



The Beacon

A monthly publication of Lakewood United Church of Christ



November 2011

Volume 56 Issue 11

Inside This Issue

Pastor's Peace	1
Moderator's Moment Seniors' Breakfast Mustard Seed Ministry	2
Tidings	3
Christian Education	4
LUCC News ◆ Stewardship ◆ Talent Show	5
◆ Music News ◆ La Foret	6
Mission, Outreach & Evangelism ◆ Alternative Gift Market ◆ Mission 1 New Web Steward	7
Sundays ◆ Sunday Schedule ◆ Church Office Hours ◆ Nursery Care ◆ Attendance ◆ Out to Lunch Bunch From Our Shepherds ◆ Prayer Requests	8
Our Appreciation for Those Who Have Served ◆ Greeters and Hosts ◆ Welcomers Thank You Advent Decorating Ladies' Holiday Luncheon	9

Blessed and Blessing

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God’s holy name”
Psalm 103:1

What does it mean to be blessed?—to be blessed by God and to be blessed by one another? What does it mean to be a blessing?—to bless God and to be a blessing to one another? If we could, how would we go about “counting” our blessings, both the ones received and the ones given? And after all the counting, how might we respond with thankfulness and generosity? These are the questions we’ll ponder together as we journey through this year’s stewardship campaign beginning Sunday, November 6.

Often when we hear the word “stewardship” what we think is, “Oh great! More talk about money!” And while this is certainly understandable, my hope is that when we hear the word “stewardship,” we might also think of the ways we’ve been blessed and our call to be a blessing. My hope is we think about abundance and generosity. My hope is that we think of ministry and outreach and making a difference. My hope is that we think of all the exciting and meaningful things we can do together as a congregation, if we each pitch in what we are able.

As most of you know, the stewardship program for 2011 went very, very well, and we actually had more money pledged than the amount we had asked for to fund our goal budget. And the reason I believe this happened is because so many people were excited about what is happening at Lakewood United Church of Christ and in our personal lives as a result of the ministries of this church. Knowing what I know about our plans for 2012, we have every reason to be just as excited this year. Just a few highlights from the goal budget include:

- ◆ Pay raises for all of our staff (your pastor included).
- ◆ Increased funds for Christian Education required because of our growing Sunday School, youth fellowship program (YAC), and increased offerings in the area of Adult Education.
- ◆ Funding to have a Seminary Intern from the Iliff School of Theology in the Fall of 2012.
- ◆ Increasing our giving to the National UCC’s “Our Church’s Wider Mission.”
- ◆ NOT budgeting money from the Building Fund for our operating expenses for the first time in several years.
- ◆ Beginning to save money in various funds for both expected and unanticipated future expenses.
- ◆ Budgeting for repairs and needed improvements at the church’s parsonage.

To me, these budget highlights demonstrate how far our congregation has moved from merely thinking year to year, to beginning to think more long term about our life and ministry together. Admittedly, not all of these budget items are required for us to continue to do what we are doing. However, they are reasonable, thoughtful, and most importantly, faithful responses being a healthy, vibrant, forward-looking, and growing congregation. We have been blessed and we are called to respond by being a community of blessing.

Please look for additional Stewardship Material in this issue of the Beacon (page 5) as well as in mailings you’ll soon be receiving.

Blessings, Curt

Moderator's Reflections

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As the election rhetoric heats up on our local and national scenes, it's time for us to look at and appreciate the officials of our church who provide a great deal of service, sometimes undergoing a lot of frustration, spending hours on their responsibilities, and have no material reward to show for it. These are the members of our Church Council, all of whom diligently serve quietly and without fanfare, and get the job done.

I can assuredly tell you that, as the moderator, I have the least to do. A well-run organization has a life of its own, and each of the leaders on the Council is backed by hard-working folks who have a job to do, and they do it well. As we approach the Thanksgiving season, I am thankful, indeed, for the folks that serve with me on the Church Council. Monthly meetings are the least of their worries...it's the daily, weekly or monthly activities that take their time. But their efforts and skills contribute so much to the life...the successful life... of our church. Please join me in giving a special thank you to the members of the Council: Vice Moderator Molly Hughes, Clerk Linda Andreen, At-large members Gwen Rush and Jerry Eslinger, Church Operations Chair Kane McNeil, Mission and Outreach Chair Pat Hayes, Christian Education Chair Priscilla Ingebrigtsen, Board of Congregational Chair Steve Goebel, Pastor Curt Preston and Finance Manager Brian Weishaar.

