



Highlands Ranch, Colorado

December 2008/January 2009

The CHRONICLE

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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CHOCOLATE BOUTIQUE
Where women taste and see that the Lord is good

CHOCOLATE BOUTIQUE Women's Retreat

Women, are you ready for a spiritual retreat filled with fun and friends, as well as refreshment, relaxation, and chocolate? **Yes, chocolate!**

Join us as we take a look at John 2:1-11. Our day will be broken into the following segments:

Session 1:
We Can Trust Jesus

Session 2:
God's Grace Is Extravagant!

Session 3:
Celebrate God's Grace

A Closer Look at John 2

Chocolate Tasting Boutique

Chocolate Prayer Boutique

Be sure to sign up for this retreat planned for Saturday, February 28.

It's for all women from middle school to 100!

Let your Heart be Light

Celebrating Advent & Christmas at St. Luke's 2008

Christmas Eve Wednesday Dec. 24

Services of Carols and Candles

"Let Your Heart Be Light" – Come and experience one of our Christmas Eve worship services:

1:00 and 3:00pm: Children's Christmas service

featuring the Cherub's Choir, Primary and Junior Prayz, Off-Notes Youth Choir, Youth Handbell Choir, and Puppet Ministry

5:00 and 7:00pm: Traditional Carols service

featuring the Chancel Choir, Organ, Brass Ensemble, and Tintinnabulators Adult Handbell Choir

10:00pm: Contemplative Communion service

featuring Soloists and Organ

Epiphany Sunday Jan. 4

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am (burrito breakfast between each service)

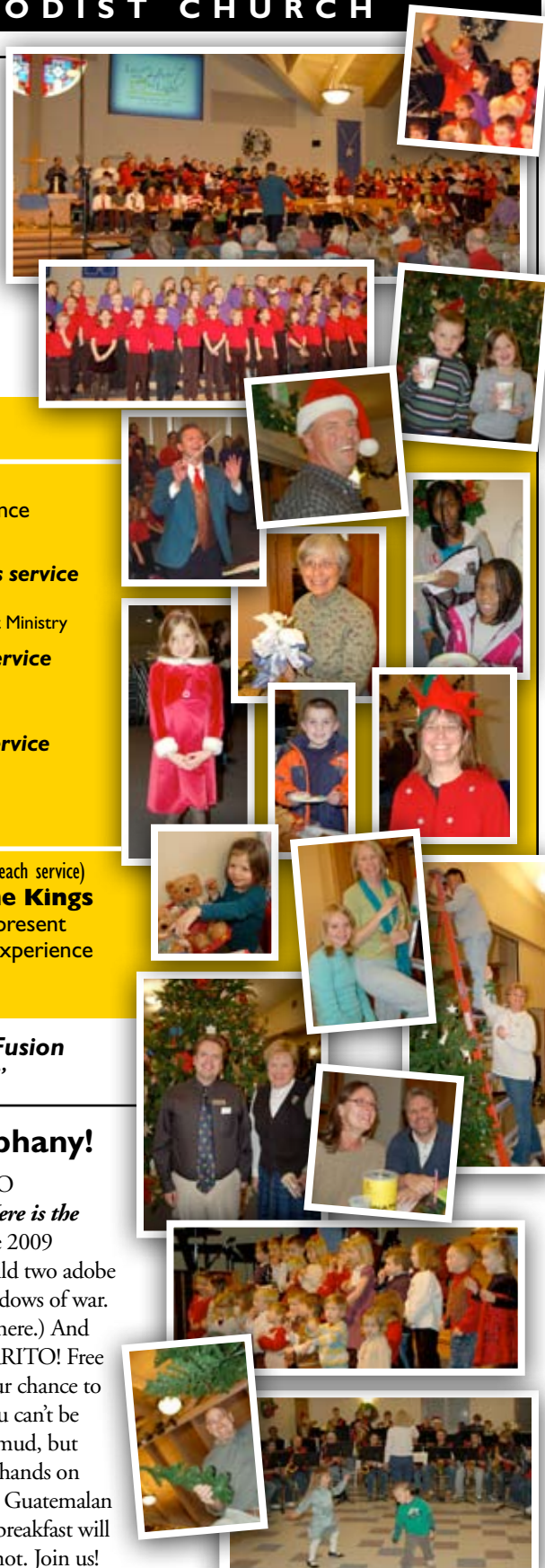
Epiphany Sunday & Celebration of the Kings

Join us as our 15 ft. tall Magi and their entourage present their gifts to the Christ child in a family worship experience featuring our Primary and Junior Prayz ensembles

Coming in January to our Sunday evening Fusion Worship service, "I Used to Go to Church, but..."

The Great Burrito Breakfast Epiphany!

On Epiphany Sunday you can join the GREAT BURRITO BREAKFAST to benefit our Guatemalan friends! Yum. **Here is the epiphany:** You will have a chance to raise money for the 2009 Guatemala mission trip. (Money will fund materials to build two adobe houses and two financially sustaining chicken coops for widows of war. And their children! We will also lead a bible school while there.) And **ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS EAT A BREAKFAST BURRITO!** Free will offering. Wow! Here is your chance to step up to the plate. Maybe you can't be there to get your hands in the mud, but you could vicariously get your hands on some burritos and support our Guatemalan friends!! Coincidence that the breakfast will be held on Epiphany? I think not. Join us!



Sunday Worship Services:

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
7:34pm: Fusion

Sunday School:

Adult, Youth & Children:
9:30am

Nursery available for
9:30am & 11:00am 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

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Associate Minister
Emergency: 720-348-1528

Rev. Brad Laurvick.....x12
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Pastoral Intern

James Ramsey.....x23
Director of Music Ministry & the Arts

Kay Coryell.....x36
Associate Director of Music Ministry

Ken Mervine.....x42
Organist/Accompanist

Josh Carr.....x44
Fusion Worship Leader

Carrie Mallery.....x35
Assistant Fusion Worship Leader

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

Susan Johnson.....x19
Assistant Director of Youth Ministry

Marcus Carlson.....x27
Minister to Children and their Families

Joely Maddux.....x11
Assistant Director of Children's Ministry

Kristina Linn.....x40
Director of Childcare

Lynda Fickling.....x20
Director of Servant Ministry

Bonnie Funk.....x10
Church Secretary

Dave Cupp.....x24
Director of Finance

Lisé Takayama.....x16
Assistant Director of Finance

Barry Curtis.....x39
Facilities Manager

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

All articles, photos and
announcements for the
February issue of
The Chronicle are due
January 20
Editor: Sharon Oliver
chronicle@stlukeshr.com



Rev. Janet Forbes
Senior Pastor

Let Your Heart Be Light!

I long for Christmas this year! I yearn for simple gatherings with friends and family where familiar stories are told, comfort food is shared, and love is palpably present. I want to light the tree at church, help with the gift-wrapping at the holiday shop, sing along on Cantata Sunday, and light a candle on Christmas Eve. I want to return to Bethlehem... in my memory and my heart.

My first trip to Bethlehem occurred in a large church in Washington, D.C. where I grew up. During an annual Christmas Eve nativity pageant, the church was especially full. Hushed in darkness, the congregation watched the lighting of the candles. Toward the back, I sat, one timid little girl, with my family.

This large cathedral was so different from our smaller, friendlier suburban congregation in Alexandria. I was greatly disappointed that we were missing the most special night of the year in our home church. A traditionalist at four years old, I expected my parents to honor the Forbes family ritual of oyster stew, new velvet dress, eggnog, and 11:00 communion. Instead, we were in the city with friends, celebrating "in a new way". I was not impressed!!

