

## Our Role in God's Miracles

### The Amazing story of Tanzania

This month the Rockland dollar bill program is earmarked for the Tanzania program, and you have GOT to hear how our ministry there is changing people's lives and showing the love of Christ! The short answer is that we are making a huge difference and God is performing amazing and heartwarming miracles in the lives of Tanzanians. What we provide to them is often the difference between eating and not eating, between going to school and not getting any education, between thriving and barely surviving, and between hearing Christ proclaimed or not. Our brother in Christ and dear friend Pastor Abel will be here in early April to help us celebrate our Tanzania partnership and the things we are doing together in the name of Jesus. Read on!

This past month, five of us, including Pastor Jim, experienced the joy of visiting our ministries in Tanzania. We were amazed at the progress of the new primary school at Pastor Abel's Ilboru Church. Construction is complete and the school is up and running with nearly 200 students from Grades 1 through 7 receiving a quality Christian education. Pastor Abel commented proudly that *"We built the roof and Rockland finished the walls. Together, we built a Christian school."*

We attended morning devotionals and met many of the staff at ALMC Hospital, where they care for the persons physical needs and also pray with every patient that comes through their doors. We visited a miracle baby at ALMC Hospital who was the smallest baby ever to survive at this hospital: 4 months premature, weighing 1 ½ pounds! Dr. Mark Jacobson's comment was, *"Rockland made this happen! Your support of the NICU babies is literally saving lives on a daily basis."* Praise the Lord!

We met with all of our girls at their new schools, MWEDO and Renea. The enthusiasm, commitment and gratitude of these girls are just fantastic. Many members at Rockland spend a few hundred dollars a year, to sponsor a poverty-stricken girl at a high quality private school and give them an education and a bright future they could otherwise only dream about. We can hardly explain how great it is to be part of that.

Here are remarks from only two of the girls' many wonderful letters to sponsors: **Sopia:** *"I thank God for giving me this chance to be here at this school - it is wonderful. I want to thank you for sponsoring me and transferring me from my former school to Renea. I have nothing to repay you but I pray for God to guide you".* **Upendo:** *"I pray to the Lord God almighty that he may bless you with a longer life in this world. I will try as hard and never give up because even the Bible says, in Proverbs 4:13 "Keep hold of instruction and do not let her go". I thank you for having the heart of encouragement and caring for me like your daughter. I promise to make you proud in the future."*

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Unfortunately, eleven of the girls we have committed to help do not have a sponsor. Because of the huge payoff that an education gives, we will focus on this need during the dollar bill program and the fundraising activity in April. Our prayer is that these girls' dream will be fulfilled.

We saw so much more that touched our hearts. From praying over and putting a smile on the faces of Hospice patients, to hugging the crippled children at Plaster House, to passing out gifts to poverty stricken children at the local church's Children's Centers, to giving people a new life with the Milky Cow program, we experienced the joy of seeing firsthand the fruits of Rockland's love and partnership with our ministry friends in Tanzania. THANK YOU Rockland for your generous heart and your loving spirit that is making disciples and changing the lives of so many people.

-Steve Hannah



# Note from the Rockland Security Team

Last year, Rockland pro-actively put together a team that works with our sheriff onsite in case of any type of emergency. This team provides extra eyes and ears for the sheriff and will assist in the response to any medical emergency or any other disruption on church grounds during our worship services. Our hope is that this team never has anything to do! We are glad that Rockland is a safe place to worship and we know of no known threats nor do we expect any. By having Security at Rockland, we are just being “pro-active” against a possibility.

## ENDORSEMENT BY PASTOR JIM

*“I’m very glad that Rockland is such a safe place to be for me and my family, made even safer, by a team of people who serve through being on call for any emergency so we can all worship. On Sundays, their act of worship is helping us worship with an even greater peace!”*

Churches in our area including Flatirons Community Church, Foothills Bible Church, Applewood Baptist Church and many others have had Security Teams for several years and have been able to respond to any emergencies quickly and professionally.

As is quite evident, Rockland employs a uniformed Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff to be present and visible every Sunday. This visible presence is a deterrent to anyone desiring to cause trouble. Also present, is The Rockland Security Team of Observers (who are not armed). We have one Team Leader who walks the hallways and parking lots during Sunday Services and one Sanctuary Observer who sits in the worship services each service every week.

Knowing that Rockland has security people should be comforting our members and visitors knowing that The Security Team is looking out for their welfare and that their church is being “pro-active” on their behalf.

We desire to be out of the way, virtually unnoticed, and hopefully always bored on Sunday mornings. Just in case, we want our members to be in good hands and so we are happy to serve.

