



# The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014

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<i>and much more!</i>	

## Christmas in the Park Needs You

We are collecting **hats, gloves** and **socks** this year for the annual Christmas in the Park.

While out shopping this week, consider picking up a pair of gloves, or a package of socks or a hat or 2 for those without a home this holiday.

It's the season of giving and what a wonderful way to spread hope, peace love and joy this Christmas.

You are also invited to gather downtown at noon on Christmas Day (meet at the church at 11:00am to carpool) to distribute these gifts. Contact Sam Leahy - sam@stlukeshr.com for more information.



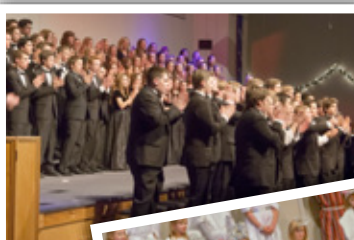
**St. Luke's GPS Fair**  
**January 26**

8:30am-12:15pm

**Featuring:**  
Family Camp,  
Support Teams  
& Missions

## Christmas is Here and the Message of Hope Abounds at St. Luke's!

Throughout the many events we experience at this time of year there is a constant thread of hope. We wonder in awe at the story of Jesus' birth that inspires us and comforts us. Take a breath and fill your senses with the season. Hope Comes Near in so many ways.



## HOPE COMES NEAR: 2013 ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

*A star shone bright across the plain  
and calmed the earth so Love could reign.  
Twas in a child that hope was born,  
a dream fulfilled! O happy morn!*

Sunday Dec. 22 **Fourth Sunday of Advent: JOY**  
"Love Comes Down; Hope Comes Near" – Dr. Janet Forbes

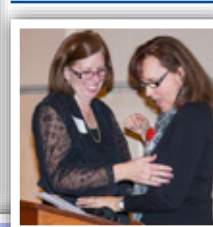
Tuesday Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve Services**  
1:00 & 3:00pm – Children's Christmas  
5:00 & 7:00pm – Traditional Christmas  
9:00pm – Contemplative Communion

Wednesday Dec. 25

Christmas Day – Christmas in the Park

Sunday, Dec. 29 **First Sunday of Christmas**  
"The Hopes and Fears of All the Years" – Dr. Janet Forbes

Sunday Jan. 5 **Epiphany/King's Service**  
Burrito Breakfast for Guatemala



**Sunday Worship Services:**

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

Vine 4:00pm (Check website for locations)

Contemplative Service

(Check website for dates &amp; 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: 303-241-9312Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x32  
Associate Minister      Emergency: 303-475-0141Rev. Ryan Canaday.....x12  
Associate Minister      Emergency: 303-944-5061

Ali Young &amp; Thomas Williams.....Interns

Sharon Oliver.....x27  
Director of Children's MinistrySamantha Leahy.....x40  
Director of Early Childhood MinistryStephanie Kirk.....x11  
Children's Ministry CoordinatorDave Laurvick.....x14  
Director of Youth MinistryAmy McMullen.....x19  
Assistant Director of Youth MinistryKay Swanson.....303-791-1982  
Director of Little SchoolDr. James Ramsey.....x23  
Director of Music & Arts MinistriesKenrick Mervine.....x33  
Associate Director of Music Ministry & OrganistJennifer Ferguson.....x37  
Associate Director of Music MinistryKay Coryell.....x36  
Director of Handbells & Children's Music MinistryErnie Rodgers.....x44  
Vine Worship LeaderCarrie Mallery.....x35  
Assistant Vine LeaderBrenda Schafer.....x10  
Office AdministratorDave Cupp/Sheri Henry.....x24  
Director of FinanceKristi Pawley.....x16  
Accounting ClerkLynda Fickling.....x20  
Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual DirectorBarry Curtis.....x39  
Facilities Manager

All submissions for the  
**February 2014 issue**  
of *The Chronicle* are due Jan. 20  
Editor: Sharon Oliver  
**chronicle@stlukeshr.com**

The *Chronicle* is published 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

# Hope Comes Near

The Advent season is filled with expectation as hope draws near! The message comes to us when we least expect it. It comes in the midst of the rush, in the middle of everyday events, often so intangible that it is like a fragrance.

Barbara Kingsolver invites us to recall the things we hope for and live inside that yearning during these festive days, not admire it from a distance, but live right in it, under its roof.

*A star shone bright across the plain  
and calmed the earth so Love could reign.*

*Twins in a child that hope was born,  
a dream fulfilled! O happy morn!*

In the gift of Jesus, we understand that God calls us to care for others. The same spirit that dwelt in Jesus is meant to come and dwell in us. Those same gifts that enabled him to give himself away for the sake of God's reign are meant to set us to reaching out as well.

**We have the opportunity to share with those less fortunate than ourselves.** The St. Luke's benevolence funds allow us to respond to the needs of the at-risk, the homeless, the transient, and the traveler for short-term lodging, food certificates, gas vouchers, prescriptions, and bus fares. These funds also provide our partnership with Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC), a coalition of churches in the Littleton and Highlands Ranch area which connects neighbors in need with existing resources, mobilizes church volunteers when helping hands are needed, and brings groups together to create solutions. Together, our generosity will make a difference in the lives of many persons in 2014. Be sure to connect with the Renewed Treasures Resale Shop, our gap ministry on behalf of the Love INC partnership!

**I also want to invite you to celebrate Christmas Eve at St. Luke's.** At 1:00 and 3:00pm, young children and their families are invited to sing favorite carols with the Cherubs, Kids Prayz, Joyful Noise Bells, and the Soul Purpose Youth Choir and welcome the Christ child as the puppets help tell the Christmas story. At 5:00 and 7:00pm, welcome the traditional story with a newly-composed drama, message, and song as we celebrate with the Christmas Choir, brass, and hand bells. At 9:00pm, the Communion Christmas, a contemplative service by candlelight, will greet the Christmas morn. Candle lighting with the singing of Silent Night will conclude every Christmas Eve service.

*Bob and I wish you the rich blessings  
of the Christmas season and pathways  
to spiritual growth in the New Year.*

—Rev. Janet



The same spirit that  
dwelt in Jesus is meant to  
come and dwell in us.

## Offer Assistance to Those Who Ask

On Sunday mornings, persons frequently come to the church seeking assistance: gasoline, food, lodging, bus fare. It is usually not timely for the pastors to speak with these persons until 12:00 noon, following the morning services of worship. Please invite those who make such requests to attend worship and fellowship. Be hospitable. If a pastor (or staff person) is not available, you may respond to the need on behalf of the congregation. During the season of Advent and Lent every year, we receive a special offering to assist persons in these ways. Our Benevolence Funds are sources of support for you so that you may respond to the request for help. You may take persons to the grocery store and purchase a gift certificate for groceries. You can take the family to the gas station and fill their tank. You may offer to buy a meal. You may direct persons to Love INC or Interfaith Community Services. You may assist with bus fare. You may pay a cab fare in advance, if necessary. **THE BENEVOLENCE FUND CAN REIMBURSE YOU FOR ANY EXPENSES YOU MAY INCUR WHILE OFFERING ASSISTANCE.** Please do not feel that you need to use your own resources. The congregation has planned well for the giving of this kind of assistance. However, we recommend that you do not give cash, unless there are no other alternatives for assistance. Thank you for your care of persons in need.





