

The Beacon

A monthly publication of Lakewood United Church of Christ



March 2011

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Our Forty (six) Day Journey

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"And the Spirit immediately drove [Jesus] out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him."

Mark 1:12-13

Lent is the season of the church year that begins 46 days before Easter. We say that Lent has 40 days (rather than 46) because we don't "count" the Sundays during the season of Lent. Sundays, regardless of the church season, are a day for celebrating! The other 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter are intended to be a time of deepened devotion and introspection. While not "sad" exactly, they are intended to be a time of intentional spiritual practice focusing on honest assessment of where we stand in our relationship to God, how closely we are following Jesus, and how reliant we are on the Holy Spirit's inspiration. Traditional Lenten observances include fasting, prayer, scripture, and service to others.

We are excited to offer a variety of Lenten Opportunities to expand and deepen our experiences of Lent. This year we begin the day before Lent officially begins with a Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper (March 8). This is a fun, family-friendly, breakfast-for-dinner offering of fellowship, crafts, and a bit of education for all ages on meaningful practices during Lent. The next night we'll officially begin Lent with an Ash Wednesday Service that includes communion and the imposition of ashes for those who wish.

Starting on Tuesday, March 15, we'll begin five weeks of "Tuesday Lenten Offerings" with the following schedule:

- ◆ 6:00 p.m. Family-friendly simple vegetarian supper. (Angels will be waiting on us!)
- ◆ 6:45 p.m. Time of Devotion (Children led by Jen Keyes, Adults led by Curt Preston)
- ◆ 7:00 p.m. Education Hour (Children led by Jen Keyes, Adults led by Curt Preston)
- ◆ Childcare for infants and toddlers is available from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Our intent is that individuals and families can participate in as much as feels comfortable for them. Each "part" of the Tuesday Lenten Offering is intentionally independent so folks can plug-in wherever it works for them. Look for more information on the specifics of the meals, devotions, and education as we get closer to the dates. A full calendar of Lenten activities is page 7 of this issue of the Beacon Newsletter.

May Lent this year be a season of discovery, discipleship, and devotion as we walk these forty (six) days together.

Blessings on the Journey,
Curt

Moderators' Reflections

Boy, I don't know about you, but I'm sure glad we didn't have all the cuts, bickering, and back-room deals currently filling up the headlines regarding federal and state budgets! Now, granted, our budget is much smaller in comparison, but you'd think the process in determining a budget has to be similar.

Can you imagine what it would have been like if our Board of Church Operations had been split into two (or three!) distinct and separate camps when it came to deciding how our money should be spent? And what if each of those camps had worked hard to intentionally derail the others, just to make a point and further their own special interests?

This article is not intended to make any political statement whatsoever. No matter which side of the aisle you prefer, there is much work to be done. Wouldn't it be nice if our political representatives could approach the overwhelming task of balancing the budgets with the same values, ideals, and respect for differences that Christ teaches us?

The next time you see a member of our Board of Church Operations, please be sure to thank them!

Susan and Marilyn

NEW MEMBERS

New members will be joining on **March 13**. We hope to have a great welcoming for our new members. Please be sure to attend the worship service on this date to help us celebrate this happy occasion.

If you intend to join on this date, please confirm that Curt has a copy of your new member information form.



MEN'S MINISTRY

Our first two Men's Ministry meetings have been very well attended and we're off to a great start. We are excited about where we are headed as a Men's group. Our group will be going to the Hubble ImaX at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 Colorado Blvd., on Saturday, **March 26**. Please meet at the church at 10 a.m. if you want to car pool, or at the museum at 10:30 a.m. if you are driving. Please contact Curt if you are planning to join us.



SANCTUARY One of the wonderful aspects of being a part of the Lakewood UCC is how much we enjoy seeing and greeting one another. On Sunday mornings our narthex, sanctuary, and fellowship hall are filled with laughter, conversations, handshakes, and hugs. This is a very good thing! However, some people enjoy listening to the prelude or want a time of quiet meditation in the sanctuary before worship begins, and their experience is disrupted by our exuberance. We invite you to please consider those around you as you make your way to your seat on Sunday mornings. Thank you.



Don't forget to set your clocks forward for Daylight Savings Time at 2:00 a.m. on March 13, 2011.



Women's Sacred Circles



Following worship on March 13, there will be an information and interest meeting regarding beginning a small group ministry for women called "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 learning more but are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Curt.

LUCC News

Here is a brief synopsis of our financial picture as of January 31, 2011:

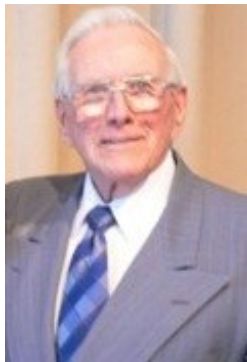
Pledged income (\$17,827) was 92% of expectations (\$19,405) for this time of year.
 Unpledged income (\$1,686) was 154% of expectations (\$1,096) for this time of year.
 Total income (\$20,698) was 91% of expectations (\$22,849) for this time of year.
 Total expenses (\$22,223) were 97% of expectations (\$23,020) for this time of year.
 As of January 31, 2011, expenses exceeded income by (\$1,525).

