# The Beacon

A monthly publication of Lakewood United Church of Christ

DECEMBER 2011

Volume 56 Issue 12

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## The Waiting Place

"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places made plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed and all the people shall see it together.'" Isaiah 40: 3-5

I don't know anyone that likes waiting. Some people are better at it than others, and some people have developed a knack for delaying gratification, but I don't know anyone who actually *enjoys* waiting. But waiting is one of the main themes of Advent. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming" or "visit." In the Christian calendar Advent is the beginning of a new year. It is a four week season which leads us into Christmas. Advent is a season traditionally marked by the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love—the gifts we receive with the coming of the Christ child. But mostly, it feels like waiting. And waiting. And waiting.

All around us the month before Christmas has become the time of year when we push ourselves to the brink of exhaustion and when we are encouraged to spend right up to, and then past, the limits of our means. We are told to be merry even when we don't feel like it—it is after all, the most wonderful time of the year, (even when it isn't). All around us are shouts of "hurry up!" and "get going! There are only so many days left before Christmas." But as the days shorten and the nights lengthen, our bodies and spirits say, "Please slow down." Breaking into the "Pre-Christmas" rush, the season of Advent comes along and says, "Stop! Wait. Breathe." God is about to do a new thing yet again, and despite all that is going on around us, we dare to hope. We hope that God will come crashing into our world once more. We hope that another world is possible. Hope that another way is possible. And a vulnerable, wrinkly, little baby will be the face of God.

In Advent we are called to remember that God doesn't always tear open the heavens and come down in a bold flash of glory, as much as we would like that. Instead, the most unexpected happens and the world gets turned on its head. We see it when a powerful king cowers in fear from a baby. God breaks in in a barn at the edge of town, far away from the hustle and bustle of the city. God comes to a young woman who would most certainly be forgotten by society and says, "You. You will be the bearer of Good News. You, I can use for my purposes." God says, "Listen Joseph, I know you're worried about what people will say, but I'm going to make this alright." Advent is a season of waiting, of preparing and hoping. Over the next four weeks, we are invited to embrace this opportunity to slow down, to breathe deeply, and to look for God at work in most unexpected of places. After all, sometimes, good things come to those who wait. And sometimes Good News does too.

May your Advent be full of waiting, and your Christmas be full of wonder.

Peace,
Curt

# Moderator's Reflections

**MODERATOR MOMENT**

Now comes my favorite time of the year. Yes, I'm a pushover for carols, lights, wreaths, Christmas trees, and platefuls of cookies. I love spending time with family and friends, sharing all the joys of this special season.

LUCC is a hub of yuletide activity, and we know you'll be merry despite your best efforts to keep a firm grip on yourself. Christmas decorations will be up in the sanctuary and narthex by the end of the month. Our bell choir will perform with other bell choirs on December 3. The Ambassadors will again be singing for us at a service. Our adult and children's choirs are working on special numbers for worship. The ladies will have their umpteenth annual holiday luncheon. Folks with hearty hearts and full voices will carol for some of our members and friends. Our members are purchasing and wrapping little gifts for the Meals on Wheels program.

Yes, it's a special time of year for all of us. As we celebrate Christ's birth, we have much to be grateful for, and we can share so much with others. Whether it's a donation, a gift of food, a smile, or a warm embrace, when we share it with someone else, it's truly a Christmas gift.

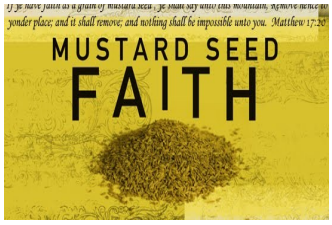
As we say in Hawaii, Mele Kalikimaka.

*Tabby Bernardo,*
*Moderator*

## Vacation

Pastor Curt will be on vacation beginning Monday, December 26 and will be back in the office on Monday, January 2, 2012.

