

# The Chronicle

ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

APRIL/MAY 2016

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**Confirmation!** Read more about it on page 10.



### Welcome Rev. Jessica Rooks to the St. Luke's Lead Clergy Team

The Staff Parish Relations Team is pleased to announce that Bishop Elaine intends to appoint Rev. Jessica Rooks as

the **Lead Minister of Community Life** at St. Luke's, effective July 1. This appointment will complete the transition to the Lead Clergy Team in partnership with Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long and Rev. Ryan Canaday. This appointment comes in response to the retirement of Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes on June 30 after twelve years of service at St. Luke's.

Rev. Jessica is currently serving St. Paul's and Cameron United Methodist Churches, located in Denver. She has a Master of Divinity from the Iliff School of continued on page 2



## THE JAZZ OF TRANSITIONS: FINDING A NEW GROOVE:

EASTER WORSHIP SERIES II

A jazz-shaped faith... balances freedom with boundaries, the individual with the group, and traditions with the pursuit of what might be. Jazz represents a way of thinking, living, communicating through transition... a way of being... a groove. What is the shape and sound of the new song, the new groove, being created, composed, at St. Luke's?

May I SYNCOPATION: ACCENTING
THE OFFBEAT! (Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes)

May 8 IMPROVISATION: COMPOSING
INTHE MOMENT! (Rev. Ryan Canaday)

May 15 CALL AND RESPONSE: CAN I
GET AN AMEN? (Rev. Ryan Canaday)

May 22 FAITH IMPROVISED: TRUSTING
THE FIRE! (Rev. Dr. Janet Forbes)



## Congratulations, Pastor T!

Bishop Elaine Stanovsky of the Rocky Mountain Conference of The United Methodist Church intends to appoint our student pastor, Tonya Royal Whaley, as pastor of the Hotchkiss and Crawford Community United Methodist Churches of Hotchkiss and Crawford on the western slope of Colorado. Tonya graduated from the Iliff School of Theology in December 2015 with a Master of Theology degree. This appointment will be



effective July 1. 2016, after being finalized at the Annual Conference session in June. The Staff Parish Relations Team will host a **THANKYOU ICE CREAM SOCIAL on Sunday morning, May 29,** to honor Tonya, her Lay Consultation Team, and the blessing of her ministry among us.

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

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■ Tacebook。
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Rev. Tonya Whaley720-300-9393 Student Pastor
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Jeremy Brownx19 Associate Director of Youth Ministry
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Sheri Henryx24 Director of Finance
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Lynda Ficklingx20 Director of Servant Ministry/Spiritual Director
Barry Curtis

All submissions for the combined June/July 2016 issue
of *The Chronicle* are due June I
Editor: Sharon Oliver
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The Chronicle is published up to 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** Lead Minister of Community Life

## 'Twas Grace, and No Other, Which Surprised Me, Every Time!

When asked to write a short statement about my years of ministry to be shared in the souvenir program of the Rocky Mountain Conference Retirees Banquet, this is what I wrote: *'Twas grace, and no other, which surprised me, every time!* 

**Grace is everywhere,** like lenses that go unnoticed because you are looking though them. Eventually, God gave me eyes to notice the grace around me. I became a preacher, I feel certain, in an

attempt to reclaim words that had been tarnished by graceless, finger-pointing religion. For me, faith is a life impassioned by the last best word... the first best gift... the heart-felt thanks. Grace!

In retrospect, grace has been the theme of every sermon I have preached, my perspective on the scripture, the root of every leadership decision, the hope of all care, the gratitude for our staff team, and the clarity about our congregational identity, vision, and values.

Grace is also the source of the rich memories from twelve years of serving at St. Luke's.

- The glorious Advent cantatas with music ministers.
- The sea of candlelight on Christmas Eve.
- The flash paper confessions of Ash Wednesday.
- Bunnies and cotton candy at Easter Fun Day.
- The creativity of leaders living as outliers.
- The re-creation through a gifted team of staff.
- Baptisms, confirmation classes, and the Communion of the Saints.
- A Bold Venture Campaign to build youth space and a sacred chapel.
- A NET of connection, extending our reach in infinite, missional ways, from Urban Peak to the John Wesley School in Guatemala.
- An inclusive community living the teachings of Jesus.

As it has been for me, so it will be for you – grace, waiting to surprise you, again and again. What glorious moments of shadow and light as God fills your lives with laughter, love, and praise.

That is my blessing for you, St. Luke's. Gratefully, *Rev. Janet* 

## Leaving a Legacy



Kris Reif and Rev. Janet Forbes honor a beloved husband and church leader, Peter Reif, as friends gather to dedicate a leaf on the Tree of Life

in his memory. Memorial gifts and bequests given by friends and family (over \$1,000) are celebrated in this place of remembrance with gratitude for a loved one's legacy to St. Luke's.

Jessica - continued from page 1 Theology and a Bachelor of Arts from Western State College in Economics and Psychology. She is also deeply invested in the wider expressions of the United Methodist Church connection, serving as a delegate to the General and Jurisdictional Conference, on the Board of Directors of the General Commission on Communications, and on the Rocky Mountain Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

Rachael Owens, chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Team, is pleased with this decision. "Rev. Jessica is highly-esteemed for her leadership. She is thoughtful, creative, missional, and skilled with multiple years of ministry experience leading in multiple sizes and complexities of congregations. We believe that Rev. Jessica is an excellent fit for our new team ministry."

Welcome to Rev. Jessica; her husband, James; and their two daughters, Morgan (12) and Kaylee (9). As a family they enjoy playing card games, camping, hiking, fishing and sledding. Both girls enjoy music and the performing arts. James is a soccer coach and Director of Coaching for REAL Colorado Edge soccer club in Arvada.

Keep our congregation and its leadership in prayer during this time of transition.





