

# GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

December 2009

VOLUME #16: ISSUE #12

Hark, the glad sound!  
The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and every voice a song.  
ELW 239

In her Advent devotion booklet entitled "A Season for Singing," Dr. Mary Manz Simon quotes her mother-in-law as saying: "I don't need a present for Christmas. Just sing me the songs." Faced with an ever-lengthening list of people to buy for and things to do, she wished others felt the same way!

Just sing me the songs. This Advent, we begin the Year of Luke in our lectionary. In Luke's gospel, people are always breaking out into song – it's almost like a musical production in the first two chapters! Mary visits with her cousin Elizabeth and shares of her amazing pregnancy – and breaks into song: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Zechariah, stunned into silence by the angel's news that his wife Elizabeth is going to give birth, finds his tongue loosed when he names his son John – and breaks into song: "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them...By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Angels fill a Bethlehem sky – and break into praise: "Glory to God in the highest heaven!" Old man Simeon, who has waited his whole life for a Savior, receives the infant Jesus into his arms – and breaks into song: "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word."

Just sing me the songs. Two of my favorite things about this time of preparation: Christmas caroling, and sitting in front of the Christmas tree, with candles lit, glass in hand, and music playing. The song is a gift to receive and to share, as it becomes the incarnation of love so amazing, so divine.

May the love of Christ that you sing with your heart be your gift to others this Advent and Christmas.

Pastor Kendra

## SAVE THE DATE

**Midweek Holden Evening Prayer**  
7:00-7:30pm  
Wednesdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16

**Women's Christmas Luncheon: Wed. Dec. 2,**  
11:30am

**A Night in Bethlehem/Live Nativity: Sat., Dec. 5**  
4:00pm Crafts & Activities  
5:00pm Dinner & Devotions  
6:00pm Outdoor Nativity

**Annual Meeting, Sun. Dec. 6**  
ONE SERVICE at 10:00am  
Followed by Lunch (bring a potluck dish) and Meeting

**Santa Lucia Celebration**  
Sunday, December 13  
In-between services

**Christmas Caroling**  
Sunday, Dec. 13, 2:00pm

**Christmas Program**  
Sunday, Dec. 20  
11:00am service

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 6th

Worship at 10:00 a.m. -- Followed by Lunch and Meeting

All voting members are encouraged to attend this annual meeting of the congregation which will include the election of Council and Committees and the adoption of the 2009 Budget. Meat (chicken) will be provided for lunch; everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish. Annual Reports available on Sun., Nov. 29.

## Advent & Christmas at Gethsemane

### A Night in Bethlehem & LIVING NATIVITY

Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> 4:00-7:00 pm



Set aside time to prepare away from the hustle and bustle of the season! This event is for all ages! As you enter the Fellowship Hall, you will be transported back to a Night in Bethlehem. We'll begin with some Advent/ Christmas crafts that everyone can enjoy, eat a simple meal together (with Middle Eastern foods), share candlelight devotions around our tables, and then go outside to witness a live nativity (with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, shepherds, and live animals), hear the Christmas story, and sing carols. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for this special evening!



### **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Eve**

4:00 pm "A Season for Singing: The Stories Behind the  
Carols" with Candlelight and Holy Communion  
11:00 pm Candlelight Holy Communion

**Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
Christmas Day**

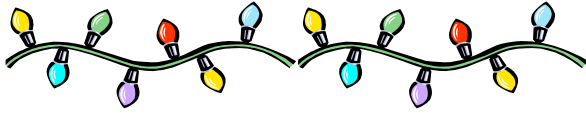
10:00 am Carol Service of Holy Communion

## **Join the Choir this Holiday Season**

If you like to sing, but haven't joined the choir, sing and celebrate the coming of Christ with the choir for this Christmas and Advent Season. There are benefits to singing with the choir now:

- ❖ Choir members get to sing Christmas songs and carols (on average) 3 weeks longer than the general population!
- ❖ Singing is a stress reliever – something we all need!
- ❖ And...we have fun singing and praising God.

