

Happy
New Year!

The Beacon

A monthly publication of Lakewood United Church of Christ



JANUARY 2012

Volume 57 Issue 1

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Epiphany: The Season of Light

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”
John 1:5

My friend tells the story of a group of students traveling in the desert outside Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan. In that area, there aren't

permanent roads as the shifting sands make it impossible. Eventually the group got lost and as night fell they knew they were in trouble. They had not brought adequate supplies of food or water because they expected to reach their destination before nightfall. Then the truck hit a rock in the road and while still drivable, the rock had busted some wiring and the headlights no longer worked. They were in complete darkness with no idea where to turn and little hope of being found.

Then one of the people in the back of the truck spotted the faintest of lights out on the horizon. The driver turned toward the pinprick of light. Some of the group even claimed that it wasn't really there, that they had imagined it. But finally they arrived at a small Bedouin encampment. As it turned out, one of the Bedouins had not been able to sleep, so he came out of his tent, placed a crate on its side, sat down and lit a candle to pray. That candle had been the light which had guided the group to safety. And had their headlights still been working, they probably would not have been able to see the pinprick of light against the darkness of the night. It was only because of the dark that they were able to see the light.

As people of faith and as people who seek to follow Jesus Christ, we don't make the claim that there is never darkness. Instead, we claim that even in the midst of the darkest of nights, there is always light. Epiphany is the season of the Church to celebrate Christ's light breaking forth into the world. It begins on January 6 with the traditional celebration of the arrival of the magi from the East who come to worship Jesus. It continues through Jesus baptism, through his miracles and public ministry, and eventually ends on Transfiguration Sunday, just before the beginning of Lent. As a season, Epiphany celebrates the revealing of who Jesus was (and is) and what his light means to a world of darkness.

May your season of Epiphany be filled with light and with little revelations of who Jesus was and is and how we may follow him more closely. And when the night seems darkest, let us search for that pinprick of light which is only visible when all other light is gone. And may that light guide us home.

Blessings,

Moderator's Reflections

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A funny thing happened after church on December 18. Brenda Zserdin reminded me that there is joy in working and being busy.

That was the Sunday when church members congregated in the narthex, looking through all of the items available through the Alternative Gift Market and making purchases that would help support some important local and international efforts.

After working in the Alternative Gift Market, I grabbed a cup of coffee in the fellowship hall and saw Brenda busily cleaning up and putting things away with her husband and Fellowship Committee co-chair, David, while their two children waited. "Must be hard to do Fellowship," I commented, thinking of the thousand other things a busy working mom like Brenda had on her plate the week before Christmas.

"I like Fellowship," she said with a smile. Then she continued her work in the kitchen. I quietly slipped away, lesson learned.

COMING THIS FEBRUARY OR MARCH 2012

King Soopers will be dropping the old gift card program mainly because the cost of printing cards has increased. King Soopers will be switching to the new rechargeable gift card program:

Rechargeable gift cards will be sold in the same dominations as before- \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$200.

Rechargeable gift cards cannot be purchased at King Soopers, because cards are linked to LUCC with a 5% rebate from sales.

LUCC encourages supporters to continually reload their gift cards each time you shop at King Soopers to receive the rebate.

Supporters reload the rechargeable gift cards at customer service or check stand, using personal credit cards or checks, in any amount up to \$500.

Supporters have four ways to obtain the balance on your rechargeable gift card.

Balance will be printed at bottom of cash register receipt.

Visit www.gcbalance.com

Call 1-866-822-6252

Cashier will be able to check the balance.

Rechargeable gift cards will be identified with a sticker on the upper left of the card.

In the event a supporter loses, damages, or destroys the rechargeable gift card, LUCC will carry a small amount of cards for replacement purposes.

LUCC will continue to sell the old gift cards until King Soopers implements the new rechargeable gift card program.

Please contact Brian Weishaar, Finance Manager, if you have any questions.



TIDINGS

Let's Get Acquainted with a retired social worker who sets the example when it comes to meeting visitors, getting better acquainted with church members, and being a gracious hostess for numerous church-related activities. Marilyn Ransdell was born in Michigan but lived in Wisconsin before moving to Colorado in 1976. While visiting a number of Congregational churches in the area, she decided on LUCC because, as she says, it was "the most welcoming church with a lot of energy for doing things in our own community, (for) families, and through the broader church." She added as pluses the "inclusiveness" of the church, and its "open and affirming status." She joined in 1979 and has been an active member ever since.

