

2011: A new year of mission giving

For thirteen years St. Luke's has offered a mission giving program called Mission of the Month. Twelve months of the year we support the five UCC offerings, and eight other missions—some local, national and global.

In 2011 we have added four new missions: Habitat for Humanity Haiti, MANNA (*Metropolitan AIDS Neighborhood Nutrition Alliance*), Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation, and IMPACT Services. We hope more people will support our Mission of the Month in 2011 as our mission giving has been on the decline in the last few years. So if you hadn't thought about joining the Mission of the Month program—why not give it a try.

January's Mission of the Month is Habitat for Humanity Haiti which has 26 years of experience serving families in Haiti. It has provided more than 2,000 families with housing solutions (1,794 of which are new homes) through a variety of initiatives including projects for new home construction, progressive building, and home improvements.

Chorale Rehearsals



We want to thank Emily and the Chorale members for all the special music that they brought to us on Christmas Eve.

With not many times to rehearse due to meetings, special services, etc. the Chorale did a great job in preparing for Christmas Eve and the Festive Service on December 19th. Even though the Chorale sounded great, the members themselves feel they need more than two times a month to rehearse—and so does Pastor Lois and Emily. Pastor Lois has asked Emily to increase her Sundays from two to three so that we can have Emily's talents on the piano and organ more often, have chorale rehearsals three times a month—and have the chorale sing more during the worship service. "The challenge, says Emily, "is to be able to get the rehearsals in as there is usually always something happening after worship." But, we're going to give it another try in 2011 and ask that on the Sundays that chorale rehearsals take place that folks get their refreshments and be ready to start rehearsing by 12 noon.



Birthdays of the Month January Birthdays

Kitty Miller	7
Emily Guendelsberger	7
Ricky Rossi	7
Gavin R. White	10
Donna Cayford	13

Nice to hear from...

Evelyn Sonet ~
Barbara Weidman
Gavin & Rose White



Christmas Eve 2010

It was a delight to see so many of our members, friends, and visitors in church on Christmas Eve. Over 70 were present to sing the familiar carols, hear the Christmas story and bask in the glow of candlelight.

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St. Luke's United Church of Christ

January 2011

Ordination of Two Elders

We are excited to announce that St. Luke's will be ordaining two new elders on **Sunday, January 16th**. Greg Weeman has been faithfully serving our church since he first joined in September 2006 and has served on the consistory for three years, sings in the chorale, organizes the ushers and greeters, and is always ready to help where needed. Lynne Fiato joined St. Luke's in January 2008 and has been active since she first walked in the door. She is a great asset to our church through her involvement with the soup kitchen, and in everything else Lynne does from hospitality to fundraising, and more.

We hope you will join us as we ordain two new elders and install consistory members. Following the worship service will be our annual congregational meeting at 12 noon. We will reflect on 2010, acknowledge the anxiety of our time, and dare to dream for 2011. We will receive year-end reports and approve the budget for 2011. See you on the 16th!

Soup Kitchen News

Our mission of feeding the homeless is something we take seriously at St. Luke's. For over twenty-plus years our church has been providing hot meals, bag lunches and "Gifts of Warmth" to the economically challenged in the Frankford section of Philadelphia.

On Christmas Day, the NECH board members and folks from St. Luke's and other organizations were present to feed and serve 49 people a really good meal. According to Ivy Horsfall, NECH secretary, "The diners were treated to generous slices of roast beef, tender and juicy, mounds of fresh mashed potatoes whipped with butter and milk, and green

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Prayer and Reflection

You are invited to join this group of spiritual seekers for conversation on Monday evening, **January 3** at 7 p.m. Over a hot cup of tea, we discuss our lives and the events of the world within the context of our spiritual journeys. You are always welcome to come and experience "sacred space." We meet in the Pastor's study the first Monday of every month.



Resolve to live by grace

Your worth is more than your ability to live by lots of rules. Forgive your failures, but learn and grow from them. January 1 is just a date on the calendar. February 1 and March 1 can make excellent start-over points.