Rev. Ryan Canaday Lead Minister of Worship & Missional Life

### **Transitions:** A Poem

Last week I was searching for an old email. When I typed in the keyword, a whole host of emails appeared. I stumbled upon one (not the one I was looking for) from 2007. I clicked on it. Then I clicked on the attachment. It was a poem that I had written, and I hadn't read this poem in several years. We've been talking about transitions here at St. Luke's, and for me this

poem marks a time of transition.

I wrote it while in seminary. During a class in Ancient Hebrew Poetry my professor invited me to write a poem on grief. It had been five years since my brother, Brandon, was killed in a car accident. I was scared. I was nervous. I was in the midst of healing. Yes, healing always takes longer than we anticipate, doesn't it. The professor invited me to read it in front of the class. I did so with fear and trembling-and confidence too. Why did this poem mark a time of transition? For the first time in five years I was proclaiming to myself and others that new life was possible-and I actually believed it! This is a poem about grief and transition. I hope you find it meaningful.

Grace & Peace, Rev. Ryan

#### "Re-imagining Life in the Exile of Grief" (Inspired by Psalm 22, 23, 42, 43, and Jeremiah 1, 2, & 30)

The hurt is incurable. The wound is too deeb. My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?

They call this place "the land of the nevers." Never again will we... See him-a smile Hear him—a sigh Touch him-a scar Smell him—a cigarette This is "the land of the nevers."

Like deer longing for flowing streams,

We wait in the ravine... But the Wadi is dry, there is no water.

And we... we are poured out like water, and our bones are out of joint, We know death.

And now we are dying. In this land... In this foreign land

You don't give a damn. My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?

I remember that day. I remember the drive. There was no water. Not even tears for food Nothing, numbness, nothingness

For you are the God in whom we took refuge But now we cry by day, And we find no rest at night.

We stand near the mouth of the lion! I am the lion and the mouth asks:"Where is your God?"

We sit with the venomous The Wadi will be filled serpents!

They are the serpents and they tell us lies: "God must have taken him for a reason." My God, my God, why have you forsaken us?

To you we cry, Do not be far from us. Save us from the lion!

Save us from the serpents!

Do not hide your face from us.

Grief is indeed the darkest valley,

> We cannot walk Over it-denial Under it-cheat Beside it-arrogant Between it-dead

We must walk through the valley.

Dark, pain, cold My God, my God, have you forsaken us?

O God, lead us out of this barren land.

> Grief has changed us, But this wound cannot define us,

Sometimes we say "no" to death...we want to

Bring us to the wilderness. This is where we experience you-Deeply, intensely, passionately

We will be like deer longing for flowing streams.

> We will play in the ravine...

with gushing waters!

The waters may be dangerous-But in these waters... in these waters There is life! My God, my God, God will be with us.

**Lions and serpents** still encircle us.

But you have protected us!

We still cry, but these tears are our food,

And we rest in the evening..

Sharing the memories of his life, Telling the stories, Retelling the stories.

Life is different; it will never be "the way it used to be,"

This is grief. But this hurt is not incurable.

Life can be made new... Different, but new. The wound is deep, But healing is possible... As we re-imagine what life without him and life with God is all about. My God, my God,

God has not

forsaken us.





Rev. Dr. Sallie Suby-Long Lead Minister of Spiritual Life

# Staying Centered During Change

"It takes a lot of courage to release the familiar and seemingly secure, to embrace the new. But there



is no real security in what is no longer meaningful. There is more security in the adventurous and exiting for in the movement, there is life and in change, there is power."-Alan Cohen

As they say, change is different. And, it seems we're in a season of change. Not just with the transitions at St. Luke's but with many aspects of life. This time of year is punctuated with change. Graduations from preschool, elementary school, high school or college. The rhythms of September to May routines give way to the pace of summer activities. And then of course there are our life changes. In services on Sunday, we named over 100 types of transitions that we are collectively experiencing! A new job, a new baby, an empty nest, a move to a new place, the loss of a loved one, a different role, upsizing, downsizing, a new path, a new way of being, a change in health, a change in relationships, a new adventure, a huge challenge, a spiritual awakening. The list goes on. Whatever the changes we are each experiencing, usually it is helpful to engage in some intentional practices to remain centered.

William Bridges (Transitions, 2004) reminds us to talk with people we trust about what we are experiencing in the midst of transition. We had a gathering in late February, right here at St. Luke's for the simple purpose of discussing our life transitions. The conversation was deep and meaningful. The kindness and knowing shared among the group

was renewing. It was honest conversation. And, I think we all walked away feeling a little less alone.

Simple, daily practices often help us remain centered in the midst of change, too. One of my favorite things is walking. In rain, sun, and snow, I walk. I love to take in the healing energy of nature and there is something about the rhythm of walking that helps me feel more calm and more connected to life. I've

Simple practices can help to create spiritual steadiness even in the midst of unsettling times.

logged a lot of miles on my FitBit in the past few months!

One of my friends stays centered in the midst of transitions by reading a brief meditation each morning. A colleague practices centering prayer. Some people listen to music or practice yoga or read to their children or garden or cook or write. There are many possibilities! The key is to choose something that works for you; something that adds a simple, predictable rhythm in the midst of the disorientation that accompanies change. Simple practices can help to create spiritual steadiness even in the midst of unsettling times.

What helps you stay centered in the midst of change? Be curious! Notice what helps you feel more calm, more connected, and more hopeful as you go through change and transition. Then, engage in that practice daily. Trust the experience of change, too. Welcome the surprises, the messiness, the challenge, the sadness, the joy, and the growth that are all present. In Transitions: Prayers and Declarations for a Changing Life, Julie Cameron (1999) wisely reminds us that sometimes "craving the comfort of desired events and outcomes, we ignore the uncomfortable but exhilarating gifts of living life as a continually unfolding process in which all moments are valuable."

Warmly, *Rev. Sallie* 



Lynda Fickling Director of Servant Ministry/ Spiritual Director

# GENNECTED

Are you new or recently attending St. Luke's? Please stop by the Get Connected Center for information regarding our Community! We welcome you and want to do all we can to help you feel at home. Questions? Contact

Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 lynda©stlukeshr.com Want to make St. Luke's your church home?