Net loss was budgeted at (\$171). The actual net loss was (\$1,525). The difference of (\$1,354) was due mostly to total income being 9% lower than budget.

Board of Church Operations

TIDINGS

TIDINGS



George Fisher has been recognized by the Colorado Talking Book Library for his twenty years of service as a volunteer. George is one of the leaders of the Qwest Pioneers, a group of telephone company retirees who repair the talking book

machines used by the blind and visually impaired. He also volunteers at the 9 Health Fairs held at the Library.

Let's get acquainted with LUCC co-moderator, Susan Rumley, (she and Marilyn Blomberg share the moderator duties this year), who came all the way to Colorado for new opportunities after finishing her studies at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. While she had prepared herself with a bachelor of science degree in teaching, with a specialty in Spanish, she ended up with what she thought might be something to keep her busy until she became a teacher. Instead, she has spent the past 32 years with Jefferson County, where she is now the assistant director of the career and family support services division of the Department of Human Services. Her job entails providing services and assistance to families in need, offering employment services, and helping people become self-sufficient.

When Susan made the big move to Colorado in 1978, she wasn't alone. She was accompanied by her older sister, Amelia; both women stayed briefly with their mother's brother, Don Collins (an LUCC member since 1972), and his late wife, Charlene.

Raised in the Southern Baptist Church back home, Susan joined LUCC in 1997 and has served on several church committees. Most

recently she has been on the Board of Mission, Outreach and Evangelism, where some of her favorite projects were the Blessing of the Animals, the mission trip to Biloxi, Mississippi, the Pridefest Parade, decorating a room at the Brandon Center for abused women, and volunteering at several programs during Mission Week.



While Susan has had several long-time pleasures, such as baking, cooking, sewing and reading, she has also taken up a new hobby...drumming. A year ago she enrolled in a drumming course and now she has a set of drums in her basement for her practice sessions. If you're in the Gore Range Road neighborhood on a quiet evening, you may hear the pounding of her drums as she practices her beat. Susan also plays a harmonica, inherited from her late father. She reveals that on Thanksgiving a year ago, at her Uncle Don's home, an informal jam session was held. Passers-by may have heard her on the harmonica, Don on the mandolin, and sister Amelia and her husband, Bill, playing guitars. We're certain that Susan agrees that family harmony is truly something to be grateful for.

Christian Education

Spring Adult Education

Lenten Offering Series (Family-Friendly)
Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
March 15-April 12, 2011

(Children's programming and child care provided)

Christian Education

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

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

BBF Student March Curriculum:

Teaching Series – The Prophet Daniel

March 6, 2011 - A Reputation of Strength

March 13, 2011 - A Reputation of Courage

March 20, 2011 - A Reputation of Being Humble

March 27, 2011 – **One Room School House** - A Reputation of Faith

Reminder - * Jeffco Spring Break – March 27 – April 3, 2011

BBF Teachers Needed!

March Teaching Needs:

March 6, 2011 – 2 teachers needed

March 13, 2011 – 2 teachers needed

March 27 2011 - 1 teacher needed - One Room School House

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

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

Lenten Children’s Programming

A children’s educational program for ages 4 yrs – 5th grade will be offered during this exciting Lenten Offering Series. **(Nursery Provided 0-3 yrs old from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.)**

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)

Lenten Series Food Needs:

April 5, 2011 – Tuesday – Need 2-3 of our BBF families willing to make and serve the Lenten meal for the Lenten Offering Series. Menu includes a crock pot vegetarian ???, bread and salad/dressing to serve 25 – 30 people. Please contact Jen if you are willing to help.

BBF Thank You’s

Teachers

A special thank you to all the teachers that helped in the February BBF program. Blessings to you all! Many thanks to- *Sue Johns, Barb Martin, Sherry Good, Twila Shankland, Marcia Forney, Danielle Johns Preston.* (A special thank you to Twila Shankland for putting together a wonderful children’s performance with the song “Love is Like a Magic Penny” – Great Job!!!)

Youth At Church- (YAC) - Youth Group

YAC Schedule for March/April-2011

3/6-YAC – at church 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

3/13-YAC – at church 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

3/20-YAC- Denver’s 37th Annual 2011 March Pow Wow–Denver Coliseum-Leave church

11:45 a.m.–return 3:30 p.m. 2 Drivers and 1 Chaperon are needed. Important * RSVP is needed for driving. Cost=\$7.00/student and any shopping money. Students will eat lunch at the church –food provided by the church! (Financial help is offered for entry fee costs, if needed.)