The Rev. Jerry Eslinger will be "on-call" for emergencies and may be reached at: 303-980-8251. His cell phone number is 303-378-7412.




## MEALS ON WHEELS

Through Volunteers of America, we are again collecting small and inexpensive gifts which will be given to recipients of "Meals on Wheels." There is a list of suggested gifts available on the Welcome Center. The gift does not need to be expensive to be greatly appreciated This is a great way to share the holiday spirit with those in need.
We'll collect the gifts until Tuesday, Dec. 6. On Wednesday, Dec.7, the Bible Study Group will wrap all the gifts that have been received. Anyone who would like to help wrap is welcome to join us at 10:45 a.m. on December 7. If you have questions, please contact Ellen Lowe or Peggy Keen.

## NEW WIRELESS INFORMATION

We recently upgraded our internet equipment and changed our wireless network to "lakewooducc" with a new password, "laforet100". Please use this information if you wish to connect to our wireless network.

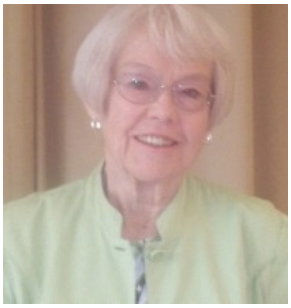
## TIDINGS

We may not be seeing much of **Brian Good** for awhile, but it's for a very good reason…he has just begun a two year term as president of the Water Reuse Association, an international body dedicated to increasing the beneficial use of recycled water. His new position will take him on speaking and traveling engagements all over the world. A civil engineer, Brian has been with Denver Water for almost 12 years. Just a week ago he was promoted to Deputy Manager for Organizational Improvement.

**Let's Get Acquainted** with a registered nurse who, despite her retirement some years ago, is still sought after for health care advice. Myra Urband has been the "go to" gal (along with fellow nurse Jenny Merriman) for much of what ails us. A graduate of the Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing in Washington, her professional career path included working with tuberculosis patients at a VA hospital, and later serving as a school nurse, in a company hospital, as a staff nurse, as an on-call nurse and, finally, as a public health nurse in Las Vegas. Her most fulfilling job, though, was as the Director of Volunteers at the then-new Hospice of Metro Denver, where she earned mileage reimbursement until the organization was able to pay a salary.

"I really loved hospice work," Myra said, "because of what they do and why they exist." She explained that hospice care provides quality of life over quantity, and that it brings comfort and takes away the fear of death. Of all the nursing positions she held in about nine states, she feels her hospice work was the most rewarding.

Myra met Howard, a New Jersey native, on a blind date. He majored in geology at the University of Idaho, and the Urbands later went wherever he was assigned while in the U.S. Navy or as a geologist.



They first joined LUCC in about 1975, and Myra served as church moderator before they relocated to Las Vegas. They returned in 1998. As one of the original members of the Bible Study group, she always provides coffee as her contribution to the gathering. "I've always found it a comfortable place to be," she said of the church. "I like to carry on conversations. Your ideas are listened to, even though they're different." Myra also belongs to the prayer group, and to the Memorial Committee, which determines how memorial funds are used. A recent example of memorial fund usage is the colorful padded cushion on the pew in the Narthex.

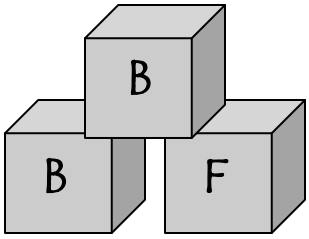
An avid reader, Myra received a Kindle early this year and finds herself reading more than ever before. Her favorite subjects are mysteries and historical novels, although she admits to liking many subjects. She also enjoys sewing and gardening.

The Urbands have four sons, all living in Colorado. J.T. is an art professor at Arapahoe Community College, Tim is in cable sales, Paul is a retired Air Force officer, and Ken is an airline mechanic for Fed Ex. The Urbands also have four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Myra laughingly admits that when she later earned a degree in health care management at Metro State, one of her sons was in college with her.

