



The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2013



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!

Saturday Nov. 30

9:00am-1:00pm –

Hanging of the Greens/Service Saturday

Sunday Dec. 1 **First Sunday of Advent: HOPE**

Message – Ali Young

6:30pm – Tree Lighting

Tuesday Dec. 3

6:00pm – Candlelight Dinner

Wednesday Dec. 4

6:00pm – Family Advent Devotional

Saturday Dec. 7-Tuesday Dec. 10

Children's Holiday Shop

Sunday Dec. 8 **Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE**

8:00am – Love Feast in the Chapel

Message – Dr. Janet Forbes

9:30 & 11:00am – Cantata

6:30pm – Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday Dec. 11

6:00pm – Family Advent Devotional

Friday Dec. 13

Performing Arts Academy Holiday Festival

Sunday Dec. 15 **Third Sunday of Advent: LOVE**

Message – Rev. Ryan Canaday

Candy Cane Sunday

3:00pm – Christmas Pageant

Wednesday and Thursday Dec. 18 & 19

Little School Christmas Programs

Wednesday Dec. 18

6:00pm – Family Advent Devotional

Sunday Dec. 22 **Fourth Sunday of Advent: JOY**

Message – 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**

Message – Dr. Janet Forbes

Sunday Jan. 5 **Epiphany/King's Service**

Three Advent Studies

Sign up online: stlukeshr.com, click on "Learning With St. Luke's"

HOPE COMES NEAR: THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORIES

THURSDAYS: Nov. 21, Dec. 5, 12, 19 (7:00-8:30pm)

Facilitator: Rev. Ryan Canaday at his home. Childcare will be provided in the Canaday home.

Focus: During this 4-week study we will be looking at both birth stories of Jesus—Matthew and Luke's Gospel. We will be looking at the differences and similarities in the Gospel stories. Our primary question will center on the idea of hope. In a world of darkness, what did it mean for the first century folks to find hope in the coming of Christ? In a world of darkness, what does it mean for us to experience and proclaim the hope of the coming of Christ?

Suggested (but not required) Reading: *The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan (\$11.00) Kindle version is available. In *The First Christmas* Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan help us see the real Christmas story buried in the familiar Bible accounts. Basing their interpretations on the two nativity narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Borg and Crossan focus on the literal story—the inner truth rather than the historical facts—to offer a clear and uplifting message of hope and peace.

A THRILL OF HOPE: THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN WORD AND ART

SUNDAY MORNINGS: Nov. 24, Dec. 1, 15, 22 (11:00am)

Facilitator: Rev. Jim Harris in Room 213

Resource: *A Thrill of Hope Discussion Guide* (\$5.00) *A Thrill of Hope* is a DVD study presenting the familiar story of Christmas as told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Each scripture passage is illustrated and interpreted in the stunning artwork of John August Swanson along with commentary by faculty from the Candler School of Theology of the United Methodist Church.

HOPE WITH US: WHEN GOD COMES DOWN

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS: Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 11, 18 (6:00-7:30am - Breakfast and Advent Study)

Facilitator: Dr. Janet Forbes at The Egg and I in Town Center, 9344 Dorchester Street, Highlands Ranch

Resource: *When God Comes Down* by James A. Harnish (\$9.00) Kindle version is available. Often our Advent/Christmas journey is focused on us – our memories, feelings, relationships and experiences. This study puts the focus on God's action in Jesus Christ. It encourages us to think more deeply in terms of the biblical, theological, and spiritual meaning of the Nativity and to apply it to our own lives.



Over the entry and through the church, The Christmas decorations were hung.

Our community knows how to come together, To prepare for the holy Advent Season!

Calling ALL of our church family,

It is almost time to transform the church to prepare for the season of Advent!

Please consider joining us on Saturday, Nov. 30 for the Hanging of the Greens from 9:00am-1:00pm.

Thank you in advance for your support! Childcare is provided for our tiny ones – please make your reservations by emailing sam@stlukeshr.com

We have Service Saturday, too! Something for Everyone! Hope to see you there!

Sunday Worship Services:

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

Vine 4:00pm (Check website for locations)

Contemplative Service

(Check website for dates & times)

Sunday School:

Adult, Youth & Children:

9:30am & 11:00am

Nursery available for:

8:00, 9:30 & 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. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long.....x32
Associate Minister Emergency: 303-475-0141

Rev. Ryan Canaday.....x12
Associate Minister Emergency: 303-944-5061

Sharon Oliver.....x27
Director of Children's Ministry

Samantha Leaby.....x40
Director of Early Childhood Ministry

Stephanie Kirk.....x11
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Dave Laurvick.....x14
Director of Youth Ministry

Amy McMullen.....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
Vine Worship Leader

Carrie Mallory.....x35
Assistant Vine Leader

Brenda Schafer.....x10
Office Administrator

Dave Cupp.....x24
Director of Finance

Kristi Pawley.....x16
Accounting Clerk

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

Barry Curtis.....x39
Facilities Manager

All submissions for the
December 2013/January 2014 issue
of *The Chronicle* are due Dec. 1

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

Who Sits on Your Balcony?

Therefore, since we are surrounded by
such a great cloud of witnesses..." –Hebrews 12:1

My friend, who is a pastor, was once asked about the pictures of the people hanging in her study behind her desk. She said, "Oh, that's my balcony." The questioner asked further, "Your balcony?" My friend explained. She said that those are pictures of important people of faith and influence in her life who had died and joined the Communion of the Saints. She keeps them there as she works on sermons every week. She is reminded of their continuing presence in her life. They are her "cloud of witnesses." They are former professors, persons from her congregations, family members. She looks up at them constantly to claim the way they shaped her, taught her, loved her, and modeled Jesus for her. As she prepares sermons each week, she looks to her balcony for encouragement.

Who sits on your balcony? I have many.

There are several teachers from high school.

They ground into me this idea that I am talented, that I have potential, and never let me get by with shoddy performance.

There are college and seminary professors who gave me a passion for learning. They passed on a hunger for the spiritual journey and the desire to share that joy with others. They are members of my home church who showed me amazing acceptance. They gave me confidence. There are scout leaders and coaches who taught me how to be strong and showed me that I have greater courage than I thought I did. They are former members of churches, retired pastors and bishops who influence me more than I realize. Their words and actions come to me often and guide me to the leader I really want to be.

There are some people I have never met: scholars who wrote great books, edge thinkers who always look to the horizon, and leaders whose courage challenges and inspires me.

There are very special friends who have brought joy to my life. It's hard to think about the Communion of the Saints and not recall what I miss about each one.

