



THE
Messenger

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Washington, DC



WHAT WE NEED TO GROW

By Pastor Renata Eustis

One of the questions that frequently comes up in conversations now is “How are you adjusting to your new schedule?” And invariably, the question that follows is “Are you really sticking to 25 hours a week?” I so appreciate the concern that comes with those questions, the hope that this really is a different kind of time for me. The second question is easier to answer than the first. Some weeks I keep close to the 25 hours and other weeks not so close. In terms of “adjusting”, I’m in process.

When I think about what being adjusted to a new schedule or anything else means, what comes to mind is feeling comfortable in it. There is an ease that comes with familiarity, from knowing what to expect. You have a clear sense of what you should be doing and when. You get into a rhythm.

Then I think about the reality of hours and days with a new baby. I know Sarah so much better now. I know when her

whimpering means, “Feed me!” When she cries fiercely and inconsolably, I know she’s over tired and that I need to stay calm and rock her to sleep (instead of calling the doctor, convinced she’s seriously ill.) I do know more than I did a few months ago. But it would be a huge stretch to say that I know what to expect. My experience of parenting is that just when you feel like you’ve got a handle on what’s going on with your child, it all changes. It’s a constant process of adjusting.

It’s a lot of work—but it is also so much more than work. The intensity of growth—the way so much learning, growth and change happens in such a short period of time—is fantastic to watch. It’s like watching a flower bud open in time lapse photography. When you throw powerful love into the mix, this experience is hard to beat.

The struggle for me is to not get so caught up in the work and logistics of caring for Sarah, that I miss the miracle unfolding before me. Lucky for me, God has given Sarah some ways to focus me on the beauty of what’s right before my eyes. The most obvious way Sarah refocuses me, is with her huge smile that lights up her whole face. Why would I want to do anything else in that moment other than look at her?

But recently I’ve noticed another way that Sarah has gotten me “back on track”. It’s the other “face” of the smile, the face of discontent. The one thing that can change that face is music, especially higher-pitched

piano music. For years, I have been saying to myself that I will get back to playing the piano, something that at one point in my life I enjoyed tremendously. And now, thanks to Sarah, I play more often. I'm feeling the joy and the deep rest that comes from doing something that you do just because you love doing it.

In all of this I hear God pointing me toward some truths about the spiritual journey. In order to grow, our spirits—like our bodies—have basic needs—the need to be fed and cared for, the need to rest. We can't provide all of these things ourselves. Yes, there are certain things we do by ourselves yet we do not do them alone but with the sustaining support of the Spirit. The community of faith—whether it's through worship, working together in service, enjoying each other's company, wrestling with the Bible or praying—is a primary way God nurtures us and helps us grow (whether we're 3 or 93!). Each of us are both givers and receivers of this spiritual care. I am sure that there are important ways that we touch other people's lives that we never know. The truth is that your active presence in this community—in worship, in caring conversation and action, in service—matters.

The second truth about the spiritual journey that I'm reminded of through Sarah is that periods of intense growth need to be balanced or supported by times of rest. Babies or children going through growth spurts sleep a lot. Though I can't explain the physiology, I can see the clear relationship between growth and rest. In this place, we are good at working hard and we place a high value on it. Sometimes it almost seems like we resent the need to rest, it gets in the way of getting stuff done. The need to rest in order to grow is counter-intuitive but I believe it is true of more than our physical selves. I wonder if one of the things that keeps us from growing spiritually is our avoidance of rest.

My hope is that for each of us, this community would be a place where we can find what we need to grow. A place of being fed and feeding and a place of finding and giving rest. A place where we're constantly adjusting because we're growing. A place

where the miracle of life in Christ unfolds before us—new each day.