**Rev. Ryan Canaday**  
Associate Minister

## Are You Ready?

Advent is upon us! The Christmas season is in full swing here at St. Luke's. We wait. We prepare. We ready ourselves and our community for hope to re-enter our world. This is a time of deep reflection AND joyous celebration. We celebrate the hope of God doing something new in our world.

God sent Jesus—a savior—into our world. We reflect on what this means in our lives. How does the story of Jesus coming into our world shape us, transform us? When we're able to engage that question, the celebration becomes more meaningful. Speaking of celebration... like many years in the past, we kicked off the Christmas season with the Tree Lighting! St. Luke's is all lit up. The evening was filled with music of all kinds, children laughing, a story about a little shepherd girl, and cookies... lots of cookies!

The Advent church calendar is packed with fun and meaningful events. I'm looking forward to the Christmas Eve services. Just a heads up, the puppets will make their return at the 1:00 & 3:00 services. You WON'T want to miss this. These two services are very children friendly... bring the little ones!

On a separate note: Vine is on the move... literally! We've been moving about the Highlands Ranch community, meeting in different locations and serving in different ways. In October we were at the Corner Bakery, November Lil Ricci's, and in December we're at the Festive Cup Coffee. We're moving

"beyond the walls" of the church in some pretty cool ways. We had our first Practical Worship service a few weeks ago. We went into the home of a family who has recently fallen upon some difficult times. They created a wish list, and we went to work! After gathering in their living room for a song and a prayer, we were off... painting, gardening, installing, cooking, cleaning, etc. We also

collected and left TONS of diapers for the little guy. It was worship full of service, and it was pretty awesome.



We had our first Vine retreat in November up at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO. We had a blast! Hiking, eating, singing, swimming, mini-golfing... just some good ol' fashioned hanging out together and getting to know one another on a

deeper level. God is moving in this community in some pretty incredible ways. Can't wait to see what happens next! Feel free to join us any Sunday at 4:00pm. Check out our Vine website [vineandbranches.us](http://vineandbranches.us) and Facebook page for more info and meeting locations.

Christmas is almost here. Remember to look for those moments of hope and new possibilities. Where is God moving in your life, in the world? What is God up to? Take time to re-read the stories of Jesus' birth in the early chapters of Matthew and Luke. As you read them, I'll leave you with the two questions I've been asking in my Advent study: Where was the hope for them—those 1st century folks? Where is the hope for us?

*Grace & Peace, Rev. Ryan*



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

## Care, Counseling & Spiritual Formation

We often become more aware of God's healing and transforming grace through intentional connection to care and spiritual formation opportunities. St. Luke's offers many ministries to support your emotional, mental, and spiritual health. I welcome your emails, calls, and conversations about your specific needs. Let me or any of our pastors and staff know about your interests and we will do our best to connect you with one of the following ministries or with resources that may be helpful to you. Confidentiality is always 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. Ryan offer short-term, faith-based counseling, pastoral care, and referrals for individuals, couples, and families seeking support.

**Stephen Ministry** – provides confidential, one-to-one care to individuals in our congregation and community. Stephen Ministers are lay persons who have specialized training in listening and providing emotional and spiritual care. Contact a pastor of Stephen Leader if you or someone you love would benefit from this ministry.

**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. Contact Maryellen Davis if you have a need that the Caring Connection may provide.

**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 pastoral and staff team.

**Support Groups and Classes** – St. Luke's offers support groups and classes focused on a variety of topics 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.

**Center for Spiritual Engagement** – interactive workshops, retreats, seminars and classes featuring excellent facilitators, outdoor experiences, discussions etc. engage participants in learning new skills and practices that contribute to health and wholeness. Check the website and Week at a Glance for upcoming opportunities. See upcoming opportunities listed in this issue of *The Chronicle*!

**Spiritual Direction** – The process of spiritual direction honors each person's unique life journey and supports people in managing transitions, enhancing self-awareness, working through challenges, and growing in faith. Contact Rev. Sallie or Lynda Fickling and we'll connect you with one of our trained/certified Spiritual Directors.

**Faithful Friends** – The Faithful Friends ministry offers care and friendship to individuals in care centers, those who may be dealing with long term health challenges, and individuals who may have difficulty getting to St. Luke's on a regular basis. You may contact Nancy Abbott or the Church office for more information.

**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 extra financial support to make it through a difficult stretch, please contact one of the pastors.

**Benevolence Fund** – provides support for those in need who are not directly connected with the St. Luke's family.

If St. Luke's does not offer the type of support you need, the pastoral team will make every effort to connect you to additional resources, support networks, and care providers within our community.



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

## Get CONNECTED Spiritual Gifts

Have you been wondering where can you be God's hands & feet in the world/ community? Are you ready to be of service, to volunteer your time in a world of need?



Give yourself the gifts of serving! Seek out your Spiritual Gifts and take an intentional leap of faith into areas where God has planted the seeds of passion for you to serve.

Visit [www.stlukeshr.com/SpiritualGifts](http://www.stlukeshr.com/SpiritualGifts) and work through a simple assessment. Follow-up with the resources provided and/or give me a call and we will explore options for your journey! —Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director, x20 or [Lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:Lynda@stlukeshr.com)

## Welcoming our newest members

of St. Luke's and their reasons for joining our community.



**Roger & Emily Adcock**

"We love the music programs, the involvement of all generations, and the adherence to its traditions."



**Jackie Aiken**

"Compelled by the Holy Spirit."



**Dean & Isabel Kittel**

"Strong focus on children, wide ranging Christian programs of worship, music, drama, community service and missions managed by capable staff."



**Brian & Cyndi Koehl**  
(Katie, Ashley and Alexis)



**Jackie Miller**

"I felt very welcomed when I first began attending St. Luke's and appreciate the Missional focus of the congregation."

**Orie & Cynthia Roberts (Nicolette)** (no picture available)

"We want to be part of this community which has welcomed us with warmth and enthusiasm and which so clearly reflects an intent to live the teaches of Jesus Christ."



