
The Lifeline

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Shawnee, Kansas

July/August 2008

Musings from the Rector

On June 8-13, I spent a week at Camp Wood serving as the chaplain for the junior-high Episcopal campers. This was the third year in a row that I have done so. For the most part, this year's camp experience was no different from my previous two: I offered a Bible study for the Episcopal staff members each morning; I led worship each afternoon (either Holy Communion or Evening Prayer) which included a sermon; and I officiated at Compline each evening before bedtime. So, I was very busy, but it was a kind of relaxed busyness, as opposed to the stressed-out busyness that has typified my life for the past six months. But one thing made this year's Camp Wood experience very different for me.

For the most part, all week the weather was lovely. Any cloudiness or rain seemed to take place during the night, leaving the days sunny and pleasant. But on Thursday evening severely bad weather threatened Camp Wood and the surrounding region. Right in the middle of Evening Prayer (right in the middle of my sermon, in fact) we were informed that we had to move into the tornado shelter, a concrete room situated in the middle of the camp's nursing cabin. It was a very secure room with a steel door, but it was really too small to accommodate our group comfortably. But there, in that nursing cabin, we spent the next three hours. Some of the time our group was able to relax in the various rooms of the nursing cabin. But two times we had to cram our whole group into the concrete tornado shelter. It was literally standing room only, and we were shoulder-to-shoulder in a space that was quickly growing too warm and too humid for comfort. Some of the campers were fine and thought it all a grand adventure, but others were growing more frightened by the minute. And if it wasn't the threat of a tornado that frightened them, it was the thought that they might have to stay in that small, cramped space any longer than necessary. But it was when things seemed their worst that we began to see the best coming out from people.

When the storm was at its worst, and we were all crammed into the concrete tornado shelter, the counselors began to lead the campers in song. We sang all of the songs we could remember, and spirits began to rise. And those

campers who weren't singing were generally "lending aide and comfort" to those who were too scared to sing. (And, if I may say, our own *Erin Sullivan* was a real standout in this regard.) And for the most part, those campers we thought most problematic – *i.e.*, the ones suffering the most from homesickness all week – seemed to be the ones holding up the best. And when we got tired of singing, another Episcopal counselor began to tell a long story; it was a story that seemed to have no plot that anyone could discern, and it was a story that seemed to have no apparent end in sight. In other words, it was the perfect story for that situation, and it held everyone's attention for quite some, and distracted them from their uncomfortable circumstances.

When the storm had finally passed, it was about 8PM and so we gathered everyone into Hutch Hall, where all our plenary gathering take place. The band struck up a rousing version of "Hallelujah, the Great Storm is Over," while the campers sang and danced and congratulated each other on their good fortune. But we really knew things would be fine when, after the campers had tired of singing and dancing, they began to ask us when dinner would be served.

I departed Camp Wood more convinced than ever that we not only have an *excellent* youth program here in the Diocese of Kansas (not to mention an *excellent* Youth Officer in Chad Senuta), but also that our youth events are being staffed and overseen by a lot of outstanding young men and women. If you have children or grandchildren who haven't yet been to Camp Wood, I cannot recommend it highly enough. Sure, the accommodations may be rough, but they will have the time of their life.

May God's grace and peace be with you all!

Fr. Jim

PS: I will be away on vacation during the months of July. Deacon Shawn Streepy will be officiating at worship services on July 6 & 13; Mother Kelly Demo will be officiating on July 20; Father Evan Ash will be officiating on July 27. Fr. Jim will be "back in the pulpit" on Sunday, August 3, and back in the office on Tuesday, August 5.

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9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

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Youth Group News!

Hey everyone!

Hope you all are enjoying this amazing summer! Here is the schedule for the Fridays and Saturdays of fun for July and August:

July 12- KC Zoo! (as long as weather will allow; if not switch with Aug. 8)- Meet @ the Luke @ noon!

July 18- Bowling!- Meet @ the Luke @ 5:30pm-8pm

July 25- NO Friday of Fun! MissionPalooza!

Aug 1- HAPPENING! NO Friday of fun!

Aug 8- Nelson Art Museum Visit- Meet @ The Luke @ 5:30pm-8pm

Aug 15- Cook out/ Arts/Crafts/Games at The Luke- @ The Luke 5:30-8pm

Aug 22- Regular youth group resumes

Feel free to bring friends to any and all of the events we're having with the youth group. College students who are back for the summer are also welcome to join and bring friends.