We can help you get connected.

# Welcoming our newest members

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



#### **Linda Diekvoss**

"The service speaks to me, you have Stephen Ministry."

Cliff Hamburg (no photo available) "To be with my friends."

Burns Logan (no photo available) "The community of faith at St. Luke's is a clear

God-driven fit for our family."

And our 15 Confirmands! Maliah Atkins • Dillon Carlyle • Kameron Fisher • Lee Hazelwood • Hailey Lauer • Mark Keplinger • Dawn Lipfert • Emily Maddox • Sam Maddux • Rachel Meade • Anwyn Owens • Lauren Price • Lauren Sharpe • Adam Smith • Claire Wohlleber

If you are interested in making a deeper commitment by Joining St. Luke's, please contact Lynda Fickling 303-791-0659 x20 lvnda©stlukeshr.com or visit www.stlukeshr.com

## The Painting Table



JOIN US! June 26, July 17 & Aug. 28 12:15pm-2:00pm Fellowship Hall

We invite everyone, those

with no artistic leanings and those seasoned artists in our midst. Our mediums are watercolors, pastels, crayons, our hands and the expressions of our heart. We gather to reflect on a meditation, scripture, or that day's sermon and then explore this vision with our art.

We will enjoy lunch together prior to painting so please bring a salad to share! The table will serve two purposes as we share a meal together and then open the space for creative beauty to be born.

**Cost:** \$5.00 for supplies

Please bring: a smock/old shirt!

**Signup:** stlukeshr.com or at the Get Connected Center **Contact:** Lynda@stlukeshr.com 303-791-0659 x20

# The Gift of Easter at St. Luke's

from Palm
Sunday, and
Easter Fun Day
through Holy
Week to joyous
Easter morning

**The gift of Easter!** How shall we make sense of the resurrection, since

there is almost nothing within the range of our experience that prepares us for so great a mystery as new life in God's garden.

We shall have to wonder... to be open to the surprise.

The resurrection will have to be something God gives us, not something we attain through our efforts to think more

creatively.

It is a gift. We do not understand it. But we do 'stand under' it.
Thanks be to God.

## Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!

The gift of Easter!
This is where the miracle happens and goes on happening — not in the tomb but in the LIVING ENCOUNTERS with Jesus.









# UMW Spring Event "Tea and Textiles"

Sunday, April 24, 2:00-4:00pm



The United Methodist Women's Annual Spring Tea - "Tea and Textiles" is on April 24 in the Fellowship Hall. We invite all ladies, young and old, to join us in this Wonderful Celebration.

Enjoy the generations of handiwork skills - quilting, samplers, cross stitch, knitting and crochet... and see how these skills are used daily today in hospitals and rehab clinics to assist patients in their rehabilitation from accidents and injuries.

Come and support Our Mission ~ St. Luke's Congregational Care Ministry. Help us take care of our own family ~ our Church Family.

Tickets are on sale in the Narthex. \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Young Ladies 12 and under. We look forward to seeing you.

## New! UMW Mission of the month!

The emphasis of the United Methodist Women is "turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth". New in 2016 is an exciting opportunity to volunteer in a new mission area each month. The monthly mission for May will be preparing and serving sandwiches for the homeless on "Mondays in the Park" May 9th. Meet at the church at 10:30am in the fellowship hall to make and deliver sandwiches. We will return to church by 2:30pm. All are welcome. Donations of peanut butter, chips (individual sized bags), grape jelly, bottled water, and fruit snacks or granola bars are also needed. For information on "Mondays in the Park" contact Sam Leahy at Sam@stlukeshr.com.

## Please join St. Luke's UMW in working monthly missions:

**May:** Mondays in the Park - May 9; meet at church 10:30am; return 2:30pm

June: Warren Village - help with cooking and serving a meal to their residents -TBD

**July:** Ubuntu Day of Service with Mile High/Pike's Peak District UMW - July 16.

Stay tuned for more information and upcoming projects.

## We are UMW - What Do We Do?

We are a community of women who know God. We experience freedom through Jesus Christ. We have a creative and supportive fellowship. We are advocates for justice. We expand the concepts of mission. We support women, children, and youth, and we do all of this with prayer through faith, hope, and love in action. We do this here at home, throughout the United States, and around the world. The gathering of women in fellowship with God is a beautiful thing. Share this beauty with others you meet. The sharing of God's blessings to you. Given to others.

We're on Facebook! Please like our Facebook page to

keep up-to-date on current events: facebook.com/stlukeshrumw "St. Luke's United Methodist Women -Highlands Ranch, CO"

**Spiritual Life Retreat:** Three members of the St. Luke's UMW group attended the Rocky Mountain Conference UMW Spiritual Life Retreat "Holy Fools for Christ", lead by Rev. Shelly Bowles, at the YMCA of the Rockies retreat center in

Estes Park on April 2. Their day was full of rest and renewal.

**Spiritual Day Apart:** Four members of our UMW group attended the Spiritual Day Apart event held at Castle Rock First UMC on March 12th. The speaker was Rev. Jolain Graf of St. Andrew UMC. We spent the day in prayer and reflection amongst many women from the Mile High/Pike's Peak district.

#### Mission Study: Disability and Inclusion

Please Join The United Methodist Women and the Seasoned Voyagers on Tuesday, May 19, 2016, 1:00-3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Tonya Whaley will be speaking on "A Place in our Faith Communities for Inclusion and Disability". Refreshments will be served. We look forward to having you join us. (See article on Page 9.)

#### **SAVETHE DATES:**

**2016 UMW CALENDAR OF EVENTS** 

- August 28 Fall Pie and Prayer
- December 6 Candlelight Dinner

Our three Interest Groups meet monthly and warmly welcome you anytime during the year.