**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 [sallie@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sallie@stlukeshr.com) or [brenda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:brenda@stlukeshr.com)

### LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

Olivia Murrow  
Joe Forbes – Rev. Janet  
Forbes' brother  
Kathy Hutchinson –  
Dave Laurvick's sister  
Jan Lindquist  
Pete Reif  
Natalie Murrow  
Dean Kittel  
Jackie Durban  
Fred Gamble – Fred & Jan  
Munoz's friend  
Dan Keyack –  
Betsy Keyack's father  
Grace George  
Jean Battaglin  
Charlie Carney –  
Carol Frame's relative  
Layne Corbin – Bud &  
Sharon Scholle's son  
Dwight Mullen – Mike &  
Gwen Riggles' friend  
Trudy Turner  
Linda Cole –  
Pam Lyon's friend  
Madeline Byrd –  
Pam Lyon's friend  
Jackie Phillips  
Derek Campbell  
Debi Sheppard  
Heather Lawton –  
Daniel Block's sister  
Creighton Smith – Dewey  
& Sharon Smith's son  
Roger Adcock  
Les Ludlam  
Marty Smith – Les & Betty  
Ludlam's friend  
Eric Stahlman  
Maxine Campbell  
Kathleen Wolff –  
Jim Wolff's mother  
Danielle Rush

Bud Scholle  
Isabelle McCrary – Brent  
& Jenna Wilcox's niece  
Lindley McCrary –  
Jenna Wilcox's sister  
Rich Caranahan  
Jenifer Cabaniss –  
Little School family  
Fran Keleher  
Stephanie Newton  
Jim DeLuca  
Sherrie Miller  
Jane Riegler  
Claire Alpert  
Roy Piskadlo –  
Mark Piskadlo's father  
the McMullen family  
Austin Raap  
Jackie Aiken  
Teddy Ernster  
May Gross –  
Dan Gross' mother  
Winnie Kolves

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Greg & Blair Strickland on the birth of their son,  
Samuel Collins Strickland  
Scott & Lindsay Hetherington on the birth of their son,  
Joshua Gibson Hetherington  
Mitchel & Kelly Owens on the birth of their daughter,  
Teresa Marie Owens

### SYMPATHIES TO:

Carrie McMullen on the passing of her friend Amelia  
"Barbie" Sunbald  
The Mozena family on the passing of Phyllis Mozena  
Carl & Joanne Cleveland on the passing of Carl's  
step-father, Herb Liss  
Pat Artman on the passing of her husband, Ron Artman  
Pam Hinrichs on the passing of her mother,  
Martha Estelle Bethea Edwards  
Bob & Sharla Hottman on the passing of Sharla's father,  
Gerald Weed  
Les & Betty Ludlam on the passing of Les' cousin,  
Kelly McGown  
Sturgis & Susan Wetherington on the passing of Susan's  
mother, Catherine Rice  
Richard & Carol Frame on the passing of Carol's  
sister-in-law, Barbara Toll  
Steve, Christina & Elizabeth Manthey on the passing of  
son/brother, David Manthey  
Mike & Julie Ramsett on the passing of Julie's father,  
John Thompson

## St. Luke's: Your Spiritual Community

Our hearts lead the way when we join in a community. We embrace new friendships, discover shared passions and connections, ask questions, and begin to understand who Jesus is for us, in our lives. We invite you to experience community with St. Luke's. To connect in a deeper way, please contact one of our Pastoral staff or Lynda Fickling, Director of Servant Ministry [lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:lynda@stlukeshr.com) 303-791-0659 x20

*We look forward to sharing our journeys together.*





Look for more information coming soon on the launch of the Center for Spiritual Engagement from St. Luke's Spirituality and Wellness Team. We have lots of exciting opportunities planned for 2014 and hope you will be a part of this new phase of spirituality and wellness at St. Luke's.

## Join us for the first Spirituality and Wellness Speaker Series Event of 2014!



### *"Mind Body Nutrition and Spirituality"*

Facilitated by Kimba Ashworth, Eating Psychology Coach

**Tuesday, Feb. 4, 6:30-8:30pm** in St. Luke's Fellowship Hall  
All Are Welcome. Childcare available.

We are spiritual beings having a human experience. In this seminar, Kimba invites us to look at how our relationship to eating and our bodies mirrors our relationship to life. There is a beautifully meaningful life journey where the biology of the body reflects the experience of the soul. The concepts of Mind Body Nutrition and Dynamic Eating Psychology focus on the undeniable connections between brain, body and behavior. Understanding these connections empowers us to implement nourishing and sustainable strategies to improve our overall health. Hosted by the Center for Spiritual Engagement. For information contact: Sallie Suby-Long (sallie@stlukeshr.com) or Renae Parra (renaeparra@aol.com)

**Speaker Series Recap** - On November 12 we launched our annual speaker series with "Courage

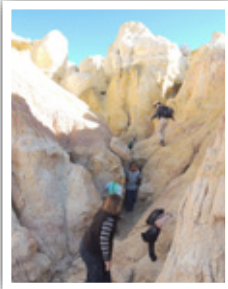


in Everyday Life". Bryan Hutchinson led us in an exploration of the concept of courage: what it means and how to build courage into our lives. More than forty participants connected in large and small groups as we discussed our experiences with fearfulness and vulnerability. We learned new strategies to build courage

in our lives, including making choices to act in the face of fear, trusting our intuition, and letting go of familiar responses. From Bryan's presentation, "Courage is not the absence of fear but the acquired ability to move beyond fear." Feedback from participants was very positive: "What an engaging evening!

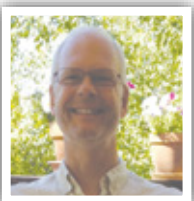
*I hadn't thought about courage being so different for each person.* "Thanks for the tips and tools on how to build courage. I will try some this week!" If you would like to see a video of Bryan's presentation, please talk with Rev. Sallie (sallie@stlukeshr.com).

**Hiking the Colorado Paint Mines** - In November the Outdoor Adventure Team led a visit to the magnificent Paint Mines, a little-known geologic treasure in eastern Colorado. The park is named for its colorful clay hoodoos (weather-sculpted monoliths) that contrast beautifully with its stark white gulches and overhangs. We marveled, laughed, explored, discovered, and reflected as we wandered under and through the paths and passages of this rare and beautiful park. We shared a picnic lunch and a time for spiritual reflection, considering thoughts like threshold, courage, vulnerability, transitions, and sacred space in the context of our Paint Mines experience. (Some of us are already planning for our next visit.) All are invited to join us in 2014 as we continue to explore our beautiful and spiritually rich Colorado landscapes as we celebrate God's marvelous creation. For more info contact Janet.



johnston@comcast.net, Julie.polikoff@msn.net, janestaller@gmail.com.

### **COMING IN JANUARY: Contemplative Writing Class - Creating Story out of a Life**



**Event, with Marty Shopes.** Please join us for this 7-week class in which you will learn to take a vividly remembered life event and put it to paper in story form. Marty Shopes, our teacher, has been a writer for more than thirty years, and he emphasizes individualized instructor interaction and coaching, rather than group feedback. The class will concentrate on specific steps toward creating a story that will bring out that special significance in your experience with great texture and nuance. You will be taking the next step past expository journal writing and going into the realm of story, for a deeper, fuller expression of your experience.