Hope to see you this summer!

Peace,

Christina

Christina Waggoner

Youth Group Leader

***If you do not receive e-mails from me, then I do not have your correct e-mail address. Shoot me an e-mail if you would like to get e-mails about upcoming events!*

It's a good time to be a youth at The Luke!

"Mistakes"

Some Christians don't think they are human,
They feel they don't have what it takes.
They often flounder, slip and even fall.
Then go right on making mistakes.

In private times they hate themselves,
Crying tears until their heart breaks,
They don't realize how much God loves them.
Thus he forgives them for their mistakes.

Yet an oak tree could never grow strong,
And would never have what it takes.
To stand strong against the storms,
Though an oak trees don't make mistakes.

God loves everyone of his children,
And he knows all your pains and heartaches.
Yet, just like the oak tree in the storm,
You'll grow strong and learn from your mistakes.

Written by Urban Prescott

June 14, 2008

Parish News 'n Events

Our Gardens Need Your Green Thumb

Bring your gardening tools and join Ginger Waters on the 2nd Monday (July 14) or Ginny & Dan Wheatcroft on the 4th Saturday (July 26) of each month through October. We start at 9AM and you'll be on your way home before the summer sun sets in!

St. Luke's Book Club

The Book Club next meets at the home of Shawn & Marcia Streepy (10700 W. 53rd Street; Shawnee; 631-8548), Friday, August 8, at 7PM. The book we're discussing is *Things Fall Apart*, by Chinua Achebe. Everyone is invited ... even if you haven't read the book.

Christmas in July Toy Drive

The Johnson County Christmas Bureau provides low-income families with holiday assistance each year. The Bureau relies on volunteers and donations to stock their shop shelves each Christmas. A few years ago St. Luke's collected and donated over 100 teddy bears. This year we're collecting new superhero toys and items for children of all ages. That means anything from Spiderman to Batman, action figures, games and especially younger children's toys. In the past we have collected our offerings and gifts by the baptismal fount and it made quite an addition to the sanctuary (that said, please keep the violence to a minimum). We hope to meet our goal of 100 by the end of July. Let's support the heroes of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau during July and throughout the rest of the year. *Any questions can be referred to Ellen Weaver or Marilyn Lyon.*

Children's Vitamins for VBS

Our outreach efforts during Vacation Bible School included collecting children's vitamins for a school in Haiti. You still have time to bring a bottle or two of children's vitamins (fortified with iron, please!) to church next week.

Help Wanted at Food Pantry

St. Paul's Church needs your help in their community food pantry every Saturday, 11AM 'til 2PM to stock shelves, register clients, and pass out food. However, *they are asking if the members of St. Luke's* would be willing to commit to staffing the pantry every fifth Saturday. The next dates are August 30 and November 30. If you have any questions, or want to volunteer, please contact Fr. Jim.

MissionPalooza

MissionPalooza trains teens to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. For five days young people come together in community, mission, fellowship, and worship. They spend their days in the urban mission field heeding Christ's call to feed the hungry, visit the sick, and comfort those in need. Sponsored by Episcopal Community Services of Kansas City, MissionPalooza will take place July 22-27 at St. Paul's Church in Kansas City, MO (40th & Main). *The members of St. Luke's will be providing breakfast for 80-90 persons on Thursday (July 24) morning. Jim Carl has taken a leadership position over this effort; please contact him if you can help.*

A Word from Deacon Shawn

I would like to thank everybody for their kind words and encouragement as I matriculated from my studies at the Saint Paul School of Theology. I was particularly touched that so many people showed up for the Commencement ceremonies at the Church of the Resurrection. I have been fortunate to be surrounded by such a loving, supportive community as I pursue (and accomplished, even!) my theological studies. Thanks to everyone and God bless all of you.

Since I have graduated and can now actually read for pleasure rather than for an assignment I have been reading Timothy Keller's excellent book *The Reason for God* (I know, this is a busman's holiday). Timothy Keller is the founding pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in New York City, which in the past twenty years has grown from 50 to 5000 members. His book *The Reason for God* presents an intellectual, rational and eminently sensible defense of Christian faith and of the basic doctrines of the faith, including (gasp!) modern stumbling blocks such as sin. If you occasionally meet non-Christians who seek a defense of the hope that is in your heart as a follower of Jesus or if you are just curious about the foundations of our faith, I heartily endorse this book.