Myra also has a nephew who is a missionary with World Concern in Nepal; he recently built a school in Thailand.

*By Tabby Bernardo*
*Photos by Jenny Merriman*

# Christian Education




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

***BBF Student December 2011 Curriculum:***

*Teaching Series –Christmas Songs and the Christmas Story*
December 4, 2011 – Rehearsal for the BBF Christmas Performance on Dec. 11, (All Students Needed)
December 11, 2011 – BBF Christmas Music Performance. (All Students Needed)
December 18, 2011 – The Christmas Story Party with Popcorn and Hot Chocolate
December 25, 2011 – No BBF

## *BBF Teachers Needed!*

**December Teaching Needs:** December 18, 2011 –Two teachers needed
**(Please contact Jen Keyes if you are able to help.)**

### Teacher Appreciation

A special thank you to our wonderful November staff: Sherry Good, Susan Rudy, Dorothy Miller, Danielle Johns Preston, Mary Ann Rothenburger.

## 2. Youth at Church- (YAC)

***YAC Schedule for December 2011***

December 4, 2011- YAC at Church 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
December 11, 2011- Outreach Activity with the Action Center 12:00-3:00 p.m.
December 18, 2011- NO YAC
December 25, 2011- NO YAC

***YAC Hosted Talent Show- TNT (Talent No Talent Show) - Special Thank You***

WOW – Amazing!!!!! Fifteen acts that displayed talent from singing, music, magic, poetry, comedy, dance and improvisation. Our performers ranged from 3 years – 70 years of age! This wonderful event was a great way for our youth to connect with and be supported by the community. The TNT goal was for an "all church gathering" to share food, fellowship, and amazing talent, as well as to raise money for our youth to attend the 2012 National Youth Event at Purdue University this summer. A special thank you to Doii Mast for making homemade cookies for the event. We would like to thank everyone for their hard work and participation.

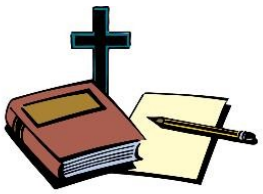
## 3. Adult Education

***January 2012***

We will be starting another adult education series January 2012.
Keep a "Look Out" for future information!

## 4. Confirmation

12/4 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
12/18 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION

**Lakewood United Church of Christ**

Here is a brief summary of our financial picture as October 31, 2011:
Pledged income ($185,224) was 95% of expectations ($194,047) for this time of year.
Total income ($220,347) was 96% of expectations ($228,491) for this time of year.
Total expenses ($229,036) were 99% of expectations ($230,545) for this time of year.

**Thank you for your generous gifts to further the ministry of our church.**

Board of Church Operations

## STEWARDSHIP

We would like to thank all of you who pledged to fund the 2012 budget. The total received as of November 28 was $221,296.00 with 81 families pledging. This total includes 41 people who increased their pledge and fourteen new pledges. This is exciting news because it shows your continued support of Lakewood UCC and its ministries, including our dreams for new programs in the future. Although we have not reached our goal budget of $251,500.00, we will be receiving more pledges in the next few weeks. If you have not yet returned your pledge card, it is not too late. You can either drop it off at church or send it in the mail. If you need a pledge card, there are extras at church. If you would like a pledge card mailed to you, please contact the church office "Blessings to all of you for your continued generosity."
Special thanks to all who helped with the luncheon - setting up, cleaning up, and providing side dishes for the pasta buffet. The fellowship of members and friends added a special touch to our stewardship celebration.

## Good Grief

Good Grief Support Group will meet on December 1 and will ***not*** meet on a regular schedule beginning in January. Meetings will take place on an "as requested" basis. You may call Marcia Forney if you need someone to talk to. Based on participation, the group may start up again in 2012. Good Grief will still coordinate their monthly "Out to Lunch Bunch" meetings at local restaurants. Everyone is invited to join in for a time of visiting and catching up with church friends.