The class is limited to eight students, so Sign Up Now. Class will meet Wednesdays at St. Luke's from 6:30-8:00pm, beginning January 15 and run through February 19. For more information, contact janet.johnston@comcast.net.

## Monday Mornings at McDonald's

Highlands Ranch Pkwy & Broadway. Drop in!

8:30-10:00am



Or...

## Join us for Coffee & Conversation

about the History of St. Luke's, the United Methodist Church, our programs and ministries.

9:30am any 2nd Sunday of the month (Excluding December)

Meet Rev. Sallie, Monty Hoffman and Lynda Fickling in Room 212

*We look forward to getting to know you!*

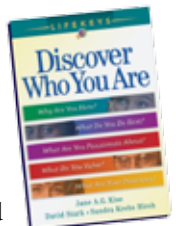
## "Servant by Design" Class Starting Soon!

**Sundays, Feb. 9 -March 30, 11:00am-noon, Room 206**

*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?*

Begin your journey to a God-centered life by discovering how you are created to be God's hands and feet in the world. 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). Cost \$14.00. To register online, go to: [www.stlukeshr.com/learningwithstlukes](http://www.stlukeshr.com/learningwithstlukes) Or sign up at the Get Connected Center. Facilitators: Renae Parra [renaeparra@aol.com](mailto:renaeparra@aol.com) and Lynda Fickling [Lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:Lynda@stlukeshr.com) 303-791-0659 x20



## AGELESS SINGLES

*A social group for unmarried, divorced, widowed men and women of all ages.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Sat. Jan. 11:** Canvas and Cocktails at South Glenn - starts at 6:30pm. Must purchase tickets in advance.

**Sat. Jan. 25:** Celestial Seasonings tour in Boulder. Free. Meet and carpool from St. Luke's at 9:00am.

RSVP to Allison Wright, 720-371-6760 or [allisonwright303@yahoo.com](mailto:allisonwright303@yahoo.com)



# Just the Facts

with  
Shea, Jake & Max

Woof! Woof! Meow! Jake, Max, and Shea here to bring you up to speed on what we are sniffing out at the church. We've interviewed several human folks around the church and this is what they are telling us:

## Wow! Christmas is here!

The downstairs is all decorated, children are singing carols, the

kids are learning about Jesus' birth and families are feeling the Christmas spirit. Ahhh....

**The Tree Lighting service was awesome** with an amazing performance by the Cherubs Choir "Gloria!" and many carols, stories and cool jazz from SLYJO and lots of cookies to kick off the season right!

**The Holiday Shop was a big success** as this year! It moved downstairs on Sunday morning for the first time and sales went higher! Thanks to Amy Antinoro for leading this effort and to everyone who chipped in to help where needed. Proceeds will benefit our VBS volunteer lunch program.

**Family Advent Devotionals were so very special this year.** Families who attended made Advent candle wreaths and other fun crafts and learned more about the hope, peace, love and joy of the season. The devotionals gave everyone who came a pause during the week to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

**The Children's Christmas Pageant brought a story of hope.** This year a very special guest narrator was added - Rev. Janet! What a great show the kids put on at the recital before the pageant and telling the Christmas story through scripture and song. The children brought all of the characters of the story to life in such a joyful way. Thanks to all who helped jump in to make this event such a success!

**SLY, Jr. (our 5th & 6th grade service & fun club)** has had a great month - first they went to DenUM and helped make 600 Thanksgiving dinner boxes for families in need and despite the cold had a great time. Then they had a White Elephant Gift Exchange and Christmas Party. It was crazy good fun! Check the website for upcoming events.

**Candy Cane Sunday was a sweet morning!** Speaking of special guests, Santa stopped by for a visit! He explained that the candy cane (because of its shape and color) helps to remind kids that Christmas is not all about him but about Jesus.

**Please join us for Christmas Eve services! We are a little jealous because Rev. Ryan's dog gets to be the manger dog instead of us but we will cheer him on!** The Children's Services at 1:00 & 3:00pm will have Cherubs Choir, Kidz Prayz, Soul Purpose Youth Choir, Joyful Noise Bell Choir, PUPPETS, candles and baby Jesus! It's going to be great and just what we all need to get us ready for Christmas Day. Can't wait! See you there!

**Sunday School at 9:30 & 11:00am is in full swing. Everyone is so enjoying Sunday mornings - Join us!** Teachers, Shepherds and Cinema and Games Workshop Leaders are needed for January and February! Come give your time and your heart to the children! YOU can make a difference in 2014! Email sharon@stlukeshr.com for more info.

**Looking way ahead:** VBS "Workshop of Wonders" is June 23-27 in 2014! Put it on the calendar now! It will be here before you can say "Doggie Treats."

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 & Sam know if you have any questions.

**Merry Christmas & Furry Blessings for 2014!**



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



**Samantha Leahy**  
Director of Early  
Childhood Ministry



**Stephanie Kirk**  
Children's Ministry  
Coordinator

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

**Mark your Calendar: SLY, Jr. Lock In "SOULympics" is Jan. 31!**

**Open to all 5th & 6th graders - bring a friend - cost is \$25. To RSVP or for more info contact [sharon@stlukeshr.com](mailto:sharon@stlukeshr.com)**

## Family Camp – Find What You are Searching For

Family Camp has something for everyone – fellowship, delicious community meals, fun activities. You can hike to a beautiful waterfall, zip-line through trees, canoe on the lake, work on your archery skills, relax at your campsite, roast marshmallows over the campfire. Everyone eats well at the community breakfast and dinner each day. When you attend Family Camp, you become part of our Family Camp Family; there are so many opportunities for fellowship and fun together.

Family Camp has something for everyone – join us this year and find what you are searching for!

Family Camp runs from July 18-27, 2014 at Snow Mountain Ranch, located in Granby, Colorado. Stay for a few nights, or camp the whole week! Signups begin online on January 12, the link will be available at [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com). Sign up early to be guaranteed a site, availability is limited. Questions? Contact Amy Antinoro at [slumcfamilycamp@gmail.com](mailto:slumcfamilycamp@gmail.com) or 720-445-5845.



