



# The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2011/JANUARY 2012

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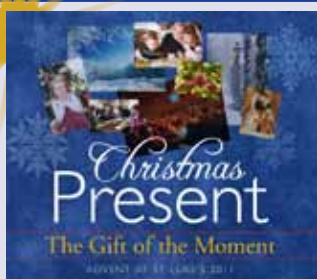
## Support our Guatemala Mission

In March 2012, St. Luke's will be sending 2 mission teams to Guatemala with plans to build a cinderblock school for a needy village. The current school in the village is built out of cornstalks! This presents a huge health and safety issue for these children. To raise funds for this project, come to a **Burrito Breakfast on the morning of Jan. 8, 2012** (Three Kings Puppet Sunday). We hope you will join us for a wonderful breakfast supporting a great cause! A full breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall, but takeout burritos will be available as well. All funds raised will be used to purchase the building supplies for this construction project.



## It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas.... Present!

Thank you so much to the team who made the Hanging of the Greens possible this year! It was a community effort and we couldn't have done it without all of the St. Luke's "elves"! Join us for removal of the Christmas decorations on Sunday, Jan. 8 immediately following the 11:00 service. It will be a fun time! Interested? Contact Annie Van Hoosen at [avhaugen@comcast.net](mailto:avhaugen@comcast.net). The more, the merrier!!!



*Look for a twinkling flash of wonder  
That opens up our eyes  
To the unexpected gifts in life—  
Each one a sweet surprise.*

**Join us for the celebration of Advent and Christmas at**

**St. Luke's! Our theme this year is "Christmas Present: The Gift of the Moment."**

It's the moments that surprise us, that always come as gifts, that we are encouraged to attend to in The Christmas Present. Let us look for the simple things that are all around us when we are present to life: children's excitement, show sparkling in the streetlights, the many colors of the season, a fresh crisp winter sky, families, sounds, and scents that surround us but have no expectations of us. The Christmas Present is more about being than doing, about relationships, laughter, carols... simple, real, uncomplicated, joyful.

### December 11 ADVENT 3

CHAPEL COMMUNION.....8:00am  
CANTATA.....9:30 & 11:00am

### December 14-15

LITTLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

### December 18 ADVENT 4 CANDY CANE SUNDAY

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT.....3:00pm

### December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

CHILDREN.....1:00 & 3:00pm  
Puppets, Youth Choir, Cherub's Choir, Primary and Junior Prayz, and Joyful Noise Youth Handbell Choir  
TRADITIONAL.....5:00 & 7:00pm

Chancel Choir, Tintinnabulators  
Handbell Choir, Soloists, Brass and Organ  
COMMUNION.....10:00pm  
Communion Service, Soloists and Organ

### December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP.....10:00am  
No Sunday School or Fusion/SLY PM

### January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY

COVENANT SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION.....8:00,  
9:30, 11:00am, 6:34pm

### January 8 EPIPHANY

SERVICE OF THE KINGS.....8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

## Wesley Players turn "Bah Humbug!" into "Cheers!"

On November 18 and 19 the Wesley Players presented an adaptation of the Dickens Classic, *A*



*Christmas Carol*. Over 40 participants made this wonderful story come to life on the St. Luke's stage, including children and crew. The timeless classic was enjoyed by over 500 people who were generous in donations to support Warren Village and Milk for Guatemala. Patrick Griggs portrayal of Dickens and the memorable Scrooge was memorable. Special effects make up helped bring the spirits of Jacob Marley (Stephen Collins) and the Ghosts of Christmas Past (Ann Smith), Present (Audrey Elling) and Yet to Come (Stephen Collins/Rich Spong) to full life. The

cast was deep in talent and their efforts captured the message of transformation perfectly. Lead by Melanie Kirkpatrick and Karin Wesson, the cast and crew worked seamlessly as a team to create a magical experience for all who came. On Saturday evening, the Fellowship Events Team cooked and served a benefit dinner which was met with nothing less than great praise. Thank you to all who came to see the show, worked on or backstage or served at the dinner. Your efforts will improve the lives of people in our local and global community!

**Sunday Worship Services:**

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

6:34pm: Fusion

Contemplative Services also offered  
(Check website for dates and times)**Sunday School:**

Adult, Youth &amp; Children:

9:30am &amp; 11:00am

**Nursery available for:**

8:00, 9:30 &amp; 11:00am services

**Church Office**.....303-791-0659  
**Fax**.....303-470-5615  
**Email**.....office@stlukeshr.com  
**Website**.....www.stlukeshr.com  
**Preschool Office**.....303-791-1982

**Staff:**

**Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes**.....x13  
 Senior Minister Emergency: 303-241-9312  
**Rev. Bradley Laurvick**.....x12  
 Associate Minister Emergency: 720-296-1251  
**Rev. Sallie Suby-Long**.....x32  
 Associate Minister Emergency: 303-475-0141  
**Angie Steinhauer**.....x28  
 Pastoral and Children's Ministry Intern  
**Sharon Oliver**.....x27  
 Director of Children's Ministry  
**Dawn Johnson**.....x11  
 Assistant Director of Children's Ministry  
**Samantha Leahy**.....x40  
 Director of Childcare  
**Erin Klein**.....x14  
 Interim Director of Youth Ministry  
**Susan Johnson**.....x19  
 Assistant Director of Youth Ministry  
**Kay Swanson**.....303-791-1982  
 Director of Little School  
**Dr. James Ramsey**.....x23  
 Director of Music & Arts Ministries  
**Kenrick Mervine**.....x33  
 Associate Director of Music Ministry & Organist  
**Jennifer Ferguson**.....x37  
 Associate Director of Music Ministry  
**Kay Coryell**.....x36  
 Director of Handbells & Children's Music Ministry  
**Ernie Rodgers**.....x44  
 Fusion Worship Leader  
**Carrie Mallory**.....x35  
 Assistant Fusion Worship Leader  
**Jenna Wilcox**.....x22  
 Director of Drama Ministry  
**Brenda Schafer**.....x10  
 Office Administrator  
**Dave Cupp**.....x24  
 Director of Finance  
**Lisé Takayama**.....x16  
 Assistant Director of Finance  
**Lynda Fickling**.....x20  
 Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director  
**Barry Curtis**.....x39  
 Facilities Manager

All submissions for the **February 2012**  
**issue of The Chronicle** are due **Jan. 20**  
 Editor: Sharon Oliver  
 chronicle@stlukeshr.com

The Chronicle prints 10 times per year and  
 is emailed to those on our email blast list,  
 and it can be found on the church website.

Printed copies are available at church  
 entrances. To receive The Chronicle via US  
 mail, please call or email the Church Office.



**Rev. Janet Forbes**  
 Senior Pastor

## An Exciting Learning Opportunity in January

On Sunday, January 22, St. Luke's welcomes the Rev. Dr. James R. Ryan, Council Executive of the Colorado Council of Churches, as our guest preacher. Jim's guiding scripture for ministry is Micah 6:8: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God."

Serving under the mission, Living in Unity, Working for Justice, Dr. Ryan has given leadership to the Colorado Council of Churches and state-wide ecumenical and interfaith relationships since February 1, 2000. He will be sharing a message on the unity of the Christian Church. He stands in spiritual contrast to the polarization that seems to characterize communities of faith:

*Do you believe we are related? That is the essential question! Do you believe that we are blood relations—that is, related to one another by the blood of Christ? The ecumenical expression of Christ's Church is not dependent on membership or agreement, but rather it is built upon the God-given relationship that we share one with another. No one denomination can legitimately stand apart from the rest of the body. No one part of the body can say to another, "I have no need of you." There is one body. "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism."*

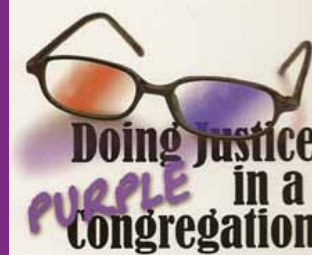
*We do not work for Christian unity. We do not strive for Christian unity. We do not achieve Christian unity any more than we achieve our own salvation. Christian unity is the already present gift of God through the love and grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We choose either to live out that present reality, or to stand in its way. When we hear the words of Christ, "This is my Body broken for you," they are words of blessing! When we hear the words of Christ, "This is my Body broken by you," they are words of judgment.*

Born and raised in Akron, Ohio, Jim served as Senior Minister of First Christian Church, Des Moines, Iowa and then as Executive Director of the Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa before moving to Colorado. He received his Master of Divinity from Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, Kentucky and his Doctor of Ministry from Saint Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri. In the Denver community, Jim has served on the Board of Directors of Samaritan Counseling Center, Housing Justice! and as President of the Board of Eco-Justice Ministries. He presently serves on the Board of Voices for Justice. Jim is married to Kristin Ryan, MSW who is an elementary school principal in Littleton, Colorado. He has two adult children and their families living in Iowa, and two step-children in Colorado. His interests are golf and travel.