She volunteered for several years as our Sunday School superintendent, served as a deacon, prepared meals for the newly-formed (Jeffco) Action Center homeless shelter, and was among the first church members to travel to New Orleans with her husband, Charlie, and daughter, Katie, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to help in the rebuilding process. As Marilyn tells it, daughter Katie had Thanksgiving week off at Colorado State University, so the three Ransdells connected with the Catholic Charities organization and spent a week "primarily doing demolition, scraping, caulking and painting of houses." Other volunteers later did the interior work. Enjoying the opportunity to help, the Ransdells spent the following Thanksgiving continuing the work they had begun.

Marilyn currently is co-chair of the Shepherding group, which communicates with members and helps them feel a part of the church. "I had that," she says of the feeling of being included, "and I want it for others."

Her efforts to be there for others come from her father, a 96-year-old physician in internal medicine who officially retired last year. His parents were missionaries in Uruguay, and he emphasized service as being a necessary part of family life. That's why Marilyn got her

undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin, then earned a master's in guidance and counseling from the University of Colorado. She was a human services case-worker, then a supervisor, for Jefferson County until her retirement in 2001.



Marilyn and Charlie married at the church in 1984. He, too, is active at LUCC, particularly on the worship committee, where he helps with the PowerPoint presentations for Ann Rowland's group. Their daughter, Katie, was baptized and confirmed at this church. After her graduation from college, she served on the Mission Board until her recent move to Steamboat Springs to work as purchasing agent with the construction firm of Kiewit & Sons.

From a previous marriage, Marilyn has a daughter, Lisa, who lives in California with her husband, Pete, and their two children, Gabriella and Matthew, and a son, Michael, an architect in Colorado.

Tabby Bernardo

Photo by Jenny Merriman





The poinsettias decorating the church during Advent have been provided by:

Linda and Doug Andreen in memory of Edward, Gladys, and Janet "Pinky" Burch

Janie Barnett in memory of Chaplain Ike C. Barnett

Judi Baxter in celebration of Christ's birth

Sarah Bierhaus in celebration of birth of her first child

Marilyn Blomberg

Bill and Glenda Bobby in celebration of Minna Bobby and in memory of:

Bill Bobby Sr., Bobby, & Glen and Margaret McCornish & celebration of Minna Bobby

Marcia Forney in celebration of her eight grandchildren

George and Dorothy Fisher in celebration of family

Lowell and LaNelle Haxton in memory of parents

Pat and Les Hayes in memory of parents Ned and Lorene Hayes and Dale Friesen

Molly and Ken Hughes in memory of Al Hughes and Janella Hebb

Carmen Jaeger in celebration of family

The Lloyd Family in celebration of family

Barb Martin in memory of Clay and Blanche Martin

Kathie and Dave Nielson in celebration of family

Sheldan Picard in memory of Joseph Picard

Dan and Sue Preston for Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy to all

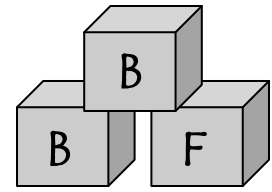
Charlie and Marilyn Ransdell in memory of Charles and Mary Lee Ransdell

Gwen Rush in celebration of new baby Burdi

Sandy Vanlerberghe in memory of Jerry Warner

Thank you to all

Christian Education



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

BBF Student January 2012 Curriculum:

Teaching Series –The Garden of Eden

- January 1 – God’s Desire for Adam and Eve- Paradise January 8 – Adam and Eve – The Fall
- January 15 – God Made Me! January 22 – One Room School House

2012 BBF Teachers Needed!

Teaching Needs:

We are starting a new semester and our teaching needs are plentiful. We will start the New Year teaching schedule in February 2012. The CE Board will be teaching in January of 2012. I will be putting a general e-mail out to the entire LUCC community requesting teaching help for the 2012 spring semester. Until then, please see if any of the following February dates listed below work for you to help out in the classrooms.