That night, however, caught up in awe as organ music

rolled out from balcony to rafters, I heard a familiar story I loved, and was transported to another time and place. Down the aisle swept a colorful procession as the lights went up, revealing the magnificent manger scene. Travelers, bearded shepherds, and finally the three kings bearing gifts, advanced majestically. Before anyone knew it, I found myself following them.

The journey down that long aisle was an early spiritual pilgrimage for me, yet it felt like a kind of homecoming. When I reached the manger scene, there were a sleepy donkey, real sheep, and Mary and Joseph beneath an angel with outstretched wings. Above all, there was a light in the manger, enfolding us in its glow. Kneeling in front of it, I had a sense of exaltation, of self-offering as real as any I have ever known since. This was real to me and I was there.

Of course, it didn't last long. I was lifted to my feet by an usher and carried down the aisle back to my mortified mother, and the pageant swept on. I was vaguely aware of the subdued smiles, and my parents' whispers didn't matter. The discovery was my own, and I had something now that no one could ever take from me. I have been to Bethlehem. I had seen it all for the first time and I would never forget it.

May God bless your journey to Bethlehem this year!
May your heart be light!

Janet
—Rev. Janet

Clean and Green Your Routine

It's all about being good stewards of our church home! With the addition of our new space and exquisite carpeting, the Board of Trustees, the pastors, and St. Luke's staff want to invite you to participate in our CLEAN AND GREEN YOUR ROUTINE campaign. While staying invitational, family-friendly, and fun, we want to learn to take care of our new furnishings. And everyone can help!

We are moving to more green practices with the call to re-cycle, the use of bio-safe cleaning materials and restroom products. We are now adding paper products that serve our environment better.

St. Luke's has a cleaning company that comes into the church every evening except Friday. Since we do not have a custodian on our staff, we will want to monitor our own spills and crumbs on the new carpeting.

- **PUT A LID ON IT.** We are encouraging all drink containers to have lids.
- **CLEAN YOUR ROUTINE.** Cleaning stations are now provided in the Fellowship Hall, Administrative Offices, and in the David and Goliath areas downstairs. New sweepers are provided to remove the crumbs so they don't get ground into the carpeting. Cloths and spray cleaner are provided to sponge spills. We have learned that the longer a stain sits without treatment the more likely it is to become permanent.
- **SAFE COLORS.** Red, orange, and purple food products stain flooring immediately. Plan for safe lunches and drinks!

Thanks for helping to honor the beautiful church house that blesses our lives.



OUR CHURCH

The Chronicle is Going Green

Now you have a choice - you can receive our church newsletter through the mail OR strictly online.

If you'd like to receive *The Chronicle* on your computer, then sign up for "electronic distribution only" of *The Chronicle*! Send an email to Lynda Fickling at lynda@stlukeshr.com asking her to remove you from the *The Chronicle* paper mailing list. We'll stop sending you paper copies and save some trees!

When each issue of the newsletter is available (usually several days before the paper copy arrives at homes), we'll email (to everyone who has given St. Luke's their email address) a summary list of all the articles in the latest issue of *The Chronicle*. You'll be able to directly link to any article in the online version of the newsletter, and read that article or any of the other articles in that issue. You can also go to www.stlukeshr.com and click on "publications" to view current and past issues of *The Chronicle* at any time. The online versions are in pdf format.

For those who would still like to have a paper version of *The Chronicle* mailed to your home, not a problem, that option will still be available for everyone who does not sign up for the electronic version.

Festive Thanks!

The Altar Team gives our heart felt thanks to ALL our Church Family for their generous donations of their time and energy decorating our church home this Christmas season.

Our thanks also go to ALL who helped make this decorating possible, donating their time and abundant energy. Thank You: To our St. Luke's staff for all their support and help; To our kitchen crew for their early morning snacks; To the Altar Team for giving extra time decorating; To The Cushing Family for donating the beautiful tree in the Narthex. To the men and women and youth who: Put up the Banners; Draped garland; Placed Wreaths, Poinsettias, Stars; Put the trees in place; Lit the trees with lights; Decorated the trees with ornaments; - just putting it all together, perfectly. You did an awesome job!

Thank you ALL for your decorating skills, your abundant energy, and the generosity of your time.

FROM REV. BRAD



Rev. Brad Laurvick
Associate Minister

Blessings at Christmas

It warms my heart to wish you and yours a Merry Christmas. This Advent season, the time we prepare for Christmas, is one of the most meaningful and memory filled times of year for me. There is just something about Christmas that my soul gravitates to. The Spirit in the air awakens my soul, the sharing of love and the promise of peace offers me renewed hope that carries me into the new year. It is my sincere prayer that your Holiday will be filled with a Spirit of love, peace, hope, and joy.

As I work on preparing different parts of our Christmas experience at St. Luke's, I am struck by an amazing realization as this Christmas at St. Luke's marks a very special occasion for me. Having spent the latter part of my childhood here at St. Luke's, and having returned to spend Christmas with my family throughout college and even when serving other churches in seminary, this year will be my 13th Christmas at St. Luke's. I will have spent half of my Christmases right here. For half of my life, our sanctuary has been where I have welcomed Jesus into the world and into my life at Christmas.

Over the years the building has changed, the leadership has changed, many things are different—but even more stays the same... The story of God's coming into the world in the most unlikely of ways. The songs of celebration and contemplation. The light in the darkness on the most silent of nights. The infinite love and divine grace of God wrapped in the gentle humanness of a baby. These never change, just as God's love for humanity never changes. The same love that sparked the gift of God's own Son that very first Christmas is the same love that envelops and holds us this Christmas.

As we come and celebrate this season we find ourselves not just at St. Luke's, but we find ourselves just as Mary and Joseph did, at home next to a manger. For wherever you find yourself celebrating Christmas this year or in the years to come—here at St. Luke's, grandmas, the in-laws, some place with palm trees—we will always be at home celebrating Christmas together when we seek the love, peace, hope and joy that is to be found in the manger.

This Christmas I wish you all of the love you could ever need and more. I wish you peace in the deepest reaches of your soul. I wish you hope that fills your life with anticipation of the promises to come. I wish you joy that's so life changing you cannot help but share it with the world. I wish your heart will be light with worry, and a light to the world. I wish you this and more in the simple words, "Merry Christmas".

—Be Blessed and Be a Blessing, Brad

**Remembering the 25th Anniversary of St. Luke's**

GOT COMMUNITY? YES, WE DO! With the bookends of the Feeding of the 5,000 events with Civic Green in September 2007 and the We Need U2 gathering of 40,000 pounds of food for Denver Urban Ministries in October 2008, St. Luke's United Methodist Church observed its 25th year as a congregation, having chartered on March 13, 1983. We celebrate the highlights of our year of celebration:

- Families walk in the St. Luke's AIDS Walk and Relay for Life to raise both awareness and funds for education and research.
- The Wesley Players fill our sanctuary with a cast and crew of 120 persons in *The Music Man*, October 26-28, 2007.
- The Anniversary Speaker Series welcomes Jonathan Sherman on family education and Jane Vennard on contemplative prayer.
- Our fourth weekly worship experience, FUSION, launches in January 2008, fusing everyday life with something deeper.
- St. Luke's staff participates in the Large Church Initiative Conference in Orlando.
- Rev. Jim Calhoun preaches on Anniversary Sunday, March 9, 2008.
- Native American Flute Artist, Vince Redhouse, joins us for a Native American Concert and Fair.
- St. Luke's sends construction and surgical volunteer-in-mission teams to Guatemala.
- St. Luke's and St. Andrew United Methodist Churches join together for a choral festival.
- The Bold Venture addition and re-model refreshes our church house and makes room for the spiritual formation of children, youth, and adults.
- *And so much more!!*

May God bless our new chapter as we look to the horizon for our next 25 years of life together!

