

Spring Clean Up Day

It was a cloudy day on May 14th for our annual Spring clean up day—but for the dozen or so folks who came out to paint, polish weed, repair and clean it was a fantastic day. Everyone arrived early and got to work. *Lynne Fiato, Carolyn Pastore* and *Pat Ryer* painted all the radiator covers, *Michael Williams* weeded the entire church property, *Eve Kenny, Olesia*, and *Janet Kistner* polished the brass candelabra and offering plates, *David Schubert* caulked the stained glass rainbow window, *Janice Benz & Clare Upham* and Clare's grandson *Thomas*, polished the pews, piano and organ, *Greg Weeman* and *Bob Bender* washed the windows and *Cookie Catinella* bleached and scrubbed the floor in the breezeway. If we missed anyone else that was there—we thank you and all our workers! After a hard day of work everyone enjoyed pizza and a chance to rest. We thank everyone who gave up their Saturday to make our church sparkle and shine.

June Mission of the Month

On Sunday, June 12—Pentecost—we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. Your gift to Strengthen the Church, which can be given anytime in June, builds the UCC's future now by funding The Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation—especially among women and people of color. The God is Stillspeaking Ministry spreads the message of God's extravagant welcome, reaching out especially to those who have felt

there is no room for them within Christianity and the church—the excluded and alienated, the spiritually homeless, the questioning. In the last three years, Stillspeaking reached an estimated 25 million people through national, regional and local advertising including registering over 3,000 Stillspeaking Voices committed to the growth of the message and membership of the United Church of Christ.



Birthdays
This Month

June Birthdays

<i>Traci Straube</i>	4
<i>Marian Rossi</i>	13
<i>Angie Reyes</i>	15
<i>Bob Reilly</i>	16
<i>Lillian Hamman</i>	17
<i>Lynn Legel</i>	18
<i>Greg Weeman</i>	23
<i>Chet Derr</i>	26
<i>Pat Herbsleb</i>	27

June Anniversary

Rich & Mary Keeler 14

Hold in Prayer

We offer continued healing prayers for *Cookie Catinella* who had surgery for the removal of a cyst on May 23rd and for *Lynne Fiato* who had surgery to remove a portion of her kidney on May 25th. We pray for their quick and complete healing.

A publication of
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The Comma

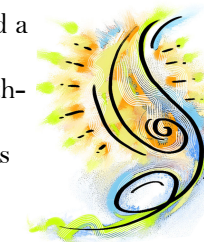


St. Luke's United Church of Christ

June 2011

Pentecost Celebration June 12th @ 10:30 a.m.

Pentecost: the birthday of the church and a symbol of new life in the Christian church. This year we will celebrate the birthday of the church and new life by receiving new members. A number of new worshipers have expressed an interest in becoming a part of our special community here at St. Luke's. We are excited that new life is happening in our midst; and we will celebrate more new life with the Sacrament of Baptism. We hope you will be here to join the celebration and don't forget to wear something **red!**



Service of Installation

In May the Committee on Ministry granted Pastor Trent ministerial standing in the Philadelphia Association. That is wonderful news because we can now begin to plan for Pastor Trent's Installation service which will be held on **Sunday, July 10** at 3 p.m. This is a very special time in the life of the church and we know you will want to be here on that day to show your support to Pastor Trent and his family and friends. In addition to Pastor Trent's family, clergy from the Conference and Philadelphia Association will be present for this auspicious event.



So mark your calendars for July 10th, plan to wear something cool on that day, and come and celebrate with Pastor Trent.

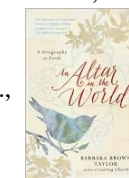
"Everything Strawberry" Sunday, June 19

To celebrate all the good things of summer—sun, sand, swimming and big sweet strawberries—there will be an "Everything Strawberry" social after the worship service on **Sunday, June 19th**. Bring a strawberry treat and let's see what strawberry creations you can whip up (or buy!) to fill our "Everything Strawberry" table.



