



Highlands Ranch, Colorado

The CHRONICLE

August 2006

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Inside This Issue:

Education.....2,4,6,7
Church & Society.....3
Missions.....5
Children's Ministries.....8
Music & Drama.....9
SLY.....10
Financial Update.....11

and much more!

St. Luke's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament!



The date, **Friday Sept. 8th**, time, 1:30pm shotgun, and location, *Fossil Trace Golf Club*, have changed from last year but the format, fun and fund raising are all the same.

When St. Luke's set out to find a way to raise funds to pay for the new coach, after brainstorming much of the committee discovered that each enjoyed the game of golf. This decision then became very easy and our St. Luke's annual golf tournament was born.

Since the first year in 2004, the goal has always been to raise funds to pay for the bus. That first year there were 103 participants that helped to raise over \$6,000.00. In 2005 there were 88 participants with an \$8,000.00 goal. This year we hope to max our participation at 144 and hit our goal of \$15,000.00. So we hope that you will consider playing or if you are not a player, perhaps you will consider a sponsorship and/or volunteering during the event.

continued on page 3



Finding Hope in Mississippi

by Katie Van Horne

As an active teen at St. Luke's, I decided to accompany 52 members of my religious family down to Biloxi, Mississippi, on June 10th to help rebuild after last hurricane season. As cliché as it sounds, this trip changed me.

Although the trip only lasted a week and my small group only really assisted two homeowners, I know we made a world of difference.

The first moment of real emotional impact was driving through the Ninth Ward. This impoverished area of New Orleans has been dubbed the hardest hit area following Hurricane Katrina. The entire group was stunned by the damage. Just imagine an area the size of Highlands Ranch completely decimated. Absolutely everything mangled, broken, destroyed. We drove for miles and miles without seeing a single house or gas station or Wal-Mart rebuilt, or even an operating street light. At first it hurt to see those things. But eventually you stopped wanting to look, wanting to capture the destruction on film, wanting to decipher the spray-painted code polluting each home's exterior revealing how many dead bodies found, where, when, and who found them. Everyone was drained more from the drive than from the earlier day, touring the French Quarter in near-100 degree weather.

On the first work day, we helped uncover a fountain decorating a median along Biloxi's main ocean highway. I shook my head that morning as I rose at 6 AM, asking myself and my companions how shoveling sand would help the victims of the Hurricane. Why aren't we building a house or painting or raising money?

continued on page 10

FREE \$25 Grocery Certificate Giveaway!



Few things in life are free, but this one's for real: sign up to purchase grocery certificates via electronic funds transfer (EFT) and receive a free \$25 grocery certificate! Grocery certificates function just like cash. You purchase the certificates in \$10, \$25 or \$100 increments and spend them at either Albertson's, King Soopers, Safeway or Tony's Meats. St. Luke's receives 5% of all certificates sold. Last year, the program raised \$10,000 for St. Luke's out of \$200,000 in certificates sold. While these numbers may seem impressive, when you consider that only about 20 families regularly purchase grocery certificates, they seem less so. Just 20 out of over 700 families. **Imagine the benefits to St. Luke's if 50, 100 or 500 families signed up!** Since we all buy groceries, many of us spending hundreds of dollars per month, the grocery certificate program is a highly effective, no-hassle way to support St. Luke's. Money raised through the grocery certificate program goes into St. Luke's general fund. It has been used to purchase such things as the sanctuary screen, music for the choir and to support children's programs. Grocery certificates and EFT sign-up forms are available every Sunday in the Narthex and in the church office during weekday business hours.

Don't wait - sign up today!



St. Luke's very own AIDS Walk!

August 27, 9:30-11:00am (or so)

Did Don Messer get you fired up?

Want to do something to help the AIDS crisis?

Walk the greenbelts around the church or sponsor a walker to raise money for the UM Global AIDS Fund. Get details

from the Missions and Church & Society teams or Susan McIntosh, susanrmcintosh@yahoo.com

St. Luke's Annual Church Picnic!

Sunday, August 6, noon-2:00pm



Bring your picnic blanket along for a special Sunday with your St. Luke's family. Celebrate

the closing of summer and coming back together with your church

home friends. Hot dogs, hamburgers, old fashioned games, and how about some water balloons? **Please bring the**

following items to share if your last name ends with:

A-L: Dessert

M-Z: Side dish (salads, chips, etc.)

KICK-OFF SUNDAY and MINISTRY FAIR: SEPTEMBER 10th!

Sunday Worship Services:
8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

Sunday School:
(Adult, Youth & Children)
9:30am & 11:00am*
(*No Sunday School at 11:00am
for 1st-6th grade June 11-Sept. 3)
Nursery available for all services

Church Office: 303-791-0659
Fax: 303-470-5615
St. Luke's Youth.....x45
Childcare Reservations.....x47
Email: office@stlukeshr.com
Website: www.stlukeshr.com

Staff:

Rev. Janet Forbes.....x13
Senior Pastor
Emergency: 303-241-9312

Rev. Dave Money.....x33
Associate Pastor
Emergency: 303-932-1035

Rev. Pam Rowley.....x32
Pastoral Care
Emergency: 720-348-1528

James Ramsey.....x23
Director of Worship & Arts

Carrie Mallory.....x35
Associate Dir. of Music Ministry

Kay Coryell.....x43
Assistant Music Director

Chris Wilterdink.....x14
Director of Youth Ministry

Ann Smith.....x19
Assistant Youth Director

Jenita Rhodes.....x27
Director of Children's Ministry

Lynne Butler.....x11
Assistant Children's Ministry Director

Kristina Linn.....x40
Childcare Ministry

Lynda Fickling.....x20
Dir. of Membership Ministry

Bonnie Funk.....x10
Administrative Assistant

Dave Cupp.....x24
Director of Finance

Dan Kuhl.....x44
Facilities/Custodian

Kay Swanson...303-791-1982
Director of Little School

All articles, photos and
notices for the September
issue of *The Chronicle* are
due August 10th.

Editor:
Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

AUGUST WORSHIP SERIES: *Faith Formation over a Lifetime*

Early in my education for ministry, I studied the ways in which people grow and change in faith. These lenses are helpful as parents respond to the questions their children ask. These lenses are guides as adults plan for their own spiritual growth.

We do think about our faith. We form images, concepts, and doctrines to express the faith we have, to share it with one another in family circles and in worship, and to pass it on to others in teaching and story-telling. As one of the ancient maxims of the church puts it, "Faith seeks understanding." Faith, our experience of trust and loyalty is relation to God, seeks images and concepts that will express, within the limits of human reason, an understanding of this relationship.

The way we know God in faith is not different from the way we know other persons and objects in our lives. Knowing is a product of interacting. God is revealed as loving and merciful through the Bible, the sacraments, music and prayer, and other persons of faith. Knowing takes place when we use our reason to understand and express the significance of God's love and actions in our lives.

In other words, the knowledge of faith, what we believe, is not just something given in the form of doctrines, ecclesiastical, and parental pronouncements. Our minds do not receive the contents of our faith as a clean sheet of paper

receives the words from a printer. We develop differently and uniquely.

We all know that children will think about God in different ways at different ages, even through what we tell them about God is essentially the same. That's because their patterns of seeing and knowing the world (including God) change.

At every age there may be a firm grasp of the promises of God and responses of trust and loyalty, but how God is conceived will change as a person matures and the mind develops.

Our end-of-summer sermon series will begin to chart the changes in ways of thinking and knowing over a lifetime. We can distinguish faith patterns in their characteristic ways of believing, patterns that follow a sequence related to both age and experience.

July 30: Does God Have a Big Toe?
(Questions Preschoolers Ask!)

August 6: Superheroes and Sagas
(Learning the Story)

August 13: Belonging and Believing
(Your People Shall Be My People)

August 20: Owning my Own Faith
(The Season of Crisis)

August 27: The Map Does Not Define the Territory
(Aging Wisdom)

This series will help you to choose the experiences, classes, and conversations that you need to seek this fall in order to stimulate your formation in faith.

—Rev. Janet

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - IT'S FOR LIFE!

"I believe that next to loving God and our neighbors, the thing that God wants to see us do most is to grow. I don't know how we can do that without ongoing Christian education. The programs at St. Luke's are an excellent way to achieve that growth."

