

Chimes

February 2019

The Beauty of the Nativity Story

Connecting all Generations to Jesus!

Once again, several of our elementary kids joined forces with the Adult Festival Choir to celebrate the joy of Christmas through the beauty of music in *The Silence and the Sound*. It was a beautiful collaboration of voices from all generations presenting the story of God's amazing gift; the entry of His Son, Jesus Christ into the world. The music for this year's Cantata, *The Silence and the Sound*, was more complex than our kids have done in the past. They spent several weeks rehearsing under the direction of Catherine Sailer, who is not only musically talented, but extremely gifted when it comes to leading the Kid's Choir. It is safe to say that the kids had fun in the process of learning!

Little voices, and lots of instruments, were heard too! A handful of our preschool and Kindergarten kids, led by Shannon Hicks and Heidi Duston, presented the music during the Offertory. They let us know, with great enthusiasm, that the Virgin Mary had a Baby Boy, and His name was JESUS!

-Lori Fullmer, Director of Kids Family Ministry



Inside this Issue:

Children's Ministry
Pg. 1

Romania
Pg. 2

Women's Ministry
Pg. 2

Care Ministry
Pg. 3

Mean Street
Pg. 3

MOPS
Pg. 4

Elder's Corner
Pg. 5

Church Mouse
Pg. 5 & 6

Habitat for Humanity
Pg. 6

**Clear Creek
Rock House**
Pg. 7

Loaves & Fishes
Pg. 8



Hearts for Romania 2019 Saturday, February 9

The ever-popular fundraiser for Romania will be held on Saturday, February 9 at Mount Vernon Canyon Club. Please mark your calendar and make plans to bring your Valentine to support Rockland's mission in Romania. Ciprian "Cipri" Tehei will return from Cluj to update us on the scholarship program and Heidi Duston will share her musical talents and provide the entertainment.

Contact Lynne Feldkamp- ldfeldkamp@gmail.com.

Romania Mission Trip-Spring 2019

Do you have a heart for Romania? The Romanian Task Force (RTF) would like to spread the word about an upcoming trip being planned to the Cluj area in late spring 2019 for sponsors and interested adults. This would be a wonderful opportunity to meet sponsored students first-hand and see what is taking place in Romania. Those already on board plan to build on this core five day trip with their own independent travel to other parts of Europe, as this is a less structured type of mission trip.

Plans are still in the formative stage, but if you have interest in participating or just have questions regarding the trip, please call Lynne Feldkamp at 303-674-0906

Women's Ministry

Women's Ministry shared Advent by Candlelight on December 4th with the ladies of Rockland and guests. It was a lovely evening of sharing, scripture, music and preparing our hearts for Christmas.

We are excited to invite you to our latest Ladies Bible Study,
Tuesdays from 9:00-10:30am lead by Tammy Roth.
Blessings to all from us!



WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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 of Rockland Community Church. Questions? Call Shirley Johnson 303-670-0520

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Ed Lange, Associate Pastor,
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“Christmas Can Hurt”

What a title right? How can that be possible? The lights and decorations are up, the singing of hymns are filling the sanctuary, the beautiful orchestra of instruments are being played by those that God has gifted and the laughter of little children fills the air. How then can Christmas hurt?

As the sounds of Joy continue on, silent prayers to Jesus fill the hearts and thoughts of many. Those silent prayers that say “Jesus, I know this is a time to rejoice, but right now I am so very sad. Christmas just doesn’t feel the same. Please help me.”

These are words that I, myself have prayed. These are the words that come from a heart of a precious soul who has experienced deep loss. You struggle to cling onto the Strength of God, pull up your boot straps and do the best you can to let your light shine. Yes, I know you’re okay. I also know that it’s not okay.

There is a love here at Rockland, that is holding you close in those times when everyone else is rejoicing and you’re in a different place. Whether it has just been recently or several years, loss is loss and we at Rockland will not forget. My hope is that every season when the holidays come that we as a Rockland family will find those who just need a hug. No words and no gifts required, just a hug.

In the quiet of the season your loved ones are remembered and you my friends, are cherished. May you find Hope, in Christ Jesus in the days ahead.

Psalm 138:3

“When I pray, You answer me; and encourage me by giving me the strength I need.”

-Dawn Wanser, Caring Ministry



Mean Street

Happy New Year to our wonderful Mean Street Ministry Volunteers!! I hope each of you experienced the blessings and love of Christ this Holiday Season.

As we begin 2019 I would like to invite each of you to consider if God is calling you to volunteer with Mean Street Ministry during this new season. We have volunteer opportunities in several areas that might be just what you are looking for.

