

## From Our Missionaries

*We were in Rwanda to meet with the leadership of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda (LCR), to visit parishes and projects of the Church, to meet with Robin Strickler, our ELCA Mission Personnel, and to learn about the progress of Robin's project in partnership with the LCR, the Rwamagana Lutheran Secondary School. Robin is married to Pastor John Rutsindintwarane, the LCR Secretary General. This is the fourth in a series of blog entries that provide highlights of our experiences in Rwanda.*

In April 2006, Robin Strickler took a 60-mile walk down the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia to raise money for secondary education in Rwanda. She raised over \$20,000 with the help of congregations and individual Lutherans who were inspired by her dream. Today, her dream is becoming a reality as the classroom building of the Rwamagana Lutheran Secondary School rises from the red clay of Rwanda.

Having married a native Rwandan, Pastor John Rutsindintwarane, Robin was aware of the need for English language secondary education and the desire of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda to establish a school. She enlisted the support of her home congregation, Muhlenberg Lutheran Church of Harrisonburg, VA as well as that of LCR's ELCA Companion, the Sierra Pacific Synod. As interest in the project grew, other congregations and individuals came on board. By 2007, the Rwanda School Project was designated a 501(C)3 Organization, the Sierra Pacific Synod had donated money to buy land in Rwamagana, and Robin was officially designated Director of the school project by the Lutheran Church of Rwanda.

The country of Rwanda has come a long way since the genocide of 1994 decimated much of the population. Although Rwanda's economy continues to have a subsistence agriculture base, the aim of the Ministry of Education is to focus on education (science and math in

particular) in order to make Rwanda's best natural resource its people. It envisions a service / technology-based economy, which requires a well-rounded educational system.

Robin lists the following facts as evidence of the need for Rwamagana School:

- Only 15% of Rwandans are currently able to attend secondary school
- Only 42% of high school teachers are certified - many are themselves college students
- The country is close to 100% primary enrollment in early grades but only 40 to 60% are finishing primary, depending on the region - less than half of them are attending high school
- Current, public school fees are too high for most families and most schools go to 9th grade only. The vast majority of seats in private schools are for those who can pay.
- Rwanda's courts, universities, high schools and technology systems are still employing many foreign (e.g., Ugandan, Tanzanian) staff because so many of the intelligentsia were either killed in the genocide or fled the country
- Rwanda has a significant need for people with strong leadership and problem-solving skills - two areas of focus on in the school through the Expeditionary Learning framework For more information about Expeditionary Learning, go to <http://www.elschools.org/>
- The Rwandan government is making a switch from being primarily Francophone to primarily Anglophone. There is no English-language high school in Rwamagana, the capital of the newly formed Eastern Province. There is no school in Rwamagana that accepts students who can't pay.
- About 75% of the pastors in the Lutheran Church of Rwanda are primary school leavers.



When in Rwanda in September, we visited Robin at the temporary headquarters of the Rwamagana School located in a building of the African Evangelical Enterprise Center in Rwamagana. The center is a vocational school for street children and serves about 180 youth. To date, there are 22 Rwamagana School students who are taking classes in preparation for entry into S1, or 7th Grade, in 2010. Twelve of these students are former street kids who expressed the desire to achieve their secondary school education. The students are divided into two classrooms and their curriculum focuses on English language, science and mathematics. Because of their varied backgrounds, the students range in age from 13 to 18. When complete, the school will have the capacity to educate 430 students in grades 7 through 12.



English language and teacher training have been ongoing since 2007; however, this past summer special trainers came from Wisconsin to train the staff in the Expeditionary Learning framework.

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EL is based on the Outward Bound program in which participants learn skills, practice problem-solving strategies, and gain self-confidence by doing physically challenging activities. This framework also emphasizes sustainability, responsibility and care for the environment.

We enjoyed meeting the students, teachers and other staff of the school. All seemed very enthusiastic about the program and the future of the project. Robin told us that one of the students led Morning Prayer that morning for the first time, and he did it all in English. This was a major accomplishment for the young man

who less than a year before spoke no English at all.

