

Invite • Inspire • Involve



December 2007



Come Home for Christmas

Advent begins December 2nd and quickly Christmas is upon us! We at LUMC hope you'll spend some time reflecting on the real meaning of the season, and take advantage of some of the Advent events and worship we have planned to bring you **Home for Christmas!**

Dr. Rosa's December Sermon Series:

- December 2 "The Ghosts of Christmas Past"
The Sacrament of Holy Communion
- December 9 "The Ghosts of Christmas Present"
- December 16 "The Ghosts of Christmas Future"
- December 23 The Music of Christmas
Featuring our Chancel Choir, Brass Ensemble, Marty and the Methodists and the Whitechapel Handbell Choir
- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
7:00 pm and 9:00 pm
- December 30 9:00 Morning Worship Celebration
(No 11:00 Service)

**"Simply Wait:
Cultivating
Stillness in the
Season of Advent"**

Please join us for this Advent Study led by Dr. Melanie Rosa in the Parlor each Sunday from 10:00 until 10:45. We will examine Anticipation, Hope, Patience and Obedience. You may drop in at any time.

Bold New Beginning Campaign Ends on Exciting Note

On November 11, 2007, at a special Commitment Sunday worship service and Celebration Brunch, Campaign Chair Gary Dyer and other committee members announced to the congregation that pledges through Commitment Sunday totaled \$914,688, surpassing the campaign goal of \$800,000. Nearly 150 LUMC households have participated in the Bold New Beginning Campaign, and as of publication date, \$937,884 had been pledged, making it likely that we will exceed \$1,000,000 in our drive to raise funds to buy land for our new campus and pay preliminary architectural fees! Many thanks to the scores of campaign volunteers and to all of the faithful members of our church who stepped out in faith to make a sacrificial gift to LUMC's future.

FROM THE PASTOR



Father Divine was one of the foremost African American spiritual leaders of the 20th century. He founded the International Peace Mission movement and oversaw its growth from a small black congregation into a multiracial and international church. He was a very charismatic and colorful character. It seems that Father



Divine developed a concept that he called “the art of tangibility.” From his Harlem pulpit in the 1930s he would urge those who attended his worship services to make their faith real through tangible actions: “You’ve got to learn to tangibilite!” He would thunder, and the people would bring their gifts forward and lay them at his feet, as a sign of their intention to turn their faith into tangible acts of service. For Father Divine, “tangibility” was the key to making faith real. He understood that only when creeds become deeds, does religious faith have real power.

As Advent approaches once again, I cannot help but think of how God’s action in sending us Jesus was “tangibility” in reverse. In the birth of Jesus, a deed would become a creed. God acted first, in the most stunning way, which then inspired human faith. God reached out in humility and gentleness, and ever since we have been attempting to formulate our understanding of what that gift really means. Rather than staying aloof in some distant Heavenly realm, God decided to enter our reality by leaving the gift of the infant Jesus at our feet. It is a gift which invites, but does not demand a response from us. It is the gift of God’s love freely given, without requiring ours in return, any more than a newborn baby can compel devotion from her parents. During Advent we prepare to receive that gift once again, a gift that is not really ours to keep, but ours to share. Please join us during this sacred season as we examine the gift of Jesus and what it means for our past, present and future. Most of all, take the time to make room in your life to receive God’s “tangibility”—the gift of God’s own self that has been laid at your feet.

Rev. Melanie Rosa



December, 2007

Sunday, Dec. 2nd Communion

8:30 - 11:00 Social Time – Great Hall
 8:45 - 12:15 Child Care (infant to age 3)
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School – All Ages
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting - Conf. Room
 12:00 p.m. Social Time—Parlor
 12:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble
 4:00 - 5:00 Silas
 6:00-7:30 Advent Party - Great Hall

IHN Rotation - 9th - Wheat Ridge UMC

Monday, Dec. 3rd

Ministry Teams
 6:30 p.m. Evangelism
 7:00 p.m. Education , Trustees, Missions
 And Worship Teams

Tuesday, Dec. 4th

8:45 a.m. Whitechapel Handbells - Parlor
 9:00 a.m. Quilting – Room 19
 11:30 a.m. Rebecca Circle – Room 7
 6:30 p.m. Young Sinfonia

