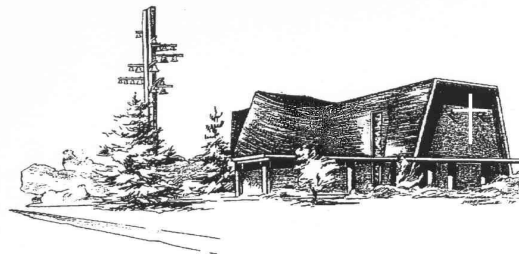


St. Luke's Episcopal Church

2012

Annual Meeting Ministry Reports



January 29, 2012
9:15am

Vision Statement: "St. Luke's is a Christian Community.....
Called to vital, ever-deepening relationship with Christ and neighbor."

St. Luke's Annual Meeting

January 29, 2011

9:15am

1. Opening Prayer – Father Andrew
2. Call to Order – Jeff Fryer
3. Appointment of Clerk (Elizabeth Dyer)
4. Vote for three Vestry members (Please mark your ballot.)
5. Ratify Senior Warden, Junior Warden
6. Year End Review of 2011 and Review of 2012 Budget – (Tom Dandy, Treasurer)
7. Interim Rectors Report
8. Sr. Warden Report
9. Acknowledgments of Retiring Vestry (Lee Hurd, Lynn Leedy, Rob Mygatt.)
10. Commissioning of Vestry, Wardens and Search Team
11. New Business
12. Meeting adjourned with prayer

Interim Rector Annual Report

I began my position of Interim Rector of St. Luke's on September 7, 2011; 5 weeks after Fr. Harold Warren retired after serving as Rector here for 11 years. An Interim Rector is appointed by the Bishop and approved by the Vestry and my position will end when the new Rector is appointed and arrives. My responsibilities include most of the usual duties of a Rector, including things like presiding at Sunday worship, provide pastoral care and visitation, provide leadership for ministries and activities of the parish, administer oversight for the staff and attend meetings of the Vestry and work with the parish leadership.

I also am engaged in an ongoing effort to accomplish five specific goals of interim ministry:

- Come to terms with history
- Become clear about identity
- Manage changes of leadership
- Reforging links to the wider church

Commit to a new future

I believe that this interim time is a "sacred space" where the congregation can both let go of its former leader and perhaps elements of a former identity, and dream and work toward living into a new identity as it seeks a new Rector. This is a time to focus on trust.

I am grateful for having the opportunity to come among you to serve St. Luke's during this sacred time. I have enjoyed getting to know you, to offer worship and prayer with you, and to engage in programs that help grow and strengthen the Body of Christ. I have found St. Luke's to be a healthy and friendly congregation with a particular love for liturgy and worship. A treasure of this church is its music program, and I am impressed by the focus it has on outreach and youth (such as the Music Camp). I commend you for the outreach commitment you have, especially as manifest through the support of the Common Cathedral. I also am impressed by the various formation and support groups you support, including bible studies, Daughters of the King, Foyer Groups, and many others.

I recognize that I bring to this ministry new perspectives and priorities. I've seen a need to strengthen lay ministry here and made that an emphasis for the St. Luke's Day celebration in October. I've introduced a weekly bible study and adapted an existing contemplation group to include a resource featuring Thomas Merton that has attracted new members. I believe that there is a good foundation to the Youth Group and that ministry is now positioned well. Much of my energy has been spent with leadership including the Vestry. This church is blessed with capable and committed leaders.

It is valuable to look at the Parochial Statistics. The Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) is the most significant number, and the most reliable for measuring the level of engagement in a church. I reviewed 2010 data and have recalculated the numbers so that my calculations for 2010 and 2011 would use a consistent formula. I determined an ASA of 240 for 2010 and 238 for 2011. Although that number seems encouraging, it doesn't give us a fully accurate account of the status of St. Luke's; there are two adjustments to consider. In 2011, Christmas fell on a Sunday, and so attendance from those services was included in the ASA. If Christmas attendance is subtracted from the calculations, a more realistic ASA of 228 results*. Secondly, the ASA for just the fall of 2011 was 191. All this tells me that attendance remained rather stable from 2010 into 2011 until Fr. Warren left; and then a significant drop of over 10% occurred.

Interim Rector Annual Report con't

A drop in ASA following the announcement of a Rector's retirement and during a transition is not unusual. It is also true that virtually all Christian denominations are showing declines in ASA as reported nationally. For Episcopalians, we see a trend in many churches where congregations are aging and young people are not as likely to join and participate. Intentionally and thoughtfully addressing this trend is an important subtext to the transition work St. Luke's has before it.

My goals for the coming year include continuing to work with the Vestry and congregation on the five Interim Ministry Developmental Tasks (as listed above), to offer the Liturgical, Pastoral, and Spiritual leadership to support the ministries and members of St. Luke's; to offer a Confirmation Class in the late winter/early spring; to develop a stronger pastoral network to insure shut-ins and elderly members are more fully connected to the life of St. Luke's; to look for ways to support and strengthen the Youth, Outreach, and Newcomer ministries that exist; and to work as appropriate with the Bishop, Search Team, Vestry to insure the transition to a new Rector is as healthy and smooth as possible.

In July of 2012, I will be serving as chairperson of the Colorado Deputation to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in Indianapolis. There will be some occasions where I will be attending meetings in preparation of that convention and I will be gone two weeks to the convention itself. It is an honor to have an opportunity to serve the church in this way, and I expect it will not interfere in my ability to serve St. Luke's faithfully.