SERVING AT ST. LUKE'S



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry

We are Called to Serve

Join one of our Christmas Teams!



**Come serve on Dec. 24 at
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 or 10:00pm**

Ushers: Assist in welcoming and assisting with various duties during the service. We

have many people that day and need many extra hands! Contact Shawn Slade 303-660-6113 denverslade@msn.com or Dick Frame 303-791-4251 rframe5492@aol.com

Greeters: Help us welcome all who are attending service to feel at home on Christmas Eve. Contact Karmie Hilleary 303-683-4696 karmie@comcast.net or Valerie Goodstein 303-799-0907 valgoodstein@hotmail.com

Refreshments: Help serve and maintain our Hot Cider and Cookies table! Needed in between our 1pm (includes set-up), 3pm, 5pm and 7pm (includes clean-up) services. Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20 or lynda@stlukeshr.com

Parking Lot Attendants: Youth are needed to direct traffic in our parking lot for the 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, or 7:00pm services. Contact Chris Wilterdink 303 3791-0659 x14 or chris@stlukeshr.com



Servant by Design

**Thursday's 6:30-8:30pm beginning Jan. 29
9 week course Cost \$21.00**

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
God-centered life by discovering how you are
designed to serve. 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

Class size is limited. Sign up today by contacting Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com or sign up on Sunday's at the "Get Connected" table.



Café St. Luke's:

Join us for Coffee & Conversation about our community 9:30am the 2nd Sunday of the month. Meet your Barista Lynda Fickling at the coffee station located in the Fellowship Hall.

PRAYER CONCERNS



Week Ending December 5, 2008

Please stop by the Information Center, by the front door, where you will find the updated Prayer Concerns List (on yellow paper) and the Armed Forces Prayer List (on blue paper). Please look it over and let me know if you have any additions / removals from either list. If so, please call Bonnie at 303-791-0659 x10, leave me a note on my desk, or email me at bonnie@stlukeshr.com

Gerry Wright (Gail Abernathy's mother)
Glenn Turner
Jennie Keefer (Mike Hutchins' daughter)
Norma Harris
John Covey (friend of Ross Barnard)
Norm Keller (Candy Keller's father)
Pat Clem (neighbor of Doug Wagner)
Jim Bailey (Melissa Moberly's father)
Ronda Olson
Paula Strader (Sandi Miyaki's sister)
Judy Austin (Mary Jo Weber's sister)
Robert Abbott, Sr.
(Nancy Abbott's father-in-law)
Al Tulenko (Bobbi King's neighbor)
Matthew Peterman's cousin, Matthew
Julie Hayes (friend of Susan Werthington)
Susan Johnson
Stephanie Stanley (Jane Damsgard's aunt)
Sharon Liston (Cindy Raap's mother)
Beverly Dodds (Terri Korpals' mother)
Bob Ross (Edee worth's brother)
Brent Webber (friend of Nancy Cushing)
Vicky Stone (LS teacher)
Paula Peterson (friend of Rachel Nolder)
Amy Spicher (Doug Spicher's mother)
Lori Lieberman (friend of Jane Damsgard)
Thelma Hodge (Meryl Cupp's mother)
Diane Wieland (friend of Bobbi King's)
Loraine Berg (friend of Bobbi King's)
Charlie Rufien
Jack Allison (Jim & Joy Damsgard's friend)
Janusz Daszuta (pastor from Poland)
Andrew Jones (friend of Renee Sanek)
Rey Lucero (Gov. Lucero's father)
Dustin Baird (family friend of the Lucero's)
Helen Bartz (Bev Tripple's mother)
Janet Wilson (Betty McIntyre's sister)
Richard Beaman
(friend of Jenny Stevenson)
Jordan Obertier

Shirley Quail (Kay Swanson's friend)
Marcia Enger
Charles Annett
(LS-Suzanne MacCorkell's grandfather)
Sharon Johnson (Laurie Gilbert's mother)
Ginny Sparks
(Caroline Butler's sister-in-law)
Carol Burton (Melissa Hemphill's friend)
Scott Goodstein
Dean Warkentin
(family friend of the Takayama's)
Leigh Ramsey
Edgar Wieland (Bobbi King's cousin)
Jan Stanley (Joy Damsgard's sister)
Shirley Sutcliffe (Leigh Ramsey's mother)
Dolphia Dawson (Melinda Dawson's sister)
Daniel Lund (family friend of the Miyaki's)
Ryan Fielger (LS Karen Engler's nephew)
Makenzie Aiken
(young relative of Kay Oscai's)

Cindy Chumacas
Kajsa Gotlin (Susan Hooke's friend)
Jeremy Brady (Sylvia Brady's grandson)
Karen Edwards (friend of Eileen & Ed Law)
Na Xiuqin (Rake Jiang's mother)
Natalie Murrow
Harry Cushing's mother
Dwain Barcellini (Mike Hutchins' uncle)
Ann Davis (Sue White's mother)
Ken Fong
Dwight Griggs (Susan Hooke's father)
Jim Von Norman (Rob Von Norman's son)
Dick Loughrey
Lee Duncan (Dee Duncan's brother)
Kirk Ayers (Keith & Marilyn Ayers' son)
Betty Halderman's brother-in-law
Cate Hootman (friend of Ed & Eileen Law)
Michelle Walters
(Terry & Janet Walters' daughter)

ARMED FORCES:

Josh Meissner
William Bader
Zac Henshaw
Denton & MaryBeth Dye
Joseph Plumb
Kenneth Berube
Erick Munoz
Joel Fritts
Robert Radle
Brian Armstrong
Matthew Gurley
Jeffrey Ransick
James "Jim" Harding
Amber Marshall
Graham Thorne
Jerry Mendiaz
Matt Swanson
Mark Thompson
Sean M. Pippitt
Ed Herring III
Jeff Hamer
Josh Brady & Jeremy Brady

SYMPATHIES:

To Chris & Emily Wilterdink on the passing of Emily's grandfather, Jack Hallowell, Nov. 11;
To Brad & Carolyn Dean and family on the passing of Carolyn's mother, Eleanor Rowley, Nov. 14;
To John & Erika Brimberry and family on the passing of John's mother, Alice Brimberry, Nov. 21;
To Terry & Janet Walters on the passing of Terry's aunt, Edna Kibbee, Nov. 23;
To Mike & Lori Preble and family on the passing of Lori's father, Bob McEnaney, Nov. 27;
To Bob & Fran West on the passing of Fran's brother-in-law, Eddie Lewis, Nov. 26

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Will & Kristi Coffield on the birth of a daughter, Alexis, Nov. 7.

THE SPIRIT OF ST. LUKE'S

MISSIONS



Rev. Les Ludlam
St. Luke's Lay
Associate Pastor
1993-1997

More from Les: Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

The holiday season is a very special time. We reflect on the year past; we look toward the future. It is a time of beginnings, of new directions and expectations, and of decisions. We are faced with decisions, large and small, throughout the year. But it does seem to me, that this time of year brings more than the average need for decisions in our lives. Decisions, decisions, decisions...

Some decisions are easy; some are more difficult than others. And sometimes, it seems that none of the options we must consider are particularly desirable.

Years ago, my father ran a service station, garage and used car lot in Grand Junction. On one Christmas break, I returned home from college to discover that he had taken in an interesting trade-in from a customer. It was a partially completed attempt to build a sports car from a variety of old auto parts. Dad accepted it as a trade-in because he wanted the engine and transmission. There it sat, behind the garage, looking forlorn and yet strangely beckoning. "Dad, does it run?" I asked. "Don't know," he replied, more absorbed in his tune-up than my questions. "Towed it in from Darley's farm last week."