—Rev. Dave

Throughout this issue of *The Chronicle* you will learn more about what it means to teach, facilitate or be a student in one of the many, many educational opportunities at St. Luke's. Being a part of Christian Education can be one of the most fulfilling parts of your spiritual journey, throughout your life. As this issue goes to press, the Adult Education Team is meeting to put together the schedule of classes beginning this fall. Check out the class choices on Kick-Off Sunday, September 10th, at the Ministry Fair or for more information please contact Lynne Butler at x11 or lynne@stlukeshr.com. Below is just one of the many new class offerings:

Servants by Design

Wed. 6:30-8:00pm • Sept. 13-Nov. 1 • Cost: \$8.00 for Lifekeys workbook (optional \$16.00 for Lifekeys book)
Discover who you are... Why are YOU here? What do YOU do best? What are YOU passionate about? What do YOU value? What are YOUR priorities?

Lifekeys will help you begin your journey to a GodLife – God-centered living by discovering how you are designed to serve. We welcome all to this exciting class to discover your:

- Life gifts and spiritual gifts (What You do best!)
- Personality type and values (The places or atmospheres that give you the most energy)
- Passion (The purposes God placed in your heart.)

"In entering this journey of servanthood and becoming servants of Jesus, you will become deeply involved in spiritual community as you live and serve God-centered and others-focused ways." — Full Service by Siang-Yang Tan

All are welcome! To register: Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com
Class size is limited, sign up early!!

CHURCH AND SOCIETY

The Social Principles – The Economic Community

by Susan McIntosh

This is part of a series of articles to help members of the St. Luke's community learn a little more about the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church.

Over the past several months, I've given a brief overview of what the Social Principles are and summaries of the first few sections, the natural world, the nurturing community, and the social community. The last few sections take a broader view, looking first at the economic community, then the political and world communities.

So, how do we impact the economy in ways that reflect our Christian values? This section of the Social Principles makes it clear that we have responsibilities to God and to our fellow humans in areas of property ownership, work, poverty, and consumption. The sub-sections identify specific examples:

- Property - All property ownership should be considered a trusteeship from God.
- Collective Bargaining - Individuals have the right to unionize, and to collectively bargain for labor rights.
- Work and Leisure - Every person has the right to a job at a living wage (not just minimum wage), and persons must come before profits in business.
- Consumption - We can exercise our economic power to discourage human and ecological exploitation.
- Poverty - Ways must be found to more equitably share the resources of the world.
- Migrant workers - The people who harvest our fresh produce are often excluded from access to many social and economic benefits that we take for granted.
- Gambling - Because of the addictive nature, and often destructive results, of gambling, the United Methodist Church does not support this activity, even when used as a means to produce public revenue.
- Family Farms - As larger, corporate farms are responsible for more of the world's food, we need to remember the smaller, family-run farms, and ensure that their livelihood is not taken away.
- Corporate Responsibility - Christians in leadership in corporation have a responsibility to guide the corporation to behave in a Christian manner.
- Trade and Investment - Trade and investment arrangements must support the dignity of the human person, a clean environment and common humanity.

Earlier this summer, the two wealthiest Americans joined forces by pooling their money for charity. Warren Buffett contributed billions of dollars to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which will use

the money (paid out over several years) to combat issues such as AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. The contribution by Buffett, and the generosity of the Gates family, show how two powerful executives can turn their strength in the boardroom into comfort and aid for the most downtrodden and needy individuals.

With plans to provide micro-loans, the Gates Foundation doesn't intend to only hand out money, but to also use it as seed money for struggling small businesses.

I'm pretty certain that most of the families at St. Luke's don't

have a few billion dollars lying around that they can deposit into the charity of their choice. While this is one grand act of supporting a global economy in a Christian way, our own community of St. Luke's provides a number of examples of Christian fiscal management.

Some actions that we as United Methodists can take include:

- Continue our commitment to the Denver Homelessness Challenge.
- Use our buying power to speak to companies that don't support fair work practices, or ecologically careful practices.
- Buy fair trade items such as coffee and fruit - this designation indicates that the farmer will receive a reasonable amount of payment for the goods provided, and encourages a more sustainable economy in otherwise poor communities.
- Invest in companies that support the dignity of the individual and a clean environment.
- Encourage governments at all levels to protect the rights of small farmers, and migrant workers.
- Discourage the use of lotteries as a means of public revenue. The burden can be more evenly spread with other forms of taxation.
- Encourage your own company to do the right thing for its employees, customers, and shareholders.

Golf - continued from page 1

Fees: Adult \$135.00, Youth (17 and under) \$115.00
Space is limited. Entry Fee Includes: Lunch at 11:30am (provided by Boston's Pizzeria), 18 holes of golf, golf cart and practice balls, Fossil Trace gift pack, Prizes, Awards dinner banquet

Fun afternoon activities: These events are for the entire family: Silent Auction, Raffle give away, Putting contest

For more information: look and listen for announcements during Sunday services or you can contact any of the following individuals: Dean Conklin 720.987.6745, Scott Fickling 303.981.6234, Jim/Lisa Hajek 303.908.3191, Bert Stull 303.470.8046

WEBSITE

Visit stlukeshr.com

Our website, www.stlukeshr.com, offers many useful services. Available on the site are: a schedule of upcoming Sunday services, a copy of the weekly bulletin, email lists for various interest groups, online versions of *The Chronicle*, online nursery reservations, and many other valuable resources.

Two recently added features are an events calendar and podcasting. The purpose of the **events calendar** is to list all events for the next several months (with the exception of weekly meetings), so that you can know what events you'd like to participate in. The events calendar should also aid in scheduling new events that you may be planning. Events may be added to the calendar by any staff member, any member of the communications team, or by sending email to webmaster@stlukeshr.com.

We've also recently added **podcasting** of selected sermons. We've been posting the texts for most sermons for quite a while (not all sermons are posted, because references need to be cited). We have now made available mp3 versions of the recent sermon series "*Wrestling with Questions People Ask: How Do We Find Common Ground?*" You can listen to these sermons from our website, or you may access them from some of the popular podcasting sites, such as iTunes. If you have an iPod, you will have these sermons automatically downloaded. Please give us feedback on which additional sermons to post (text and/or mp3) on the website; direct comments to janet@stlukeshr.com or webmaster@stlukeshr.com.

TRUSTEES CORNER

Summer Projects Underway

by Sandi Miyaki

Fireworks already? Our summer at St. Luke's is passing quickly too – you may have noticed summer projects are underway. Our first big accomplishment has been to repair our parking lot. To stretch our dollars we're patching and re-sealing, but re-paving only where necessary. This is one example of how trustees work to manage both our budget and our capital improvements.

Shhhh... don't tell your kids, but our 'back to school' fall kick off Work Day is already scheduled for September 9th from 8:00am to noon. We're hoping to get lots of help so we can give a good clean and polish inside and out and be ready to welcome everyone back from their summer breaks on Kickoff Sunday, September 10! Please plan now to join us – we've got jobs for all ages, and can provide childcare if you send an email to kfong@att.net or call the office with your request before the end of August.

Thank you so much to our hard-working volunteers who regularly come in and address a repair or two from our work list – you make such a difference for all of us! You're such a blessing, we appreciate you more than words can describe!

We are Called to Serve

Serving Opportunities August 2006

Preparing for Fall!

"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." —2 Corinthians 9:7

Fellowship Events Team: What a fun team to be a part of! We are the inside catering team for all the social events at St. Luke's. Most recently we have help with the Mardi Gras dinner, Children's Theatre dinner, New Member Brunches. Coming in the fall, Annual Church Picnic, Ministry Fair, Drama Dinner (*The Sound of Music!*). If you have a passion for hospitality, serving, helps-please contact Trudy Turner 303-791-1078 or Lisa Lehnus 303-346-8114 lehnusl@yahoo.com **There are many hands needed to fill many needed tasks!**

Spiritual Gifts: Helps, Hospitality, Administration, Knowledge

Adult Education Team: This team's mission is to revitalize and expand the adult education offerings at St. Luke's. Meetings are held as needed and we are always open to new ideas for classes. Contact: Lynne Butler x11 or lynne@stlukeshr.com

Spiritual Gifts: Helps, Hospitality, Faith, Giving, Evangelism, Teaching, Wisdom, Knowledge, Administration

Dinners for 6,7 or 8: Seeking a team leader for this exciting ministry. Help organize two times a year by sending e-mails, participating in Ministry Fair and setting up the groups of folks who sign up. For more information, please contact Susan Richards at jaredsmom2@hotmail.com or 303-933-7316 or Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com

Help keep this fun ministry flowing!

Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Administration, Helps, Leadership

Guest Service Station: Offer a welcoming smile and simple directions. Serving one Sunday a month, 30 minutes prior to the service. Position is near the visitor center in the foyer. Contact lynda@stlukeshr.com 303-791-0659 x20

Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Helps, Evangelism



For current and future Ushers and Greeters: Hospitality Appreciation Breakfast & Workshop being held Saturday, Aug. 5th 8:30-10:30am

(childcare available w/reservations at x47)

Greeter Team: First impressions are lasting! We need you to welcome our family on Sundays with a warm smile and hello. Asked to serve one Sunday a month, 30 minutes prior to the start of service. May also serve during special events if you are available. Contact: Lisa Williams 303-683-7056 lisawilliams2@qwest.net or Karmie Hilleary 303-683-4696 karmie@comcast.net *Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Helps*

Usher Team: Assist in the Sunday worship and holidays, by welcoming those into the sanctuary and helping the service run smoothly. Usually rotate on a quarterly basis. Contact: Shawn Slade 303-660-6113 denverslade@msn.com or Dick Frame 303-791-4251 rframe5492@aol.com

Spiritual Gifts: Hospitality, Helps

As we list the Spiritual Gifts, you may have one or more than one in each area. For further information regarding your Spiritual Gifts/Passions contact Lynda Fickling lynda@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659 x20. Realize your potential for living a God-centered life! See article on page 2, "Servant by Design" Class starting Sept. 13th!

Week Ending June 30, 2006



Gerry Wright (Gail Abernathy's mother)
 Carolyn Dean
 Jeff Patefield
 Nancy Rawls (Betsy Keyack's sister)
 Deb Murphy (Little School mom)
 Erin Morgan (the Walter's family friend)
 Syd Harrison (friend of Brad Chase)
 Dorothy Lloyd (Sheri Shea's mother)
 Jack Taylor (Loree Kohr's friend)
 Bob Lanham (Ann & Jan Lanham's son/brother)
 Frances Boles (Tim Boles' mother)
 Lisa Maciejewski (Jennifer Jiang's sister)
 Erienne Romaine (Raap family friend)
 Marilyn Gaskin (Diane Whetson's friend)
 Karen Gumz (Sandy Thompson's friend)
 Wendy Walker (Sheri Shea's friend)
 Eileen Williams (John Williams' mother)
 Guillermo Rodriquez & family (Gail Abernathy's son-in-law)
 Edith Walters (Terry Walters' mother)
 Cindy Barlow
 Carol Eckberg (Kris Reif's mother)
 Margaret Hinchey (Kay Swanson's friend)
 Yvonne Schmidt (Laura Kuhl's mother)
 Sturgis Wetherington
 Jerry Heinz (Rachel Nolder's father-in-law)
 Bill Lee, Jr.
 Fumiyo Yamamoto (Jon Takayama's grandmother)
 Grant Larson
 Linda Kercheval (sister of Tony Palizzi)
 Susan Fritz (friend of Kay Swanson)
 Ursula Cherry (friend of Trudy Turner)
 Richard Vanderkooy (brother-in-law of Rick and Robin Fort)
 Janet Blatchford (friend of Samantha Leahy)
 Carol Anderson (friend of Shelly Bonjean)
 Jan Winter (friend of Jenny Stevenson)
 Alondra Picaco (co-worker of Jenny Stevenson)
 Shaun Van Dyke (Bobbi King's great nephew)
 Sherry Merrill
 Louis Pressel (Carolyn Warden's cousin)
 Kathy Eccles
 John Poole (friend of Joy Damsgard)

Chris Goldsberry
 Kris Kinney
 Ray Bobkowski (Ted Bobkowski's father)
 Lisa Bobkowski (Ted Bobkowski's mother)
 Jordan Harmon (Walter family friend)
 Lucas Ryskamp (former LS student)
 John Sudol (Joyce Carnes' cousin)
 Jan Dickson (Bobbi King's friend)
 Louise Cahill (Lynne Montagne's mother)
 Sam Eyer
 Marcy Glasser
 Jessie Meyer (friend of Gail Abernathy's)
 Marie & Maima Sehkar
 Dwight Griggs (Susan Hooke's father)
 Corky Strader (brother-in-law/uncle Miyaki family)
 Claudia Swanson
 Suzanne Ross (Tasia Matthew's teacher)
 Delores Gardner
 Dick DeWire (friend of Pat Ludwig)
 Jake Smith
 Maima Sekar
 Joey Miyaki
 Kim Friel (friend of Lynda Fickling)
 Grady Booch
 Sheryl Boucher (Caroline Merchant's aunt)
 Amy Curtis' sister, Kay
 Beth Turner
 Anne Schillo
 Pam Taylor
 Donna Duffy's father-Ace
 Al Bierman (Sandi Thompson's friend's husband)
 Walt Brewer
 Marcie Weeks (Jenita Rhodes friend)
 Glenn Turner
 Gordon Stokes (Sara Hankenson's uncle)
 Jake Smith
 Bette Kemman
 Julia Muse (Karin Weispfenning's friend)
 AJ Lorenzo
 Bob Hudson (friend of Bonnie Funk)
 Jenni Keefer (Mike Hutchins' daughter)
 Jackie Durban
 Barbara Barth
 Carol Abbott

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

"Faith In Action" Class to Start Sunday evening, Sept. 24

An exciting new class, "Faith in Action", will explore ways we can put our faith into action through book studies, discussion, field trips and projects. The class will be led by Betsy Keyack from the Missions Committee and Susan McIntosh from the Church and Society Committee. The first week we will explore how the Bible and Jesus urge us to put faith into action. Then we will have a four week study of the book by Rev. Donald Messer/Bob Dole/George McGovern entitled "Ending Hunger Now." Subsequent topics include the poverty and homelessness issues that Denver Urban Ministries is addressing; Global AIDS; and the United Methodist Social Principles. We will take scheduled field trips to the Colorado agencies that St. Luke's Missions supports and participate in missions and social justice action projects. This is a drop-in type of class – come whenever you would like and based on your interests. "Faith in Action" will be offered on Sunday evenings, from 6:30 to 7:45pm. Childcare will be available on request. Contact: Betsy Keyack, 303-346-7057, bkeyack@att.net.

MEMBERSHIP

CORRECTION: Last month The Chronicle neglected to print the name of the following new members. We apologize and welcome you!



Jack & Cathy Schufreider
(Daniel, Emily, Katie, Maggie)

"We enjoy the friendly, active atmosphere and our kids are interested in all of the youth activities. Thank you for being so inviting and encouraging!"

Next Step... Membership!

We will be offering our "Next Step" class **August 13th from 11am-2:30pm**. Enjoy lunch with new friends and family. *Childcare is available with reservations no later than 24 hrs prior to the class (303-791-0659 x47).* We welcome you to learn more about the Methodist faith, our various small groups and ministries, and begin or continue your faith journey with the family of St. Luke's. If you are interested in Membership at St. Luke's contact: Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20

To join in covenant with the family of St. Luke's is a promise to care for this community with all your heart and soul. We worship together, pray together, and are there for one another always.

MOVING ON

Members Who Have Moved

It is always difficult to say good-bye to dear friends... Please, take a minute and write a note to the following members who have moved out of the area. May God's Peace, Grace and Love be with them always, as they begin a new journey away from their St. Luke's family:

William & Dorsey Beggs
Hammah, Alicia, Amanda
14005 Mesita Cliff NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Jim & Karen Latsko
Alex, Jenna
San Antonio, TX

Peter & Judy Corwin
John, Wesley, Lydia
Keller, TX

Dan & Cindy Raap
Brandon, Austin,
Christopher
1902 Hendon Way
Valparaiso, IN 46385

Tim & Mandy Fortier
Kevin, Emily
St. Charles, IL

Tim & Rhonda Richter
Carlyn
St. Louis, MO

Glen & Lori Graf
Joel, Blake
Anthem, AZ

Nancy Van Dyke
Susan

ASYLUM GRANTED!

