

RE-FOCUS

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“Hands of God and Man” at Reformation Lutheran Church

“Hands of God and Man” by the late Kansas artist Bernard “Poco” Frazier, is a monumental sculptural work that graces the Meditation Garden at Reformation Lutheran Church, Wichita. The work was mentioned in a recent *Wichita Eagle* article on Frazier’s artistic impact on Kansas, and will be featured in the Fall issue of *Thrivent* magazine. The Wichita City Council listed the sculpture in the Wichita Register of Historic Places in 1996.

The church commissioned Frazier to create the sculpture in 1954 for the exterior west wall of the sanctuary of the former church building on E. Kellogg. In 1994 the stone-cement sculpture was moved to the present location at 7601 E. 13 St. N., kept in storage there, and erected as the focal center of the new Meditation Garden in 1999. More information and pictures may be found on Reformation Church’s website, www.reformation-lutheran.org.

News brief excerpt taken from
Area Ministry 5’s monthly
Messenger newsletter.

Reformation Friends

I am pleased to let you know that I’ve secured a position as a chaplain at Mercy Hospital in Buffalo. This is a full time position where I work with 8 other chaplains of various denominations as well as with several priests within this 4-hospital Catholic Health System here in the greater Buffalo area. I have been working at the hospital about 6 weeks now and am getting familiar with the place and the daily routine. It has been a long time coming, but God is good. I am happy with my position and am even happier to be doing the Lord’s work in a place where many find

themselves physically and emotionally vulnerable. Both life and death occur on a daily basis here and I feel privileged to be a part of the ‘Circle of Life.’ Thank you for all your support over the years. I cannot begin to tell you how much it has meant to me. May God bless you and your continued ministry at Reformation.

Sincerely, Laura Ulicky-Weerts

Begin Lent in Holy Land

“Faith and Witness in the Holy Land” tour will begin Lent 2007. See Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Jerusalem and other places where Jesus lived and walked. Visit the Garden of Gethsemane and Bethany, walk the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) in Jerusalem to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. “Experience” the WALL.

And more, meet Lutherans and Christians in the Holy Land and see work of *Lutheran World Relief*.

Pastor Don & Jan Conrad invite you to visit Palestine and Israel February 26 to March 9. We stay two nights in Nazareth, four in Bethlehem and three in Jerusalem. Sunday, March 4 will be with Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem.

Christian minority face great hardships. Their numbers are dwindling. Relationships between Israelis and Palestinians are complex. Become informed first hand.

Retired Lutheran pastor and his wife, Don & Janice Conrad, have traveled extensively, including three Lutheran World Relied Study tours.

Don & Jan Conrad
1506 Crescent Road
Lawrence, KS 66044
Tel: 785-842-4425
jconrad@ku.edu



Dear Friends at Reformation,

Thank you very much for the gift of \$50.00 to start our daughter's Mission Future 4 Kidz fund. This money will

eventually be used towards Kathryn's college education. We truly appreciate your love and generosity in helping us to plan for the future as well as your joy in helping us to celebrate her baptism.

Love,
Allison & Jon Bruntz

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Dear Reformation friends,

Thank you for all your prayers, help and support. A special thanks to Pastor Tom and Marlene and especially for the wonderful message in the memorial service for Ted. Thank you also to the Bereavement team for the wonderful luncheon after the service.

Gary, Tish & Laura Lovett

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To everyone in our Reformation family who has cared for us and supported us during Tom's ordeal, thank you. You are family to us, and we appreciate you more than we can say. Special thanks to Pastor Tom for praying with us; to Barb, Jette, and Nancy for helping us understand the medical issues and procedures; to Golfers for God for lifting the heavy burdens; and to all of you who prayed for us. We thank God for your presence in our lives.

Tom and Dallas Cronk

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Many thanks to THRIVENT for financing the purchase of replacement shrubs for the Meditation Garden. We were able to buy and plant fourteen bushes with their generous gift of \$300. Thanks also to those THRIVENT members and others who gave of their time to plant !! Some Sunday after worship service, walk out to the Meditation Garden and enjoy it.!

Saturday, July 1, 2006
Worship: 5:30 p.m.
Reformation Lutheran Church

Come and See!
Community Invited!
Come experience Jesus through
dynamic, spirit-filled,
empty tomb worship.

Hosted by Abiding Hope Lutheran
Church
2B Alive Youth from Littleton, CO.

New Membership Directories

New directories will be ready by July 23. If you have recently moved or have a new phone number, please contact the church office no later than July 10. Plan to pick up your copy in the narthex on July 23 or 30. We plan on delivering the directories that are not picked up.

