

Sowers of St. Luke's

St Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, IN

April 2010

Visit us online at: www.sowersofstlukes.com

Spring is here....

"I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose, I would always greet it in a garden." - Ruth Stouti

Isn't green grass and yellow daffodils a wonderful sight!?! Thanks to Chris for getting Kathleen Hull to present on famous gardeners, botanists and landscape architects earlier in March. Her informative presentation covered several centuries, as well as countries; with local gardens identified where some of these major influences can be found. We have another interesting program on the Language of Flowers coming up on April 21st. **YOU MUST RSVP** for this one, so we can have the correct amount of materials available to make the tussie mussies. Thank you to Judy for making announcements for the bulletin boards around the church. Unfortunately there is a misprint on my e-mail address in the April Communion. The correct address is: gkcom@sbcglobal.net.

In a brief meeting prior to the March program, the team leaders discussed the date for this year's Spring Plant Sale. Because of other events that active members will be participating in, it was agreed to try Mother's Day (May 9th) this year. Please let Carolyn or I know if you are available on Saturday for set up and pricing, and/or if you will commit to a certain time between services on Sunday to man the booth or help with clean-up. We want to keep this tradition going as it is typically our biggest money maker for the year. Also, if anyone has another group or organization that could use any of the leftover plants we might have, please let us know.

And thanks to Carolyn, our intrepid gardener, who did not let the uncooperative weather keep her from making the pansy cross again this year. She also got a nice blurb in

the Palm Sunday bulletin inviting everyone to come and see the garden.

Sue Mc will be attending the quarterly Member Care Ministries meeting this week. It is a coordinated way to try to keep all of the various church groups "in the loop".

Let me know **by April 7th** if you plan to attend the program on April 21st!

Gail



The Language of Flowers

Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30PM in W125, the Sowers will meet to learn about "The Language of Flowers." Miranda Marsico from the Blooming Dragon Emporium will teach about the Victorian custom of using flowers to communicate messages. She will also direct a workshop on making "nosegays with a message." She asks that each participant bring a pair of small sharp scissors or a pruner. **Cost is \$5/person. RSVPs are necessary** to ensure enough materials for everyone. Contact Gail Corn at gkcom@sbcglobal.net or 843-1244 **by April 7** if you would like to be included.

Spring Plant Sale

Spring is in the air which brings thoughts of our May plant sale. There is no chairperson this year, but Carolyn Curry and Sue Meyer will be coordinating the project. This will give all the Sowers a chance to participate in getting our sale off to a huge success. Anyone who can contribute their

time and talents, please contact Sue or Carolyn.

On Saturday, May 8th bring your potted, labeled plants and place them in the designated spots on the prepared tables. (Usually sun vs shade, large in back, small in front - an easy job for everyone!)

We will need volunteers to sell on Sunday morning. Any help you can give will be welcome. Let's make it another great sale!

Gardening and Plant Sale Notes

Did you see the pansies in the 'old, rugged' cross on Palm Sunday morning? Marti Hunsucker and I were afraid after reading the weather forecast that they would be wet and blown out of shape in the garden, just like last year. We asked Jim to carry the cross inside as Julie had given her permission to put them anywhere in the West Passage. It was an easy decision to place them in front of the statue of Christ outside Robinson Chapel. The *Later at St. Luke's* people could enjoy them that evening. Also, the Sowers have a new friend, Jennifer Streitmatter, the owner of an exterior floral design company, Ladybug's. She sometimes does the altar flowers, and for the second year she has gotten our pansies at cost. We may work with her in obtaining annuals for the urns.

As we get ready to begin another garden season I want to express a very sincere thank you to Gail and Sue for serving as our leadership team for another year. I know from experience that Sowers are a rather unique group to govern. We are the slowest to commit to anything, and this causes those who like to plan ahead great consternation from time to time. We always come through in the end and have a great time with our creativity in the process. While I think about another year as garden chair person, it is good to know Sue and Gail will be looking out for our participation in the church community and helping everyone to be involved as their time and talents allow...

We have met several visitors at our winter meetings. I have attended Kent's Tuesday night three part series on leading as Jesus would. One point from last week was that a

good leader plans for their succession. In the last two years I have gotten better at record keeping. A diary is very helpful in gardening in reminding you when something needs to be treated, or cut, or whatever. Getting new people involved in the process is essential for all of our projects. Nan Schulte is one new member that has attended several of our education meetings this winter and expressed an interest in the garden.

As you have already learned we are changing our spring plant sale to Mother's Day weekend. Marti and Linda Young have mentioned they have potted things for the sale. They are the only Sowers I have talked to this week so hopefully everyone else is finding possibilities. Don't overlook your neighbors as a source of plants. Anyone who needs large pots may find some in a black garbage bag stored behind the pineapple statue in the garden. The date for the sale, May 9th is not significantly later than in other years. I think it will be fun to be part of the Mother's Day activities.