Happy Birthday to You!

After the second service on July 13 and August 10, we will honor parishioners who have birthdays in those months.

Wednesday Refresher

"The Refresher" is on hiatus through the month of July, but will resume **AUGUST 6**. We gather from 12-1 PM in the parish hall for a brown-bag lunch, conversation, lesson and prayers.

Community Food Pantry

In July, they're asking for dental items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, & mouthwash. In August, the need is for peanut butter, jelly, and jam. And, as always, Best Choice labels with the bar code included can be redeemed by the pantry for 3¢ each.

Breakfast at St. Paul's

Help us prepare and serve breakfast to the poor on July 26. Meet us at St. Luke's at 8am, or at St. Paul's (18th & Washington) at 8:30am

Wanted: Summer Musicians

Do you sing or play an instrument? Would you like to share your talents this summer with us! The choir is off for the summer and it would be wonderful to have special music during the offertory! Please consider sharing your gifts with your parish family. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

He's a Hero!

"We learned today that our son, Jeremy was at a pool party for his two young children. A toddler, also at the party, fell head-first into the deep end of the pool and was heading toward the bottom of the pool. Jeremy jumped into the pool and saved the child as he was sinking to the bottom of the pool. The child did get a lot of water into the lungs, but is expected to have no problems and went home with his parents. We are so grateful and proud of him!" – Wayne Fowler

Sunday School Survey

If you have not yet done so, please complete this survey and return it to St. Luke's no later than July 6. Thank you.

To plan for Sunday School next year, we would like to review how this year went and hear your suggestions for how to improve.

Do you have children or grandchildren who attend (or could attend) St. Luke's Sunday School?

Yes

No *Even if you have no children we are interested in your comments.*

What do you think is the best time for Sunday School?

- The time it is now: 9:15-10:00 on Sunday morning.
- During the beginning of the 10:15 service (before announcement time).
- After the 10:15 service (during coffee hour).
- Sunday evening (not conflicting with youth group).
- A weekday evening.
- Other (*Please describe*):

What sort of setting do you think would be preferable?

- Traditional Sunday School classes.
- Movies with discussion.
- Intergenerational events.
- Special events:
 - Children's services.
 - Plays.
 - Field trips.
 - Workshops.
 - Other (*Please describe*):

What were the best and worst things about Sunday School this year?

What difficulties are there for attending?

Other comments:

Remember in Your Prayers ...

Health & Strength Prayer List

Our Agape Family, Alan, Vanessa Allen, Bill Allen, Gene Amos, Don & Blanche Anderson, Larry Andrews, Rob Arend, Kathy Bagby, Ted Barrett, The Rev. Donald W. Beers, The Thomas Bickle Family, Joan Boyd, Amanda & Jason Coleman, Charlotte Davis, Pat DeLong, Joanna Diviney, Joseph Eaton, Angela Evans, Jean Famuliner, Theresa Fletchall, Jennifer Gordon, Marsha Gribble, The Brad & Tammy Gridley Family, Christie Gutierrez, John Habley, June Harlow, Tom Hayselden, Toni Hernandez, Sherry Holtman, Kathy & Zach Hudon, The Hoffman Family, Colleen Hurley, Tim Janicke, Merle Johnson, Katelyn, Shane Karr, AJ Kennedy, Gail Kent, Bob Kuemmerlein, The Kurtz Family, Betty Lou Lassiter, Anne Liebst, Vic Lenoir, Steve Lynch Family, Alan McDonald, Tasha McDonald, the McElwer family, Elizabeth McGranahan, Charles McGuinn, Niki McKechnie, Karlee McQueen, Marcheschi Family, Beau & Patty Minx, Chris Mueller, John Owen, Barb Parkhurst, Lauren Perry, Katie Pejril, Amy Pfannensteil, Liz Pfeiffer, Milly Pfeilsticker Jerre Plunkett, Frank Rowan, Dwayne Sax, Jimmy Shelton, Krista Sherman, Jason & Autumn Smart, The Speicher family, Pat Smith, Helen Stambaugh, Betty Steely, Bill Super, Laura Tindel, John Urnes, Christina Waggoner, Molly Weaver, Dan Wheatcroft, Bud & Evelyn Wrede, *but especially ...* Amy Pfannensteil, Bob, Julie Ball, Ricky Holtman, Sarah Reese, Sid Morris, Katie Speicher & Family.