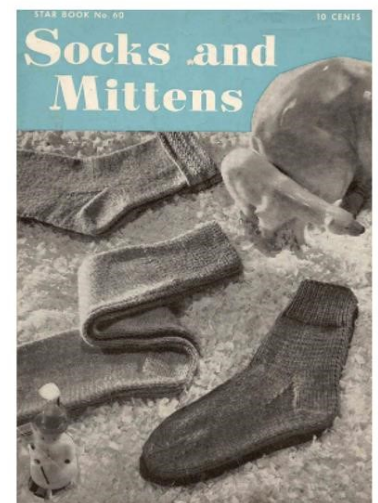
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## A Clothesline of Love...

In prior years we had a Mitten Tree during the Christmas holiday which was decorated with donated items like mittens, gloves, hats, mittens and often times a handmade sweater or two. In the midst of a phone conversation with Mean Street and EChO in early 2016, I came to learn that there was a greater need for these items during the months of February and March.

*What could we use in place of that Mitten Tree? What would we hang all of those mittens and such on?*

The idea of a clothesline surfaced. So throughout the month of February, a cold weather clothesline was filled and quickly weighted down with mittens, gloves, socks and hats. The children who attend KidzLife on Wednesday nights were encouraged to bring an item each week to hang on the clothesline. When our collection came to a close, we were excited to count each item as we took it off the clothesline. In total, 133 pairs of socks, 80 pairs of gloves or mittens, 31 hats and 5 scarves were donated. These items are now warming the hands, feet, and heads of men, women, and children served by Mean Street Ministries or Loaves & Fishes.



What we promoted as a cold weather clothesline, turned out to be a clothesline of love!

-Lori Fullmer

# Down and Out and Deceived

A young family entered the shelter, cold and unsure. They are desperate and don't know where to turn. "We were sent her by the Volunteers of America", she tells me not sure that they will be allowed to stay since they weren't pre-registered. I assure them that they are welcome to stay and I can see the tension drain from their shoulders. As they sit down to start the registration process they begin to tell me their story. Answering a Craig's List ad that was too good to be true, they sent all their savings as a deposit for a beautiful house that had affordable rent. When the landlord stopped answering their calls and emails they began to get concerned. The house was in another state, but having already paid all their savings to hold the house, they let their apartment go, packed up their belongings and quit their jobs in hopes of starting a new life in Arizona. When they arrived at the address they found another family moving in. The ad was a fraud being used to lure desperate people out of their hard earned money. They were crushed, angry, and numb.

Thankful for a place to stay and way to verify their homelessness, they settled in for the night. Within days they had been approved for the housing program through the VOA and were searching for a new apartment. The day before Christmas Eve they moved into their new apartment and were excited to have renewed hope and once again a chance for a bright future.



A Beloved Ragamuffin Project

This is just one story of how our Family Cold Weather Shelter has ministered to those in need. A warm meal, a place to lay their heads in a safe environment and a chance to regroup are sometimes all these families need to make a fresh start. The family shelter is running a pilot for the month of March. We have decided to open every night for the entire month regardless of the weather to see if the consistency will help families to focus on finding more permanent solutions for their families not only in terms of housing but also related to employment, schooling and other aspects that create turmoil for families. We currently have six families staying with us and they are very thankful to know that they have a place to stay for the time being. Thank you for your support of Mean Street Ministry and the Family shelter.

-Suzanne Wilson

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## Romania Scholarship News

Did you catch the article on Rockland's Romanian mission work in the March 1 edition of *Canyon Courier*? Bob and Kitty Ehret were interviewed by author Corinne Westman about our outreach in Romania, most specifically the scholarship partnership we have with World Vision Romania. She wrote about the history of the program and what drew the Ehrets to not only support the disadvantaged in the Cluj area, but move to the country from 2005-09.

To get the whole story, log in to <http://www.canyoncourier.com/content/rockland-romania> or <http://bit.ly/2lwznq5>

Are you interested in getting more involved with our outreach to Romania? All ages are encouraged to participate in the upcoming Mission Trip scheduled for July 10-21, which will be led by Bob and Kitty. In previous Mission Trips, numerous high school age students from Rockland became involved and we are encouraging this generation to sign up for the 2017 trip to continue the tradition. For more information, please contact Bob at [mongoehret@yahoo.com](mailto:mongoehret@yahoo.com).