The writer of Hebrews says that we are never without them. They have gone before us. We don't enjoy their company in the same way we once did and there is sadness in that reality. However, their deaths do not mean that they are gone. We are surrounded by them. They continue to root for us... just in a different place... now, from the balcony.

So, who sits on your balcony?

This Thanksgiving, gather with friends and family and celebrate the saints in your life. Give thanks for those who have been an important spiritual influence. As a way of remembering, you might take a few moments and write down the names of your balcony cheerleaders. Recall what they mean to you. Speak their names out loud, light candles, and after each one, say, "thank you."

With great thanks, –Rev. Janet



This Thanksgiving, gather with friends and family and celebrate the saints in your life.

St. Luke's Giving Tree

offers hope and Christmas joy to families from Interfaith Community Services as well as youth from Urban Peak. Every November the Giving Tree goes up in Fellowship Hall lighted and tagged with names and wishes of children and adults who, without our generous support, may not have a gift to open on Christmas morning. Help St. Luke's continue this wonderful tradition.

–Linda Palmer & Kyle Exline

**Look for the Giving Tree
November 10.**



Rev. Ryan Canaday
Associate Minister

Feeding of the 5000 and the Mission of Jesus

110,000 pounds of food was raised in our community food drive!

All of this food went to the pantry of Denver Urban Ministries (DenUM). This food will feed hungry families right here in Denver for nearly a year. That is incredible! You all are incredible! Thank you so much to the hundreds of volunteers who made this possible. The St. Luke's community and the Denver community came together for a weekend in October to feed hungry people... sounds like the mission of Jesus to me!

Food is important, especially to those experiencing hunger. But it's always more than just about the food. It's about building relationships in the community. It's about seeing others with real compassion, then acting. It's about inviting others to participate in the mission to reach out and serve the most vulnerable.



On Friday—the first day of the Feeding of the 5,000—we were short-handed when it came to sorters at the church. It was cold and snowy.

Volunteers stood bravely at our local grocery stores. Food began pouring in... like manna from the heavens. We threw out a plea on FaceBook. People showed up. God showed up (God always does...you'd think I'd know that by now). A friend of mine saw the plea and drove 45 minutes to come help out. She's not connected with a faith community and has little familiarity with the Church. After helping for a few hours, she explained that she had to leave. I thanked her for coming. She said: "I didn't know churches did this kinda thing... does your church always do this?" I replied: This? Well, this is a yearly thing, but yes, St. Luke's is always doing 'this'—coming together to make a real difference in our community and in our world.

When we do this, we are following in the way of Jesus. And we do this, my friends, we are practicing what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

"Jesus told the crowd to sit on the ground. He took the seven loaves of bread and the fish. After he gave thanks, he broke them into pieces and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. Everyone ate until they were full." —Matthew 15:35-37 CEB

Thank you all... thank you for giving to the crowds. I am so glad to be on this journey of discipleship with all of you!

Grace & Peace, Rev. Ryan



Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long
Associate Minister

Holiday Hope

The holiday season is often a joyful time when we anticipate being with friends and enjoying family traditions. For some of us, though, it can also be very difficult as we remember and deeply miss loved ones who have passed. The season can be a time of many mixed emotions.

I'd like to extend an invitation to you for two opportunities that we believe will offer hope and support to those who are grieving. The first is **Holiday Hope: A Grief Support Group**, open to anyone who is coping with loss. The group will meet on **Sundays from 4:30 until 6:00pm beginning on Nov. 17 and continuing through Dec. 8**. Ali Young, our Pastoral Intern, and Nancy Abbott, our Spiritual Care Assistant, will be facilitating this experience.

The second opportunity is a **Blue Christmas Service** that will be on **Sunday, Dec. 8 at 6:30pm**. The service is intended to honor the important work of grieving during the Advent Season and to celebrate and honor those who are dear to us who have passed. The service is open to everyone.

Blessings to you during this season of hope.

—Dr. Sallie, sallie@stlukeshr.com

The Common Table: Money & the Church

Monday evening, Nov. 18, 6:30-8:00pm (we checked, there's no Broncos game). Bring a dish to share. We'll break bread together, and share the journey of our community.

Why have we been talking about money and the church? Why have we had all this conversation about money and stewardship recently? How does the church get money? Where does it go? How are mission projects funded? What about salaries and the water and energy bills?

Some of us (myself included) who have grown up in United Methodist churches have probably forgotten a lot about how churches are funded. Others of us may not know the financial side of how a church operates.

With the recent conversations about stewardship and tithing, Common Table would like to take a little time to provide additional information on how the church manages financially, answering some of those questions.

Additionally, we'll be introducing the Advent theme and sharing information about upcoming programs across the church.

If you're seeking a place to learn more about St. Luke's community, join us at Common Table! This quarterly gathering is a relaxed way for the different people and groups within St. Luke's to share visions, goals, and success stories, to learn more about each other, and to share in community and fellowship. Join us! Childcare is available with 48 hours' notice. Please contact Sam Leahy at sam@stlukeshr.com. 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. And if you have a question, or would like to suggest a topic, please contact Susan McIntosh at susanrmcintosh@yahoo.com.



Lynda Fickling
Director of
Servant Ministry/
Spiritual Director

Get **CONNECTED**

Visit the Center

We invite you to stop by the Get Connected Center located on the main floor near the worship area on Sundays for all the latest news on our programs, volunteer opportunities and gatherings for all ages!

Thank you to our Get Connected Center Team: Tennie Christman, Lisa Phillips, Mary Peterson, Allison Wright, Brenda Hart, Carleen Krening, and Jenita Rhodes. Like to be on the team? Please contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659x20 lynda@stlukeshr.com. All you need is a heart for welcoming people to our community!

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



Bud Benson

"Sermon - Inspirational & Informative, Music Program - Very Good, Youth Programs - Well Attended."



Brenda Hart

"To continue to grow in my faith while connected to a community filled with grace for all."



Diane Hodges

"Sense of community and great youth programs!"



Adam & Lauren Hulse
(no picture available) "Good atmosphere and leaders."



Eric & Trudy Jenkins

"We felt welcomed and accepted from day one, and had an instant connection with the arts and music ministries as they are our passions."



Peggy Link

"This church is full of LOVE, and stresses inclusiveness! Isn't that what Christ teaches?"



Ryan & Nikki Walker

"We joined St. Luke's because we felt so welcomed. Family is second only to God, and St. Luke's is the place our family belongs!"