Their efforts, and those of the folks who work with them, help us glorify God in so many ways.

*Tabby Bernardo,
Moderator*

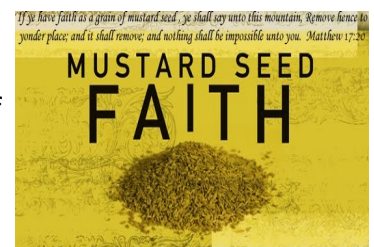


Senior Citizens' Breakfast

Lakewood High School Student Senate would like to invite all senior citizens in the Lakewood community to their annual Senior Citizens' Breakfast on Friday, November 11, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. There will be entertainment and a free breakfast. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information. Lakewood H.S. is located at 9700 W. 8th Ave. You may RSVP to Drew McDonald at 720-272-3538.

A "Head's Up"

The LUCC "Mustard Seed Ministry" is alive and well! The Volunteers of America has asked us, once again, to provide small, inexpensive gifts to be placed on the "Meals on Wheels" Christmas dinner trays for their clients. They really appreciated them last year.



The Bible Study group, in conjunction with the Mission Board, sponsors this project and will be asking the congregation to supply these small gifts. There will be more information forthcoming as we get into November. Please be watching for lists of items and dates for bringing them to church.

TIDINGS

LUCC is becoming more environmentally friendly... we are now using ceramic coffee cups, instead of paper cups, for Sunday morning coffee. Astute Finance Manager, Brian Weishaar, saw 130 cups at an estate sale, talked the seller down from \$25 to \$10 because the cups were "for my church," and voila! a deal was made.

If you have a hankering to learn more about Lakewood, the city sponsors an annual nine-week civics course that tells you everything you always wanted to know about your city. Thus far we've talked to attorneys, rode on street sweepers and snowplows, climbed in the newest police cars, learned about parks and recreation, and will soon be sitting in a courtroom. It's worth checking out...and it's free.

Let's Get Acquainted...with Julie Fyock, who was celebrating her third birthday when she was pushed into a shallow irrigation ditch by her three-year-old playmate, Del. Fortunately, there wasn't much water in the ditch, but Del paid dearly anyway. The couple has been married for 66 years because, Julie says with a smile in her voice, "He owes me."

The Fyocks found LUCC 35 years ago after moving here from Casper, Wyoming, where Julie says they had had "a good experience" with a UCC church. Using the proven methods of "yellow pages" and "driving around," they settled on this church and have been an active part of the congregation ever since. Both were deacons for many years, and still spend time visiting church members who are ill or have suffered a loss. They were regular members of the adult Sunday school, and Julie continues to be a part of the Wednesday Bible Study class. She taught Sunday school and he sometimes taught adult Sunday classes.

The Fyocks are among the first into the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, where they sit (usually) in the fourth row aisle seat on the left, where they can see and hear the sermon and the choir. LUCC has always been an important part of their family, and their granddaughters, Amy and Danae, were a talented part of the church music program. As Julie explains it, at LUCC "You're not a spectator, you feel like part of a family. Especially after moving around a lot, it was a good feeling. We felt welcome right away."

The Fyocks both grew up in the San Luis Valley, where her family raised sheep while Del's family

farmed. Among her favorite childhood memories are the summers spent on the family sheep ranch in Creede County. She studied at Colorado State University, earning a bachelor's degree in home economics and a master's in science education. Del, meanwhile, completed his studies at the University of Colorado and the University of Wyoming and became an engineer with Texaco.



After living in other states, the Fyocks returned to Colorado, where Julie found what eventually became her dream job, teaching innercity Latinos in Denver. "I loved teaching," she excitedly exclaims, describing how she took her West High physical science students on field trips and saw them react to the creeks, the outdoor life, the zoo and all the other things we take for granted. Many of her students were recent immigrants and didn't speak English, and she didn't understand much Spanish, but they communicated. And they still do. Even now, some of her former students still visit, introducing their spouses and children, and inviting her to Hispanic ceremonies. She retired from teaching in 1989.