Wednesday, Dec. 5th

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 12:00 p.m. Bulletin Deadline
 12:30 p.m. Ruth & Sarah Circles
 6:30 p.m. Disciple - Parlor
 7:00 p.m. Marty & The Methodists

Thursday, Dec. 6th

9:00 a.m. Disciple - Parlor
 9:30 a.m. Craft Class Room 7
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 8th

9:00 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal
 9:30 a.m. SOS Circle - Connie Edward's home

Sunday, Dec. 9th MARTY PLAYS

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

8:30 - 11:00 Social Time – Great Hall
 8:45 - 12:15 Child Care (infant to age 3)
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service – Sanctuary
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School – All Ages
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Social Time—Parlor
 12:150 p.m. Pilgrimage—Parlor
 12:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble
 4:00 - 5:00 Silas (Youth Band)
 5:00 - 6:00 One80h (Sr. High Youth)
 7:30 p. m. Young Sinfonia Concert

Monday, Dec. 10th

7:00 Preschool Council

Tuesday, Dec. 11th

8:45 a.m. Whitechapel Handbells
 9:00 a.m. Quilting – Room 19
 1:00 p.m. Susanna Circle – in homes
6:00 p.m. All Church Charge Conference/Dinner

Wednesday, Dec. 12th

10:00 a.m. Eve Circle
 12:00 p.m. Bulletin Deadline
 12:00 p.m. Senior Holiday Program
 6:30 p.m. Disciple - Parlor

Thursday, Dec. 13th

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Sanctuary
 9:00 a.m. Disciple - Parlor

Friday, Dec. 14th

9:00-2:00 Tausig Piano Club

Saturday, Dec. 15th

9:00 a.m. Children's Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 16th

8:30 - 11:00 Social Time – Great Hall
 8:45 - 12:15 Child Care (infant to age 3)
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School – All Ages
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Social time—Parlor
 12:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble
 4:00 - 5:00 Silas (Youth Band)
 4:00 - 6:30 Youth Christmas Party with Trinity Youth

Monday, Dec. 17th

Flame Deadline

Tuesday, Dec. 18th

9:00 a.m. Quilting – Room 19
 8:45 a.m. Whitechapel Handbells

Wednesday, Dec. 19th

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 9:30 a.m. UMW Wassail Bowl
 12:00 p.m. Bulletin Deadline
 7:00 p.m. Marty & The Methodists

Thursday, Dec. 20th

9:30 a.m. Craft Class Room 7
 7:00 p.m. Eiberhood - Parlor
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

Saturday, Dec. 22nd

8:45 a.m. Whitechapel Handbells Choir

Sunday, Dec. 23rd, Music Sunday

8:30 - 1:00 Social Time – Great Hall
 8:45 - 12:15 Child Care (infant to age 3)
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School – All Ages
 11:00 a.m. Worship Service - Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Social Time—Parlor
 12:30 p.m. Brass Ensemble

Monday, Dec. 24th

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
Church office Closed

Tuesday, Dec. 25th

Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, Dec. 26th

12:00 p.m. Bulletin Deadline
 7:00 p.m. Marty & The Methodists

Thursday, Dec. 27th

1:00 p.m. UMW Reading Group
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Sanctuary

Sunday, Dec. 30th

8:30 - 11:00 Social Time – Great Hall
 8:45 - 12:15 Child Care (infant to age 3)
 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, Dec. 31st

Church Office closed

The Church Office will be closed on Dec. 24th and 25th and Dec. 31st and Jan. 1st.

The Church Office closes at 2:00 on Fridays.



DON'T MISS THE HOLIDAY SENIOR LUNCH

Wednesday December 12th at 12:00 noon.



All members, friends, and guests who were ever eligible to vote for Richard Nixon (although you didn't HAVE TO!) are invited to join us on Wednesday, December 12th in Fellowship Hall for a special church-sponsored Holiday Lunch. The program will feature clips of holiday movies with Christmas carols and songs in them, and we'll join the cast in singing our favorites! A special Christmas gift from the church for all who attend, and the lunch will be catered, so just come and relax. A freewill donation of \$5.00 per person is appreciated to help offset the cost of lunch, and RSVP's by December 7th are needed to ensure enough food and gifts for all. Please call Milly at the church office, 303-237-7768, or e-mail secretary@lumc.net.