Congratulations and thanks to all who worked and supported Marie and Maima Sehkar, our adopted Liberian family, in their pursuit of political asylum. Asylum was granted after 14 long months of lawyers, applications, interviews and prayers. Marie and Maima may now live in Colorado and the United States and work toward full citizenship. Asylum also allows Marie's husband, Kolegar, and the children still in Liberia to join her and Maima in the future.

MISSIONS *by Betsy Keyack*

Mission of the Month: AIDS Ministries I am inspired by Rev. Donald Messer who passionately urges us to respond to the pandemics of AIDS and Hunger. His passion is contagious. I feel I am climbing onto his bandwagon. I want to help! Listen to his stories in a recent article in New World Outlook entitled "Responding to God's Call in the Age of AIDS."

A grandmother near Durban, South Africa, struggles to find enough food and energy to care for her six grandchildren, all orphaned because of HIV/AIDS. Now she is faced with an additional dilemma. Should she accept two more orphaned children who have nowhere else to go?

A young father in Chennai, South India, faces an impossible decision. He has enough money on a regular basis to purchase life-sustaining antiretroviral AIDS drugs for one person. But both his parents need them. Should he buy them for his father or his mother?

A man lies alone in a Costa Rican AIDS hospice. Afraid of the stigma and discrimination associated with the disease, does he dare tell his parents?

I have heard the excruciating cries of a mother who had lost a child to AIDS.

Tragically, these and many other stories of heartbreak, pain and suffering are being replicated each day.

Five million people die of AIDS every minute and nine people more are infected by HIV. Thirteen million children have been orphaned by this disease. You can learn more about the HIV/AIDS pandemic by reading the book by Rev. Messer, "Breaking the Conspiracy of Silence."

We can help relieve this suffering by our fellow human beings by donating to either the Colorado AIDS Project or the United Methodist Global AIDS fund. The Colorado AIDS Project improves the lives of people affected by HIV/AIDS and helps prevent HIV infections. The UM Global AIDS Fund provides education, prevention, loving care for patients and orphans, medicine and treatment programs. One quarter of our donations to the UM Global AIDS Fund will stay in our local Rocky Mountain region.

The problem is big, but our efforts can make a difference to someone. Mother Teresa often said that she could not solve the world's problems, but "one by one by one" she made a difference in the lives of countless people. To illustrate, a \$5000 United Methodist donation from the Rocky Mountain Conference stopped the transmission of HIV from mother to child for over 500 children!

Our goal for the August Mission of the Month - AIDS Ministries is \$2 per church member, or \$2600. You can donate by writing a check to St. Luke's UMC, with either Colorado AIDS Project or Global AIDS on the memo line. On August 27, the Church and Society Committee will be sponsoring our own AIDS Walk. We hear the tragic statistics and the stories. As one of our beloved hymns urges us to respond, "I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart." Please consider doing something to help people affected by HIV/AIDS!



St. Luke's to Glean Potatoes in October! Ladies, gentlemen, children of all ages! St. Luke's will be gleaning the fields in the San Luis Valley this Fall! We will be offering an overnight mission trip to Alamosa, CO to glean the potato fields. Remember the story of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz? Boaz let Ruth glean the fields after the harvest so the women would have enough food to eat. The potatoes gleaned by our mission team will be given to either food banks in Alamosa or brought back for our local food banks. The team will leave on Friday, October 6 at 5:00 pm. After our overnight stay in Alamosa, we will work in the fields for part of the day October 7. Then we will visit the Great Sand Dunes and return home by Saturday night. This annual Gleaning Project is sponsored by La Puente Home in Alamosa. You can sign up at the Fall Kickoff September 10 or by contacting team leader, Betsy Keyack, 303-346-7057, bkeyack@att.net.

Rebuilding in Mississippi to Take Many Years In the past year, I was fortunate enough to take two mission trips to Mississippi to help rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Since the first trip in October, 2005 and the most recent one in June, not much had changed! During Hurricane Katrina, the water from the Gulf, the back bay and the local creeks and bayous rose as much as 12 feet. Some homes and churches were completely wiped out, others severely flooded. The needs of the homeowners are still incredible!

In October I was with a team that did mold abatement. In June I led a team with Carl Cleveland, Doug Wagner, Doug's son Jon, Bob Utter, Rick Wagner from Wyoming and 12 youth and adults from Johnstown UMC. We were based in Gulfport/Biloxi. We broke into 3 groups at different houses, with Carl, Doug and Bob/Rick as foremen. The rest of us had no experience and we were blessed by their patience and instruction. I was in Carl's group and we worked on Conchella's house. Conchella takes care of her disabled grandchild full-time and lives in a cramped FEMA trailer. At the house, we cut and installed insulation, installed sheetrock and did some taping and mudding. Conchella was very appreciative of the work we did toward making her house livable again.

If you would like to help give the people of Mississippi more hope for the future, maybe you could take a mission trip to Mississippi! For more information, you can contact Betsy Keyack, 303-346-7057, bkeyack@att.net or call the United Methodist Mississippi hot line directly, 866-435-7091.

“Edward Deming has said, ‘Learning is not compulsory... neither is survival!’ I like that! Growth is as necessary as the air I breathe.” –Rev. Janet

Servant Spotlight: Diane Tolleson, Peter Northrop and Carol Frame *by Jill Wright*



A former civil engineer, **Diane Tolleson** grew up in Columbia, South Carolina. She and her husband, Mike, and their three children, Meredith, 11, Spencer, 10 and Paige, 7, came to Highlands Ranch 12 years ago and joined St. Luke's shortly thereafter. Says Diane, “After much church shopping, no other church exuded the warmth that I felt at St. Luke's.” Diane currently lends her help to Sunday School, Urban Peak and Disciple Bible Study. In the past she has served as head bread baker, a Children's Holiday

Shop coordinator, has organized parenting programs and was a St. Luke's Trustee for four years. Diane shared some of her Sunday School experiences with us:

Current role: *I serve on the Sunday School cooking team for elementary age kids. I have always helped with Sunday School, and Jenita asked me to help with one of the rotations for the elementary aged kids. I like to cook, so I chose the cooking rotation.*

What do you like most about your role? *I like to see something within the lesson click with the kids. We work hard to integrate the concepts from the lesson into a cooking activity. This is not always easy. Once we made “Creation Story Trailmix,” and each of God's creations was symbolized by a different food. It really makes me smile when I see enthusiasm from the class, when they ask questions, or when I see that they understood the concept.*

Memorable moments: *Our last lesson of this year was about Pentecost, which is a difficult concept to explain. We really struggled with planning this lesson, and ultimately made pudding “sundaes” where each of the ingredients symbolized a different part of Pentecost. We also made up a game – Pentecost Jeopardy – where kids answered different questions from the lesson about Pentecost. We read Acts 2 and two stories from the lesson before playing the game, and it was really hard to keep the attention of elementary aged kids. I was thrilled when they were not only very enthusiastic with the game, but they also got the answers to the questions right! It makes you know that you are making a difference.*

Also, I have taught some of these kids since they were two and three. It is so much fun to watch them grow up and develop.

Message to fellow St. Luke's members: *You can make a difference in the life of the children of St. Luke's. Please sign up to volunteer. The time commitment is small when compared to the reward that you will feel when you see the kids learning about the word of God. Don't be scared that you don't know enough to teach Sunday School. The lesson guides provide you with the background that you need. Also, my kids still get excited when I am teaching their class. I don't know how much longer that will last with a 6th grader, but I want to enjoy it while I still can!*

What is your current/past role in Adult Ed and how has that experience affected you? *I have taken Disciple 1 and 3 as a student and co-facilitated Disciple 1 and 2 with Lisé Takayama. Not only has being involved in Disciple classes given me knowledge of the Bible that I didn't have, it has caused me to ask more questions thereby deepening my faith. The more you learn the more questions you have. I have developed such wonderful friendships with and have deep respect for the ladies that have been in my classes. It helps so much to hear the opinions and questions of others in a group and helps you to think of your faith in ways you never would have on a solo journey. I have also felt much more confident in teaching the children because whatever lesson we are covering, I have already read and discussed in one of my Disciple classes.*

“Teaching my own children about Jesus and his love for them and his love for everyone is, indeed, a special undertaking. St. Luke's Sunday school gives me the opportunity, the structure and the lessons to make that happen. Sometimes I feel inadequate in my own understanding, and by teaching Sunday school, I have a platform for talking with my kids about the Bible and Jesus's life.”