Come rehearse with us on Mondays at 7:00pm. If you have any questions, call Ann at (314) 963-0934.



**HELPFUL HINTS FOR YOUR  
ADVENT JOURNEY!**

Are you looking for ways to keep your focus on the Christ in Christmas – for yourself, or for your family?

***Come to Midweek Holden Evening Prayer on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-7:30pm.*** This will be a simple time of candlelight and quiet, with a brief reflection read from “*Unto Us Is Born: Christmas Conversations with the Mother of Jesus*” by Herbert Brokering. Each week we sing Mary’s song, the wonderful Magnificat, as part of this Evening Prayer.

***Use an Advent wreath,*** lighting an additional candle for each week in Advent, and using a daily prayer or devotion. ***OR*** use one of the Table Tent devotions that will be available in worship on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent.

***Advent Devotion Books*** will be available. Watch for special devotions based on the songs of Advent and Christmas.



A  
“BLUE CHRISTMAS”  
SERVICE  
**Friday, December 18, 2009**  
**7:00 pm at Hope UCC**  
**(Tamm and Eichelberger)**

Many churches in the past decade or so have begun to offer “Blue Christmas” services. These services provide space for those who may be grieving, hurting, lonely, or simply not connected with the public joy of the Advent and Christmas seasons because of their life situations. In coming together, we are free to acknowledge our pain and receive comfort from the surrounding community of faith. This simple service, using Holden Evening Prayer, provides quiet opportunity for prayer, song, and silent reflection as it seeks to nurture one’s hurting spirit.



**GLCW WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**  
**Everyone is Welcome!**  
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2009**  
**TIME: 11:30 A.M.**  
**BRAZIE’S**  
**3073 Watson Rd.**

**At the Wedge of Watson & Arsenal**  
Reservations: Please Call Norma Schenck 314-892-3868 by Sunday, November 29, 2009. If you need a ride, call Norma & it will be arranged for you.



***Christmas  
Caroling  
Sunday,  
December 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00pm***

Join us to prepare our hearts and spread the cheer of Christmas. All ages welcome! After caroling, we’ll come back to the church for chili and cookies.

**Midweek Advent  
Bible Study:  
Preparing for the Birth of  
Jesus**

**Thursday, December 3, 2009**

**9:30-11:00 am**

**Hope United Church of Christ  
Corner of Eichelberger & Tamm**

This one-session Bible Study, led by Pastor Sarah McCann, will focus on the birth stories of Jesus in Matthew 1 and Luke 1. Start your Advent season by learning more about the Gospel readings that are at the heart of the meaning of Christmas.  
Sponsored by the Clergy and Laity Alliance of St. Louis Hills

## Sundays in December :

Starting in Advent, we will be using Setting 4 "Light of Christ" from the *With One Voice* Hymnal. Our theme of "A Season for Singing" will be highlighted each week of Advent and Christmas.

**Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>** : First Sunday in Advent  
We sing a song of expectation, *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying*, as we wait the advent of our God.

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** : Second Sunday in Advent  
**One Service Only at 10:00 am**  
We sing the song of Zechariah, known as the *Benedictus (Blessed be the Lord God of Israel)*. We hear the choir and children sing "Come by here, Lord" in the words of the traditional song *Kum Ba Yah*.

**Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** : Third Sunday in Advent  
We sing the song of Mary, known as the *Magnificat (My soul doth magnify the Lord)*

**December 13<sup>th</sup> is also the feast day of St. Lucy** – known as Santa Lucia in the Swedish tradition. Join us during Fellowship Hour for a special celebration of our Swedish heritage and Santa Lucia.

**Sunday, December 20<sup>st</sup>** : Fourth Sunday in Advent  
We sing a song of Bethlehem, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, as we hear the good news that out of the little and least, God will bring a Savior.  
A Christmas program will be presented during the 11am service.

**Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>** : First Sunday after Christmas  
We sing the song of Simeon, known as the *Nunc Dimittis (Lord, now let your servant go in peace)*.

## LIFE AT HOME ...

### **Church Council Highlights November 10, 2009**

(*Note: Official minutes are placed on the hall bulletin board after approved at the next Council Meeting*)

1. Viewed an introductory DVD on the "Reconciling in Christ" process and committed to support the process with active engagement by Council members.
2. Met with Rick Schuessler, Treasurer, and received a Treasurer's Report through the end of October. Giving is still approximately \$13,000 behind budgeted needs, although committees and groups have kept their expenses under budget.
3. Approved a slate from the Nominating Committee for this year's elections.
4. Announced that the Council and PMC Steering Team will be participating in a retreat on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm as the next step in the Partnership for Missional Church journey. The next PMC Cluster event is January 15-16, 2010.
5. Discussed in depth a Proposed Budget for 2010. Decided more information needed to be gathered, and that a special budget meeting for the congregation would be called for January rather than present a final budget for the December Annual Meeting. Decided to change our "Every Member" subscription to *The Lutheran Magazine*. Instead, we will purchase 50 copies in bulk and have them available for distribution at the church.

6. Made plans for the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be one service only, followed by a meal and the meeting. Chicken will be provided; members are asked to bring potluck dishes for salads, vegetable, and dessert.
7. Heard that the architect had sent the Renovation Project out for bid; sealed bids are due to the church by November 19<sup>th</sup>.
8. Received and acted on Patricia Blake's request to be removed from membership.

### **PARTNERSHIP FOR MISSIONAL CHURCH UPDATE**

The Gethsemane PMC team has completed the 'spiritual discernment' small group discussions. Thank you to all who attended and shared your hopes and concerns. The Steering Team and Church Council members attended the last PMC group event of the year on October 16 and 17. Thanks to all who gave their time to attend. On January 10, 2010 the PMC process enters a new phase as the PMC team and the Church Council meet with a facilitator to discuss the 'adaptive challenges' facing Gethsemane. Please keep all participants in your prayers.

**Financial Report**  
**Year-to-Date thru October 30, 2009**

<u>YTD Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Regular & Loose Giving	\$180,493	\$167,463	\$ (13,029)
<b>*Total Year-to-Date Income</b>	<b>\$207,576</b>	<b>\$191,572</b>	<b>\$ (16,004)</b>

<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Total Year-to-Date Expenses	\$217,915	\$211,209	\$ 6706

**Income Shortfall YTD at 9/30/2009** **\$19,636**

*\*Note: Total Year-to-Date Income also includes Special Offerings, Interest, and Support from the Endowment Fund.*

*Thank you to all who have responded in this year's Stewardship Every Member Response: "Changed By Love, Sent in Love, To Serve." As of Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 86 pledges had been received totaling \$171,716 for 2010, and 110 Time and Talent Sheets had been received.*

**Finance Fact:** For 2010, we will be receiving a bulk order of The Lutheran magazine. You will no longer receive the magazine delivered to your home, but copies will be available to pick up here at the church. We believe it is important to read about and feel connected to the work of the wider church and Lutheran community. This change, however, will lower our yearly expense from \$1200 to \$400.

**MOMS**

**MOMS** (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) meets Friday, December 18th (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month) from 7-9pm at the St. Louis Bread Co. at Chippewa/Lansdowne. Need a night out? Just want to have a cup of coffee and talk with the girls? Want to get to know more of the women in our GLC community? Come any time. No reservation necessary. We'd love for you to join us any month you can. Oh, and leave the kids at home. This one's for YOU! More info? Call Leslie Wobbe at 314-481-0708.

**Parenting in the Pew**

If you are interested in a conversation/workshop about how to help children grow in their role as worshipers in church on Sunday mornings, please talk to Ami Boehlje or Pastor Kendra. A survey was distributed to Sunday School parents a couple weeks ago.