On Sundays, January 29, February 5, and 12, Jim will be teaching his book, **Doing Justice in a Purple Congregation** at 11:00am. In his book and class discussions, he asks, "Why is the prophetic voice of Christianity so silent? Why do mainline Protestant congregations become so uneasy when justice issues are raised? Why are we so bold with charity (meeting short-term needs) and so timid with justice (systemic change)?"

As a part of a politically and theologically purple (mixing red and blue creates purple) congregation, the class will explore the biblical and social challenges of leading in ministries of mercy and justice. Jim brings his humor, compassion, and pastoral experience together in framing the essentials for "speaking the truth in love" in theologically, politically, and culturally diverse congregations. All are welcome to participate.

**Blessings, Rev. Janet**



On Sundays,  
 Jan. 29, Feb. 5, & 12,  
 Dr. Jim Ryan will be  
 teaching his book,  
*Doing Justice in a  
 Purple Congregation*  
 at 11:00am.

### Common Table is changing meeting times so YOU can join us!

Share a meal, conversation, and discernment of St. Luke's purpose and direction. Meetings for 2012 are scheduled for the following **Sundays from 12:15-2:00pm: Feb. 12, April 29, Sept. 23, Nov. 11**

Common Table provides an opportunity to be in conversation with the St. Luke's community. Whether you have attended for years or have only attended once, you are welcome to join the conversation.

**Recap of our November Common Table:** What a great discussion on our topic: "How United Methodist Churches Get Their Clergy"! We are fortunate to have had this opportunity to discover a little about the process including how the Methodist church is set up, the General Conference, Elders & Deacons, and how the selection process occurs. If you were unable to attend, check out the minutes on the St. Luke's website (thanks to Les Ludlam!). We also introduced Susan McIntosh as the new facilitator, taking over for Audrey. Join us in 2012 on Sundays!!





**Rev. Bradley Laurvick**  
Associate Minister

## My dog is going to be in the Christmas Eve services!



This may seem strange to some, in fact I had someone ask recently, "was there a dog at the first Christmas?" Well, there were shepherds, and shepherds use dogs, so I think we're ok... even though Jack (my dog) is far from a sheep dog. The main reason we use a live dog on Christmas at the Children and Family service is to engage the children. We use a real family, a real baby, and even a real dog, (and did I mention puppets!) to add a sense of wonder and give everyone something to get excited about and focus on. Really, it's what we hope for everyone.

Too often the meaning of Christmas—the gift of Jesus to the world—can get lost amidst the business of the season, the lights and sounds of the festivities, and the craziness of our schedules. Which misses the point of Christmas.

God sent us Jesus to get our attention, to add a sense of wonder and give everyone something to get excited about and focus on. This is what we hope to add, not only for our children by adding a dog, but for everyone who experiences Christmas at St. Luke's. It is our prayer that you might connect deeply with the true meaning, the wonder, and the divine presence of Christmas.

## What Are Our Methodist Roots? Monty

Hoffman will facilitate this one night class **Tuesday Jan. 31 at 6:30pm** that looks at Methodism. He will try and answer questions that you have about the Methodist movement. Sign up at the Get Connected Center! **Don't miss this!!**

## Monty's Methodism Musings: Changing the World by Proclaiming Grace and Freedom *by Monty Hoffman*

As 21st century Methodists, we share the belief in God's love for all people and the freedom to choose how we live our lives with the Methodists that have come before us. Despite having this perspective, it is difficult to understand how this Wesleyan viewpoint on our relationship with God not only changed the religious landscape of 18th century England, but also changed the social landscape.

To understand what changed, first we need to understand how things were at the start of the 18th century. England was emerging from several hundred years of feudalism into the industrial age. During the feudal age, society was very structured and static. Most people had the jobs that their fathers and their father's fathers had. You were born into your place in society and lived and died very near the place you were born.

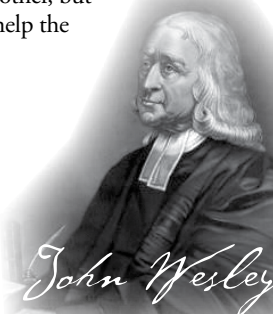
The theology of the time explained this social structure by predetermination. God determined people's lives before their birth and also determined their worthiness to receive God's love and grace. As people lived their lives, they were merely fulfilling the destiny assigned to them.

As society transitioned from the static feudal society to the industrial society, people's lives changed dramatically as they were displaced from the feudal estates. Their choice was emigrate overseas or to go to work in factories in England. The life that they thought was their predetermined destiny disappeared and their new lives were harsh and bewildering. This dramatic change left them in difficult situations with no idea how to change things for the better. The church continued to tell them that this was their predetermined destiny, as harsh and difficult as it was.

The people who had benefited from the start of the industrial age and accumulated wealth did little to help these displaced people. It was after all their fate, as determined by God's will, to endure this hardship and the intervention of the well off could not change God's will.

In 1738, John Wesley started preaching a different message. He went to the fields and preached to the working poor of industrial England. He told them that God did not pick favorites and that God loved them also. He told them that God's grace was a part of their lives even if they had not been aware of it. He told them that they had the freedom to accept or reject that grace and the freedom to determine how to live their lives because nothing was predetermined. Wesley gave hope to the hopeless and encouraged them to make a better world for themselves and their families. Methodist societies were organized to provide help and support for the working poor. Most of this help and support came from each other, but Wesley also encouraged the better off to help the less fortunate.

This different theology helped people transition from a feudal society to an industrial society without the violence that was prevalent in most of Europe. It provided a social framework that allowed people to improve their lives and the lives of their families. It changed the world for the better.



## Drop In and Learn with Us!

### Micah Series Going Strong Sundays at 11:00am!

- December 11: **Restorative Justice** The Sand Creek Massacre. What does the Lord require of us now?
- December 18 - **Criminal Justice System** - a look at "The New Jim Crow" by Michelle Alexander (Betsy Keyack)
- January 8, 15, 22 - **Education** - what are the issues and what can we do to help children thrive and succeed? (Jan Lindquist, Kim Joseph)
- January 29, February 5, 12 - **Doing Justice in a Purple Church** (Rev. Jim Ryan, Colorado Council of Churches)
- February 19, 26, March 4, 11, 18 - **Care of Creation** (Sharon Oliver, Susan McIntosh)
- April, May - topics selected and/or presented by you! Contact Patricia Westlake, ptrcSWst@aol.com, to schedule a topic. We can also do a study of a book about advocacy for children, "Weaving - A Just Future for Children" by Diane Olson and Laura Friedrich.

## Servant by Design

Beginning Thursday, Feb. 9

6:30-8:00pm

8-week course

Cost \$13

Join us in re-discovering who you are and affirming the person God uniquely made you to be!