Friday evenings at 5:30 or 6 pm, whatever time is best for you, and 9:30 or 10 am on Saturday mornings will be our gardening dates for this season. It is often the first and the third weeks of the month but this varies. Communicate by e-mail or call me before coming whenever possible to confirm and know what we will be doing in the garden. **I would like a couple of helpers for this coming Saturday, the day before Easter, at 11:45** for a couple of hours for general clean-up. The next gardening date is Friday, April 23rd at 6 pm.

Carolyn

Member Dues

Twelve people have not yet paid dues for 2010 – your envelope label has **09**. Please let Diane know ASAP if you need to be "inactive" or pay your dues so the 2010 membership directory can be prepared.

Three people have chosen to be 'Inactive' members, pay no dues and receive emails but not the paper newsletter. Three members who have paid this year also requested "email only" as a mailing cost savings to the Sowers.

Ponderings

Sometimes you get surprises with plants. Years ago in the fall I tried to put a poinsettia in darkness except for eight hours every day per Dick Crum so that it would bloom, but I didn't get very good results for all my efforts. You know, like putting a big box over it about 4pm so it would have the required amount of total darkness each and every day.

So now it's 2010 and the surprise is with a poinsettia I've had for a couple years. When plants look healthy, I have a hard time throwing them out so this poinsettia lived outside all last summer. When cool weather came, I dutifully brought it inside along with all the others that had been at "plant camp" on my porch or patio. I have done absolutely nothing but water it as needed – no special light or darkness given. It sits in my kitchen breakfast nook halfway into the southwest window, sometimes dropping leaves. BUT in the last couple weeks, it has produced seven sets of dark pink colored leaf blooms and it looks pretty good!!! I still am amazed that it happened with no unusual effort. I must call Dick Crum and let him know. ☺

Diane R

Dilly of a Day

The Sowers are invited to participate in the annual symposium hosted by the herb society. This year's theme "Dilly of a Day" will be held on April 17th at the Ritz Charles. It is a very nice way to spend an early spring Saturday with a special friend or relative and meet other gardeners and herb lovers.

Most of the Sowers know about Carolee's Herb Farm; she (along with two other growers) brings lush herbs and perennials to sell. Other speakers include Victoria Wessler who for several years has been educating and entertaining us through her web newsletter "Going Local". She will demonstrate different methods of making pickles. Donna Frawley who owns Frawley's Fine Herbarry in Midland, MI will give a culinary presentation, and Jim Long from Long Creek Herbs in Missouri will talk

on "Better Sleep, Less Stress with Flowers and Herbs".

Besides plants to look at and buy, there will be booths with herbal soaps, herbal recipes, and a silent auction. A nice luncheon is included; the cost of the day is \$35. For registration information, call 317-575-8005 or go to www.herbsocietyofcentralindiana.org.

FYI - Email to Gail

From: Cathy Robinson crobinson411@yahoo.com>
To: gkcom@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Mon, March 29, 2010 11:32 AM
Subject: Mission Possible Kids "sowing seeds of love" project

Hello Gail,

My name is Cathy Robinson and I'm Later @ St. Luke's MPKids coordinator. On April 11, at our meeting, MPKids will be preparing seed packets that they have gathered to ship to Miskito Coast in Honduras to help the people there who live in a remote jungle area. I would like to know if your group would like to join us in collecting seed packets and preparing them for shipment.

Also, If someone in your group has been on a mission trip to help provide agricultural support to another country, I would like them to share their experience with the Agents on that day. We meet at 6:00-8:00pm on Sundays.

Please let me know,

Blessings,
 Cathy Robinson
 MPKids Coordinator
 436-8374

From the Editor

Issues will be posted on our website: www.sowersofstlukes.com with the newest at the top of the list. They are printable as an MS Word .doc file or as an Adobe .pdf file. Members will receive an email when a new issue is posted.

St Luke's website: www.stlukesumc.com has an active link to the Sowers website – it's just not easy to find! Look under "Get

Involved", and then we're under "Fellowship" right after the Elderberries.

I changed the newsletter font from Gil Sans to Century Gothic after hearing about a university study that determined it uses less ink than Arial (which is comparable to Gil Sans). I'm all about conservation. Hope it works for you!

On another note, there were several Sowers members who submitted Lenten crosses during the 2009 Lent. We were asked afterwards to submit a devotional to go along with a picture of the cross for the 2010 Lent. To view all of them, go to St Luke's website:

www.stlukesumc.com and the click on "Devotionals" at the top of the page. The Oasis bookstore also has all of them in a booklet for \$12.

And finally, IF all goes as planned, I will have an open garden probably in early June. Since I'm not ready to set a date, I may have to announce via email later this spring.

Diane R

Events Calendar

Sat 4/3 11:45am Tidy garden for Easter

Wed 4/21 7:30pm in W125 at St Luke's
The Language of Flowers

Fri 4/23 6pm Garden with Carolyn

Sun 4/25 Deadline for next newsletter

Sat 5/8 Plant sale setup – bring in your
donated plants

Sun 5/9 Plant sale between and during
Sunday morning services

June ?? Rescheduled "Honeybees" program
– TBD

Team Leaders

Coordinators:	Gail Corn	843-1244
	gkcom@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