*Cherie Lee Wenderott
and Randy Lee Shields*
were united in marriage
on April 8, 2006
at the Family Worship Center
in Wichita, Kansas.

Cherie has been a member of Reformation since 1964. Cherie is the daughter of Caron and John Wenderott and the granddaughter of the late James & Emalyne Terry. Cherie is the Director of Employment at Senior Services. The couple resides in Valley Center.

Women of Reformation

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Rebecca Will not meet in July or August

Sarah Will not meet in July or August

Dorcas Wed., **July 19** 1:00 p.m.
Hostesses: Mary Ann Mercer,
Doris & Nora Steg
7002 Magill St.
Lesson Leader: Lotus Gerards



Best Times of Life, a fellowship group for those 55 years and beyond, will hold its monthly luncheon on Monday, July 10th

at 12:00 noon in the Parish hall. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Bonnie Lynch from the office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner. Dr. Lynch's presentation is titled: DON'T GET SCAMMED. It will provide tips on avoiding investment fraud and abuse, what the laws regarding securities include and what the office of the Securities Commissioner can provide. We hope you will be able to join us for a great lunch, fellowship and an informative program. Bring a covered dish to share, your own table service and please call either Betty at 682-2030 or Pauline at 744-3328 with your reservation, so we will know how many tables to prepare. Please join us!

WELCA Board will not meet in July. The next meeting will be August 7, 1:00 p.m. at church.

Blanket Makers will meet July 17 and 31 at 9 a.m. in the church.

Monthly Outreach Ministry: We will meet at Cornerstone Assisted Living July 11, 3 to 4 p.m. Sarah Circle will provide refreshments and a program. Please join us in fellowship with their residents.

WELCA Synod Convention will be held in Joplin, Missouri July 28-30. If anyone is interested in going or needs more information, please contact Dallas Cronk at 733-2454.

Mark you calendars for our **Lindsborg Trip** on Tuesday, August 15 to visit Bethany Home. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletin and August Re-Focus.

Saturday Evening Worship

July 1 - worship will be led by a Youth Group from Littleton, CO

July 8 - Holy Communion with Spoken Liturgy

July 15 - Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

July 22 - Holy Communion with Spoken Liturgy

July 29 - Holy Communion with Music from Taize'

Reformation Blood Drive

It is time again. Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Sunday, July 16 from 9 a.m. – noon on the Red Cross Donor Coach, located in our parking lot. Red Cross appreciates your willingness to donate. General Blood and Platelet Donor Eligibility Guidelines and Blood Donor FAQ are posted in the fellowship hall and in the narthex. Sign up sheet is in the narthex. As usual, a reminder will be mailed to you 3-5 days prior to the blood drive. If you have any questions, please call Barbara Lee (684-5434), Jette Mortensen (634-2067) or Nancy Watkins (733-9668). See you at the Blood Drive!!

Worship Assistants

Members who are interested in becoming worship assistants such as Assisting Minister, Communion Assistant, Lector, Youth Assistant, Altar Guild or Usher are encouraged to add their names to the sign-up forms near the church office. A training session will be provided for anyone who has not participated in the past. This is a very important ministry of our congregation and an excellent opportunity to serve your church which allows for flexibility to fit the participants' schedules. Please consider becoming involved!



Cruzando: Journey with Jesus

The theme for the 2006 National Youth Gathering in San Antonio is **CRUZANDO Journey with Jesus**. Twenty-two of us from Reformation along with 29 youth and sponsors from other Area 5 Churches will begin our journey on July 9 and will return on July 17. We would like to thank the congregation for their support and especially your prayers as our youth & sponsors embark on this life changing adventure. Later this summer the youth will be involved in a Church service to share their experience with the congregation.

Play Group Summer Activities 2006

During the summer we will have play group at the locations listed below. If it rains play group will either be at church or someone's house. We will continue to meet 9:30am-11:30am on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month (please note that August 15th is the exception). Contact Tanya Flores at 744-6747 if you have any questions or need directions.

July 10 **Osage Sprinkler Park**
Wichita Recreation Center located on 31st St South between Seneca and Meridian
If it rains we will play at Amy Kuttler's house.

July 24 **Great Plains Nature Center**
Meet at the entrance, we will walk around inside then go and feed the turtles.
If it rains we will just be at the Nature Center.

August 15 **Exploration Place Park**

If it rains meet in the Exploration Place Lobby and we will play in the Kid's Zone and Toddler area. **Please note that we are meeting on Tuesday, since Exploration Place is not open Monday mornings.**

Community Breakfast

God Bless all who support the monthly Community Breakfast, either with your time, your monetary contributions or your prayers.

