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STEPHEN MINISTER RESOURCE

## Where Is God When It Hurts?



I've lost my job and money's tight.  
I can't think what to do!  
Where are you, God, when I'm unemployed?  
Why can't I seem to find you?

My marriage is broken, my family is gone,  
My home feels empty and bare.  
Where are you, God, when I'm lonely and sad?  
Why don't you answer my prayer?

The doctor completed my tests today.  
The diagnosis is frightening and unsure.  
Where are you, God, when I'm ill and afraid?  
Why can't you bring me a cure?

When everything is right in our world,  
When life seems entirely good,  
We know exactly where God is then,  
And give thanks to God as we should.

But there's no difference in where God is.  
He's in the same place every time!  
God lives in the heart of each of us,  
Whether hurting or feeling divine.

So if you're suffering from anything now,  
And your life is filled with fear,  
Will you pray, then listen, and hear God say,  
"Be still and know that I am here!"

*Norma  
Stephen Minister &  
Stephen Leader  
McPherson, Kansas*

## Stephen Ministry

### **Rockland Resources for YOU**

Rockland has many resources to help when your personal "gas tank" of hope or faith might be running low.

For those unable to come to worship services or are home-bound, one of Rockland's team of in-home Communion servers is available upon request. Wednesdays are best for these visits.

The Stephen Minister Program has some limited availability right now if you are going through a life crisis or need additional support. We do have plans to train additional Stephen Ministers later this year. There are still a few vacancies left for this meaningful, high-quality training program, which is offered for free to those in our Rockland congregation.

Rockland not only offers several Bible study opportunities for those who hunger to deepen their knowledge of The Word, but also the Daily Bread Food Pantry items for those temporarily in need of sustenance.

Contact Annie (Barnett) Bremerman, Assistant of Care and Missions Pastoral Care Team, for more information about how you can access these value-based resources.

### **Ever thought about becoming a Stephen Minister?**

Plans are definitely in the works to train additional Stephen Ministers later this year. There are still a few vacancies available for this world-renown training program, which is offered free of charge, including ALL training materials and books, to those in our Rockland congregation.

Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to Rockland parishioners who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, pandemic blues, terminal or chronic illness, unrelenting loneliness, or other life crises.

If you want to expand your own gifts for listening, encouraging, and caring, please consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting, highly personalized ministry that has a long history of serving Rockland's congregation.

## Widows Walk

The Widows Life Group meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 10-11:30 AM in the Adult Education Room. It is an opportunity for fellowship, and Bible Study. We have gone out to lunch, concerts, and planned outings. The fellowship has been enriching and a time to develop new friendships. The Bible Study is to focus on our faith as we continue to walk through our spiritual journey. It is a group that creates trust, caring, and developing ties with others. If you have any questions you can call me, Gloria Owens at 602-568-7677.

## Rockland Foundation

Rockland Foundation was created in 1974 to provide long-term support for Rockland Community Church. Like Rockland Community Church, our mission is connecting all generations to Jesus and our vision today is to help ensure the long-term financial viability and vibrant ministries of Rockland Community Church.

Over the past 48 years, we have grown through contributions and growth of our investments to a principal amount of roughly \$600,000. During this time, our grants to Rockland Community Church have supported youth missions and educational support for the staff. We provide this support with the income from our investments.

As we move forward in 2022, it is our goal to grow our principal base so that we can be a greater contributor to the youth programs, help with building improvements and equipment replacement projects, as well as continuing education for the staff, and outside projects that seek support from Rockland Community Church.

To achieve this growth, we will be reaching out to our Church members, both past and present for charitable donations. We will be looking at annual or periodic contributions as well as donations based on estate planning. To assist with the estate planning project, we will encourage the membership to review their current plans or, in many cases, begin the process with an attorney. One of the programs we will offer to those who wish to participate in some financial training is the Crown Biblical Financial Study Program. It is an excellent program that focuses on developing financial planning with a Biblical foundation and has been instrumental in helping families improve their financial situation as well as improve their ability to make charitable contributions.

Look for upcoming guidelines and information on the Rockland Foundation project to increase the long-term capabilities of the foundation and its support for Rockland Community Church.