– Stacey Baird



Peter Northrop, a geophysicist and partner in an oil and gas exploration and consulting firm, grew up in Brookfield, Connecticut. He and his wife, Susan, and their three children, Amy, 19, Paul, 15, and Laura, 12, have made Highlands Ranch their home for 15 years.

The Northrops have been attending St. Luke's for eight years. “Our first impression of St. Luke's was that of a warm, caring, and friendly church family. Also, we were attracted by the similarity of Methodist theology to our New England Congregational (UCC) roots,” says Peter.

Peter has been a Sunday School teacher and guide for seven years, and here he shares some of his experiences:

How did you get involved with Sunday School? *When my youngest daughter was in kindergarten, she was somewhat reluctant to attend Sunday School. I had always enjoyed teaching in our former church with my older kids, so it was natural for me to step in and help out here. My daughter enjoyed having me in the classroom, so I ended up working with that group of kids all the way through 6th grade.*

What do you like most about your role? *Interacting with the kids is very rewarding. Sometimes I wonder who is teaching whom!*

Memorable moments: *There have been several occasions when new students have come to my class and were a little apprehensive about leaving Mom or Dad. I've always made a special effort to welcome and include these new kids in our classroom activities. On several occasions these families have returned the following week, and parents have told me how much their child talked about and enjoyed Sunday School. Hearing that kind of feedback is definitely most rewarding for me.*



Carol Frame, who hails from Chicago, works as an education assistant at Cougar Run Elementary School in Highlands Ranch. Carol, husband Dick and sons Kevin, 19, and Christopher, 16, joined St. Luke's in 1994. They were attracted to St. Luke's because they found it comfortable, friendly, and similar in structure to the UCC services to which they were accustomed.

Over the years, Carol has helped with the St. Luke's library, the grocery certificate program, youth groups, and children's plays. Here is what Carol has to share

about her Sunday School involvement:

Current role: *Sunday School Superintendent since mid-1990s.*

What does a superintendent do, and why did you choose that role? *As superintendent, I welcome children and families to school, introduce them to the teachers and make them feel comfortable. In addition to my official duties, I also assist the classrooms when needed, sometimes soothing a crying child or taking students on potty breaks.*

One reason I volunteered to be a superintendent was because my boys weren't thrilled with the idea of having their mother as their teacher! So this was a way to be involved in the program without teaching.

Why is it important to you to be involved in the program? *I think Sunday School is as important to a child's education as regular school; it's important to get a strong Christian foundation. I also think it's important for parents to be involved in their children's education. And again, being a superintendent is a way to keep abreast of what they're learning and participating in that process.*

Memorable moments: *One of my favorite parts of the program is when all the children gather for worship songs before heading to their classrooms. The kids are so cute, so adorable, as they learn the songs and perform the motions. Every week I'm left with dozens of memorable moments. St. Luke's is a great place to be!*



Sunday School Myths:

1. You have to know all the answers.

No one knows all the answers. The curriculum used in all Children's Ministry programs gives the teachers the background needed for the lesson, the questions to ask to lead a discussion and even the possible responses. And of course, "I'm not sure, but let me check and get back to you" is never a wrong answer.

2. Only parents of current Sunday Schoolers need to teach.

All are welcome! Parents, grandparents, those who don't have children, etc... All of your varied life experiences can benefit the classroom. For example, if you are an "empty nester" you probably have already taught Sunday School and feel like you have "been there, done that." Having raised children gives a unique perspective on the different stages a child grows through. We need your valuable input.

3. It takes too much of my time to be a part of Sunday School.

Being an elementary guide or a preschool assistant does not require *any* preparation. These individuals come to help in the classroom, check the children in and out, comfort the reluctant child, engage the active child and just be in fellowship with the children. And being a teacher can take as little or as much preparation as you'd like to put into it. The provided lesson materials do much of the work for you. We have a very flexible system that can accommodate your schedule and the classes are only a little over an hour on Sunday morning.

4. You have to be there every Sunday.

All of our classroom volunteers are part of a team. They plan together and develop a schedule that will work for them. The team can also provide subs for those unexpected illnesses or conflicts that might come up.

5. Only women teach Sunday School.

No, we are very lucky to have a number of men at St. Luke's who teach. We welcome men, women and youth to create a diverse and rich teaching experience for our children.

6. You have to have worked with kids before to know what to do.

Kids love to have adults interact with them. Just being willing to be there with the children is comforting to them. And if you do need some tips, we offer orientations and workshops to help you get familiar with working with kids.

7. Teaching Kids is scary!

Remember, we are just there to share the story of God's love for them. Can you read a story? Can you ask questions that have been written for you? It's not scary at all.

8. If I teach Sunday School then I won't be able to attend Worship Service.

We offer 3 Worship Services each Sunday and Sunday School or childcare is available at all Services. The Sunday that you serve in the classroom, just attend another Service. St. Luke's welcomes children in Service, too.



LITTLE SCHOOL News



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School

August Greetings!

The school has been empty but the church has been very busy. Now it is our turn to get ready for the beginning of our 12th year at Little School. **Paperwork was due July 1, 2006** and hopefully you have heard from us if we are missing anything! During August you will be getting a letter from your new classroom teacher and details about the beginning of the year. Please let us know if you will be missing either OPEN HOUSE, so that we can get information and materials to you and your child!

Mark your calendars for these important dates:

August 31, 2006 Parent Open House (no children please)

- MWF & MW parents meet with their Teacher downstairs 7:00-7:30pm
- T/TH parents meet with Ms. Kay in the Sanctuary 7:00-7:30pm
- 7:30 to 7:40 transition time
- 7:40-8:10pm T/TH parents will be with their teachers
- 7:40-8:10pm MWF & MW parents upstairs with Ms. Kay

September 5, 2006 Children's Open House

- MWF & MW 10:00-10:45am
- T/TH 10:45-11:00am

Come and meet your new teacher and see old and new friends!

School Begins:

September 6, 2006 for MWF & MW - 9:00am

September 7, 2006 for T/TH - 9:00am

Enjoy the rest of your summer and we will see you soon!

Blessings, – Miss Kay



Over 170 kids, age 3-5th grade, learned about the treasure that is God's love for us, June 26th-30th, at **St. Luke's Vacation Bible School: Son Treasure Island**. Almost 100 adults and 30 youths gave their time to make the week possible. Thanks so much! We'll see you next year!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Jenita Rhodes
Director of Children's
Ministries



Lynne Butler
Assistant Children's
Ministries Director



Kristina Linn
Childcare Coordinator

"I returned to church because I was trying to reconnect with God. As silly as this sounds, I would dutifully sit in church each week waiting for my 'connection'. After several months of enjoying the service but still missing that divine spark, Jenita spoke about the need for Sunday school teachers. As I had no children at the time I was only half listening, then a little voice went off in my head. It said 'Let the children bring you closer to God'. Being not one to argue with voices in my head, I called Jenita the next day and signed up. That was 5 years ago and teaching has been a blessing ever since, and yes it did bring me closer to God – along with a lot of interesting stories to tell!" – Joely Maddux

St. Luke's Preschool Play Groups

Thursdays in August, beginning on the 10th, will be a "Get Acquainted Time" for our Zero through 5 year old and their parents. Come to the St. Luke's playground and enjoy meeting other parents in the St. Luke's family with children in your child's age group. Of course, sibling are welcomed! In case of rain we will move inside.

Our objective in having these gatherings is to support the families with young children by providing a opportunity for parents to network, support each other and develop playmates for our children. You may join in a group that is already active or help form additional groups as needed.

So... if you know of any Moms or Dads who would like to get to know and share with others in their situation, call them up and bring them along to our Playgroup Extravanzas! Check calendar and with Jenita for times.