IRA ROLLOVER DONATION BENEFIT SET TO END IN 2007

As of FLAME PUBLICATION date the provision in the law allowing those older than 70 ½ to rollover mandated IRA distributions to Lakewood UMC and other 501 c3 charities is set to expire at the end of 2007. Congress has failed to enact an extension to the popular provision, although both political parties agree it is a valuable act.

Many LUMC members have taken advantage of the law (see sidebar to see if you are eligible), and many are planning to take advantage of the Charitable Rollover/Donation in its last few days by:

- Completing payments on their 2007 operating budget pledge
- Prepaying all or part of their anticipated 2008 operating budget pledge
- Paying all or part of their Bold New Beginnings campaign pledge
- Making a special donation to the church, Centennial Trust Fund, special advances and other charities that we support (like UMCOR, Jeffco Action Center, etc).
- Making donations to other charities they support that are set up to receive the rollover/donations.

The donor benefits by not having the charitable rollover/donation counted as a taxable distribution while still counting towards any mandatory minimum required IRA distribution for those older than 70 ½ years.

If you have questions on whether it would benefit you to take advantage of this last minute opportunity, feel free to call the financial office at the church or speak to your tax advisor. It can take 1-2 weeks to process the required paperwork, so act soon!

COULD THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER/ DONATION BENEFIT YOU?

- Are you at least 70 ½ years of age by December 30, 2007?
- Are you required to receive or begin receiving mandatory minimum distributions from your IRA in 2007?
- Are you not using your mandatory minimum distributions as the main source of your income?
- Are you making contributions/donations to Lakewood UMC or other charitable organizations?

If you answered yes to all 4 questions above, **YOU** might benefit by having your IRA make your donations directly for you. The tax benefits for you may be substantial, so call your tax advisor, IRA custodian or the church finance Office today!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

When our mission work team visited the Red Bird School in Beverly, Kentucky, we were told about the many wonderful services and happenings that this institution provides for children K-12 in the Appalachia mountains. They have been actively teaching since 1921. We would like to continue to support them by sending "Box Tops for Education" and/or Tyson's Project A+ Labels. Look for more information in the Mission Corner of Great Hall or call Mary Ann Watkins at 303-985-2770. Also, please continue to save your Campbell Soup labels for the McCurdy Mission School in New Mexico!



Holiday Sale

Dec. 2nd in Great Hall to benefit the Red Bird Mission and the Blue Feather Alliance which serves the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Be sure and check this out and support these wonderful missions.



GOT BOOKS???

Be sure and check out the wonderful selection of adult and children's books in our Library in the Parlor.

BIRTHS

Born on November 6th

**Phoenix Alexander
Holzhauser**

**Son of Erin and Robert
Holzhauser and
Grandson of Julie Cicak.**



ADVENT PARTY

**Sunday, Dec.
2nd,**

6:00-7:30 p.m.

**Caroling, Crafts,
Chili Dinner**

and more!!!

Bring a dessert to share!

Guests are welcome.

Bring a friend.



Yes, the Jeffco Action Center has a food bank and clothing bank, but did you know that they have a medical clinic and give away personal and cleaning items? Small bottles of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and other personal items are always needed. One of their biggest needs is toilet paper.

We Welcome these New Members into our Church Family

Ralph Wright was born in Sioux Rapids, Iowa. He was in the Army Air Corps in World War II, where he learned to fly. He was a pilot and instructor pilot. Upon leaving the Army, he went to work for United Airlines, where he flew for 35+ years. Ralph is a widower; he was married for 55 years and has 3 daughters all living in Denver. He moved to the Lakewood Meridian Retirement Community in April and is transferring his membership from Hope United Methodist in Greenwood Village. Ralph lives part of the year in Mesa, AZ. He is the father of Ge Horn and has one grandson – an attorney in Chicago.



