



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

THE  
**Messenger**

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Washington, DC

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**A CHANGIN'**

*By Pastor Renata*

Change seems to be one of the defining features of our lives. "It's the only constant" some say. Too much change and changes not of our own choosing can leave us feeling overwhelmed and anxious. On the other hand, if nothing changes very much, we can feel like we're stuck in a rut.

In the life of my family and in the life of our CLC community we are going through a lot of changes. And as I look around, lots of us are in the midst of significant life changes. Some of these changes are ones we have hoped for like the birth or adoption of a child, and others are difficult surprises like the need to move to an assisted living facility.

As I sit here writing with the insistent noise of a jackhammer in the background, I know that even changes that we have worked for (like the renovation of this building) do not come easily or comfortably. We are thrilled to have our baby, Sarah. There is a completeness that we didn't know was missing until she filled it. There is joy beyond words. But there is also lots of work and always falling short in terms of balancing everyone's needs.

One of the great gifts for me in this time (through mid-December) is that I am on part-time parental leave, trying to keep my work hours to 25 a week. It's a challenge for me to figure out how to be realistic about what I can and can't do. Slowly (too slowly, probably), I'm able to put some of the ministry tasks in others' hands.

What has been so humbling and inspiring is to see how readily people have stepped forward. One example is found with the Stephen Ministers. In addition to the regular visits they do with their care receivers, they will be serving as Eucharistic ministers, bringing Holy Communion to those who are unable to worship with us. I have prepared them to serve in this way. When they bring the Sacrament, they are essentially serving in the same way as the Communion Assistants who help with Distribution during the service. Once a month, on the third Sunday, one of the Stephen Ministers will

come forward to receive the elements to carry out, as a visible reminder that our liturgy continues beyond the walls of the church.

With change, comes the possibility of growth and new life—a gift from God whose constant presence with us is what never changes.

*Welcome Susan!*

### **IT'S GOOD TO BE HERE!**

*By Vicar Susan Beck*

I walked into the back door of Christ Lutheran Church on August 5 to begin my internship year here—and right away I knew God was at work in this place: I could hear it, literally! Upstairs demolition crews were tearing through walls and ceilings, the unmistakable—and un-ignorable!—sounds of renovation. What an exciting way to begin this new phase of my life, as this church is beginning a new phase of life, renewing and caring for the structure where the life of the church is based. And, what a fitting introduction it is, to hear the sounds and see the process of a building “under construction” at the same time as I am “under construction” as an intern.

Being “under construction” is a life-long process. I considered the church vocation of deaconess as a teenager growing up in Baltimore in the 1960's, but since at that time, deaconesses couldn't be married (and I had discovered boys) I abandoned the idea. I graduated from UMBC in 1974 and married my husband Bill that same year. We've been blessed with three children: Karen, who lives in Baltimore City with her husband Paul and my two beautiful-fantastic-amazing granddaughters, Miriam, two and a half years old and Lily, seven months old; Elizabeth who is a middle school music teacher in Howard County and Jeffrey, who is beginning his senior year at York College. I've held a variety of jobs—from pre-school Spanish teacher to scheduling secretary for Thrivent Financial. For the last 24 years I've worked as a Lamaze prepared childbirth educator and

lactation consultant and I've considered it a privilege to have shared this important life passage with so many families. About five years ago, I sensed that God was calling me to another life change, to reappraise the consideration of a vocation in the church. After much prayer, discussion with my pastors and discernment, I began seminary studies at The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 2005. At LTSG, I discovered a wonderful faith community and have thoroughly enjoyed my studies. And, while I can't quite pull the all-nighters writing papers like my younger classmates, I've been challenged and stimulated by exploring theology in that community.