Evening Book Group: Who we are: Women who like to read! All ages welcome (18 and up). What we do: Meet monthly to discuss the selected book for the month. In the fall we vote on

all the books for the following year. We select books that educate us and provide for interesting discussion. We read a variety of books: fiction, non-fiction, historical fiction and memoirs. We have a potluck meal (optional) before our book discussion. Meets Fourth Monday, Room 206, 7:00pm (6:15pm Potluck)

Contact: Renae Parra renaeparra@aol.com or 303-683-0872

- April 25 "A House in the Sky" by Amanda Lindhout
- May 23 "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah

**Common Thread:** Friendship, Fellowship, Caring, Sharing, Fun. First Thursday of each month 10:00am at the church. *Contacts*: Caroline Butler carolinebutler@q.com or Betty Smith 303-797-3225.

**Itch to Stitch:** Celebrating the talents of Crocheting, Knitting, and Quilting, enjoying friendships and generously donating their projects to charities. All skill levels welcome. (Meets monthly on 2nd Saturday at 10:00am in church basement) *Contact:* Fran West at 303-797-7107 (mfranwest©gmail. com) On Facebook: "St. Luke's UMC Itch to Stitch Guild"

• May 14 -Continue finalizing work on special quilting project.

We Invite you to be a part of our Missional and Spiritual Journey. UMW Supports you through friendship and fellowship ~ Keeps you in Prayer ~ Gives you a new insight into books ~ Enhances your handiwork skills ~ Satisfies mission needs ~ And... supplies you with Renewal.

For further information: email us umwinfo@stlukeshr.com.



"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 Jestive Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

You are invited to "Take a Tag" at the United Methodist Women "Tea and Textiles" table to support the St. Luke's Congregational Care Ministry.

Items needed include, but are not limited to: Coloring books (both children and adult versions); crayons and colored pencils; iTunes and Amazon gift cards (for purchasing ebooks and digital music); travel-sized hand lotion and hand sanitizers; Pencil game books (like sudoku, crossword, or pencil gaming); mechanical pencils; socks (both children and adult, both male and female), chapstick or lip balm; small stuffed animals. Just think of items you would want if you were ill and staying in a hospital or home-care.Please return your gift item in the box provided by April 24.

## Children's Ministry News

Praise, Play & Prayers with St. Luke's Kids

### Service, Fun & Learning!





We started Holy Week with a Palm Sunday morning parade and a wonderful Easter Fun Day that afternoon. Our new addition of baby chicks was a big hit! Families enjoyed games, bunnies, treats and more!

SLY, Jr. - our 5th & 6th grade service and fun club cleaned all of the Fellowship Hall chairs as a service project. Way to go, SLY, Jr.!

#### **MARKYOUR CALENDARS:**

(check our website for full calendar)

April 18 (MON) - VBS "Surf Shack" Registration opens ONLINE 2:00pm

April 24 (SUN) - 9:30am PEAK K-4th Grade SUNDAY SCHOOL begins 3-week lesson "Out of Egypt" Sign up to serve

April 29 (FRI) - Children's Dinner Theater DINNER & SHOW 6:00pm - Come enjoy "Character Street"

May I (SUN) - 9:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL: Joy Trek (PreK: 2-4 yrs.) begins 3-week lesson: "Love Is..." Sign up to serve

May I (SUN) - SLY, Jr. Progressive Dinner (5th & 6th graders) 5:30pm (RSVP with Ms. Sharon, \$3 dinner)

May 6 (FRI) - PLAYGROUP 9:00am

May 6 (FRI) - FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT 6:45pm - "Finding Nemo"

May 7 (SAT) - Parent's Time Away 9:00amnoon Contact Ms. Sam to rsvp/info

May 10 (TUE) - Children's Ministry Team 6:30pm - All are welcome to help plan our ministry.

May 13 (FRI) - Parent's Night Out 5:30pm -Contact Ms. Sam for info on this group.

May 15 (SUN) - 9:30am Special PEAK SUNDAY SCHOOL "Pentecost"

May 15 (SUN) - SLY, Jr. Year End Party (5th & 6th graders) 5:30pm (RSVP with Ms. Sharon)

May 18 (FRI) - PLAYGROUP 9:00am

May 22 (SUN) - 9:30am Special SUNDAY SCHOOL "Year End Party"

May 29 (SUN) - Memorial Day (No Sunday School) - Family Worship Services at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am - 6th graders move up to SLY AM

## Wacky **Wednesdays**

Each week children will enjoy music, crafts, chapel time and games.

The theme this year is:



Open to all children age 21/2 years through entering 3rd grade! • (Must be potty-trained to attend.)

TIME: 9:30am-noon

**WEDS.:** June 8, 15, 22 July 13, 20, 27

Registration is \$20 per day per child. (This helps cover the cost of supplies, snacks and teacher salaries.) If you have any questions regarding registration contact: Tami Clement at tami©stlukeshr.com Register now! Forms available at

the Little School Office.



## **Vacation Bible** School

**VBS Morning session:** June 27-July I 9:00am-noon

VBS Evening session:

July 12-14 5:45-8:00pm

**Online Registration** begins April 18 at 2:00pm

www.stlukeshr.com \$40 per child per session. For all kids age 3 (by 9/30/15) through entering 5th grade.

Adults: Volunteer to help all days of your child's session and get one free registration.



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



Samantha Leahy Director of Early Childhood Ministry



Stephanie Kirk Children's Ministry

St. Luke's Kads
Growing with God



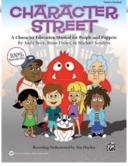
## Join us for the Olympics!

St. Luke's Family Camp Olympics, that is. Join us for Opening Ceremonies and week full of fun from July 22-29, 2016 at Snow Mountain Ranch (SMR) in Granby, Colorado. There are activities for all ages, including some of last summer's family favorites - the summer tubing hill, the low ropes course, and of course s'mores by the campfire. We enjoy hearty breakfasts and delicious dinners together each day at camp, and plenty of opportunities for fellowship with our campers. You will also have the opportunity to visit the Winter Park Adventure Park, and spend a day relaxing at Lake Granby. In addition to the campground, SMR offers lodge rooms and yurts for campers who may want a little less rustic accommodations during their stay.