Julie Cicak has been our congregational care minister for over a year now. A Denver native, she has long been a member at Trinity UMC downtown. Now part of the Lakewood family, she is transferring her membership to our church.

Known as the 'story lady', Julie also works with our children's programs and often does the children's sermon on Sunday mornings. A graduate of Scarritt College in Nashville and Iliff School of Theology, she formerly worked as Director of Children's Ministries and Director of Missions in Children's Life Club at First Free Methodist Church here in Lakewood.

Julie is a deeply caring and compassionate minister, which is evidenced by the work she does here at LUMC. She has two daughters and a brand new grandchild, born on November 6th.

Christian-Oriented Grief Support Group

Grief can be a lonely, painful journey. You can get some help and support for this difficult time. If you have had a recent loss, join us.

Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

December 12th & 19th,

January 9th, 16th & 23rd

First Presbyterian Church of Golden

17707 W. 16th Avenue - The Miller Room

Volunteer Facilitator - Judy Tilden, M.A.,
Counselor and Stephen Minister

Call Karen at 303-279-5379

to join the group

MEMBERSHIP AT LUMC!

Membership in our church is a great blessing, a commitment to honor God and uphold this church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service. We do not take membership lightly and consider it one of the essential ways in which we grow in obedience, faith and spirituality. If you feel God leading you to take this step of faith, please contact the church office -

303-237-7768 or Rev. Ken Gies at
krgies@comcast.net. Our next New
Member Reception will be

Sunday, Dec. 9th.

A VITAL MINISTRY – Rev. Ken Gies

Mo sat thinking, “I am a real nobody in this congregation. I can’t sing, preach, teach or even make a decent pot of coffee. I stutter, stammer and lack eloquence. What could God possibly have for me to do?”

Sound familiar? How many times have we asked, “I wonder what God wants me to do?” and answered with a litany of excuses just like Mo?

Truth is if we are willing to be servants of God, there IS a place for everyone. In fact, Mo is really a fellow named Moses!

After he finished whining God responded, “*Wait a minute Moses, who made you? Who made your mouth and gave you ears to hear? Who gave you eyes to see? Me, God, that’s who! So quit whining and get going. You have important work to do. I promise that I will always be right there with you, showing the way and teaching you what to say.*”
Exodus 4:9-11



Seeking Greeters and Ushers

Did you know that greeters and ushers are often the first contact visitors have with Lakewood UMC? And, walking through the door, the number one question they have is: "Is this a friendly place?" (Followed closely by, “Where’s the restroom?”) When someone is standing there with a friendly smile and warm handshake, their first impression has been formed.

Being a greeter or an usher does not require grueling labor, or a huge time commitment. All that it requires is a willing heart! Are you willing to quit whining about things you cannot do and begin to serve the Lord in a vital ministry? If so, then we need YOU! If you would be willing to join the rotation of ushers and greeters, please contact me at kgies@comcast.net, or by telephone at 720-935-5224. I am waiting for your call!



MEN’S BREAKFASTS

The Men’s Breakfasts for December will be Wed. December 5th & 19th at 7:00 a.m. at Café Del Sol (6th and Garrison). All men are invited to attend this time of food, fellowship and discussion.

The men are discussing the book “Men Worth Knowing” by J. Ellsworth Kalas.



Great Gift Idea!

Grocery cards and Certificates make great gifts and can be used by food banks as well. The cards for King Sooper and Safeway are on sale each Sunday and Tuesday morning at the church. Our church receives 5% of all the sales. Get your certificates before you go shopping. They are good for prescriptions, gas, flowers, photos - anything you buy at the grocery. We appreciate your support.

Food Drives are ongoing. The item for DenUM in December is Pasta.

The Jeffco Action Center bin is in the hall for those donations.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

DECEMBER UMW BRUCH AND WASSAIL BOWL

The December UMW meeting will be the annual Christmas Brunch with Wassail Bowl and program at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 19th in the Parlor. Andrea Hill, talented singer and guitar player, will present the Christmas story in song and story. She will share some special Christmas carols, lead us in some sing-alongs with some surprises in between. Andrea is a native of Minnesota, has lead music for church groups and schools. She likes music, interior decorating, hiking and traveling and is planning a delightful Christmas special for all to enjoy. Sarah Circle is hosting this holiday event. Please make your reservations for the brunch (\$5.00) with Leota Hettinger (303-233-3218) by December 13th.