# Prayer Shawl Ministry

## In the beginning...

In 2010 Meg Greeley was the Caring Committee leader and Jewel Hensley was the head of the Women's Ministry Team. They came up with the idea of starting a Prayer Shawl group. Our first meeting was held in Fellowship Hall and many women attended. Some people were avid knitters and crocheters, others had knit in the younger years, and some wanted to learn to knit. It was seen as a lovely way to give to the church membership through time, love and prayer.

Each month since then, about 10-15 women meet to continue this ministry. Over the years people have come and gone. Some of our knitters are no longer with us but they left a lasting impact on our group. Since 2010 the group has created 278 lovely prayer shawls and lap blankets that have been distributed all over the world. Some are in Africa and the Romania team took shawls to their students to share the love from Rockland. Many of our own church members have received a shawl prior to surgery or during a time of grief.

It is a beautiful ministry and the women who participate in it are so caring, thoughtful and prayerful. Each stitch is created with love and prayer. This group is open to anyone in the church who feels called to share warmth, love and prayer with others.

Join us the second Monday of each month from 1:00 – 3:00 in the conference room.

Any questions, call Liz Hawkins 303-674-3235 or email her at [ephawk123@gmail.com](mailto:ephawk123@gmail.com).

*May you bear fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. Colossians 1:10*

-Liz Hawkins



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## Loaves & Fishes

Spring arrives a little slower here in the canyons around Idaho Springs. However if you look closely you can find it.

The pace here at the food bank slowed a bit after the New Year and we are currently serving about 110 families from the Clear Creek and Gilpin County communities. While our base needs for dry goods are largely met through our relationship with Food Bank of the Rockies, there are always holes to fill. Coffee, peanut butter and toilet paper top the list currently. In the fresh food area we are always looking for steady streams of dairy, meat and produce. Our local Walmart has been very supportive of our efforts and our Thursday morning pick up is almost always a blessing beyond our wishes!

Easter is right around the corner and we look forward to building Easter baskets for our clients. Needs along those lines center around fresh or canned hams, traditional side dishes and some candy for the kids. Help preparing and handing out baskets the week of April 10 is always appreciated.

Please call 303-567-4450 or 303-885-3006 for Patrick and we can discuss volunteer opportunities.

The Rockland congregation remains a stalwart supporter of Loaves and Fishes both financially and with volunteer help. For this and all you do every day in our mutual ministry we say thank you and God bless you.

Happy Easter to you and yours!!

Patrick Delaney, Director, Loaves & Fishes

**Loaves & Fishes**  
*Serving Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties*

***Expanding Horizons in the Winter with their Mentors!***

Over the years, we at the Rock House, have learned how valuable it is to get our kids out of their comfort zone and stretch them to learn persistence and become proficient at things that are inherently difficult especially in cold environments. Watching them overcome these obstacles, and eventually become good enough to enjoy the experience is a blessing. With their mentors alongside them and actively encouraging them, those bonds grow deeper. At that moment these kids realize that they have accomplished something that they have never done before, and didn't think that they could do.

Whether it is skiing or ice skating or tubing, they have acquired a new skill that they can aspire to enjoy the rest of their lives. To most of these kids, cold and winter are the enemy and just something they have to endure. Now many of them learn to enjoy God's beauty as they learn to dress for protection and have some fun with their mentors!

**Skiing Experience:**

The Rock House has been blessed by the generosity of the Empire Sports Ski Shop in Dumont, owned by Kristen and Mark Reagan. They believe in the mission of the Rock House and have donated free ski passes to Loveland, and free rental equipment for the Rock House kids whenever their mentors and mentees want to go. This has made this activity incredibly affordable for the Rock House and provided the opportunity many would never experience otherwise.

We have had five mentors take their kids up skiing so far this year (many for the first time) and some have gone back as many as three times as they found they enjoyed it so much. What a great time for Mentors and kids. There is nothing like the quiet time on the Loveland two-seater chair lift to talk about life!!

So I unabashedly ask that you please patronize the Empire Sports Ski Shop whenever you can and when you go in there be sure to thank Kristen and Mark for their support for the Rock House!!

Address: 1041 Co Rd 308, Dumont, CO 80436



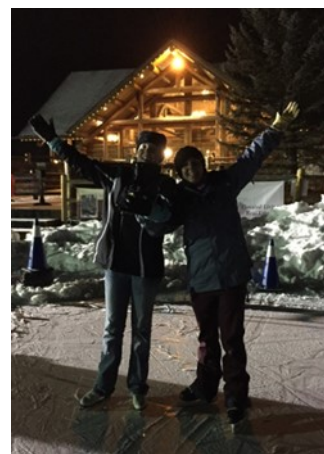
Mentor Frank with RH kid Aiden at Loveland



A Couple of Rock House kids enjoying Loveland

**Ice Skating**

Ice Skating is one of those winter sports that, while easier than learning skiing, it is still quite challenging.