It is an honor to have the opportunity to minister in this community of faith and to share my life with you. You have been exceptional in welcoming me and Terri among you and supporting us in this "gypsy" lifestyle. God who is faithful is in the midst of us.

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Average Sunday Attendance	236 (228*)	240
Baptisms	14	14
Marriages	0	3
Confirmation	0	7
Reception	0	1
Burials	3	4
Pledge Units	144	159
Pledge Income	\$391,375	\$408,029
Christmas Attendance	750	783
Easter Attendance	673	756

Submitted by *The Rev. Andrew A. Cooley*

Senior Warden Report

I want to begin by giving Thanks. Thanks to God for calling us to a deeper relationship with him and our neighbor. I thank all of you that answer God's call to serve him, by giving of your time, talent and treasure. I thank those who serve on the various ministries at St. Luke's. Those who pledge. Those who give without pledging. I especially want to thank our staff. Debbie our parish coordinator, who keeps the office and affairs of the Church running smoothly. Peggy our bookkeeper, who helps us keep our financial affairs in order. Tamara, our Director of Music, who helps to maintain the high quality music program that we at St. Luke's have come to appreciate. A big thanks to Andrew our Interim Rector who is guiding us through our transition.

2011 was a busy time in the life of St. Luke's. We took leave of Harold our Rector of eleven plus years and his wife Judy. We said good-bye to our Associate Rector Fr. Mike and his family. We called Fr. Andrew as our Interim Rector. We conducted a number of surveys and forums leading up to the development of the Parish Profile. And we began the process of developing a Search Team that will help to identify our new Rector. All this while maintaining the day to day operations of the Church.

We've also made some much needed physical changes to the Church by adding new lighting and flooring in the Sanctuary, Parish Hall and hallways.

We've gone through a lot of change in the past year and we will continue to experience change in the year ahead. But, it's a good, exciting, energizing kind of change. This year we will engage in the Search Phase of our transition. The Search team and Vestry will meet with Canon Lou Blanchard and receive training and instruction in Discernment and the search process. We will solicit names of potential candidates as Rector from the National Church Deployment Office, The Bishop's Office, vestry, members of the parish. We may run ads in the various Church literature available to us. We will use all the technology and resources available to us to aid in our search for our next Rector. We will be doing all this while continuing to grow and add to the ministries of St. Luke's. I ask that you continue to pray for St. Luke's, the Clergy, Staff, Vestry, Search team and all who strive to discern and do God's well.

God Bless!

Jeff Fryer, Sr. Warden

Building and Grounds - Jr. Warden

This ministry, under the leadership of St. Luke's Jr. Warden, encompasses all aspects of maintaining the entire facility from the property line to the inner workings of the cooling and heating system. The Jr. Warden oversees the church sexton who sees to the day-to-day cleaning of the interior facility, opening and closing inurnment sites in the Memorial Garden, and lawn care of the outdoor spaces.

Building & Grounds is a separate budget line item; it includes heating, cooling, lighting and water. Repair costs for the physical plant is also included in the ministry's annual budget.

Within the past five years, St. Luke's has been able to upgrade the church facility and grounds thanks to generous memorial gifts and volunteer participation. Among the newest renovations: kitchen, sound system, lighting throughout, carpeting in Nave and Narthex, flooring for the hallways and Parish Hall, office extension, and fresh paint throughout. The Memorial Garden has an outdoor altar, and a sculpture graces the lawn outside of the garden.

Volunteers have given many hours to the cleanup and beautification of the outdoor spaces.

Through the love and generosity of St. Luke's parishioners, the church provides a clean, comfortable, and beautiful space for worship and fellowship.

Current Jr. Warden: John (Jack) Moore – 484-1195 or 227-3084 (cell phone)

Treasurer's Report

St. Luke's Episcopal Church has had a difficult time in 2011 meeting our financial obligations. There were times when checks had to be held back until after the next Sunday's offering had been deposited, and we had to withdraw over \$20,000 from the Dedicated Fund Investments during the year to cover our expenses. Whatever the reasons for our drop in contributions (the economy, the departure of our Rector, Rev. Harold Warren, dissatisfaction with church policies), our income has dropped over \$50,000 in the past two years, but our expenses have continued to mount up.

The Vestry has approved a balanced budget for 2012, with revenues and expenses just under \$480,000. Unfortunately, to reach a balanced budget, the Vestry has agreed to withdraw an amount in excess of \$23,000 from the Dedicated Funds. I believe we must have a major re-evaluation of the programs and staff if we are to continue to function as a viable, mission-oriented church.

The annual audit of the finances for 2010 was completed in September 2011, and forwarded to the Diocese of Colorado. Many thanks to Chairman Christina Moorcroft, Don DeCoursey and Gary Amato for the dedication to St. Luke's.

The Endowment Fund Committee (Chairman Ted Davis, Rob Mygatt and Christina Moorcroft) have met quarterly with Craig Ferris, our financial advisor at UBS Financial, and have maintained our Fund in very good condition, considering the economic situation in the market. As of December 31, 2011, the Fund had a balance of \$482,191, and has earned the church an income of 4.13% during 2011.

The church, and your treasurer, appreciated the skill and dedication of the church bookkeeper, Peggy Goetz. She has continued to serve admirably in 2011, despite the loss of her husband Jack in late 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Dandy
Treasurer

Parish Administrator Report

2011 marked my 10th year at St. Luke's, serving as Parish Administrator. It was a very busy year, preparing for the retirement of Father Harold, saying goodbye to the Demmon Family and welcoming Father Andrew. It has been busy but also very exciting!