Bruce Wiesely

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## **Our goal is to inform, inspire and connect the people to our community of Rockland Church.**

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Lead Pastor: Jim Gribnitz  
Kid's & Connections Pastor: Lori Fullmer  
Care and Missions Pastor: Paul Lucks

## Kids' Corner



Vacation Bible School was held from June 20 to June 24. One hundred and ten children attended, along with many student volunteers and parent volunteers. Susan Banning and Sara Hanowski photographed the week. Look for photos from VBS throughout this issue. Following is Lori's narrative of the week.

### That's A Wrap!

VBS is over for another year and for those involved, this year may go down in the books as, well, one of the most interesting. Challenging would be another way to describe it. No matter how you look at it, it was a VBS that will not easily be forgotten. And this year's overarching theme could not have been more perfectly named.

*Celebrating God's Greatness!* That we did!

We were coming into the final stretch of preparations when two days before VBS was to start when Lori Fullmer, Kids & Connections Pastor, and three others who held key roles, tested positive for COVID. Hello, God, not the best timing here! Well, the troops rallied. Decorations went up, check-in tables were set, and volunteers jumped into places they never imagined they would be. VBS went off with only a bump here or there. Just as the kids heard on Monday, "God is Everywhere!" and indeed He was.

As the week went on, we learned that *God is in Charge!* Yep. *God is stronger than anything!* Yep, He's got that one too. *God is surprising!* And, that would be another – YEP! Best of all though, the kids heard, and the multitude of volunteers had the opportunity to share with the kids, that *God loves you no matter what!*

In other words, it was a PERFECT week at VBS Celebrating God's Greatness!



## Elders' Corner

On Saturday, May 14, 43 Rockland elders, deacons, and staff members participated in the first Rockland Leadership meeting since 2019. We were delighted to gather in the Student Room to enjoy breakfast and fellowship as well as to discuss important issues facing Rockland. Pastor Jim welcomed the meeting participants and opened us in prayer.

Elder Kevin Grieve then provided the group with an overview of Rockland's five-year strategic plan. The elders began the strategic planning process in 2019, and we were interrupted by Covid in 2020. We were able to finish the plan in the Fall of 2021, and it was shared with deacons and staff. During our meeting, Kevin discussed plans to share it with the Congregation this year. The plan identifies the five "strategic pillars" the Church will work towards to serve God, our members, and the community. Kevin informed the meeting participants that today's discussion would center around one of the pillars entitled, *Every Member A Ministry*. He explained this pillar involves our goal to have all members actively participate in Rockland's ministries in some form or fashion.

Kevin then turned the meeting over to Gordon Steere, who has facilitated our leadership meeting for the last seven years. Gordon explained to the group that the goal of *Every Member A Ministry* is not encouraging our members to "volunteer". He defined a volunteer as, "Someone willing to work for free." Rather, he said our goal is to encourage servant leaders. He described a servant leader as someone who is "a member of the body of Christ who sees service as a ministry, as an exercise of spiritual service to God."

The balance of the discussion centered on the group providing answers to the following question: How does Rockland improve its process for engaging our members to serve? Participants at each of the tables were tasked with responding to that question, as well as various related questions. After completion of the working sessions, Gordon organized a discussion of the participants' responses. A lively discussion took place. Meeting participants were energized by the discussion and the opportunity to interact with their peers. God was certainly with us as we explored these important questions.

Jim and the staff are assembling notes from the meeting. Elders, deacons, and staff will be utilizing many of the great ideas that surfaced at the meeting for encouraging robust servant leadership at Rockland.

### Your Elder Team

Tracy Adreon  
Jed Burnham  
Joyce Dunbar  
Jim Gribnitz  
Todd Graber  
Kevin Grieve  
Patrick Heck  
Peter Miterko



Peter Miterko



Todd Graber



The Rock House had a great school year! The youth group that takes place during the school year is coming to an end. However, the students have expressed a desire to continue the Bible study through the summer! We plan to meet the students where they are and continue to guide them in their lives and help them to learn what being a follower of Christ truly means. We are all very excited to see what God has in store for our students and we realize how important it is that they have us now. In today's society, our kids are becoming overwhelmed and even confused at all of the things that they are being introduced to. So, the staff and volunteers work hard each day to make sure their questions are answered, and that they are provided with the truth so that we can show them how to have a relationship with God.

