



# Shelter Stories

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. LUKE'S SHELTER

SUMMER 2006

Offering transitional shelter and life-reclaiming support to people experiencing homelessness

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## The Long Way Home

One of the pictures Terry Snead keeps shows his open palm holding a set of keys. His keys, to his apartment near St. Luke's Shelter. "Before, I didn't have any keys," he explains. Snead quickly rattles off some of the other things he's gained since he arrived at St. Luke's in April, 2004: the apartment, a positive attitude, and a renewed relationship with his daughters and grandson. "I'm talking to them on a regular basis now, because I have a phone at the apartment," he says. "That sense of reconnection—I feel like I'm back in the game of life."

There's another new thing: "I get junk mail now!"

Homeless for about 10 years, Snead has taken a long journey towards a more stable life. He spent about seven months at St. Luke's Shelter, and later was in the first graduating class of the Shelter's Next Step Kitchen program. Snead still has the local newspaper story with his photograph at the graduation ceremony. But

*WORK IN PROGRESS:* Terry Snead has focused on self-improvement.

that milestone wasn't the end of his road.

Snead had come to St. Luke's via the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place, which refers clients to shelters in Ward 3. At Friendship Place, he had been diagnosed with depression, and he was in search of structure and a place where he could "work on myself." After graduating from NSK, Snead could have applied for a food-service job, but he felt he needed to continue to improve himself. He earned money through babysitting and yard work and found a room in Southeast D.C. But when the owner sold the building, Snead found him-

self on the street again. He reconnected with Friendship Place and an area church and got back on track. Today Snead is a speaker for the National Coalition for the Homeless and a volunteer for the Prisons Foundation, a local group that promotes the arts in prisons.

When he speaks to audiences about homelessness, Snead tells them about the importance of communication—something he has learned through his relationships with caseworkers, counselors and other supporters. He also carries the duffel bag that he used when he lived on the streets as an illustration of what his life was like then. And when he sees a homeless person on the street he tries to offer the encouragement that was helpful to him.

Several weeks ago, Snead came back to St. Luke's Shelter, this time as one of the volunteers who serves dinner to residents. "I'm looking forward to the time when I come back and feed the guys myself," he says."

—Story and photograph by Derek Willis

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## Welcome, Pastor!

One thing St. Luke's United Methodist Church shares with St. Luke's Shelter—besides the building, of course—is a penchant for renewal. You've seen it in the recent renovations to the shelter and church, and it extends to the church leadership as well.

On July 1, the Rev. Doug Todak became pastor of St. Luke's UMC, replacing the Rev. Dave Myers, who moved to Chevy Chase UMC.

Todak, who is originally from Elyria, Ohio, says he is excited about working with the shelter and would like to see greater participation and support from neighboring congregations as well. "Social justice issues are important to congregations in DC," he said. "I'd like to encourage folks to come and be involved."

Todak, 36, first encountered shelters as a student at Central Michigan University, where he provided childcare at a shelter for victims of domestic violence. He received a master's degree in child development before studying at Wesley Theological Seminary. His wife, Rachel Watkins, is an anthropology professor at American University, and they have a 8-month-old daughter, Ithemba (which means "hope" in Zulu).

Todak said he'd like to spread the word about St. Luke's Shelter and also help other congregations expand their own services to the homeless. "Little things mean a lot in helping people get on their feet," he said. "In every church, there are folks who want to do a little bit."

—Derek Willis

### ST. LUKE'S SHELTER

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Shelter Director:

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Residential Supervisor:

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Shelter Aides:

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Bobbie Carr, Shelter Dinners

#### SERVICE PARTNERS

Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place  
Georgetown Ministry Center  
Miriam's Kitchen

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## How to Contribute

Along with participating in the Help the Homeless Walkathon on November 17—see our website at <http://www.stlukesshelter.org> for details—you can help St. Luke's Shelter by donating meals, time, or money. Here are some easy ways to contribute:

- Through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) for federal employees. If you are a federal employee, please consider designating us as your charity.

- Make a contribution by check or online with a credit card at our website, [www.stlukesshelter.org](http://www.stlukesshelter.org).

- Shop online at [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) and a percentage of your sale can be donated to St. Luke's Shelter.

- Share your wisdom by teaching shelter residents about a life skill.

- Become an overnight volunteer (see "Let's Sleep On It" at right for more information).