Sunday School Volunteers Children's Ministry's 2006-07 Sunday School year will begin on Kick-Off Sunday Sept. 10th and we want everyone to be involved. Whether you take a leadership role in planning and presenting the lessons, assist, help greet, take attendance, lead music, check in babies, decorate classrooms, purchase supplies, sort curriculum or send birthday cards, there is a place for you.

PEAK Adventures is our 9:30am Sunday School program for elementary-aged children. The children explore one bible story or concept rotation for 5 or 6 weeks through a different workshop each week. Our workshops include Art, Storytelling, Computer, Cinema Cooking Games and Science. The Rotation topics and dates are listed below.

1. Sept. 10-Oct. 15 (6 weeks) *"Out of Egypt"*
2. Oct. 22-Nov. 26 (6 weeks)
"Stewardship: Talents and Treasures"
3. Dec. 3-Jan. 14 (5 weeks) *"Advent: Journey to Bethlehem"*
4. Jan. 21-Feb. 2 (6 weeks) *"Jesus and the Children"*
5. Mar. 4-Apr. 1 (5 weeks) *"Lent: The Easter Story"*
6. Apr. 15-May 20 (6 weeks) *"Psalms and Songs"*

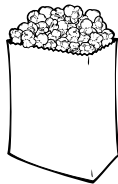
Volunteers needed for PEAK Adventures are **Workshop Leaders**, who as a team plan and present the lesson. The most wonderful aspect about the Workshop Rotation System is that only one lesson needs to be planned for each rotation. Then adjustments can be made to accommodate the age group for that week. All workshop teams do their own scheduling around the other commitments of their team members. The team meets one time before each new rotation to do the planning and scheduling for that rotation.

Additional volunteers called **Guides** follow the grade each week. They check the children in and out of the classroom, make sure the regulars have name tags and the visitors properly welcomed. They are also the assistants to the workshop leaders by passing out or cleaning up supplies, helping the children with the activity and keeping all involved with the lesson. No preparation is needed to be a guide, but their presence in the classroom and familiar face is invaluable.

Joy Trek is our 9:30am and 11:00am Preschool and Kindergarten Sunday School program. Each Sunday the children hear a story from their take home booklet, do a craft, participate in a game or activity and sing songs.

You may volunteer to serve in Joy Trek by being part of our **Teaching Team** or one of two classroom **Assistants**. The members of the Teaching Team take turns planning and presenting the lesson. All curriculum and supplies are provided on a quarterly basis. Because of the high standard we place on the comfort and safety of our children, we assign to each classroom two additional parents of those children who attend to help several time a year. No preparation is needed to assist and subs can easily be arranged by trading with another parent on the schedule.

Summit Seekers is our 11:00am Elementary Sunday School program. All children in 1st through 6th grades meet in the same classroom each week to learn about a Bible story, play a game, do a craft all designed to develop a closer relationship to God. The Teaching Team schedules themselves to either lead the lesson or assist several times during the year. All supplies and curriculum are provided in a easy to read and follow format.



Family Movie Night

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, August 25th, at 6:30pm. We'll begin with a brand new *Veggie Tales* movie and then watch the just-released on DVD *Shaggy Dog* movie. Wear your jammies and bring pillows and blankets. Popcorn and water provided. See you soon!

"It's so heartwarming to watch young faces get excited while learning about Jesus. He is such an awesome discovery for our 2 and 3 year olds. It renews your own spirit and commitment, while they discover His love. You are reminded how simple His message really is." – Erika Brimberry

Wed. Aug. 2

Final Wacky Wednesday 9:30-noon

Fri. Aug. 4

*Mission Mania meet at the church.
Bring a sack lunch 10:00am-1:00pm*

Sun. Aug. 6

All Church Family Picnic

Thurs. Aug. 10

Playgroup Extravaganza at the church 10:00-11:30am

Thurs. Aug. 17

Playgroup Extravaganza at the church 9:30-11:00am

Sat. Aug. 19

Sunday School Orientation & Parent Information 8:30-11:30am

Sun. Aug. 20

Acolyte Training noon-1:00pm

Tues. Aug. 22

2nd Sunday School Orientation & Parent Information 7:00-8:30pm

Thurs. Aug. 24

Playgroup Extravaganza at the church 9:30-11:00am

Thurs. Aug. 25

Sunday School Clean-up 9:30am-12:30pm

Fri. Aug. 25

Family Movie Night 6:30pm

Sun. Aug. 27

*Summer Sunday School ends
St. Luke's AIDS Walk 9:30am
Nursery and Childcare Training
12:30-2:00pm lunch will be served*

Thurs. Aug. 31

Playgroup Extravaganza at the church 9:30-11:00am

MUSIC & DRAMA



James Ramsey
Director of
Worship & Arts



Carrie Mallory
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry



Kay Coryell
Assistant
Music Director

Upcoming Concerts and Recitals

Voice and Instrument Recital - Sunday, September 17th at 7:00pm
featuring solo, duet and small ensemble talents of St. Luke's.

Prism Benefit Concert - Saturday, October 14th at 7:00pm
featuring the Wind Ensemble, Ministers of Swing, St. Luke's Youth Jazz Orchestra,
Flute Ensemble, Brass Ensemble, and more.

Weekly Schedule for Music Ensembles

(Please note start date for each group)

tuesday

6:30pm Youth Handbell Choir (Aug. 22)
7:30pm Tinntinabulators (Aug. 22)

wednesday

6:15pm Kidz Prayz I and II (Sept. 13)
6:30pm Cherubs Choir (Sept. 13)
7:00pm Tone Chimes (Sept. 13)
7:30pm Sonrise Band (Sept. 6)

thursday

6:30pm Women of Note (Sept. 7)
7:00pm Grace Notes (Sept. 7)
7:30pm Chancel Choir (Sept. 7)

saturday mornings

8:00am Flute Ensemble (Aug. 26)
8:45am Brass Ensemble (Aug. 26)
9:30am Ministers of Swing (Aug. 26)
10:30am Wind Ensemble (Aug. 26)

sunday

8:30am Children's Choir (Sept. 10)
4:00pm Youth Jazz Orchestra (Aug. 27)
5:00pm Off-Notes Youth Choir (Aug. 27)

Bluegrass/Old Time Gospel Group (Matt Rose) - tbd
Rhythm Saints (Mel Scott) - tbd

Questions about any ensemble, please contact
Jim at 303/791-0659 x23 or jim@stlukeshr.com
or go to our website **www.stlukeshr.com** to
read descriptions about each group.

Drama News

Mark Your Calendars Now - The production of *The Sound of Music* is coming November 3, 4 and 5 to St. Luke's by our very own Wesley Players. Enjoy the sounds and melodies of Rodgers and Hammerstein's most popular musical. In addition, we're creating a new feature as part of the production in which the Edelweiss Singers will perform as a pre-show. If you'd like to help with any part of the production behind the scenes, please contact Jim Ramsey or Sharon Oliver, producers, at jim@stlukeshr.com or sharonoliver@pcisys.net or call the church at 303-791-0659 x23.



Performing Arts Academy Recap

With nearly 40 students participating, the first summer Performing Arts Academy at St. Luke's was an incredible success. In the evaluation process, many parents and students commented on what a wonderful time they had during the workshops. This year's Academy served as a pilot program in which we'll evaluate and modify for next year's launch of the entire program. Next year's Academy will include instrumental music for piano and individual instruments, musical and straight drama, clown workshops, and puppet workshops and encompass different age groups during different weeks. Thanks to all who

participated in this year's Academy! Contact Jim Ramsey jim@stlukeshr.com for more info.

THANK YOU, ST. LUKE'S!

On May 19 we got one of those calls every parent fears. This one came to me from Joey's cell phone, but it was his friend who found 'Mom' in the directory and called me. "Mrs. Miyaki, Joey's been hit, he's not breathing. The ambulance is here." Several friends had been playing football in the park as they had so many times, but this time Joey ended up on the bottom of a tackle gone very wrong.