"For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed." [Romans 8:19](#)

Throughout the year we have gained new students within our Bible study. We are so happy that our students have begun to spread the word and bring their friends. We love that they are showing up each week and learning about the Lord despite having little to no previous exposure to God's word. We continue to use art, games, movies and reading to help the kids understand and remember what we are teaching them. The structure we bring into their environment, in addition to lessons and interactive activities, each night that we gather has continued to influence their lives.

The mentoring program ended on a great note. However, we are in need of more mentors. We allow more students to join next year but we will need more mentors for the program as a whole to grow. If you have an interest in becoming a mentor, which is September through May commitment on Tuesdays, Kimsey would love to talk with you. Contact her at [mentoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org](mailto:mentoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org).

The tutoring program also ended very well. All of our students brought up their grades with the help of our dedicated mentors. If you want to join our team of tutors contact Kandi Hedges at [tutoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org](mailto:tutoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org).

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we hosted our first Wednesday Summer Fun Day of the summer. On these Wednesday Summer Fun Days, we provide a meal, fun activities, and connect with our community. We expect it to be a great experience as it was last year. With all of this great success, we are so excited to move into the summer and begin preparation for another great school year to follow! If you are interested in more information on how you can get involved with the Clear Creek Rock House please email Knoelle Billingsley. We are so grateful at [volunteering@clearcreekrockhouse.org](mailto:volunteering@clearcreekrockhouse.org).



Thank you for the support you have brought to the Rock house!

*Knoelle Billingsley*

*Clear Creek Rock House Media Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator*



Mentoring Night



Mentor and Mentee Activities



Bible Study

## Rockland Talks Conference with Dr. Neil Anderson

The Rockland Talks Conference consisted of 4 sessions that included 209 attendees. Friday morning was a Pastor's briefing that hosted Pastors and Disciple Makers from the Denver, Aurora, and Evergreen areas. Friday evening featured Dr. Anderson speaking on *The Spiritual Battle for the Mind* and on Saturday speaking on *Emotional Freedom and The Steps to Freedom*. As a result of this conference, Rockland Community Church is being recognized as a viable church that wants to make disciples and mature disciples. Those who attended the conference walked away with knowing who they are in Christ, how they can live an effective and productive life as a child of God, and how to resolve personal and spiritual issues they had been struggling with. I believe this conference laid a foundation to help people see that a Discipleship Ministry needs to be and will become a cornerstone of Rockland.

## Get Connected with Life Groups

If you have never been part of a church small group, or what Rockland call Life Groups, it might be difficult to appreciate their draw. God has created each one of us to be in community with others in order for Him to mold and shape us into all that He intends for us to become. In community, we learn what it means to spiritually grow and care for one another. We learn how to love as Christ loves, to listen to others, to confess our weaknesses, and to forgive one another. Life Groups keep us connected in a disconnected age. We need people to fellowship with because life is tough. By socializing, group participants can learn how to listen and spur one another on to love and good deeds.

### FAQ's

A Life Group is a fellowship group consisting of 5-15 people who meet weekly, biweekly, or monthly to share, care for, and support one another.

### When and where do Life Groups meet?

Life Groups meet on various nights and at various times of the week usually in homes throughout Denver and surrounding areas. Most groups meet throughout the year but take breaks over the various holidays.

### What is studied?

Some studies are based upon the previous Sunday's message. Other Life Groups use book-based, topic-based, or special interest-based studies and are chosen by the group members based on their group's needs.

### How do I sign up for a Life Group?

Once you have carefully reviewed this guide and decided what group could work for you, the first option is to complete a Life Group Interest Card available at the Information Desk in the church foyer. You can either turn it in at the Church office or at one of the Come and Consider Sunday gatherings each month. A second option is to contact our Care and Discipleship Ministries Assistant, Annie Barnett, by phone at 303.526.0668 Ext.203 or email at [abremerman@rockland.church](mailto:abremerman@rockland.church). She will be glad to help answer any questions you might have and assist you in finding the right group.