**SOCIAL ACTION  
COMMITTEE**

**Holiday Adopt-a-Child for  
Joint Neighborhood Ministry**

Please bring all Adopt-a-Child items to Gethsemane before 10:00am Worship Service on **Sunday, December 6th**. Blankets, new pillows and gift cards should be brought in at the same time. Please take the items to the stage room in the basement fellowship hall of the church. Also, able-bodied **assistance requested on Sunday, December 13th, between worship services**, to load all the items into vehicles for transport to JNM. Many thanks for all of your help!

Items may also be brought for the **Mitten Tree** – mittens, gloves, and hats. They will be given to children at Jefferson School or to Joint Neighborhood Ministry.

## New Banner

The new banner made and designed by last year's Confirmation Class and Ruth Hanson is now hung in the sanctuary. Funds for construction of the banner were given in memory of Gloria Watson and by the confirmation families. We give thanks to God for the gift of their time and talents in making this beautiful addition for our worship space.



Alex P., Luke B., Emma H., Christine B., Addie O. in front of the banner.

## Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

We'd also like to thank everyone who helped with, participated in, attended and enjoyed the many fellowship events and opportunities of 2009. Maybe you shared coffee and a donut with someone between services or relaxed over eggs at the Easter Breakfast.

Perhaps you made a new friend at the Everybody's Birthday Party or enjoyed food & fun in the sun at the church picnic. You put the "fellow" in fellowship! We on the Fellowship Committee look forward to bringing everyone together for more events in 2010; so let us know what you'd like to do, lend a hand if you can and stay tuned for more information! Coming in January 2010, The Chili and Cookie Cook-off! Hope to see you there!

The Fellowship Committee

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### A Season of Giving

During November and December, the Sunday school children have many opportunities to participate in "giving back" to Gethsemane and the larger community. Here is a sampling of the ways Gethsemane's children are participating in the life of the church:

#### With Songs

In November, members of the 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes joined with the adult choir to sing for the 11:00 service. If you missed it, keep coming back – there may be an encore performance!

All Sunday school

children are currently rehearsing Christmas carols to sing at *A Night in Bethlehem and Living Nativity* on Saturday evening, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Children and families are invited to enjoy crafts and activities at 4:00, then dinner and devotions at 5:00. After dinner, children will be encouraged to put on costumes (provided), and join in singing songs at the manger. The children chose *Silent Night*, *Away in a Manger*, and *We Three Kings* as their feature songs.

**With Prayers:** The younger classes have some prayer requests to share this month. They know that God listens to all voices big and small. The 1<sup>st</sup> grade class asks that we pray for family, the homeless, sickness, people that have breast cancer, cats and thanks for a kitten, babies, the world, and to have God with us. The 4 year old/kindergarten class gives thanks for spaghetti, flowers, Grandpa, animals, blueberries, friend Jocelyn, baby brother Noah, toys, a puppy, and markers to draw with.

**With Service to Others:** There are two upcoming service opportunities for Sunday school children. *First*, on Sunday, November 29, all children will meet in the fireplace room to practice Christmas carols. Following music, the 3 year olds through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will make Christmas cards that will be distributed to Gethsemane members and others. The 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will help make items that will be used for the *Night in Bethlehem* event. *Second*, on Sunday, December 6 all Sunday school age children are invited to decorate and assemble gift bags that will be given to kindergarten students at Jefferson School. Please note that there is only one church service on this Sunday. The children will work on this project while adults are attending the congregational meeting. "Thank you, God for our children and the gifts they bring to our church, Amen."



Julian, Jacob, K.T., Aaron, Alex, Ben and Brenna preparing to sing with the choir.

## Confirmation and GYG

Confirmation Classes will be held on **Mondays, December 7 and 14.**

Thanks to the Confirmation Class for helping with the Pancake Breakfast on our Stewardship Celebration Sunday.



Nine youth and five adults helped with this year's *Rake and Run*. We managed to finish our raking before the rain came!



