

UCC celebrates extravagant welcome through 'Each One Bring One Sunday' during Mission: 1

Building on the success of last year's Friend-Raising Weekend, the UCC will hold "Each One Bring One Sunday", Nov. 6, 2011, where UCC members are asked to invite friends and family to join them for worship.

"Once again, we are asking our congregations to get excited to reach out and invite others to worship with them at church," says the Rev. Felix Carrión, coordinator of the UCC's Stillspeaking Ministry. "By celebrating this Sunday together, the hope is that this special effort will become a practice throughout the year. We hope churches will recognize that welcome and hospitality is a ministry in itself."

"Each One Bring One Sunday" falls during "Mission: 1," the UCC's 11-day campaign to raise awareness and aid to combat food-related injustice. During "Mission: 1," Nov. 1-11, churches will donate 1 million healthy food items to local pantries; raise \$111,111 for national food-related justice ministries and \$111,111 for East Africa famine relief; and send 11,111 letters about food-related justice to Congress as part of Bread for the World's "Offering of Letters" campaign.

"What a great opportunity for our churches to show their involvement in local, national and global ministry to visitors they've invited to worship," says Carrión.

Research suggests that three out of four people attend a church for the first time because they were invited. However, less than two percent of church members will ever invite someone to church. If only 10 percent of the more than 1.1 million UCC members bring a friend to church Nov. 6, some 110,000 additional visitors will be welcomed in church that day.

"This is an occasion to join together in a purposeful effort to share the gift of extravagant welcome," Carrión says. "We need to be intentional, consistent and excited about invitation."

Anniversaries

Don & Joan Coverdale

October 10



Nice to hear from...

Beulah Behm

Evelyn Sonet

Barbara Weidman

Gavin White

October Birthdays

Kelly Magee 1

Bertba Ader 2

Christine Schoener 23

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St. Luke's

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St. Luke's United Church of Christ

October 2011

Theology at the Theater— Thursday, Oct. 6, 7:30 PM – 8:45 PM

Pastor Trent will kick-off the first in a six-month series where his love of film will be on display beyond the casual mention in his weekly sermons. Attendance at houses of worship nationwide has been declining for years, but many of the same themes discussed in the world's major religions play out on the big screen whether at the local theater or in the home theater. Bring a friend for what promises to be fun, lively and educational! In October, we will look specifically at questions raised about faith & belief. Is this all there is, or is there something more? We'll meet right here at St. Luke's.



Stewardship Campaign

"Give and it will be given you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." —Luke 6:38

During the month of October, we will be focusing on stewardship, and our collective call to be good stewards of St. Luke's and the ministries that make us a unique place to worship, serve, and gather as God's people. Each week we will have a variation on the theme of *"Count Yourself Blessed,"* and we will hear a brief stewardship testimony during worship. We hope you will reflect on the testimonies of our people and how, you too, are blessed—and how St. Luke's blesses your life. We will culminate our Stewardship campaign on **Sunday, October 23rd** when we dedicate the pledges.

Getting the Word Out About St. Luke's



If you're a Facebook user, make sure to "Like" our page: www.facebook.com/stlukesphilly to stay on top of all that is going on in our church community, see news that is of interest, and even find inspiration during the week. Also, you are welcome to "like" any comment, event or posting and you are definitely welcome to comment as well!

Finally, if you are a Smartphone user and have the Facebook app, make sure to "check-in" each time you are at St. Luke's or at one of our events. Comment on what you enjoyed, wish to discuss, thoughts after a sermon, whatever!

All of these are free and easy ways for us to make sure people know we are here, and that we are a welcoming and vibrant community!

Blessing of the Animals— Sunday, October 9, 10:30 AM

By law, pets are property. To us, they are integral to our family and personal lives. Animals are creatures we share our planet with and even portions of our life's narrative with. All God's creatures are welcome in our sanctuary for our annual Blessing of the Animals service, where we give thanks for, and bless those special creatures in our lives. Bring your pet (a picture of them, or even your favorite stuffed animal)! Bring a fellow animal lover too!