We currently have need of morning receptionists, morning food bank help, morning or afternoon organizing help, morning box truck loading and unloading help, and Monday and Tuesday evening Outreach support.

If any of these opportunities sound like something that you would like to know more about, please feel free to call or email me for more information.

We SO appreciate you and your dedication to Mean Street Ministry! Our volunteers are the HEART of this organization!

Please contact me to talk more about how you would like to get started volunteering in this new year!

-Diane Chapman- Diane@meanstreetministry.org



A Beloved Ragamuffin Project

Mean Street – Blessed to be a blessing

Genesis 12:2

December is always an exciting time at Mean Street Ministry. We get the pleasure to work with Rockland Community Church to pull off Christmas on Colfax. This past year the Rockland students collected and wrapped around 500 presents. At the event, they handed out nearly 300 of them to the children in attendance. Two weeks later, nearly all of the remaining toys were handed out to the children living in the motels (which are basically shelters) on East and West Colfax. We hope the students of Rockland were blessed to be a blessing to nearly 500 children.

Very unexpectedly, Mean Street Ministry also got the chance to be blessed to be a blessing in a way that had never happened before. A week after Christmas on Colfax, an email from another church came in asking if we'd like some more toys. Never refusing a donation, the answer was a resounding, "Yes!" We knew that God never provides something that we can't find a use for.

Frankly, we were thinking it may be around 100 toys. Our box truck stopped by the church after picking up food at the Food Bank of the Rockies...oh my!!! Their donation included around 65 brand new children's bikes (each with a brand new helmet). We will be figuring out a very special way to distribute those in the spring. It also included around 400 brand new, unwrapped toys, way more than we could add to our Christmas distribution. James Fry had a great idea: let Mandie Gallagher, President of the Board, play Santa. Mandie called Eiber Elementary School, our neighborhood school made up mostly of low income or homeless children. That's where our blessing came in.

They had run a new toy drive, with very little response. The Family Liaison was in a prayer meeting with a few parents, asking God's direction on what to do with having no toys for 360 children. The phone rang; it was Mandie, whose first words were, "By any chance, are you in need of new toys for Christmas?" The tears flew on both sides of the phone. They sent down 4 cars, which we loaded to the ceiling with toys. Three days later, the toys were wrapped and sent home with the children.

We were truly Blessed to be a Blessing!!

MOPS

Annual MOPS market fundraiser reaches goal!

On November 28, the Rockland MOPS group hosted their annual market to offset child care costs throughout the year and fund service projects in the local MOPS community and around the world. With over seventy women in attendance, representing a range of ages and church communities, the event raised enough money to significantly subsidize the cost of providing quality child care for MOPS kids, allowing mothers of young children time for much-needed relaxation and fellowship. The leadership team decided to use a portion of the proceeds to support the mission of a MOPS chapter in Uganda as well.

MOPS International is a global community that encourages and equips mothers of young children in relationship with Jesus Christ and in partnership with local churches.

This year's market offered participants the opportunity to bid on hand-crafted, artisan products, such as bath soaps and salts, knitted baby clothes and decorative wreaths, as well as popular items like photography sessions, brewery tours and ballet tickets. Generous donors included MOPS and Rockland members, family and friends, and many local businesses.

From the live piano music to the rustically trimmed tree outside the front doors, the Christmas theme welcomed guests to check a few items off their holiday shopping lists while enjoying a delicious catered breakfast by Biscuits and Berries. In addition to the traditional silent auction items, there were set-price jars of dried soups and teas for sale and a raffle board. Bidders could choose as many numbers as they wanted to improve their odds at winning an Insta-pot, vintage toboggan or Patagonia gear.

Featured speaker and local Christian author, Alexandra Kuykendall, shared wisdom, experience and hope in her signature fashion—authentic and poignant—on the topic of "Loving My Actual Christmas," the aspiration that spawned her latest book. In a truly heartfelt way, she reminded the mothers in the room, the ring masters of Christmas festivities, that the season is about a perfect God coming into an imperfect world. Finances may be tight, relationships may be strained. But God's love made flesh in Jesus Christ is beyond measure and heals all wounds. Hallelujah!



The elders met three times since our last report.

As always, we begin with prayer for our Lord's guidance and blessing on Rockland and its leadership, a devotional lead by an elder, and we end with prayers for individuals and families in need of prayer.

The focus of these final meetings of the year was on the budget for 2019 and an evaluation of our progress toward goals set for the year.