Rock House kids having fun ice skating at Evergreen Lake!

Thanks so much to the Rockland congregation for your generous donations and support that makes all this possible!!

-Howard Hargrove

# Youth Sunday Sermonettes



## Casey Grieve

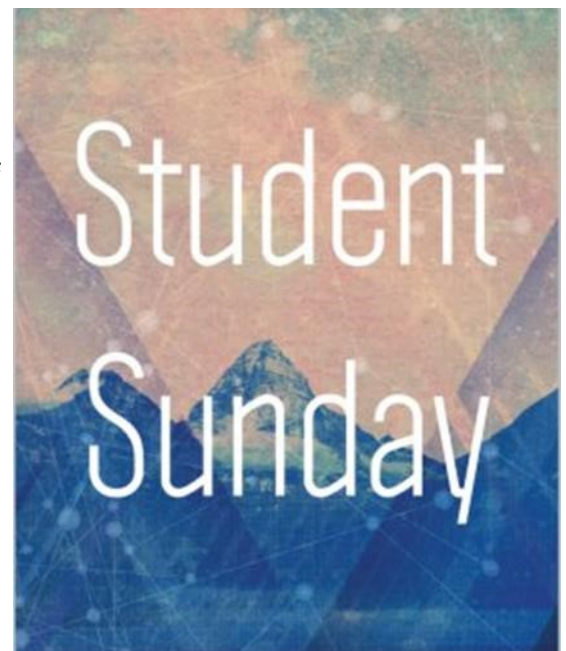
I have been a part of this church for as long as I can remember. I had my first communion here and went through the confirmation class and was confirmed here. I have participated in multiple mission trips. Though every one of those mission trips has taught me something, and helped me grow in my faith, it was the mission trip that I took going into my sophomore year of high school that stands out to me the most.

It was the mission trip to Mandaree, North Dakota where we spent time there on the reservation and with the people of the Mandaree tribe. It was there that we worked long hours in the blistering sun painting and fixing up the high school trying to help make it functional again and presentable. We worked very long days, with short breaks, making sure that we did our jobs correctly and to the best of our ability. We did this for seven days with only breaks for water and lunch. At lunchtime during one of our workdays we were greeted by the locals with a fantastic barbecue. It was in these moments with the people of Mandaree that I felt truly humbled by what we were able to be doing for the town and its people. As it says in the Bible in James 4:10 *"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."* This is exactly what the response was to our work. Everyone working on the site was full of joy and truly glad to be there helping others!

As the week progressed, the days seemed to get longer as we got more tired. The work days seemed like they would never end, and at times we lost sight of what we were doing. We would slack off and put our own agenda first by making it about ourselves. But it was a verse Proverbs 11:2 *"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom."* That verse helped guide me in the right direction with the work I was doing and helped me serve the Lord and spread His message through all of our hard work.

The lessons that we all learned from this trip have stuck with me over these past few years and I believe will always be with me in whatever I do. It was a challenge to stay focused and work really hard for others all the time instead of getting distracted and goofing off, but it was in these moments that I truly recognized the meaning of humility and how it must carry us through life in everything we do. We must not lose sight of the greater purpose, but focus on serving others in love and in humility just like Jesus Christ has taught us to do!

*Casey attends Evergreen High School. Fall 2017 Casey is enrolled at University of Colorado Boulder to major in marketing.*





## Elise Adreon

I would like to talk to you all about a time in my life that made me look at my faith in a way I never have before. I'm sure many of you here are familiar with Tommy Babb's story and the Impact it made on our community in Evergreen. If you have not heard, Tommy is a graduate Evergreen High School in the Class of 2015, along with my sister, Nicole. Tommy and Nicole have been best friends for as long as I can remember, and with Tom's younger brother Adam my grade, the Babbs have always been our great family friends. A little over a year ago, the Babbs took a trip to Hawaii over winter break. During their vacation, Tommy had a terrible accident while swimming in the ocean, shattering his C5 vertebrae and leaving him completely paralyzed from the neck down.

At the time, my family and I were on a trip in Singapore. We hadn't had access to the internet for almost two days, and the second we got it, our phones blew up. We were in shock. We did the only thing we knew we could do; we prayed. We sat there in the lobby of our hotel and prayed.