## Get in the Spirit of the Season

**Denver Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concerts 2011**
The Rocky Mountain Arts Association presents the 130 voice Denver Gay Men's Chorus in "Come Home for the Holidays" on Friday, December 16 and Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the L2 Arts and Culture Center, 1477 Columbine Street, Denver, CO. A third performance will be help on Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m.at St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 9203 South University Blvd. in Highlands Ranch. Tickets are available at www.rmarts.org.

**A CHRISTMAS BELL FESTIVAL**
On Saturday, December 3, the LUCC Bell Choir will participate in the annual "Christmas Bells in the City" festival at Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church (on the southeast corner of 38th & Wadsworth, accessible from 38th) There will be a free concert at 3:30 p.m., featuring massed ringing by several area bell choirs, solos by individual choirs, brass, organ, and carol singing by all. This is the third year we have participated in this event, and we have been honored to have a number of LUCC people attend.

**THE AMBASSADORS ARE COMING!!** The AMBASSADORS, a part of the Denver Gay Men's Chorus, will be providing music for our worship service on December 4. We are excited that they will be helping us celebrate the second Sunday in Advent.

**A LITTLE MORE MUSIC** On Sunday, December 18, the CHANCEL CHOIR and BELL CHOIR will be providing more music than usual, as we celebrate the fourth Sunday in Advent. Since many choir members are not here for Christmas Eve, this is our time for a little extra Christmas music.

## Christmas Day Worship at 10:15 a.m.

Thank you so much to all of you who answered our survey regarding worship on Christmas day. It is clear from the results that most people who intend to come to church that day would prefer our usual 10:15 a.m. time. We will have a casual, child-friendly worship service with lots of singing. All children will be welcome for the entire worship service and there will be no BBF or Nursery care available that morning. We hope you'll consider celebrating Christ's birth with us on Sunday, December 25. Questions? Contact Steve Goebel or Curt Preston.

## December Worship at Lakewood UCC

December 11: Anne and Company, plus Building Blocks of Faith Children singing in worship
December 18: Chancel and Bell choirs will provide a little "extra" music on this Sunday.
December 24: Pre-Service Music begins at 6:30 p.m. and worship begins at 7:00 p.m.
Nursery Care available for children under 3 beginning at 6:30 p.m.
December 25: 10:15 a.m. worship. No nursery care or Sunday School. Relaxed, family-friendly worship with stories and singing.

For over 25 years, members of our congregation have generously donated mittens and gloves to the Action Center. This year the need is even greater. The mitten tree will be in the Narthex until Epiphany (January6). The focus for this holiday season will be on ***mittens and gloves***. The Action Center has already received a very generous donation of hats and scarves. Thank you for keeping those in need in mind while you are doing your holiday shopping.

**BOARD OF MISSION, OUTREACH & EVANGELISM**

MISSION 1 at LUCC was a huge success! **Thank you** to all who contributed food items and money!!

- 424 healthy food items were taken to the Food Bank at the Action Center.
- $680 was received to purchase 1 cow for $500, 1 goat for $120, and 2 flocks of chickens at $20/ea for Heifer International.
- $112.25 was given for the East African Relief Fund.
- The Mission, Outreach, & Evangelism Board voted to match the food items collected and purchased 444 healthy food items to donate to Rocky Mountain Food Bank.
- 33-$15 coupons were purchased and given to the residents of Foothills Green to buy turkeys and perishable food items for their Thanksgiving dinner.

## Crossing Guards Needed at South Lakewood Elementary School

Please, find a half hour during a morning or afternoon at Carr and First ( all times are available) to help ensure the safety of our children going to and coming from school. There are still empty slots in front of the school on two of the mornings. Check with Barb Martin and Mollie Krebs to find out how enjoyable it is to say hi to all of the children. Contact Barb Martin for exact days and times, 303-202-5832 or bgremartin@aol.com.

