

The Beacon

A monthly publication of Lakewood United Church of Christ



April 2011

Volume 56 Issue 3

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Pastor's Peace	1	<p>"As [Jesus] was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen." Luke 19:37</p> <p>It wasn't until I became a minister that I experienced all the highs and lows and highs of Holy Week. Holy Week is the name given to the Biblical stories and services which lead up to Easter. It begins on Palm Sunday, where we hear of the crowd joyously welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem waving branches and placing cloaks on the road. He is received with a king's welcome, an ominous foreshadowing of the banner under which he will be ultimately crucified. Here at Lakewood UCC, our Palm Sunday celebration is a high point, beginning with our own palm parade and concluding with a Palm Sunday potluck brunch following worship.</p> <p>On Holy Thursday, sometimes called "Maundy Thursday," we recall the Last Supper, as well as the betrayal and arrest of Jesus. The word "Maundy" is rooted in the Latin word "mandatum" which means: "to give, to entrust, to order." According to John's gospel, on the night of the last supper, Jesus gives his disciples a commandment: "that you love one another; even as I have loved you, you also ought to love one another" (John 13:34). Our Maundy Thursday service follows the tradition of a "Tenebrae" service. "Tenebrae" means "shadows" or "darkness" in Latin. Through song and readings, we intentionally recall 12 important moments in the story of Jesus' betrayal, desertion, and ultimately his crucifixion. Each moment is powerfully noted with the extinguishing of a candle as the service ends in darkness. Year after year, this service is considered one of the most powerful we offer.</p> <p>On Good Friday, the day of Jesus' crucifixion and death, we offer a service of the "Seven Last Words." Each of the seven statements Jesus speaks from the cross is read out loud, followed by a significant time of silence to meditate on the meaning of the words both to Jesus and also for us today. It is a deeply introspective service focused on the darkest night of the Christian calendar. Holy Week concludes with Easter Sunday, the high point of Christian year. Music, prayer, and familiar readings remind us again of the power of the Risen Christ in our midst. This year look for the "Easter Cross" which we will decorate with living flowers as a symbolic reminder of life's victory over death in Jesus' resurrection.</p> <p>Our Holy Week offerings seek to not only to retell the stories of Jesus' final week in Jerusalem, but they also mirror many of the triumphs and tragedies we experience in our own lives. If you haven't done so before, I invite you to consider experiencing the full range of emotion available through our Holy Week offerings. In the soaring songs which lift us on Palm Sunday and Easter as well as in the depths of darkness and silence on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, we rediscover God's embrace, a love that goes with us wherever we go, leading, strengthening, and sustaining us. More information about our Holy Week schedule is available on page 3 of this newsletter.</p> <p>Blessings on the journey, Curt</p>
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Moderators' Reflections

We are beginning the final months of our church year and are making preparations for next year. Our annual meeting will be held on May 22, 2011.

The slate of officers and board and committee members for 2011-2012 is one of our first action items during this process. We are asking current committee and board members if they are willing to "re-up" and are very pleased that many are happy to do so. Sadly, we know there are folks who would like to serve on a board or a committee but have not been asked to do so. Please, if you are interested in serving in some capacity for our amazing LUCC, contact Tabby Bernardo or either one of us. We know we have a "full house" of talents and interests, and we also know you would be happy with your decision to be a part of the ongoing works of the church.

LUCC continues to grow and has much to be proud of under Pastor Curt's leadership. It also needs you to assist in this journey. We all know what a wonderful feeling it is when we know that God is proud of us for putting to use the time and talents he has given us! What could be better?

Marilyn and Susan

Your Co-Moderators

PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

The Fellowship Committee will sponsor the Palm Sunday Brunch on April 17, 2011, immediately following our worship hour. Please join us in celebrating the season together!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. If your last name starts with the following, please bring:

A-H Fruits/Salads
I-M Main Dish/Egg Dish/Meat
N-S Main Dish/Egg Dish/Meat
T-Z Desserts/Sweet Rolls/Coffee Cake



For more information, please contact Judi Baxter at 720-362-2094 or gypsy441601@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!



EASTER LILIES We are taking orders for Easter Lilies. You may sign the order sheet at the Welcome Center. Six inch lilies are \$9.00 and there is a ten inch lily with three in the pot for \$25.00. Place your check inside the envelope.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Our Men's Ministry typically meets on the 4th Saturday of the month. Plans are under way for a springtime service opportunity, details will be forthcoming. If you would like to be on the Men's Ministry email or phone list, please let Curt know so we can keep you informed about future events and activities.