Class size is limited. Sign up

today by contacting Lynda

Fickling 303-791-0659 x20

lynda@stlukeshr.com or Brenda Schafer [brenda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:brenda@stlukeshr.com)

Sign up online or at the "Get Connected" Center

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**Lynda Fickling**  
Director of  
Servant Ministry/  
Spiritual Director

## We are Called to Serve

*Rather than waiting around for God's special plan for your life, you should just go find where God is at work and join in.*

—Shane Claiborne

### 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 303-683-6871 [ajslade1409@gmail.com](mailto:ajslade1409@gmail.com)

**Greeters:** We are the hosts and our mission is to make our guests (and members) feel at home on Christmas Eve. Contact Lisa Phillips 303-346-0454 [lisaphill4@aol.com](mailto:lisaphill4@aol.com)

**Refreshments:** Help serve and maintain our Hot Cider and Cookies table! Needed for setup at 12:30pm and serving after the 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00pm (includes clean-up) services. Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com)

**Parking Lot Attendants:** Help direct traffic in our parking lot for the 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00pm services. Contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com)

## All are welcome into the community of St. Luke's

Should you be ready to take the next step and become members, here are the simple steps:

- Please fill out the New Member Card located in our friendship pad and/or at the Get Connected Center.
- Then you may simply hand the card to one of our Pastors or Lynda Fickling our Director of Servant Ministry. She will then need to meet for a few minutes to go over the New Member Packet and have your picture taken.

*We look forward to you becoming a member of our family!* Contact **Lynda Fickling** for more info x20 [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com) for more information or go to [www.stlukeshr.com/p\\_join.asp](http://www.stlukeshr.com/p_join.asp)



**Brenda Schafer**  
Office Administrator

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please stop by the Information Center, by the front door, where you will find the complete and updated Prayer Concerns list or view the listing on our website. Contact Rev. Sallie Suby-Long or Brenda Schafer if you have any additions/removals. 303-791-0659 x32, leave a note on the front desk, or email at [sallie@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sallie@stlukeshr.com) or [brenda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:brenda@stlukeshr.com)

### LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

Bob Halderman  
Ann Roadarmel  
Suzanne Piskaldo  
Bethany Detwiler (Lise Takayama's co-worker)  
Dwight Griggs (Susan Hooke's father)  
Sherri Caldwell (Kathy Swier's friend)  
Katy Drake  
Glen Barta (Natalie Barnard's father)  
JJ Gunkel (Barry & Amy Curtis' nephew)  
Karen Kimes (Kris Kinney's friend)  
Ethel Taylor (Carol Gill's mother)  
Rev. Janet Forbes  
Kathy Buzz (Bobbi King's sister)  
Kim Peterson (Mary Peterson's daughter)  
Anne Bennett  
Deane Egelston (Michael Egelston's father)  
Gail Abernathy  
Jackie Durban  
Amy Pierce (Kevin Sims' fiancée)  
Claire Alpert  
Ruby Gray (Lise Takayama's mother)  
Geri Jackman (Jennifer Jiang's mother)  
Doug Bryden (Kay Swanson's father)  
Jim Halderman (Bob Halderman's brother)  
Mark Breen  
Joyce Buchanan  
Jeffrey Henderson  
Herb Casner (Val Clark's friend)  
Jenny Levine  
Linda Young  
RuthAnn White  
Patty (Sandi Thompson's sister)

Victoria Mason  
Kellen Brady (Jenna Wilcox's nephew)  
Kathy Kahn (Ken & Barb Decker's daughter)  
Kevin Hewlett  
Jordan Obertier  
Larry Wheeler  
SYMPATHIES TO:  
Marcia Benshoof on the passing of her father, Donald Craig  
Deb Juarez on the passing of her father, James Peterson (Pete) Allphin  
Bill & Kendra Lee on the passing of Bill's brother, Thomas Lee  
Roger & Katherine Flahive on the passing of their son, Derrik Flahive  
Jim & Julie Ott on the passing of Jim's step-father, Jack Hardy  
David & Connie Laramie on the passing of their son, Ben Laramie  
Randy & Ruth Smith on the passing of Randy's father, Fred Smith  
Edee Worth on the passing of her sister-in-law, Donna Ross  
Suzanne, Devin, Lauren & Madeline Sharpe on the passing of husband/father Kenny Sharpe  
Bret & Jenna Wilcox on the passing of Jenna's step-grandfather, Floyd Merchant  
Mike & Sandi Miyaki on the passing of Mike's Aunt Miye

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Jon & Penny Haas on the birth of their son, Hunter Li Haas - proud grandparents Don & Alberta Haas

**Giving Tree Thanks!** Thank you St. Luke's! The warmth and joy of Christmas came a little earlier this year when gifts started appearing under the Giving Tree on Thanksgiving weekend. Because of your generosity, Interfaith families and Urban Peak youth had something to look forward to on Christmas morning. Thank you to our wonderful St. Luke's community, and to the "elves" who helped wrap up and deliver the gifts this year (you know who you are!)

## Introduction to Spiritual Direction in February by Leigh Ramsey

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and go do that. What the world needs is people who have come alive." This quote by Howard Thurman, a theologian and mystic is one of my favorites as it relates to spiritual direction. I believe spiritual direction is one way to help people "come alive."

You may wish to explore spiritual direction if:

- You find yourself wondering, where is God in all of this?
- You want to be about God's work but aren't exactly sure what that is for you or your group...
- You have lost sight of God's desire for you in the "busy-ness" of life.
- You seek a "soul friend" to share your faith journey with.

St. Luke's spiritual directors are leading two **Introduction to Spiritual Direction sessions in February: Sunday, February 5 and Sunday, February 12 from 4:00-5:30pm.**

All are welcome and the only requirement is an open heart. Both sessions will introduce you to spiritual direction through modeling, discussion, handouts, suggested readings, and a time for questions and answers. We will talk about individual and group spiritual direction experiences and opportunities. For those interested in exploring group spiritual direction we will offer two sessions in March and two more in April.

Consider joining us on the next steps of your faith journey.



**Rev. Sallie Suby-Long**  
Associate Minister

## From Rev. Sallie God is Up to Something

When I first heard about "Spiritual Direction" several years ago, I was very curious. I wondered just what Spiritual Direction was and I imagined many possible

explanations. My curiosity led me to further exploration and within a short time, I surprisingly and happily found myself in the midst of a Spiritual Director preparation program. I learned that the practice is sometimes called spiritual companioning, spiritual mentoring, or spiritual guidance and takes place one-on-one or in a small group. However, even now, after years as a Spiritual Director and Spiritual Directee, I have not found a clear, concise description of Spiritual Direction. I can tell you, though, some of the things I believe this sacred practice does:

- Helps people tell and honor their sacred stories
- Explores a deeper relationship with the spiritual aspects of being human
- Encourages peacefulness, compassion and justice
- Enhances self-awareness, invites healing and forgiveness
- Fosters deep spiritual formation
- Provides a safe place to be listened to attentively
- Integrates "being" with "doing" and aligns values, purpose and actions
- Supports people in finding new perspectives on life situations, moving through change, negotiating challenges, and claiming important insights.

In the past few years, several individuals in our St. Luke's community have felt called to complete preparation in Spiritual Direction. So, it seems God is up to something here! We are excited to offer this new ministry within our congregation. Be sure to see Leigh Ramsey's article in this issue of *The Chronicle* on p. 4 about upcoming Group Spiritual Direction opportunities that will begin in February!

And, we have many other ministries to support to encourage your emotional, mental, and spiritual health. Often we become more aware of God's healing and transforming grace through intentional connection with others. Let us know about your interests or needs and we'll connect you with one of the following ministries or with other resources. Confidentiality is highly respected. You may reach me at 303-475-0141 or [Sallie@stlukeshr.com](mailto:Sallie@stlukeshr.com).

**Pastoral Counseling and Care** – Rev. Sallie, Rev. Janet and Rev. Brad offer short-term, faith-based counseling, pastoral care, and referrals for individuals, couples, and families seeking support.

**Stephen Ministry** – provides confidential, one-on-one care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Stephen Ministers are lay persons who have specialized training in providing emotional and spiritual care.

**The Caring Connection** – provides support to members of St. Luke's and the community by making companion visits, taking meals to families in need, running errands or providing transportation.