### **GYG Sponsors Parents' Night Out Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00-9:00pm**

Enjoy a few hours of dinner and/or shopping without the kids as you prepare for the Christmas holiday! All Sunday School age children (age 3 and older) are invited!

This is not a fund-raiser for the GYG – but rather for Gethsemane and its work through the general offering. Please RSVP to Megan Yemm at [mmyemm@swbell.net](mailto:mmyemm@swbell.net) if you are interested in bringing your kids.

## STORIES OF LIFE, HOPE, AND FAITH

### **My Story – by Rollie Walston**

Why *Reconciling in Christ* for the GLBT Community?

My story begins 70 years ago, or REALLY 80 years ago! But since I am not writing a book, I must start, perhaps when I was in sixth grade. This is when I began to think I was not considered a “normal” child, when I began to be teased by my classmates because of the image I projected. This “difference” became more evident to me as I went through junior high, then high school, with no one to turn to ...

I became a Lutheran when I was about 12, thanks to a new step-father – a change I have never regretted, and loved every minute of it. I proceeded to do the things “expected” of all men, even joined the Army! Marriage, one of the “expected” things, went reasonably well for a few years, and I thankfully fathered two lovely children!

As my marriage began to deteriorate, I gradually came to the realization that I am homosexual, and ALWAYS HAD BEEN! To be fair to my wife, we concluded a divorce was necessary.

Rationalizing and reconciling my new-found lifestyle with my religion and God's Word was a long process – in fact it continues even today, and has been the occasion for much prayer throughout the years.

Coming to Gethsemane, some 21 years ago, has been the best decision I ever made! Starting with Ron Glusenkamp, all pastors here have welcomed me as a gay man, for which I am most thankful.

I know of other members of the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered) community who have and do live in the vicinity of our church who are reluctant to even enter our church building because they are afraid of not being made welcome here – sad, but true.

Gethsemane is embarking on a program called *Reconciling in Christ*. This is a program to specifically welcome the GLBT community, along with **all** others – people of all colors, races, and backgrounds.

An educational process will be forthcoming, so that no one does not understand GLBT folks, so that everyone has a chance to be informed and participate. It is our hope that when we vote on accepting this process/program, all will have come to understand...remembering that we are ALL GOD'S PEOPLE.

Rollie Walston

# Health Cabinet

## Care for Caregivers

Peace and Joy in the name of our coming Savior! December is a month filled with family gatherings, eager anticipation, special services and programs, and extra fellowship opportunities. Despite our best intentions, we can find ourselves hurried, harried, and exhausted. This is especially true for Caregivers of those with Chronic Illness, which is the topic we would like to visit with you about this month. Care giving is as difficult as it is a loving job, and we need to watch ourselves so we avoid the experience of caregiver burnout. We can be encouraged that in Christ's church, we are called to bear each other's burdens (Gal. 6:2).

Symptoms of Caregiver Burnout include the following:

- Altered sleep and eating patterns
- Frequent headaches or body discomforts
- Increased irritability, anxiety, and overreacting to minor frustrations
- Feeling trapped, isolated, depressed, overwhelmed, or hopeless
- Neglecting the care of self or other family members

### Tips for Caregivers

- ✓ Recognize that providing for a loved one's care, does not necessarily mean that you need to provide all of that care yourself.
- ✓ Remember that providing for your self-care is not selfish, but makes it possible for you to continue your loving care for others (even in airplanes, caregivers need to put the oxygen on first, so they can be able to care for others!)
- ✓ Develop boundaries and work on being able to try to accept help (care giving is more like a marathon, rather than a sprint!)
- ✓ Learn all you can about your loved one's diagnosis, treatments, and available resources
- ✓ Plan for specific times in your day or week that you can have respite support (another family member, a friend or volunteer who can provide care for a specific period of time)
- ✓ Keep in touch with your family and friends
- ✓ Consider joining a support group, either face-to-face or online

- ✓ Remember that God is able to accomplish that which we are not able to do with our own strength (Phil. 1:6)
- ✓ Try not to let present circumstances keep you from thinking about your future; the beautiful one God has in mind for you (Jer. 29:11)

If we can be of any help to you and your family, please contact Teri Wallis or any member of the Health Cabinet. We would like to share in your burdens, and visit with you about other ideas and helpful resources. May we all be comforted knowing that we are in the arms of the perfect caregiver, Jesus Christ (John 21:6). Peace and Grace from your Health Cabinet.