Please Join Us for:

Maundy Thursday Soup Supper, April 21 at 6:00 p.m. with communion to follow. The Tenebrae Worship begins at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday Service on Friday, April 22 at 6:00 p.m. Music for meditation beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Worship on Easter Sunday, April 24 at 10:15 a.m.



Christian Education Calendar Reminders



- ◆ June 20 - 24, 2011- M- F- **VBS**
(Vacation Bible School) - 9:00 am - 12:00 noon
- ◆ July 15, 2011- F- Parents Night Out - 5:00- 9:00 p.m.
- ◆ August 5, 2011 - F- Family Fun Night
(Games and Pizza)- 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Women's Sacred Circles



As of March 20th, we have 28 women interested in our newly forming "Sacred Circles". Sacred Circles are small groups of 5-8 women who meet together regularly, usually about once a month. The circles are organized based on a common available time. Each circle runs independently, using a shared leadership model. The purpose and functioning of each circle is determined by the members, but all have prayer and support as a common theme.

If you are interested in joining a Circle but have not yet returned your information form, please contact Curt right away.

LUCC News

Here is a brief synopsis of our financial picture as of February 28, 2011:

Pledged income (\$37,609) was 89% of expectations (\$42,078) for this time of year.
 Unpledged income (\$2,745) was 125% of expectations (\$2,192) for this time of year.
 Total income (\$44,329) was 91% of expectations (\$48,966) for this time of year.
 Total expenses (\$47,435) were 103% of expectations (\$46,039) for this time of year.
 As of February 28, 2011, expenses exceeded income by (\$3,106).

Net income was budgeted at (\$2,927). The actual was a net loss of (\$3,106). The difference of (\$6,033) was due to total income being 9% lower than budget and expenses being 3% over budget.

Board of Church Operations

TIDINGS

TIDINGS

Have you ever taken a good look at our LUCC Sunday bulletin? If a church's vitality is measured by its level of activity, we are a grooving and moving church. The "Out to Lunch Bunch" is a prime example. Church members and their friends are invited to break bread together one Sunday a month at a different area restaurant. This "meet and greet" is for newcomers as well as old-timers, and is a great opportunity to get to know others.

In March, YAC (youth group) and the Mission Committee attended the 37th Annual Pow Wow, featuring dancing and drumming from almost 100 Native American tribes, and the Men's Ministry group planned to attend the Denver Museum of Nature and Science Hubble IMAX presentation. Sacred Circles are being formed for small groups of women who share common interests, and Lenten offerings are scheduled each Tuesday evening through April 12, with time for dinner, devotions and sharing.

Several programs are in the planning stages, such as the Blessing of the Animals, a progressive dinner, participation in the Denver PrideFest Parade, a mission trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota, a weekend camping trip to Golden Gate State Park, and our annual outdoor worship service.

Don't blink, folks, or you may miss a terrific activity!

Let's Get Acquainted with the gentleman who unlocks the church for Sunday services, helps his dad, Phil, put on the coffee and set up tables and chairs in the fellowship hall, warms up the organ, sets up the audiovisuals, checks the microphones, practices with the choir, plays hand bells, chimes or guitar for the service and, if Anne Rowland and her group are performing, accompanies them on the

piano. Quiet Sunday mornings are not an expectation for Steve Goebel, who also plays the recorder, has studied the organ, and once built a theremin, which he says is similar to a keyboard.



A graduate of the School of Mines, Steve is a service delivery manager at IBM; previously, he spent 15 years as an electrical engineer at Public Service Company. With all this technical background, he and his father were able to do much of the architecture and electrical work on their Lakewood home. Each fall, this large home is the scene of the annual kick-off party for the church choir, bell choir and musicians.

After a 48-hour workweek, and working on his home, and handling church responsibilities, Steve enjoys heading to the mountains where he can indulge in another pastime, photography. Some of his works adorn the walls of his home. He also cooks and bakes, although time constraints are a problem, and at Christmas he makes a fudge recipe he inherited from his mother.

Steve has been affiliated with LUCC for much of his life, since his father and his late mother joined in 1965. He, himself, was baptized here as a child and eventually became a member in 2000. Now, he's a dependable part of the life of the church, arriving early and often leaving late, to ensure that all church activities are properly handled and the property is secure. As Chair of the Board of Congregational Care, he has a lot on his plate. But ask Steve to bring a snack for fellowship, or tell him that something is needed, and he's on it right away.