"Can I try to start it up?" He glanced up, then he turned back to his work. But Dad knew I could keep bugging him. "You can try," he said, as he continued to work, "but don't expect get it running. Just don't mess anything up!" The gauntlet was thrown down! The challenge had been spelled out! It was to be the lifeless piece of machinery versus the ingenious and persistent engineering student. I recruited my younger brother, Jerry, and cousin, Mel, to help. We tinkered with this lifeless hulk for hours, putting a gallon of gas in the tank, adding oil, charging the battery, checking the ignition system and cleaning the spark plugs. Finally I tried the starter, the engine groaned and turned over sluggishly, but wouldn't start. We primed the carburetor and tried again. This time one or two cylinders fired, but the engine died. The third time was the charm. The engine reluctantly started again and this time continued to run rather roughly. Success! I had to show my Dad!

Fearing the engine would stall at any moment, I carefully shifted the automatic transmission lever into "drive" and turned the steering wheel toward the service station driveway. I'd just drive past the pumps, illustrating my mechanical prowess to all, particularly my father!

The car lurched forward at an unexpected rate, and began to accelerate. I steered toward the front of the service station. But then, I noticed that all three service station lanes were filled with the cars of customers buying gasoline. A line of used cars filled the space between the highway and the front of the station, and the highway, North Avenue, was very busy. There was no safe path of travel for this vehicle that just come to life! I stepped on the brake pedal.

IMPORTANT SIDE NOTE: When starting up any vehicle that has been stored for a long time, one should always make sure that the brakes operate properly.

I was suddenly reminded of this fact when, in a split second, I tried to stop and found no brakes!

Decisions, decisions, decisions! Sometimes the decisions facing us seem to offer no good choices. Sometimes we feel we are forced into choosing the lesser of two or more evils. Sometimes we wish we could just not make the decision. But, we do decide, however, for not deciding is, in fact, a decision itself. And our lives are shaped, not so much by the things that happen to us, but by how we decide to respond. We take actions and make commitments and then look back later and ask ourselves "why did I ever do that?" We have the best of intentions, but somehow, something gets in the way of what we know we should do.

In that instant, years ago, when I realized that this vehicle I had been able to bring to life was going to collide with something before stopping! I wished I had checked the brakes, that I had checked for a safe stopping route before starting, but by this time it was too late. Why did I even ask my father to let me try to start this thing up?

Sometimes it seems that none of the choices we encounter in a life situation are particularly desirable. Sometimes it seems there are no "good" decision in a critical situation. We may feel overwhelmed. But we know we cannot escape the consequences of our decisions, whatever they may be. But have we forgotten something? We are not alone in this life; we do not make decisions in isolation. There are friends and family around us who may be a part of those decisions, who may be effected by our decisions, who can provide insight and support.

And, above all, we make those decisions with our God at our side. We are never alone! Our creator is with us as we decide. As we live through the outcomes or consequences of those decisions, God is always with us.

continued on page 10

2008 - A Great Year for Urban Peak! And still time to help...

St. Luke's provides one dinner and breakfast a month to the homeless teens at Urban Peak. Many small groups graciously sponsored a meal in 2008. Thank you to the following groups for your generosity and support this year: Events Team; Thursday Morning Short Term Bible Study; Women's Book Club; Adult Handbell Choir; Common Thread; 07/08 Sunday Disciple 3 Class; Chancel Choir; Women of Note; Mission Team; Christian Connections; SLY leftover dinners; and many individuals. Please forgive me if I have omitted anyone.

If you wanted to help in 2008 and didn't have time, you still have an opportunity! The month of December is not sponsored by a small group, so I am counting on the generosity of individuals to find a moment during the hectic holidays to help provide the meal to these youth. Our date is Dec. 23, and you would only need to help with a small part of it. Call me if you are interested so we can plan the meal and give these kids something special to eat during the holidays.

The sign up for group participation in 2009 is now open. Please consider organizing your group and sponsoring a meal. This is such an easy way to be missional and to make your group cohesive.

Please call Diane Tolleson (303-683-1295 or 303-941-9008) with questions or to sponsor a month.

Also, I will be vacating my position organizing the meals for Urban Peak in 2009. If you are interested in being involved with this mission in 2009, please call me. It is such an easy way to help, and it makes you feel good too!

Blessings to all St. Luke's members that provided Christmas to the families at Inter-Faith Community Services and the youth at Urban Peak. The need to serve those in need was greater than ever and your response was over the top. You should feel good that your generosity helped provide gifts for little children, youth and parents, and helped make the holidays brighter for many families. St. Luke's provided gifts for 22 families, 68 individuals, 156+ gifts, plus grocery certificates. You are the very best!

—St. Luke's Mission Team



Marcus Carlson
Minister to Children &
their Families

CHILDREN & FAMILY CORNER:

I'm dreaming of a Christmas...



As the song goes, I am dreaming of a white Christmas. Growing up in central New York, I only ever experienced one Christmas that was not white. It was 1987, and there was no snow. I had the flu, and even worse, my 'cool' cousin got me pencils for Christmas. Since living in upstate New York, I have had a couple "green" Christmas days. As a lover of snow, I hope every year for a white Christmas, but this year, as I think about Christmas, my dreams for Christmas are so much more. What kind of Christmas do you dream of? Is it just a white Christmas, or do you hope for more? I want to share with you my dreams this Christmas season.

I am dreaming of a Christ-filled Christmas. It may sound like the obvious of all reminders in the church newsletter, but I am dreaming of a Christ-filled Christmas. Other than Christmas Eve service and a couple church sermons, Christ seems to get lost each Christmas. In the busy time of gathering with family, friends, co-workers, a time of shopping, giving, and receiving, it is easy to forget about the Christ that we celebrate. When something becomes about the secondary thing, the main thing is lost. When Christmas becomes about gifts, schedule, or even family and not the arrival of God in the flesh, the life giving Savior, the hope and light of the world, we miss the point. This year, I dream that myself and everyone I encounter will have a Christ-filled Christmas.

I am dreaming of a simple Christmas. Christmas, like all holidays is complicated. It might just be the most complicated holiday of all. There is so much to do and think about; and the list of things to do mounts as the stress fills every corner of life. I suspect this is even more true this year as in our country we have an economic crisis. Families are struggling to provide food and shelter, let alone the abundance of Christmas gifts we usually give and receive. This year, my hope is that we can put aside all expectations of ourselves and others and have a simple Christmas. Less parties and stuff, less activity and expectation, and less gifts. Jesus only got three, and yet we fill our homes each Christmas with stuff. Perhaps this year of all years, we can let go of the expectations and simply be this Christmas. Give yourself permission to keep it simple. You may be surprised how meaningful it gets.

I am dreaming of a magical and mysterious Christmas. We learn the most about life and God from little children. The smaller the more we can learn. The younger you are, the more magic and mystery Christmas seems to have. I will never forget how my own children react each year, not just to the presents, but to the first snow as they hold it and it melts or as they eat it and think it tastes special, or making cookies together, or decorating the yard and the house. Life transforms before their eyes with the culmination being Christmas morning. The element of surprise in the gifts received and given is all about mystery and magic. So it is with our faith in God as well.

I am dreaming of a different Christmas. All of this to say, that I simply hope Christmas is distinctively different this year. I hope that my Christmas, and this Christmas for my children is much like the very first Christmas. —Marcus

Children's Ministry News & Notes

New Family & Servant Newsletters

have started. The servant newsletter goes out to all servants that help out with Children's Ministry and you should get it automatically. The family weekly email newsletter includes: family activities, devotions, information about upcoming events,

and much more. Sign up by subscribing to the children's ministry email list under e-ministry and email lists – stlukeshr.com Don't miss out on this great resource for families!



