

Sowers of St. Luke's

St Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN

August 2009

Visit us online at: www.sowersofstlukes.com

Love the Coolness!

Calling On Community Gardeners

I have been contacted by Kathy Mayberry, who along with Jayne Thorne and the Green Ministry is looking at creating a community garden ministry. They have started to gather some initial information and want to form a steering committee, hoping to have a meeting by the end of August. They are looking at obtaining city land in the Brightwood area and hoping to attract school or church youth groups who would then benefit from the harvest. This would be a great opportunity for Master Gardeners who need service hours or if you are thinking of signing up for the Master Gardener class coming up in September. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kathy at work at 816-0167, the sooner the better. Also, please let me know in the next week or so, in order to be sure we at least respond to this request.

Please note that Carolyn will be having a fall plant sale on September 13, barring any reasonable opposition. This would be a great opportunity for one or two individuals to work with her and Sue Meyer, who is stepping down from the spring sale next year, to learn the routine. We need one or two someones who are willing to coordinate the set up and pricing on Saturday afternoon and the sales schedule, plus clean up on Sunday. As this is one of our big money makers, I hope with your help that we can continue the tradition.

Summer is whizzing by so it is probably not too soon to think about Bazaar, our other big moneymaker. We need a volunteer to coordinate the tree decorating workshop if we want to continue this tradition.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the annual report that I prepared for the church. Please note Carolyn's gardening dates in August - hope to see you there!
Gail

From our gardener

We are in that time frame that comes midsummer when the garden is happily growing on its own. Some years we have to drag hoses around for weeks; haven't we been blessed with rain this summer? The weeds pull beautifully. Friday evening I gardened alone at church. It took two and one half hours before I was ready to quit with most things accomplished. Nancy McPherson had done quite a bit of trimming in the afternoon. Gloria Barron has put our new labels together and we will place them on one of our August dates. Four weeks ago Sue McKee and I cleaned everything up in a couple of hours. We spend a lot of energy and time thinking about what we need to do and not that much time actually gardening. The thinking ahead plus records pays off in saving you work. I have a good plant record chart for the Sower's Garden and want to get the same system for my home garden...

How would you like the later date of **September 13th for the fall plant sale?** This is the week after Labor Day. The weather should be more favorable for gathering up your tiny starts and still early enough to allow our buyers to get their plants in the ground and established before freezing weather. The deadline for getting our publicity in the church publications is August 10th. Let me know any comments you have before that time. As you work in your garden watch for possibilities for the plant sale. The fall sale is smaller than the spring sale but gives an opportunity to share plants that are not ready in the spring. Judy Tults may have the perennial Japanese Fountain grass again. Yesterday I transplanted many tiny starts of Ligularia in the



hope that they will be a sale item. Sue McKee mentioned hostas that she had to divide.

I saw an herb garden to ooh and ah over last week. It was one of the gardens around the Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie. This was only one garden I enjoyed, the flower gardens are nice and you can see the restored woodland gardens around two of the Ball brothers' homes. While you are there, tour the exhibits inside Minnetrista and the one home open for tours, George and Frances Ball's Oakhurst.

Gardening dates for August are given on the calendar. Your help and company would be appreciated. It is a very good idea to contact me that week to be sure there are not any changes.

Carolyn

Christmas Potpourri

J an Seward reminds us all to save our flower petals, especially roses, for the Christmas potpourri she will put together for the bazaar.

Member notes

D iane Stone has requested all the prayers you can muster! She is scheduled for surgery on August 13. It will be a hysterectomy due to some recently discovered cancer cells in that area. She says it was found in an early stage and is supposed to be very treatable.

Sowers Annual Report 7/08-6/09

I n addition to the efforts of keeping up the church garden, last summer included resetting the flagstone and some rewiring of the lights. Carolyn Curry continues to be our lead Gardener, and continues to maintain the plantings (and at entrance 16) with the help of members of our group. In summer 08, several members took time to visit the Flower Barn in Lebanon for a day of lunch, learning and shopping.

On 9/7/2008 a fall plant sale was held between services. The contributions were from our own gardens and all the profits go to our general fund for maintaining the garden space. This sale raised \$ 386.00.