The goals and results for the year were:

- Increase worship attendance throughout all generations to an average for December, not including Christmas, of 375 each week. Each Sunday in December was well in excess of 400 per Sunday.
- Pastor Gribnitz and the elders worked through the issue of why people would attend Rockland versus another church or no church. There are many reasons, but after talking to other church leaders in the area and researching the topic generally, we concluded it was primarily due to the strong community of fellowship in Christ that exists at Rockland coupled with the biblical preaching provided by Pastor Gribnitz.
- Our goal of adding thirty new people to groups that grow together and care for each other was exceeded, as was the goal to move ten new members from Come and Consider to connected in groups.
- We achieved our goals of creating a five-year budget moving toward financial metrics more in line with church average standards. The budget was based on a five-year plan and supports the objectives of reaching all generations for Christ.
- Finally, we achieved the objective of aligning the goals of our Rockland Foundation with the church in general, which will allow us to move together to provide an avenue for individuals and families to support the church through legacy gifts in their wills.

We feel blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ with a fellowship of believers at Rockland, new members, and a growing attendance at our Sunday worship services. We also give thanks for the generous support of our congregation that allows Rockland to reach all generations for Christ.

...overheard by the church mouse

...I still find every day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take, all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see. The longer I live the more my mind dwells upon the beauty and wonder of the world.



When Ed Lange returned to leading Bible Study on Wednesday mornings, he described how he was befuddled after anesthetic but in his semi-conscious recovery he was teaching the next lesson – scripture on Luke 2: 8-20. He said he was totally engrossed in the teaching and that he had four parishioners listening to him (although he had no idea who they were in this dream state). When he came out of his semi-conscious state he did remember his dream...he taught the scripture and three out of the four who were listening were converted to Christianity. Wow! What a dream!

...a single sunbeam is enough to drive away shadows.

After dinner with my dear friend Judi who is battling cancer, her daughter Heidi and my daughter Valorie we were about to leave the restaurant after we had been amazed how Judi was handling her very serious health problems without complaint. Then Heidi said she had heard a great sermon recently that was quite appropriate: ENTITLEMENT VERSUS GRATITUDE.

Continued on next page →

At first I thought interesting? Then I began to realize the depth of this premise. We encounter people who believe they are entitled but have not received so they have experienced an enormous loss...loss of a spouse, loss of a child, loss of someone near and dear, loss of a job, loss of prestige, loss of health, loss of money. So many losses of those things they believe they are entitled to.

None of us are entitled to stuff and things and people and livelihood and good health. So much of that is totally out of our hands. We have so little control.

However, on the other side of this is that we can look at what God has given us...again through little effort on our part. For that we should be grateful, we should stop trying to totally orchestrate our lives and believe that God is with us ...and is in charge.

This does not mean that we should not actively participate in our own lives, trying to live our lives to capacity but we need to understand that we aren't in total control.

As that "famous philosopher", Carol Burnett, wrote... "only I can change my life. No one can do it for me." That, of course, is the understanding that God is with you every step of the way.

When we talk about faith we are acknowledging that we can't buck God's will but we can believe He has a purpose...He is with us! And thus, we need to hang onto 1 Thessalonians 5:16- 18.... *"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*

Rockland Volunteers Needed

There's lots happening at Blue Spruce Habitat for Humanity!

Two homes are in the pipeline...

Construction of our home On Grouse Lane in the Brook forest area is well underway. The framing and exterior work, electrical, heating and plumbing have been completed by our great volunteers! Insulation and drywall have now been completed, and we're moving inside to install doors, cabinets, base and trim, flooring and shelving. Our next home will start later this winter in Empire.

Volunteer!

It's a fun experience, and a great way to learn about the steps in home construction. Work days are currently Wednesday through Friday. If you'd like to help, it's easy to sign up for any Build Days! Visit the Blue Spruce website for more information - www.bluesprucehabitat.org, or go to <http://bluespruce.volunteerhub.com> to volunteer! Adults and youth 16 years and older are welcome. No experience is necessary...there are on-site experts to guide you! We hope you'll join us.



Rockland Volunteers Support "Hands Of The Carpenter"

We've have a great crew of Rockland folks that provide repairs, oil changes & vehicle inspections at their new facility in Golden! There are three bays that help single mothers and widows in need... services that they often can't afford. A broken down vehicle often leads to homelessness. **Join our Rockland "Pit Crew" team!** We volunteer the first Wednesday of every month from 5 to 8:30 p.m. to perform vehicle repairs for these women – we do have fun doing it. Hands accepts donated vehicles that we repair, so that they can be placed with women in need.

"Hands Of The Carpenter" is a faith-based ministry at Hands Automotive in Golden. No experience is necessary...please consider joining us in this important ministry!