We also spent a lot of time planning and implementing a new St. Luke's website. Thanks to the committee of Annette Lynch, Elizabeth Dyer, Ross Dickerson and myself. I serve as webmaster along with a lot of help from Ross Dickerson and Brian Cooke! Thanks guys for saving me at times.

In addition to producing all the printed materials in the office (bulletins, newsletters, letter, etc.) I am the staff representative to the website committee, Welcoming Committee and the Pastoral Network Group that Father Andrew is developing.

I do have some goals for myself which will enhance the Parish Office Ministry of St. Luke's in 2012. Develop a plan to use the technology and software available to us, to best serve all the members of St. Luke's, taking into consideration the different levels of technological knowledge. Develop an ongoing relationship with local churches who use the same church database program as St. Luke's to learn from one another and utilize all the software to its fullest capacity. Participate in ongoing Diocesan events organized and held for Parish Administrators.

St. Luke's has been a blessing to me both professionally and personally and I am truly grateful to be able to serve the church along with all the members of St. Luke's and the Ft. Collins community.

Deborah Joncas 493-7512, ext. 200 parishcoordinator@stlukesfc.org
Parish Administrator

Music Ministry Report

Currently there are 28 members in the Parish Choir. This number is up since 2011 thanks to several new members who have recently joined the Choir. The Parish Choir sings weekly at the 10:30 a.m. service (September through May, approximately 40 weeks) and at Festival Services including Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. The Parish Choir sings at the offertory and occasionally at communion and also leads the singing of hymns, psalms and liturgy. The Summer Choir sings three times each summer and is open to all people in the congregation and visitors.

The Parish Choir currently has four professional staff singers: Jessica Krassow (soprano), Serena Eichhorn (alto), Steve Chignell (tenor) and Joel Suttcliff (bass). The paid section leader program began in 2000 as a student scholarship program and now includes both student and professional singers. The staff singers provide support and leadership to the volunteer singers by their regular attendance and their musical competence. Their presence allows the choir to sing a higher caliber of music than would otherwise be possible. The current staff singers have assisted the Director of Music in several supplementary duties over the past year such as directing the Parish Choir, singing additional music in worship, singing in worship when the Parish Choir is on break, playing instrumental music, and performing in *Music at St. Luke's* concerts above and beyond their regular required duties.

The Youth Chorus is currently on a one-year sabbatical due to a low number of youth in the age group of grades 2 through 12 in the parish who are able to commit to the Youth Chorus program. Since beginning the Youth Chorus program in the fall of 2007 there have been approximately 4-10 choristers in the Chorus each year. The Youth Chorus uses the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) *Voice for Life* Curriculum. St. Luke's is one of only five parishes in Colorado affiliated with RSCM. The Youth Chorus members are commissioned yearly in conjunction with the awarding of the RSCM medals of achievement. The Youth Chorus rehearses weekly on Sundays (12:00-1:00) and sings in worship once per month (September through May).

There are approximately 8-10 children who sing in the Cherub Choir (age 4 through 1st grade). The Cherub Choir sings at Festival Services such as All Saints, Christmas Eve and Easter and rehearses on the Sunday prior to the Festival Service. There are approximately eight adults and youth who regularly assist with the Cherub Choir including: Laura Hicks, Steve Hicks, Brian Cooke, Debra Colvin, Lexi Macan, Amber Mazurana and Michael Mazurana.

Youth Sunday has been held annually on the first Sunday of June for three years. Youth (of all ages) play at both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. worship services at the prelude, offertory, communion and postlude. Recent youth have played piano, organ, flute, clarinet, horn and oboe. Twelve of St. Luke's youth presented a Concert on the *Music at St. Luke's* Concert Series on April 10, 2011 to raise funds for the Youth Mission Trip in June 2011. Youth who did not play on the program provided valuable technical support including ushering, stage crew, and descriptions of the youth mission trip. Three youth played instruments on Youth Sunday on June 5, 2011.

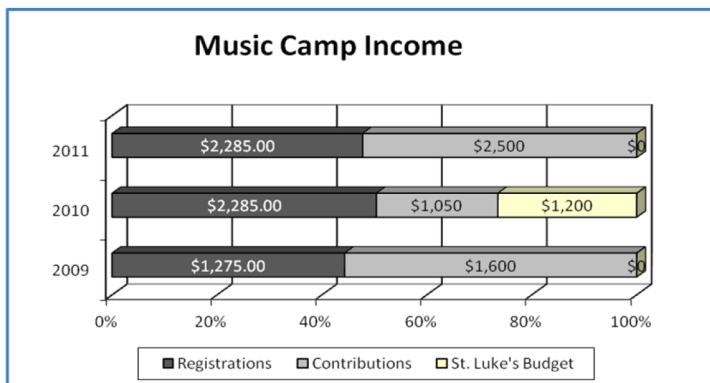
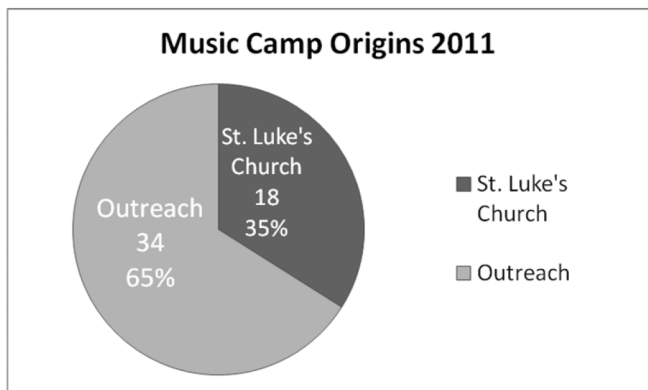
St. Luke's began weekly spoken Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the fall of 2010. It is led entirely by lay staff and parishioners including Tamara Schmiede, Hill Grimmett, Dina Grimmett, Michael McNeil & Marilyn McNeil. An average of 5 people attend weekly. Attendance at Evening Prayer increased in the fall of 2011 when the Youth Group began to meet weekly on Wednesdays and the Social Ministry Group met for a book study weekly.