## We're Making a Difference!

Thanks to all of you who have been donating time and snacks to the students of South Lakewood Elementary. These gifts are already being felt and appreciated. Please help us keep our box in the narthex full of snacks for kids who aren't able to bring their own every day. A healthy snack mid-day can help kids stay focused and do their best learning, but it's not at the top of every family's priority list right now. We can help! Ideal donations include: pretzels, dried fruit (think raisins, fruit leather, etc.), and Goldfish crackers. And more volunteers are always welcome in the classrooms. Check the Welcome Center for the wide range of volunteer opportunities. Again, thank you all so much. Please contact Danielle Johns Preston if you have questions or would like to become more involved in these opportunities.

*"Your support makes a difference for our students, staff, and community!" Ms. Rendon*

*"That's awesome!!! Thank you." Ms. Patterson*

## Adopt Carr Street Program

Many of you may have noticed that LUCC has adopted Carr Street between Sixth Avenue Frontage Road and Alameda. We don't schedule regular cleaning days, because fortunately, this is a very clean street. However, as you are driving on Carr Street, we would appreciate it if you would stop and collect any trash you may see. If you have questions, please contact Barb Martin, 303-202-5832 or bgremartin@aol.com. Thanks for your help.

# Alternative Gift Market

Lakewood UCC will once again have an Alternative Gift Market for three Sundays, December 4, 11, and 18. There will be items for sale made by underprivileged people locally and throughout the world. Money received from the sale of these items goes back to the nonprofit organizations and to the people who made the items. Web addresses of all of our Alternative Gift Market Organizations are provided so you can learn even more about what amazing work we are supporting.

1. Heifer International is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending world hunger and poverty by providing livestock to needy families all over the world. The families who receive these animals from Heifer Intl. agree to "pass on the gift" of one or more of their animal's offspring to another needy family. This truly is the gift that keeps on giving. You can buy a share of an animal or the entire animal. Gift cards are available if you wish to buy a Christmas gift in honor of a friend or loved one. http://www.heifer.org/

2. SERRV items will once again be available for purchase. SERRV is a nonprofit organization with a mission to eradicate poverty by providing opportunity and support to artisans worldwide. SERRV teaches the people new skills so they can develop their craft. A portion of the proceeds goes back to the artisans to improve their quality of life. Bring your Christmas list and purchase your gifts. You will feel good knowing that your purchase benefits others. http://www.serrv.org/

3. Women's Bean Project is a local organization that is dedicated to helping women break the cycle of poverty and unemployment. Women produce the products that are sold nationwide as they develop the work and skills needed to function independently and effectively in the workplace and community. Their products include soup and chili mixes, baking mixes and gift baskets. This is a delicious way to help others. http://www.womensbeanproject.com/

4. Equal Exchange Fair Trade coffee is a familiar item for sale here at LUCC. Fair Trade coffee is grown by small family farmers who grow their coffee in the shade without eradicating the rain forests. By selling through Fair Trade cooperatives, the farmer earns 3-to-5 times more money. Fair Trade hot chocolate and chocolate bars will also be available for sale. Proceeds from this table will go into Lakewood UCC's "Mission Fund" to be used by that committee for special mission and outreach projects. http://www.equalexchange.coop/

5. Church World Service is a non-denominational organization that provides immediate help and care in disaster areas around the world. Their goals are to provide clean water, schools, medicine, shelter, etc. You will be able to donate money to help them achieve these goals. http://www.churchworldservice.org

6. "Bead for Life" is back by popular demand. This is a Boulder-based organization that sells beaded jewelry made by Ugandan women, and 75% of the proceeds go back to the women. The jewelry is made from colorful recycled paper and is a unique gift for the girls and women on your Christmas list. http://www.beadforlife.org

7.We will also have an "Incredible Edibles" table with baked goods and other homemade food items. We would appreciate your contribution of baked goods. Just bring them to church any or all of the three Sundays. This was a huge success last year. Everyone seems to appreciate homemade goodies this time of year. Proceeds will go to Lakewood UCC's long time mission partner, "The Action Center" (formerly Jeffco Action Center) here in Lakewood. http://www.jeffcoac.org/

## 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:**

Dave Adams
Nancy True
Margaret and Henry Wiese
Joan Wagner and Dr. Jim Mead on the passing of Jim's father
Family of Mary Wise

**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.

### OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH

Good Grief "Out to Lunch Bunch" will not meet during December. Please join us in January for a time of sharing a meal and connecting with friends.