Study Group

An *Altar in the World* book study discussion will look at the next 6 chapters in June. Chapters 7-9 will be discussed on Wed., June 8, and chapters 10-12 will be discussed on Wed., June 22. Studies begin at 7:30 p.m.



Fellowship Picnic

This year instead of our usual night of Miniature Golf and time of fellowship and conversation in Janet Kistner's backyard, we'll have a Picnic. The George family has invited everyone to their home on **Saturday, June 18th** at 1 p.m. for a picnic/barbeque. Bill will grill up some hot-dogs and hamburgers for all—all you need to bring is a salad, e.g. potato, pasta or macaroni or some sort or a side dish.



Besides eating and enjoying the sunshine there will be games—and if they get the pool up—swimming. Robyn says that their backyard is also handicapped accessible for anyone with difficulty maneuvering steps. The Georges' live at 1313 Church Street in the Frankford section of Philadelphia.

It promises to be a fun afternoon—so sign up today.

Retreat for Elders and Consistory

In February the Consistory members—all seven of them—traveled to Collegetown to attend a workshop called, "Small is Sensational." The workshop, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, featured Rev. Cindy Bagley who is a pastor of a small church in New Hampshire and has successfully turned her church's thinking around. The workshop was so interesting that the Consistory members wanted to have a retreat with the elders to delve further into how St. Luke's can be a sensational church.

A day has been set aside for a day-long retreat/workshop at the church. All elders and Consistory members are encouraged to attend the retreat on **Saturday, June 25**, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

New Multi-media Projector

Our worship service has something new: a multi-media projector. Pastor Trent wanted to use power-point presentations to add a new dimension to the service. With the projector we now have songs, art work—just about anything to enhance the worship experience.

We thank Pat Ryer for granting permission to use the funds from Gladys Ryer's memorial to purchase the projector.

Transfer of Membership

Todd LaFlame is excited to say that he has found a church in Florida that he now wants to call "home." Todd will become a member of Windermere Union Church UCC on Sunday, June 5th. "Windermere Union" says Todd, "is a church much like St. Luke's and is on the way to becoming a progressive church." Though we miss Todd, we know he will bring his many gifts to his new found church community.

UCC Coalition praises PCUSA's vote to allow gay, lesbian pastors

The vote by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) May 10th allowing the ordination of openly gay and lesbian ministers is being hailed by LGBT leaders in the United Church of Christ as another major milestone in the journey for justice.

"The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns welcomes the PCUSA to the growing family of churches that have removed barriers to the ordination of LGBT candidates for ministry," said Andy Lang, the Coalition's executive director. "We celebrate the years of hard work and courage that led our partner in the Reformed communion to this day—and especially the leadership of More Light Presbyterians.

The PCUSA joins at least 10 other Reformed churches that welcome LGBT clergy, including ancestral churches in the Netherlands, Switzerland and Germany, said Lang in the statement. "But this victory also reminds us that our ultimate goal still lies in the future; a day when all of our churches will welcome everyone, and exclude no one," he said. The change, which opens the possibility that people in same-sex relationships can be considered for ordination, is expected to take effect July 10. It is the latest move by a Protestant denomination toward the inclusion of gay and lesbian clergy.

In 1972, the UCC ordained the Rev. William R. Johnson as the denomination's first openly gay pastor.

In August 2009, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) voted to eliminate a ban on partnered gay clergy and committed to allow people in same-sex relationships to serve as church leaders. The nation's largest Lutheran denomination had previously permitted openly gay and lesbian clergy as long as they remained celibate.

Last year, the Episcopal Church consecrated its first openly lesbian bishop—the Rev. Mary-Glasspool of Los Angeles—in the face of objections from some conservative Anglicans.

The Twin Cities Area presbytery, which covers Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., became the 87th presbytery—and the deciding vote—to approve an amendment that will remove the constitutional requirement that all ministers, elders and deacons live in "fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness."