**CAMPFIRE  
CANOES  
COMMUNITY  
FAMILY CAMP  
FELLOWSHIP**

**FRIENDSHIP  
FUN  
GOD  
GREAT OUTDOORS  
LAUGHTER**

**MOON  
MOOSE  
NATURE  
SMILES  
SMORES**

**STARS  
VACATION  
WATERFALL  
ZIPLINE**

## Our Nursery - A Spiritual Foundation

If you stroll past our Nursery on a Sunday morning you will hear music, laughter, infants cooing and perhaps a whisper, "God loves you little one". Our Nursery staff believe that infants and toddlers learn from their earliest experiences of people and places and our Nursery is their first introduction to their Church. Therefore, our caregivers model kindness, compassion and concern as we treasure each child as a gift from God. Our goal is to support families in their desire to establish a spiritual foundation that, with God's timing, will lead a child into a relationship with God. We believe spiritual formation starts in infancy and throughout the first two years of a child's life the concepts of their spiritual formation ~ trust and hope ~ develop and grow. We are intentional in welcoming all new little ones at St. Luke's. Our children learn to know and trust God when they experience Church as a safe, nurturing and welcoming place. Come visit us or stroll by on a Sunday morning to hear the sounds of laughter, it's often contagious.





**Kay Swanson**  
Director of  
Little School



### Little School News:

## Winter Wonders

Little School LOVES December! We focus on Baby Jesus' birthday and the true meaning of Christmas! In Chapel we will be talking about "St. Nicholas" by helping children know where the tradition of giving gifts to the less fortunate comes from. We will also put out our shoes and wait to see if we get any surprises! December means, pancakes for 4's, a surprise visitor and pajama days! It is always great on cold days to snuggle in our PJ's! We ended the month of Dec.

with our annual Christmas Music programs directed by our wonderful music team, Ms. Laura and Ms. Susan on Dec. 18 and 19. Little School will be on Christmas Break Dec. 20-Jan. 5, 2014.

### JANUARY MEANS REGISTRATION FOR LITTLE SCHOOL!

Can't believe that we are already looking forward to fall of 2014 and starting our registration! Open registration for current families, church members and the community opens on January 6, 2014. Forms will be available on our website ([stlukeslittleschool.org](http://stlukeslittleschool.org)) or at the main office of the school and church. Deadline for current families and church members is Jan. 17 and new families have until Jan. 31. Please make sure to tell all of your friends and neighbors about the #1 preschool in Douglas County! We offer programs from 2 1/2 (potty trained) up to almost 6. Tours are Wed. and Thurs. mornings at 10:00am, no appointment is necessary and children are MORE than welcome to come with you! - COME CHECK US OUT!

January also means more winter fun. We will have our famous Spaghetti Western Night on Thursday Jan. 23. It will be time for roping' and ridin' and campfire fun! The families always look forward to this special event! When we get back we will be focusing on lots of hands-on learning and preparation for getting ready for kindergarten! We have so much to learn and so much fun to do! The time will quickly pass and before we know it, Mr. Groundhog will be looking for his shadow!

WE HAVE A FABULOUS NEW WEBSITE! Little School has been working on a brand new look for our website and it is fun and friendly! You can keep us with all of our news and see pictures of activities. There are many new features! [www.stlukeslittleschool.org](http://www.stlukeslittleschool.org) is the place to be! Also, be sure to go to your Facebook page and look for St. Luke's Little School. We would love for you to like our school and share it with your friends! Thank you to Bret and Jenna for their excellent work!

Blessings from all of us at Little School for a joyous, family Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

**Blessings, Ms. Kay and staff**

*"Children go where there is excitement and stay where there is love."*



*"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."*

### Candlelight Dinner Mission Pin Recipient - Congratulations to Teri



Burget (shown at far left with her family) for being honored with the UMW Mission Recognition Pin! Teri serves in so many capacities at St. Luke's and she always does so with a smile. She has been especially involved with the Golf Tournament, working at Love Inc, Feed 5000, SLY, Itch to Stitch, Sunday School and so much more. We are proud to know you and so thankful for all you do to help others! The Mission Recognition pin is given to one woman each year who has embraced the purpose of the UMW by

serving to better the lives of women and children.

Thanks to all who attended the Candlelight Dinner this year. What a lovely setting with all of the glowing lanterns. Interfaith Community Services was overwhelmed by gifts and money donated for them. Our guest speaker, Sandra Blythe-Perry, shared with us the history of Interfaith (they have been around for 50 years!) and the services they offer today to residents in need in our community. They often need volunteers, especially driving people to appointments. Check out their website at [www.ifcs.org](http://www.ifcs.org) for more information about the organization or if you are interested in donating time to them.

**Mission Support** - St. Luke's UMW supported the following in 2013 with either monetary funds, goods, services (or all three): Douglas County Crisis Center, Warren Village, Cafe 180, St. Paul's Sunday morning meal for homeless, Interfaith, UMCOR West in Salt Lake City, Calhan Colorado Food Bank, Missionary Rev. Donna Pewo, Urban Peak, SLY Missions, UMCOR Hurricane Sandy Relief and Renewed Treasures Thrift Shop. Thank you for your pledges and donations that allow us to support such a broad spectrum of needs.

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

Women are welcome to attend a subgroup of UMW anytime during the year!

**NEW Women's Bible Study** - starting up in January. Informational meeting to be held soon. Please contact Janet Sackett a [jsackett@comcast.net](mailto:jsackett@comcast.net) if you want more information and the start date.

**Itch to Stitch** - Second Saturday 10:00-11:30am. Meet in Goliath area of church basement. We are active in making prayer shawls, lap robes for veterans and caps for cancer patients. All skill levels welcome! Contact Fran West 303-797-7107 [mfranwest@gmail.com](mailto:mfranwest@gmail.com) for more info.

**Women's Night Out** - First Monday, 6:30pm

- January 6 - Native New Yorker, 35 W. Springer Dr. in Highlands Ranch
- February 3 - Shanghai Garden, 2500 E. Arapahoe Rd. in Centennial

**Simply Saturday Helping Hands** - First Sat. morning of each month Rm. 206

- January - No meeting
- Feb. 1- Make Valentine Cards for Missionaries; ALL supplies provided

Contact Tennie Christman at [mydammie@comcast.net](mailto:mydammie@comcast.net) or Linda Osborn at [Imosborn5@gmail.com](mailto:Imosborn5@gmail.com) for more info.

**Book Group** - Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm.

Contact RenaeParra@aol.com to for info.

- January 27: "The Light Between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman
  - February 24: "The Power of Half" by Kevin Salwen and Hannah Salwen
- Contact RenaeParra@aol.com for more info

**Common Thread** - meets First Thursday at 10:00am, usually at the church. Call Caroline Butler for more info 303-797-3225



**DEC/JAN:**  
*Christmas in the Park  
& Guatemala*

## MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

Highlighting Mission Opportunities: For more about missions supported by St. Luke's, please contact Jerry Hertzler 720-480-0476, [jmhertzler@comcast.net](mailto:jmhertzler@comcast.net) or Scott Hetherington 484-883-0778 [scott.g.hetherington@gmail.com](mailto:scott.g.hetherington@gmail.com)

## St. Luke's provides 42 Interfaith Backpacks!

Thank you to the wonderful people of St. Luke's who contributed their time and money to sponsor a child in the Interfaith Backpack program. This year we were able to provide 42 backpacks to needy children in the south metro area. In addition to our sponsors, the Performing Arts Academy also chose the backpack program as the mission they would support this year with proceeds from their summer performances. We are so grateful to them for their contributions of \$2,500! Because of the kindness of our sponsors, many children were able to start the school year with a new backpack and school supplies, a brand new outfit, underwear, shoes and socks. Many times these will be the only new school items that they receive, especially the clothes. Imagine the joy on their faces as they start the school year with all their new things!