After greeting the students and hearing a report about the progress of the school, we drove to the building site to see what had been accomplished so far. The facilities will include a chapel that will be used jointly by the local Rwamagana Lutheran Congregation and the school. We were shown where the chapel will stand and how the property had been cleared and leveled for the canteen and dormitories. The classroom building foundation was almost completely dug, and there was hope that the building would be completed before the end of the year.



We watched as the work crew carefully dug the foundation by hand, dislodging large rocks as they dug. There were no earth-moving machines in sight. We took time to thank the workmen for their hard labor. Building a school in Rwanda is truly a hands-on experience- from start to finish. Many hands are making Rwamagana School possible.

## Carroll County Food Sunday

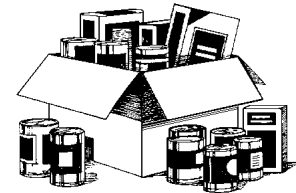
Food and monetary support will be collected for Carroll County needy and/or unemployed during November. A designated box will be placed in the overflow room of the church in which you may place non-perishable foods. Also offerings collected at our Thanksgiving eve service will go for this purpose as will a portion of our proceeds from our up-coming Christmas Bazaar on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Carroll County Food Sunday will receive our gifts and have sent us the following information.

*December is one of our busiest months of the year. More and more new families are coming into our three county locations and we are distributing more food than ever. It is a challenge to keep our shelves stocked. But thanks to the generosity of the people of Carroll County, Food Sunday has always been able to meet the nutritional needs of our neighbors."*

- David Taylor, Chairman

The U.S. Census Bureau just released its Annual Snapshot of Living Standards in the U.S., based on 2008 data. According to the Census Bureau, about 54 million people were living under 125% of the poverty line, about three million more than in 2007. The number of "deep poor" - people whose earning put them at least half the poverty line - increased by 1.5 million to 17 million.

*"At Carroll County Food Sunday, we are already preparing for the months that lie ahead. These are our busiest months of the year, which include the holidays and into the winter season. We have begun ordering now for the large Thanksgiving food packages we distribute to all families. And*



*From Carroll County Food Sunday records for the first eight months of 2009.*

Fresh eggs distributed	
- 11,925 dozen @\$ .98/dz .....	\$11,686.50
Fresh milk vouchers redeemed...	\$20,390.00
Frozen Orange Juice distributed - 292 cases .....	\$10,017.00
Food purchased from Maryland Food Bank .....	\$61,692.00
YTD Family Requests for Assistance .....	13,067
YTD Individual Portions Served ...	34,019
New Family Units Registered .....	439

# Thanksgiving Eve Service

The Annual Thanksgiving Eve Service will be held on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.



# Christmas Bazaar

Please join us for a day of FUN-draising and fellowship as we hold our annual Christmas Bazaar. A sign-up sheet is included below.

## St. Mary's Luncheon & Christmas Bazaar Saturday, December 12, 2009 - 9 a.m. til 2 p.m.

The Outreach & Welcome Committee is asking for help again this year to make this fund-raiser a real blessing. Please hand in your sign-up sheet by December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I can donate the following baked items:

- Cookies (12 per bag)       Cakes\*
- Rice Krispie Treats       Bread
- Other Holiday Goodies       Pies
- Brownies       Cupcakes
- Muffins       Fudge       Candy

I can donate handmade craft items.

I can donate a monetary contribution to offset the cost of paper supplies, soda and food items.\*\*

I can help:

- Setup (Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 p.m.)
- At the craft tables \_\_\_ a.m. or \_\_\_ p.m.
- In the kitchen \_\_\_ a.m. or \_\_\_ p.m.
- At the bake tables \_\_\_ a.m. or \_\_\_ p.m.
- Cashier \_\_\_ a.m. or \_\_\_ p.m.
- Clean up

Contact Ruth Warfield 443-732-6030 for tables. A limited number are available on a first come, first serve basis.

**For more information contact:** Jim Crist, Chairperson, Outreach & Welcome Committee at 410-848-4391.

\* Additional cakes are needed for the "cake walk".  
\*\*Checks payable to "St. Mary's Lutheran Church", noted for Christmas Bazaar.

Thank You for your support!