*By Tabby Bernardo
Photo by Jenny Merriman*

Christian Education

Lakewood UCC - Christian Education (CE) (Children, Youth and Adults)

1. Building Blocks of Faith (BBF) – Children’s Sunday School

BBF Student April Curriculum:

Teaching Series – The Book of Ruth / Easter Week

April 3, 2011-Following On Faith

April 10, 2011-Finding Favor

April 17, 2011-Palm Sunday

April 24, 2011-Easter (No BBF)

BBF Teachers Needed!

April Teaching Needs: (Please contact Jen Keyes if you are able to help.)

April 3, 2011 – 4 teachers needed

April 17, 2011 – 4 teachers needed

BBF - Lenten Offering Series - (Tuesday March 15 – April 12, 2011)

Lenten Children’s Programming

A children’s educational program ages 4yrs. – 5th grade is offered during this exciting Lenten Tuesday Offering Series.

6:00 - 6:40 p.m. – Simple Meal (Shared as a church community)

6:45 - 7:00 p.m. – Children’s Devotional

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. – Children’s Educational Hour (lesson, craft and games)

(Nursery Provided – 0-3 yrs. old from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)

Lenten Series Food Needs:

April 5, 2011 – Tuesday – Need 4-5 of our BBF families willing to make and serve the Lenten meal for the Lenten Offering Series (to serve 25 people). Please contact Jen if you are willing to help. Menu – Veggie Sub Sandwiches, chips, and whole apples.

BBF Thank You’s

Teachers

A special thank you to all the teachers that helped in the March BBF program. Blessings to you all! Many thanks to *Sue Johns, Sherry Good, Twila Shankland, Marcia Forney, Danielle Johns Preston, Judi Baxter, Susan Rudy, Mary Ann Rothenburger, Priscilla Ingerbrigten*

2. YAC (Youth at Church Youth Group) Schedule for April- 2011

4/3 – No YAC

4/10 – Meal Prep for Lenten Meal on 4/12 and Games

4/12 – Serving / Clean Up Lenten Meal - 5:45- 6:40 p.m.- Students stay for service - 6:45 – 8:00 p.m. (YAC families welcome!!)

4/17 – Bowling 12:30 – 3:00 p.m. (Bowling fees covered by church) - If students want to eat it is \$2.99 for two pizza slices and soda. We will need a few drivers to get to bowling.

4/24 – Easter – No YAC

3. Spring Adult Education

Lenten Offering Series (Family Friendly) – Tuesdays- 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

March 15 - April 12, 2011

See Children’s Lenten programming information above in the BBF portion of this letter.

LUCC News



MISSION, OUTREACH, AND EVANGELISM

The third biennial Blessing of the Animals is scheduled for May 21 at 10:30 A.M. Please plan to attend with all your pets for this most moving ceremony. We will sing songs, share stories, and give thanks for all the joy these creatures bring to our lives.

On June 18 and 19, LUCC will join other open-and-affirming UCC congregations in the metro area for the annual Denver PrideFest. We will need volunteers to man the booth for 2-hour periods, and we'll also march in the parade on Sunday morning. Organizers are looking for convertibles and a truck to drive in the parade, as well as a 10' X 10' tent, balloons, and helium for the booth. If you'd like to volunteer or provide supplies, please contact Molly Hughes.

We currently have 12 members and friends preparing for a mission service trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and we have a few spots still available. This week-long adventure is an opportunity to serve others, learn about a different culture, and learn about oneself. If you're interested in joining these travelers, please contact Pat Hayes or Curt Preston for more information.



We have received a thank you from Heifer International for the generous gifts received during Advent at the Alternative Gift Market. Your donations totaled \$930, which purchased bees, chicks, ducks, geese, a goat, a heifer, a pig, rabbits, a sheep, and more. Your gift is vital to improving the lives of families Heifer International serves all around the world.

As part of this year's Easter service, we will decorate a cross with fresh flowers. Please watch for bulletin announcements and emails with more information.



FAIR TRADE COFFEE Fair Trade coffee sales are back! Katie Ransdell and Deb Dunn will be selling Fair Trade coffee and chocolate bars during fellowship starting in April. This mission activity has three major benefits.

- 1) Fair Trade is a non-profit organization that works directly with the coffee growers and cocoa producers so that all of the profits from selling their products goes back to their village rather than to a multinational coffee broker.
- 2) We sell the coffee and chocolate at a small mark-up and that money goes to our mission fund to support those unexpected needs.
- 3) These are organic products so they are good for the environment. All in all, it's a good thing.

SHEPHERDS

A bit of history from the Shepherd Committee. The following article was in the "Colorado Pilgrim" in May 1966 and was printed in our church's newsletter in January 1967. The "Colorado Pilgrim" is now known as the "Rocky Mountain Conference Newsletter." The message is still timely today.