3/27 –Board Game Night at the Atlanta Bread Company in Belmar - 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. (Parent Drop Off and Pick Up Needed from this location)

4/3 – No YAC

4/10 – Meal Prep for Lenten Meal on 4/12 and Games – Tues. 4/12/11

4/12 Tues. – Serving Lenten Meal - 5:45- 6:40 p.m.- Students stay for service - 6:45 – 8:00 p.m.

LUCC News

MISSION, OUTREACH, AND EVANGELISM



May 21 will be the third biennial Blessing of the Animals. Please invite all your furry, feathery, or scaly friends to bring their humans to this multi-species event, and watch for more details in future *Beacon* articles and the bulletin.

On **June 19**, LUCC will join other open-and-affirming UCC congregations in the metro area to march in the annual Denver PrideFest parade. Please contact Molly Hughes if you are interested in joining in this event, and watch for more details as the date approaches!

We're excited about the opportunity to send some of our members and friends on a service trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota, **June 12-18**. The approximate cost for each volunteer will be \$400 for the week to cover all food, lodging, and transportation. Mission funds will cover half the total amount, so the cost to individuals is \$200. If you are interested in participating but missed the interest meeting on February 27, contact Pat Hayes or Molly Hughes to be included in future communication.

Missions and YAC (Youth Group) March Outreach Event

37th Annual Denver March Pow Wow

- ♦ Enjoy a Spiritual/ Cultural Awareness.
- ♦ The Pow Wow features more than 1,600 dancers from close to 100 tribes from 38 states and three Canadian provinces.
- ♦ 170 vendors selling Native American food and cultural items.
- ♦ Intertribal Dancing Competitions
- ♦ Drumming

When: Sunday March 20, 2011

Where: Denver Coliseum

Cost: (Admission \$7 per day) (\$3 per Day for Seniors(60+) (6 & under FREE)

Medical and Baby Equipment Lending "Library"

We have equipment available to lend. Jean Chavez, Office Manager, keeps the list. You can contact Jean if you have a need for medical or baby equipment. The equipment is **not** kept at the church but at the home of the lender. If you do borrow something, please let Jean know you borrowed (and then returned) it so we can keep track.

I would like to update the list. If you have any medical or baby equipment you would be willing to loan, please let me know. Susan Hodin 303-431-8433

daisyd9@comcast.net

2011 Lenten Calendar

In addition to Sunday Worship we will have the following opportunities during Lent:

Tues. March 8	"Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper"	6:00 p.m.
Wed. March 9	"Ash Wednesday Service"	7:00 p.m.
Tues. March 15	"Lenten Offerings"	6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Devotions 7:00 p.m. Education
Tues. March 22	"Lenten Offerings"	6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Devotions 7:00 p.m. Education
Tues. March 29	"Lenten Offerings"	6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Devotions 7:00 p.m. Education
Tues. April 5	"Lenten Offerings"	6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Devotions 7:00 p.m. Education
Tues. April 12	"Lenten Offerings"	6:00 p.m. Dinner 6:45 p.m. Devotions 7:00 p.m. Education
Sunday April 17	Palm Sunday Brunch	11:15 a.m.
Thurs. April 21	Simple Supper Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service	6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
Friday April 22	Good Friday Service	6:00 p.m.
Sunday April 24	Easter Worship	10:15 a.m.

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:

- Margery Soderberg
- Ruth Blosser
- Judi Baxter
- Henry and Margaret Wiese
- Sheila Wiese
- Mary Wise
- Jean Chavez and family




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

Our "Out to Lunch Bunch" will be meeting on March 20 at 12:00 p.m. at Jus Cookin's Restaurant, 840 Tabor Street in Lakewood. Everyone is invited to join in.




ATTENDANCE

Date	Attendance	To Date	This Was...
1/30/2011	120	6088	Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
2/6/2011	0	6088	Fifth Sunday After Epiphany (Service canceled due to weather)
2/13/2011	112	6200	Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
2/20/2011	109	6309	Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
2/27/2011	117	6426	Eighth Sunday After Epiphany

OUR APPRECIATION FOR THOSE THAT HAVE SERVED US

Greeters for February

2/6 No church
 2/13 Doii Mast and Ruth Haig
 2/20 Deb Dunn and Susan Rudy
 2/27 Parker, Tiffany and Rob Beastrom

Fellowship Hosts for February

2/6 No church
 2/13 Fellowship Committee
 2/20 LaNelle Haxton and Marilyn Blomberg
 2/27 Linda Royval and Janet Hehr

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 February

2/6 No church
 2/13 Susan Rumley
 2/20 Mary Ann Rothenburger
 2/27 Pat Hayes

What **ARE** You
 Thankful
 for?



Thank you for the phone calls, cards, hugs and especially the prayers for my family members after the car accident that tragically ended the lives of my cousins, Crystaldawn, Randy, Sebastian, Darrian and Cyrus Stollsteimer. Your love and concern are genuinely appreciated.

Jean Chavez, Office Manager

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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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Susan Rumley, Co-Moderator
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