We realize putting these backpacks together is not an easy task, and we are so grateful for all the support of this project. The difference you make in these kids' lives is huge! Interfaith Community Services is very thankful for all our support. Hopefully, we can provide even more backpacks next year!

## Guatemala Missions Update

St. Luke's Guatemala Missions Teams (March 2014 and May 2014 SLY) will be offering a variety of "Alternative Christmas Gifts" this year. (All options can be found at our table in the Fellowship Hall throughout the Holiday Season.) Alternative giving options include:

- **Help Build a School Kitchen** - The former "Corn Stalk School" in Caserio Rosario has asked St. Luke's to return and help them build a kitchen for their school. Our SLY team members were very excited when they learned about this project last summer... both our March and May trips will be working on this project in 2014. All construction donations go directly to the purchase of building supplies. Gifts of any amount are appreciated! (Donors of \$2,000 or more may have an honor/memorial name inscribed on a plaque that will be placed on the school.)
- **Help Build a Home** - Support our teams as they build cinderblock homes in the outskirts of Lemoa, Guatemala for two needy families who can't afford homes of their own. Each home costs \$5,000 to build. Donors of \$250 or more will receive a picture of the family and may send a picture of their family to be given to the homeowner.
- **Give Milk** - 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 for needy families who are unable to afford this luxury item.
- **Give Guatemalan Crafts** - If you are looking for a unique Christmas gift, the Guatemala Missions team will be selling Guatemalan crafts in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds from these sales support our Bible camps and building activities in Guatemala.
- **Give Education** - 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. We will have a table in the Fellowship Hall (next to the Craft sales) where you can learn more about the sponsorships and select a student to sponsor.
- **Burrito Breakfast on Kings Sunday - Jan. 5** Pre-sales start in late December.

### It's not too late to sign up for our March 2014 St. Luke's Guatemala Trip!!!

Several spaces are still available for our March 2014 St. Luke's Guatemala trip. Dates for the trip are 3/21/14-3/30/14. The trip will focus on both construction and a band camp at the John Wesley School. Team members will be able to work on either (or both) projects. In addition, team members with sponsor students will be given time to meet personally with their students. If you are interested or have questions contact Laura Richards at [laura@puravida.org](mailto:laura@puravida.org)



## Seasoned Voyagers - Welcome 2014!

**JANUARY GATHERING:** Seasoned Voyagers will gather in the St. Luke's Fellowship Hall for a luncheon on Thursday, January 16, 2014. A delicious menu provided by Garbanzo goes with the theme of the day, **Culinary Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands**. Rev Janet Forbes will be leading a group from our church on such a sold out trip in March will raise the question, "What is the quests of pilgrims?" Is it the journey or the destination or more? Cost of the meal is \$10.

### FEBRUARY GATHERING: The American Museum of Western Art: The Anschutz Collection

**Where:** The Navarre Building across from the Brown Palace Hotel. **When:** Thursday, February 13 or 20; the 10:00am tour.



Anschutz Collected Art in the Navarre Building is mostly paintings from the American West circa 1800's to the industrialization of the West. From George Catlin's pictures of the Mandan Indians to the Army officer artists who traveled with surveying expeditions; from Bierstad to Moran who competed to paint the most awesome beauty of the Rocky Mountains; from Remington to Russell who brought the cowboy and the Indian to center stage; from illustrators such as N. C. Wyeth to the Taos painter Ernest Blumenschein who brought New Mexico alive to magazine readers in the

East, And one of the best known icons of the Southwest landscape Georgia O'Keefe resides in this museum as well. Displays change so we will see some, but not all of these. The private collection will be toured with a guide from 10:00-11:30am. Our group must be over 20 for them to open the museum just for us. We are allowed to have any many as 50 attend. **Lunch:** that leaves us time to explore the Brown Palace Hotel and have a lunch, either on our own or as a group in a private room such as Maggianos. **Cost:** approximately \$15 or more plus lunch. Details to be settled and sign up begins by January. Please direct your questions or opinions to Joyce Rovetta at 303-470-5705 or [rovetta@juno.com](mailto:rovetta@juno.com)



## Jazz Psalms Experience



On Sunday, November 10, St. Luke's hosted a very special series of events by inviting Chuck Marohnic, Carol Rogers and his group Music Serving the Word to the church to premiere several of their new Jazz Psalms. Before the service and the concert, Chuck and his group took the time to work

with the St. Luke's Youth Jazz Orchestra one on one with the kids, imparting valuable wisdom about musicality and jazz styling. Then Chuck led a rehearsal with the Minister's of Swing, helping our jazz ensemble fine tune some very difficult selections. Following those two rehearsals, Music Serving the Word led more rehearsals with St. Luke's Chancel Choir, Kids Prayz, and Soul Purpose. The music ministers of St. Luke's got ready for the Jazz Psalms Experience presented in church services on Sunday, following by a delightful and moving performance by all for Sunday afternoon's concert. The Jazz Psalms Experience took many hands to make beautiful music, and we hope that everyone enjoyed. We look forward to working with Music Serving the Word again in the future!!!



**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

## PAA Holiday Festival Brings Hope



At St. Luke's United Methodist Church, some 200 students from Mountain Vista, Rock Canyon, ThunderRidge High Schools and St. Mary's Academy began arriving early Friday afternoon December 13th to prepare for a long-scheduled Performing Arts Academy Holiday Festival. James Ramsey, Director of Music and Arts

at St. Luke's and PAA's Executive Director said, "A lot of the kids were coming in crying," having heard the news of the shooting at Arapahoe High School. As we moved through the afternoon and series of events, it became more and more clear that our community was serving as a witness to these students and helping them work through this tragic event. The two concerts ended with 'Peace/Peace'. "It was almost a gift from the students, because they were in community with each other, supporting each other, and they were in a safe space," he said. "It created one of the most amazing concert experiences I've been a part of in a long time." Rev. Ryan Canaday stated, "Here are 200 high school students modeling a different way to respond," he said. "It wasn't about letting fear be the ruler. They were singing about peace and hope, and it was a very prophetic message at a poignant time."

## Cantata Sunday

Cantata Sunday is very special to the music staff at St. Luke's because we are all able to pull out all the stops, pull our individual groups together, and make something happen that we could not do as individuals. We would like to thank the 160+ musicians from St. Luke's who made Cantata Sunday possible. The two church services drew more than 1000 people to St. Luke's, and the hard work of everyone involved created a magical feeling of community, spirituality, and drawing hope near. Thank you, musicians of St. Luke's for your time and energy in serving the community, and thanks to Dr. Jim, Ken, Kay, Angela, and Jennifer for working together to create such a big and thorough performance.

