*

February SLY Calendar

2 SLAM – Groundhog Day
5 Jr High Ski Day @ Loveland
6 SLY AM Worship
SLY PM SuperBowl Party
9 Ash Wednesday (No SLAM/BS)
13 Regular SLY AM Regular SLY PM
16 SLAM – Apollo 13
18-20 Sr High Ski Retreat
@ Steamboat Springs
20 Regular SLY AM Regular SLY PM
23 SLAM – Princess Bride Serious BS
27 Regular SLY AM Regular SLY PM

Eat at Boston's Gourmet Pizza and raise money for the youth scholarship fund. Go order, eat, and tell your server that you go to St. Luke's UMC and they will return 15% of your total bill to St. Luke's! An easy way to raise money for the Youth Scholarship Fund while filling your stomach!

Your chance to Rent-A-Youth is coming up during the Taste of Guatemala Dinner & Auction! Youth will be available for any number of services including babysitting, yard care, snow shoveling, general house labor, pet sitting, and a host of others. All money donated for the youth rental will go toward the 2005 Youth Mission Trips to Wichita Falls, TX and Caguas, PR.

District Wide Super Bowl Party here at St. Luke's! Feb 6 for SLY PM the district comes to party with us and watch the Super Bowl on our fabulous big screens from kick-off to game end.

YOUTHQUEST is a huge event sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Conference for grades 6 – 8. This year, the theme is TIGHT: Together In God's Holy Ministry. The cost is \$135 per person, and you need to register by Feb 6. The registration forms are blue brochures, and are located between the pop machines downstairs.

FLOCKING has begun! Fill out a form, add a donation, and drop your request in the FLOCK BOX to prank one of your friends with 50 flamingos. The FLOCK BOX will be located just outside the Sanctuary doors.

Sr. High Ski Retreat – Feb 18 – 20 at Steamboat Springs still has a few openings left! This is a customizable adventure! \$40 will buy you lodging, food, transport, and admission to the hot springs... the rest is up to you! Choose from skiing, snowboarding, snowshoe hikes, x-country skiing, or a sleigh ride. Contact Chris for spot availability.

Jr High Mission Trip – Full Service will travel to Whispers of Hope Horsefarm in Wichita Falls, TX from June 5 – 12. Trip cost is \$150 per youth. Applications are available downstairs between the pop machines. This year you need two recommendations! They are bright orange and also on the wall.

Sr High Mission Trip – Mission Definition will fly to Caguas, Puerto Rico from July 9 – 17. Trip cost is \$700 per youth. Applications are available downstairs between the pop machines. This year you need two recommendations! They are bright orange and also on the wall.

Lots of Love from Little School

February is the month of Love
And we know that we are blessed from above
Our children certainly touch our hearts
We fall in love from the very start!

REGISTRATION is DUE at this time
Circle the 4th of FEB and you'll be fine!
Please don't be sad and miss the date
Because you may be grumpy if you are late!

Our school will be filled with white, red and pink
Surely it's Valentine's day, don't you think?
We'll pass out lots of love from me to you
And everyone will like the fun things we will do.

February we learn about winter and where animals go
Some of them sleep because they don't like snow!
We see Mr. Groundhog peek out of his home
Will it be spring or winter when we roam?

Everyone gets excited because Spring will be here
Then the days will be sunny and full of cheer
So come and visit and see what we do
And hopefully next year your child will be here TOO!

Blessings, Ms. Kay and Staff

Kristina's Nuggets of Wisdom from the Nursery

As we enter 2005, I've been seeing more and more of those smiling faces on Sunday mornings. It is always a pleasure to get that hug from that special child I don't see all week. We are blessed at St. Luke's to have you share your child(ren) with us each and every Sunday morning.

Please remember to always bring a diaper bag with a spare drink, no snacks please, and a few diapers. If anyone has a child who has recently turned into a big girl/boy, we are always looking for those large diapers that they no longer need.

Thanks for all your support and we'll see you on Sunday.

Kristina Linn, Nursery and Childcare

Planning a Baptism?

Please call Bonnie at 303-791-0659, ext 10
in the church office to schedule a date.



St. Luke's Mommy and Me Playgroup Invites you.....

Friday, Feb. 11th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Aiden's Valentine's Party

Beth will provide construction paper, crayons, glue sticks, and markers for each child to create his/her own Valentine to share with someone special. Please bring a child appropriate snack to share! No allergens (nuts, etc.) It's sure to be a sweetheart of a good time!! Directions:

From C470 west, exit Wadsworth and go south about 4 miles, turn left on Waterton Road. At stoplight, go right on Rampart and go just under 2 miles. Turn right on Blue Mesa Drive, then right on Blue Mesa Lane, we are 4th house on the right. 6962 Blue Mesa Ln Apprx. 20 mins. from St. Luke's, Beth's Number: 303.471.5696

Call if you pass the golf course-you've gone too far!