Registration is still open for Family Camp Olympics, but don't wait too long. Reserve your site with Snow Mountain Ranch now, they are filling up fast. Visit http://stlukeshr.com/familycamp for details. Stay a few nights, or the whole week. We hope you'll make your family a part of our 2016 St. Luke's Family Camp Family.

### ••••• Children's **Dinner Theater**

Friday April 29 Dinner 6:00pm, Show 7:00pm Rehearsals are in



full swing and we are so excited about our production of Character Street. St. Luke's Kids 1st-6th grade tell the musical tale of a monster,

his friends, a birthday party and what it means to have character. And for the first time. we are partnering with our St. Luke's Puppet Ministry for this show! Enjoy food and fun! Free-will donation. Proceeds benefit the Youth water filter mission to help bring clean water to the families in Guatemala.





Kay Swanson Director of



#### Little School News:

## April and May, year end of Little School is not far away!

After a crazy winter and snowy March, we are looking forward to some outside adventures during our last two months of school! Good to be outside investigating all things new, especially all the new baby bunnies on our playground. Jackets will be coming off, but Mother Nature may trick us, so we will still be prepared for any surprises she may have

April is a busy month for us with our **CREATIVE CRITTER'S ART SHOW on Thursday** 

April 21 - 5:00-7:00pm. If you have never experienced this before,

please take time out of your busy schedule to tour our art gallery of over 2700 pieces of artwork by our children! Our theme this year is GLOBAL ART and we are anticipating a huge crowd and spectacular art creations. Art is so very important to children developing many skills such as language, visual learning, decision making, cultural awareness, motor



development and improved academic performance - PLUS, it is so much fun! We welcome all of our Alumni students and families to come for a visit! Hope you will join us!

May is a time of celebration and tears. We will have a packed month of learning activities and fun events. Our three-year-old classes will have their Spring Sing for Mother's Day, field days outside for obstacle course and year-end picnics. Our four-year-old and Explorer classes will have Field days outside and will receive their driver's licenses in our coop cars, have their Hot Dog lunch (thanks Mr. Barry who cooks for us rain or shine) and of course our big graduation celebration and program. Whew! We will be busy!

Our last two months of Chapel time will be spent on Peace and Faithfulness. The children have spent all of year learning about the Fruits of the Spirit.

It has been fun and we now know more about using those fruits in our daily lives by showing love, joy, patience, goodness and kindness, as well as gentleness and self-control. Wacky Wednesdays this summer will continue with the same theme to provide even more learning and fun!

Important Dates:

Creative Critter's Art Show – Thursday April 21 ~ 5:00-7:00pm (start at north end of the building, no strollers please.)

Graduation May 23 - M/W/F 9:00am and T/TH/F 11:00am (Sanctuary)

Thank you for supporting this important ministry that St. Luke's provides for children. Please continue to pray for all children as they grow and learn to love our Lord.

Blessings from Ms. Kay and Staff

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



St. Luke's Little School - Best Preschool in Douglas County 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016! Yeah!

## **Homeless Benefit** from SLY, Jr. & Itch to Stitch Teaming

St. Luke's 5th & 6th grade service & fun club (SLY, Jr.) and Itch to Stitch recently teamed together to crochet a waterproof sleeping mat made from recycled King Soopers, Target and Safeway grocery bags. SLY Jr., composed of 5th and 6th Graders, cut and looped over 400 plastic bags, which Kristy Lange, a newcomer to Itch to Stitch, crocheted.

So, how did SLY Jr. and Itch to Stitch get involved in recycling grocery bags to create mats for the homeless? For St. Luke's, it started in the Fall 2014/Spring 2015 "Place at the River" class,



that Betsy Keyack and Patricia Sailors Westlake facilitated. St. Luke's members, Bob and Lynne Belleville brought one of the crocheted mats to a class and told the group how recycled grocery bags can be

crocheted to make mats for homeless persons to place their sleeping bags on, creating a waterproof barrier between their sleeping bags and the ground. The Bellevilles told the students about a group of Littleton residents who meet monthly to make



the mats. As a result, two class members, Karen Meade and Linda Streaty, met with the group and brought the idea back to St. Luke's. Karen has since made an entire mat singlehandedly (top photo). At

the suggestion of Kris Reif, Linda introduced the idea to Sharon Oliver who immediately embraced the concept for a SLY, Jr. service project. Sharon also saw it as the perfect opportunity for the younger and older groups to work together and approached Itch to Stitch president Fran West with the idea. In November 2015 Linda and Janet Johnston demonstrated the steps required to make the mats to an engaged, enthusiastic and quick learning SLY Jr. group. The kids then collected grocery bags, cut and looped them. The following February they turned over the looped balls to Itch to Stitch. Kristy completed the mat in April (bottom photo). The completed mats were delivered to the Littleton group who turns them over to Volunteers of America and distributes the much in-demand mats (there's a waiting list!) to homeless persons in the Denver area.

### 8

# Trustees Corner

## Spring's Here!

March brought our first of 2 spring Service Saturday events. We are grateful for the help of our Boy Scouts, parents, Trustees, and members/ constituents who came out to roll up their sleeves and help us prepare St. Luke's for Easter Services! At our next event we'll be working to spruce up





our grounds in time for our spring and summer events! Please plan to join us on

#### Saturday, May 7 between 8:00am and 12:00noon

wear sunscreen and bring gloves, rakes, weed pulling, sweeping, and trimming gear. Everyone is Welcome! If you need child care please contact 48 hours in advance at: sam@stlukeshr.com or 303-791-0659 x40.



by Rev. Les Ludlam

## More from Les: Return from Exile

When the ancient Judeans were allowed to return home from their exile in Babylon, they soon discovered that all was not the same as it was when they were taken away. Nehemiah is told, "The survivors that had escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame! The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire." The return from exile changed from celebration to sober realization of the work that had to be done to restore their nation. They were dismayed but not overwhelmed by what they found.