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully accept our prayers, and grant to these your servants the help of your power, that their sickness may be turned into health, and our sorrow into joy; in Jesus' name. Amen.

✠ In Memoriam ✠

Dorothy Shockley, Catherine Hinchey
Shirley Trotman, Logan Burgess

Father of all, we pray to you for those we love, but see no longer: Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Homebound & Shut-in

Wanda Kirkham, Annette Redler

Look with mercy, O God, on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress, or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers, and the willingness to accept their help; and, as their strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the Armed Forces

Beth Behn, John Belshe, Jonas Brown, Brett Casey, Sean Connelley, Michael Cook, Nathan Craft, Peter & Nathan Durand, Ben Dible, Amity Feliz, Brian Fiffer, Wayne Fuller, Charles Garcia, **Harvey Hayselden**, Robert Heraldez, Josh Jonas, **Benjamin Karpinski**, James LaVine, Kurt Littlejohn, Greg Marsh, Greg McBride, Kyle Nosbisch, Sam Nosbisch, Rodney Martin, Daniel Ohlstein, Barry Palmer, Quentin Peach, David Rodgers, Matt Schiffel, Bill Simiser, Jayson Smith, Andrew Stemm, Bobby Stallings, **Chris Still**, Nathan Tacha, Alan Walker, Kevin Wright.

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces, at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Amen.

Birthdays

Jim Speicher	July 5
Caren Grandgenett	6
Judy Owens	8
Charles Werly	11
Claire Gordon	11
Ellen Weaver	12
Eileen Mueller	13
Shane Jarvis	14
Pat Gray	16
Joan Boyd	17
Gary Heflin	17
Kathleen Burris	17
Dawn Sullivan	18
Carla Albertson	20
Sally McCulley	21
Greg Bergman	21
Jeanne Miller	26
Milly Pfeilsticker	28
Richard Smith	August 1
Gary Ball	2

Larry Still	4
Mary Smith	6
Stephan Mann	6
Greg Speicher	7
Matt Wood	10
Diane Rohrer	12
Matthew Sherman	13
Molly Weaver	14
Jerry Lispi	16
Jeanette Burris	21
Craig Knabel	23
Anita Bergman	24
Maxine Liebst	27
Mark Neufeld	27
Peter Kariuki	31

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on these your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life. Amen.

Anniversaries

Cindy & Jim Speicher	July 25
Greg & Anita Bergman	29
Diane & Tim Rohrer	August 13
Norm & Ginger Waters	14
Barbara & Vic Weaver	16
Tom & Nancy Hayselden	23
Monica & Victor Clarke	24
Charles & Patricia Smith	30

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon your servants, ___ and ___, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace. Amen.

Prayer List "Housekeeping"

- To add or remove names from the Health & Strength prayer list, please contact the parish office, either by phone at 631-8597, or by e-mail at parish-secretary@stlukes.net
- If your birthday or anniversary is not on this list, please contact the parish office so that we can correct this unfortunate error. Our hope and goal is to include *everyone*.

Ministry Schedule: July 2008

	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27
Altar Guild 8:00	V Clarke	B Carl	D Wallower	B Carl
Altar Guild 10:15	C Uhrmacher	C Keller	B Carl	P Jones
Acolytes 10:15	<i>None Scheduled</i>	<i>None Scheduled</i>	<i>None Scheduled</i>	<i>None Scheduled</i>
Ushers 8:00	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg
Ushers 10:15	M Jones J Darnell	A Mathew E Mathew	C Keller C Burris	J Carl V Clarke
Greeters 8:00	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg
Greeters 10:15	D Breidenthal	D Fowler	D Kissane	S & C Jarvis
Lay Ministers 8:00	S Streepy D C Werly L/Ch	S Streepy D J Carl.. L/Ch	<i>None Scheduled</i> ... D V Clarke L/Ch	<i>None Scheduled</i> . D B Carl L/Ch
Lay Ministers 10:15	S Streepy D M Neufeld V C Speicher L/I	S Streepy D B Carl V S Jarvis L/I	none scheduled D T Jones Ps/Ch C Burris Cr/Ch P Jones L/I	none scheduled .. D M Neufeld .. Ps/Ch Kate Wood .. Cr/Ch B McGuinn L/I
Lay Eucharistic Visitor	<i>None Scheduled</i>	<i>None Scheduled</i>	J & B Carl	B McGuinn S Mann
Counters	D Kahn, R Knabel, S Sullivan	J & B Carl, D Wallower	C Burris J & C Speicher	J Darnell, M Lyon, D Callaway
Godly Play	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Lawn Mowers (The week of or on Saturday)	D Kahn	C Burris	T Grandgenett	M Howard G Ball
Coffee Hosts	<i>Zone 7</i>			