Julie and Del enjoy traveling and have joined their church friends on trips to Alaska and Europe; they have also been to Mexico. Julie enjoys reading and doing crossword puzzles and she plays bridge twice a month. Picnicking is a favorite family activity, and Julie bases her menu on that of her late mother: fried chicken, potato salad and fresh fruit.

The Fyocks have two sons. Bill and his wife, Carol, live in St. Louis, Missouri and have two sons, Matthew and Andrew. Frank and his wife, Alice, live in Coal Creek Canyon. His three children are Amy, Danae and Alex.

Ed. Note: As newcomers to Colorado, my husband and I were taken by the Fyocks on our first trips to Wyoming, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone National Park, the San Luis Valley and southern Colorado. We will always be grateful for their kindness.

*By Tabby Bernardo
Photo by Jenny Merriman*

Christian Education

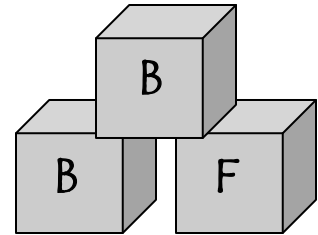
Lakewood UCC - Christian Education (CE) *(Children, Youth and Adults)*

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

BBF Student October 2011 Curriculum:

Teaching Series – Who Am I in Jesus! (Who Am I Scriptures)

- ♦ November 6, – I am a child of God (John 1:12)
- ♦ November 13, - I am with the power of love (2 Timothy 1:7)
- ♦ November 20 - I am God's coworker (2 Corinthians 6:1) I am His disciple (John 13:15)
- ♦ November 27 - I am chosen and God desires me to bear fruit (John 15:16)



BBF Teacher’s Needed!

November Teaching Needs:

- ♦ November 13, - 1 Teaching Spot, either Lambs or Doves
- ♦ November 20, - 1 Teaching Spot, either Lambs or Doves

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



Teacher Appreciation

A special thank you to our wonderful October staff: Bill and Barb Martin, Dorothy Miller, Sherry Good, Katie Blaser, Susan Rudy, and Nancy Jorgenson.



2. Youth At Church- (YAC)

YAC Schedule for November 2011

- November 6, - YAC at Church 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- November 12, (Sat.) – TNT – “Talent No Talent” Show, Sponsored by the YAC. More info in Beacon.
- November 13, - NO YAC
- November 20, – Thanksgiving Service Project- Jeffco. Action Center -1-4 p.m.
- November 27 – Coffee/Pie at the VI (Village Inn) Games and Pie, 3-5 p.m.



3. Adult Education

Titles for upcoming presentations- Nooma Series

The adult series is held on Sundays after Worship at 11:30 a.m. in the Stage Room upstairs. All are welcome to enjoy a wonderful presentation and discussion.

November 6, 2011 will be our last class for this semester. 11/06 – “ TREES”

Thank you to all who came and enjoyed the series through videos and discussion. It was a wonderful way to kick off the adult educational year with interesting and thought provoking material from Rob Bell.



We will be starting another adult education series in January, 2012.

Keep a “Look Out” for future information!

**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

LUCC News

Here is a brief synopsis of our financial picture as September 30, 2011:

Pledged income (\$166,051) was 95% of expectations (\$174,643) for this time of year.
 Unpledged income (\$10,115) was 103% of expectations (\$9,864) for this time of year.
 Total income (\$195,801) was 95% of expectations (\$205,643) for this time of year.
 Total expenses (\$201,939) were 97% of expectations (\$207,180) for this time of year.
 As of September 30, 2011, expenses exceeded income by (\$6,138).

Net income was budgeted at (\$1,537). The actual was a net loss of (\$6,138). The difference of (\$4,601) was due to pledged income being 5% lower than budget.

Take a look at your third quarter statements for your pledge progress!

We hope everyone is as current as they can be.

Stewardship
 Time | Talent | Treasure

STEWARDSHIP

Blessings to you all as we embark on our Stewardship journey. The theme for this year is "Count Yourself Blessed," based on the scripture from Luke 6:38. Please come to church the first three Sundays in November as we explore this theme. Curt's sermon topics will be "Blessed by God" on 11/6; "Blessing God" on 11/13; and "Counting Our Blessings" on 11/20. On November 20 during the church service, we will dedicate our pledge cards for 2012. After the service we will celebrate together in the Fellowship Hall as we share a meal together.