Once we got back to Evergreen, I was amazed to see how the community had handled this horrible tragedy. With the Babbs still in Hawaii, everyone here was staying busy planning fundraisers and preparing meals for their arrival back home. There was even a prayer vigil for Tommy that brought in more than 400 people from around Evergreen. I was so humbled by the crowd, as God was able to reach the hearts of so many people, many who weren't even believers in Him.

One true angel throughout this entire process was Tommy's older sister, Claire. Claire took it upon herself to create a blog, one that which she would update as often as she could, giving us all information about Tom's medical state, as well as some truly humbling words of wisdom. This blog reached thousands of people! I cannot even begin to imagine how many lives were driven to God purely due to Claire's words. As time went on, one of Claire's main points to us was not to ask God why, but to ask how can we glorify Him through this experience.

While reading her words, that is when it hit me. I had spent the last few weeks wondering why something so awful could happen to the most kind and loving family I've ever met. Why would God do this to them? Why Tommy? I was beginning to understand. I was beginning to see the good that could come out of this terrible situation. It was all thanks to Claire. I have no doubt that Claire was sent by God to deliver the messages that needed to be said to our entire community here in Evergreen. When talking with Claire months after the accident, I had asked her about her incredible blog and how she learned to write with such a genuine heart. Claire told me that she never knew she had that capability. She felt as though God was using her and speaking through her for this very reason.

For such a tragic and horrible event to occur, it is remarkable to see all of the good that was able to come from it, and that is what God wanted us all to understand. For the Babbs, today they often talk about how this past year has been the most joyous of their lives, as they were given more time to spend with one another than they ever have before. For Tommy's college, Kansas University, he inspired his fraternity to create an entire new department at their school for the assistance of handicapped students. For the community of Evergreen, Tom's accident brought more people closer together and closer to God than I could have ever imagined, including myself. The ability for me to see how God can make good out of a bad situation has progressed my faith more than I ever thought possible.

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What I want you all to take out of my message today is this: we all have tragedies. We all have bad things happen to us. Next time you're put in a rough situation, instead of asking God why, ask him how. Ask God how he plans to make good out of this. Ask him how you can glorify his name throughout your struggles. It is important to remember that God is there through all times, the good and the bad, and he wants you to reach out to him no matter what the occasion. And as his word says in Romans 8:28, "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose."

*Elise attends Evergreen High School Fall 2017. She is enrolled at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois to study industrial engineering.*



### **Ellen Snare**

I first attended Rockland 12 years ago, and have been a part of many Student Sundays, knowing that one day I would be standing here speaking in front of all of you as a senior. So I guess you could say that I have had a long time to prepare for this, however, I have never really been good with opening myself up to people and allowing myself to be vulnerable, but God has really changed and shaped me in that over the last couple years.

Last year, was easily the most challenging year of my life. Over the course of two months, three of my friends passed away. This crushed me and crushed the remaining faith I had in God. After my classmate passed away, I questioned why God would let something this terrible happen.

Then just ten days later, I was furious with God for allowing my roommate from summer camp to leave before her time as well. And twenty-two days later, I turned my back on the Lord completely. Fear, anger and ignorance served as my shepherd, when I should have followed the only Shepherd there truly is.

I had been spiritual my whole life without ever really questioning it and just accepting that God exists and if I prayed that I would be heard and helped. As the terrible occurrences in my life piled up, I found myself shut off from God because nothing bad had really happened in my life before. So many hardships knocked me down over and over again in such a short period of time that I was so tired and angry and so I just stayed down.

I really didn't feel good about myself as time dragged on. Luckily, registration for the San Diego mission trip here at Rockland was coming up. I went on the mission trip to Oklahoma the summer before and loved every second of it. I loved building my relationship with God and making new friends through the service work I was doing. So with the encouragement, I promptly signed up for the trip to San Diego. I knew that this trip would provide me with the opportunity to have fun, collect myself, and hopefully, reestablish my relationship with God.

As all the groups from other churches assembled for our nightly worship, the leaders had a different activity for us to participate in that night. There were stations set up all around the room asking us to reflect upon our lives and Jesus' role in it. This was just about the last thing I wanted to do. I didn't want to reopen the wounds that had just begun to close. Reluctantly, I made my way around the room. I got to the last station and I began to reflect on my life and on the lives of those I had lost. I felt so angry and lost and confused and my eyes swelled up with tears. Given that I'm not a very open person and don't like letting people see my weaknesses, I got angry at myself for that too. I questioned why God would take MacKenzie, Ruby and Catie away before their time.