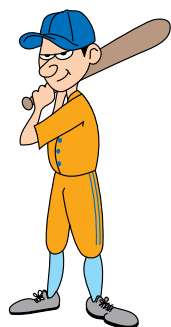
In the days and weeks that followed through 2 neurosurgeries, ICU, PCU in Littleton and rehab at Craig hospitals we learned about Traumatic Brain Injury. But through our family of faith at St. Luke's we saw the vows we take at our children's baptisms come to life as familiar faces and people we've never met reached out to us in so many ways. You shared your love, hope, patience, fear, tears, prayers, and joy with us. You showed us Grace and embodied the phrase 'Surrounded by God's Love'.

There's a song we sing that includes "how does the creature say thanks" and "how will your children say home." Words cannot express how very thankful we are for you and your selfless outreach, but we are so very proud and humbled to call St. Luke's our Home.

We thank God and You All every day for our miraculous healing and recovery!

— Love, Sandi, Mike, Ben and Joey Miyaki

SOFTBALL UPDATE



The St. Luke's softball teams are well underway this summer. St. Luke's sponsors two softball teams that play in a co-ed recreational church league on Sunday afternoons. Both teams are doing well at the half-way mark of the season. The St. Luke's Blue team has a record of 2 wins and 2 losses, and the St. Luke's Red team has won 3 while dropping one. Both teams have three more regular season games to play plus the tournament at the end of the season. On July 16th, St. Luke's Blue played St. Luke's Red. This is real summer fun! For more info

contact Bill Dearasaugh at bdearasa@aol.com

HELP WANTED

GROCERY CERTIFICATE TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The St. Luke's Grocery Certificate Team needs help staffing its sales table on Sunday mornings between church services. This is a great way to contribute to St. Luke's for those who are short on time. You'll have fun and make a big difference! If interested, please contact Deb Payne at 303-942-1534.

DON'T MISS!



August 2006

- 8/1 – District Volleyball 6-8:30pm
 8/2 – GEMS Daytrip to CO Springs 9am-4pm, \$15
 8/2 – STM Frisbee & Dinner 6-8pm
 8/5 – 30-Hour Famine 8am until...
 8/6 – noon: Break the Famine
 8/6 – Regular SLY AM 9:30am
 Regular SLY PM 6:30pm
 8/9 – **STM INDOOR SKYDIVING**
 10:30am-1:30pm \$40
 rsvp chris@stlukeshr.com
 8/10 – GEMS Service Day TBA
 8/13 – Regular SLY AM 9:30am
 SLY PM Messy Games 6:30pm
 8/14 – Douglas County School Start
 8/17 – Littleton School Start
 8/20 – Regular SLY AM 9:30am
 SLY PM **ELITCH'S**
 noon-8pm, Buy your own tix
 8/21 – Cherry Creek School Start
 8/22 – JeffCo School Start
 8/27 – **ST. LUKE'S FAMILY DAY**
© THE ROCKIES GAME
 Game starts © 1:05pm
 Box seats in Section 116
 \$15 each. Sign up and pay with Chris
 8/27 – Regular SLY AM 9:30am
 SLY PM 7th Graders Only!
 6:30-8pm Info and Name Games

September 2006

- 9/3 – No SLY AM or PM (Labor Day)
 9/10 – Regular SLY AM 9:30am
SLY PM FALL KICK OFF
 6-8pm for youth grades 7-12 and parents.
 9/13 – SLAM 6:30-8:30pm
 9/17 – Regular SLY AM 9:30am
 Regular SLY PM 6-8pm
 9/22-9/24 – **JR. HIGH RETREAT**
 for all 7th & 8th graders.
 Flyers and registrations on youth bulletin boards. Mailer coming soon with details!
 9/24 – Regular SLY AM 9:30am
 Regular SLY PM 6-8pm

SLY: ST. LUKE'S YOUTH



Ann Smith
Assistant
Youth Director

Chris Wilterdink
Director of
Youth Ministries

CHRIS's CORNER

Beware of Over Programming

Nothing in life is as important as the relationships you surround yourself with. Activity is great, but eventually will become less fun if you don't connect with other people doing the same activity. For some families, the summer has become more about programming and activities than about relationships.

Take some time this August to really connect with your friends and family. Find some down time, call a friend you haven't talked to in a while. Take a walk around a part of your neighborhood you don't know as well, meet your neighbors, make connections!

SLY is offering several opportunities to connect with friends and family in the month of August. Check out the calendar we've got on this page for a complete list of activities. It all culminates with the Family Day © the Rockies Game August 27 © 1:05pm. Bring your family and friends, we've got awesome seats for \$15. You can sign up Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall next to the donuts. How better to spend a few hours with some good friends and family?

Blessings, –Chris

Thanks for all the help purchasing water bottles for our youth mission trips. We left over \$3,000 worth of building materials and supplies in Biloxi and Alamosa. We couldn't have done it **without you!**

continued from page 1 As we surveyed the median, it seemed hopeless. Where to start? The tons of sand covering the fountain made it unnoticeable to the average passer-by. I was handed a shovel and told to begin. I need a little more direction than that so I asked questions to get a better feel for my purpose, receiving few answers. So I decided to start digging and try to figure out my ultimate goal along the way. After all, even the slightest bit helps right? So we dug and dug and dug (and played a little bit in the sand) and at day's end, we had uncovered a street sign, a goblet, a video camera, and most importantly the fountain in question. Working on a main drag of Biloxi, we got noticed by everyone driving by. More than half of the cars honked or waved or gave us some sort of indication of their thankfulness. I was personally touched by this more than anyone would expect. It brought tears to my eyes to imagine how much hope that must bring to residents to know that someone is doing something. Someone is doing something to improve the disastrous state their city is currently facing. I can imagine that would really lift the spirits of those who saw us.

The next three work days all found us up at 6 AM, eating breakfast and sharing hopes for the day's tasks. Four out of the five teams ended up working on one particular house at least one of the three days. Now this house was literally just studs inside when the first team began their mission. The original team working on the home started with insulating the ceiling and outside walls the first day and moved on to drywall the second and third days.



My team joined them on the second and third days. We dry walled most of the ceiling the morning of day 2, only to discover two different thicknesses of drywall. Once we actually examined the two stacks, we realized most of the ceiling was covered in 1/2" thick sheets. Apparently, fire code for housing calls for 5/8" thick ceilings. So we all took a very dreadful and stressful break to collect our thoughts and create a plan. With Mr. Chris Wilterdink as our leader, we replaced every single 1/2" sheet with a thicker one in only hours. We even ended up making further progress and completing the ceilings of several rooms before the

end of the day. Many kids volunteered to stay later and finish up some small projects before calling it quits for the day, arriving back at our camp area just before 6 PM.

The next day gave us all motivation, wanting to finish our designated rooms and not wanting our service to end. The small group I ended up working with created a system of measuring (at least 4 times, as we discovered with our slightly-off cuts), cutting, and then screwing into the walls. Our very effective system found our room done by mid-afternoon. I have never seen such a sense of accomplishment on so many faces. We built that room with our own hands. We made sure to all sign the back of the last piece of drywall before making the final perfecting adjustments. We also took many pictures, both mental and literal, to always treasure our hard work.

The homeowners came to see our work on the last day. The couple couldn't have been older than mid-twenties. They had a son and had purchased their home only five months before the storm. I can remember the husband saying, "They told me I didn't need flood insurance when I bought the house because we're in a no-flood zone." They walked away from the flood caused by the storm with nothing more than the clothes on their backs and a glass case full of statues. As the couple thanked us, the wife said nothing. She was crying and smiling and grasping her chest. The husband told us of their pride in buying the house at such a young age and how hard they had worked to be where they were. He gave us a closing thought on their only surviving possessions: "Couches were thrown against the wall, everything was out of place. The only thing that stayed put was a glass case full of my wife's angel and fairy statues. He was watching out for us."

This entire trip was about letting go of things holding us back, whether emotional or physical. I know that I will never be the same because of this trip. I have learned that possessions are only material and life is so much more. We closed out the trip with a beach day in Alabama and two quiet flights home. Thank you to all sponsors, chaperones, and youth involved in this experience. You have all better the lives of millions through your work in one week.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



Dave Cupp
Director of Finance

Thank You For Your Great Response!

I'm happy to report that our income in June exceeded the budgeted amount by approximately \$8,000 with most of the amount coming from offerings. Likewise, we under spent our budgeted expenses by approximately \$5,000. It is significant to note that this accomplishment is not due to an unexpected donation or

some of the larger pledges being paid earlier in the year than normal. You are to be congratulated for this great response to our efforts to achieve a break even budget for the year.