The meal this year will be a "Create Your Own Pasta Buffet". The Stewardship Committee will provide the pasta items. We are asking help from the congregation to provide side dishes of salad, rolls/bread, and dessert. Please sign up at the Welcome Center before and after the church service on Nov. 6 and 13. Thank you for your help.

ALL CHURCH TALENT SHOW!

All Church Talent Show on Saturday, Nov. 12, from 4-6 p.m.

Join us at the LUCC "Greek Theater" for an evening of fun and laughter. The YAC youth will be hosting the event dressed in togas to make for a festive atmosphere. There will be decorations, food and drink, and with your talents we'll also have a great program. There is a sign-up sheet available for acts. No participant is too young or too old and all kinds of acts are welcome. There will be a free-will offering collected as a fundraiser for the youth trip to Indiana this summer. We are hoping several Lakewood youth will attend the National Youth Event of the UCC July 9-14. If you have questions or to find out more, contact Jen or Curt.

MUSIC NEWS We are pleased to welcome Beth DeBoer to our choir accompanist position. Beth was raised in Iowa and Kansas, and has been in Denver for 13 years. She started playing piano at age four and began accompanying choirs at age 10. Here in Colorado, she has served as organist for several churches, including Christ Congregational and First Presbyterian. She was a rehearsal accompanist for the Empire Lyric Players, pianist of some musicals at Lakewood Cultural Center and principal accompanist for the Cherry Creek Chorale. Beth is excited to be here, where she will be able to do what she loves, which is to help people worship. She lives in Aurora with her miniature dachshund.

LUCC MUSIC HAPPENINGS The music groups at LUCC have hit the ground running this fall. We are pleased to welcome Judi Baxter and Ann Schmidt to the chancel choir. We would love to have a few more members. We are happy that Dorothy Miller and Barb Martin have joined the bell choir. They are working diligently to learn the skills and are proving to be great additions to the group. We also have welcomed two new members to JUST STRINGS. Nick Restad started singing with us in the summer, and we appreciate his sharing his talent to help us worship. Gwen Rush has recently taken up guitar again and has also joined us. We also are delighted to welcome a professional oboe player to our congregation. Sarah Bierhaus will be playing for worship on November 27, and hopes to play for us often. Max Michalec recently played his alto sax with the bell choir, and will be playing from time to time. Nick Restad continues to play beautiful piano music. *Joan Wagner*

Wonderful Weekend at La Foret



Last weekend, 50+ youth from all over the Rocky Mountain Conference (including two from our very own LUCC and 3 from Utah!) congregated at La Foret Retreat and Conference Center for a high school Fall

Retreat. As I soon came to realize, these youth are amazing in their diversity: Christian and non Christian, gay and straight, physically able and differently able, football players, piano players, adopted, inspired, confused, enlightened, frustrated, and so much more. In short, they are an incredible bunch of kids. And they all came, some even choosing camp over Homecoming, with a sometimes desperate need to connect with one another and with God in a safe place. I was so impressed with their stories, their willingness to share them, and the way they took such beautiful care of each other.

Over the course of the short weekend we sang, danced, cried, laughed, ate, prayed, worshiped, sang some more, hugged, and finally said goodbye (already talking about the next retreat opportunity). I'm certain that new friendships were formed. Old friendships were renewed. God was present. And 50+ youth (plus 13 or so adults) were nourished by the whole experience – ready to go back into the world and try to bring some of the “La Foret spirit” back with them. I'm so grateful for this ministry of the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC, and for the opportunity to be a part of it. Sometimes we get caught up in the numbers, in the financials, and in the bigger picture of where our outdoor ministry programs fit within the life of the UCC. For these 50 youth, this weekend was powerful, transformative, and for some a real life-saver.

If you/your kids weren't able to be a part of this experience, but you'd like to give it a try in the future . . . mark your calendars now for **Spring Retreat! March 23-25, 2012**. If you'd like to help sponsor a youth going to La Foret, please contact Curt. And stay tuned for more youth opportunities to connect this summer! Feel free to contact me if you'd like to know more. *Danielle Johns Preston*

BOARD OF MISSION, OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

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. Organizations with items for sale in our market include Heifer International, SERRV, Women's Bean Project, Fair Trade Coffee, Church World Service, Bead for Life, and "Incredible Edibles", baked goods from our own congregation. We are asking for volunteers to help with our market. Sign-up sheets will be available starting on Sunday, November 20. However, you do not have to wait until then. Please contact Marcia Forney, Sue Preston, or Glenda Bobby at any time to let them know you will be able to help. The Alternative Gift Market not only benefits the underprivileged people who receive money from the sale, but it also benefits all of us who purchase items from the market. We can mark off another name from our Christmas list and feel good about the gifts we have purchased.