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It was at that moment that a boy from another church whom I didn't know came up to me. He asked if he could pray for me and through my tears I mumbled, "Ok sure", trying to play it cool. And I will never forget this stranger's words, he said: "I pray that no matter how challenging her struggles may be, that she never loses faith in You, and will always be loyal to Your light."

I cried even harder.

Those were the exact words I needed to hear. The Lord is truly amazing in that way. He can give you hope where there seems to be none and show you the way when you are totally turned around.

Questioning your faith doesn't mean that you are weak. Struggling with emotions and everyday endeavors doesn't mean that you are weak. It means that you are strong enough to push your faith to the tipping point and strengthen your relationship in Christ. I challenge you all if you find yourself in a position of questioning faith and feeling down, to not take pity on yourself, but to take pride in the Lord.

Although I am still struggling with the same challenges today, I can definitely say my faith fluctuates less and less with each obstacle I overcome with the help of God.

*Ellen attends Lakewood High School and Warren Tech High School in the Outdoor Leadership Program. Fall 2017 she will attend college (although she hasn't decided where yet) to major in environmental studies and pre-law.*

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### **Emma Klein**

It was during my freshmen year of high school that I started attending Young Life, a program for high school students that leads teens to relationship with God through a crazy and fun experience. My best friend Katelyn had been urging me to go to a Monday night "club," where we play games and worship God together. I was immediately hooked and continued to go every Monday night as well as attend summer and winter camps. Through these amazing camps and time with fellow Christians, I was able to build a strong relationship with God. However, rather than talking about my Young Life experience, I would like to talk about what it led me to after.

After about two years of being involved in Young Life as well as my local church, I felt as though my faith was strong but still stagnant. I had hoped to continue to build my relationship with God as a Christian. It was my Young Life leader, Andy, that suggested I look into becoming a WyldLife leader, which was the middle school chapter of Young Life. I would go to clubs, participate with middle school students, and attend camps with these students as their leader. I was thrilled but still nervous to meet the girls I would lead to God, starting with a weeklong summer camp. As we met at the bus to drive up to Buena Vista, I was nervous for the week ahead. I had no idea the type of girls I would be leading or even how to lead them. After arriving and meeting the girls in my cabin, I was enthralled with their enthusiasm and excitement for the week planned. We sent them off to go hang around the camp while we leaders were instructed on the activities that were planned as well as timing for meals. The camp was all about surprise, so none of the campers could know what was planned or what we would be doing next. It was awesome seeing how anxious and excited they would get, not knowing what lie ahead of them.

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Every night, the camp would sit together and worship God, as well as listen to a camp speaker who would preach the words of God. It was crazy to see how quiet and attentive these middle schools girls would be when listening to the speaker.

After the camp talk, we would head back to the cabins to talk about the message and what it meant to the girls. The first two nights were hard, as our girls were quiet and shy and didn't know what to say. However, the third night was a sudden shift, as these girls started to open up to the leaders and the other girls in the cabin. The conversations even were emotional; as a few girls opened up about problems they faced back home. They were eager to learn and grow closer to God, and very often our time in our cabins after the talk lasted so long that we were late to the next activity. These girls were open and excited about their new relationship with God. Throughout the week, I had formed a special relationship with each and every girl as well.

Through watching these young girls learn to love God, I saw a new perspective on my relationship with God. It wasn't about having a steady relationship with him; it was more about being eager and excited to learn more about him. Rather than just helping these girls build a strong relationship with God, they also helped me grow in my faith! I believe this eagerness is not only present in my faith but also present in other aspects of my life as well. I continue to eagerly pursue anything I set my mind to, constantly reminded of the energy and enthusiasm these girls had when it came to knowing Christ.

Today, Rockland, I challenge you to take on opportunities to grow your faith. Although remaining in a stagnant relationship with God may feel comfortable, I challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and engage in a new and exciting relationship with Christ. In a constantly growing and evolving society, we need to continue to find strength in our faith through new and different ways.

*Emma attends Evergreen High School. Fall 2017 she is enrolled at Texas Christian University to study biomedical engineering and pre-health*



### **Jack Bair**

I believe I am a genuinely blessed guy, as I've been given so many opportunities throughout my life, I'm truly thankful that I get to live in a place like Colorado, be a member of a church like Rockland.

My uncle Ryan Bair, from Nashville, Tennessee, was my dad's younger brother, who we lost to angiosarcoma last year, which is cancer of the heart. There's an irony here however, as I don't know anybody with a stronger heart than my uncle Ryan. Watching him struggle with this cancer for four years was a huge challenge to my faith as it was hard to understand why a loving God would let someone so full of love suffer in the way he did for so long.