## Guest Ministry Team

Come be a part of the *Guest Ministry Team!*

You might be asking, *What is Guest Ministry?*

Here at Rockland our *Guest Ministry Team* are the greeters. They are those individuals who welcome you with a big smile and warm handshake as you arrive for Worship on a Sunday morning. Greeters create a warm and welcoming environment. They make you feel like family. Greeters are on the front lines of ministry. And, they communicate the following:

- We are excited to see you
- We have prepared for you
- We want to get to know you more
- We care
- You belong...And there's so much more

We have a great group of individuals and couples who already serve as Greeters, but we want to GROW our team! Come join us on the front line as we welcome new guests and long-time friends. We have a place for you and it is good!

Contact Lori Fullmer, Kids & Connections Pastor – [LFullmer@Rockland.Church](mailto:LFullmer@Rockland.Church)



## Historic Rockland Church and Cemetery

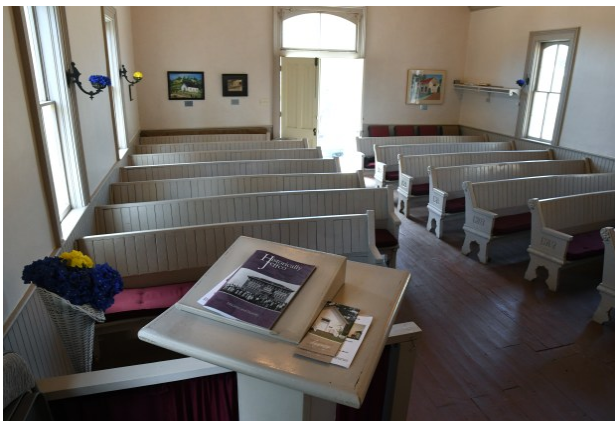
On May 29th, 2002, the church was featured in the Denver Post in an article entitled:

### **One man's dream to preserve a 143-year-old church and cemetery in the foothills overlooking Denver**

Steve Engle has spent 15 years restoring the Historic Rockland Community Church and Cemetery. He became interested in Historic Rockland while working on a thesis for his Master's degree in History. The church readily agreed to let him restore the site. Steve worked with Sid Platt, a historian for the site.

Steve has worked with crews from Jefferson County Justice Services. The Community Service Crews are in need of community service and provide mowing and gravesite preparation.

In addition to the 162 gravesites, there are plaques that are placed on the fence regardless if there is a gravesite.



It is worth checking out at the following link or just type in Historic Rockland Church Golden.

<https://www.denverpost.com/2022/05/29/rockland-community-church-cemetery-genesee/>

Due to the article in the Post, many more people attended the Memorial Day Service and \$3,000 was raised to add to \$65,000 already donated. A restroom is planned for the site. There will be more on the plans for the Historic Church in the next issue of *Chimes*.

## Memorial Day Service at Historic Rockland Church

The Memorial Day service was attended by 110 people. The altar flowers were dedicated to Tom Hobson in recognition of his service in the European Theatre in WWII. Tom always wore his uniform and proudly saluted the flag while leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance and singing our National Anthem. His good friend, CT Westgard (US Navy) led us this year. We are honored to know CT and thank him for his service to all of us.

Shirlene Haynes, of the Rockland choir, presented our opening prayer, citing America's allegiance and love of all who served and those who kept unwavering faith at home.

The Faith Lutheran Church Praise Ringers presented *Finlandia/My Country tis of Thee* in a special litany that only bells can pull off in a perfect acoustic environment. Thank you to Faith Lutheran Church for this wonderful contribution of special music.

Rockland's Historian, Sid Platt gave us a *Moment of History*. He spoke about the oldest churches in Colorado. Historic Rockland is certainly in the top twenty oldest churches in Colorado.

Reverend Jim Gribnitz presented our Memorial Day Message. He cited the beginning of the tradition of Memorial Day and how it became one of the USA's official holidays. Jim spoke of the significance of sacrifice for soldiers and the impact on the U.S. population in times of peril and uncertainty.

The Rockland choir was led by David McNeil, who multi-tasked, playing our 1907 pump organ. The Rockland choir anthem was *Angel Band*, a folk classic written in 1860. Tammy Roth accompanied on the mandolin, along with Kim Douthitt on guitar and Stan Bull on the banjo.