MISSION 1 11.1.11–11.11.11

For these 11 days, the United Church of Christ will be on a shared mission to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice here in the U.S. and worldwide. The Mission Board of Lakewood United Church of Christ has decided to participate in the following:

1. Collect 11 food items: peanut butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables, tuna, cereal, mac and cheese, soups, pasta, rice, spam, and jello. Please bring 1 or 11 of these food items to church and place them in the grocery carts in the narthex by Nov. 11. The Mission Board will match all items received. The food will be donated to the Food Bank at the Action Center.
2. Eleven shares of cows, goats and chickens will be donated to Heifer International. Please see the poster in the Narthex.
3. Thirty-three gift certificates will be purchased for the participants of Foothill Greens to buy turkeys for their Thanksgiving dinner.
4. Eleven people will be asked to volunteer to work at the Action Center Food Bank.

There is a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Center in the Narthex.

Position Accepted!!!

Colleen Turner is our new Web Steward, bringing youth, enthusiasm and a creative, artistic eye, especially important to maintaining a website. She recognizes that the job, at its heart, is about spreading the word through this particular avenue of communication.

Thanks go to Doii Mast, who has faithfully taken notes, that have been posted each week under "Making Connections," for the announcements, joys & concerns, sometimes sermons, throughout most of the past nine years. Additional thanks to the others who have filled in occasionally: Kathryn R., Twila S. and Janet H. All of the above information will continue for those of you who either miss a Sunday service or just want to refresh your memory. (Don't forget to hear, or read, the sermons also!)

Jenny M., past web person, will continue sending the weekly emails and the Beacon, and taking pictures (your "private duty paparazzi person") for the church history.

Take time to go through your website and appreciate just what is located there – especially log onto the bulletin board and read the minutes from the various boards (if they remember to send them), and use the updated directory.

Quite simply, the good steward is the person who takes care of whatever it is that she or he has been entrusted.



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:

Bea Auch
Ellen Lowe


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 noon on November 13, at Olive Garden at Alameda and Wadsworth. Everyone is invited to join in.



ATTENDANCE

Date	Attendance	To Date	This Was...
9/25/2011	111	9690	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
10/02/2011	123	9813	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
10/09/2011	105	9918	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
10/16/2011	101	10019	Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
10/23/2011	106	11024	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

OUR APPRECIATION FOR THOSE THAT HAVE SERVED US

Greeters for October

- 10/2 Michael and Jill Monroe
- 10/9 Jerry Rothenburger
- 10/16 Gwen Rush and Janie Barnett
- 10/23 Colleen Turner and Judith Lew
- 10/30 Carolyn and Jerry Eslinger

Fellowship Hosts for October

- 10/2 Jerry and Mary Ann Rothenburger
- 10/9 David and Brenda Zserdin
- 10/16 Gwen Rush and Janie Barnett
- 10/23 Ruben and Tabby Bernardo
- 10/30 Myra and Howard Urband

What **ARE** You Thankful for?

Thank You!

A big thanks to Janet Hehr and Linda Royval for their work hosting the reception at Lakewood UCC following the Metro Denver Association Annual meeting on Oct. 2. Also thanks to Ruben and Tabby Bernardo and the YAC Youth for their help cleaning up after the event.



Thank You, Lord, for the earth and its seasons!

Welcomers for October

- 10/2 Carolyn Eslinger
- 10/9 Sheila Wiese
- 10/16 Marilyn Ransdell
- 10/23 Susan Rumley
- 10/30 Janet Hehr



SAVE THE DATE

Save the date of December 10 for the annual **LADIES HOLIDAY SALAD LUNCHEON.**

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.



Advent Decorating

The first Sunday in Advent is November 27. In preparation for the Advent season, we are requesting your assistance with decorating the Church for Advent on Saturday, November 26 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Please come and help us prepare the Church for this year's Advent season.



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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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