Teaching Needs for February 2012 (February 5, February 12, February 19, February 26)

Teaching Series – The Marys (a) Mary, the mother of Jesus; (b) Mary Magdalene; Jesus’ Disciple

Lambs 3yrs – 2nd grade (two teachers needed for each Sunday in February)

Doves 3rd grade – 6th grade (two teachers needed for each Sunday in February)

(Please contact Jen Keyes if you are able to help)



Teacher Appreciation

A special thank you to our wonderful December Staff: Erica Calderon, Susan Hodin, Noel Darby, Susan Rudy, and Dianne McNeill.

2. *Youth – YAC and Confirmation*



YAC Schedule for January 2012

- January 1, 2012 – NO YAC
- January 8, 2012 – YAC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
- January 14, 2012- Saturday-Fellowship Fun Night 4- 6:30 p.m. (Pizza, Games, Ice cream)
- January 15, 2012 – NO YAC
- January 22, 2012 – NO YAC
- January 29, 2012 – YAC 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Confirmation Schedule for January 2012

- January 8, 2012 – Confirmation 11:30-1:00 p.m.
- January 22, 2012 – Confirmation 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

3. *Adult Education*

The Life and Writings of Deitrich Bonhoeffer: A Four Week Study. Please see page 6 for more information.

4. *CE and Fellowship –Fun and Fellowship Night*

Saturday, January 14, 4:00-6:30 p.m.

All Church Fun and Fellowship Night

Pizza, Board and Card Games,
Ice Cream

Enjoy hanging out, play cards, board
games, and eating pizza and ice cream!

Date: Saturday -January 14, 2012

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Where: Fellowship Hall at LUCC

Who: Everyone! All Ages!



Lakewood United Church of Christ

Here is a brief summary of our financial picture as November 30, 2011:

Pledged income (\$156,417) was 94% of expectations (\$177,499) for this time of year.

Total income (\$243,655) was 97% of expectations (\$251,340) for this time of year.

Total expenses (\$249,126) were 98% of expectations (\$253,919) for this time of year.

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

Please take a moment and check if your pledged amount is up to date as we are in the final month of our budgeted year.

STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone who pledged to fund our 2012 budget. Total pledges received to date are \$239,996.00 with 89 pledging families. Although we have not met our 2012 goal budget of \$251,500.00, we did exceed last year's pledged amount by \$7,000.00, and this is a positive sign of financial support and commitment to Lakewood United Church of Christ. Based on these pledge numbers, Church Council has approved a recommended budget which the congregation will discuss and vote on at our January 22 Annual Budget Meeting. 2012 promises to be another vibrant year for Lakewood UCC! Thank you all for your continued generosity! If you are still planning to make a pledge, it is not too late. Pledge cards are available at the church or can be mailed to you. Blessings to you all!

Adult Education

The Life and Writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Jan. 8, Jan. 15, Jan. 29, and Feb. 5

We invite you to a 4 session study of the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran Pastor during Hitler's Nazi Regime. The pastor, theologian, writer, and professor was part of an unsuccessful plot to kill Hitler. He was captured, imprisoned, and eventually hanged just weeks before liberation of the camp. He is considered among the great theologians of the 20th Century and an inspiration to many. Please come and learn more about this great man, his life, his work, and his lasting legacy. All sessions will be at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays. Session 1 will be an award winning documentary. Sessions 2, 3, and 4 will include reading and discussion of small excerpts from Bonhoeffer's most famous writings. Contact Marcia Forney or Curt Preston for more information.



HELP SOUTH LAKEWOOD ELEMENTARY HOMEWORK CLUB

Homework club could use some educational board games for math or literacy skills. Their 70 participating students can choose a board game to play with their peers when their classroom work is finished. If you find any good deals during the holiday season, you may donate a new game. (If your family has outgrown their board games and have all game pieces and instructions, it would be appreciated.) Questions? Call Barb Martin 303-202-5832 or bgremartin@aol.com.

THANK YOU

to those who helped with our annual Christmas caroling.

Twenty six people ranging in age from 2 ½ to

74+ participated in a meaningful and successful afternoon of caroling our less mobile LUCC members and friends Sunday afternoon, December 11. Following group caroling in the neighborhood, we divided into two groups for the remaining caroling activities. We visited 13 people in 9 care facilities and 2 homes.



In addition to the carolers, another 20 (or more) people were a part of the "support team" who helped coordinate activities, make phone calls, drive, prepare, and serve food, and/or clean up after lunch. Once again, our caroling was a success because of the cooperative efforts of many.