Hymns sung by the congregation were *Fairest Lord Jesus*, *O God our help in Ages Past*, and *America the Beautiful*. Carol Vits picked out *O God our help in Ages Past* as her favorite. In researching the hymn, I learned that this hymn was Winston Churchill's favorite hymn. It was played at his funeral and on the ship for the Atlantic Charter meeting with President Franklin Roosevelt.

Our final touch this year was the playing of *Taps* in Rockland Historic Cemetery by Joshua Michel, a student at Colorado Christian University.

We then mingled in the cemetery under tents, visiting with old and new friends. Many paused at Bob Davis' recent grave.



An additional salute in the program was a picture of the Buffalo Herd Overlook. The Overlook, The Genesee Reservation Park, The Craig Reservation, and Girl Scout Camp are now a part of Denver Mountain parks were donated by Parishioners of Historic Rockland Community Church. We are proud of our members and the positive impact they gave on tourists, visitors, and our mountain community.

## Overheard by The Church Mouse



*"I will lift mine eyes into the hills from whence cometh my help".... Psalm 121:1*

It seems that every facet of our lives is out-of-control. We as Christians have been plagued throughout the years with problems that seemed insurmountable...but somehow here we are today facing challenges we may never have envisioned... and we are not alone. When you join the rest of the congregation on Sunday morning you are probably aware of a number of our church members who are dealing with very difficult times. If you realize those you know are having problems, be assured that those strangers you don't know are having just as many problems. It would be incomprehensible to think that you could live today with no negative feelings.

As an example:

- It's Monday morning and you need to go to the grocery store and get some gas. The cost will be beyond anything we have experienced. Everything is more expensive, even utilities. So, you worry about your budget today.
- It's Tuesday and the news abroad is devastating with the folks in Ukraine trying to survive and if they lose completely will Russia go after Estonia? Will China confiscate Taiwan?
- On Wednesday the local news focuses on the drug situation and how many young people are dying of doses of fentanyl.
- Thursday morning's TV shows the thousands of illegal immigrants rushing to our border.
- Friday I'm driving across town and see the wretched poverty of those living on the streets. Those who call our cities their personal refuge. Where will these people go?
- Saturday there's been another upsurge in Covid cases, and the news is focused on the illness within the country and the inability of so many to be able to afford care.
- Sunday morning as I get ready for church, I, for a few moments was slammed with news stories across the country, where some of those in churches were not safe...some even died. The thought staggers me for a few moments and then I recall our history as Christians, always facing danger and difficulties.

I drive to church and as I walk up to the entrance, I feel a camaraderie that I savor. I relax and walk into church. There are many familiar faces smiling and greeting. Even those who may be new to me are smiling and I realize this is where I exchange my disturbing stories of the week and find God waiting for me. Though God has been with me all week, I see him more clearly now. This is a place to feel the Christian spirit of love and caring. I think of all the people who do not have this sanctuary and I am sad for them but grateful for this place of refuge. Throughout history, mankind has sought others to share their faith in God. Aren't we fortunate to be in that group!!!

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Why is it *The Church Mouse*? According to the long history of Rockland Church, many years ago there was a mouse that attended services in the Historic Rockland Church. (Rockland came to be in 1880). The story tells of a Sunday morning when neighbors and friends gathered in our old church. While the visiting pastor was giving his sermon, the congregation began to laugh and giggle. The preacher couldn't understand why the folks were responding this way...until he looked down, over the pulpit, and there on the railing sat a mouse listening to his sermon. Thus...it was "overheard by the church mouse".

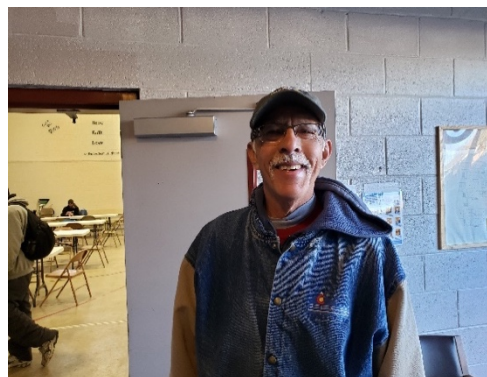




A Beloved Ragamuffin Project

## View from the Box Truck

Mean Street Ministry's Box Truck is on the road four to five days per week, gathering needed supplies for the food bank and café. Our pickups come from Target, Walmart, Sprouts, Denver Rescue Mission, and Food Bank of the Rockies. Our box truck drivers pick up and deliver between 15,000 and 20,000 pounds of food to Mean Street every month! This is a big job and our box truck drivers are up to the task. Their faithful pickups ensure that our clients have great access to food all month long! A few of our box truck drivers are listed below: John, Pat, George, and Brent!