In October a workshop was held, to decorate Christmas trees to sell, along with other handmade /baked items at the annual Fall Bazaar. This is our biggest moneymaker, taking in \$1245.00 in 2008. My co-leader and I also attended the meeting for the Member Care ministries; and were reminded to decide how our existing web address could be integrated into the larger church information technology system. One of our members, Marcia Pearson set up a webpage for us some years ago as www.sowersofstlukes.com, but it had not been updated for quite some time.

The annual pitch-in/holiday party was held in December at a member's home.

The Sowers have their own designated Endowment fund, which as of 12/31/08 our treasurer reported had \$10,404.00. This money has been designated for future maintenance of the church garden, as this group grows older and may become less able to perform the physical work sometimes required.

The new year had us participating in the church Open House. Eight people signed up, indicating they would like to know more about our gardening group.

In February the group contributed \$100.00 toward a tree for the Neighborwoods project that the Green Ministry was sponsoring. In addition, one educational program on invasive plants was presented by a horticulturist from the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Several members also attended another workshop about Lori Lee Andrew's all-church Lenten project, creating a cross composed of pictures from the garden. Another small group met to learn from one another and improve our computer skills so we could update and enlarge the offerings to both our newsletter and website.

In March another member, Joyce Wozniak arranged for an open event seminar on Color in the Garden, presented by two local gardening gurus. This excellent presentation, which also showed pictures of their worldwide garden tours, was attended by other church members as well as Master Gardeners. We had 29 paying guests, which netted \$318.00 for the group.

One of our members, who had travelled to see the gardens of Tuscany last year, provided a presentation in April that was again open to all church members. It was informative and fun to see

beautiful gardens before we could get out in our own to work!

Also in April the designated team leaders met to discuss moving some monies from the checking into the existing Sowers endowment, as a better way to balance our funds. The sum of \$1000.00 was agreed upon by the membership, to be moved in time for Endowment Sunday.

The first Sunday in May means Plant Sale for this group. Under the leadership of Sue Meyer, there were not many of the members' plants left at the end, and the profit was \$ 992.87.

Gardening dates and times have been scheduled for this summer, and our program chair is working on setting up a field trip to a garden of interest.

I cannot end this report without mentioning the invaluable contribution that Diane Rice has made this year especially. Not only has she been our longstanding (suffering?!) newsletter editor, but she has also worked diligently to improve and update our website. Her coordinating e-mail information is the "glue" that keeps the membership informed as things come up between newsletters. Just last month she was able to archive our past newsletters to the site as well. She was also instrumental in the computer workshop that will hopefully enable some of us more technically challenged to contribute articles and information as well.

As always we love to see people enjoying the garden!

Submitted by Gail Corn, Co-leader

From the editor

Issues will be posted on our website: www.sowersofstlukes.com with the newest at the top of the list. You can always go there to see back issues. There will be an email to let you know when a new issue is posted.

FYI - Only one person asked to be removed from the 'snail mail' list for a total of two people. Guess we're not as 'green' as some might think!!

Diane R

Events Calendar

- Sat 8/08 Garden with Carolyn, 9:30am
 Fri 8/21 Garden with Carolyn, 6:30pm
 Sun 8/30 Deadline for items in next newsletter
 Sat 9/12 Plant Sale Set Up
 Sun 9/13 Fall Plant Sale

Team Leaders

Coordinators:	Gail Corn	843-1244
	gkcorn@sbcglobal.net	
	Sue McKee	253-9757
Treasurer	Judy Tults	873-5068
	jnjtults@comcast.net	
Programs	Chris Hammock	257-1421
	chammock@parktudor.org	
Gardener	Carolyn Curry	253-2033
	carolyn.curry@gmail.com	
Spring Plant Sale	Put your name here!!	
Fall Plant Sale	Carolyn Curry	253-2033
Bazaar Committee:		
	Fri Set-up/Pricing	Mary Lou Curless 574-1772
		curlessm@sbcglobal.net
	Saturday Sales	Sue Meyers 816-0185
		s-meyer@att.net
	Sunday Sales	Carolyn Curry 253-2033
		carolyn.curry@gmail.com
News	Diane Rice	252-2612
	ladydi7560@yahoo.com	
Hospitality	Gloria Barron	844-2989