NEW LEARNING

By Vicar Susan Beck

The other day I stopped at the Olney Giant on my way home and had to resist a great temptation. No, not the bakery or the cookie aisle (there, I simply give in to temptation), but they had school supplies half price, and my first impulse was to load up on notebooks, paper, new pencils, etc. Every September I get the urge to buy school supplies, probably a habit from 30 years of sending my kids off to school. With just one child left to finish his last year of college though, I really don't need to stock up on those bargains anymore. But there's something wonderful and promising about fresh new school supplies! I think the attraction is the promise they hold of new learning.

September has certainly been a month of new learning for me. Besides learning about how things are done here at Christ Lutheran, learning to put names with faces, and learning to find my way around Washington, I've had some very special learning experiences this past month. On September 7 I attended, along with Marty Jewett and Norm and Judy Theiss, the Land and Promise: Jewish and Lutheran Perspectives on Israel Conference co-hosted by the Metro DC Synod and The American Jewish Committee. This conference brought together representatives from the ELCA and leaders in the Jewish community to discuss issues surrounding the land of Israel. This is a complex issue to say the least and while not all voices were represented, and not all the complexities of the situation could be explored, the discussion was an excellent opportunity for exposure to some of the varied points of view on the topic. One of the most intriguing concepts was one posited by Rabbi David Rosen, that of the land as sacrament, as a tangible manifestation of God's love. I left the

conference with my head full of new learning, and with the sense of so much more that I need to learn.

Another exceptional learning experience was the Theological Book Club, held September 21 and led by Herb Turvey. We read The Good Book, by Peter Gomes, and it was one of the most insightful and articulate books about the Bible I've ever read. The interest this book generated was obvious in the lively discussion. Gomes looks at what the Bible has to say on a variety of topics such as women, homosexuality, anti-Semitism and money and explores as well more abstract topics such as mystery and temptation. There are some excellent lines in the book such as, "Mystery is not an argument for the existence of God, it is an experience of the existence of God," "Evil doesn't attack our weak areas...evil attacks where we feel confident...your strong points are spiritual landmines," and "Hope doesn't get us out, it gets us through." Gomes also introduced a wonderful word/concept: "tangibilitate," to make something perceptible by our human senses—(again) a sacramental concept. November 9 Carla Howery will be leading a discussion on Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcends Tragedy. I'm looking forward to another thought-provoking book discussion.

I've also learned a lot about what goes into implementing a huge project like the annual yard sale. When I first heard that Christ Lutheran has a "yard sale" I pictured a few tables with odds and ends—but I've learned that this yard sale is something of a much grander scale! The hours of work I've seen go into this venture attest to the dedication of this congregation to live out the gospel in this community.

This past month I also worked on my Learning Covenant to determine what I hope to gain knowledge of and experience with during my year here. I'm sure that as the year progresses I'll need to amend and add to it as I learn what I need to learn!



CARING FAITHFUL SUPPORT

By Carla B. Howery, Co-leader, Stephen Ministry

The Stephen Ministry logo, consists of a cross and a circle, together with a broken person and a whole person. The broken person stands behind the cross, symbolizing the brokenness in our lives. The whole person stands in front of the cross because it is through the cross of Christ that we are again made whole. The circle symbolizes both the wholeness we receive through Christ and God's unending love for us. As a Stephen Ministry Congregation, each of us is called to be instruments of God's healing love for each other and all of creation.

TAKING COMMUNION OUT; CONNECTING MEMBERS TO US

By Carla B. Howery

Stephen Ministers are now taking communion to shut-ins, as an extension of pastoral and congregational care for our members who cannot attend church.

On the third Sunday of each month, the communion elements will be blessed and sent on their way with the Stephen Ministers, to remind the congregation of the many ways that CLC reaches out to shut-ins. Of course Pastor Renata and Vicar Susan continue to visit and offer communion and prayer. But having the Stephen Ministers trained and ready to make such visits only adds to our contact with members.

CLC TEENS SERVICE!

Beginning October 5 and continuing the first Sunday of every month, CLC will hold a special service of Holy Communion at 5:15pm especially oriented to youth. The plan is to begin promptly and end by 5:55pm so that confirmation students and the youth group can go to their respective meetings. Baptism will be the theme of the first service on **October 5 at 5:15pm** in the **Sunday School room**. Please pray for this new service and for the young people who will lead this service.