## View from the Showers

Our showers create a refreshing and honoring service that our clients can partake of weekly, not only enjoying the nice warm water, but also receiving a new t-shirt, socks, and underwear for the week. Our clients say that being able to take a wonderful shower makes their whole day, as they feel “human” again. Mark and Sharon, pictured below, do a great job running the program twice weekly!



## View from a Staff Transition

Mean Street is transitioning to a new Volunteer Coordinator! Diane Chapman (right) is leaving after four years and is moving on to another local ministry, and we welcome Heather Nuss, who will be taking her place. Heather has been volunteering with Mean Street Ministry for two years and knows the clientele and ministry process very well. She is a welcome addition to the staff. Heather can be reached at [heather@meanstreetministry.org](mailto:heather@meanstreetministry.org) or 303-232-2500.



## Calling all Gardeners

We still have space available for volunteers who would like to participate in this new and exciting opportunity. A community garden is opening, and our clients will be able to tend their own plots. Volunteers will be needed to teach clients, work with them, and build a relationship. If this or another service opportunity excites you, please consider volunteering and giving. For questions, please contact us at 303-232-2500 or [info@meanstreetministry.org](mailto:info@meanstreetministry.org).

Thank you!

**Mean Street Ministry Staff**



## Loaves & Fishes Summer 2022

Summer for Loaves & Fishes began with an abundance of generosity from Rockland Parishioners! We are truly grateful for your generous donation, one that was matched by <https://www.sport-kids.org> allowing us to repair the food pantry van and resume our weekly food distribution in partnership with the Salvation Army and Food Bank of the Rockies. If you see us driving by, be sure to look for the logos acknowledging our wonderful sponsors and give us a wave. We are very proud to work in partnership with our Front Range community!

The summer has also brought new faces to the food pantry. We have welcomed several new volunteers who are busy preparing community meals, unloading trucks, stocking shelves, greeting shoppers, and even taking food safety courses, so they can provide safe and sanitary service to our expanding clientele.

Our clients' needs are greater than ever, as surging gas prices and food costs are sending many of all ages to our door. They are greeted with a friendly smile, nutritious food, and a strong sense of community. But it is not an easy task to ensure that people do not go hungry. Therefore we continue to rely on grants and individual donations.

## How You Can Help

Loaves & Fishes is looking for volunteers to join our team and help eliminate hunger in our community. Even if it is just donating one hour each week, it goes a long way in helping those facing food insecurity.

We are also looking for volunteer help to represent Loaves & Fishes in the Triple Bypass and cheer for us in the Fourth of July Parade, if you are interested in participating in any of these events, please contact Taylor Billingsley at (512)-285-7697 or email [loavesandfishescc@gmail.com](mailto:loavesandfishescc@gmail.com)

We are trying to expand our reach. Let friends and family know we are a charity that you support and that we need their help. Please share our mission along with our website:

<https://www.loavesandfishesco.net>. Donations can also be made through PayPal on this site.

### **Our Mission**

Loaves & Fishes exists to bring glory to God by providing food and other assistance to those in need. All services are to be offered without discrimination as an expression of Christian love and generosity.



*Connecting all generations to Jesus*

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Golden, CO  
Permit No. 128

17 S. Mt. Vernon Country Club Road  
Golden CO, 80401

**DATED MATERIALS – PLEASE RUSH**

*Connecting all generations to Jesus  
As we stand for the Truth of the Gospel,  
Show God's grace to all people,  
And raise up the next generation to do the*

**Current resident or**

A large, empty rectangular box with a dashed border, intended for the recipient's address.

**Welcome Home.**

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Services: 9:00am & 10:30am  
[www.Rockland.Church](http://www.Rockland.Church)