Music Camp, begun in 2009, will be in its 4th year in 2012. It is a 6-day camp (9:00-12:30) held during the first week of August each summer. Music Camp's primary purpose is to share the joy of music in a Christian setting with children from Pre-Kindergarten to 5th grade. In each of the first three years Camp had 52 campers and a waitlist for admission. Total cost for Camp is approximately \$5,000 which is funded by registrations (47%) and contributions from the congregation (53%). Music Camp operates outside of the music operating budget.

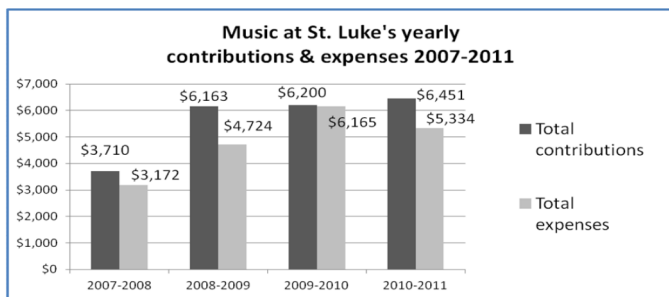
Music Camp requires approximately 35 volunteers. Camp also requires four paid staff teachers who are professional musicians, able to teach music and manage a class of 10-12 students daily. Volunteers are primarily from St. Luke's congregation. The demand for volunteers at Camp has raised the number of parishioners who are trained in Safe Guarding God's Children (SGGC) as well as those who are trained as trainers of SGGC.

Maddi Lynch has served as the volunteer Assistant for Music Camp each year. She has provided over 70 hours of work each summer in technical and administrative support to the Director of Music. She is invaluable to Music Camp. William Mygdal has served as the Music Camp "Principal" for the past two years. His role as administrator during the hours of Camp allows the Director of Music to serve as one of the four teachers in the classrooms. He is also an invaluable asset to the program.

Music Ministry Report Con't



Music at St. Luke's & St. Luke's Bach Festival are now in their 35th season. The concert series offers high quality programs once per month on Sunday afternoons (September through May) free of charge. The concert series is funded by St. Luke's supporters (79%) and community supporters (21%). The concert series cost per year is approximately \$6,000- \$10,000. Music at St. Luke's operates outside of the music operating budget. The Bach Festival includes two concerts: a Choral performance and an Organ Concert. In 2012 the Bach Festival Choral Vespers program will honor the founder of the Bach Festival, Edward D. Anderson.



The Music Ministry has had a facebook page since 2009 which lists the calendar of events for Music at St. Luke's. It is an open page for anyone on facebook to view. It also provides additional (free) publication of MSL events. The Music Ministry has had its own Constant Contact account since July 2011. This allows anyone who wishes to receive email updates on musical events at St. Luke's for both the MSL Concert Series and the Music Ministry

Upcoming plans and goals:

- To have regular sung Evening Prayer in St. Luke's sanctuary (beginning with twice per year with the hope of expanding to once per month in the next five years). Immediate plans include the addition of Choral Evening Prayer twice to the 2012- 2013 Concert Series with a 3:00 Choral Evening Prayer (45 minutes) followed by a 4:00 concert (45 minutes).
- Expansion of the RSCM Youth Chorus program in conjunction with re-establishing the Wednesday evening programs & dinner. Move the Youth Chorus rehearsal from Sundays to Wednesdays (4:00-5:30). Also include: non-musical activities for siblings, such as Bible Study or academic tutoring, a dinner open to children & adults, Evening Prayer, Parish Choir rehearsal, and Bible studies. Expand the Youth Chorus to eventually sing twice per month in worship.
- A noon-day concert series with lunch on a monthly basis.
- A celebration of the 40th birthday of the Phelps Organ in 2014 with several organ concerts scheduled throughout the year.
- A Music Camp for senior citizens.
- Take the Youth Chorus and Parish Choir to community nursing homes to sing at least once each year.
- Expand Daily Office to include Morning Prayer. Increase number of Daily Office offered. Add mid-week Communion Service.
- Provide additional vestments for the Parish Choir in the next year or two. Fundraisers will be needed to provide the funds for these vestments. Currently, all vestments are being used by choir members.

I am most grateful to St. Luke's parish for the great honor and privilege of serving as your Director of Music and Organist since the fall of 2007. I feel truly blessed by the gifts of your presence, time, support and prayers. I am filled with hope and excitement for the future of St. Luke's and I look forward to sharing the upcoming months and years with you.

Respectfully submitted, Dr. Tamara Schmiede, Director of Music & Organist

Dr. Tamara Schmiede musicdirector@stlukesfc.org (W) 970-493-7512 x 206

Preschool Annual Report

The preschool is an outreach of the church that serves children from the congregation and community. We are fully licensed by the Colorado Department of Human Services and affiliated with the Core Knowledge Foundation and the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). We are proud to be one of the oldest, high quality, and sought after preschools in Fort Collins.