## **Health Cabinet Holiday Bake Sale** **Home-Baked Cookies and Treats for a Cause**

*Springerle, Spritz, Butterhorns, Noel Wreaths, Pecan Puffs, Chocolate Bars, Speculaas, Orange Pretzels, Candy Cane Cookies, Almond Crescents, Ribbon Cookies, Truffles, Cranberry Bars, Fudge, etc. and White Chocolate Trail Mix! Yum!!!*

Remember all those special people in your life with a gift of homemade cookies or treats for the holidays. The Health Cabinet is once again selling beautiful cookie trays and bags of white chocolate trail mix – but this year, trays will be sold first come, first served in between services on Sundays, December 13 and 20. Cookie trays will be \$20; bags of trail mix will be \$5. Funds raised support the Christmas Outreach through Joint Neighborhood Ministry (***matched by Thrivent Matching Funds***) and Project Peanut Butter. (Please note that many of the cookie varieties contain nuts.)

## IN OUR COMMUNITY ...

### Stars and Promises at the Sheldon

*Sing Joy* with Peter Mayer at the Sheldon Concert Hall, Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. For tickets go to [www.sheldonconcerthall.org](http://www.sheldonconcerthall.org)

### National Lutheran Choir Concert

*Heaven and Earth Sing Gloria*. Two performances, Sat., Dec. 19, 4:00pm and 7:30pm at Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust. Tickets are available, \$20 (general admission) by calling 1-888-747-4589 or [www.nlca.com](http://www.nlca.com).

## AND IN OUR WORLD

During this fall, Richie Frohlichstein has been studying in Cairo, Egypt and traveling in the Middle East. You can read about his travels and observations at his blog: <http://www.travelpod.com/z/richfrohl/1/1257369126>. Richie will be returning home in December prior to resuming studies at Georgetown University.

**Alternative Gift Giving:** Check out the ELCA Good Gifts catalog by going to [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org). Your gift can help support leadership development, combat hunger, respond to disasters, and share the gospel. The ELCA also offers a “barnyard” program similar to the Heifer Project.

## VICISSITUDES\*

\* The changes or events that occur in our lives.

### Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Appreciation comes from the Niebuhr's for what all of you folks have done for us. We value the word of “thanks” very highly. It doesn't seem enough, but that word to us is extremely true and valuable to the two of us.

We've had visits from Pastor Kendra and Deaconess Phyllis Saathoff, altar flowers delivered by Mary Jane Thomsen and Michael Borough, Rake & Run Gethsemane youth and parents, transportation to doctors by Fred Lenhart, large print Sunday bulletins delivered to Gus prior to 11:00am “HUGS” service by Wilma and Matt Spicer and Denise Buehrer, Peggy Zapf and Margaret Lenhart sweet treats, and Gary and Luke B. agreeing to take care of our yard.

Even though Mardi Manary is no longer our Parish Nurse, we wish to acknowledge all of her visits and telephone calls.

Sincerely and God's Blessings

*Gus and Lillie Niebuhr*

Thank you to the Gethsemane folks who offered messages of comfort to us, following the death of my Mother, Adeline.

We appreciate your support. *Don and Mary Thuss*

Thank you to Pastor Kendra for all her support, guidance and encouragement during my stem cell transplant, and for the pastoral visits, prayers and giving communion. Kathleen and I appreciate her visits with us together and with me individually, especially the visit, prayers and communion the day of the transplant, for staying with us the entire time and then going to lunch with Kathleen. I also thank Pastor for listening to my doubts and fears, recommending the CaringBridge website and for helping and guiding me in finding the spiritual framework for approaching transplant, which guided me. The presence of God, the life and death of our Lord and the work of the Spirit through the Gethsemane community carried me every day.