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 or brenda@stlukeshr.com

LATEST ENTRIES TO PRAYER LIST:

Olivia Murrow
Joe Forbes –
Rev. Janet Forbes' brother
Kathy Hutchison –
Dave Laurvick's sister
Jan Lindquist
Waltraut Brisk –
Claudia Swanson's mother
Julia Klug – Peter & Linda
Young's granddaughter
Jackie Durban
Betty Halderman
Minnie Mortimer
Nancy Intagliata –
Carol Frames' friend
Kathleen Wolff –
Jim Wolff's mother
Debi Sheppard
Maxine Campbell
Bailey Koenig
Tania Cole –
Pam Lyons' friend
Cash Swier –
Kathy Swier's grandson
Pete Reif

Phyllis Mozena
Madeline Byrd – Pam Lyons' friend
Roy Piskadlo – Mark Piskadlo's father
Paula Lee
David Benight –
Charlie & Bonnie Williams' son-in-law

SYMPATHIES TO:

Ralph Lawrence on the passing of his wife,
Debbie Lawrence
Peter & Alicia Waldheim on the passing of Alicia's
mother, Rosalind Hamilton
Fred & Lynda Drake on the passing of Fred's mother,
Lois Drake
Josh & Jane Staller on the passing of Jane's mother,
Dorothy Mundis Reid
John & Caroline Merchant on the passing of
Caroline's grandfather, Everette Elijah Griffin
Ted Dreyer on the passing of his wife, Judy Dreyer
Rich & Martha Boon on the passing of Rich's mother,
Marion Boon
Dan & Kathy Swier on the passing of Dan's father,
Richard Swier
Kay Swanson on the passing of her mother,
Carol Bryden

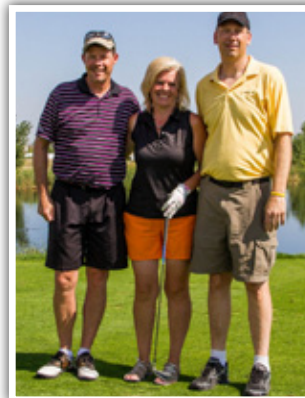
Ageless Singles

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

This group will organize a variety of outings and provide a network of people to do things with.

Come and meet other "ageless singles" at our coming events. Flyers are available at the Get Connected desk and sign up on the email list at www.stlukeshr.com or contact Allison Wright at allisonwright303@yahoo.com.

Golf Event Success!



Wasn't it nice to get home from the tournament while the sun was still up this year? The feed-back we received was everyone really liked the morning tee time

and Murphy Creek Golf Club. Due to your generosity we raised \$6800 to keep the "Ministry in Motion" bus rolling for our youth and elders. Considering we had a slightly lower turnout this year (80), we're especially gratified to have received this amount. Thanks to all who participated in and helped make the Aug. 24th event so wonderful and for all of the generous donations! Congrats to the winning team: Cindy & Dean Markham and Sam Burget!



*Journey toward
Wholeness*

Spirituality and Wellness

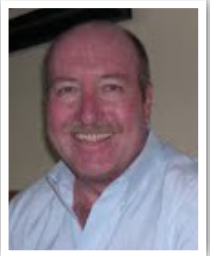
Connection. Inspiration. Transformation.

Courage in Today's World –

Bryan Hutchinson and team

TUES. Nov. 12, 6:30-8:30pm

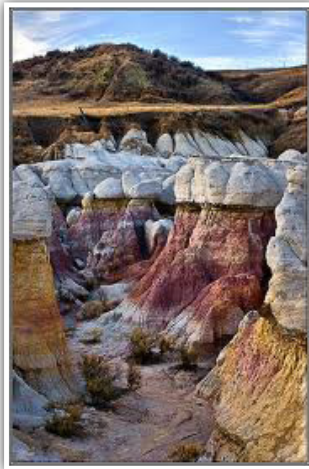
Fellowship Hall



The Spirituality and Wellness Team is excited to invite the St. Luke's Community and others, to attend our first event in this year's annual Speaker Series. On Tuesday, November 12, 6:30-8:30pm our own Bryan Hutchinson will lead us in exploring what it means to live courageously in the modern world. We will connect through large and small group discussion, as we consider our normal perceptions of courage, e.g., "that is what heroes have;" or "courage is what happens in moments of unusual circumstances." Bryan will lead us to challenge those beliefs - and to explore the courageous acts that occur in the context of our daily lives. We will consider the "courage" that it takes to live moment to moment, hour by hour, day by day. We also will identify how everyday people are as courageous as war heroes, people who have acted courageously under abnormal circumstances, and those who have been courageous in the face of horrendous situations. In other words, we are going to spend an evening acknowledging that living our lives takes great courage - every day! We will also spend time exploring the concept of courage - what it is, how we can develop courage when we need it, and how we can become courageous when we are feeling most vulnerable. Oh - and we might have to spend some time dealing with all of those voices in our heads telling us how afraid we are!

Outdoor Adventure Team:

- **Colorado Paint Mines on November 16** - We invite St. Luke's and our extended community to join us to explore the, a hidden geologic treasure in eastern (that's right, EASTERN Colorado), approximately 90 minutes from Denver, and east of Colorado Springs. We'll learn about the geological events that created the Paint Mines, their place in native history, and we'll consider the spirituality of God's creation of "hidden spaces." Our visit to the Paint Mines follows Bryan Hutchinson's presentation, *Courage in Today's World* (November 12); experiencing the stark beauty of the Paint Mines will provide inspiration to extend (or begin) our discussions of what it means to live courageously. We'll meet for carpooling at 8:00am near the United Artists Cinema in the Lonetree Entertainment District. For more information, contact Janet Johnston at 303-517-7584, (janet.johnston@comcast.net)
- **Mallory Cave Hike.** Our hike to Mallory Cave led by Carson and Michelle Mallory, previously scheduled for October 12, was postponed due to flood-related trail damage. We will reschedule this hike when the trail is open.
- We invite all St. Luke's members and constituents to share with us your own sacred Colorado spaces. We'll work with you to plan a spirit-infused visit and celebration of a new discovery within our magnificent Colorado landscape.



Trustees Corner

Our thanks to Scott Kohrs/Taylor Kohrs Construction for completing the construction of our new storage garage for the Performing Arts Academy – get ready to be WOW'ed by even more Performing Arts Productions! Thank you to Dr. Jim and James Bacon for helping us to get this finalized!

We'd also like to recognize David Trotter, Brian Owens, and Paul Connelly for taking on much needed maintenance of our Pergola at the Memorial Garden. So very much appreciated as we see a few more warm days!

Look for our next project – solving the drainage at the NW entrance – please watch for caution cones as things progress – we hope to be completed before the end of year festivities. Thank you to everyone who's working hard to get this completed, we appreciate your efforts!