- Drop off a hot meal for seven (six residents and one staff member) at the shelter.

For more information on giving, please contact Shalom Mulkey, shelter director at 202-337-4275 or [shalom@stlukesshelter.org](mailto:shalom@stlukesshelter.org).

# Let's Sleep On It

Last fall, when Kory Burkley began looking for volunteer opportunities in his Northwest DC neighborhood, he was surprised to learn there was a shelter, St. Luke's, within walking distance of his home. "I wasn't aware that it was here," says Burkley, who had recently moved to the area from Denver, Colorado.

Burkley found St. Luke's through an online "volunteers wanted" ad and signed up as one of the shelter's first overnight volunteers. One Saturday each month, Burkley sleeps in the counselors' suite at the shelter. "It's more comfortable than I was expecting," he says of the private, newly renovated bedroom space.

The overnight volunteer program was launched in November, 2006. Its purpose is to allow the shelter to extend its weekend hours without increasing its operating costs, says shelter director Shalom Mulkey. By using volunteer labor one night a week, the shelter can afford to pay its skilled counselors for more hours helping residents during the daytime. "A lot of programs and places that homeless men go during the day aren't open on weekends," Mulkey says. "Now, we open at 4 pm on Saturday. It used to be 6 pm. Ideally, we'd like to open at noon."



*IN THE MIDDAY HOUR: Overnight volunteer Kory Burkley on a rare daylight visit to St. Luke's. Burkley recently joined the advisory council.*

Overnight volunteers must arrive by 10 pm Saturday—though they are welcome to arrive earlier—and close the shelter on Sunday mornings at 7 am. Currently, five people have signed on for Saturday-night duty, and the program is still recruiting. For information, contact Mulkey at [shalom@stlukesshelter.org](mailto:shalom@stlukesshelter.org).

—Margaret Guroff

# Serving The Servers

This year's volunteer appreciation dinner was a night to be remembered. French chef Gerard Pangaud, head instructor at L'Academie de Cuisine in Gaithersburg, former owner of the acclaimed Gerard's Place in DC's McPherson Square, and the only Michelin two-star chef working in this country, prepared a fabulous meal for our honored guests—those who have given their time and efforts to support the mission of St. Luke's. Residents from the shelter both served the dinner and joined the volunteers to enjoy a gourmet meal together.

About 50 people came together to celebrate the success of the shelter over the years. Bobbie Carr, St. Luke's Shelter meal coordinator, received special recognition for the work she does scheduling individuals, families, and businesses as they contribute hot meals and warm hearts to our shelter ministry.

We look forward to serving and building the community for many more years to come.

—Traci Copeland



*SOMEONE'S IN THE KITCHEN: Master chef Gerard Pangaud (far right) oversees the preparation of an appreciation dinner for 50 volunteers in the shelter's commercial kitchen.*

## 15th Anniversary Gala

This year, St. Luke's celebrates its 15th year of service to homeless men in Northwest Washington. To honor this milestone, the Savoy Hotel at Wisconsin Avenue and Calvert Street has agreed to provide space for a gala dinner, to be held on Wednesday, October 24. Friends, neighbors, supporters, current and former staff, and current and former residents will gather to honor the shelter's catalytic work, helping to transform the lives of people who arrive committed to working their way from homelessness to independence.

Watch your mail or check our website, <http://www.stlukesshelter.org>, for more details.

## Charm Aid 2007

Local alt-countryish rock bands The Drive-In (from Beecher Street) and The Charm Offensive (from 37th Street) will play the second annual Charm Aid concert to benefit St. Luke's Shelter.

The show will be held at Grog and Tankard, 2408 Wisconsin Avenue, at 8 pm on Saturday, September 15. The door charge is \$10, and the bands will donate 100% of their portion to the shelter. Don't miss it!

## SAVE THE DATES

Support and celebrate St. Luke's Shelter as we mark our 15th year!

Labor Day BBQ for residents, staff, volunteers, and supporters:  
Monday, September 3, 4 pm  
St. Luke's Church Garden

Charm Aid 2007 (see below left)  
Saturday, September 15

15th Anniversary Gala (see above left)  
Wednesday, October 24

Help The Homeless Walkathon  
Saturday, November 17

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ST. LUKE'S SHELTER  
3655 Calvert Street NW  
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St. Luke's Shelter, a collaboration between a community of faith and a community of neighbors, provides life-reclaiming support to homeless individuals.