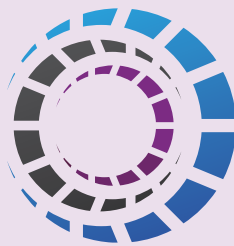
**Care/Prayer Team** – gathers regularly to pray for concerns of individuals, the congregation and the community. Requests for prayers may be sent through the website, written on a prayer request card or shared with a member of the staff team.

**Support Groups and Classes** – including 12-step programs, divorce recovery classes, grief support groups, and parenting classes. Information about current groups is available on St. Luke's website and in the Care Ministries brochures in the church entry.

**Spirituality and Wellness Series** – interactive workshops, featuring excellent guest facilitators, engage participants in learning new skills and practices that contribute to health and wholeness.

**The Samaritan Fund** – provides financial support and assistance for those who are part of our St. Luke's family. If you or someone you love is in need of some extra financial support to make it through a difficult stretch, please contact one of the pastors.

**Benevolence Fund** – provides support for those in need outside of the St. Luke's family. If St. Luke's does not offer what you need, the pastoral team will make every effort to connect you to resources, support networks, and care providers within our community.



*Journey toward  
Wholeness*

**ST. LUKE'S UMC  
SPIRITUALITY  
AND WELLNESS  
WORKSHOP  
SERIES 2011/2012**

## *Spirituality and Wellness Series 2011/2012* Continuing our Journey toward Wholeness

### **Finding Wellness**

**January 17, 2012**

**6:30-8:30pm**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Rev. Jerry Herships**

LIVE, from LA (and other places in between), it's Jerry Herships! A former stand-up comedian and bartender, and now the Reverend Jerry Herships, Jerry's path to the ministry has been unusual; some might say unlikely.

But Jerry will tell you that his personal history has prepared him perfectly for his ministry to the homeless through the AfterHours Denver "church." Jerry meets his congregants where they are: in Congress Park, The Irish Snug pub on Colfax, The Uptown Tavern (coming soon), and on the park benches of the downtown Denver Mall.

As our workshop leader, Jerry will continue to explore and expand upon the themes introduced by Dr. Andi Pusavat, who spoke about "Chasing Happiness" on October 4. Jerry will share with us how his own experiences in chasing happiness proved elusive, and how he found both happiness and wellness through service to others. The motto of AfterHours Denver is "More love, more laughter, Less Judgment," and he will tell you that "Making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches [for feeding the homeless] is our call to worship."

If you'd like to explore new places and new ways of meeting up with God; if you are not always comfortable with what is inside church walls, we invite you to join us for an evening of dialogue with Jerry Herships. We will laugh a lot; we'll try on some new lenses to look at our lives and pursuits in a different way; and we might even see Jerry juggle.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our feedback survey following our October workshop. Your thoughtful comments will continue to guide our team as we plan for future Spirituality and Wellness activities.

— Jane Staller

## **ST. LUKE'S** **FAMILY CAMP**

Do you dream of sleeping under a starry night? We're not talking starry lights from your Christmas tree...we're talking camping, as in Family Camp! It's not too soon to put Family Camp on your family's calendar for some summer fun. **July 20-29, 2012** are the dates for this year's Family Camp; stay any where from one night to the whole week. Reserve your spot with Amy Antinoro 303-663-6656.





## Jake's Take

Woof! Woof! Jake, Ms. Sharon's dog, here. I love Christmas time at St. Luke's - there's food everywhere!

It's almost time! **Candy Cane Sunday** and the Annual **Children's Christmas Pageant** all on the same day -

Dec. 18!!! Get your candy cane and hear the story of how it relates to Christmas in the morning at Sunday School and then at 3:00pm come see the Pageant! This year's pageant is **"Where Are You Christmas"** - Bring cookies to share after the performance! I will clean up the crumbs... yum!

Our **Children's Christmas Eve services** are **1:00 & 3:00pm** and I have already detected a strange creature scurrying about the church that I've heard is making an appearance at the services... it doesn't fly, but it's a bird and it's not a fish, but it swims.... hmmm??? Can't wait to see who it is and chase it!!

**SLY, Jr.** (5th & 6th graders) will be meeting:

**Dec. 11 5:30pm** White Elephant Gift Exchange!

**Jan. 13 5:30pm-Jan. 14 9:00am** - LOCK IN!!!!!! We spend the night in the church - YEA! - bring a friend. You must rsvp to Ms. Sharon (sharon@stlukeshr.com) by Jan. 8. Cost for the Lock In is \$20 per child includes dinner and breakfast and t-shirt.

**Jan. 29 5:30pm** Bowling! More info to come.

**St. Luke's Playgroup** has moved to Fridays! Join us on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month down in the Nursery. All are welcome any time.

Also I have sniffed out that there are openings in the **Parent's Night Out** group! This group is limited in size so sign up now to get into the 2012 group and get on the schedule. Contact Dawn - dawn@stlukeshr.com.

Don't miss the last 2 **Family Advent Devotionals** on Wednesday nights Dec. 14 & 21 - 6:00-6:30pm. Fun family crafts and discussion!

**Coming in January:** Kings Sunday parade, Library Re-Opening, Acolyte Training, Servant Training, Info-Topic Night & more!! Check your email and our website for more details or contact us.

Don't forget we have a great website [www.stlukeshr.com/children](http://www.stlukeshr.com/children) with lots of important info on it. You can even check out the **Sunday School servant schedule** there!

Please let Sharon, Dawn & Sam know if you have any questions. This is Jake, signing out until next month! Rappy Radvent!



**Sharon Oliver**  
Director of  
Children's Ministry



**Dawn Johnson**  
Asst. Director of  
Children's Ministry



**Samantha Leahy**  
Director of Childcare

**St. Luke's Kids**  
Growing with God



**Kay Swanson**  
Director of  
Little School

### Little School News: **Dynamic December** at Little School

Little School always looks forward to December and the birthday of baby Jesus. Chapel will focus on families by talking about Mary and Joseph and their new born child. Along with chapel we will learning about St. Nicholas who gave presents to the poor and started the tradition of Santa Claus. Our shoes will be set out for surprises when we return from



chapel! This month we also have our Pajama Days and 4's pancake breakfast and a very special visitor will come to see us and hand out candy canes. Whew! It is very busy! The month of celebration will end with our fabulous musical Christmas Program for our parents and friends and then we will be off Dec. 16 to Jan. 3 for our holiday break. While this month is full of fun and merriment, we always want the children to remember the birth of the baby Jesus and why we are so blessed.

### January will be JUMPIN'

We can hardly believe that January is fast approaching and REGISTRATION for Fall of 2012 will be upon us! PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE IN JANUARY FOR SPECIFIC REGISTRATION INFORMATION AND DATES. (Littleschool@stlukeshr.com). You will find out all kinds of great information on how to join our Little School family. Watch for some new changes and come and join the fun.

January is when we have a routin' - tootin' time with our Western Days. Children are encouraged to dress western and we will have singing, roping, riding and (pretend) campfires! We top off the good time with our Spaghetti Western Night with spaghetti, line dancin' and games. Parents and children love this night because we know how to "WHOO!" it up!

May you all find peace this Christmas and enjoy the gift of the moment.....

Christmas Blessings, -Ms. Kay and Staff

## Does someone on your Christmas list love to learn?

Why not consider the gift of education by giving the opportunity for the parent on your list to become a Love and Logic parent? **Love and Logic Parenting Classes** provide simple and practical techniques to help parents have more fun and less stress while raising responsible kids. In January we will offer a morning class from 9:15 -11:15am on Tuesdays Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31. Cost of this class is \$65. In February we will offer an evening class 6:00-8:00pm on Thursdays, Feb. 9, 16, 23, & March 1. Cost for the evening class is \$69 per person or \$130 per couple. If you are interested in a holiday gift certificate or would like more information please contact Suzanne Crawford - Facilitator 303-883-8800 thecoloradocrawfords@gmail.com.