Monty's Methodism Musings:

A Different Methodist Church,

A Traditionally Wesleyan Church - pt. 2

by Monty Hoffman

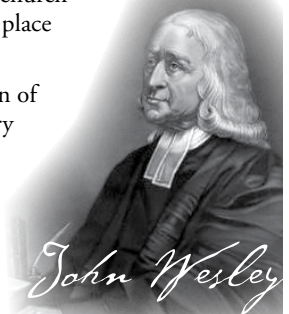
**Part 1 appeared in our October issue
(available at www.stlukeshr.com)**

One of Wesley's great contributions to Christendom was his view of God's grace, a view we still honor today as Methodists. We proclaim to the world that God's grace is active in the world and available to all people. That grace is inviting (prevenient grace), relational (justifying grace), helps us to become better people (sanctifying grace), and acts through us to make the world a better place (perfecting grace). We view God's grace as unconditional and abundant, limited only by our ability to comprehend it. We are also free to accept or reject the grace that is offered us.

Despite its overwhelming abundance, like many things in life, we are only aware of God's grace when we look for it. John Wesley told us that there were things that we could do that help make us aware of the grace and understand the grace that is present in our lives, things that he called "means of grace". These include, but are not limited to, study of scripture, prayer, communion, Christian convention, fasting, acts of mercy, and worship. The practice of means of grace, both individually and corporately, helps us to discern our call to Christian perfection, both as a community and as people.

Finally, we are called to be a part of this world, not apart from it. Methodists have gone wherever people are to proclaim the good news of God's love for all people. We have engaged the world and tried to make it a better place. Education, health care, and concern for the less fortunate among us are all issues that we have addressed as a church and as individuals. The world is a better place because of the Methodist movement.

These threads run through the expression of the Wesleyan tradition from 18th century England to 19th century frontier America to 21st century Colorado. How do they help us today, to discern our call as Christians? That will be the theme of the next series of columns.





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. So let's get
right to the facts!

Wow! We had

ANOTHER Acolyte Training on Wed. Oct. 30 and we added 5 more Acolytes! Congrats to Quinten Krochta, Ashley & Alexis Koehl, Jackson Foster and Tessa Smith. What a great crew we have to BRING the LIGHT!

We had a packed house for Family Movie Night on Nov. 1 as we gathered to watch "Monsters University! The popcorn was so yummy!

Continue to bring your leftover Halloween candy to donate to Colorado AIDS Project. Thanks!

Sunday School at 9:30 & 11:00am is in full swing. We are so enjoying our Sunday mornings together. Join us!

We have been amazing at bringing in our cans of corn and cream of mushroom soup on Sundays for our Thanksgiving meal boxes! As of today we are at 185 out of 200 cans of corn and 103 cans of mushroom soup out of 100 (yes - we went OVER!) WOW! Thanks so much to all who donated!

YEA!!! ADVENT is almost here!!! A tree will appear in the middle of the church - for us animals - there's nothing better! Oh, I hope there's a squirrel in there!!! The St. Luke's **Tree Lighting Service** will be held Sunday Dec. 1 at 6:30pm. Join us in this special Christmas season event and **bring a plate of cookies** to share afterwards! This is the best way to kick off the season!!! And we'll clean up the crumbs! yum!

The Annual Children's Holiday Shop will be Sat. Dec. 7- Tues. Dec. 10. This is an opportunity for children to independently shop for inexpensive gifts for their family and friends... *and pets*. Additionally proceeds from the shop support lunches for VBS teachers! Helpers are needed for set up, at the gift wrapping stations, cashier table and to assist children with shopping. Sign up online www.stlukeshr.com if you are interested in serving in one of these much needed and fun areas!

Mid-Week Spiritual Fill Up! Bring the family and join us for **Advent Family Devotionals** on Wednesday nights Dec. 4, 11 & 18 - 6:00-6:30pm. Let's share this special season together with a meaningful devotion and fun craft and stay focused on what Christmas is truly about.

Children's Christmas Pageant! ALL children preschool-6th grade can participate in this very special annual event where our kids tell the Christmas story. The children will practice Christmas music each Sunday during our music time at 9:30am Sunday School Nov. 17-Dec. 15. We'll have a quick rehearsal Saturday Dec. 14 9:00-10:30am and then the Pageant is Sunday Dec. 15 at 3:00pm. We also have a pre-show recital where you can share a Christmas song and your talent with us. More info to come!

Candy Cane Sunday - Sunday Dec. 15 at 9:30 & 11:00am - Sweet!

Don't forget we have a great website 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.

Happy Thanksgiving & Furry blessings!



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

Wednesday Nov. 13 at 6:30pm - Join us in the Chapel for a Special Video!

For those who missed our wonderful guest speaker Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley at our training last month, we will have a viewing of the video taken that night of her presentation "Spirituality & Children/Teens". It was so good, it deserves a second look! And sparked great conversation. You don't want to miss. Join us Wednesday Nov. 13 at 6:30pm in the Chapel.

SLY, Jr. is Making Changes!

Thirty 5th & 6th graders got together on Nov. 3 and did a great job painting a wall of their classroom. We also picked out some cool bean bag chairs. Changes are coming!! Thanks to all who are helping out with our room facelift.



Our Nov. 16 Event is OFF

So sorry to share with you that the Puppet Show has been cancelled so we will NOT have SLY, Jr. this night...

BUT..... we've added another opportunity....

Nov. 24 - 12:00-4:30pm: THANKSGIVING FOOD FOR ALL WITH DENUM!! RSVP TODAY!!

We'll need several drivers so let us know if you can come with us. We will be joining SLY and putting together the meal boxes at DenUM for families who need a Thanksgiving dinner. What an amazing way to celebrate this holiday of giving thanks by helping others. Please RSVP at sharon@stlukeshr.com if you can come. Our SLY, Jr. website is up to date and lists where we still need parent help - but please know you can join us for any of our events. You are always welcome to hang out with us!

Our Christmas Party is Dec. 8 at 5:30pm!!



Kay Swanson
Director of
Little School



Little School News:

Turkeys & Pilgrims & Pumpkins, OH MY!

Little School will be celebrating Thanksgiving by learning about our own heritage and the beginning of our country. We will all join together in the fellowship hall for our annual Thanksgiving Feast! We like to dress

up as native americans and pilgrims and decorate our tables with festive placemats and centerpieces. We love the smell of the turkey and mashed potatoes but I think the rolls and the olives are the biggest hit!

Ms. Kay will dawn her pilgrim outfit to celebrate her own family who came over on the Mayflower. In Chapel we will open another small package to go along with our school theme "Great things come in small packages". We never what surprises we will find. But there are many things to be thankful for this month.