During the four years, my uncle Ryan was air lifted from Tennessee to Cleveland to receive emergency open heart surgery. He then underwent chemotherapy for three years, countless radiation treatments, and eight more surgeries on his lungs, neck, shoulder, and abdomen.

Despite all of this physical pain he went through, my uncle remained steadfast in his ways, as a kind, playful, hardworking father of three kids whom he loved more than anything. Even as his time was drawing to a close, he somewhat famously popped n' locked in the halls of his hospice care center. My uncle Ryan worked to the end of his life and was still in the top 10 percent of the sales team at St. Jude medical when he died. He truly and desperately loved living and he lived his life to the fullest always. And on his last night in hospice, was even signaling that he wanted to tear up his DNR (Do-Not Resuscitate), as he didn't want to pass on quite yet.

Losing someone like this was terrible not only for his family but for his community as a whole. The loss broke my heart, and this has challenged my faith more than anything else in my life.

After my uncle passed away, our family talked about how much it hurt and how his loss was hard to understand. But as hard as was is to understand why this happened, everyone was amazed at his grace, kindness, and strength while he was so sick. My grandpa spoke to him and shared something that he had never told us about my uncle. He said that when Ryan first got sick, he had talked to my grandpa about his prayers. And my uncle Ryan specifically said, that of course he's praying to be healed, but more important than being healed, he was praying for patience. He knew he'd have to be patient with those around him when he felt terrible. He knew he'd have to be patient with his young children when he was tired and sick. And he knew he'd have to have patience and know that this pain was only temporary. My uncle told my grandfather that he didn't want to be a jerk while he was sick, as he knew it'd be the thing his kids remembered him for. He especially did not want to be a jerk and die, as that would be one of the only memories his younger kids would have of him.

My faith was definitely challenged as I was seeing all these prayers for my uncle's healing were seemingly going unanswered. But when I heard my grandpa explain my uncle Ryan's prayer for patience, it became clear to me that God *did* answer prayers and was very involved in his life, and as a result, the lives of our family and those around him.

Life's challenges are sometimes difficult for us to understand. However, the greatest thing to remember is that just because you think you aren't getting an immediate answer to a prayer doesn't mean that you're not getting an answer.

*Jack attends Denver Academy Fall 2017 he is enrolled in Colorado School of Mines to study engineering.*

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### **Jeni Robinson**

Hebrews 6:19-20 says *"This hope is like an anchor for us. It is strong and sure and keeps us safe. It goes behind the curtain. Jesus has already entered there and opened the way for us."*

To me, hope is the soul's compass and guiding light that allows us to find our way back home even after being lost for so long. In August 2012, my soul's guiding light was extinguished by a fit of rage and a hurricane-like storm that sent me into a five-year downward spiral that I just recently climbed out from. In August 2011, I had what a nervous breakdown, which ended in a trip to Children's Hospital because I was thinking of ending my life. However, it was then that I realized just how broken I truly was.

After I was released from Children's Hospital, I met with a psychiatrist where I was finally given a name for what had extinguished the light inside of me. Depression.

With this depression came a very strong self-hatred. My anger towards God was heavy and I had this idea that people like myself were unable to be saved because we were broken and different. Over and over again, I was told to put it in God's hands and that he'd take care of me; but my rage blinded me.

Continue on next page —>

The miracles I was asking for weren't occurring right away on my own time and so I stopped believing. I wandered so far from God's path for me that I didn't think I would ever find my way back. But God is full of surprises and blessings!

My mom is a preschool teacher and as she readied for the 2012 school year, God sent an angel to her class. A three-and-a-half year old boy named Gus who'd been diagnosed with brain cancer when he was still in diapers. Gus became my soul's anchor, and I made a promise to him and to myself that no matter how hard life got I'd keep fighting because Gus kept fighting. Gus kept fighting his own battle up until his final breath. My relationship with Gus brought me back to my path and brought me back into a relationship with God that I thought was over and gone. I believe God sent Gus to me to help strengthen me, and to help me realize that I have a lot of potential in this life and God is going to do great things through me for His Kingdom!

*Jeni attends Northglenn High School. Fall 2017 she will enroll at Metropolitan State University Denver to study psychology in hopes to one day be able to work with veterans suffering from PTSD.*

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## **Kaylee Wardlow**

God became prominent in my life when I decided to move in with my mom. I was living with my father, an alcoholic. For five years I received both verbal and physical abuse, all of which made me completely deny any existence of Christ.