I live in Woodbine, Maryland with my husband Bill and German Shepherd mix Wookie (yes, we're Star Wars and Star Trek fans). Bill works at the Army Research Lab in Adelphi as a physicist. My home congregation, First Lutheran Ellicott City, has been an encouragement and support to me during my preparation for ministry. In my free time I'm “Grom,” as Miriam named me, and I can't think of anything I'd rather do than spend time with my grandgirls. When I can, I play violin in community groups and I'm an amateur in the true sense of the word—not big on talent, but I love making music in these groups.

I'm so glad to be here at Christ Lutheran! Already I feel as though I've been embraced as part of the community and I'm truly enjoying getting to know you as individuals and as a family of faith. This is an exciting place to be “under construction” in ministry, a place where God is definitely at work changing us from the inside out just as the building is being renovated from the pipes and wiring outward. I know I'll grow in many different ways by year's end just as this building will be a very different place. I'm looking forward to the process.

### **NONAGENARIANS AND OTHERS**

*By Elise Fisher*

Christ Church must have one of the greatest mixes of very young and very old attendees at church every Sunday! **Rita Stroberg** is looking forward to being 95 in October. We celebrated **Dorothy Armstrong's** 90th

birthday in June and in October **Peg Paulson** will turn 90.

Peg misses coming lately but she is still with us. She will be honored at a birthday luncheon hosted by her niece, Solveig Paulson Rafanan of St Louis. and nephew, Jim Paulson of Wisconsin. Her brother Rolf was 93 in August. He's in a retirement community near Baltimore. We don't see him often but he receives regular pastoral visits and is a part of the Christ Church extended family.

**Robert Heitmuller**, 91 in October, is also a member at a distance. He was in church recently thanks to his good friend David **Blakemore** and his nephew **Philip Heitmuller** who shared bringing him down and taking him back to his community in the Frederick area.

Close behind these come **Mary Hamer**, 89 in October, and **Elise Fisher**, 88 in July and **Arnold Hespe**, 88 in December. And our dear **Mary Louise Heitmuller** is in her 96th year as she approaches the end of her life.

At the other end we have a beautiful array of very little ones. Recently there was one week old **Clementine Higgins!** And we continue to see her regularly along with **Sarah McLaughlin** and **Ella Gidney** and **Lila Devito** and on and on. What a pleasure! We love to hear their little voices raised along with ours (even, maybe especially when they sometimes come in at a different time!). Keep them coming!



*Hallway outside the church office*



## 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.*

## TIME FOR MINISTRY—CONSIDER BEING A STEPHEN MINISTER

If you are interested in serving as a Stephen Minister, training for a new cohort will begin in the fall. We are collaborating with St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, MD. They will host the training on one or two Saturdays a month, from September through December. The timing is roughly 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. each Saturday. This compressed training allows the completion of the fifty hours of Ministry preparation before the Christmas season.

Serving as a Stephen Minister is an extremely rewarding way to bring the Gospel of caring and healing to those who need it. Care receivers self-identify and ask to be

paired with a Stephen Minister who visits with them on a weekly basis.

All those who have completed the training feel it was very worthwhile, both in our Stephen Ministry commitment and in our own personal lives!

Because the September start date is coming up, please give prayerful consideration about your willingness to undertake this ministry. Contact Pastor Renata or Carla Howery for more conversation about your interest and availability and/or any of the current CLC Stephen Ministers (Karin Klingman, Linda Ott, and Debbie Coker).

### **CLC TEENS SERVICE!**

*By Tim Breitbarth*

CLC is forming a group for teens. We are planning to meet monthly, and our activities will be driven by the group's suggestions. We already have a Facebook group, and our first event will be held on the evening of Sunday, October 5 after the youth service. Everyone is asked to bring songs that they enjoy from their iPods or CD collections. We will listen to some music and discuss it. Bring your music, your friends, and your enthusiasm! Please contact Tim ([bluestreak5@yahoo.com](mailto:bluestreak5@yahoo.com)) or Valentine Breitbarth ([vbreitbarth@gmail.com](mailto:vbreitbarth@gmail.com)) for more details.