We want to thank all of our parents that contributed to the Feeding of the 5,000. Everyone really pitched in to make this a wonderful event! It was a great way for our children to learn about giving to others. We also want to thank them for their on-going support to the park lunch ministry with food items all year long.

Remember that we collect left-over Halloween candy, so save those extra pounds and bring them to us!

We still have openings in our 4's classes and we have opened a third 2 1/2 year old class, so spread the word!

We count our blessings each and everyday and downstairs we have 288 of them including our wonderful staff! We are reminded that we get such great joy from all of the smiles, hugs, cute sayings and tender love that we are given each and everyday. May you take the time to enjoy the small things in life; fall walks, crisp leaves, crackling fires and hot chocolate! Children time is precious time!

Happy Thanksgiving!
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 - Tuesday, December 3, 6:00-8:00pm.

Tickets go on sale November 10 near the Get Connected Center. \$15 each. Mission recipient will be Interfaith Task Force. Childcare available with 48 hour reservation.



Awards for St. Luke's UMW - We had a group of 8 ladies that went to Sunrise UMC in Colorado Springs for the District Conference. We enjoyed listening to two wonderful speakers from The Salvation Army. The Business Meeting was very informative and our own **Betty Ludlam was elected the new President of the District** beginning in 2014. St. Luke's received the **Gold Plus MissionToday award** as well as the **Six Star Unit award for mission giving**. We also had 3 women receive **Reading awards**: Renae Parra, Betty Ludlam and Grace George. Thanks for your participation in UMW events!



Rocky Mountain Conference Meeting - Five women from St. Luke's traveled to Cheyenne to attend the annual Conference UMW meeting. The theme was "Caring for God's Creation". Rev. Rebekah-Simon Peter was the keynote speaker and she held a workshop on Greening Your Church. She has published several books on becoming a Green Church. Ideas ranged from the simple (encouraging members to bring a reusable mug) to pie in the sky (solar panels and geothermic

heating systems). Many churches in our conference are discovering the financial benefits of going green. She emphasized that practicing stewardship of the earth is an act of faith and a great opportunity for intergenerational ministry.

Fall Kick-off: Pie, Prayer and Purpose - At the Fall Kick-off, the history of UMW was highlighted from its humble beginnings in 1869 Boston up until present. Our main focus is women and children and thus organizations that work with and for them. Betsy Keyack gave a program on Rev. Donna Pewo, a missionary serving as local pastor in Oklahoma Indian Conference (OIMC). Rev. Pewo's main focus is children and sharing with them Christ's love and ours. Betsy also shared the history of the Sand Creek and the circumstances caused by the event. St. Luke's United Methodist Women collected school supplies and funds for Rev. Pewo's children. Thank you for your support.

UMW Slate of Officers for 2014:

<i>President</i> - Janet Sackett	<i>Vice President</i> - Sharon Smith	<i>Social Action</i> - Sylvia Brady
<i>Secretary</i> - Nancy Mussetter	<i>Spiritual Growth</i> - Renae Parra	<i>Treasurer</i> - Trudi Mathews
<i>Membership, Nurture, and Outreach</i> - Lisa Phillips	<i>Education Interpretation</i> - Fran West	
<i>Representative to Christian Women United</i> - Sylvia Brady	<i>Program Resources</i> - Grace George	

Subgroups of United Methodist Women at St. Luke's: Women are welcome to attend a subgroup of UMW anytime during the year!

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 for more info.

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

- December - No dinner out on Monday; join the UMW Candlelight Dinner on Dec. 3
- January 6 - Native New Yorker, 35 W. Springer Dr, Highlands Ranch

Simply Saturday Helping Hands - Simply Saturday Helping Hands - First Saturday morning of each month.

- December 7 - **Operation Christmas Child at Samaritan's Purse**. You MUST sign-up to work at this mission site no later than Dec. 1. Please email Nancy Mussetter at nmussetter@gmail.com to sign up or with any questions. Meeting will start before 9:00am to allow for time to commute to work site.

Contact Tennie Christman at mydammie@comcast.net or Linda Osborn at lmosborn5@gmail.com for more info.

Book Group - Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm. Contact RenaeParra@aol.com to for info.

- Nov. 25 - "Wild" by Cheryl Strayed

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



MISSIONS OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER:
Interfaith Giving Tree,
HAAT Force and
St. Paul's Meal Program

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

Denver Inner City Parish Thanksgiving Dinner

The Denver Inner City Parish will hold their annual Thanksgiving dinners for those in need on November 25 and 26. They have asked St. Luke's help again this year with potatoes and 4-5 pre-cooked turkeys.

St. Luke's will hold the potato drive beginning Sunday, November 17-21. Last year we collected over 500 lbs of potatoes. If you would prefer to donate to a turkey, gift cards will also be accepted at that time. Thank you for your support.

Love INC - Empty Bowl

On Friday evening, October 4, over 300 guests filled Columbine Country Club for the Empty Bowl event. Over \$40,000 was raised to support Love Inc. programs. "We celebrated what God can do in a community where churches work together to help neighbors in need," reported Doug McKinney, Executive Director. Thank you to all who participated, donated and volunteered for the event.

Love INC's newest GAP ministry is a severe weather shelter which opened October 4 at Faith Community Church. Several guests were offered a meal and shelter for that cold night. Additional volunteers are needed to share this relational opportunity.

"Leave HIS imprint on someone's life"

Please go online to fill out a time and talent volunteer form, Loveinlittleton.org or call the office at 303-798-0037. There are many opportunities to serve:

Finance	Fundraising
Transportation	Resale Shop
Administrative	Mentoring
Home Repair	Food Prep
Event Planning	

HAAT Force and the Giving Tree

HAAT Force will again have tags on the Giving Tree. Watch the bulletin for further information.

We are almost ready to start our winter weather program. Once we are up and running I will let everyone know more about it.

Again, any questions please contact me, Peter Reif, President HAAT Force, 303-219-6060

Guatemala Missions Update



If you are looking for a unique Christmas gift, the Guatemala Missions team will be selling Guatemalan crafts in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings starting on 11/24. All proceeds from these sales support our Bible camps and building activities in Guatemala.

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. During the holidays, 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.

The Guatemala Missions team will also be offering a variety of alternative Christmas gifts this year. Tags with more information can be found on the Giving Tree in the Fellowship Hall. These include support of our Milk program, which supplies milk to the families of rural Guatemala. A \$12.50 can of powdered milk can last up to 3 months and is a wonderful gift to families who are not able to afford this luxury. You can also make a donation towards the construction of a kitchen for the "Cornstalk school". Our March and May teams will be building this kitchen during their construction trips in 2014. All donations will go directly to the purchase of building supplies.