# Poinsettia Orders

It is time to order flowers to be placed around the altar for our Christmas Eve service.

White or Red Poinsettias  
6" pot with total of 3 to 5 blooms .....\$8.00 each  
(Price guide: 1 - \$8.00, 2 - \$16.00, 3- \$24.00)

Fill in this form and mail along with your **check made out to St. Mary's Lutheran Church** to the church office.

Please Print Legibly

**Deadline for ordering: Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

Ordered by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

(How many) # \_\_\_\_\_ **White** Poinsettias @ \$8.00 each

Total paid? \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

(How many)# \_\_\_\_\_ **Red** Poinsettias @ \$8.00 each

Total paid? \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

If you have questions, call Ruth Warfield 443-732-6030.

# Christmas Program & Dinner

Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
4:00 p.m. in the Parish House

Food from *Bentley's at the Barn*

### Tentative MENU

Broasted Chicken	Baked Ham
Baked Potato	Green Beans
Roll/butter	Dessert
Iced Tea	Coffee



### Free will offering at the door.

(Please give generously as the difference will come out of St. Mary's funds)

Please make your reservations **by December 6<sup>th</sup>** so that the proper amount of food and supplies can be purchased. Reservation sheets can be placed in the offering plate or call your reservations into the church office (410-346-7146) with the information requested below.

Yes, I (We) plan to attend St. Mary's Christmas Program and Dinner on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Adults \_\_\_\_\_ # Children (6-12) \_\_\_\_\_

# Children under 6 \_\_\_\_\_

## St. Mary's Veterans

In Honor of Veteran's Day we recognize the members of St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church who have served our country.

**Robert Adams, Jr.** - US Army Reserves, 1972-1990. Active in Desert Storm 1990-1992. PA National Guard 1992-1996. Retired 1996, Staff Sergeant. 24 years of service.

**Leonard Armstrong** - US Marines, 1967 - 1970.

**Bill Blickenstaff** - Navy Crash & Salvage Rescue unit. 3 years of service.

**Joseph W. Blickenstaff, Sr.** - Navy Repair Service. 3 years of service.

**Harvey Bowersox T5/ Corporal** - 63<sup>rd</sup> Division Infantry. Served April 4, 1944 to February 13, 1946.

**Steven Bueker** - U.S. Navy. 4 years of service.

**Rodney Bupp** - Army, 6/12/1967 - 6/12/1970

**Allan D. Chrest** - US Air Force, 1965- 1969

**James A. Crist** - U.S. Navy. 4 years of service (September 30, 1961 to September 26, 1965).

**Jason Eyler** - Army, 1997 - 2001

**John Warren Haifley** - 202 F.A. 3<sup>rd</sup> Army ETO. 2 yrs., 10 months of service.

**Donald R. Lawyer, SP2** - 1954 - 1957 Army, Army Security Agency - Hawaii

**Curtis D. Meadows** - Corporal, Marines, 1965 - 1968

**Gary S. Meadows** - Army Specialist 4<sup>th</sup> Class, 66 Military Intelligence, 1969 - 1971

**Cynthia D. Sparacino, CDR Retired** - (US Coast Guard & US Coast Guard Reserve) 28 years of service (1977 - 2005)

**Richard A. Sparacino, LCDR Retired** - (US Navy and US Coast Guard) 29 years service (1971 - 2000)

**Donald Stansbury** - Army Specialist 4<sup>th</sup> Class, 60<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 1954 - 1956

**Dennis L. Vonella, SGT** - Army, 1969- 1970

**Dominic A. Vonella**, Army, 1996 - Present

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Newsletter Deadline: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday by 10:00 a.m.

Church Office Hours: Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-1pm

Phone/FAX #: 410 346-7146

Email: [smelc@mail.com](mailto:smelc@mail.com)

Website: [www.stmaryselc.org](http://www.stmaryselc.org)

**Electronic Newsletter** - By joining St. Mary's email list, you'll be notified monthly when the newsletter has been posted in PDF format to our website, and a paper copy will no longer be printed for your household. To join, send an email to [smelc@mail.com](mailto:smelc@mail.com) requesting to be placed on the electronic newsletter list.



forms are posted next to the flower sign-up chart in the church Narthex, and are also available by contacting the Church Secretary.