Friday, Feb. 25th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Freddy's Little People Parade of Wheels Pop a wheelie! It's time to hit the road for a pint-sized caravan. Join us with your favorite toy-sized vehicle (Fisher Price or otherwise). We'll join our own Little People for a Discovery Town Traffic Jam!! Zoom on over by car, train, boat, plane, mini-van, truck, bike, van, bus, tractor, carriage, or buggy. We'll have our wheels in motion while we zoom away the morning! Directions: From St. Luke's, go south on Broadway past HR Pkwy and Lucent. Turn Right onto Winterthur. Wind almost a mile to the "T". Turn Left onto English Sparrow. Yvonne's home is the 3rd on the left. #635 English Sparrow Trail. (303) 791-4035

Contact Erika Brimberry at (303) 470-5752 for more information regarding playgroups.

We currently have groups for newborns (0-6mo.), 6mo.-18 mo., and 3½ to 5 yrs. olds.

Photos courtesy
of the Department of Defense



Message of hope from our bishop



Dear United Methodist Pastors and Members:

"In my distress I cry to the Lord, that he may answer me."-Psalm 120:1

"You are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."-Psalm 23:4b

In the twinkling of an eye, walls of water swept tens of thousands of our sisters and brothers in South Asia, Southeast Asia and Africa to their deaths. Some firsthand observers recall that the onrushing torrent looked like smoke, so quickly did it move and so high in the trees. A third of the dead may be children. Millions of people are destitute.

Now the long recovery has begun. Thanks to the generosity of big hearted people-United Methodists in the United States as well as people in the affected regions and persons of all faiths-aid is moving into place in nearly a dozen stricken countries. The emergency aid includes medicines and health camps, temporary shelters, food, and clothing such as saris and dhotas.

Rapid measures are possible because of cash donations to many relief and humanitarian agencies, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

The outpouring of response deeply moves me and other members of the United Methodist Council of Bishops. The bishops are profoundly grateful to our church members who have heard cries of distress on the other side of the world and responded with action. UMCOR dispatched \$750,000 in aid in the first week, and there is more to come.

Another important contribution is your gift of your trust in a sound relief process. UMCOR is listening closely to our ecumenical partners and to communities most affected by the disaster in planning long-range efforts. We are notably interested in ministries that fill the gaps in humanitarian response. UMCOR's strength is in finding those who are or may be missed, identifying the services that will assist over-stressed providers, and in respecting the strengths and the capacity of the local people to manage their own recovery.

We thank you for the generosity of your donations by phone, on the Internet, and in special Sunday offerings. We urge congregations that have not received an offering for tsunami relief to prayerfully consider the possibility. The needs for renewal and restoration in the vast areas swept over by the tsunamis will be acute for a long time in the future. UMCOR is evaluating the roles it can play in reconstruction. A delegation visited Indonesian sites January 12-16. Staff was on the way to Sri Lanka that same week. Their observations and recommendations will help us determine a long-term strategy for the region. Your persistence in giving and your heartfelt prayer for these colleagues will be important sources of support as we enter this future work.

Soon the tsunami story will move off of page one, out of the 24/7 television news spotlight, perhaps out of the consciousness of many of us as the next news takes its place. But the beauty of The United Methodist Church is that it has always found the resources to stay the course. UMCOR will be there, assisting in whatever way it can for years to come. That is how we do things. We have the patience to abide with the most vulnerable.

On March 6 our church will have an opportunity to underscore both emergency assistance and patience in the long haul, this United Methodist gift of bearing witness away from the spotlight. On that date, our congregations will receive the annual One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering supports the administrative costs of our humanitarian mission. Our stewardship in this offering makes it possible for every single dollar of your gifts designated for the tsunami emergency to reach the people whose lives changed on December 26.

Again, thank you for your gifts of money, trust, and ability to abide so that cries of distress do not go unheard. Thank you for your generous hearts. Thank you for strengthening survivors and aid workers alike with your gifts of ceaseless prayer in the Lenten season ahead.

Yours in Christ,

*Warner H. Brown, Jr.
Resident Bishop*

Insight into an African mission sponsored by St. Luke's

This is a letter from a young woman, Janine Roberts, who we've decided to sponsor out of Missions.

She's working out of Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, a UM Mission we visited in 1997.

We've been connected with this mission since we left and hope to revisit sometime in the future. I'm forwarding my portion of the e-mail letter as well, in hopes others will visit her site and can see the pictures and connect with Janine.