Joely Maddux
Assistant Director of
Children's Ministry



Kristina Linn
Director of
Childcare

The Dreaming Begins! The Children's Ministry team and staff have started a dreaming phase where we are looking at the future and vision of the children's ministry including forming a mission statement, logo, goals for the next several years and all of the other little things that we are hoping to do to better care for children and families at St. Luke's. If you have any thoughts or ideas, please let Marcus know.



SLY, Jr. Continues to meet the first Sunday of each month downstairs from 5:30-7:25pm for an interactive lesson, game, discussion, and dinner. Volunteers to assist and help prepare dinner are still needed. Don't miss out on SLY, Jr.!

Christmas Eve Services will be as exciting and meaningful as ever. Join us as all of our children and youth music groups along with the Puppet Ministry join the children's and youth staff and our pastors for this great service for families.

Childcare Reminder Please be sure to reserve any childcare needs during the week (48 hours prior) with Kristina.

Help Needed

We have three areas where we are most in need of help right now:

1. We need parents or other adults to serve as assistants for our new Kids Own Worship at 11:00am. Assistants help with attendance, bathroom trips, and help kids navigate stations. We really need your help to make this program a huge success. Parents can give as little as a couple weeks a year to help us out. Contact Marcus if you can help.

2. We still need folks to help with SLY, Jr. as assistants, teachers, and cooks. Please contact Marcus for more information

3. Data entry help needed! We have a new database system and need to get families entered. This system will save us time with attendance, nametags, and registration. It will also allow us to better communicate allergies and special needs to teachers. This can only be done at the church. We also need folks to do some data entry with MS Excel. This is simple entry of past attendance so we can make that electronic. This can be done from home. Please let Joely know if you are able to help with either of these tasks.

11:00 Kids Own Worship-Godly Play Our new program for children, Kids Own Worship starts on Sunday January 11. This new program is going to be one of the most innovative programs we have ever had at St. Luke's. Each week children age 4-grade 6 will sign in with the superintendent downstairs and get their tag. They will then head to worship with their parents. After Children's Time they will be lead to the new chapel for Kids Own Worship. The curriculum is based on Godly Play from the Montessori Academy. Each week children will learn a new song that is important to our church tradition. They will then hear a Bible story or lesson in a very creative way. After the story children will then have an opportunity to engage with and/or reenact the story at a variety of stations. We will close with the same song and dismiss with prayer. The first Sunday of each month we will have communion as well. The stories and how they are told are absolutely incredible, so don't miss out on Kids Own Worship-Godly Play! Please contact Marcus with questions. We are in need of parents to help assist with the class on occasion. See our help needed section for more information.

CALENDAR

December 14	3:00pm Kids' Christmas Pageant
December 20	Holiday Haven 10:00am-1:00pm 10:00am Discovery Club
December 21	Candy Cane Sunday in Sunday School
December 24	1:00 & 3:00pm Children's Christmas Service
December 28	No Sunday School!
January 4	No Sunday School-Three Kings Sunday 5:30-7:25pm SLY, Jr. - God in the Movies
January 11	11:00 am First Kids Own Worship!!!
January 17	10:00am Discovery Club
January 27	6:30-8:00pm Children's Ministry Team Mtg.
February 1	5:30-7:25pm SLY, Jr. - God in the Movies
February 11	10:00am Discovery Club
February 24	6:30-8:00pm Children's Ministry Team Mtg.
February 27	7:00pm Family Movie Night!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

New Serving Opportunities!

Children's Ministry Support Team: To support our Sunday School teachers, this team will plan the pre-school (Joy Trek) Sunday School classroom craft activities surrounding the curriculum. The goal is to provide the lead teacher with a craft packet ready and waiting to go each Sunday, allowing the teachers to focus on their lesson, bible verse and especially the children! We will have our first "class pack assembly" gathering in early January, and continue to meet on a quarterly basis. Come join us in a time fellowship while supporting our wonderful teachers.

Sunday School Greeter: Do you remember the first time you came to St. Luke's? I'm sure you were met by many friendly faces! To ensure our visitors have the same experience in Sunday School, we have a new Greeter position. This person greets guests just outside the superintendent station and, once the visitor has their children checked in, the greeter directs the visitor to their child's appropriate classroom. This allows the superintendent to remain at their station and continue to check in families. The greeter is then welcome to return to service at approximate 9:40am.

Floating Assistant: Are you interested in serving in children's Sunday School but not sure where to start? Maybe you would like to teach more Sundays but are not sure of the time commitment needed to prepare a lesson? Maybe you're a teen or even a grandparent looking for a new way to serve at St. Luke's? Then this is the perfect serving opportunity for you! The floating assistant is someone to give a classroom an extra assistant on the mornings where we have a particularly big class! This is a fun way to see the diversity offered in our Sunday School programs, while getting know other teachers and our wonderful kids!

Please contact Joely or Marcus if you are interested in or have questions.

Save the date for the Annual Children's Dinner Theater auditions - March 1!

Children's Ministry has three goals for each performance we do. To show the children God's love for them, to support a mission and to have fun. Each year, we choose a play that is in line with the Methodist Global Board of Discipleship's yearly Family Christian Home theme, which is carried over into the other programming for Children's Ministry. We choose missions that the kids can relate to and spend a portion of all rehearsals making sure the children and families understand the mission and why we supported them.

The Family Christian Home program has four rotating themes: Love, Peace, Justice and Hope. For "Love", in 2005, we performed the play "The Selfish Giant", which was about a giant who learned about the love of Jesus through the children he was first annoyed with and then grew to love. The mission we supported was our own St. Luke's Little School (our on-site preschool) with the purchase of new playground equipment. For "Peace", in 2006, we performed "Just Like Us" which was a "West Side Story"-type of play about two groups of people who didn't get along and learned that we all have things in common even if we don't look alike. Our mission was the Big Brother's/Big Sister's of America program. For "Justice", in 2007, we performed "Big Bad" which is a courtroom version of "Little Red Riding Hood" with the Wolf on trial. The children learned about mistakes and forgiveness and we supported the St. Luke's Bold Venture construction expansion that will provide more room and resources for our children and youth. For "Hope", in 2008, we performed the musical "The Magic in Me" which showed the children that everyone has a special magic inside. You just have to find that magic. We supported The Kids Mobility Network, which is a program that pairs gently used, refurbished equipment for children with special needs who may not be able to afford the tools that can help them to lead a more fulfilling life. In 2009, we will choose a play with the theme of "Love".

Auditions for children in 1st through 6th grade will be held on Sunday, March 1, at 10:45am. Auditions will be in the church lower level at a location to be determined. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary from 5:30-6:30pm, March 4-April 22 plus a couple of dress rehearsals the week of the show. The performance will be on May 1 with our traditional Mexican dinner at 6:00pm and the play at 7:00pm with a pre-show performance by our Cherubs Choir. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to help in various ways with costumes, set, dinner, etc. Serving roles for you to choose from will be listed on the information sheet at auditions. For questions or more information please contact Lynne Butler at LLbutler1@msn.com or 303-435-1606 or Joely or Marcus.



LITTLE SCHOOL News



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School

Advent Blessings!

Blessings from Little School during this Advent Season! December's theme for school is "Celebrating Friends" and Rev. Brad will join us for Chapel. Little School is busy preparing to celebrate the Birthday of our Baby Jesus! December is packed with fun events and lots of happy festivities! Our 4 year-olds will kick off December with their big Pancake breakfast and craft days. About 190 children will get to have a busy morning, eating pancakes, and rotating through learning centers. Three's will have their Christmas Obstacle course and we will all be anticipating our pajama day, St. Nicholas day and a visit from Santa. The end of our year will be topped off with our wonderful **Christmas programs Dec. 17 & 18 at 9:30** by all the children under the Direction of Ms. Laura, our fabulous Music teacher! **Little School will be closed Dec. 19 (Friday) and return Jan. 5 (Monday) for our holiday break!**

January is a very busy month for Little School when we return from the holidays. Our theme for January will be "Making New Friends" Our main focus for January will be Western Stock Show, with lots of learning focused on our farm and ranch animal friends. We will have (pretend) campfires, real ponies and Spaghetti Western Family Night January 28.