During the 2011-2012 school year, 53 children ages 3 to 5 are enrolled in three classes. Desired enrollment is 64 children but the current school year has seen fewer families enrolling their children in preschool, not only at St. Luke's but throughout the community. We are beginning enrollment for fall 2012. Currently enrollment is open to church members, current preschool families and alumni families. We open enrollment to the public on February 27. Initial registrations lead us to be hopeful for full classes for next year.

The past year saw a rare change of staff at the preschool. Long time Assistant Director and teacher, Cindy Mahoney retired after 14 years at St. Luke's. Lia Comfort was hired to replace Cindy as Assistant Director and teacher. She recently completed her degree in Early Childhood Education and we are very pleased to have her join our staff. Nancy Singleton continues to serve as Director and teacher and Jackie Harrison as teacher.

The preschool is governed by a parent board that meets monthly throughout the school year. They are currently beginning work on the annual preschool fundraiser which will be a family barbeque and silent auction to be held on Friday, May 18, 2012. This year funds will be used to replenish our depleted scholarship fund. The board has also approved our class schedule and our tuition rates for the 2012-2013 school year as follows:

- Primary class – T/TH: 9:00 - 11:30 A.M. \$116/month
- Pre-K class – M/W/F: 9:00 - noon \$168/month
- Combo class – M/W/F: 12:45 - 3:45 P.M. \$168/month
- 4th day option for Pre-K – T: 12:45 – 3:45 P.M. \$56/month

The above approved tuition guarantees the preschool will continue to offer a high quality program at very reasonable rates. It also guarantees the preschool will meet its financial obligations and be self-sustaining.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Singleton

Preschool Director

Daughters of the King

There are 20 members in the Ruth Chapter of Daughters of the King. We meet twice monthly for fellowship, study, and prayer. Average meeting attendance is 6-10. Part way through the year, we switched one of our meetings to the evening, to accommodate women who could not come in the mornings, but after many months of low attendance at the evening meetings, we have switched back to mornings. Our meetings are the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, from 10:30-noon, in the library. We welcome women to come as guests to our meetings. During 2011, we did two book studies and we continued our practice of taking turns delivering the altar flowers each Sunday to people, for comfort or celebration. We maintain a confidential prayer list of requests made by members of the parish and by Daughters themselves. We also divide up the list of parish members and pray for each family during one month of the year. We currently have 5 women taking the discernment training to become Daughters.

Annette Lynch alynch@jurisdata.com

Nursery

Care for children up to age 3 is provided during church services and Christian Formation in the nursery. Two paid staff caregivers provide a safe, nurturing environment. Nursery is also provided during special services and some meetings, such as Music at St. Luke's, Friends and Spirit, and Daughters of the King, as requested and as needed. This past year, one of our long-time caregivers Nicole, moved out of town, but we have maintained continuity with Laura and Nicki has taken Nicole's regular role. We have two paid alternates, Davina and Katie. We also have parents who fill in when our caregivers are ill or out of town.

Sunday Christian Formation for Children:

During the school year, Christian Formation is offered for children ages 4-18 during the 9:30 Christian Formation time.

There are three classrooms: Godly Play for children ages 4- 3rd Grade; Upper Elementary class for children 3rd grade through 5th grade; Middle and High School class for children in middle and high school. A total of 12 teachers are involved in the three classrooms. Average weekly attendance is 2-3 for Godly Play, 2-3 for Upper Elementary, and 6-8 for Middle and High School. We have tried to do a better job of advertising and recruiting for the 2011-2012 school year, but attendance remains low. It is unfortunate that not many St. Luke's families make it a priority to bring their elementary school-aged children to Sunday School. Also during the school year, Christian Formation includes Story Time, a program for children ages 3-8, offered during the first part of the 10:30 church service. Over 8 teachers are involved in the program, taking turns teaching in teams of two. Average weekly attendance is 5-10 children.

Annette Lynch alynch@jurisdata.com

Liturgical Ministers

Liturgical Ministers at St. Luke's support the rector and deacon during church services. The responsibilities are split into two roles, Chalice Bearer and Sub Deacon. Their duties include, reading scripture, reading the psalm, reading the Prayers of the People, receiving the oblations, and handing the offering plates to the ushers. They also assist the celebrant in preparing the table for communion and administer the cup to those receiving communion.

There are currently fourteen people trained as Liturgical Ministers. We conduct annual training, usually during the winter or early spring. I am not aware of a specific budget for this ministry. Any expenses would be associated with maintaining or replacing the robes, crosses, and belts used by the LMs. During the coming year we hope to increase our proficiency and become more comfortable using our scheduling tool. We also hope to recruit one or two additional members to our roles.

Larry Meger 223-7125 lmeger2@comcast.net

Report of the 2011 Stewardship Team

The Stewardship 2011 campaign started in August. The team consisted of myself as Vestry representative and parishioners Brian Cooke, Chip Cushman, Susanne Fairman, and Mike Hohl. We chose as our theme: "Count your blessings; acknowledge your responsibilities."

Bulletin inserts were published each week, a letter was sent to each family unit in October, and articles were published in the September, October, and November newsletters. Stewardship Sunday was set in mid October with the presentation of estimate of giving cards at the altar. Telephone calls were made to those who had not responded by mid November and the campaign was closed early in December.