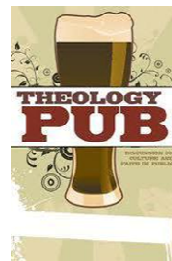


And, when you come to church next Sunday for Blessing of the Animals, whether you bring your animal companion or not, we're asking that you please bring a cleaning supply item (bleach, dish soap, sponges, paper towels, etc.). These items will be delivered to the National Greyhound Adoption Program located on Dutton Road in the Northeast. NGAP has 70+ greyhounds that are awaiting adoption and need to be cared for on a daily basis. To learn more about NGAP go to www.ngap.org



Theology Pub Topic: Is the Bible Still Relevant? — Thursday, Oct. 27, 7:30 PM

We had over a dozen people turn out for our informal gathering in September. We kept having to add more tables and chairs (and the nachos received rave reviews)! An intergenerational and lively group discussed the growing number of Americans who identify themselves as "Spiritual But Not Religious". A logical follow-up discussion on whether or not the Bible is still relevant to a modern world is on for this month. Bring a friend, or come out and make new ones. We meet at Katie O'Donnell's, 4501 Woodhaven Road.



Fall Fundraiser

Before long the leaves will be falling and it will be time to put away our grills for another year. Yes, that means cooking indoors again! Why not think about stocking up your freezer with Fisher's Potpies and entrées for the winter.

The proceeds from the sale of potpies will go to the "Raise the Roof" offering to enable us to help pay down our UCC Cornerstone Loan.

The last day to get your orders in are **Sunday, October 30**. Potpies will be available for pick up after worship on **Sunday, November 6th**.



Order forms are located in the church narthex.

Paying down our loan

Wondering how we're doing paying down our UCC Cornerstone Loan? We're doing tremendous thanks to those who make extra-mile offerings each month and the sale of Fisher's Potpies. In just seven years we have paid off all but \$3,800 of the \$50,000 loan.

Support the October Mission of the Month

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering that supports works of justice and compassion in the United States and abroad. Two-thirds of the Neighbors In Need receipts support program initiatives and direct grants offered through the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. More directly, Neighbors in Need makes available grants up to \$3,000 twice a year. Please give generously this October to the Neighbors in Need offering.

Read about one of the recipients of the NIN grants:

Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ

Understanding their call to work and witness for justice and peace, 2010 NIN grant receiver, Church of the Apostles United Church of Christ (COAUCC) of Lancaster, PA uncovered a new purpose. They discovered in the local newspaper a ministry to at-risk adolescents as an alternative to street gang membership. The ministry, DigIt, teaches life skills through youth centered programs with a focus on sustainable agriculture. Following the prompting of the Holy Spirit, contacts were made, relationships were built and a partnership ensued.

In March 2010, COAUCC offered part of their 21 acre green space at no rental fee to DigIt so the organization could add gardening space to grow, harvest, and sell more produce while transforming the lives of area youth. COAUCC fertilized, plowed and tilled the soil at no cost. DigIt promotes gardening without chemicals and pesticides. Harvested vegetables are sold in the city. Produce is also taken to urban low cost housing communities and sold at affordable prices door to door.

According to COAUCC Senior Pastor, the Rev. Rebecca Meyer transformational experiences arose within the church from their work with DigIt. "Three distinct generations shared gardening space and social interactions began. Relationships developed slowly and intentionally. We are taking small successful steps. Regrettably, we note that racism is alive and well. So as God transforms our congregation, God continues to nudge our conscience toward loving 'the other'. Change takes time. We know it will come gradually with lots of 'God moments' which were not part of 'our plan'. This serves to let us know that God is still speaking and if we watch and listen, the transformation in us will be revealed."

The enterprise between Church of the Apostles UCC and DigIt underscores the core values of UCC: changing lives, continuing testament and extravagant welcome. To learn more about COAUCC visit <http://www.apostlesucc.org/>. For more info on DigIt visit <http://www.thresholdpa.org/>.