**Bravo to all!**

## Christmas Eve

**1:00 & 3:00pm** - Children's and Youth Services.

*Come to this fun family service to hear our children's and youth music groups and to see our ever popular puppets!*

**5:00 & 7:00pm** - Traditional Services. *Come to*

*these Christmas Eve services to hear the Brass Ensemble, the Tintinnabulators, and the Chancel Choir perform traditional holiday hymns. Family friendly, spiritual, and attended by many.*

**9:00pm** - Contemplative Communion. *This service features soloists and organ. Come and enjoy the more peaceful side of Christmas with our communion service.*

**Look!  
Pirates  
on the  
horizon!**

Arrrrrrgh! Pirates of Penzance will be presented by the St. Luke's Wesley Players on Feb. 28, March 1 & 2! Save the dates!





## Upcoming Events!

- ✦ **Dec. 15: Zoo Lights**
- ✦ **Dec. 22: White Elephant Gift Exchange**
- ✦ **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services - 1:00 & 3:00pm**  
Soul Purpose Youth Choir, Puppets and Joyful Noise Youth Bells perform
- ✦ **Sign up to receive our emails and Check [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com) and click on "Youth" or "SLY"** for up-to-date info on programs, activities, opportunities and more!

### Sundays:

- **9:30-10:30am – SLY AM**  
The miracle of Christmas
- **5:30-6:00pm – SLY Dinner**  
We need help feeding these hungry teens! Sign up to help on our website.
- **6:00-7:30pm – SLY PM**  
All sorts of fun activities are going on this month including Zoo Lights and our Annual White Elephant Exchange! Check out our website for details.

### Wednesdays:

- **5:30-6:30pm – Homework Hour**
- **6:30-8:00pm – All sorts of fun and 'chill' activities including making homemade pretzels and going out to dinner!**

**No SLY Activities  
from Dec.23-Jan. 4**

**Jan. 5 -  
Confirmation  
Begins!**

## ON THE SLY: Sharing the Compassion of Christ

Dave and I are constantly amazed at the compassion of the youth of St. Luke's. During the fall season, many discussions arose in the Youth Room about hunger and homelessness. As the youth anticipated the Thanksgiving season and all the goodies and piles of food that come along with it, they became more and more concerned for the thousands of people in Colorado that would not get a Thanksgiving meal. They were called to action! Each year, DenUM (Denver Urban Ministries) helps give hundreds of families a complete thanksgiving meal. This year, SLY (St. Luke's Youth) pledged to fill boxes of food for 100 families! Cans of sweet potatoes and boxes of stuffing took over the Youth Room in November. Everywhere you turned there were cans of green beans and corn, boxes of pie filling and jello, and all the Thanksgiving fixings you can imagine. By Nov. 24th the youth had gathered enough food to completely fill 120 boxes and partially fill many more! This in itself was an awesome act of compassion and giving, but they didn't stop there. Between SLY and SLY, Jr. over 65 people from St. Luke's braved the cold and ventured downtown to DenUM to help sort and put the boxes together! Thanks to the support of St. Luke's, over 600 families received a Thanksgiving meal this year. I can't help but say it... God is good!!!

The holiday season is such a wonderful time of year at St. Luke's. The youth room is decorated for Christmas and the youth loved our annual trip to Zoo Lights on the 15th. The spirit of the season is apparent as the youth talk about the wonder and awe of the Christmas story. With the new year brings new excitements as our Confirmation class begins. A new batch of 8th graders are ready to delve into the history and philosophy of the United Methodist Church, as well as have a whole lot of fun! Our Confirmation leaders are so excited to meet and guide some of the coolest youth in town!

We are SLY (St. Luke's Youth) and we are an inclusive group for all 7th-12th graders that focuses on fellowship, fun, and finding out what this God thing is all about! As always, we have lots going on and are so excited to grow closer while having fun and being the hands and feet of Christ!

*—Yours in Christ, Dave & Amy*



**Dave Laurvick**  
Director of  
Youth Ministry



**Amy McMullen**  
Assistant Dir. of  
Youth Ministry



We have all had a little time to process the events of Friday, Dec. 13 at Arapahoe High School and so have our youth. For some it will seem a far removed event, and for others way too close and way too personal. In either case, it helps to be able to talk and seek support for what we are feeling, expressing, or NOT expressing.

We are blessed with an amazing staff here at St. Luke's that is ready to help you and your youth. We are also blessed with some great resources, including a former SLY member who is now a therapist with the Adams Youth Services Center. She has offered to talk with youth, as well as sent me a list of online resources that might be handy for us all. There is a walk in counseling center and hotline. It is located at the Santa Fe House at 6509 Santa Fe Drive, Littleton, CO 80120. Or they can call the crisis line at 303-730-3303.

We have access to other resource links we'd be glad to share with you. If there is anything we can do to support you and your family, PLEASE do not hesitate to contact us: [davel@stlukeshr.com](mailto:davel@stlukeshr.com) or [amy@stlukeshr.com](mailto:amy@stlukeshr.com) or any of the staff at St. Luke's.



## More from Les: The Blind Date *by Rev. Les Ludlam*

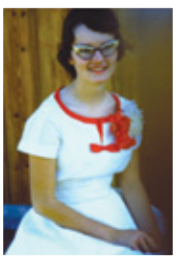


It was 1957. Billy Thomson and I were close friends and classmates at Central High School in Grand Junction. Billy was aware of my less than positive dating experiences so far and tried to help. You are afflicted with “Geek Factor” he would tell me; “girls like muscular sports heroes, not skinny techie types with glasses and pocket protectors.”

He and Bethann Scott were going steady at the time and Bethann had a friend, Betty Hoback, a fellow member of the Methodist Youth Fellowship at 1st Methodist Church downtown. Betty and Bethann were also classmates at Grand Junction High School and had known each other for some time. Billy and Bethann decided, unknown to me, or to Betty, to do a little match making.

Grand Junction’s annual Snow Ball, a mid-winter dance, held just before the Christmas break, was coming soon. So Billy and Bethann arranged a blind date for the two of us.

I was a little nervous as I got ready for the dance and the arranged date with Betty Hoback. My white buck shoes had been double brushed, the sport jacket had been dry-cleaned, and my crew cut had been freshened. Billy added to my nervousness by “coaching” me! “Don’t push too hard, don’t act silly! She’s a really nice girl and you need to take it easy.” (I wasn’t exactly sure what he meant!)



I picked up Billy and Bethann in my car the drove to the Hoback home to pick up Betty for the dance. I was amazed how much Billy and Bethann focused on the two of us and not each other. They had

arranged the date and seemed to have taken on a chaperone’s role. They didn’t fog up the rear window the car as they had done before, and spent most of their time talking to us! I was nervous but didn’t want Betty to think I was weird.