Our total pledges are \$391,375 with 144 cards returned. This compares to last year's \$408,029 and 159 cards. This is 96% of last year dollar wise even though the number of cards returned was 90% of last year. Obviously many reached a little deeper in response to God's grace. Given the current state of the economy I believe we can take some pride in that and offer our thanks to one another and to God.

Ideally Stewardship should be a year round endeavor. If the committee were established as a standing committee this work could continue on an ongoing basis. If anyone is willing to accept this challenge, please step forward! I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of my team: Please offer them your thanks when you see them.

Don Piermattei, Stewardship Team Leader

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The concept of Shawl-Knitting Ministry began about 21 years ago as a seminary project of two women in New England. It quickly spread to churches of all denomination around the country and the world. Our St. Luke's Prayer Shawl Ministry began four years ago with about eight women currently involved.

We do most of our knitting individually, coming together to bless each shawl as it is completed. Recently some of us became interested in learning to crochet and meeting in coffee houses to help one another with our projects and enjoy fellowship. While most of the shawls go to our own members, some find homes with folks participating in Common Cathedral, nursing homes, and extended family. We even have a few appropriate for babies and young children. So far we have distributed over 90 shawls.

As a new ministry, our challenges are to recruit more shawl makers and to communicate the availability of the shawls to those who need them. It's a fun and rewarding ministry.

Betsy Springer

Foyer Groups Ministry

Foyer Groups are an easy way for parishioners to gather together on a regular but informal basis to strengthen bonds of community in the church, to meet new members, and get to know other people who share a common interest but with whom we might not otherwise interact. These groups are ideally 7-9 persons who meet once a month for 3-4 months in one another's homes for a meal. The participants are then shuffled and reassigned to new groups. We currently have 5 groups with a total of 35 people participating regularly and 8 substitutes.

Our hope is to continue these groups as new people come into the church and lessen the likelihood of new comers feeling like strangers in our midst.

There is no church budget item for Foyer Groups, other than the use of the church kitchen once a year for a Fall Pot-Luck to kick-off the new season.

Contact: Cindy Hohl 970-292-8622 or 68cinma7275@gmail.com

Christmas Cookie Ministry

This is a once a year ministry which provides Christmas cookies to members or friends of St. Luke's who are in nursing homes, rehabilitation facilities, or in their own homes but unable to get out to functions easily. The cookies are provided by the members of St. Luke's. A multi-generation group gathers at the church for an hour and a half in mid-December to organize the putting together of plates of cookies, wrapping and labeling them, and delivering them to the recipients. Each person(s) delivering had only 3 or 4 deliveries which made the task go quickly. This year we delivered plates of cookies to 26 people and five nursing homes and had over 30 people participate in the process.

Our hope is that the fun everyone of every age group had doing this in 2011 will encourage even more participation in 2012 and the thankfulness of the recipients---which was so meaningful to the volunteers----will be shared with even more people within St. Luke's.

There is no church budget item for this ministry as everything is donated by the members, other than the use of the church kitchen once a year.

Contact: Cindy Hohl 970-292-8622 or 68cinma7275@gmail.com

Welcoming Committee's Report

Purpose: This is a new committee aimed at making visitors & new members feel really welcome when they come to our church-get warm fuzzies from day one.

Function: This is a high contact committee beginning with the Greeters identifying visitors and the new people and welcoming them plus introducing them to a current member of the church immediately. Then, we are in the process of having "de-greeters" meet with these new people after the service, hand them a current church newsletter and brochure and invite them to breakfast. (When we have a minimum of 10 members, we plan on, also, giving them a loaf of bread, cookies or???? after the service). After the initial welcome, we will follow-up with phone calls.

Since this is a new ministry we have no budget and not sure we will need one. We currently have 7 volunteers and need a MINIMUM of 10 committee members to continue with this ministry so no one is overburdened. So far we have sent out a "help needed" post card; announcing at the 8 & 10:30 serves the need for help on the committee; and then, we will call all the members and ask for their help.

Acting Chair- Ann Leffler 686-0136

Friends and Spirit Report

Friends and Spirit is an opportunity for adults of all ages whether single or married to meet on the first Friday evening each month for fellowship and laughter. This program is highly informal and is hosted by various members in the congregation. Communication for this group is done through the newsletter, the weekly announcement page, and email 2 times monthly (one to introduce the event and one to remind of upcoming event).

Historically, the group was established to provide a venue for young couples to get together however it has been expanded to include any age group.

Baby-sitting is provided by the church and those needing baby-sitting are simply encouraged to contact Annette Lynch for reservations.

This is an important ministry for our church as it provides opportunity to socialize and meet members from both services. It is not spiritual in nature-no Bible study, prayer time, etc., just a fellowship time.

Annette Overton Annette.overton@thompsonschoools.org

St. Luke's Health Ministry

Purpose: This is an intentional ministry emphasizing health and well being for St. Luke's parishioners. The ministry is patterned from the National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM@episcopalhealthministries.org). Promoting a healthy life style and preventing health care is the primary focus.

Participants: The ministry is supported by nurses who are members of St. Luke's. In the past year the nurses providing services are, Connie Vogel, Barb Hope, Nancy Carpenter and Suzanne Fairmen. We have recently been joined by Terri Cooley.