IF I HAD MY DRUTHERS, I DRUTHER HAVE MY DRUTHERS, THAN ANYTHIN' ELSE I KNOW
- Lil' Abner

I druther my minister would "stick to the Gospel" and stay out of controversy. Things like that divide us and people are complaining. I druther he would speak out for end to revolution and ferment and all those awful things that are going on in the world so that life could be ordered and peaceful again the way it was.

He tells me that Christ came as a revolutionary and was killed as a dangerous subversive.

That upsets me. I druther he wouldn't talk that way.

I druther our church curriculum would come out with NICE pictures and stories, the kind I used to bring home, all punched for easy assembly in a loose leaf folder.

I've been told that life isn't all peaches and cream, that to present it so would be a fraud and a lie.

Maybe so; but the thought depresses me. Isn't life harsh enough outside in the world? In church I druther think about pleasant things.

My church is always prodding me to go out and get involved with people; to work in some anti-poverty program; to insist on justice and equality for some minority group.

But I thought religion had to do with private virtue and Sunday morning worship. I druther not get involved.

Since childhood I've always known what I believed. Now I'm asked to re-think my faith and re-phrase it in words and concepts that are new and strange to me. Isn't the faith what it always was? Does God change? If I start questioning things, who knows where I may come out?

All this confuses me, makes me feel nervous and insecure. I druther rest on what I have known and believed.

I wish my minister weren't always urging me to action. He keeps saying that I have a ministry and an obligation. Isn't that what we pay him for? I do my part. I help pay his salary; I come to church more than most. What more does he want?

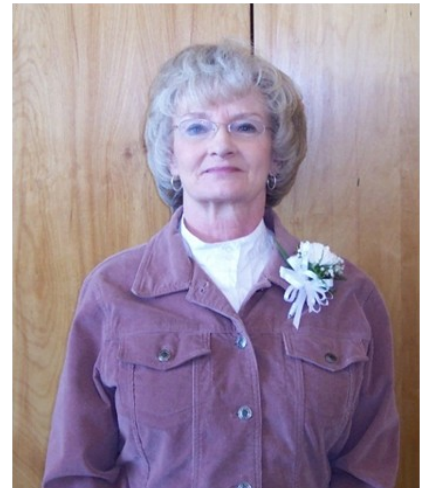
I druther he wouldn't keep prodding me to do the work that we hired him to do. My minister said this morning that Jesus too had his druthers. That given a choice, He druther have side-stepped the unpleasantness and the agony.

A special welcome to our newest members!



Brady and Sue Johns, parents of two children (Curt's wife Danielle and her brother), joined us for last year's mission trip and are now joining our congregation. On St. Patrick's Day, they were married 34 years (actually have been together since age 15)! Sue is an account representative for an international insurance company, and Brady was an independent contractor in construction, now working for Whole Foods. She enjoys knitting, gardening, painting and her grandchildren. He loves outdoor activities, hunting, motorcycling, woodworking and doing water colors.

Born a mid-westerner, Karen Coiner comes to us from a background in our sister denomination, the Disciples of Christ. Karen began coming to LUCC during the summer of 2010 and was quickly welcomed into the LUCC choir where she shares her excellent soprano voice. Karen tells us that when she began visiting our church she found a very warm, welcoming congregation, and as she learned more about our church, its mission and ministries she found it to be a wonderful fit for her own faith. A person of many interests, especially music, the centerpiece of her life is her family. She has 4 children, two boys and two girls, and 10 grandchildren, and (believe it or not) a great grandchild.



Jill Keller, Karen Coiner's daughter, has two children, Ian and Hannah, and a wonderful husband, Thomas. She is a self-employed business woman, specializing in home remodeling. Jill loves her family and friends. She feels that LUCC is a place where can be herself and be honored as a child of God.



Margaret (Peggy) Keen grew up in Washington, DC, to parents & grandparents who were not government workers. She has spent most of her adulthood in Colorado, settling in Lakewood four years ago. She is a retired administrator for an assisted living facility, and has a special affinity for elderly outreach. Peggy is the mother of two and grandmother of four, and loves being with family. Her other interests include reading, movies, patio gardening, cooking and classical music. She has been singing in the choir since September, and participates in Wednesday morning Bible study. Most recently she has volunteered to do peer counseling for Jeffco Mental Health.



We met Ellen Lowe about 24 years ago when she moved to Lakewood as the bride of Jack Lowe, one of our members. Ellen had been living in Hawaii, and our winters were quite a shock to her, she said, as she'd grown up in southern California.