Even with the good performance in June, our income is still about \$20,000 short of what we budgeted for the year through the end of June. I will continue to diligently monitor the budget and suggest adjustment to leadership where needed to make sure we accomplish our goal. Your part in the process is to keep your planned giving current so we can make informed decisions as we move forward. Working together, I am confident we will end the year in celebration for achieving our break even goal. Something that has not happened in the past several years.

Electronic Funds Transfer Program (EFT)

Continues to Grow: Each month we have more participants in the EFT program both for general pledges and for grocery certificates. We now have 28 participants in the general pledge program which represents about \$90,000 of our annual income. I encourage you to consider participating in both programs. This is an easy way for you to make your contributions to St Luke's and purchase grocery certificates.

Quarterly Giving Records: You should have received your giving record for the first two quarters. Please review your record for accuracy and let me know of any corrections that need to be made. We work hard at getting the postings correct. However, mistakes do happen since we have several families with the same last names and the volume of postings we do each week. It is easier to correct any mistakes now rather than waiting until the end of the year.

2006 Rocky Mountain Annual Conference Budget Report

by Dave Cupp, Lay Delegate to Annual Conference

The 2006 Annual Conference was held during the last weekend in June at the Marriott Denver Tech Center. This is a gathering of approximately 800 lay and clergy delegates from around the conference to conduct the annual business of the conference.

One agenda item is always the presentation, discussion and approval of the annual budget for the conference. The budget approved for 2007 is presented below for your information.

The budget is divided between the churches in the conference using a conference delegate approved formula which is based mostly on the operating budgets and attendance of the local churches. The amount apportioned to St Luke's for 2007 is \$120,581. I have a detailed copy of the budget in my office. Please contact me if you have questions.

Budget Categories	Dollars	Percent
1. Benevolence and Program Ministries		
Vision, Mission & Values	\$10,000	
Church & Society	\$88,200	
Board of Discipleship	\$465,250	
Board of Global Ministries	\$37,400	
Communications	\$89,400	
Program Staff & Office Costs	\$474,350	
TOTAL	\$1,164,600	18.53%
2. Administration		
Episcopal Support	\$19,500	
Property & Financial Administration	\$626,500	
Conferencing Costs	\$2,000	
TOTAL	\$648,000	10.31%
3. Clergy Support		
Lay Ministry	\$25,000	
Ordained Ministry	\$69,300	
Cabinet	\$918,000	
Clergy Support	\$1,708,607	
TOTAL	\$2,720,907	43.29%
4. General and Jurisdictional Church		
Episcopal Fund (Gen Church)	\$234,111	
Black College Fund (Gen Church)	\$124,161	
Interdenominational Fund (Gen Church)	\$24,258	
Korean Mission (Western Juris)	\$16,297	
World Service (Gen Church)	\$910,512	
Africa University (Gen Church)	\$27,551	
Ministerial Education (Gen Church)	\$313,316	
General Conference (Gen Church)	\$78,745	
Jurisdictional Conf. (Western Juris)	\$22,717	
TOTAL	\$1,751,668	27.87%
TOTAL BUDGET	\$6,285,175	
St Luke's Apportioned Amount	\$120,581	

A LETTER FROM FRED...

During my last two years before my first retirement, Joan and I, on a couple of "off" Sundays, attended a church called Living Enrichment Center. It was new, independent, off-beat, and big. On our first Sunday visit it was a bit rattling to hear the congregation erupt in applause at the end of the pastor's "talk." I had given good (so I thought) talks or sermons, for some forty years, yet never any applause afterward. After retirement we attended LEC regularly, and within a year I was asked to be an associate pastor, which I was for two years. During those two years, I substituted for the pastor on nine Sundays, and each time the congregation applauded after my talk, five of those Sundays with a "standing ovation." And on one of those "standing ovation" Sundays my sermon was forty minutes long!

Applauding in Methodist Churches has taken a long time coming. In my most prestigious church, the Cathedral of the Rockies in Boise, during my thirteen-plus years there the congregation got comfortable applauding, not nearly like LEC, but appropriately and discreetly, especially after certain music. My successor, however, was appalled when they applauded, and he

promptly put a stop to it. He did permit it when a children's choir sang. He said singers or speakers are doing what they do for the glory of God, and not for applause. He is my age, but much, much older. He didn't know that applause is not so much for WHO is doing it, as for WHAT is done. Not for the singers, but for the song.

I was in worship at St. Luke's on Sunday, June 18, second service – the first time in about three months. (I've been leading a class in another church closer to home.) I knew by Janet's sermon title, "An Open Letter to a Gay Son," that this was a "hot" subject, and could get diverse reactions. Her brief talk with me before the service indicated she knew she was treading on the edge. A few minutes into the sermon I knew this was something I would want to respond to, and how, but previously on two visits I led out after her sermons with applause, which the congregation picked up on. I knew not to do this again, I was just a visitor. So, after her sermon I sat on my hands, as did everyone else. Silence.

I saw myself as two people. One, I saw myself as one who agreed with what she said, and I wanted to show

my appreciation by applauding. Two, I even tried to see myself as one who did not agree with what she said, but I still wanted to applaud. Why? I wanted to applaud that "St. Luke's has a pastor with the courage to speak her truth even though I might disagree." That's our pastor's job, to speak her truth. And third, "I wanted to applaud that St. Luke's is a church that faces the real issues of life, not just the fluffy, non-issues heard in so many churches." And she was dealing with a real issue.

I hope I'm not trying to create a new culture in St. Luke's. But I did so wish that on the 18th, St. Luke's had an acceptable way of demonstrating appreciation for a pastor who dared to be honest, who dared to go to the edge, who dared to challenge her people to think – and commit. I didn't like just sitting on my hands, and keeping my mouth shut. My guess is that applauding is not a religious requirement, but I am equally sure not applauding is also not a religious requirement, either. My prophecy is that the Spirit within St. Luke's will reveal an acceptable way to express thanks, joy, and appreciation.

– Fred Venable, Friend of St. Luke's



The CHRONICLE

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

303-791-0659 • www.stlukeshr.com

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

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

FORMING FAITH OVER A LIFETIME – Rev. Janet Forbes

- July 30:** Does God Have a Big Toe?
(Questions Preschoolers Ask!)
- Aug. 6:** Superheroes and Sagas
(Learning the Story)
- Aug. 13:** Belonging and Believing
(Your People Shall Be My People)
- Aug. 20:** Owning my Own Faith
(The Season of Crisis)
- Aug. 27:** The Map Does Not Define the Territory
(Aging Wisdom)

St. Luke's United Methodist Church welcomes you to our Christian family, where we share life. Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are accepted and encouraged to grow spiritually.

Join us in growing together toward full humanity through living the teachings of Jesus: Love, Acceptance, Justice and Hope.

AUGUST 2006 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 30	31	August 1	2	3	4	5
		6pm: SLY District Volleyball	9am: GEMS Day Trip 9:30am: Wacky Wednesdays 6pm: STM Frisbee & Dinner			8:30am: Hospitality Appreciation Breakfast & Workshop 30-hr Famine Begins
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
30 hr. Famine Ends 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship noon: CHURCH PICNIC 6:30pm: SLY PM			9am: STM Indoor Skydiving		Mountain Retreat Rocky Mountain Music Conference	Rhythm Saints restart Mountain Retreat Rocky Mountain Music Conference
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mountain Retreat 8, 9:30, 11am: Worship 6:30pm: SLY PM	Mountain Retreat 6:30pm: Women's Night Out					8:30am: Sunday School Orientation
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8, 9:30, 11am: Worship noon: SLY to Elitches		7pm: SPRC 7pm: Sunday School Orientation 7:30pm: Tintinnabulators restart			6:30pm: Family Movie Night	Brass, MOS, Flutes, Wind ensembles restart
27	28	29	30	31	September 1	2
8, 9:30, 11am: Worship 9:30am: AIDS Walk 1:05pm: Christian Family Day @ the Rockies Game	Little School teachers return	Little School teachers return	Little School teachers return	LS Parent Open House Little School teachers return		