Laurie,

It was so great to talk with you last week. Thank you for all your church is doing for missions around the world. I have attached one of my past e-mail updates just so you get a feel for what goes on during our visits to the villages surrounding the mission. I will also send a second e-mail with pictures from ofoto.com and add you to my update list. That e-mail address is hopeofzim@yahoo.com so if you get something from there, it is me! I usually try to send two updates a month when I am in Zim.

Thank you so much for supporting the project-I know many children will benefit from the generosity of St. Luke's.

Hope you have a great week!

Janine

St. Luke's Prayer Concerns

Bob Abbott, Mark Brewer, Sharon Griffith, Audrey Stange, Maxine Bauer, James Wakefield, Gerry Wright, Norma Harris, Rex Cochran, Diana Carlet, Jacqueline Zgoda, Wendy Johnson, Madilyn Johnston, Carolyn Dean, Norma Arnold, John Murphy, Sylvia James, LouNell Olsen, Clarine Ransick, Cindy Wick, Jeff Patefield, Jackie Durban, Vickie Ferguson, Claude Stanley, Joe Forbes, Scott Maxwell, the Gibbons family, Nancy Rawls, Laura Winstanley, Goldie Avery, Eliza McIntosh, Joe Weiskittle, Fred & Marge Matthews, Phil Baumeyer, Fred Venable, Jean Wagner, Jack Stevenon, Olivia Murrow and Ashley Butler.

November 2004

I woke last night around 2AM with a melody running through my head that I couldn't quite identify. It was one of the Shona hymns the mothers sing sometimes for morning devotions, but I only new the first line.

After about half an hour, I gave up trying to fall back asleep, switched on my light, and began searching my hymnbook for the song. I finally found the one-;Jehova Mufudzi Wangu;" from Psalm 23: "The Lord is My Shepherd." I began singing the song quietly, and after a while there seemed to be something driving me to continue in my feeble attempt to memorize the long lists of syllables I could barely understand. When I finally drug myself out of bed at 6 AM I was exhausted, but the song was now mine.

I arrived to pick up Mai Chimbo and Mai Mashiri at 7AM sharp, and miraculously for African time, they were ready to go a mere 45 minutes later.

These two women have worked tirelessly as volunteers to make sure our resources go to the most needy orphans and caregivers on the farms nearby. We had sorted some used clothing given to us by the children's home and were now ready to start our round of visitation with a large box of the clothing and blankets in tow.

We first drove to check on a mother who is now bedridden to make sure her three young children were being well cared for by her relatives. We next visited Peplow Farm about 30 minutes away. Anesu needed checked in on to make sure he had been to the hospital. He is 5 and being taken care of by his adolescent sister.

Then there was Veronica who is now over 2 years old but hasn't had the strength in her legs to walk yet due to malnutrition. She has been receiving some nutritious porridge over the last few months and looked a lot healthier.

On our way back up the road, we needed to stop in and pay our respects to the aunt who had been taking care of a 2-year-old orphaned boy named Tadiwanashe. His picture was sent to you a few weeks ago in a green outfit. Church members came last Thursday

night to pray that the Lord would either take him or heal him because he was suffering so much.

Their prayers were answered as just a few hours later he passed away peacefully in the arms of his aunt. The aunt and uncle asked us if we wanted to see his grave and said they had buried him in the green ;Ssuit;" we had given to him (a little pair of pajamas).

While we were waiting for someone to take us, the aunt offered us some homemade bread baked on a fire outside. Just to provide a little comic relief to those of you who aren't me, I watched as she took the knife she had been using outside to cut up a CHICKEN, dipped it briefly in cold water and proceeded to cut my helping of the bread.

I also discovered she had a pretty serious chest cold as she coughed loudly into her hand and then picked up the bread and offered it to me with a big smile. What could I do? I prayed quickly for a stomach of iron and took a big bite.

A few minutes later, five of us were walking silently to the place where Tadiwa was buried a few days earlier. We stood solemnly side-by-side and were asked to sprinkle a small amount of dirt at the head of the grave. I later was told this act is usually reserved for family members, but the uncle said we had helped to take care of Tadiwa.

As he said it, I felt the heavy weight of responsibility for the young child-was there more we could have done? I soon realized that it was God who had control, and it was not about anything we did or did not do. Before we said a final prayer for Tadiwa, one of the women began singing in the most beautiful, almost haunting voice.

Where had I heard it before? It suddenly hit me. I smiled to myself as I joined in the singing ;"Jehova Mufudzi Wangu.;" It was the song the Lord had woken me up that morning to memorize so I could mourn with the others.

The Lord is our shepherd, and at that moment I knew we did not need to fear or doubt anything in this valley of physical death that was surrounding us.