REGISTRATION FOR CURRENT FAMILIES, CHURCH MEMBERS AND ALUMNI BEGINS THE WEEK OF JANUARY 5 (DEADLINE JAN. 23RD) AND NEW FAMILY REGISTRATION BEGINS THE WEEK OF JANUARY 20 (no school the 19th) (DEADLINE FEB. 9TH) PLEASE DO NOT DELAY AS WE DO FILL UP QUICKLY! QUESTIONS? CALL LITTLE SCHOOL 303-791-1982

Can't wait to have the new construction finished and welcome Mr. Chris and Ms. Susan downstairs with Little School. It will be a wonderful NEW YEAR! May you be richly blessed in 2009!

—Ms. Kay & Staff:—)

Holiday Haven

Who: Children ages 3-9

What: Parent's morning out, with crafts, games and other holiday fun for the kids.

When: Dec. 20th 10:00 am-1:00pm
(A healthy snack will be served)

Where: St. Luke's UMC – downstairs in the David Area

Why: To give parents a chance to have time to catch up on last minute holiday preparations.

Cost: \$6 per child to be paid upon arrival. (Includes snack and craft materials) \$12 max per family

Registration will be online at www.stlukeshr.com



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome

YOU ARE
INVITED...

Adam & Angela Alderson
Thaddeus and Quinten



Brian & Nancy Jackson
Kelly

"We were initially drawn to the church by the SLY Youth Program and the Christ-centered focus and 'all are welcome' approach of St. Luke's."

Kelsey Kelly

Christy Kelly

"While going through cancer treatment and a difficult time with my family, I felt compelled to reintegrate myself into a spiritual community."



Ryan & Jenny Levine
Shayla and Chloe

"The minute that I walked in the door I knew I was home..."



Bob & Christy Rowe
Millie and Tessa

"We love the closeness, positivity, and sense of community at St. Luke's."



Laura Hehner

TO JOIN
THE
ST. LUKE'S
COMMUNITY

We are excited to welcome you into the family of St. Luke's. Please fill out the New Member Card located in our friendship pad and/or at the "Get Connected" table in the Narthex on Sunday.

Then you may either: Come forward during the "Hymn of Grace" where the community will welcome you or you may simply hand the card to one of our Pastors or to Lynda Fickling, our Director of Servant Ministry. She will then need to meet with you for a few minutes to have your picture taken and complete the process. We look forward to you becoming a member of our family!

WHO WE ARE

Servant Spotlight: Matt & Penny Rose *by Jen Utter*

With a solid Christian background and a love for music, Matt and Penny Rose found St. Luke's to be a perfect place to be examples of Christ for themselves and their four children.

Penny, born into a Methodist family, grew up in Cheyenne, WY. Matt grew up in Kansas City where he spent his childhood on both of his grandparents' farms in Girard, KS. Matt and Penny met while

attending the University of Kansas and were married a short time after graduation. After spending two more years in Kansas, the couple moved to southern California for 11 years. Penny and Matt moved to Colorado three years ago with their children.

Matt works as a radiation engineer for SEAKR Engineering and Penny is a stay-at-home mom for Copland, 13; Thomson, 10; Carter, 7; and Gabrielle, 4. The couple's love for music played a large role in picking names for their children. All are named after famous musical composers.

When the family moved to Castle Rock, they wanted a church with a solid music program. Penny's family knew Rev. Janet from their church in Cheyenne and decided to start their "church shopping" at St. Luke's where they knew a familiar face. Their shopping ended as quickly as it started because they immediately found a home with St. Luke's.

The family has not only become very involved in the various music groups at St. Luke's but have created their own. Matt started the church's Bluegrass band and Penny plays the clarinet in different musical productions. Penny began playing the clarinet in fifth grade when her uncle let her borrow an extra one he had. She hasn't stopped playing since. The couple also led Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University class in the fall of 2007.

The family was drawn to the welcoming people of St. Luke's and the programs and activities for the youth and children. The couple has been impressed by how accommodating all of the children's programs have been for their autistic son. Between Matt and Penny, the two have taught Sunday School for the four-year-olds and the 'tween class.

"I distinctly remember the Sunday that Matt and Penny made their presence known two and a half years ago," said Jim Ramsey, Director of Music Ministry and the Art at St. Luke's. "It was the Sunday that Janet announced to the church that I was going on vocal rest. Both Matt and Penny came up to me after the service and said that they both have been involved in music and would be able and willing to help in any manner needed to help me with the music program. Since then, both of them have been an incredible gift to St. Luke's through the sharing of their musical gifts, creative ingenuity, and leadership. We are truly blessed that they call St. Luke's their church home!"

For Matt and Penny, it is important to give back to a church that has given so much to them. They look forward to many years of showing their love for Christ through service and song.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



St. Luke's UMW Mission Team meets the 2nd Sunday of each month, following the 11:00am service. Everyone is invited to attend. We currently have openings on the UMW board. If you are interested in serving on the board, please contact Fran West.

UMW Mission Project We have chosen UMCOR as our on-going mission project. We are collecting supplies for Bedding Kits, Sewing Kits and Layette Kits.

Mark your calendars:

- Monday, January 5 6:30pm - Women's Night Out: Romano's
- Sunday, January 11 noon - UMW Mission Team Meeting
- Monday, January 26 7:00pm - Evening Book Club: *The Faith Club*
- Monday, February 2 6:30pm - Women's Night Out: Treo
- Sunday, February 8 noon - UMW Mission Team Meeting
- Saturday, February 28 - Chocolate Boutique Women's Retreat (see info on page 1)

Contact
Fran West
for more
information
303-797-7107

MUSIC & DRAMA



James Ramsey
Dir. of Music
Ministry & the Arts



Kay Coryell
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry



Ken Mervine
Organist/
Accompanist

January Start Up Dates

Cherubs Choir – Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30pm

Kidz Prayz – Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30pm

Tone Chimes – Wednesday, January 7 at 7:20pm

St. Luke's Wind Ensemble – Sat., Jan. 10 at 9:00am

For more information about these groups, please contact Kay Coryell at 303-791-0659 or kayc@stlukeshr.com

Puppet News Network, Presents Ministry Message on Prayer



(AP: Associated Puppets):

If anyone ever doubted that prayer occurs at football games, then the St. Luke's Puppet Team quickly dispelled that notion with a poignant ministry message

about prayer in our lives. On Nov. 22, the team of over twenty youth and adult puppet ministers gave St. Luke's a light hearted, but heartfelt investigation of prayer whether at a football game, at the supermarket, or at a mountain top near Capernaum. The network's chief sponsor, Noah's Deck and Roof Building Company, periodically interrupted the broadcast to advertise its services to the viewing audience—*"If someone named Noah can build an ark, then someone named Noah ought to be able to build you a deck. Weather-proofing a specialty. Call 1-800-NOAHNOW before we're flooded with calls."* The ministry message ended the evening with a dramatic blackout presentation encouraging us all to pray every moment of the day.

The puppet ministry raised \$625 through a good will offering for Nothing But Nets and plans to take their ministry message to at least two other churches and Iliff Seminary sometime in the early spring of 2009.