After my transfer to California, I was dismayed, but not overwhelmed....

I had seen myself as a project manager and an expert in the business of commercial production of synthetic crude from oil shale. But that experience was about as useful as a "buggy whip in an automobile" for the business of transporting of crude oil and refined petroleum products! As Manager, Integrated Planning for ARCO Transportation Company, I had to be familiar with this aspect of the Corporation's business. I was dismayed at my lack of knowledge about the crude transportation business.

The group I now supervised was made up of young, bright accounting and finance majors, anxious to impress higher-ups in the department with their business acumen. They were independent thinkers, not influenced by the ways things had been done before and they were my salvation. As I talked with them I realized that the only way I could succeed in my new position was to exercise humility, listen a lot, and pause briefly to think things through before making any business decisions, but then to act decisively. "Easier said than done," I thought to myself.

One day, Terry, an analyst in my group, presented his report on the crude oil export/import situation on the U.S. West Coast. "With the increasing production of crude oil from Prudhoe Bay, Alaska," he said, and relatively fixed refinery capacity here, the U.S. West Coast is seeing a large surplus of crude oil. We have an opportunity improve the corporation's profits by offering a relatively low cost means of relieving that surplus. We can reverse our pipeline that currently brings crude to California from the Four Corners area!"

Terry patiently explained the logistical, financial and regulatory complexities of delivering crude oil from the oil fields in Alaska to the refineries on the U. S. gulf and west coasts via large oil tankers and oil pipelines. "By reversing the Four Corners Pipeline and not forcing our tankers to go through the Panama Canal, the overall cost of transporting crude from Alaska to the Gulf Coast can be reduced. And this increases the price realized by the Alaskan oil fields," He said. "Also, we can increase our division's income with higher volumes being shipped through the Four Corners line. We need to support the line reversal even though it's no simple task."

What seemed so obvious to Terry took some time for me to understand.

And understand I must, because the proposal, which had been in preparation for several months, was to be made to our Management group the next day! And I was expected to defend the proposal. I was truly concerned but not overwhelmed after Terry's tutorial. Terry and I attended the meeting and Terry did most of the talking.

The proposal was approved, and later Steve, my boss came up to me and said within Terry's hearing, "Good job, you were hired because of your management skills and you showed me how you use them to get the best out of your employees!" The return from exile was off to a positive start! I was no longer concerned.

I believe the mutual trust developed in the Integrated Planning Group during my tenure helped us make some positive differences. Thanks guys! *God bless us all. –Les* 



### St. Paul United Methodist Church Closing After 156 Years

With a rich history of blessing downtown Denver and welcoming all people to its community, St. Paul United Methodist Church, located at East 16th Avenue and Ogden Street since 1910, will close its doors in May.

St. Luke's has participated every month for decades in the St. Paul Sunday morning breakfast, reaching out to the homeless and at-risk populations of the city.

Our new pastor, Rev. Jessica Rooks, currently serves as pastor at St. Paul and will officiate over the final worship experience and celebration on Sunday afternoon May 2 at 3:00pm. All are welcome.

Here is the recent article from the Denver Post: http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\_29749372/landmark-st-paul-methodist-church-closing-after-156



Our Mission: To promote healing and wholeness by creating opportunities for authentic connection, and by providing experiences that inspire and transform.



Visit our website **stlukescse.org** to learn more!

#### **Outdoor Adventures**

The Center's Outdoor Adventures resumed in March and will continue monthly through November, 2016. We look forward to connecting with friends, both old and new, as we come together in the beauty of our natural world and build relationships with all living things. All are welcome!



In March we snowshoed at Kenosha Pass. We visited the Pass in September to experience fall colors in the high country, and we decided to return in winter to observe how snow transforms familiar

landscapes. Despite snowless terrain en route to the Pass, we found ample snow on the trail, which is a section of the Colorado Trail and crosses the Continental Divide at Kenosha Pass. The poetry of Joyce Rupp and Mary Oliver helped us to consider nature's transformations as metaphor for our spiritual growth. Lunch at DW's 285 Diner

provided an opportunity to connect with one another through our shared experiences.

On April 9 we hiked at O'Fallon Park near Evergreen, just 35 minutes from St. Luke's. The trail ran through Bear Creek and passed through open meadows, Ponderosa pines, Aspen groves and offered some great mountain peak views. More on that in our next issue. (julie.polikoff@msn.net)

## **Outdoor Adventures:**

## SAVETHE DATES:

May 7 – Hike at Staunton Park near Conifer.

June II -TBD

## **Classes and Experiences:**

#### **NEW CLASS - PRAYING FOR OUR**

**CHILDREN:** Wednesday evenings in the St. Luke's Chapel (6:30-7:30pm). Sam Leahy and Jenita Rhodes will lead us as we lift our children in prayer. What would



it be like for us to gather together to lift up all of our fears, all of our anxieties, and all of our gratitude? Whether you are a parent, a grandparent, aunt or uncle, or just want to lift the children in our community in prayer, this class is for you. Together we can expect to encounter the God of life through the simple practice of prayer. Childcare is available by reservation; contact sam@stlukeshr.com.

**WORLD LABYRINTH DAY** – Join us on Saturday, May 7 (1:00pm in St. Luke's backyard) for this annual event, as we "walk as one at 1". We'll learn more about the role of labyrinths in spiritual practice, and you'll have the opportunity to walk the St. Luke's labyrinth. (jenita@pcisys.net).

#### MORNING YOGA WITH GARGI AGARWALA

continues on Thursdays (9:00-10:15am) through May 26. We have moved to the Youth Room (downstairs) to accommodate our growing number of participants. This class combines spiritual reflection with the discipline of yoga to help us feel rejuvenated and centered. All abilities are welcome. Suggested donation - \$10. (renaeparra@aol.com) Child Care is available with a 48-hour reservation with sam@stlukeshr.com.