### **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

*By Stewardship Committee*

The Stewardship Committee has authorized \$500 scholarships to Christ Church college students who need money to help with college. The money will come from the endowment fund. If you are interested, please email Stewardship Chair Howard Bell [-hwbell@bte-i.com](mailto:-hwbell@bte-i.com) – explaining how you would use the money to help meet college expenses.

### **RENOVATION IS UNDERWAY!**

*By Phil Hecht*



*Framing in the library*

CLC renovation is underway! For the last six weeks, we have been under construction, with visible signs of change both outside and inside, mostly due to the demolition of existing systems and removal of hazardous materials from the Parish Hall. According to our owner's representative and the contractor, everything is progressing on schedule. In the next few months, we will see many more changes and, God willing, we will be able to rejoice in the completed renovation sometime around Easter 2009. Like Moses on Mount Nebo, we are able to look into the promised land of a renovated and improved facility that will enable us to carry on our mission and programs with a renewed sense of energy and commitment. Thanks be to God!

### **ANY TEENS INTERESTED IN GOING TO NEW ORLEANS?**

*By Tim Breitbarth*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will be holding its National Youth Gathering National Youth Gathering July 22-27, 2009 in New Orleans LA. The Youth Gathering (<http://archive.elca.org/youth/gathering.html>) takes place every three years, and next year's theme will be "Jesus, Jazz, and

Justice." Activities will range from worship to community service to games and entertainment. There are expected to be about 36,000 Lutheran youth and chaperones in New Orleans for this event. That's a lot of Lutherans! It is also going to be a lot of fun!

Next July may seem far off, but actually the deadline to sign up for the Gathering is Wednesday, September 10. CLC will be partnering with other Lutheran churches to send a group of teens to New Orleans. The group is planning to meet on Sunday, September 7 to discuss the travel arrangements and plan fundraisers. If you will be a high school student in 2009 and are interested in attending, please contact Tim (bluestreak5@yahoo.com) or Valentine Breitbarth (vbreitbarth@gmail.com) for more details.



### **FOOD FOR FAITH 2008 WAS GREAT!** *VBS review*

Vacation Bible School was held July 21-25 and this year's theme was "Food For Faith". LeeAnn Schray was VBS director this year. We had a great group of children from our CLC members, the neighborhood and the Latino congregation from Langley Park. The children met with their group leaders each night to explore Bible stories, make crafts, sing and play games. The group leaders this year were Linda Ott with the 4-6 year olds, Fred Mills with the 6-9 year olds, Pastor Renata Eustis with the 10-11 year olds and Vicar Christine May with the 11-12 year olds.

The food-related Bible stories that we shared with each other were Moses, the Israelites, and manna; feeding the 5,000; the great banquet; and Jacob and Esau and the bowl of porridge.

Volunteers helped with story telling, food preparation, set up, clean up, games, music, leader helpers, registration and crafts.

Favorite comments from the children who attended VBS this year include a child who asked one night "Is this a God place? This feels like a God place." And my favorite: "Are men allowed to be pastors?"

### **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 1/4" margin around them.



### **CIRCLE OF SISTERS**

**Sunday, September 14**

**after Yard Sale carryout  
3:00-5:00 at**

**Pastor Renata's home  
1523 Upshur Street NW,  
Washington DC**

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

Mark your calendar and consider volunteering to host the last Circle in 2008, on November 23rd.

The grand essentials to life are something to do, someone to love, and something to hope for. –Unknown



## **THEOLOGICAL BOOK CLUB: READING AND SHARING TOGETHER**

*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 (the name in parentheses). We meet promptly at 12:15, in the Wenchel Chapel. Here is the list for the rest of the year. Most of the books are in the public library AND are in the CLC library, now in the counting room. Mark your calendars, visit the library, enjoy reading, and come and share your thoughts.