## Lunch & Learn: A Spiritual Feast

**Thursdays, noon-1:30pm beginning Feb. 2 for 8wks**

Co-facilitators Ann Roadarmel [alroadarmel@gmail.com](mailto:alroadarmel@gmail.com) & Lynda Fickling [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com)

Bring your lunch and join us as we discuss the book "Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr. This book discusses how in the first half of life, we are naturally and rightly preoccupied with establishing our identity - climbing, achieving, and performing. But those concerns will not serve us as we grow older and begin to embark on a further journey, one that involves challenges, mistakes, loss of control, broader horizons, and necessary suffering that actually shocks us out of our prior comfort zone. Eventually, we need to see ourselves in a different and more life-giving way. This message of "falling down" - that is in fact moving upward - is the most resisted and counterintuitive of messages in the world's religions, including and most especially Christianity. **All are welcome!** *Sponsored by Seasoned Voyagers*

## Team Kick-off!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**  
**8:30 - 11:00 am**  
**Fellowship Hall**

**Learn how St. Luke's serves in ministry through teams, living the mission and being a blessing to the congregation and community. If you are on a team at St. Luke's, you are invited!**

**Light breakfast will be served.**

**RSVP:** Bruce Pawley, 303-471-8353 [brucepawley@comcast.net](mailto:brucepawley@comcast.net)  
 Childcare is available with reservations  
 48hrs in advance [sam@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sam@stlukeshr.com)

## More from Les: Rescues

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

I was attending college in Golden and had invited my college roommate, Bob Kaiser, to join me for the 1959 Thanksgiving holiday at my family's home in Grand Junction. He was from Illinois, this was his first Thanksgiving away from his home and Illinois was too far away for a quick auto trip. Bob had not spent much time in the mountains so I thought this would be a good time to introduce him to a spectacular part of the Rocky Mountains.

The weather had been warm over the holiday; we had enjoyed a great Thanksgiving, and now we were on our way back to school. There had been a sudden snowstorm in the mountains on Saturday, and by the time we started driving back to Golden on Sunday evening, the roads were plowed and icy, passable, but dangerous. Rounding the corner, going downhill off Loveland Pass, approaching the Seven Sisters snow-slide area, I suddenly saw a jack-knifed truck immediately ahead. Without thinking, I hit the brakes and the Chevrolet began to spin, waltzing slowly down the slick road, moving steadily toward the edge.

A major concern for travelers driving through this snow slide area is that there are no guardrails on the drop-off side of the roadway! The Chevrolet lurched to a stop, just before going off the edge of the road, high-centered on the ridge of snow left behind by the snowplows. I turned to Bob, "Are you OK?" I asked. "Yes," he said, and then looked over his right shoulder and out the window. There was a sheer drop just below!

As he turned back, the look on his blood-drained face answered my question. Bob said quietly, "I think I'll get out on your side of the car." We both carefully climbed out of the car and surveyed the situation. The snow bank had saved us, but we were really stuck! We pondered on what to do next.

A few minutes later, an old Dodge Power Wagon with a heavy-duty winch slowed to a stop and the driver leaned out. "You boys need any help?" he called. "Yes," I said, "I don't think the snow plows are out any more and we can't get any traction to back out of this snow bank!" "Let me try to give you a pull," said the Power Wagon driver. After nearly half an hour of digging, winching and struggling, the Chevrolet finally slipped loose from the snow bank, pulled by the Power Wagon and its winch.

I went up to the driver, "Thanks, I don't know what we would have done! What's your name? Can I have my dad pay you something? He has a garage on the Western Slope." "Naw," was the reply, "Name's Brownlee, I got a kid of my own up at CU and would want somebody else to do the same for him. Just you drive carefully, OK?"

"OK, and thanks a lot!" And then, cold but relieved, Bob and I climbed back into the Chevrolet and started cautiously on down the mountain.

### FAST FORWARD . . .

One day 1975, as I was crossing a downtown Denver street, I noticed an elderly couple trying to cross the intersection before the light changed. The man could hardly walk; he was staggering and looked ready to fall!

I couldn't avoid them! They were right beside me, the light was about to change and the rather slight lady with him was no match for her rather tall husband. Without thinking, I took his arm, held him up and helped him get to the curb. There was a bus bench close by and his wife and I were able to help him get to it and sit down. By this time, he could barely move his legs at all!

I learned that they were residents of an active-elderly residence center in Littleton, and had joined a group of their friends in a tour of downtown Denver. The bus had dropped them off on 15th street, near Larimer Square, and they had been walking around the area for most of the morning.

As we talked, the man's wife explained that he suffered from a circulatory problem. "He doesn't get enough blood flow to the legs to provide the strength and energy for prolonged exercise," she said. They were almost twelve blocks from where they were to meet the group's bus when his legs began to give out.

I quickly determined that he would need more help than I could provide by myself. They were both scared, far from their apartment and seemingly unable to get back to the bus that would take them to home and safety. They needed reassurance as much as anything.

I told the husband to take it easy, just rest. They both sat down on bench close by and I hurried into a nearby fast-food restaurant and asked to use their phone for an emergency call. Calling 911 works! In a couple of minutes, there were an ambulance and a fire department emergency van next to us! The situation was not critical, so the van crew offered to take the couple to their bus stop. It was on the way back to their station and they were happy to do it.

As the couple prepared to get in the van, the wife turned to me, "We didn't get your name;" I introduced myself and then she said, "Thank you, Les, We're Wilma and Fred Brownlee."

I thought, "Brownlee!" Was the same Brownlee from Loveland Pass?

I felt strangely good about the whole thing. Thanks, Lord!

**God bless us all! Rev. Les**





*"The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."*



### The Annual Candlelight Dinner

was held on December 6. The décor was a winter wonderland and the fellowship of 100 women was amazing. Once again, the Fellowship Events Team put on a tasty dinner served by many wonderful men (and some women) and teens. The entertainment was provided by the Smithsonian Bell Choir. United Methodist Women thank all who attended and gave so generously to Bridgeway House for pregnant teens. The representatives from Bridgeway left with an SUV full of baby items and \$300. During the evening a **Special Mission Recognition Pin was given to Edie Worth.** (see photo) Edie exemplifies a true mission disciple. Working with children, youth, adults and seniors, she has an open and joyous heart.

### Subgroups of United Methodist Women at St. Luke's UMC:

Remember to check out the Interest Groups and find your spot to help us fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women.

- **Simply Saturday** First Saturday of the month, 8:30-10:00am; bring a breakfast item to share. Women ages 18 & up are invited for devotion and mission. This year's theme: **Friendship of Women-The Hidden Tradition of the Bible** by Joan Chittester

#### January 7: Telling Your Story: Experiences with Local Missions

Hosted by UMW (Janet Sackett & Renae Parra) **Mission Focus:** Toiletry items for Colorado Human Trafficking Task Force.

Childcare available sam@stlukeshr.com. 48hrs in advance. For more information, please contact: Elena Lynch elenalyndh@gmail.com or Lynda Fickling lynda@stlukeshr.com. Visit www.stlukeshr.com, Quick links, Email Lists, to add your name to the email distribution list.

- **Book Group** Fourth Monday of the month, Room 206. Afternoon meeting 1:00pm Evening meeting 7:00pm.

Dec. 19 – *Mennonite in a Little Black Dress* by Rhoda Janzen

January 23, 2012 – *Just Like Us* by Helen Thorpe

For more information, please call Renae Parra at 303-683-0872. To be added to the email mailing list, send a request to RenaeParra@aol.com

- **Itch to Stitch** Third Wednesdays of the month, 7:00-8:30pm downstairs near the Children's Library. For more information, please call Fran West at 303-797-7107.

- **Women's Night Out** First Mondays, 6:30pm various locations  
January 2 – Slattery's Irish Pub, 5364 Greenwood Plaza  
February 6 – The Tavern, Downtown Littleton  
March 5 – Hacienda Colorado, Lone Tree

Contact Elaine Carlstrom ecarlstrom@comcast.net

### Mark Your Calendars:

- January 24, 2012: UMW serving dinner at Warren Village  
- January 27, 2012 Church Women United Fashion Show hosted by Littleton United Methodist Church. The show, a benefit luncheon event, costs \$10. Clothes are from the Neighborly Thrift Shop of Englewood. Models of all shapes and sizes are needed. Interested? Contact Pat Kenning, 303-794-0357. Tickets available in December.