# Introducing Sacred Travel May 12-14

The Center for Spiritual Engagement will lead a three-day, two-night

spiritual pilgrimage, as we experience Northern New Mexico! Our itinerary will explore the spiritual richness of this beautiful area, as we experience the arts, music, architecture, food, and the stunning landscapes of the Rio Chama Hills, Santa Fe, Abiquiu, and the land in between. We'll create community with other travelers, learn from those we meet along the way, and be open to experiences of transformation. This trip has been filled, but we invite you to visit our website to learn about any future Sacred Travel opportunities.

## A Place in our Faith Communities for Inclusion and Disability



On **May 19, from 1:00-3:00pm**, I will be leading a "A Place in our Faith Communities for Inclusion and Disability" and invite all to attend. The study is being hosted by the United Methodist Women in conjunction with Seasoned Voyagers. We will be gathering in Fellowship Hall.

We live in a diverse world where many are excluded because of misunderstandings, fear, and the complexity of differences/disabilities. This study will offer an introduction to the realities of disabilities that we face and the depth

of resources that can be utilized to better understand and engage those living with disabilities. We will discuss ways in which we can authentically face, include and welcome those with disabilities and their families into our churches.

We will also engage in discussion about how this may be affecting us personally and how to engage in conversations that deepen our community. Refreshments will be served. We look forward to having you join us. —Pastor Tonya Whaley



### **Upcoming** Events!

#### April 17

9:30-10:30am SLY AM - Ms. Christi 12:00-3:00pm Fundraiser @ COLD STONE!!! Supports our Guatemala missions 5:30-6:00pm SLY Dinner - \$2 6:00-7:30pm SLY PM - Irish Dancers Coming!

April 20

**5:30-6:30pm** Homework Hour 6:30-8:00pm Wed. SLY -

Outside Games

April 24 9:30-10:30am SLY AM - Mr. Jeremy 11:00-11:50am Ir. High Mission Trip Meeting 12:00-12:50pm Sr. High Mission Trip Meeting

5:00-7:30pm SLY PM-Progressive Dinner!!! RSVP so we know how much to make! (note time change)

- April 27 5:30-6:30pm Homework Hour 6:30-8:00pm Wed. SLY -Jeopardy With Jeremy
- May I 9:30-10:30am SLY AM - Mr. Dave 5:30-6:00pm SLY Dinner- \$2 6:00-7:30pm SLY PM - Pizza and Planning!
- 5:30-6:30pm Homework Hour 6:30-8:00pm Wed. SLY - Water Balloon Night!
- May 8

9:30-10:30am SLY AM - Mr. Paul No SLY PM - Happy Mother's Day

May II

5:30-6:30pm Homework

6:30-8:00pm Wed. SLY - Dairy Queen to Celebrate Summer!! Bring Money!

- May 15 9:30-10:30am SLY AM - Mr. Jeremy 5:30-7:30pm SLY PM -Year end cook out with SLY Jr. (bring a side dish to share)
- May 18 No SLY Activities... GEMs/STMs starts June 9
- May 22 9:30-10:30am SLY AM - With Ms. Karin 6:00-7:00pm SLY Welcomes New 6th Graders!! (info night for just new 6th graders and their parents)
- \* Sign up to receive our emails and Check stlukeshr.com and click on "Youth" or "SLY" for up-to-date info on programs, activities, opportunities and more!

## ON THE SLY: Confirmed in Faith

We had the honor of presenting 15 youth to the congregation to be confirmed as full members of the United Methodist Church earlier this month. (See list of names on page 4.) These youth have been working tirelessly for the past few months learning about church history, the meaning of grace, and how God's story is enmeshed with their own. The height of the confirmation season is always the retreat weekend where we get away to focus on our relationships with God and with each other. At this retreat the confirmands got the opportunity to try their hand at the high ropes course! It was so cool getting to watch these youth overcome their fears and encourage each other along the way. We had a beautiful and intimate confirmation ceremony where not only were all 15 youth confirmed, but four were baptized! We are so proud of all the hard work and questions and explorations that these youth have put in the last few months.



Our church is truly blessed to have them as a part of our community.

Yours in Christ, Dave, Amy & Jeremy



Dave Laurvick Director of Youth Ministry



Amy McMullen Assistant Dir. of Youth Ministry



Jeremy Brown Assistant Dir. of Youth Ministry



### The AC Project: To the Ends of the Earth

Stunned.. That was the expression left on our faces after the viewing of *The AC* 

Project earlier this month. We had heard about what we were going to see, a documentary following four college graduates along their trip across the world. But the power and enlightenment that came through was beyond anything we could have imagined.

The one thing that kept being reiterated throughout was the fact that these were just four regular men who had a passion for serving God's people. "God does not send the qualified, he qualifies the called" was zealously stated at the Q&A session with the group after the film. When the idea for the trip formed, they decided to call themselves "The Act Commission." Doug, one of the four, explained that the books of Acts is their favorite book because it's about ordinary men simply doing their best to follow Jesus. Thus the name The AC Project was born.

The film not only looked at the people around the world that were being reached, but at how this experienced

> affected the four missionaries. Earthquake victims, orphans, lepers, sex trafficking victims, the people that they visited were not the only ones who were changed by this experience. While each of the four gained personal insights on this trip, all attested to the harsh reality of

learning to let go and let God's plan unfold. No matter how much you try, things will not always go according to plan. Whether it be canceled flights, injuries, harsh weather conditions or getting lost in the middle of the jungle, these men had to learn to fully trust God and trust that doing their best was enough.

"Whether it's across the ocean or across the street, everybody can be used by God," Said Doug, "We hope people come away feeling an invitation to be part of the bigger story that God is writing." An invitation and an inspiration, that is what this event was for me. To get to meet part of the team after the film and get to hear firsthand some of the struggles and highlights of their journey was amazing. This event created an opportunity for us to get real about what God is calling us to be in this world.