### **DATES AND BOOKS for 2008**

Sept. 21 *The Good Book* by Peter Gomes (Herb Turvey) --- if you cannot read the whole book, please concentrate on the last 200 pages.

Nov. 9 *Amish Grace: How Forgiveness Transcends Tragedy* by Donald Kraybill et. al. (Carla Howery)

If you are interested in coordinating the Book Club for 2009, please contact me.



### **EXPRESSIONS OF ABUNDANCE**

Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS/NCA) invites you to Expressions of Abundance: Let Your Light

Shine! Thursday, October 2. Hear first-hand how your volunteerism and support directly impact the lives of LSS/NCA clients in Foster Care & Adoption, Refugee & Immigrant Services (RIS), Disaster Preparedness & Response, and Youth Haven Programs for children and teens affected by HIV/AIDS. Joanne Noll of Christ Lutheran Church, DC will be honored for her volunteer support of the Metro-region RIS program. Join us for this annual breakfast event from 7:45-8:45 a.m. (registration begins at 7:15 a.m.) at the Bethesda North Marriott (metro-accessible by Red Line to White Flint, 5701 Marinelli Road). Breakfast is provided free of charge by our sponsors; contributions will be welcomed. For more information and to RSVP, contact Summer Parrish at LSS/NCA at (202) 723-3000 ext. 199 or ParrishS@lssnca.org. We look forward to seeing you!



### **THE EAR OF CHRIST**

Joanne Noll's granddaughter, **Michaela (Kala) Lewis**, has come to town. She has begun a three-year Phd. program in physical therapy at GW University.

**Marilyn and Bill Zukel** spent ten days in Iceland, a land of geysers, rocky and desolate scenery, and beautiful churches. The people were wonderful and mostly Lutheran.

On Saturday, August 23, 2008, the co-ed relay team of **Sharon Kelly** and boyfriend, **Tim Ager**, took **third place** in the 2008 Alcatraz Challenge in San Francisco! Sharon swam the San Francisco Bay from Alcatraz Island to Crissey Field, passed off to Tim who completed the challenge with a 7-mile run, which included running across the Golden Gate Bridge. **Janet and Dean Kelly** made the trip to SF to cheer the couple on to victory! Tim has family in SF, who came out to support them as well. The sharks (feared by Janet) didn't show up, but

there was a dolphin who joined the swimmers for a while!



The **Sylwesters** enjoyed a long August weekend in Tennessee at Bob's family reunion. It was attended by 49 relatives including Bob's ten siblings; they came from 14 states and 2 Canadian provinces. It was especially joyful that Eric and Bonnie could get better acquainted with their cousins. In future years one may not remember what was said at the reunion but all will remember the shared experiences.

**Elizabeth Hecht** began her first year at Wellesley College on Tuesday. The move-in was tiring, but uneventful. Lizzy reports that she likes her roommate and other girls in the dorm. Classes begin the first week in September.

**Kristl Dorschner** sent news from Mombasa, Kenya that her fella Hayden proposed. Kristl reported that it was the setting when he popped the question was lovely, beautiful and incredibly romantic and she is over the moon about it. Wedding plans won't be for another two years.

**Lizzy Ott** got a chance to meet up with her shepherd **Julie (Rossate) VonWold** over dinner in Boston in early August. It was a special treat to get together to reminisce and catch each other up on life and CLC events.

The summer months have brought forward special music from **Gerry Coleman** and the choir. Throughout the summer, we have been graced with solos and duets from members of the choir. All of them were absolutely beautiful but the two that stand out most were **Mark Rohrbaugh's** and

**David Blakemore's** solos. The angels sang!



### PARTING FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We may throw the dice but he LORD determines how they fall. –Proverbs 16:33

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He who hesitates is not only lost, but miles from the next exit. –unknown

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A vision without a plan is only a dream, but a plan without a vision is drudgery.