Spaces are still available for St. Luke's March 2014 Guatemala trip

The construction focus of the trip this year will be on homes in the Lemoa area and a kitchen for the "Cornstalk School". We are also planning a "Band Camp" at the John Wesley School where some of our members will help the school band. Trip dates will be March 21-30, 2014. This trip is open to anyone (ages 15 and up) who might want to join us. Applications can be found online at puravida.org. Any questions, please contact Laura Richards (laura@puravida.org)

St. Paul's UMC Sunday Meal Program

St. Paul's is a United Methodist church in downtown Denver that offers a hot meal to the homeless or maybe those just struggling a bit right now. It is served every Sunday by a great group of team leaders. We help out on the third Sunday of each month. Volunteers arrive at 7:15am... yes, that's 7:15am, downtown! Volunteers from St. Luke's drive themselves downtown to 1615 Ogden St Denver, CO 80218 to St. Paul's United Methodist. Park in the back and go into the church basement and ask for Stephanie. She'll soon give you a job making salad, putting out coffee or passing out bagels. By 8:00am quite a line of hungry people has formed. Volunteers step up to serve the meal. It's very eye opening to see the many different places people are at in their lives as they graciously accept a hot meal. After everyone has eaten we stick around and help clean up the food, sweep and mop. You can be back in Highlands Ranch by about 10:30am. Contact the Missions Team for more info.

ST. PAUL'S REALLY COUNTS ON US... IF YOU SIGN UP PLEASE FULFILL YOUR COMMITMENT. If something comes up and you cannot help, please find a replacement.

Thank You from Mountain View UMC in Boulder, CO

(short excerpt from letter to St. Luke's) "St. Luke's youth and volunteers gave up time on their own Fall break to clean, sort and paint our flood damaged building. Please let your congregation know how blessed we have been in this disaster recovery period by your thoughts, prayers, and support."

—Rev. Steve Warren, Senior Pastor

Get to Know our Interns!

Hello! My name is Thomas Williams,



a 4th year Mdiv (Master's of Divinity) student at Iliff School of Theology here in Denver. I'm Rev. Ryan's intern this year, helping out with Vine. Our goal with Vine is to have multiple branches meeting throughout Highlands Ranch and South Denver, I will eventually be placed in charge of one of these branches.

I moved to Denver to attend Iliff 3 years ago (fall of 2010), after finishing my studies at LSU. From an early age, I felt a call to ministry, and when I discovered that I could obtain an Mdiv in Colorado, I was instantly sold.

My background is that of a lifelong United Methodist, but I attended an Episcopal K-8 and a Catholic High School, and briefly went to a Presbyterian church in college, so I consider my Methodism flavored by other forms of Christianity. At LSU, I was active in a musical leadership role at the LSU Wesley Foundation, the United Methodist campus ministry. It was here that I fell in love with praise and worship music (what I later learned was dubbed, "Jesus is my boyfriend" music) and it was here that I was able to nurture this call that I had felt.

I look forward to my time as an intern at St. Luke's in general, and Vine in particular. And I look forward to being in ministry with y'all. Shalom et Salam.

10 Facts about Ali Young

1. I was named after my great grandmothers, Alice & Marie. Though my parents never intended on calling me either of those names.
2. I have 2 sisters, my older sister Claire is in medical school at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and my younger sister, Tantine is a seventh grader currently learning how to play piano.
3. I majored in Religious Studies at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA. Geaux Tigers! (That's pronounced "go" just in case you aren't familiar with Louisiana speak.)
4. I spent three summers leading teams of youth in rebuilding homes damaged by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav and Ike.
5. I play cello, mandolin, bass guitar, ukelele and guitar.
6. I love Elvis, my parents indulged my love by taking our family to Graceland for Elvis Week 20 in 1997.
7. If I wasn't pursuing ministry, I would have studied art history or photography.
8. I met my husband, Wesley, at church when we were 11 and 13. We played in the youth band together.
9. Wesley and I have two dogs, River (a greyhound) and Edith (a Scotty-Poodle mix).
10. Wesley and I love Rob Reiner movies, *The Princess Bride* and *When Harry Met Sally* are our favorites.



Ali will be assisting Rev. Sallie as a Pastoral Care Intern.



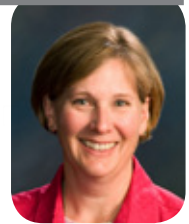
James Ramsey
Director of Music
& Arts Ministries



Kenrick Mervine
Associate Dir. of
Music Ministry/
Organist



Jennifer Ferguson
Associate Director
of Music Ministry



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

Men's Chorus Needs You! St. Luke's Men's Chorus is looking for new members. We rehearse Thursdays 6:30-7:00pm in the Choir Room. Rehearsals are short and to-the-point. We will sing about once a month during the Choir Season. You needn't be a member of Chancel Choir (although you are certainly welcome to sing with them, too). Why not give it a try? You don't have to read music. No long term commitment! We hope to see you Thursday!



SLYJO Helping Out

A big thank you to the St. Luke's Youth Jazz Orchestra for their help during the Feeding! Instead of music rehearsal, on Sunday October 6 SLYJO journeyed to King Soopers at University and Highlands Ranch Parkway to help with one last big push for the Feeding

of the 5000. Like so many other members of the community, SLYJO saw overwhelming support from this particular location. Check out this awesome photo by Alex Oliver that he snapped when the group had to call the trucks to pick up food because they had collected so much that patrons couldn't get through to the store! Thanks for your spirit of community, SLYJO!

A look ahead - Cantata Sunday!

Dec. 8, 9:30 and 11:00 services. Get into the season and come sing along!

St. Luke's FALL JAZZ CONCERT is Sunday, Nov. 10

at 3:00pm in the Sanctuary. We will be featuring Music Serving the Word with special guest Carol Rogers (vocals) and Chuck Marohnic (piano), along with MOS, Chancel Choir, Soul Purpose, Kidz Prayz and the St. Luke's Youth Jazz Orchestra. Free concert, but a \$5 donation is suggested and all proceeds benefit the band program at the John Wesley School in Guatemala. Come and hear a very special Jazz Psalms premier!



The reviews are in: *The Importance of Being Earnest* was an "earnest" success!