Contact Dusty Dodge at 303-909-7565 for information about both programs, and to volunteer!



Clear Creek Rock House

The Rock House has closed out the semester with some great holiday events. Our Thanksgiving dinner was a major success hosting 75 people! The mentees invited their families, shared a meal, and then expressed what they were thankful for. One student said, "I am thankful for everyone in the Rock House because anyone who showed up today, they mean something to someone...by showing up here, they were showing that they love them back."

On December 4th, we did an etiquette dinner at Maggiano's in downtown Denver, which teaches students how to act in this specific social setting that they may not have opportunity to learn otherwise. Following the dinner, we saw a performance of "The Christmas Carol" at the Stage Theater, and for many this was their first time seeing a professional stage production. As a group, we were able to then reflect on the themes of this story: transformation, forgiveness, compassion, and finding joy.

On December 18th, we had our Christmas Celebration where each mentee and mentor was gifted, thanks to your generosity, a sweatshirt with our new logo. The majority of the students in our mentoring program are from low-income households so to receive such a gift, especially something warm to wear this winter, was such a blessing. The mutual wearing of these sweatshirts on our outings inspires pride and cohesiveness and encourages others to ask about the Rock House. During the school break, the Rock House took students skiing at Loveland Ski Area, some for the first time. Skiing encourages engagement outside of school and quality time with the kids as well as learning the many life lessons this sport has to offer. Contact Steve Zimmerer at mentoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org if you want to be a part of our program.

Our tutoring program had a Christmas party to celebrate the completion of the semester and the hard work and dedication of our students. We serve 6th through 12th graders in all subjects. At the beginning of the semester a 10th grader came into our doors with low grades. Our resident math expert, Barb Stahlhut, worked with him the past few months giving him the individualized support he needed to succeed. "She's by far the most outstanding math tutor I've had yet. I'm doing better than I ever have in math because of her helpful strategies and methods." He made the honor roll. We are so grateful for our tutoring staff and this free service we offer because of your support, and now we will be able to do even more with your contribution toward computers. Thank you! Contact Barbara Oakley to join our team at tutoring@clearcreekrockhouse.org.

The heart of the Rock House is to show the love of Jesus through all the programs we offer and in their interactions with our staff and volunteers. The Rock House gets to introduce students directly to our Heavenly Father by hosting a weekly Bible study. Amy Sidoroff of Rockland Community Church has been taking them chronologically through the Bible in an engaging and enthusiastic way. Each evening is concluded with how the Bible is living and active, asking how it applies to our lives, and then sharing that God wants a personal relationship with each of us. Amy's heart and time is so precious to us. The Rock House would not be possible without our incredible volunteers. Contact volunteering@clearcreekrockhouse.org to make a difference.

-Rebecca Bernal





Connecting all generations to Jesus

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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 same.*

Current resident or



Loaves & Fishes

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry had a very busy holiday season. We handed out over 250 Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to our shoppers. We also roasted Chestnuts in Georgetown for the first two weekends of December as a fundraiser and raised over \$2500, our best ever!!

The holidays are always a lot of work and yet is worth it when you can help someone in need and see the appreciation on their face. In January, we go back to our regular hours for 2019. On Wednesdays we have three volunteers that stock our shelves from 10am to 2pm to get the store ready for our shoppers. I take a quick run out to the Food Bank of the Rockies to pick up fresh food. My last run I packed 2200 lbs. of meat, dairy and produce into my little van! Thursdays we are open 11am to 6pm to serve a hot lunch and allow our clients to do their shopping. We have two shifts of five volunteers, 10-2 and 2-6. Fridays we do it all over again 11 am to 4 pm, again with two shifts of volunteers. We can always use extra help, if you are interested in any of these opportunities, just give us a call.

I also need a group to handle one lunch a month for about 100 shoppers, four casseroles usually handles it. December and January are our fundraising months. We have had a good campaign so far but are a little behind last year. We hope to pick that up in January. We have a new website- www.loavesandfishes.net, check it out. If you would like to send us a donation you can use PayPal on that website or just send us a check to PO Box 967. Idaho Springs, Co 80452.

We distributed over 170,000 pounds of food in 2018. But we are more than a food pantry. We helped people that were homeless find housing. We bought bus tickets to unite the wanderer with family. We helped people secure employment who were jobless. We offer encouragement for the hopeless. And most of all we offer prayers and hugs for the lost. Our thanks go out to the people of Rockland for all you support. We could not do our mission without you!

-Blessings to you and yours, Marty Hutt