*Randy and Kathleen Moe*

Thank you to the people of Gethsemane for all your thoughts, prayers and support for me and my family during my stem cell transplant in October. I appreciate your care and concern for Kathleen, Carolyn and Christopher during this time and for letting them know you were with us in every step. Thank you for your best wishes, prayers and concern expressed either in person or through the CaringBridge website or both! Thank you to Kathleen for continuing to take Carolyn to church during this time so she could worship and see all her friends and for all you did for our family. Thank you to Carolyn and Christopher for your prayers, love and care too. I hope to return for worship in January and look forward to seeing all of you then.

*Randy Moe*

### **To Everyone at Gethsemane,**

I don't know where to begin to thank all of you for making the past 5 years as Gethsemane's church secretary such a wonderful experience for me. This was not just a job for me but a true joy in my life. Working with Pastor Kendra and Mardi Manary was a perfect fit and an inspiration for me; I know that I'm a better person for having these incredible friendships, which I hope will last the rest of my life.

#### ***Many, many thanks to:***

My Friday girls, Shirley Roberts, Jane Mann, and Mary Brice (and Herb), for making sure everything was in order for worship services,

My Messenger crew over the years, Mrs. Otto, Mrs. Frederickson, Mrs. Mohl, Mrs. Mahnken, Mrs. Paffett, Mr. and Mrs. Fehr, Mrs. Schenck, Shirley Roberts, Pauline Farmer, and Jack and Lois Wind (I hope I didn't forget anyone!),

Don Kurt for the special help around the office on Mondays,

Jane Kurt (in my satellite office) for worship leader reminders,

Dawn Schuessler for her proof-reading perfection,

Shirley Roberts for filling in at the desk when I needed to be away and for making phone calls on a moment's notice,

My tech gurus, Conrad Otto and Tom Meuser, for putting up with all of my silly questions and keeping my computer, telephone, and security camera working, and

My fantabulous carpenters, Roy Geers, Don Thuss and Walter Mueller.

It seems like any words I say are just not enough, but I want you all to know that this change was very difficult for me and that I loved every minute working in the GLC office.

*Love, Jean*

## ***LAGNIAPPE***

*"a little something extra"*

### **Where Did the Worship Committee Dine This Month?**

Before each monthly meeting, members of the worship committee gather at a local restaurant for dinner. In November, we went to Café Ventana, 3919 West Pine at Vandeventer (by SLU). It is a small coffee house with a New Orleans feel, both in décor and menu. There are three patios, a fireplace surrounded by couches, wifi, a bagel bar, live music in the evenings, Monday movie nights with free popcorn, freshly roasted coffee, Sunday and Saturday brunches. Breakfast includes breakfast soufflés and panninis and a case full of Lubeley's pastries. Brunch includes Bananas Foster French toast. Their famous beignets are available all of the time, and are delivered to your table right away, so you can always eat dessert first.

We started with a few chocolate beignets. These look like regular beignets, covered in powdered sugar, but contain a hidden surprise of melted dark chocolate. Amazing! One diner ordered chickory coffee in a French press to go along with the beignets. Two of our diners ordered the sandwich special of the day, which was supposed to be a Thanksgiving dinner on bread. The turkey and cranberry sauce were there, but we couldn't find the advertised stuffing. The sandwiches were still good. The crab cakes turned out to be more like a crab quiche in a tart shell. The Cuban sandwich changed up things from the traditional combination by putting smoked ham, carnitas, gruyere cheese, dill pickle, and Dijon mustard in a tomato wrap and grilling it. It was a good way to get the most of all of the flavors of a Cuban sandwich without all of the bread.

Café Ventana is a great place for breakfast, lunch, dinner, or just hanging out. They have a pretty comprehensive web site at <http://cafeventana.com/index.php>