Audiences gave the show two thumbs up, and the cast and crew couldn't agree more. "What a wonderful

production! I am so grateful to work with such a talented cast and crew. The quality and professionalism from this company blew me away. This has been one of the best theatre experiences. Thank you to the Wesley Players for making me a part of a dream show," said Jo Gerlick, who played Jack Worthing in the play. Caitlin Bauer couldn't agree more. "What a wonderful cast! I feel blessed to have been part of it!" Proceeds from *The Importance of Being Earnest* will benefit Colorado flood relief efforts.

The Wesley Players' next production is *The Pirates of Penzance*, scheduled for February 28-March 2, 2014. Don't miss it! And if you'd like to join our rollicking band of pirates, please plan to attend auditions on Nov. 16 and 17 in the Sanctuary. More information at www.stlukeshr.com



Upcoming Events!

- ✦ **Nov. 17: Making Care Packages for our College Friends**
- ✦ **Nov. 24: DenUM Food For All- Thanks Giving Boxes**
- ✦ **Sign up to receive our emails and Check 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**
Nooma November!
- **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 the DENUM game of life, Thanksgiving Food for All, and making care packages for our college friends. 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 Movie Night, and a Fancy Thanksgiving Dinner**

Thank you to all who participated in our Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser. It is because of your support these youth get to go on amazing Mission Trips and truly learn what it is to be the face of God out in the world! Youth, parents, grandparents, and St. Luke's volunteers raised almost \$18,000 for summer 2014 mission trips to flood ravaged Colorado communities.

ON THE SLY: Being the Hands & Feet of Christ

The youth (7th-12 grade) of St. Luke's have participated in some absolutely amazing experiences this fall. When tragedy hit Colorado in the form of floods, we were called to action. The following Sunday they sent hundreds of letters to youth at 12 different churches throughout Colorado sending love, prayers, and support. But this was not enough for them. Over 25 youth and parents gave up days out of their fall break to go up to Mountain View UMC in Boulder and help with their flood recovery. The damage was hard to see. The tile floors needed to be removed, the walls needed to be stripped to the studs to prevent and treat mold, and tons of items were trashed including a brand new pool table that had just been donated to the youth group, along with over 20 years of mission trip pictures. Not only were our youth able to clear out and prepare over 10 rooms for the construction, but they brought hope to many members of the congregation.

The youth kept the giving spirit going as they ventured down town to Warren Village to throw a Halloween party. There was pizza, games, prizes, and enough donated costumes that each of the 70 kids in attendance got to pick out and take home their very own costume. "I loved interacting with the kids and seeing the smiles on their faces" said Christina Ingle, a senior at Highlands Ranch High School. Many of the families at Warren Village go through so much in their lives, it's nice to provide an event where the kids can just be kids!

Another favored event in which the youth get to give to others is coming up at the end of November. Every year DENUM (Denver Urban Ministries) gives out boxes full of everything required for a Thanksgiving meal to hundreds of families in need. This year, our youth have dedicated to fill 100 Thanksgiving Meal Boxes!! With Thanksgiving arriving soon, we need your help! Check out our website for the full list of what is needed.

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



Memorial Gifts Say You Care



death, or at the anniversary of their death, is a wonderful way to remember their special contribution to life.

The Planned Giving Team has made memorial giving at St. Luke's easy. There are memorials and honors giving brochures and special envelopes located in the literature rack just inside the front door. These items provide an easy way for you to select several giving opportunities plus the possibilities you may have that are not listed. Also, they provide an easy way for proper recognition of your gift. All you have to do is turn in your donation to the church office and include your intention for the gift.

Sometimes a gift of flowers is not appropriate or not enough recognition. When the obituary suggest "in lieu of flowers" you can make a gift through the St. Luke's Memorials and Honors Giving Program. Your gift in memory of someone special at the time of their

The Purpose of St. Luke's Planned Giving Team

Provides information, opportunities and administration for members and constituents to make provision for giving through St. Luke's by means of wills, annuities, trusts, life insurance, memorials, and various types of property. This includes the St. Luke's Endowment Funds and Memorials and honors giving program.

More from Les: Fred's Mythological Dream - Part 3

by Rev. Les Ludlam



Fred knew that his eulogy for his late friend Bill was going to be quite different from what he had originally thought he might say; the things that had happened in the last day or two had changed him! Fred pondered just how he might begin. He and Bill had been classmates and close friends, they shared an understanding about the nature of the universe and about human relationships. He knew that his eulogy

must honor that understanding.

Fred sat down to write. "Bill is gone, but his spirit lives on; he lives on in our memories, in our stories of how he lived his life. His was a full life, made shorter than we would have preferred, but Bill learned some things about life and living he would want us to know.

He learned that the most important thing he could do in this life was to do something, not necessarily something big and obvious, that would make this world better than it was before he arrived." Fred paused for a moment and reflected on what he had done in his life to make the world better.

Then, he continued writing: "Bill came to understand that life is a process and that birth and death are intersections of change in that process. Life exists before we are born and continues after our physical death. He knew that his body was not immortal, but that his spirit, his soul, would live on. Bill knew that his teaching and coaching would go on through those who had learned from him; he knew that ideas he helped others turn into action would grow and lead to more creativity in others."

Fred continued, "Ask yourselves how Bill influenced you and helped you in your own life. Bill lives on, not only your memories, but in your values and priorities and accomplishments."

Fred leaned back in his chair and thought for a moment and then sensed he was not alone! He turned around and saw the young child he had encountered at the store the day before. The child smiled and said, "Fred, Bill's friends are not going to fully understand what you are saying, they will want to know if Bill is in Heaven or in Hell."

"But how should I address that?" Fred asked.

"You already know, but are afraid to say it," was the reply. "My child, Dante, the poet from the 1300's, used dramatic symbols to describe the terrible nature of Hell and the blissful character of Heaven, but those symbols no longer suit humanity's understanding of the physical and spiritual worlds. Heaven is not some place above the clouds somewhere, Heaven is a positive relationship with God and with other humans that exists here in this place and in this moment. Likewise, Hell is not a fiery place below the earth, but a negative relationship with God and others and it too exists in this place and in this moment.

Evil is the absence of Good, in a place, in an event, in human relationships. Humans have created a personification of evil in what some call the Devil. Creating such a personification gives an individual who is experiencing or practicing evil things a false excuse to focus on something other than their own personal responsibility in the evil act or event."

"So don't just say that 'Bill is now safely in God's arms,' in your eulogy. My relationship with Bill, my love for him existed before Bill was born, and has continued through his life and continues even now in his death. My relationship with Bill did not change when he died! Say that to Bill's friends!"

Fred leaned back and said, "I can say that because I believe it is so."

He smiled and commented, "Next, I suppose you are going to tell me what to say about Sin and Salvation, about Jesus and your relationship with the 'Son of God!'"