Ellen graduated from Berkeley, married, and had 2 children. Work took the family to Hawaii, and it was there that Ellen became a single mom. She was the Manager of Parks & Recreation for the City and County of Honolulu. When in Lakewood, Ellen worked for the National Park Service until she retired.

She and Jack loved to travel – a favorite destination was France, to visit her son and family. Ellen's other son lives in New York City, and she has 4 beautiful grandchildren. Jack tragically died 4 years ago during the Bolder Boulder Memorial Day race, and it was then that Ellen moved to

LUCC's neighborhood. She said the outpouring of love and support she received from this congregation during this most difficult time was invaluable to her, and she became much more active in our church.

Ellen was baptized in a Presbyterian Church when she was 13; she attended a variety of churches over the years, and said she has found her church home here with us.



SERVICES

Please join us at 10:15 a.m. on Sundays for Worship.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

LUCC office hours are 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday. Feel free to contact the office manager if you will need assistance outside of regular office hours.

From Our Shepherds

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

- Henry and Margaret Wiese
- Mary Wise
- Dorothy Thurber
- Family and friends of Lucy Trujillo


Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Nursery Care Available
10:15 a.m. Worship Service
 (Children begin in worship and transition to Sunday school)
11:15 a.m. Fellowship hour

Large print bulletins and hearing assists are available at each worship service. If you need one, ask the greeter for one as you enter the Sanctuary.


Child Care Available

Child care is available in the nursery from 9:30 a.m. until the end of the service. Sara Ulricksen and Marissa Maestas are our childcare providers. We also have youth assistants in the nursery. Childcare is available for children age 3 and younger. Visiting children are welcome. The nursery is located at the far north end of the upper level.



LOST AND FOUND

Please stop and take a peek at the box at the Welcome Center. There might be something that belongs to you. Everything that is not claimed within the month of April will go to Jeffco Action Center.




ATTENDANCE

Date	Attendance	To Date	This Was...
3/6/2011	115	6541	Last Sunday after Epiphany Transfiguration Sunday
3/9/2011	45	**	Ash Wednesday
3/13/2011	101	6642	First Sunday in Lent New Members Sunday
3/20/2011	103	1645	Second Sunday in Lent

OUR APPRECIATION FOR THOSE THAT HAVE SERVED US

Greeters for March

3/6 Tim and Kathy Randle
 3/13 Jerry and Mary Ann Rothenburger
 3/20 Gwen Rush and Janie Barnett
 3/27 Bruce and Mary Menin

Fellowship Hosts for March

3/6 Howard and Myra Urband
 3/13 Brian Weishaar
 3/20 Barry, Nancy and Mollie Krebs
 3/27 David and Brenda Zserdin

HOUSE SHARING Clean, quiet, organized, working, mature female looking to move into a house sharing situation. Own room and bath preferred. If you are possibly interested, or know someone who is, please contact me.
 Thank You!!
 Barb Piatak
 303-829-8213

Welcomers for March

3/6 Linda Royval
 3/13 Noel Darby
 3/20 LaNelle Haxton
 3/27 Carolyn Eslinger
 Deven Michael Royval 15th great –one great



A Word of Thanks!
Thank you to all who have made our Lenten Offerings together such a great success.

All who helped with Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper on March 8, and our Tuesday Lenten Suppers on March 15, 22, and 29. We are so grateful for your gifts and willingness to serve.

CONGRATULATIONS



**Congratulations to
 Doug and Linda Andreen
 on the birth of their
 grandson, Paxton Douglas**

**Lisa Harris
 on the birth of her granddaughter
 Vinnessa Paulette Harris**

**and to
 Linda Royval on the birth of her grandson
 Deven Michael Royval**

**We also wish to congratulate Ed Mitchell
 on his 15th great grandchild in addition
 to his one great-great
 grandchild (and one on the way!)**

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BEACON:

How do I submit articles?

Submit an article for use in the *Beacon* via email to the following address:
lakewoodbeacon@qwestoffice.net
 You may also place your articles in the *Beacon* folder in the church office.
 Email submissions are accepted either in the body of the email or
 as an attached Word document.

The monthly deadline is the third FRIDAY of the previous month!

The mission of the Lakewood United Church of Christ is to develop our faith in God, enabling us to know the abundant life Christ promised by nourishing our spiritual journey, fostering community, inviting others to join on the journey, and going forth into the world through service to do justice, love others, and promote peace. We are an Open and Affirming church, respecting all God's children regardless of race, color, ethnicity, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, age, or disability. We adopt and embrace the Policy to Protect against Sexual Abuse and Harassment.

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