THE BMW ULTIMATE DRIVE®
SUPPORTING SUSAN G. KOMEN
FOR THE CURE

By Janet Kelly

2008 Marks the 12th year of *The BMW Ultimate Drive®*, a program of BMW of North America, Inc. *The BMW Ultimate Drive®* is a national breast health outreach campaign, where participants are invited to test-drive new BMWs. Each test-mile driven will generate a \$1 contribution to Komen for the Cure. BMW's goal again this year is to log 1 million miles – and raise \$1 million. Help BMW lead the drive to find a cure for breast cancer by driving one or more of the models included in *The BMW Ultimate Drive®* caravan. A 25-car caravan of new, specially decorated BMWs will travel to approximately 230 BMW Centers nationwide, where local *Drive* events will take place.

Our local event will take place on **Wednesday, November 5**, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Tischer BMW Dealership located at 3211 Automobile Boulevard in Silver Spring. The test course is about 14 miles long, and you can drive as many of the cars as time will allow. Of course, we want to keep all 25 cars on the road all day in order to generate as many miles/dollars as possible! At 1 p.m., a Komen representative will present the "Local Hero" award. A "Local Hero" is someone in the community willing to share his/her personal connection to breast cancer in the hopes of helping others in creating awareness of this disease. This year's Local Hero is Linda Burrell, M.D., an oncologist in our community who treats many breast cancer patients and who has been active in community events supporting breast cancer awareness. Dr. Burrell is on staff at Holy Cross Hospital and is well known to many of us.

At the end of our local event on November 5, we need 25 "transport drivers" to drive the caravan of new BMWs to Owings Mills (36 miles) for their event the next day. A bus

will bring you back to Silver Spring. To learn more about *The BMW Ultimate Drive®* and to sign up to be a transport driver, please contact **Janet Kelly** at 301-7547059 (work), 301-593-4910 (home), kellyja@holycrosshealth.org or janet.kelly9@verizon.net.



THANKS FROM THC!!!

By Polly Donaldson, Executive Director and Morgan Tipton, Volunteer Coordinator

From your friends next door at Transitional Housing Corporation ... We are so grateful to again be a beneficiary of Christ Church's annual Yard Sale. We so enjoyed the opportunity to work beside you and be a presence on the Saturday sale day as we help the "buyers" understand the CLC mission and outreach activities they are supporting! As in past years, CLC's donation will go to help support our Help the Homeless Walkathon Friends of THC partner that has a goal of raising \$20,000 this year.

And we also look forward to involving the Christ Church youth through the **Help the Homeless mini-walk to be held during Sunday School on Sunday October 26**. Registration is \$15.00 per child and \$25 per adult and the THC lime green forms will be in the October 5th bulletin and available from Vicar Susan or THC Volunteer Coordinator Morgan Tipton (mtipton@thcdc.org). Please register by Wednesday October 15, in order to receive a free t-shirt for our Mini-walk event.

We'll see you there and on the Mall for the big **Help the Homeless Walk on Saturday November 22, 2008!**

SS MINI WALK FOR THE HOMELESS

By Vicar Susan Beck

Wear your most comfortable sneakers to Sunday School **October 26** and participate in the **Help the Homeless Miniwalk**. During the Sunday School hour we'll take a short walk down 16th street, then return to church to hear about how people in our own community are helped by this program. Registration is \$25 for adults and \$15 for youth and includes a T-shirt. Even if you're not able to walk with us, you can be a part by sponsoring one of our walkers. More information is in this month's article by **Polly Donaldson** of THC. For a registration form, check the church bulletin or contact **Vicar Susan**, susanbeck@comcast.net or 202 270 6619.