### Keep Connected:

Rocky Mountain Conference United Methodist Women Website:  
**www.rmcmw.org**

Women's Division website: **http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umw/**

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) website:

**http://new.gbmg-umc.org/umcor**

Visit www.UMWOnline.net to network with others, as well as get and share resources.

## Sponsor A Child

A few members of St. Luke's mission's team recently traveled to Guatemala to select new students to be sponsored through the Pura Vida scholarship program. In Guatemala rural children are only able to complete up to 6th grade at the most, with many dropping out by 3rd grade to work for their families. A sponsorship allows these students to continue on in school and be supported in their education. Sponsorships cost \$450 a year and will cover all school expenses for a needy child. Sponsors will receive biannual letters from their students. In addition, sponsors who travel on one of our Guatemala Mission Trips will be able to meet with their sponsor child while in Guatemala. Throughout December, there will be a table in Fellowship Hall where you can learn more about the scholarships and select a student to sponsor.

## The "No Name" Thrift Store – but not for much longer!

Lots of creative ideas for store names are coming in – so get yours in before the contest ends! The November sale of donated items at the new Love INC offices went great – we earned \$925 toward the fund to open the store. Watch for details on the January sale! There are still opportunities to volunteer to help get the Thrift Store off the ground. Please contact Nita Dunn at (303) 886-0381 (nitadunn@gmail.com) or Jerry Hertzler at (720) 480-0476 (jmhertzler@comcast.net) for more information!



### Love INC Thrift Store Wish List (December 2011):

**Utility trailer – preferably enclosed w/lock, Free or reduced rent on retail space in Littleton, Fund raising – we need to raise enough funds to cover start up costs and 6 months of operating expenses, Clothing racks to display items in the store, Donation of retail cash register/ computer system, Donations of high quality clothing and household goods, Donation of a dishwasher, Construction contractor to help with build-out at free or reduced rate, Volunteers to coordinate donations, special events and fundraising efforts, Prayers for a successful build-up and launch to meet client needs not currently being met.**

## H.A.A.T. Force Electronics Recycling Event & Fundraiser

**Recycle unwanted televisions, computers, audio/video equipment and appliances**

H.A.A.T. Force will be hosting an electronic recycling event on Saturday Jan. 21, 2012 from 10:00am-3:00pm at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 1401 E. Dry Creek Road.

We will be working with BlueStar Recyclers. Blue Star Recyclers provides Southern Colorado with ethical electronics recycling. Their business was founded in September of 2009 with a primary mission to ethically recycle electronics as a way to create jobs in our community for adults with developmental disabilities. To date, the program has provided work skills training for over 30 adults with disabilities. **Pricing:**

- Monitors up to 21" ..... \$10 each
- TVs (measured diagonally) ..... \$1 per inch
- Printers/copiers/fax machines ..... \$5 each
- Audio video components ..... \$5 each
- Small appliances ..... \$5 each
- Hard Drive Destruction..... \$5 each

Event proceeds and "Additional Donations" will support H.A.A.T. Force: South Metro "Homeless Awareness Action Task Force"





### Puppets Triumphant in "Silas Angel and the Christmas Curmudgeon: A Sheepish Look at Christmas"

Thanks so much to our Puppet Ministry Team for bringing their amazing show to us on Dec. 3. It was so good they've been asked to share the show in a puppet showcase in the spring. Way to go team! **Look for an appearance by our Puppet Ministry on Christmas Eve for the Children's Service at 1:00 & 3:00pm! I hear there's a new critter making a visit!**



**James Ramsey**  
Director of Music  
& Arts Ministries



**Kenrick Mervine**  
Associate Dir. of  
Music Ministry/  
Organist



**Jennifer Ferguson**  
Associate Director  
of Music Ministry



**Kay Coryell**  
Dir. of Handbells  
& Children's Music  
Ministry



**Jenna Wilcox**  
Director of  
Drama Ministry



## Christmas Cantata Dec. 11!

St. Luke's annual Christmas Cantata will be Sunday Dec. 11 at the 9:30 and 11:00am services. Get in the holiday spirit with St. Luke's myriad of musical groups. With instrumental features and sing-a-longs, this is an event at St. Luke's you don't want to miss!



## Auditions Dec. 16 & 17 for She Loves Me

We are holding auditions for our next Wesley Players production, *She Loves Me* on Friday Dec. 16 at 6:00pm in the Sanctuary

and Saturday Dec. 17 at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary. We will have forms for you to fill out. Plan on giving us all your conflicts with the rehearsal schedule at the time of your audition. Please arrive promptly on the day of your choice. We will have you sing the selection for your gender, teach you a short dance audition and have you read a selection from the show. If needed, we will have callbacks on Sunday Dec. 18 at 1:00pm in the Youth Room. Callbacks will be emailed by 9:00pm Saturday Dec. 17. For links to song selections and other information for the audition contact Jenna Wilcox [jenna@stlukeshr.com](mailto:jenna@stlukeshr.com).

## Jazz at St. Luke's concert Nov. 5 - success!

SLYJO gave their 2011-2012 debut and featured solos from clarinetists Bennett McIntosh and Chris Stephens, as well as a guest solo from bari-sax player Ed Coryell. The Minister's of Swing gave rousing performances for hymn favorites arranged for big band, including *Amazing Grace*, *Old Rugged Cross*, and *Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen*. The featured artist for the evening, trumpet player Gabriel Mervine, left the audience in awe at his over-the-top trumpet skills. After soloing with MOS for a few hymn selections, Gabriel and his dad, organist at St. Luke's Kenrick Mervine, gave an absolutely stunning performance of *The Carnival of Venice*. The MOS and Gabriel finished the night by getting funky with Tower of Power's *What is Hip*. We look forward to the next fantastic Jazz at St. Luke's Concert!

## The St. Luke's Wind Ensemble rehearsals will be starting up in January!

At St. Luke's, Wind Ensemble is a family-friendly group and open to musicians of any age. Get out that old horn in the closet and come and join us!

Do you like what you hear from our Orchestra and Brass Ensemble this Christmas season? Would you like to be a part of the fun? Please contact Jim Ramsey at [jim@stlukeshr.com](mailto:jim@stlukeshr.com) or Jennifer at [jennifer@stlukeshr.com](mailto:jennifer@stlukeshr.com) for more information about joining any of our instrumental groups here at St. Luke's.

## Do you need to do some last minute Christmas shopping?

The Guatemala Missions team is offering alternative Christmas gifts this year. Tags with more information can be found on the Giving Tree in Fellowship Hall.

- 1) Support our Christmas program to supply milk to the families in Lemoa, Guatemala. The cost is only \$12.50 for a can of this enriched powered milk, which can last up to 3 months. This makes a wonderful gift to these families, who are not able to afford this luxury for their family.
- 2) Purchase a chicken coop for a needy Guatemalan family. These families can apply for a grant which supplies them with chickens and feed to start a family business... however, they must have a coop in order to receive the funds. Our team will build 8 coops in March on our trip - \$250 covers the material costs and the labor of a skilled builder to guide us.
- 3) Make a donation to the cinderblock school being built by our team in March 2012. Help provide a safe building for students who are currently attending a school made out of cornstalks! All donations will go directly to the purchase of building supplies.

## Missional Opportunities with Love INC

303-794-LOVE (5683)

[www.loveinlittleton.org](http://www.loveinlittleton.org)

### Upcoming Dates to Remember:

Dec. 23 and Dec. 24 afternoons – Help deliver a meal to a client family. To volunteer, contact 303-798-0037.

January 15 – A volunteer orientation and information meeting will take place. Details to come later. Love INC has many volunteer opportunities.

### Your contribution makes a difference.

Donate online at [www.loveinlittleton.org](http://www.loveinlittleton.org)

\* Give to our operating fund or designate your gift for the diaper ministry, the thrift shop, or other Love INC projects.

\* Give in honor or memory of a loved one. Love INC will notify the person being honored or the family of the deceased of your gift.