Flying Angel Dedication

It was a beautiful day when Flying Angel made St. Luke's her permanent home thanks to the generosity of Carol Radich who gave our church such a wonderful gift.

On Sunday, November 14th, a special worship service was held to dedicate the Flying Angel sculpture. Friends and family of Pastor Chris were present, including Chris' father, Woody. The service was filled with music by the chorale, an original poem written by David Schubert, the laying on of hands on the sculpture by everyone in the congregation, and an inspiring message by Pastor Lois on Angels Among Us. Following the service everyone enjoyed a time of conversation and refreshments.



Dedication of "Flying Angel."
Photo by Colleen R. Ott

Soup Kitchen Update (Continued from page 1)

beans. There was even an assortment of Tasty Cakes and Richardson's Strawberry Ice Cream for dessert and hot coffee and tea."

We thank our St. Luke's members who volunteered their time to serve the diners the Saturday after Thanksgiving, on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. And we thank Lynne Fiato for her dedication and organizing skills. With caring folks like Lynne and many others at St. Luke's our mission to the homeless will continue for many years to come.

In 2011 our schedule for feeding the homeless is: January 8, April 9, July 2, September 24 and December 17.

If you would like to help out at the **January 8th** soup kitchen feeding, sign up or speak to Lynne or Pastor Eve.

Flying Angel's Wing

Time and labor cannot transcend

Love sprit that lies within

For we know this vessel holds

Hearts like flowers waiting to unfold

Flowers blossoms springs of hope

Enrich the soil where gardens grow

Family will all take hands

And come together around sacred land

For the one's we miss are with us now

We can see them here in misted cloud

Remember your baptism we'd hear aloud

As tear drops fell from skies with love

Take us back to all those days

Take our hands, we ask, we pray

Remember your baptism with drops of love

Holding near from skies above

Let this sprit fill our hearts

To ensure in time we never part

Let us find this journey's path

To know our hearts are true at last

Bless the sprit that lies within

When angels come we hear them sing

Fly these angels from with in

Fly these angels, and let them sing



—written by
David Schubert
for the Dedication
of Flying Angel,
November 14, 2010

Dear Ones,

"I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back. So let's keep focused on that goal, those of us who want everything God has for us. If any of you have something else in mind, something less than total commitment, God will clear your blurred vision—you'll see it yet! Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it." Philippians 3: 12-16,
The Message

2010 has been an unforgettable year at St. Luke's. As a community we have experienced joy, sorrow, loss, growth, laughter and tears. We have walked with angels. We have held one another close. We have come a long way.

2011 is bright with promise...can you see it? Yes, there is a great deal that the new year holds that is unknown to us, it's true. But God is with us in the journey. And it is God's presence that makes all the difference.

As we venture forth into 2011, I would like to suggest that now is the time to shed those things that are no longer useful to us: old hurts, grudges and fears, ways of relating that no longer work, thoughts that diminish hope and keep us clinging to the past...

And as we release what we no longer need, we can then embrace what is new and possible: change, growth, new relationships...perhaps even a new identity. All things are possible, because God is with us and for us and wants us to move forward together in hope.

I am looking forward to what is to come!

Let's embrace the new year together....

Love always,

Lois

*"Thank you!" from
Pastor Lois*

Dear St. Luke's family,

Thank you for the lovely cards and gifts that you so generously gave to me and my family this Christmas season.

Your generosity and love are a great blessing!

Love,
Pastor Lois

Special Thanks...

Christmas is a special season filled with music, food and gifts of service. I am so grateful for all of the hard work that was done by so many to make Christmas special at St. Luke's. To Emily, the St. Luke's Chorale, those who prepared food and helped serve and clean up for the Christmas Tea, those who participated in our Sunday services, those who contributed "gifts of warmth" and fed the hungry...and to all who came to be a part of our worship, fellowship and community service this Christmas season...THANK YOU! YOU are what make St. Luke's a special place.