Once we got to the school and started dancing, the nervousness went away. I thought Betty was terrific and hoped that she would like me, too.

We held hands a lot that evening, even when we weren’t dancing! The dance and date with Betty ended far too soon for me! I took extra time driving Betty to her home afterward. I parked at the curb next to her house and hurried around to open the door for her. I was shaking as I grasped the door handle!

But I remembered Billy’s admonitions, so I didn’t even think of trying to kiss her! (Later, when Betty and I would talk about this first date, she would tell me that she had thought I was nice but certainly a bit “standoffish.”)

Betty started toward her front door. Then she stopped and turned around and smiled. “Our family and Billy’s family and some other friends are having a Christmas tree raising party next weekend. Would you like to come?” “Sure!” I replied, not having any idea about what a tree raising party might be.

How does one fall deeply in love with another, after the physical attraction and newness begins to wear off? When do things like trust and commitment begin to take hold in a relationship? For me that spark began to grow at the Snow Ball and was reinforced the next weekend with Betty, the Hoback family and their friends. It’s lasted for 56 years!

*God bless us all and may you have a blessed holiday season!*



**Dave Cupp**  
Director of Finance



**Kristi Pawley**  
Accounting Clerk

## Thank You For Your Support

December 31 is rapidly approaching. It’s time to begin planning how you want to close out the year to get your best tax advantages. Here are some ideas to consider:

### **The IRA Charitable Rollover:**

This benefit has been extended over the past few years and is schedule to cease December 31, of this year. If you are 70 ½ years old and need to take a minimum distribution from the IRA, this program allows you to donate up to \$100,000 as a charitable gift without taxation on the distribution. We are a qualified 501 (c) (3) and can accept your donation. The holder of your IRA must send the check direct to St. Luke’s. They are not supposed to make the check to you and then you give it to St. Luke’s. Call me or email if you need assistance.

**Selling Appreciated Stock:** If you have some appreciated stock that you would like to remove from your portfolio you can donate that stock to St. Luke’s and receive donation credit plus reduce or avoid capital gains on the transfer. You should consult with your tax attorney to make sure my comments are correct as I believe them to be. Also, you should contact me to get instructions for doing the stock transfer. We have several families who take advantage of this opportunity each year. It does take a week or so to get the transfer completed and it has to be completely finished before Dec. 31.

**Prepaying Future Pledges:** If you need additional tax deductions for 2013, consider prepaying your 2014 pledge. The amounts we receive for future year(s) are recorded as prepaids and applied to the year you designate. Please mark your checks accordingly.

**If you haven’t finished your 2013 giving, you are encouraged to do so before Dec. 31.** All contributions received during 2013 are posted as 2013 contributions unless you instruct us to apply them to a future year. Contributions received in the mail after December 31 will be posted to 2013 only if they are post marked on or before December 31 and we are not instructed to apply them as a prepayment of your 2014 giving.

You can make an online credit card transaction as late as 2:00pm, our time, on Dec. 31 and it will still be applied to your 2013 giving record.

### **We offer a variety of ways for you to make your contributions.**

We invite you to select the method that is best for your particular need from the following methods:

- **Cash, Check, Stock transfers**
- **Scheduled automatic withdrawals** from your checking or credit card accounts. You may enroll in either of these methods by going online at [stlukeshr.com](http://stlukeshr.com) or in person here at the Church.
- **Go online at [stlukeshr.com](http://stlukeshr.com)** and do a one-time transaction from your checking or credit card accounts. This method is great for situations such as forgetting to leave your check in the offering plate on Sunday or maybe you’re out of town on vacation, etc.

## Introduction of Sheri Henry

After eight years of leadership in our ministries of finance, Dave Cupp has announced his intention to retire at the end of 2013. We will celebrate Dave’s leadership on Sunday, January 5.

Therefore, last August, the Staff Parish Relations Team authorized a search for a new Director of Finance. It is my pleasure to introduce Sheri Henry who will assume that position on Jan. 6, 2014.

Sheri, a Certified Public Accountant, has eighteen years of experience in accounting and management in corporate settings. At this time in her life, she wants to move into non-profit work and is delighted to expand her role in the mission of her own congregation. Sheri, Matt, and Megan have been members of St. Luke’s since 2000.

We will benefit from a time of transition in January as Dave and Sheri, with the oversight of the Finance Team, work together for a smooth transfer of leadership.

Welcome, Sheri!

—Rev. Janet



**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.*

For the most up-to-date calendar of events check [www.stlukeshr.com](http://www.stlukeshr.com)



## OUR LEADERSHIP TEAMS



**Saturday, January 18**

**8:30-11:00am**

### **St. Luke's Leadership Kick-Off 2014**

**Special Keynote Speaker: Lynn Bell, M.A.S.C.E.**  
**Executive Director for Work Alive Institute**

**We have an outstanding opportunity at this year's Leadership Kick-Off Event! You will want to attend! The day will begin with a light breakfast and then Lynn Bell, will be our Keynote.**

Lynn Bell is a social entrepreneur who enjoys gathering collaborative ideas and voices to reshape culture through a broader understanding of the role of work in living a full life for the benefit of all humanity. She has a Master of Arts in Social and Civic Entrepreneurship where she researched the connection between work, faith and the change that is possible at the crossroads of the public, private, and social sectors. Lynn is a trained Life Coach specializing in life balance issues but has also worked with entrepreneurs launching new businesses and marketplace leaders desiring to take their career to the next level. As an international speaker and published author she enjoys working with diverse individuals and groups. Her recent background includes a career in supply chain and logistics for a large telecommunications company. She loves spending time with her growing family and is the Executive Director of WorkAlive Institute in Denver, CO.

Lynn will be sharing how your work—whether in a nonprofit, for profit, or no pay at all—is a gift from a loving God who takes delight in the work of your hands.

After Lynn's presentation, you will have the opportunity to break out into your individual team meeting.

We invite you to make this an important day for your team, whether you are on the Missions Team, Children's Ministry Team, Learning with St. Luke's, Hospitality, Ushers, ANY of our teams - you are invited! Let's welcome your newest members and plan out your year! We will have the food, space and atmosphere all ready for you. ***We hope you will make this a high priority and join us for this excellent opportunity.*** This is an important beginning to our year as leaders of St. Luke's. If you are not able to attend, we encourage you to designate a co-leader and coordinate the morning work you have envisioned.

We feel that all persons that call St. Luke's their home are leaders and welcome each one of you to this special event. Please RSVP to Lynda Fickling [Lynda@stlukeshr.com](mailto:Lynda@stlukeshr.com) 303-791-0659 x20 and let us know you will attend! This event is hosted by our Equipping Ministry Team.