The next major puppet ministry message will be presented on Christmas Eve at the 1:00 and 3:00pm services and the puppeteers are looking for volunteers to help them present their message to families. One of their ministry messages will be an African version of "O Holy Night" and will require twenty to thirty volunteers. This is a great opportunity for a parent or youth volunteer who would like to offer a gift to their family and all of the families who attend the services. Call Stephen or Cathy Collins at 303-346-0275 to volunteer before they're flooded with calls.

PAA Gearing up for 2009 From a small original script performed by twenty young people in 2006 to a full ensemble performance of *HONK!* in 2007 to two fully staged presentations of *The Jungle Book Kids* and *Seussical, Jr.* in 2008, the Performing Arts Academy, founded by Dr. James Ramsey and co-directed by Roberta Hamilton-Griggs, has established itself as a unique learning experience through classes in music, dance, acting and spiritual principles for character development. The PAA participants, ages 7-17, gather from members of St. Luke's as well as from many other communities and faith walks.



By the end of our third year, the PAA has grown in staffing as well, adding such professionals as Jenna Wilcox, Andra Brown, Doug Johnson, Lena Line and Kay Coryell to our leadership and creating mentoring relationships for the students with quality performers from local high schools such as Burke Walton, Zach Anderson, Katie Drinkard and Averill Corkin. The PAA has also provided over \$3000 toward missions as well as encouragement and character building skills to almost 100 students.

The summer of 2009 brings forth new challenges and excitement as the PAA prepares to launch a new opportunity called "The Performing Arts Academy Jr. Players" who will present a one act musical with a biblical theme. This is only a one week commitment with the performance to be held during Sunday morning service on June 14. The PAA Jr. Players production of *100% Chance of Rain* is open to the children of St. Luke's age 7-through 6th grade for a church wide experience of faith and music. *100% Chance of Rain* will rehearse June 8-12 after school from 4:00-6:00pm. Snacks, costumes, music and t-shirts are covered in the \$25 participation fee.

The Performing Arts Intensive is, as the name implies, a two week INTENSE study of voice, acting and dance and production open to all kids ages 7-17 in the community who have a serious interest in musical theatre. The 2009 Intensive will run July 6-17, 9:00am-4:00pm. We will be performing *Disney's Beauty and The Beast Jr.*, for grades 7th-12th and *A Year with Frog and Toad Kids*, for grades 2nd-6th. Tuition for this training opportunity is \$275 for church members and \$350 for non-members. Sibling discounts are available. Please check the website and registration for further details. Performances will be Thursday and Friday evenings July 16-17.

Exact audition dates, deposit deadlines, and other info will be available on the St. Luke's website www.stlukeshr.com after Jan. 15, 2009. While the PAA Jr. Players will accept any and all children from St. Luke's, the two-week intensive will only have 50 spots available for each show (a total of 100 registrations open). Register early to make sure you get a spot. Please check www.stlukeshr.com for more details and to register after January 15.



You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown

was a great success on so many fronts. Thanks to the wonderful cast and amazing tech and stage crews that worked tirelessly to make it all happen so smoothly. I also want to thank Dave Laurvick and Danny McIntosh who cast the

vision for the show and helped it become a reality. It was truly a team effort with so much positive energy. We had nearly 1,000 people come and see the show and raised a little over \$5,000 for the John Wesley School and the Douglas County Women's Crisis Center. Kudos to everyone!

Coming in the Spring for the Wesley Players Auditions are Feb. 7 from 9:00-11:00am and Feb. 8 from 2:00-4:00pm for our liturgical drama during holy week. The Wesley Players are proud to present so many quality shows that have helped make a difference in our community and internationally. This spring we will focus on a drama that enhances our worship experiences through the Lenten Journey.

Don't miss

✧ December SLY PM Schedule:

- ✧ **Dec 14: ZooLights!** Dinner at 5:30, then we carpool to the Denver Zoo. Return back to church by 9:00pm. Tickets cost \$8 at the door.
- ✧ **Dec 21: Christmas Video Scavenger Hunt.** An annual SLY tradition where competing carloads of youth and adults try and find holiday carols and decorations around Highlands Ranch!
- ✧ **Dec 28: No SLY AM or PM!** Happy New Year (almost)!
- ✧ The construction on the new addition is nearly finished, and we are planning to move in and start using our new space in January!
Please check www.stlukeshr.com/sly for updates on January's activities!



Chris Stephens helps "hang the greens" on Saturday Nov. 29.



Chris Wilterdink
Director of
Youth Ministries



Susan Johnson
Assistant Director
of Youth Ministries

CHRIS's CORNER

XMAS PLZ DNT B L8

The calendar date of Christmas never changes, so why do some days and nights in December seem long and drawn out in anticipation of this celebration day? Hmm, could it be the presents? Yes, that must be a part of it. I remember sleepless nights when I was a child leading up to Christmas morning, all in the anticipation and excitement of the gifts I was about to receive. I'm sure that walking by our family tree covered in ornaments and pre-wrapped gifts every day didn't help my restless imagination either... There were just gifts I wanted so badly to unwrap for myself...

I must confess that I still end up with a few December nights where closing my eyes is difficult, still because of the gifts of the season, but for a slightly different reason. Now I anticipate the opening of the gifts by those I care about. Somewhere along the way, what I looked forward to the most ceased to be what I would receive, and became the anticipation of what I would give. I still relish the chance to try and find the perfect gift that will absolutely "make" someone's Christmas Day. Have a blessed holiday season, and don't make Christmas be late! Make Christmas come early for your loved ones by hunting down those gifts that will make lifelong memories. *—Peace & Love, Chris*

CONFIRMATION INFO:

Registration forms are now available at church and on the SLY website for the families of 8th graders and up who wish to participate in St. Luke's 2009 Confirmation classes! You can register for the class until January 28.

- There will be an informational meeting January 11 at 11:00am for families interested in Confirmation. The meeting is scheduled to take place in the new youth addition. Calendars and samples of the curriculum will be available.
- Confirmation classes take place weekly on Sunday mornings at 11:00am. Classes begin on February 1.
- A retreat is an important part of St. Luke's confirmation process for every youth, and this year's retreat will be March 6-8.
- Confirmation Sunday will take place the week after Easter, April 19.
- There is a \$100 class fee that helps to cover the costs of curriculum, a personalized 3-ring binder, and the retreat.
- Any further questions please contact chris@stlukeshr.com

Spring Ski Retreat Feb 13-15! Stay tuned for registrations and cost info! Watch www.stlukeshr.com/sly and the information wall at church. Open to Jr & Sr. High!

WITY & SLIP Improv Show January 17! No cost or tickets, but donations will be collected at the show to support missions! Family friendly and hilarious!



Over 50 care packages filled with home-baked cookies, easy mac, top ramen, coffee, and tea were packed by SLY on Nov. 30 and mailed around the country to former SLY kids now in college. Pictured (L to R): Kayla Boos, Josh Pawley, Karen Bobkowski, Keith Newby.

continued from page 5 Decisions, decisions, decisions! "Which way should I turn?" I thought as this vehicle we had successfully started up headed toward a certain impact. In that instant, it occurred to me that one of my father's used cars would be a least dangerous choice for impact. The cars at the pumps were getting gasoline and a spark would be disastrous and the traffic on North Avenue could be deadly. I steered for the line of used cars. **CRASH!**

The assemblage of fenders, sheet metal, frame, engine and driveline struck the used car and pieces (and my pride) went flying everywhere! The car shuddered and stopped. The two-year old Buick I had hit now had a large dished-in place on the rear fender, but everything else was O.K. The next day, Dad pulled the car into the shop, and I was given the task of pulling the engine and transmission out of the chassis. The rest of the car went to the salvage company immediately.