Legend: D = Deacon
 L/Ch = Lector, Chalice (usually at 8 A.M. only)
 Ps/Ch = Psalm, Chalice
 Cr/Ch = Creed, Chalice
 L/I = Lector, Intercessors
 V = Vested

* Lawn Mowers are scheduled to work anytime during the week following the Sunday on which they are scheduled.

If you cannot serve when scheduled, please try to find a replacement, or contact the parish office no later than the Friday that you are scheduled. We appreciate it very much!

Ministry Schedule: August 2008

	August 3	August 10	August 17	August 24	August 31
Altar Guild 8:00	B Carl	V Clarke	D Wallower	D Fowler	V Clarke
Altar Guild 10:15	C Uhrmacher	B Carl	R Cantwell	R Cantwell P Jones	C Uhrmacher
Acolytes 10:15	L Cook	E Cook	G Rohrer	L Riddle	E Wrede
Ushers 8:00	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg
Ushers 10:15	J Darnell M Jones	A Mathew E Mathew	C Keller C Burris	S Jarvis B Jarvis	J Carl B Carl
Greeters 8:00	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg	S Holmberg
Greeters 10:15	D Breidenthal	D Fowler	D Kissane	S & C Jarvis	M Jones
Lay Ministers 8:00	S Streepy D C Werly . . . L/Ch	S Streepy D N Hayselden . . . L	S Streepy D U Prescott . . L/Ch	S Streepy D V Clarke . . . L/Ch	S Streepy D none scheduled L/Ch
Lay Ministers 10:15	S Streepy D R Wrede . . Ps/Ch T Gordon . Cr/Ch J Darnell L/I	S Streepy D S Mann . . . Ps/Ch T Hayselden Cr/Ch K Wymer L/I	S Streepy D C Burris . . Ps/Ch M R Wrede Cr/Ch P Jones L/I	S Streepy D M Neufeld Ps/Ch T Jones . . . Cr/Ch S Jarvis L/I	S Streepy D T Gordon . Ps/Ch S Mann . . . Cr/Ch J Darnell L/I
Lay Eucharistic Visitor	R & P Jones	T & N Hayselden	C Werly B McGuinn	M Neufeld V Clarke	V Clarke M Neufeld
Counters	J & B Carl D Wallower	J & C Speicher C Burris	J Darnell D Callaway M Lyon	D Kahn R Knabel S Sullivan	D Sullivan C Burris
Godly Play	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Coffee Hosts	<i>Zones 8 & 9</i>				
Lawn Mowers*	D Kahn	J McCain	M & T McCallum	C Speicher	D Uhrmacher

Legend: D = Deacon

L/Ch = Lector, Chalice (usually at 8 A.M. only)

Ps/Ch = Psalm, Chalice

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It has been long known that the most effective way to grow a congregation is simply to invite a friend to come to church with you.

So what are you waiting for?

“The central message of all four canonical Gospels is that the Creator God, Israel’s God, is at last reclaiming the whole world as his own, in and through Jesus of Nazareth. That, to offer a riskily broad generalization, is the message of the kingdom of God, which is Jesus’ answer to the question, What would it look like if God were running this show.” Which God? Not the one Nietzsche or Christopher Hitchens denounces, their “celestial tyrant” who is badly “running the world.” No, “the whole point of the Gospels is that the coming of God’s kingdom on earth as in heaven is precisely not the imposition of an alien and dehumanizing tyranny, but rather the confrontation of alien and dehumanizing tyrannies with the news of a God – the God recognized in Jesus – who is radically different from them all, and whose inbreaking justice aims at rescuing and restoring genuine humanness.” — Martin Marty, quoting NT Wright in *The Christian Century*.