\* Or mail donations to: Love INC, P.O. Box 787, Littleton, 80160





## Upcoming Events!

- ✧ **Sunday Dec. 11: Zoo Lights**  
Dinner at 5:30 then right at 6 we are off to the ZOO! So that we get adequate time at the zoo, we won't plan on being back at church until around 8/8:15ish. Tickets are \$8 when you bring a non-perishable food item. Bring extra cash if you want snacks, drinks :)
- ✧ **Sunday Dec. 18: White Elephant Gift Exchange** Bring a wrapped gift. Must be under \$5 or just something fun or funny from around your house!
- ✧ **Sunday Dec. 25: Merry Christmas! NO SLY AM or PM**
- ✧ **Sunday Jan. 1: Happy New Year! NO SLY AM or PM**
- ✧ **Sunday Jan. 8: District Wide 'Karaoke Night'** at St. Andrew UMC Dinner & normal SLY times apply.
- ✧ **Sunday Jan. 15: District-Wide Dance** at Littleton UMC Dinner & normal SLY times apply.
- ✧ **SLY Winter Retreat!! January 13, 14 & 15 Snow Mountain Ranch YMCA**  
For more details & registration see our youth website: [stlukeshr.com/sly](http://stlukeshr.com/sly)
- ✧ **2012 Confirmation:**  
Confirmation is an opportunity for all youth 8th grade and up. It provides a place for youth to learn more about their faith and allows them to move towards the confirming of their faith within the United Methodist Church. Information Meeting on Jan. 8 at noon. Classes begin Jan. 22 and go unto the beginning of May. Retreat at Ponderosa Camp on March 9, 10 & 11. Registration forms are due by January 15. Forms available online and outside the youth room.
- ✧ **Check [www.stlukeshr.com/sly](http://www.stlukeshr.com/sly)** for up-to-date info on programs, activities, ministry opportunities and more!

## HELLO FROM BELOW

It's the most wonderful time of the year! And I am trying very hard to be in the moment and enjoying this magnificent 2011 Christmas Present... BUT don't the days seem to fly by and fill up so quickly?!

Well, before I get ahead of myself and start talking about December, I would love to share with you all some of the great things our St. Luke's Youth were up to in November. We had our 2nd "District Talent Show" and it ended up being quite the success. We had three of our neighboring United Methodist youth groups over for a fun night of music and improvisation. Then, as many of you know, we had our annual Youth Sunday. Thank you all for your continued support of this youth-led worship. I think you might agree that the youth outdid themselves this year and really demonstrated the presence of God's grace in their—and our—lives.

THANK YOU to all of you that donated cookies and other care items for our SLY alum college care packages. We made over 45 boxes this year! We think this tradition is a great way to show our continued love and support for our graduated alums.

For information about the missions our youth took on this past month, take a look at this page to read an article written by our Press & Publicity guru, Kaitlyn Johnson.

This Christmas we will be celebrating the holidays with some of our favorite SLY traditions. You can see the list of events and times to the left, but a quick list includes: a holiday scavenger hunt, a trip to the Denver Zoo Lights, and a white elephant gift exchange. It should be a wonderful month!

The youth at St. Luke's are trying to take advantage of this Advent season as an opportunity to give something of themselves to others. With Hope, Peace, Love & Joy as their touchstones, they hope to spread kindness and generosity as the weeks pass by. In the midst of the busyness of the holidays, I would challenge all of us to take this on as a goal, as well.

I hope you have a lovely holiday season. *Until next month, Erin*

**PS:** To find out what we have going on at the beginning of 2012, visit our website: [stlukeshr.com/SLY](http://stlukeshr.com/SLY)  
**Spoiler ALERT!** January includes a winter retreat, Littleton UMC's annual district-wide dance, and the beginning of the 2012 Confirmation classes.

**New St. Luke's Youth (SLY) LOGO:** For those of you that were here, you may have noticed our AWESOME new SLY logo on your Youth Sunday bulletin. Our 'SLY' fox was the culmination of a list of ideas and sketches from our 2010-2011 Youth Leadership Team and the creative genius and finesse of the one and only Sharon Oliver. You will see this sneaky little logo popping up around church soon! Can you find him on this page??

## A Peek at Urban Peak

*by Kaitlyn Johnson* Every second Saturday of the month, a small group of 4-6 youth goes down to Urban Peak to serve teens, struggling with homelessness, food and sit and talk with them. You can definitely learn a lot about someone in just 30 minutes. It's so much fun cooking the food for them and to see their faces when they smell the wonderful aroma. It fills my heart with joy. It is totally worth spending time down at Urban Peak, I can't wait until next Saturday. We take, cook and serve the kids that depend on volunteers for meals.



## Youth in Action

Youth in Action (YIA) on Oct. 30 was a wonderful connection between 17 local youth groups in Littleton and Highlands Ranch and the community leaders who serve those in poverty and experiencing homelessness. Shea Stadium was the host site for YIA and we had 259 youth, 79 volunteers, 17 church youth groups and 9 community speakers and amazing musical

performances. Jerry Herships, Pastor of AfterHours Denver was our opening speaker who shared his calling to serve the homeless in Denver. Randle Loeb, Denver's Homeless Advocate shared his personal journey and call to advocate for those in poverty.

Our youth brought tents and boxes for their evening shelter. *Cold...* the low was 32 degrees and the wind added to the element. What

an amazing group of students who were willing to experience the elements and learn how to connect their gifts to the community!

The youth created 100 meals that were used to serve the homeless on Sunday. They assembled 212 survival bags that will be given to homeless families who receive motel vouchers through HAATForce and Jefferson County's Heading Home. These hygiene products

were donated by churches and community sponsors. The youth also packed 140 food boxes that were delivered to 6 local churches to distribute through their food pantries. Thanks to Cindy Raap for her tireless efforts to make this event happen and to HAATForce, Heading Home and Love INC for the work that these organizations offer in the community.

*Aren't they a blessing!!*





**Dave Cupp**  
Director of Finance



**Lisé Takayama**  
Assistant Director  
of Finance

**Thank You For Your Continued Financial Support.** Our financial performance so far this year indicates we will finish another year where we have managed to keep our spending within limits of the funds we will collect.

**Changing Lives For GOOD Stewardship Campaign.** The response has been very strong. At this point, we have

very strong indications that our total pledged amount for 2012 will be slightly more than for 2011. If you have not turned in your commitment card, we encourage you to do so immediately. We would even be happy to get it via email at [davec@stlukeshr.com](mailto:davec@stlukeshr.com) or receive a message from you via email of your intentions for 2012. Or, a phone message at 303-791-0659 x24. It is so important for you to share with us your estimate of giving for 2012. This information is vital for the preparation of a budget that will allow St. Luke's to continue "Changing Lives for GOOD" and do so within a balanced budget. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**You Still Have Time For Year-End Tax Planning.** To give you credit for your donations in 2011, we must receive them on or before December 31 or they must be postmarked on or before December 31. Keep in mind that some of the methods you may choose to use for your donations may take a considerable amount of time for processing and getting them to the church before the December 31 deadline.

If you need assistance or information for getting your transaction processed, please give Lisé or me a call. We will be glad to assist you.

**IRA Charitable Rollover Reminder.** The IRA Charitable Rollover expires on December 31, 2011, unless congress acts to change the law. If you own an IRA and are over age 70 ½, you may transfer any amount up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA as a donation to St. Luke's because we are a qualified 501 (c) (3) charity. This gift will count toward your 2011 Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and will not count toward taxable income on the IRA RMD.

In the past, some of our members have elected to take advantage of this opportunity to pay their current year pledge and to prepay one or more future years at the same time—before the law expires. We're happy to receive your prepay for future years. We hold those funds in reserve and apply them to the income for the applicable future year(s).

Keep in mind that Financial Advisors get very busy near the end of the year. It would be a good idea to get the process started now to avoid missing the December 31 cutoff date.