Decisions, decisions, decisions! I do believe we face many decisions this time of the year and some do not present easy choices. We may not like our options. But we do decide. By recognizing that God is with us and by accepting the grace that our creator offers, the decision-making can become simpler and the outcomes easier to deal with. "I have called you by name," God says, "You are mine. I will be with you!" God bless us all! *—Rev. Les*

TRUSTEES CORNER

Thank You for a Terrific Year!

Last year many of the Trustees were also very dedicated members of our Building Committee. As a team we prioritized and proudly completed our new addition and a laundry list of refurbishment projects. Something we did very differently with our Bold Venture was to purposefully engage several of our program leaders, members, constituents, staff, and resource teams in decision making. We initially had concerns that decisions by committee would take a very long time to complete, and some literally took months! However, what we experienced is this approach helped us to better connect with many of our members and our teams. Look around – we did this together through the grace of your gifts!

This roller-coaster ride we've come to know as our economy rises from good news one day then falls and struggles the next. While you're doing your best to work through these challenges, know that St. Luke's is here every day and you and your family have access to lots of amazing programs and teams here. Just look at what we did together last year... Thank you to everyone who served on Trustees, our Building Committee and as tireless volunteers in these projects, we truly could not have done it without you. We can't wait to see what 2009 brings.



Bold Venture Construction Nears Completion

The Bold Venture construction is scheduled for completion at the end of December. The youth wing and chapel/adult education additions are taking shape with dry wall and flooring.

Carpeting is scheduled in the addition, Fellowship Hall, Narthex, classrooms, and administrative offices in late December and early January.

County officials have determined that we must install another water hydrant. That component is planned for next summer when Little School is not in session.

Our wish list for furnishings through memorial donations include the chapel stained glass, chairs, artwork, and musical instruments.

Thank you to the Building Committee for their great leadership with A.D. Miller Construction: Scott Kohrs (chairperson), David Rhodes, Randy Larson, Joyce Carnes, Dee Duncan, Ken Fong, Sandi Miyaki, Marge Harper, Peter Waldheim, Tim Krening, and Terri Ary. Dave Cupp and Janet Forbes are staff liaisons.



FINANCIAL UPDATE



Dave Cupp
Director of Finance



Lisé Takayama
Assistant Director
of Finance

Year End Planning Information:

It's that time again. Shame on me for mentioning "year end" again. However, it is less than 15 days away. Here are some things you may want to consider:

1. You may want to pay the remainder of your pledges to the general fund and the capital campaign fund by transferring securities to the church and taking the advantages of the tax benefits. You could include your future year(s) pledges in the one transfer. The amounts for the future year(s) would be put in prepaid and applied in the appropriate time period. This process is very easy and we have several members taking advantage of the opportunity. Contact me for assistance and to get the routing information your broker will need to make the transfer. This process takes a few days so you need to hurry to have the contribution recorded in 2008.
2. If you need more deductions in 2008, you might consider prepaying future pledges. The amounts for the future would be put in prepaid and applied in the appropriate time period. All you have to do is mark your checks accordingly.
3. Make plans to get your last minute giving to the church on or before December 31. We will consider all collections received during 2008 as 2008 contributions unless instructed to apply them to a future year. Contributions received in the mail after December 31 will be posted to 2008 only if they are post marked on or before December 31 and we are not instructed to apply them as 2009 giving.
4. If you are 70 ½ years of age, you may be able to roll some of your IRA funds to the church and reduce your taxable income. Check with your tax adviser for this one. This method was extended to include 2009 as a part of the recent "bail out" legislation package.

Don't Forget the Extra \$100 Challenge: Several families have met this challenge. As you know, I've been encouraging everyone to find an extra \$100 to help bring our giving back in line with what was projected. If all our families gave an extra \$100 or so, we would reach our goal for the year. The \$100 number isn't a tremendously large number. However, when you consider how many families we have and put all the \$100 together, it becomes a very significant amount—and a big problem solver.

Don't Forget We Have Many Choices To Make Your Giving To SLUMC Easy And Convenient. We currently have around \$500,000 of our general fund and bold venture capital campaign fund donations coming from the electric funds transfer (eft) and online methods—over 100 transactions per month. Plus, we sell about \$70,000 dollars of grocery cards each year through these methods. You may want to consider one of these convenient methods for your contributions.

In addition to cash and checks, we offer credit card transactions (either in person or online), stock transfers and scheduled automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts for you to use in doing your transactions with St Luke's. The following is a general summary:

- **General Fund and Capital Campaign:** All methods. However, you need to call ahead to use your credit card in person here at the office to make sure I'm here to process the transaction.
- **Grocery Cards:** Cash, Check, Scheduled automatic withdrawal from checking accounts.
- **Special Events:** Depending on the type of event may include cash, check, card present credit card and credit card online transactions. The method(s) available at each event will be announced at the time of the event and are at the discretion of the sponsor.



The CHRONICLE

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

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*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.*



Planning for Severe Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the pastors and staff of St. Luke's have adopted these procedures:

During the week:

- When North Douglas County cancels school, St. Luke's will close the church office and cancel daytime classes, meetings, and events in the building. All childcare for the day will be cancelled.
- Group leaders will determine by 3:00pm if evening classes, meetings, and events will be held beginning at 6:00pm. There will be no childcare provided.
- When North Douglas County schools announce an early dismissal, St. Luke's will close the office and cancel all afternoon and evening classes, meetings, and events.
- When North Douglas County delays the start of the school day, no classes, meetings, or events will be cancelled. The office will open at the regular time of 8:00am. Each family will need to determine participation based on their scheduling needs.

On weekends and holidays:

- The church staff and group leaders will determine whether classes, meetings, and events will be held.

Closures will be posted on the St. Luke's website (www.stlukeshr.com) as soon as a decision is made. Closure of St. Luke's Little School will also be given to local television and radio stations.

DECEMBER 2008 / JANUARY 2009 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Pam Rowley 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's 3:00pm: Children's Christmas Pageant 5:30pm: SLY PM 7:34pm: Fusion	15 7:00pm: UMW Book Club	16 7:00pm: Cancer Support Group	17 9:30am: Little School Christmas Pageant 6:30pm: SLAM	18 9:30am: Little School Christmas Pageant	19 No Little School	20 10:00am: Holiday Haven 10:00am: Discovery Club
21 Candy Cane Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Janet Forbes 5:30pm: SLY PM 7:34pm: Fusion	22 No Little School - all week 4:00-9:00pm: Christmas Eve Rehearsals	23 7:00pm: Emmaus Reunion Group	24 Let your Heart be Light Celebrating Advent & Christmas at St. Luke's 2008 Christmas Eve Services: 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 10:00pm	25 Christmas Day Merry Christmas!	26 Church Office Closed	27
28 No Sunday School or SLY AM/PM 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Laura Hehner 7:34pm: Fusion	29 No Little School - all week	30	31	JAN 1 New Year's Day	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 Epiphany Sunday: 3 Kings Service Burrito Breakfast between services No Sunday School or SLY AM 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Janet Forbes 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. 5:30pm: SLY PM 7:34pm: Fusion	5 Little School restarts/Start of registration for current families and church 7:00pm: Women's Night Out	6 5:30: Soup Supper 6:30-8:00pm: Church Conference 6:30pm: Live, Laugh, Love Club	7 6:30pm: SLAM	8	9	10
11 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Brad Laurvick 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's noon: UMW Mission Team Mtg. 5:30pm: SLY PM 7:34pm: Fusion	12 7:00: Trustees	13	14 6:30pm: SLAM	15	16	17 10:00am: Discovery Club
18 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Janet Forbes 5:30pm: SLY PM 7:30m: Fusion	19 No Little School	20 Start of Little School registration for new families 6:30pm: Live, Laugh, Love Club	21 6:30pm: SLAM	22	23 Little School registration due for current families and church	24 Youth Sunday rehearsal