MISSION

Please mark your calendars for the week of February 5 if you would like to participate in a LUCC group work project at the Food Bank

of the Rockies. We are working with them to finalize a plan for a group of 10 to 15 people to work a 9 a.m. to noon shift one of the mornings that week. The work is in a group/assembly line setting to fill boxes with food for the USDA's food program. There will be a variety of positions available from low impact to a more physical activity level.

We are also working with the Dolores Project to prepare and serve one or more meals during that week. Further details will be forthcoming.

**THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES**

Thank you for 38 years of Joy and Good Tidings. We have enjoyed our role as leaders of the Ladies Holiday Luncheon, but it is time to move on.

Our many thanks to you for the gifts presented to us as we leave. They will be enjoyed and remind us of the good times he have had. The collage is especially fun, and also shows the progression of styles through the years! We will display it in the Narthex for others to enjoy also.



Our Blessings go with those who follow us; you will enjoy the preparation and the fun.

Thanks,

LaNelle Haxton and Carmen Jaeger



BIKE LANE ONLY ENFORCED ON FIRST AVENUE

Please be aware that parking in front of the church is not allowed. Even though this has been a practice for a number of years, First Avenue is a designated "bike lane only" street, one of many throughout Lakewood that provide visibility and safety for bike riders. Both the city's police and traffic departments have reviewed our request for parking there, but it has been denied. However, a short period of time will be allowed for dropping off handicapped people and assisting them into the church. Please let church staff know if assistance will be needed.

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:

- Roger and Lois Gifford
- Henry Wiese
- Sheila Wiese



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 meet at Café Del Sol at 6th and Garrison on January 15. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of sharing a meal and connecting with friends.




Congratulations to Sarah and Beau Bierhaus on the birth of their daughter, Helen Mellander Bierhaus on December 14. All three are doing well. Dorothy Miller is coordinating meals for the family if you'd like to help.



ATTENDANCE

Date	Attendance	To Date	This Was...
12/4/2011	168	10897	Second Sunday of Advent
12/11/2011	126	11023	Third Sunday of Advent
12/18/2011	133	11156	Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/24/2011	210	11366	Christmas Eve
12/25/2011	48	11414	Christmas Day

OUR APPRECIATION FOR THOSE THAT HAVE SERVED US

Greeters for December

- 12/4 George and Dorothy Fisher
- 12/11 Brady and Sue Johns
- 12/18 Janie Barnett and Jeanne Fouke
- 12/24 Bill and Barbara Martin
- 12/25 Marcia Forney and Carmen Jaeger

December Fellowship Hosts

- 12/4 Dave and Kathie Nielsen
- 12/11 Dorothy and Ernie Miller
- 12/18 Brian and Sherry Good
- 12/24 Steve and Phil Goebel
- 12/25 Steve and Phil Goebel



ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING will be held after worship on January 22.

What **ARE** You Thankful for?

Welcomers for December

- 12/4 Pat Hayes
- 12/11 Barb Martin
- 12/18 Marilyn Bloomberg
- 12/24 LaNelle Haxton

A pet scan and blood work this month have shown that my body is cancer free. I have one more infusion, and then I only have to take pills. Since I was diagnosed with breast cancer 14 months ago, you people at LUCC have been incredibly caring, attentive, helpful in various meaningful ways and oh so kind. For the cards, food, cleaning service, and other beautiful ways of caring, I thank you with my whole heart.

God's blessings to all of you in the coming year, Joan Wagner

Margaret Wiese passed away peacefully on December 15. Memorial and Celebration of Life for Margaret Wiese will be at Lakewood United Church of Christ on Saturday, January 7, 2012 at 11:00 a.m. Reception to follow. Childcare available during the service. If you would like to share a story or memory of Margaret during the service, please let Pastor Curt know.

In lieu of flowers the family has asked that memorial contributions be made to either: Lakewood United Church of Christ or



The Myositis Association
 Attn: Development Department
 1737 King Street Suite 600
 Alexandria, VA 22314

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 Beacon email: lakewoodbeacon@qwestoffice.net

**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!
 Feature articles are limited to 500 words.**

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

BEACON VOLUNTEERS

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Lakewood United Church of Christ

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