## **Summer Is Coming!!**

Summer will be here before we know it! Not only does that mean it's mission trip time, but it also means the return of GEMs and STMs!! GEMs (Girls Enrichment Ministry) and STMs (Shortcuts To Manhood) are our gender specific summer programing that includes all sorts of fun crafts and activities for the girls and good old Ultimate Frisbee and fast food for the boys. This year GEMs and STMs will be held on THURSDAY NIGHTS from 6:00-8:00pm.

These programs start up June 9th! Don't Miss It!





**Sheri Henry**Director of Finance

# Thanks for Your Generosity!

Our Easter Offering raised approximately \$12,000 for our Samaritan Fund, which assists our families with one-time crisis funds for such items as medical bills, gasoline,

groceries, counseling, educational needs, bereavement costs, rent or automobile assistance. Because of your generosity, we'll be able to provide assistance to people in our community.

## Seasoned Voyagers Update



On March 15 we had a tasty St. Patrick's themed luncheon!

A 55+ MINISTRY

Our next Seasoned Voyagers event was Thursday April 14. Carolyne Shultz, Community Relations Director at DenUM (Denver Urban Ministries), led us in the Game of Life, a educational experience about poverty based on real-life stories. We served delicious Fair Trade coffee and chocolate, and goodies from Manna Bakery in Littleton. We collected donations for DenUM and needed items such as infant formula, wipes and full-size hygiene items.

We also learned about:

- What is Fair Trade and UMCOR's partnership with Fair Trade Equal Exchange
- Primetimers an educational mission program for older adults
- NOMADS a mission program for people with RVs.

On May 10th we will travel to IMAX to see presentation about robots at Museum of Science & Nature.

–David Lamoreaux





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



Kenrick Mervine Associate Dir. of Music Ministry/ Organist



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



Kristi Pawley Music & Arts Admin. Assistant/ Accounting Clerk

### Into the Woods Outreach Success



The Wesley Players hit the stage in March with the epic fairytale *Into the Woods*. The show was a huge success with audiences and a tremendous experience for all involved. As one audience member said, "What a delightful, fun evening! The talented cast was amazing and it

was wonderful to see so many St. Luke's faces onstage. I had never seen the play or the movie, but I can't imagine them being any better than the performance by The Wesley Players. Bravo!" About 750 people attended the four performances, raising approximately \$3000 for the Women's Crisis & Family Outreach Center and our mission work in Guatemala. The Women's Crisis & Family Outreach Center is dedicated to reducing domestic violence and family conflict through advocacy, empowerment, violence prevention and intervention, services and education in the greater Denver area. Our Guatemala mission partnerships provide homes, schools, and scholarships for indigenous Mayan children. Thank you for your support!

## Thank you to our Music Ministers!



St. Luke's was blessed with the wonderful gift of our Music Ministry during the Lenten season and Easter! So many individuals giving of their time and talent – what an incredible ministry. As Charles Wesley said, "God is gone up on high with a triumphant noise."



## Meet the Music Ministry: Chancel Choir

Welcome to our new series Meet the Music Ministry! This month we highlight the Chancel Choir. The Chancel Choir had humble beginnings as a six-member choir.

The group began in 1983 in the basement of one of the church's charter members, Bill Fethke, who also became its first director. Since then, the choir has grown significantly to a current roster membership of 65 people. Within the last 17 years under their current director, Dr. James Ramsey, the Chancel Choir has performed many staples in the sacred diet of American church music contributing to the worship experience at St. Luke's, September through May. From contemporary and multicultural music to the very traditional songs of worship, the Chancel Choir has proven to be a versatile and dynamic choir reaching the needs of its members as well as the community it serves. If you're interested in being part of the music ministry by singing in the choir and sharing the gift of music, please contact Dr. James Ramsey at jim@stlukeshr.com. For information on all the music groups, please browse the Music and Arts brochure on our website.



#### 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.



#### CONGREGATIONAL CARE



**Brenda Schafer** Office Administrator

Don't you be afraid, for I am with you.
Don't be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen
you.... -Isaiah 41:10

#### PRAYER CONCERNS

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:

Natalie Murrow Dean Conklin	Jan Munoz Debra Bello-Hoffmeyer	Sharon Morton David Johnston		Paulo Henry Chip Rovetta	Betty DeBerry Brad Laurvick
Jane Riegel Debi Sheppard	Elaine Schafer	Jan Rufien Sallie Streaty		Jan Lindquist Ken Bottoms	
Ron Throne	Mary Rovetta	Robert Stickel	Susan Poston	Suzanne Humphreys	
Karol Miodonski	Ted Nichols	Carole Bunge	Gavin Unruh	Sharon Morton Drue	

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Lee & Debra Newby on the birth of their grandson, Ethan Lee Hudson

#### SYMPATHIES TO:

Brad & Susan Warren on the passing of Susan's father, John Basco Eileen & Ed Law on the passing of their niece, Marsha Delouchery Dave & Elizabeth Laurvick on the passing of their friend, Mike Bowersock

Jim & Phoebe Mitchell on the passing of Jim's mother, Irene Mitchell Cole

Ed & Eileen Law on the passing of Eileen's cousin, Milly Wilbert Kimberly Grassmeyer on the passing of her sister, Tammi VanHorne Elena Lynch on the passing of her grandmother, Ethelene Scott Kent & Liz Lersch on the passing of Liz's father, Henry Ellison

Dave & Bonnie Funk on the passing of Bonnie's father, Fred Kieser Bruce & Andrea Kirchhoff on the passing of Andrea's uncle, Carlton Maddox Peter & Shelley Ritchie on the passing of Shelley's mother, Arelene Emmett Dan & Kathy Swier on the passing of their brother-in-law, Leonard Stogsdills Regina Bowling on the passing of her grandfather, Joe Sanchez David & Elizabeth Laurvick on the passing of family friend, Edward Hanson Dave & Meryl Cupp on the passing of Meryl's mother, Thelma Hodge Friends & Family of Bertha Roth

Lucero & Lauer families on the passing of their friend, Karen Martellarol Stephen & Cathy Collins on the passing of Stephen's mother, Audrey Collins