"I see this as an opportunity to build a stronger church. Faithful and qualified lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Presbyterians will be able to openly serve the church with energy, intelligence, imagination and love," said the Rev. Janet Edwards, a Presbyterian pastor in Pittsburgh.

According to the church's website, the PCUSA has 2.3 million members in 50 states and Puerto Rico.

From Our Minister of Healing & Wholeness



During the month of May, I have been in touch with a few of our members who have been unable to join us for Worship here in our church building.

They are as follows:

- *Helen Johnson* has been in and out of hospitals and rehabs since the end of January. Her last return home was during the 2nd week of May and she is scheduled to receive physical therapy at home.
- *Hannah Franz* is a member of St. Luke's from our days at 26th & Girard. Hannah has never attended a service here at "11080". She is a resident at Altman Retirement Community in Ambler. Hannah tells me how much she enjoys playing games on her computer and loves to read.
- *Evelyn Sonet* (formerly Davis). We always see Evelyn's name in the "Nice to Hear From" column in The Comma, but this is the first I have spoken with Evelyn in a while. She no longer drives, and had knee replacement surgery last year—but still has a lot of pain. Evelyn has a special mechanism on her phone to assist her with her hearing when she receives a call. Her son Eddy, resides in a Group Home with two other men and is doing very well.
- *Emily Yemm*—We do get to see Emily occasionally, and I get to talk with her frequently. Emily lives at Simpson House and loves it there.

It is my plan to write something on a quarterly basis. So, see you in September.

May God bless you with God's Healing!
Pastor Eve

Father's Day Memorials to Help Vets

This year's Father's Day memorials will again be used to help veterans. Your donations will be sent to the Philadelphia Veterans Multi-Service & Education Center, that provides employment, training, and related educational services to Veterans, regardless of their station in life. They also provide social and human services counseling and referrals to less fortunate clients experiencing barriers in finding their way back into the mainstream of society.

Nice to Hear From . . .

We're always happy to hear from our members and friends who cannot be with us in person, but send their love and support through their cards and calls and offerings.

Evelyn Sonet
Barbara Weidman
Beulah Behm
Gavin White

*F*riends,

This past Sunday, I had the privilege of preaching the Installation service for my dear friend, Rev. Manda Adams, the newly elected Associate Pastor at First Congregational Church in Ithaca, NY. Installation is a special day in the life of a church; in the United Church of Christ, we gather with the Association and our ecumenical friends and celebrate our covenant together as a community of faith. The Philadelphia Association will be installing me as your Pastor and Teacher on Sunday, July 10th. I look forward to this celebration of our new ministry together! I thought I would share a portion of my sermon with you, which was focused on our call to create a community of welcome and hospitality.

These words from Paul won't quite let us go so easily—"welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed you." The church has been called to be an altogether different kind of place from the rest of the world, a unique place of welcome, that embodies the radical welcome and hospitality of God's realm—a place where there are no barriers because of race, or gender, or sexuality, or any other barriers that human beings erect to keep some in and some out. The church has been called to welcome the creation that God so loves and is redeeming, because God in Christ has already welcomed all of us. That's the kind of community that we are called to build.

Manda can certainly tell you about the difference that a welcoming community can make; from growing up in the conservative Churches of Christ, where women's voices and leadership were not welcome, to the Brookline Church of Christ in Boston, which first welcomed her voice and began to nurture her call to ministry, to Hope Church in Boston, where she was welcomed as a valued member of the leadership team, and through her journey to seminary and the communities at Cathedral of Hope and First Congregational Church in Fort Worth; she knows what it means to be welcomed and nurtured as a child of God and someone called to Christian ministry. And now, to this community of faith; I give thanks for you, First Congregational Church, for the public welcome that you have extended as an ONA congregation, for the community that you have committed yourself to build, and for recognizing the gifts that Manda brings and calling her, welcoming her, to minister among you and with you.

I give thanks for you, St. Luke's UCC, for the commitment you have made to welcome all people, and I'm very excited about our future together!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Trent