NONAGENARIANS REVISITED

By Elise Fisher

Our extended family! We pray for them every Sunday! Two more are always present with us in prayer. **Kitty Thiip Luther** was 95 in July. She was baptized and confirmed by Pr Wenchel. **Esther Buettner** was 94 in April. And creeping thru his 80s is **Charlie White!**



A THUNDEROUS YARD SALE !!

By Joanne Noll

Between jackhammers going all day every day and the thunder that woke everyone up on Yard Sale morning, it was a "thunderous" renovation year Yard Sale indeed! However this non-passive group of folks known as Christ Lutheran Church pressed on! Inventory donations were received all year, but we were cautious because the renovation schedule was unclear. Nevertheless, the big garage filled up and was priced in July when the Fellowship Hall was cleared out for construction. To avoid inside storage of furniture we rented a POD. The inside storage of boxes filled up slowly. In June we budgeted a much lower figure because use of space was so uncertain.

In late August the construction company told us the undercroft was ours for the month of September!! YAY!! The house clean-out crew was busy right up until time to hang signs and prepare for "carry out" day on September 14, including pricing the furniture "pile" and the setting of tables. The next day the not-always-quiet daytime crew got busy sorting and pricing the inside inventory which seemed to grow daily. This group averaged over 11 people for 11 days. Janet Kelly and the jewelry crew worked in a space next to the atrium.

Sale day, Saturday, September 27, was thunderous, drippy and iffy. At carry out time from the undercroft, big garage, atrium, POD, chapel and narthex it was cloudy and threatening, so the narthex and chapel doors were left open for a while. Sheets of plastic were used at times to protect furniture, but the "show went on." The jewelry tent was set up where the VBS pole bean crop had been growing. Our great outside crew got to work. Joe Weber, Community of St. Dysmas brought 3 guys ready to work outside.

Meanwhile the inside crew let the line in promptly at 10:00. All in line were inside by about 11:30. Great cashiers both days helped customers with their purchases. Former members and friends plus some of our beneficiaries also worked in the undercroft.

Pastor Renata and Vicar Susan served coffee, juice and cookies near the Gallatin Street entrance. They distributed information about our programs and the list of 2008 beneficiaries. Transitional Housing Corporation had information on a table at the north sidewalk near its offices.

Over 70 members, former members, relatives, friends, and beneficiaries made a thunderous work force for this challenging two-day "renovation sale." At 4:00 on Saturday, in the light rain, furniture, etc. was brought into the chapel and undercroft. Jewelry was brought inside to a table in the undercroft.

The second sale day began Sunday after worship--a cloudy day which ended up sunny. Once again we had a line over 50

people at the Gallatin Street door. They were anxious to begin their "half-price" day and buy they did! A great crew of about 50 people stayed to work on Sunday.

Special thanks go to Tonya Holland and Vince Brown for serving lunch on both Saturday and Sunday. Vince is a major new "fan" of this event! Liz Malone also helped on Saturday. Beth Mills, Bob Sylwester and Joanne Noll did the shopping with donations of salads, desserts, and soda from members. Tonya & Vince received a thunderous ovation for their fried chicken!

We also wish to thank Anne & Liz Garagusi of Fernwood Estate Sales, Bethesda, who are interested in the work we do and whose clients donated many items to us and Deja New. Anne also kindly provided free advice and appraisals. Transitional Housing worked during the prep days. Community of St. Dysmas, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Christian Peacemaker Teams, and Lifeline Partnership reps worked during sale days.

A small but efficient clean-up crew started work on Monday and were treated to a deli lunch by the staff at THC which stayed and enjoyed fellowship. Today, Tuesday, an even smaller crew worked furiously to get our only social space back to normal use. Organizations benefiting from continued giving through the clean-up are: St. John's Lutheran, Rockville, yard sale, the Morgan Foundation, Wheaton Library, Lutheran Social Services, Samaritan Ministry, Ivymount (special needs) School auction, DC Humane Society, Bread for the City auction, National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), and Ambassador Baptist Church, SE.