## ATTENDANCE

| Date | Attendance | To Date | This Was... |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10/30/2011 | 135 | 10260 | Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 11/6/2011 | 116 | 10376 | Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 11/13/2011 | 113 | 10489 | Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 11/20/2011 | 122 | 10611 | Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| 11/27/2011 | 118 | 10729 | First Sunday in Advent |

# OUR APPRECIATION FOR THOSE THAT HAVE SERVED US

## Greeters for November

11/6 Lisa Harris and Marsha Henry
11/13 Danielle Preston and Betty Touzalin
11/20 Ernie and Dorothy Miller
11/27 Brian and Sherry Good

## Fellowship Hosts for November

11/6 Marleen and Verne Fish and Marcia Forney
11/13 George and Dorothy Fisher
11/20 (Stewardship luncheon)
11/27 Dave and Brenda Zserdin

## What ARE You Thankful for?

*Thank you all for your prayers, cards and calls during our recent health problems. We're both doing better, with your help. Thank you again.*

*Bea Auch & Ed Mitchell*

## Welcomers for November

11/6 Tabby Bernardo
11/13 Rev. Nancy True
11/20 Molly Hughes
11/27 Barb Martin

**Christmas Caroling December 11**
Sign up on the Welcome Center!!

**LADIES HOLIDAY SALAD LUNCHEON, DECEMBER 10**
This will be the 38th year LaNelle and Carmen have been your hostesses for the luncheon, and will be their final one. So bring your white elephant, a salad to share and come join in the fun at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Child Care will be provided.

**SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS!** The Action Center continues to collect and sell used stamps, so don't throw away your first class stamps. Tear them off and we will trim them. If you trim them, keep 1/4 inch border if possible. Once the perforated edge of the stamp is damaged, it is not usable. Also, keep the whole envelope for junk mail bulk-postage. There will be a box on the Welcome Center in the Narthex for your donation of old stamps.

The Beacon is published by
Lakewood UCC (LUCC)
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100 Carr Street, Lakewood, Colorado 80226

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lakewooducc@qwestoffice.net.
Beacon email:
**lakewoodbeacon@qwestoffice.net**
website: www.lakewooducc.com

***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!**

**Sarah Bierhaus**

**Sarah found us through a Google search. She and her husband, Beau, have been married for over two years, and are expecting their first child in December (they do not wish to know if the baby is a girl or a boy until birth.) Beau is a Planetary Scientist for Lockheed Martin. Sarah plays the oboe and earned her Doctorate from CU Boulder, after getting her Master's from Eastman, and Bachelor's Degree from Carlton. She plays with the Boulder Philharmonic and Fort Collins Symphony Orchestra while teaching at Denver University and keeping a private studio of students.**

**Brian Fertig**

**Brian comes to us from Church of the Beatitudes UCC in Phoenix, AZ. He arrived in CO this summer and met Curt at a clergy lunch. He grew up as a Methodist, and then went to the Lutheran Church, before attending a fairly conservative Baptist seminary. While at seminar, he was a student pastor at several UCC churches and liked the diversity of the UCC. Brian is a chaplain at the federal prison at Quincy & Kipling. In addition to his calling, Brian likes to travel (past trips to Europe & planned trips to Asia) and cooking. His work has taken him to KS, upstate NY, KY, FL, AZ and now CO. He also enjoys photography & would like to learn to fly fish; he may even get back into skiing.**