My wife Sally and I have participated for several months now and plan to continue every chance we can because we feel this is one place where the Lord needs us to be for a couple hours each month. But, aside from feeding someone food for nutrition, there is another side that you may know about, but let me expand on it now from my experience. In the fall and winter, we collect sweaters and coats and sometimes blankets for the homeless as well. This is a wonderful ministry. But I've also found out that there are other common items that they need so desperately that we either garage sale or toss every day as we take them for granted. Back packs. Yes, back packs. These homeless individuals typically carry everything they own from place to place and when I took a couple back packs down to breakfast with me and put them out on the free clothing table, they grabbed them up even before they ate their breakfast! Last week, I took a soft-sided briefcase my son was "garage saleing" and it didn't last 10 seconds. Sally and I also had some shoes we didn't wear any more that had lots of wear left on them, looked pretty new and they were gone as well. Then I sorted out some t-shirts I hadn't worn but were in great shape and clean and they were gone too. Remember, most of the homeless have nothing but what they are wearing or carrying and they have little or no money. These things make their life so much more bearable. I'm going to try hats next, I have quit a few caps I don't wear anymore. Sunglasses. Sport coats. Light jackets. Sweatshirts. So you see, not only coats and sweaters and blankets.

(Con't next page)

Council Meeting Summary Thursday, May 18, 2006

And I realize a person can only go through their own closets so many times and give away only so much but my thought is if someone wanted to help more than giving money for food or volunteering, remember the DAV and GOODWILL stores. They sell these items for pennies on the dollar. And it can still be tax deductible if the items are donated to the church to be handed out at the monthly Community Breakfast.

Also, 98% of the individuals that attend the breakfast are men. Typically no small children and less than a half dozen women. They can use women's things, but mostly men. And no fancy clothes, they do not need ball gowns, dress slacks, suits, high heels, night wear, etc. Remember, they live outside most of their days and nights.

We also provide one free bus ticket to each and every one that comes to breakfast as well. This is part of the funding of the breakfasts that we and all the other participating churches provide. These tickets are the same as gold to these individuals. I've had the honor of handing them out several times and more than once I have had individuals who request a second ticket because they use one to get across town to their doctor app't and then they can't get back. We cannot afford more than one per person. Tickets are about a buck a piece and approx. 75 to 100 are given out each time we are there. This is just another area of ministry if one was seeking another way to help.

Susan Martin, our coordinator and her husband Keith do a tremendous job spearheading this effort. God Bless them and everyone who helps, gives money and prays for this continued ministry. Remember, this is not taken out of the church general fund nor is it budgeted. It is successful because of your hearts and your giving. You have made this a self-supported ministry and we thank you for that. Please continue to look for the donation jar or slip an envelope into the offering plate labeled Community Breakfast to keep this going. God will Bless you ten times over.

Scan those items you were going to pitch or put in the garage sale and consider donating to the homeless here in Wichita.

God Bless and thank you,
Bob L. Livingston

★The Council meeting was called to order by President Ken Lang with an opening devotion by Sheryl Johnson

★April minutes were approved and reports from Financial Secretary Marge Bender and Treasurer Mikelle Fraizer were accepted.

★Pastor Hallstrom submitted his report in writing which included information about his trip to Turkey in June. This trip is a result of Pastor Tom's connection with an ecumenical group called "Institute for Interfaith Dialog" which is dedicated to the better understanding of the world's religions and philosophies through the peaceful and respectful exchange of ideas.

★**The Building Committee** presented their report to the Council on the findings of the survey they mailed out to the congregation.

★**The Call Committee** report given by Sheryl Johnson related the progress they were making in finding an Associate Pastor. The committee is setting up a first interview with a prospective candidate.

★**The Service Board** report given by Jette Mortenson indicated the need for a task force to make plans in the event of a pandemic (i.e. bird flu). It was approved to set up a task force to address this issue.

★**The Stewardship Board** report given by Ken Lang stated that this board will continue to be a two-fold unit with separate committees for property and finances.

★**The Gifts & Memorials Committee** report given by Mikelle Frazier included the current statement of memorial funds.

★A written proposal for a **Seminarian Support** Fundraiser was given by Sheryl Johnson. We discussed the plan but no action was taken.

★We accepted the resignation of Greg Keith from the Church Council.

★We appointed Gene Bowers to fill the Council vacancy for the balance of 2006.

★We decline a request from Holy Land Art to sell items in the Parish Hall at Reformation.

★The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.