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Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make straight your paths. –Proverbs 3:4-5

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Everybody knows if you are too careful, you are so occupied in being careful that you are sure to stumble over something. –G. Stein

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Although I do not believe that the human condition will ever advance to such a state of perfection as that there shall no longer be pain or vice in the world, yet I believe it susceptible of much improvement...and that the diffusion of knowledge among people is to be the instrument by which it is to be effected. –Thomas Jefferson

## 2008 "UNDER CONSTRUCTION" YARD SALE, SEPTEMBER 27 and 28

In the 29th year of conducting our benefit Yard Sale the Lord giveth us "Alive in Christ" -- the energy, will, (and debt) to renovate our building. Therefore the renovation taketh away a lot of the space we were used to using for this project. Nevertheless we have clearance from the contractor to have the undercroft all to ourselves for a whole month! So bring in the stuff you have been waiting to deliver!!

Dates this year are Saturday, September 27, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm AND Sunday, September 28, 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm. The garage is full and priced. The POD is at least half full, but there is room for more. After Labor Day the undercroft will be rearranged to pile up furniture, set tables, hang signs, etc. Hopefully all donations will be delivered by "carry out" day, September 14. You may now bring in clean clothes on hangers.

We will need **EVERYONE** on Saturday, September 27, and 30-40 people on Sunday, September 28, for half-price day. Last year we had lines each day.

The house clean-out/estate sale/delivery/garage crew has been working hard all year to build the inventory you see (and a lot you don't see). Helping so far are **Kendall Bentz, David Blakemore, Jeanne Buster, Tom & Lynn Hommeyer, Frank Malone, Beth & Fred Mills, Alex, Joanne & Patrick Noll, Mack & Linda Ott, Colleen Smith, Bob & Sara Sylwester, Charles Williamson** and **Marilyn Zukel**. Members and friends have been delivering furniture, boxes, etc.

Here is the **SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE**:

**SEPTEMBER 14:** After church help **CARRY OUT** items from storage to tables in the undercroft. Coffee hour downstairs, too!

**SEPTEMBER 15-19:** Daytime and evening workers **SORT** donations into departments. Hours from 10:00 am until.... Bring a bag lunch. It's fun to see what's in the boxes! If you wish to work in the evening, please call ahead. **The jewelry team needs helpers too! Call Janet Kelly at 301-593-4910.**

**SEPTEMBER 22-26:** Day and evening workers **PRICE** items for sale. We'll need lots of people every day. If you wish to work in the evening, call ahead to be sure you can get into the building.

**SEPTEMBER 27: BIG SALE DAY, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.** Outside workers come at **8:00 am** or before. Inside workers come at **8:30 am**. **NOTE THE EARLY TIMES.** There will be loads of stuff to take outside from the big garage, POD and some places in the building. We need everyone! The lunch crew will be on duty!

**SEPTEMBER 28: SECOND SALE DAY (HALF-PRICE DAY) 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm** in the undercroft and possibly on Gallatin Street. It's very hectic! We need all the help we can get! Coffee hour and lunch downstairs!

**SEPTEMBER 29: CLEAN-UP** days begin. Please come for a few more days to finish up. Non-profit gleaners will be here first thing Monday. Lunch on Monday provided by THC. The more help we have, the quicker we can give the space to the contractors. If you have ideas for leftover donations, please contact Joanne.

**Department SIGN-UP SHEETS** will be available soon. Give jewelry to Janet Kelly. **LUNCH FOR WORKERS ONLY** will be provided. **Tonya Holland** is organizing lunch; let her know if you can bring a salad or dessert. Step right up to your favorite department!

**Beneficiaries and M&B budget this year:** Transitional Housing Corporation, Lutheran Social Services, Bethany Women's Center at N Street Village, Lutheran World Relief, Community of St. Dymas, 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, Metro DC Synod ELCA. Extra funding for this project is being applied for from Thrivent for Lutherans.