Receipts as of September 30 are \$32,724 which includes \$4,800 from the Thrivent "Care Abounds in Communities" program. A thunderous outcome from a cautious beginning!! I know there are IOU's coming in too. Beneficiaries this year are: Transitional Housing Corporation, Lutheran Social Services, Bethany Women's Center at N Street Village, Lutheran World Relief, Community of St. Dysmas, Bread for the City, Green Door, Samaritan Ministry,

Lifeline Partnership, Lutheran Advocates for Maritime Mission, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, Resurrection Lutheran Church (New Haven), Women's Opportunity Fund, Christian Peacemaker Teams. Extra funding for this project has been approved by Thrivent for Lutherans.

A thunderous event by a wonderful group of caring and giving Christians who are blessed to be known as Christ Lutheran Church.



RENOVATION UPDATE

The installation of the duct work is almost complete in the Fellowship Hall, Library, Choir Room, Sunday School Room and the restrooms. The heating and cooling system is a cutting edge design to maximize efficiency giving us comfort as well as saving money. It's a multi-stage system that has individual zones and individual temperature settings allowing us to heat and cool only the space in use. We look forward to feeling the difference and to more efficient energy use.

SAVE YOUR STAMPS

By Alice Meyer

Please save all your canceled stamps, no matter how common they are, for Stamps for Children. They are recycled and sent to children's organizations. Please give them to Alice Meyer or put them into a container available at coffee hour. This is an easy thing to do which will benefit lots of children. When you cut the stamps off their envelopes, please be sure to leave at least a ¼" margin around them.



CIRCLE OF SISTERS

*Sunday, November 23
3:00-5:00 p.m.
At Marilyn Zukel's home*

All CLC women are invited to come for an afternoon of relaxing fellowship!

Mark your calendar and consider volunteering to host a Circle in 2009 in January and March. Contact Carla Howery.



THEOLOGICAL BOOK CLUB FINAL SELECTION FOR 2008

By Carla B. Howery

The Theological Book Club welcomes anyone to come on a one-time or continuing basis, to share thoughts about books that aid our faith journey,

We meet monthly and we rotate who selects the book to read and kicks off the discussion. We meet promptly at 12:15, usually in the Wenchel Chapel.

The final book for 2008 is [Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcends Tragedy](#) by Donald Kraybill et. al. available in public libraries and in bookstores. It is an analysis of the Amish community's response to the shooting of several school children and what we can *all* learn about forgiveness. I will lead the discussion.

After four years, I am going to take a break in organizing the Club. If you are interested in coordinating the Book Club for 2009, please contact me. So many books, so little time, but a great group of people to explore our faith through reading.



THE EAR OF CHRIST

Alice Meyer and **David Blakemore** toured Russia on a river boat from Moscow to St. Petersburg for two weeks. It was fascinating to tour a country we didn't know much about. We learned a lot of history especially at the Armed Forces Museum in Moscow where we met five World War II vets. The highpoint was visiting the Hermitage in St. Petersburg; it would take a lifetime to see everything in the Hermitage!

Barbara and Stuart Hibben are moving this month to Swarthmore PA. From Barbara: It has been our dream while traveling for the Foreign Service-- and living in Egypt, France, Luxembourg, India, and Iraq-- to retire to a college town. Our new (old) house/garden/studio is a block and a half from the gate of Swarthmore College and a walkable .6 mile from the village center, with its train station, coop grocery, library, mom-and-pop hardware, knitting shop, cafes, etc. Daughter Jessica, husband David and children live an eight-minute drive away, and we hope for regular visits from the rest of our clan. Longwood Gardens and Winterthur are about 20 minutes away, so maybe we will see some welcome CLC visitors too!

Our new address is 505 Ogden Avenue, Swarthmore PA 19081. My cell is **240-494-615**, and email is **baphibben@yahoo.com**.