**Free King Soopers Grocery Cards Available at Grocery Card Table.**

**Yep—FREE.** If you are a King's shopper and do not currently participate in our grocery card program, it's easy to get started. Just stop by the grocery card table on Sunday mornings and pick-up your free Kings Soopers \$5.00 reloadable gift card. St. Luke's will receive a 5% rebate for every purchase you do with this reloadable card. You can load the card at Kings with any dollar amount you need and as often as you like by going to the Kings service desk or at the cashier using cash, check or your regular credit card. What a great way to build up points on your credit card.

The grocery card rebates from Kings, Safeway and Tony's contribute approximately \$12,000 to our general budget each year. This is a considerable amount that can grow significantly if more of our members and constituents will use the Kings reloadable cards that you obtain at our grocery card table. Give it a try.

**Pick and Choose Your Method Of Giving to SLUMC.** We have many ways for you to make your giving to SLUMC easy and convenient. You may want to consider one of these convenient methods for your contributions. In addition to cash and checks, we offer online credit card transactions, stock transfers and scheduled automatic withdrawals from checking or credit card accounts. The following is a general summary:

- 1. General Fund and Capital Campaign:** All methods.
- 2. Grocery Cards:** Cash, check, scheduled eft from checking accounts.
- 3. Special Events:** Depending on the type of event may include cash, check, PayPal and online credit card transactions.
- 4. Plus:** We'd consider any reasonable method you know about that we haven't adopted.

## Trustees Corner: NEW Kiosk in Fellowship Hall

The St. Luke's Kiosk is now available in Fellowship Hall. This terminal provides convenient access to information and services in a central location, including information flyers, videos, activity signups and access to the St. Luke's website.

**Flyers:** Information about upcoming events is posted on the Kiosk. Flyers are grouped by interest group, such as UMW, Missions, Community and Seniors. New groups may be easily added. These types of flyers were previously posted on the bulletin boards which used to be in Fellowship Hall.

**Videos:** All recent Ministry Moments (shown at the beginning of Sunday morning worship services) are available for viewing on the Kiosk. In addition, HD videos of recent performances (such as the Wesley Choral Festival and *Broadway on Broadway*) are also available.

**Sign Ups:** You can sign up for various activities on the Kiosk, such as volunteering to provide Sunday youth dinners and registering your children for Sunday School. Access is also provided to the St. Luke's website and all of the church resources available there.

Instructions for using the Kiosk are on the Kiosk home page. New flyers may be posted by contacting a staff member. Questions and comments direct to Ken Fong 720-253-6569.



## Seasoned Voyagers in Full Sail!

St. Luke's Seasoned Voyagers Team has been working since the end of January 2011, developing a 50+ Ministry. As you may have read in past *Chronicle* issues we have been quite active with a Leaf Peeping Trip, starting Conversations with Rev. Janet and setting times for Game and Movie Day. We are finding as we gather together in the various activities we have had so far that the fellowship and caring has been outstanding!

So far we have the following standing activities:

- Conversations with Reverend Janet the 1st Tues of the month in her office at 2:00pm
- Game Day on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 1:00pm
- Movie Day on the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at Hollywood Theater in South Glenn Mall around noon
- We have a Travel Subcommittee that is planning outings to various local places, and a planned overnight outing to Santa Fe once it becomes warmer
- We are going to have a periodically held luncheon featuring food from different cultures of the world starting in January 2012
- Keep watching the various TV screens around the church and the Sunday Bulletins for our activities and come and join our 50+ Ministry!!!



Signup for our email list at [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com) > quicklinks > Email lists > Subscribe > Seasoned Voyagers. Or contact: Ann Roadarmel 303-792-5110 [alroadarmel@gmail.com](mailto:alroadarmel@gmail.com)  
Our core team needs help planning and to bring programs meeting the needs of our "Seasoned Voyagers". Please prayerfully consider being part of this endeavor. *Thank you!*



**St. Luke's United Methodist Church**  
8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129  
303-791-0659 • [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com)

*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.*



**Join us for Coffee & Conversation**  
about the History of St. Luke's, the United  
Methodist Church, our programs and ministries.  
**9:30am Jan. 8** in Rm 213. All are Welcome!

## DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Advent 3: LOVE</b> 8:00am: Chapel Worship 9:30 & 11:00am: <b>CANTATA</b> 9:00am: Holiday Shop 11:00am: Christmas Gifts That Won't Break noon: <b>UMW Committee Mtg.</b> noon: Guatemala Team Mtg. 5:00pm: Christmas Gifts That Won't Break 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	<b>12</b>  Holiday Shop at Little School 7:00pm: Trustees Meeting	<b>13</b> Holiday Shop at Little School 1:00pm: Seasoned Voyagers - Game Day	<b>14</b> Little School Christmas Programs 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:00pm: Family Advent Devotional 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>15</b> Little School Christmas Programs 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>16</b> 9:30am: Playgroup 6:00pm: Auditions for She Loves Me	<b>17</b> 9:00am: Pageant Rehearsal 10:00am: Wesley Writers 3:00pm: Auditions for She Loves Me
<b>Advent 4: JOY Candy Cane Sunday</b> 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 8:15am: Contemplative Worship 11:00am: Christmas Gifts That Won't Break 12:15pm: Learning With St. Luke's Team Mtg. 3:00pm: Christmas Pageant 5:00pm: Christmas Gifts That Won't Break 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	<b>19</b> Little School Closed 6:00pm: Women's Evening Book Club Potluck (Club at 7:00pm)	<b>20</b> Little School Closed 7:30pm: Planned Giving Team Meeting	<b>21</b> Little School Closed 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:00pm: Family Advent Devotional 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>22</b> Little School Closed 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>23</b> Little School Closed	<b>24</b>  <b>Christmas Eve Services:</b> 1:00pm: Children's 3:00pm: Children's 5:00pm: Traditional 7:00pm: Traditional 10:00pm: Communion
<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! 10:00am: Worship - Rev. Bradley Laurvick	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed Little School Closed	<b>27</b> Little School Closed 7:00am: Men's Group @ Egg & I 7:00pm: Staff Parish Relations Team	<b>28</b> Little School Closed 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>29</b> Little School Closed 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed Little School Closed	<b>31</b>
<b>JAN 1</b> Happy New Year! 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 6:34pm: Fusion	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed Little School Closed 6:30pm: Women's Night Out	<b>3</b> Little School Closed 2:00pm: Seasoned Voyagers - Conversations with Janet	<b>4</b> 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday 6:30pm: Parents of Teens/Young Adults with Depression/Bipolar	<b>5</b> 6:30pm: Church Conference 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>6</b> 9:30am: Playgroup	<b>7</b> 8:30am: Simply Saturday
<b>8</b> Celebration of Epiphany - Kings! 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 9:30am: Cafe St. Luke's 11:00am: Bible at a Glance 5:00pm: Short-term Study: Historical Life of Jesus 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	<b>9</b> 6:30pm: PAA: Shakespeare Study 7:00pm: Trustees Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:00am: Love & Logic Parenting Class 1:00pm: Seasoned Voyagers - Game Day 6:30pm: Finance Team 7:00pm: Missions Mtg.	<b>11</b> 1:00pm: Seasoned Voyagers 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday	<b>12</b> 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>13</b> Youth Winter Retreat 5:30pm: SLY, Jr. Lock In 5:45pm: Parent's Night Out	<b>14</b> Youth Winter Retreat 10:00am: Genealogy 101 6:45pm: Bridge Club
<b>15</b> Youth Winter Retreat 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship - Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 8:15am: Contemplative Worship 11:00am: Bible at a Glance 5:00pm: Short-term Study: Historical Life of Jesus 5:30pm: Youth Dinner (\$2) 6:00pm: SLY PM 6:34pm: Fusion	<b>16</b> 6:30pm: PAA: Shakespeare Study	<b>17</b> 9:00am: Love & Logic Parenting Class 6:30pm: Spirituality & Wellness Series 7:30pm: Planned Giving Team Meeting	<b>18</b> 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesday 6:30pm: Parents of Teens/Young Adults with Depression/Bipolar	<b>19</b> 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	<b>20</b> 9:30am: Playgroup 7:00pm: Improv Show SLIP vs. WITY	<b>21</b> 10:00am: Wesley Writers