Count Yourself Blessed (Continued from page 3)

asking you to give. Not just to sustain an institution or pay an electric bill, but to build a circle that welcomes the stranger, to create a place of comfort and inspiration, to reach out and to bless others. Because we have been so richly blessed ourselves. St. Luke's needs your help, especially during these tough times. You should, by now, have received a letter detailing our stewardship campaign that we'll be experiencing during this month. Included in that letter are two pledge cards—a monetary pledge, and a time & talent pledge. Please consider making a pledge this year, so that we can continue to sustain our ministries and envision new ways to reach out. So, my friends, count yourself blessed. And help us to be a blessing.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Trent

Philadelphia Association Fall Meeting

It's been many a year since St. Luke's was the host church for a Philadelphia Association meeting. So, it was quite an honor to be asked to host the fall meeting on **Sunday, October 23rd**. Clergy, delegates and visitors from the 20+ churches that make up the Philadelphia Association will be here for a time of business, worship and a meal. If you have never experienced a taste of the wider church—we encourage you to attend and see for yourself how God is still speaking in our Association.

After the business and worship portion of the meeting there will be a light meal for all those at the meeting. St. Luke's folks are most welcome to attend, also. The cost is \$5. If planning to come, please speak to Janet McManus so we know how to plan for the meal.

We do need folks willing to help out with the meal portion of the meeting. There's all sorts of things to be done to set up for the meal and we need desserts and other items. We've put a sign up sheet on the bulletin board listing the areas where you can be of assistance.

Let's show the Philadelphia Association that "hospitality" is our middle name.

"Welcoming the Stranger" International Dinner

You are invited to a great night of international food and entertainment on **Saturday, October 15, 6 p.m.** at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 1200 Park Ave., Bensalem. Cost is \$20 (\$25 at the door). To make reservations contact Rich Keeler at 215.245.7067.



Scrip for the Holidays

Scrip merchandise cards make great gifts for all the folks on your holiday shopping list; and they make your holiday gift-giving a lot easier.



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Please speak to Lynne Fiato if you have questions or to place your order for Scrip gift cards.

Count Yourself Blessed

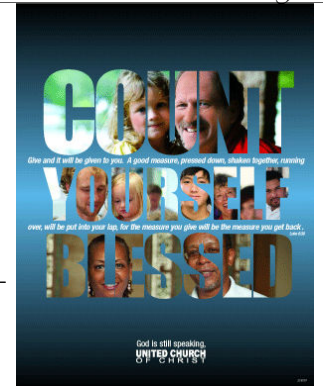
Friends,

We've entered into the fall at last, and although summer weather has been hanging on for a little while, we are beginning to experience the first signs of autumn—the crispness in the air, the changing of leaves, and the approach of the holiday season, which will be here before we know it. We are also entering a new time in the life of the church—with summer over, we have begun to see the return of some of our friends who have been away, and we are witnessing the launch of a new series of programs and beginning to gear up for all the hustle and bustle of the Advent and Christmas seasons, and the anticipation of seeing friends and family, both old and new.

We are also at that time of the church year when we think about our budget and finances for the coming year. The Consistory and the Finance Committee are already hard at work on your behalf, looking back over the past year and planning for 2012—our needs, our expenses, and our stewardship of this incredible community called St. Luke's. This is also the time of the year when we ask you, the members and friends of St. Luke's, to think about your own stewardship and what this community means to you.

Throughout the scriptures, we hear the refrain time and time again: count yourself blessed. This year's stewardship theme from the United Church of Christ call us to hear again some of these stories and be reminded of all the ways that we have experienced blessing—from God, from one another, and from this community of faith. How has St. Luke's blessed you over the years? Perhaps you were welcomed and made to feel at home when no other faith community would welcome you. Perhaps you were comforted in a time of need, uplifted or inspired in a worship service, or experienced the joy of giving to those in need. We do some incredible ministries here—many of you have participated in our feedings at St. Mark's, creating an experience of dining with dignity for those experiencing difficult times in their lives. We create an atmosphere of welcome and hospitality that is unlike any other church community I've ever experienced. We've experienced the presence of God in powerful ways through worship and study, and been inspired to go deeper with our faith journey. All of these things are made possible by your gifts.

I know that we live in difficult economic times, and many of you have felt the brunt of the turmoil in our economy. But many of you have also experienced life changing moments in this place, and it's precisely now more than ever that a place like St. Luke's is desperately needed. There are many people in our neighborhood and city that are hurting or alone, that feel rejected or lost, that need a home and a circle of friends that is sustained by the presence of God's light. And so, we're



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