"I will, but in due time," was the reply.

God bless us all!



Dave Cupp
Director of Finance



Kristi Pawley
Accounting Clerk

Financial Update

It's Time For Me To Retire:

Perhaps you have heard that I will be retiring soon. What you have heard is correct. I have announced that I will be retiring in early

January. There is still considerable time to go and lots of work to accomplish before this all happens. I'm sharing this now so that everyone will know the plans and be confident that there will be a thorough transitions and that the financial aspects will continue to be taken care of as in the past. After transitioning is complete, I will still be available for consultation with the new person upon request. SPRT has an active search team in place to find my replacement with the intention that the new person will start in early January.

As the times goes by, I have a lot of "Thank You's" to express. Everyone has been extremely supportive throughout my eight plus years in this position and that support has made the job a pleasant experience. When I accepted the position I was planning to work three years and maybe five but I had not idea that it would stretch out to over eight year.

Meryl and I are charter members of St. Luke's and plan to continue living at our present residence and being active members of St. Luke's. What am I going to do after I retire? Well, the first time I met Meryl 35 years ago I noticed a little wooden plaque she had on top of her microwave that read "Along the way take time to smell the flowers." I have kept this little plaque over the years and have kept it prominently displayed in my office. So, I think it is time to "smell the flowers." Other than that, I don't have a clue what retirement will be like.

New Accounting Clerk: I'm very pleased to announce that Kristi Pawley has joined our Finance Department Staff. She will be filling our Accounting Clerk position. She and her family are long time members of St. Luke's. Kristi will be filling the position vacated by Bonnie Haney who resigned to accompany her husband to Florida in an unanticipated job transfer.

Year End Tax Planning: Dec. 31 will be here sooner than we think. It's time to begin planning how you want to close out the year to get your best tax advantages. Here are a couple of ideas:

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.



St. Luke's United Methodist Church
8817 S. Broadway • Highlands Ranch, CO 80129
303-791-0659 • 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.*

Seasoned Voyagers





Oct. 1 we enjoyed a Leaf Peep tour and visit
to Colorado Railroad Museum. It was beautiful!

Sunday Nov. 24 at 2:00pm will be the **Denver Concert Band Christmas Performance** at Lone Tree Arts Center - \$17 per person. Begin the season of Christmas music with the Denver Concert Band. Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker, Reed's Russian Music and more will set the tempo for the holidays. Everyone 55+ is invited. A bus will leave the church at 1:00pm for the 2:00pm concert and be back before the Broncos play. We have reserved 20 tickets so sign up sooner rather than later. For more information, contact Gail Strawn at strawn2818@msn.com.

December 4 will be Christmas potluck and for SV mission please bring socks or hats in addition to dish to share. More details later.

for the most up-to-date calendar check www.stlukeshr.com

NOVEMBER 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 8:00am: UMW Team Meeting 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship -Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 9:30am: Adult Sunday School Classes 9:30am: Youth & Children's Sunday School 9:30am: Café St. Luke's 11:00am: Godly Play 3:00pm: JAZZ Concert 4:00pm: Vine 6:00pm: SLY PM (Dinner 5:30pm)	11 Veteran's Day 9:00am: Mindful Presence 6:30pm: Finance Team 7:00pm: Trustees 7:00pm: SLIP Improv	12 6:00pm: Youth Bells 7:00pm: Tintinnabulators 7:00pm: Missions Team	13 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesdays 6:30pm: Children's Choirs 6:30pm: Gap Group 7:25pm: Tone Chimes	14 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults 7:00pm: Puppet Team 7:00pm: Adult Choir Rehearsals	15 9:00am: Playgroup 10:00am: Compassionate Life Discussion	16 8:00am: Instrumental Group Rehearsals 10:00am: Wesley Writer 1:00pm: The Pirates of Penzance AUDITIONS
17 8:15am: Contemplative Worship 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship -Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 9:30am: Adult Sunday School Classes 9:30am: Youth & Children's Sunday School 11:00am: Godly Play 1:00pm: The Pirates of Penzance AUDITIONS 3:30pm: SLYJO Rehearsal 4:00pm: Vine 4:30pm: Soul Purpose Rehearsal 6:00pm: SLY PM (Dinner 5:30pm)	18 9:00am: Mindful Presence 7:00pm: SLIP Improv	19 6:00pm: Youth Bells 7:00pm: Tintinnabulators	20 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesdays 6:30pm: Children's Choirs 6:30pm: Gap Group 7:25pm: Tone Chimes	21 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults 7:00pm: Puppet Team 7:00pm: Adult Choir Rehearsals	22 10:00am: Compassionate Life Discussion	23 8:00am: Instrumental Group Rehearsals
24 8:15am: Contemplative Worship 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship -Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes 9:30am: Adult Sunday School Classes 9:30am: Youth & Children's Sunday School 11:00am: Godly Play 12:00pm: SLY/SLY, Jr. DenUM Food for All 3:30pm: SLYJO Rehearsal 4:00pm: Vine 4:30pm: Soul Purpose Rehearsal 6:00pm: SLY PM (Dinner 5:30pm)	25 9:00am: Mindful Presence 7:00pm: SLIP Improv	26 7:00am: Men's Group @ Egg & I 6:30pm: Men's Spirituality Group 7:00pm: Staff Parish Relations Team	27 5:30pm: SLY Homework Hour 6:30pm: SLY Wednesdays	28  Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship	29	30  9:00am: Hanging of the Greens/ Service Saturday
Advent I: Hope DEC. 1 8:00, 9:30, 11:00am: Worship -Ali Young 9:30am: Adult Sunday School Classes 9:30am: Youth & Children's Sunday School 11:00am: Godly Play 12:15pm: Seasoned Voyagers 4:00pm: Vine 4:30pm: Grief Support Group 6:00pm: SLY PM (Dinner 5:30pm) 6:30pm: Tree Lighting	2 9:00am: Mindful Presence 6:30pm: Women's Night Out 7:00pm: SLIP Improv	3 2:00pm: Conversations with Janet 6:00pm: UMW Candlelight Dinner 	4 10:00am: Common Thread 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults 7:00pm: Puppet Team 7:00pm: Adult Choir Rehearsals	5 10:00am: Common Thread 6:30pm: Contemplative Fellowship 7:00pm: Young Adults 7:00pm: Puppet Team 7:00pm: Adult Choir Rehearsals	6 9:00am: Playgroup 10:00am: Compassionate Life Discussion	7 8:00am: Cantata Rehearsals 9:00am: Simply Saturday 9:00am: Holiday Shop 10:00am: Itch to Stitch 1:00pm: Respite Day Out 