One night, my dad picked me up from my softball practice and he was intoxicated. When we got home, he told me he wanted to go out longer, which usually resulted in him being gone a couple of days straight on a drinking binge. I tried to stop him from leaving by taking his keys, but this only made him angry. Things got physical and I remember I passed out on the kitchen floor. When I woke up, I tried to stand up by grabbing onto my kitchen island, but I ended up falling down and pulling something off the island that landed on the floor next to me. It was a Bible. The Bible opened up to Matthew 23: 9 " *And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven.*" And that is the moment I fully gave my life to Christ!



Over the years God has revealed to me that I have a servant's heart. I enjoy serving as a leader for middle school youth groups as well as a leader for fellow high schoolers in the Red Rocks church community, and now my calling to be a servant of the Country I call home through the military.

I challenge you to think about what God has called you to do and how he has called you to serve. And not only that but to embrace what he has for you with an open heart because He will bring you things that you never knew were possible. He has for me, and just like the scripture that states, Jesus walks with you every step of the way!

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9*

*Kaylee attends Evergreen High School. Fall 2017: She will enlist in the US Coast Guard training to be a health service technician while attending pre-veterinary school.*



## Jenna Weidner

One summer I went on a wildlife camp with a huge group of students my age for a week. Every night we would come together and worship as a group and also pray as a group. But on one night we were told to go outside and find a spot alone where we could “talk to God.” When I got outside I was a little nervous because I had never prayed by myself before, so I wasn’t really sure what to do or what to say. I sat on a big rock next to a pond, closed my eyes, and said the first thought that came to mind. I asked God if I could see his face. I wanted to see if he was really there and listening. Now I know this might sound a little crazy, but when I opened my eyes I looked down and I saw what I can only describe as a molding of a face in the rock I was sitting on. I can still see it in my head today! And for some reason I knew that it was a sign from God showing me that he was there and that he was listening.

Going through middle school and especially high school, I got into the habit of praying every night because of that night praying on the rock. By praying every night, it has helped me to trust in God fully, and it really has strengthened my relationship with him! Each night I ask God to make sure that I am following the path that he has laid out for me. I still pray each night knowing that whatever struggles I meet in the next week, month, or year, that I will get through them knowing that he is my strength and that my path will lead me to him in the end.

This past January I was a part of the Colorado All State Choir. I sang in the women’s choir and one of the songs we sang was Psalm 23. It was my favorite song from the concert, because its lyrics reminded me of the message that I want to leave you with today:

*The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*

Leaving here today, I want to challenge everyone to TRUST IN GOD’S PATH FOR YOU. Walk out these doors today knowing that he guides YOU along the right paths for his name’s sake. Do this and I promise that you’ll never live another day in your life not knowing that He is, and will always be, right there with you.

*Jenna attends Evergreen High School. Fall 2017 she will enroll at Belmont University to study music business as she feels blessed with the gift of music and singing.*

Thank you students, for sharing with the congregation about what God has done in your lives!

We pray that your future is bright and filled with His glorious riches!

# Holy Week



**Palm Sunday-** April 9, 8:30 & 10:00am

Worship Services

**Maundy Thursday-** April 13, 7:00-8:00pm

Reflective service and we will celebrate communion

**Good Friday-** April 14, 12:00-1:00pm

This service is an open service for a time of reflection with piano played by Susan Hutchinson-Banning

**Easter Sunday-** April 16, 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Worship Services

Nursery will be provided at all services

Sunday School will be provided for Preschool and Kindergarten at the 9:30 & 11:00am services



## April 23 is Bright Sunday!

Make Bright Sunday even brighter with the pot-luck and bake sale

The week following Easter Sunday was observed by Christian's for centuries as the "days of joy and laughter" with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. At Rockland, we celebrate this special day by wearing bright clothing and having a pot-luck luncheon with a bake sale to support Tanzania. Fried chicken and beverages will be provided.

*Please bring a dish to share such as a side dish, salad or fruit.*

Please contribute to the **Bright Sunday Bake Sale** with your favorite baked goods. Cakes, cookies, candy and muffins are all perfect for the bake sale. If you will not be around on April 23 Bright Sunday, we are happy to freeze your baked goods for you.

The Students will manage the sale and proceeds will go to **Tanzania**.

Please support this ministry and join in the fun.

### Masthead-The Chimes

Our goal is to inform, inspire and connect the people to the community of Rockland church

All articles will be published and/or edited at the discretion of the editor and the staff or Rockland Community Church.

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*For God So Loved the World,*

*That He Gave His Only Begotten Son,*

*That Whoever Believes in Him Should Not Perish,*

*But Have Eternal Life.*

John 3:16

**Current resident or**