Activities: We began in October, 2010. We have provided a number of health related presentations including Maintain your Brain in Feb, 2011, Women's Heart Health on Mother's Day and What you should know to get the most out of your doctor's visit in Sept., 2011. The supporting nurses staff a blood pressure clinic between services held each Second Sunday of the Month. In addition, to monitoring blood pressures the nurses are available to answer health related questions and suggest community referrals.

Future Plans: We will continue the monthly health clinic. We will also offer some health presentations in 2012. At the request of several parishioners who live alone we are planning to compile a next of kin listing to help us stay in touch with parishioners who may have health issues that keep them from attending church.

Budget: This is entirely a volunteer activity. No budget is required.

Contacts: Connie Vogel at 970-443-8839 or conv60@comcast.net
Barb Hope at 970-221-0842

Lay Intercessory Prayer Ministry

This ministry at St. Luke's involves members of the congregation acting as Lay Prayer Intercessors during the Eucharist every Sunday. Each intercessor has been trained to receive the concerns and thanksgivings of parishioners seeking prayer support. Requests for blessings and/or God's grace and guidance are received at St. Claire's Oratory (where the prayer candles and icons are at the rear of the Nave). Every request is listened to with sensitivity and in strictest confidence.

A member of the Intercessory team serves at the 8:00 am service and another serves late service petitioners.

Anyone who may feel called to be an intercessor is welcome to be part of this sacred ministry. After a brief training session, team members serve on a monthly rotation.

Current Contact: Bev Newton-Moore – 484-1195

Singles on the Go

Purpose: Singles on the Go is a social ministry for parishioners over the age of 50. The primary focus is socialization and the development of supportive relationships for older members of the parish who are alone.

Participants: Participation varies depending upon the activity. The group continues to add new members and in the past year have enjoyed meeting four new members of St. Luke's who are older singles.

Activities: There are two regular activities for the group. They are a weekly coffee get together, each Tue, 9:30 a.m. at the Sunflower Coffee Shop located at 2601 Lemay. The second regular activity is a monthly dinner out on the second Tue. of each month. The location is chosen by those participating in the dinner the previous month. A notice is placed in the bulletin regarding the dinners and reservations are encouraged. From time to time other activities also occur, decided upon by the group. In addition, we try to stay in contact during times of illness, or other difficulties to provide support for each other.

Future Plans: Singles on the Go has been functioning at St. Luke's for four years. We have formed strong bonds in our group and enjoy having new members join us. We plan on continuing into the future.

Budget: No budget is required. Any expenses are paid by individual participants.

Contacts: Connie Vogel at 970-443-8839 or conv60@comcast.net
Gail McKenzie at 970-482-8052

Common Cathedral Loaves and Fishes Ministry

The second Friday of each month St. Luke's provides the food for Table Fellowship that follows the church service at Common Cathedral at Collyer Park in Longmont. This ministry was established by our Deacon Marc Genty along with three other men who at one time were homeless. There are 25 volunteers from St. Luke's who have provided food over the last three and a half years. We operate with no budget since all of the food is donated. We serve from about 30 to 80 people each second Friday of every month. Common Cathedral meets every Friday night at 6:00 pm in the park. Everyone attending is invited to eat at the common table. For more information about this ministry call Carol McNamee at [970-206-0336](tel:970-206-0336).

Common Cathedral

St. Luke's is the sponsoring parish for Ecclesia Colorado – Common Cathedral, a Special Congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado. The Reverend Deacon Marc Genty (of St. Luke's) founded this ecumenical ministry in May of 2008 and continues to provide leadership and day-to-day direction. The ministry is self-sustaining with funding coming almost exclusively through in-kind donations. The volunteer pool of about 75 is drawn from a number of churches and communities along the Front Range.

Each Friday night throughout the year, regardless of the weather, folks gather together in Collyer Park near downtown Longmont for this simple worship service that centers upon a shared meal. Common Cathedral provides church and day-to-day pastoral care for folks from all walks of life, but especially those who live on the margins and who call the street their home. Members of St. Luke's participate in many different ways: providing leadership, sharing their musical talent, knitting prayer shawls, preparing the shared meal, contributing financially and materially, and, most important of all, holding the community of Common Cathedral in prayer. It takes a village to build a cathedral, and the people of St. Luke's are an integral part of this ministry outside the four walls of the church.

Deacon Marc Genty

Eucharistic Visitors

St. Luke's has a wonderful team of three Eucharistic Visitors who week-after-week take Communion to those who are absent from our Table. On average, they visit three-to-four people each. The Canons of the Church stipulate that in parishes where a deacon is present, she or he is responsible for heading up this ministry. At St. Luke's this means that the Reverend Deacon Marc Genty has this privilege.

The ministry of the Eucharistic Visitor literally dates back to the earliest days of the church. It is a quiet and often invisible ministry. On any given Sunday, you can find these folks sitting in a hospital room, a nursing home, by a bedside, and, as is common with most ministries, what these visitors receive is far greater than what they give. We are a people of story, and the folks who are visited touch the hearts of the Eucharistic Visitors and gift them with their stories. These are sacred gifts of blessing.

This is also a sacramental and iconic ministry. The Eucharistic Visitor, in extending our Table to those who are absent, reminds each of us that we are to take and share the Christ, whom we receive each Sunday in the Eucharist, to all those we encounter in the world in our daily life and work, those whose lives are closely linked with ours in this tapestry of faith.