**Pastor:** The Rev. Dr. H. Lee Brumbach, II 717-359-8882

**Council President:** Brenda Meadows 410-346-6994

**Council Vice-President:** Mary Krebs 717-637-5617

**Council Secretary:** Shirley Stansbury 717-637-6534

**Treasurer:** Art Wisner 410-346-7955

**Outreach & Welcome:** Jim Crist 410-848-4391

**Property Committee:** Gary Meadows 410-346-6994

**Staff Support & Stewardship Committee:** (vacant))

**Worship & Music Committee:** Don Kaufman 717-637-9795

**Flower Committee:** Ruth Warfield 443-732-6030

**Altar Guild Coordinator:** Fran Crist 410-848-4391

**Lector Coordinator:** Jim Crist 410-848-4391

**Funeral Reception Committee:** Viola Haines 717-633-7648, Marion Matthias 410-346-7380

**Sexton:** Mark Ruby 410-346-6840

**Secretary:** Susan Blizzard 410-848-6384

**Organist:** Joye Kaufman 717-637-9795

**Thrivent Liaison:** Donna Myers

**Carroll Lutheran School Delegate:** Shirley Stansbury

**Carroll Lutheran Village Delegates:** Jim and Fran Crist

**Acolyte Coordinator:** Alec Shapiro

**Stamp Coordinator:** Helen Wolf

You may wish to honor the memory of loved ones, birthdays, anniversaries, etc., by sponsoring a weekly bulletin or monthly "The Lutheran Light" newsletter. Bulletin sponsorships are \$15.00. Newsletter sponsorships are \$25.00. Sponsorship

# November 2009

\*\*Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday\*\*

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 All Saints' Day - White Isaiah 25: 6 - 9 Psalm 24 Revelation 21: 1 - 6 John 11: 32 - 44 <b>Basket Offering</b> -St. Dymas Prison Ministry</p>	<p>2  <b>Worship &amp; Music Committee Meeting - 7 pm</b></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Kaitlyn Powell</p>	<p>7 Arthur Wisner Roxanne Fleischer</p>
<p>8  Helen Wolf 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Green 1 Kings 17: 8 - 16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9: 24 - 28 Mark 12: 38 - 44</p>	<p>9  <b>Church Council Meeting - 7 pm</b></p>	<p>10  <i>Martin Luther's Birthday, 1483</i></p>	<p>11  Frances Crist</p>	<p>12  Jordan Blizzard</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost - Green Daniel 12: 1 - 3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10: 11 - 25 Mark 13: 1 - 8 <b>Sunday School Brunch Fundraiser - 10:45 am</b> <b>Annual Congregational Meeting - 11:30 am</b></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Craig Fleischer</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Christ the King - White Daniel 7: 9 - 10, 13 - 14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1: 4 - 8 John 18: 33 - 37 <b>Poinsettia Order Deadline</b></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 <b>Sunday Bulletin Deadline - 10 am</b> <b>Thanksgiving Eve Service - 7:30 pm</b></p>	<p>26  <b>Office Closed</b> Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>27  <b>Secretary Out of Office</b></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Donald Phillips, Jr. 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent - Blue Jeremiah 33: 14 - 16 Psalm 25: 1 - 10 1 Thessalonians 3: 9 - 13 Luke 21: 25 - 36 <b>Social Hour</b> - Christian Education</p>	<p>30  Carrie Eyler Doris Blickenstaff</p>	<p><b>Worship Helpers</b> Acolyte - Alec Schapiro, Zach Scott Head Usher -The Wisner Family Altar Guild - Sharon Adams Communion Assistant -Jim Crist</p>	<p> Eastern Standard Time Begins November 1<sup>st</sup>.</p>	<p><b>Anniversaries:</b> Robert &amp; Kelli Scott - 11/4/95 John &amp; Brenda Middleton - 11/5/88 James &amp; Ann Pearre - 11/8/75 James &amp; Fran Crist - 11/24/63 Dennis &amp; Shirley Hare - 11/30/69</p>		