**Marylin Floreth**

**Marylin came to our church from the Cherry Creek United Church of Christ. Her husband was a native of Denver, and after a career in the Air Force, they returned to the area. She recently moved to Lakewood and lives with her daughter in the Green Mountain Townhomes. Contrary to Curt's recent sermon when he said most new church members come because a friend or family member already attends that church, Marylin came to us through the Yellow Pages! Who would have thought of the Yellow Pages as a tool for outreach! Whatever brought her here, she says that she has found a very warm, welcoming, and inclusive church!**

**Jeanne Fouke**

**Jeanne was raised in the Lutheran Church, but joined the United Church of Christ in Connecticut many years ago. She has three children (spread over the country, one living in Evergreen) and six grandchildren, ages 1 ½ through 11. She was a Speech Therapist and a Teacher. After leaving the public school system, she became an international teacher for many years and lived in China, Thailand and Australia. She moved back to U.S two+ years ago, so she could be near her grandchildren and is very glad that she did, although she still misses Australia very much.**

**Coming to LUCC, she found what she wanted and was missing, an extended family. She loves Joan's music and her ability to draw it out of members of the Choir, which she intends to join, Curt's sermons, and the welcoming, warm people that make up LUCC. She enjoys volunteer work, reading, and if you want her recommendation about theater, give her a call. She used to act in her earlier days and attends theater frequently.**

**Pat Neve**

**Pat grew up in Lakewood and graduated from Lakewood High. He went to the University of Northern Colorado and received degrees in Marketing & Business Management. He is co-owner, and serves as Vice President of Marketing and Sales, of a uniform and equipment company that specializes in the law enforcement and fire communities. Pat has two children, a daughter, Alex, who is a senior at CSU, and a son, Taylor, a sophomore at Fort Lewis. His interests mainly revolve around his children, and they enjoy hiking, four wheeling and fishing.**
**He is transferring his membership from the Green Mountain United Methodist Church. He felt very welcomed by many, and has been inspired by so many of the services and messages, often thinking Curt was talking directly to him! He has an interest in doing personal mission work, as he believes all people need a little assistance from time to time.**

**Ann Schmidt**

**Anne is joining LUCC after a period of stepping away from organized religion. She came looking for peace, friendly people, a mission orientation and a choir – she found all four. She was born in Washington, D.C. and now lives with her two beloved golden retrievers. She has three children with spouses, and six grandchildren ages 6 to 25 years, who live in Centennial, California, Minnesota, and Massachusetts. She graduated from CU with a degree in Political Science. Most of her professional career was in politics and non-profit organizations, which included fifteen years of service in judicatories of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The first church she ever was involved in was a Congregational Church, where she sang in the children's choir. In retirement, she finds joy in her family, her friends, her house, her garden, her books, and volunteering for several community organizations.**

**Marti and Jerry Stahmer**

**Raised in the Chicago area, they were married in 1947 in a Presbyterian Church; Jerry came from a Congregational background, Marti a Catholic! It took Jerry seven years to graduate from CU, as he joined the Navy during World War II. He retired from the reserves at age 68. For 58 years he was with Northwest Mutual Life Assurance Co. In his 40's, he took up running; after several marathons and 11,000 miles, his knees gave out, so he switched to bike riding. Again he rode for 11,000 miles.**
**Marti was a home economics teacher before raising five children. When they were in school, she got her MA at DU and taught second grade, and worked at CSU as an extension secretary. She has made quilts for her seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Lakewood UCC was recommended to them by their pastor in Ft. Collins; they have found Curt and the congregation to be very pleasurable!**

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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.

**LUCC STAFF**
Curt Preston, Minister
Tabby Bernardo, Moderator
Jen Keyes, CE Director
Joan Wagner, Director of Music Ministries
Beth DeBoer, Choir Accompanist
Brian Weishaar, Finance Manager
Jean Chavez, Office Manager

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**Lakewood United Church of Christ**

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