Deacon Marc Genty

Quilt Group

Several ladies have volunteered to make small quilts of cotton fabric suitable for infants as well as adults for their Baptisms. When some ladies were no longer available to do this we held a Quilt Exhibit in the Chapel to show people what we were doing and to solicit more help. This was very productive. Six new people were added making a total of ten to do this beautiful work for families and for the church and the Lord. It was decided to exhibit the quilt for presentation near the Font. This allows everyone interested to see the quilt/s ready for the service. Name labels are applied on all quilts for the one to be Baptised. The quilt also contains a church shield and a heart-shaped label designating the sponsor of the Baptismal quilts.

The loss of one talented quilter, Shirley Smith, provided memorial funds. Her family decided to allow some of these funds to be used for the Quilting Ministry.

Mildred C. Weidemann
Coordinator, 266-9330

Altar Guild

Two Altar Guild members were appointed to be Co-Directresses. They are Debbie Vessey and Mildred Weidemann. Together they have supervised four Altar Guild Teams who each have a Team Leader. Leaders include Marian Pike, Mildred Weidemann, Jana Parker, and Vera Clark. There are a total of 19 women who share the duties of Altar Guild. They meet regularly on either Friday or Saturday mornings to prepare for the Sunday services. Additional services include funerals, weddings, Christmas, Easter, and Lent. Duties include buying supplies for the Sacristy, preparing for Baptisms, setting up for church services, washing and ironing linens, polishing silver, maintaining equipment such as banners, changing banners, sweeping flies from around the altar, dusting, candles and holders, etc.

Directions for the Altar Guild are received from Deacon Marc Genty when we have questions.

In preparation for a smooth transition when Father Andrew Cooley came to St. Luke's as Interim Priest, the Altar Guild was hosted by Phyllis Schrader at a morning coffee at her home in September. This seemed to provide the necessary communication needed for the Altar Guild as well as for Father Cooley.

This ministry is provided through the thoughtful participation of members for the Glory to God.

Mildred C. Weidemann, Directress

970-266-9330

Social Ministries

The mission of the St. Luke's Social Ministries Committee is to support, empower, and encourage the people of St. Luke's in our shared baptismal ministry of seeking and serving Christ in all persons, striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being. This ministry is carried out in the world, especially to those living outside our usual perspective or sphere of influence. Our committee currently has 9 members with Marc Genty and Judy Crosby acting as co-chairs. We are seeking new members at this time.

This year the Committee sponsored a collection of school supplies for Bauder Elementary School. This school has a population with 40% of students on free or reduced lunch program. This collection is always well supported by the congregation. Samaritans Purse "Operation Christmas Child" was held in October with 40 shoeboxes collected. In late November and early December we collected gifts for 10 families in need. Included in the 10 families were 26 children. We delivered the gifts that were requested by each family (new clothing, new toys and grocery gift cards) to the Salvation Army where each family also received a frozen turkey and other food items for a holiday meal. The turkey and the food were provided by the Food Bank for Larimer County which is supported by St. Luke's by a food collection the first Sunday of every month. In 2011 we donated 2,293 pounds of food. A book study sponsored by the Committee. The Hole in Our Gospel by Richard Stearn encourages readers to read the Bible and to understand that the passages instructing the readers to help the sick, poor, widowed, imprisoned is relevant to readers today. We had 12 participants. The Committee also initiated a glove, hat and warm socks drive for the good folks at Common Cathedral and had a wonderful response from the congregation.

For a year and half, participants of the Committee having been working on a project that will have St. Luke's hosting up to four homeless families for 1 week at a time approximately every 3 months. The program is called Faith Family Hospitality and St. Luke's will be one of approximately 13 congregations in Fort Collins to provide this ministry. We will provide an evening meal and a place to sleep and a take-away breakfast for these families. Our first rotation will be the first week of March 2012. This will be a very hands-on effort, require about 55 volunteers per rotation and is a new direction for St. Luke's in terms of ministry. Volunteers from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran church will be co-hosting with St. Luke's and we are looking forward to sharing this ministry with them.

We operated on a very small budget of \$2,075.00. This year we paid a \$75.00 membership fee to the Fort Collins Interfaith Council and also a covenant of \$1,500.00. We felt that this \$1,500.00 would have a greater impact on our community when combined with money from other participating churches in the Council and is paid out in grants to local social service agencies. We also donated \$500.00 to the Salvation Army. A parish survey indicated that 50% of respondents thought St. Luke's should be more involved in outreach ministry. This committee hopes that the budget will soon reflect that intention.

Judy Crosby

GREETERS MINISTRY

The following are the mission and instructions for greeters at St. Luke's Episcopal Church:

A Greeter extends a warm, loving welcome to all newcomers and visitors and to all of the members of St. Luke's Episcopal Church – before and after all services, including special services. Our ministry involves ensuring that newcomers receive special attention and leave wanting to return to our church. In our service as greeter, we may be the ones who say the special words that help bring the newcomer to Christ. In addition, we set the welcoming and friendly tone of entry to St. Luke's. Be sure to note those who indicate that they are newcomers and make sure that we are available to get their contact information and answer any questions. Please remember, though, that we are all greeters, whether or not we are officially serving in that role.

There are 9 church members who greet at the first service (one or two at each service) and 26 who greet at the second service (two at each service). All greeters are available to greet at special services. We schedule on a quarterly basis and welcome new volunteers at any time.

Our hope for the future is to consistently interact with guests, newcomers, and current members of St. Luke's to help create an environment for a meaningful and fulfilling spiritual and worship experience. We also hope to more effectively coordinate and interact with the ushers and the re-emerging Welcoming Committee to further this goal.

Christine Moorcroft