From the **Dorschners**: Jon has made it safely out of Iraq and is settling into his new job in the economic section at the Embassy Berlin. We both love our new apartment in the heart of the city. **Jon and Nilu** sincerely thank everyone who prayed for them while Jon was in Iraq and to those who sent cards and letters to Jon during his deployment.

Joanne Noll was honored for her volunteer support of the Lutheran Social Services (LSS) Metro region RIS (Refugee and Immigrant Services) program at the annual Expressions of Abundance: Let Your Light Shine! breakfast on Thursday October 2.

In August, **Sven Kraemer and Carla Hubner** visited their older son, **Andreas**, in Hollywood, where Andreas has been studying acting and managing a theater company. They saw him perform as a lead in a modern play on issues of war and race in Africa and were greatly impressed. In December, they will visit their younger son, **Mattias**, in the capital of Chile, Santiago, where Mattias is completing his MA in theater at the Pontifical Catholic University. His thesis includes a multi-layered and multi-media play he has written about American and Latin American cultural identities that he will direct in performances while his parents visit. Mattias has also been traveling in South America and Europe as a rapper (in Spanish and English) with Chile's most popular rock band.

Ann Marie Nelson will be traveling to Kampala, Uganda on Oct 18 to begin a Fulbright Fellowship. She will be teaching AIDS and HIV pathology at Makerere Medical School for 4 months. During that time she will also travel to neighboring countries to assess pathology and laboratory capacity.



LOOKING AHEAD

BAPTISMS at CLC:

October 5 Sara McLaughlin, daughter of Paul McLaughlin and Renata Eustis and sister of Clare and May

October 12 Clementine Higgins, daughter of Brian Higgins and Hetty Irmer

November 2 Naomi Winger, daughter of Christian Winger and Becky Robert and sister of Isaiah and Caleb

“IN” SERIES Event: CLC's Interim Music Director **Gerald Coleman** will be joining with **Sven Kraemer's wife Carla Hubner**, founding director of the “In” Series of performing arts, as music director and pianist in a breath-taking dance, cabaret, and art-song collaboration between the

Series and the Washington Ballet Studio company in four performances at the new Atlas Performing Arts Complex (on H Street N.E.) on October 11, 12, 17 and 19. Four outstanding Series singers and 12 young international dancers from the Ballet join to perform to songs by Wagner and Brahms and from pre-World War II German cabaret woven into a dance-theater evening. Information and reservations can be obtained via ww.inseries.org and at (202) 204-7760.

2008 SILENT AUCTION SET FOR OCTOBER 26 and NOVEMBER 2

After we take a deep breath from the Yard Sale it will be time to think about this year's **Silent Auction** which will take place **October 26** (Reformation Sunday) and **November 2** (All Saints) Tables of goodies, trips, services, and special stuff will hopefully be provided to share with each other all through this next year. Mark the dates! We'll be in touch!

BENEFICIARY DAY NOVEMBER 9

On **November 9** we look forward to celebrating the social ministries our **Yard Sale beneficiaries** provide all year long. It will be a joy have them at our worship service that day, if they are able, and to learn about the work these organizations do at a special coffee hour.



CLC Help the Homeless Miniwalk during Sunday School on SUNDAY OCTOBER 19

POETRY CORNER

GOD SAYS YES TO ME

By Kaylin Haught

from *The Palm of your Hand*, 1995
Tilbury House Publishers

I asked God if it was okay to be
melodramatic and she said yes

I asked her if it was okay to be short
and she said it sure is

I asked her if I could wear nail polish or not
wear nail polish and she said honey
(she calls me that sometimes)
she said you can do just exactly
what you want to

Thanks God I said

And is it even okay if I don't paragraph
my letters

Sweetcakes God said (who knows where
she picked that up) what I'm telling you is
Yes Yes Yes

Editors Note: Susy Cheston sent this
poem to be shared. If you have poems,
cartoons, jokes or items of interest you'd like
to have shared in the *Messenger*, please
send them to CLCMessenger@gmail.com
for inclusion.