From the Church Office:



The Flower Chart for 2008 is out in the hall. Sign up for flowers for our Worship in memory/honor or in celebration of a special occasion now. We can have 2 arrangements per Sunday. Our flowers are furnished by Flowerama (Colfax and Kipling) and the cost is \$35.00. These dates fill up fast. Sign up now.

Offering Envelopes for 2008 will be out in the hall on Sunday, Dec. 9th. Please do not use these envelopes until January. If you don't have envelopes and would like some, please notify the church office.

IHN IS COMING DECEMBER 16th



The next rotation of homeless families will be coming to Wheat Ridge UMC for the week of **December 16 to December 23**. Lakewood UMC co-hosts this event with Wheat Ridge so we will need a lot of volunteers to help that week. This is an extraordinary opportunity to give of yourself and see those gifts directly benefit families in a crisis situation. You can call the people listed below or **SIGN UP ON THE BIG BOARD** that will be out in the hallway. We will need assistance in the following areas:

DINNER PROVIDERS – A group of 2 or 3 to provide dinner for the guests, hosts and themselves (12-17 people) on Monday (December 17th), Tuesday (December 18th) and Wednesday (December 19th). The prepared food is due at Wheatridge around 5:45 p.m. Call Katie Vigil 303-462-1240 to volunteer.

EVENING HOSTS - 2 people to join our guests at Wheat Ridge UMC from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m., eat with them, play games or help the children with homework. We need hosts on Monday (December 17), Tuesday (December 18), and Wednesday (December 19) Call Katie Vigil 303-462-1240 to volunteer.

OVERNIGHT HOSTS - 2 people to stay at the Wheat Ridge church from 8:00 p.m. - 7:00 a.m. help get the guests settle, sleep there and make sure everyone is up and ready to leave by 7:00 a.m. We need hosts on Monday, (December 17), Tuesday (December 18, and Wednesday (December 19). Call Aimee Kover at 303-980-8660 to volunteer.

SET-UP AND TEAR DOWN - volunteers to take the IHN beds from the gym and help set up beds and prepare the bedrooms on Sunday, December 16 at noon to 1:30 at Wheat Ridge UMC. Tear-down volunteers to take the beds down and load them on the truck on Sunday, December 23, at 7:00 a.m. Call Tracie Richardson at 303-278-1440 to volunteer.

**All Church Conference—
That Means YOU!**

**Tuesday, December 11,
6:00 at the church**

Dinner provided by Dona
Henry and Katie Vigil

Our All Church Conference will be a great celebration of our life together and we want all of our members and friends to join us for this festive celebration. We will begin with a delicious meal provided by Dona Henry and Katie Vigil, followed by a remembrance of our past, celebration of our present, and sharing our hopes for the future. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Youngsook Kang will preside. See you there!



**LAKEWOOD CHRISTMAS
GIVING TREE**

Lakewood United Methodist Church will sponsor a Giving Tree to benefit the students at Eiber Elementary School. The Tree will be up from November 25 through December 16.

Eiber is located at 1385 Independence in Lakewood. It serves 400 students grades K-6. More than half of its students are low-income and minority students.

The staff at Eiber provide a success oriented environment to encourage each student to reach his/her potential in areas of academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being. This year Eiber students and staff have become a PBS School, providing Positive Behavior Support to students and focusing our efforts on school wide expectations:

Ready, Respectful and Responsible.

Eiber offers Boy Scouts, Family Support, Family Nights and Parenting classes.

We will be buying coats, sweatshirts and some toys for the students. Please take a tag or two or three off of the Giving Tree, purchase the gift(s) and bring it/them back to church unwrapped with the tags by Sunday, December 16th. The Mission Committee will see that all of the gifts are delivered to Eiber.

Help make a special student's Christmas special this year.



LUMC Organ and Organist Jim Ward To Be Featured in Concert

Our organist Jim Ward has been asked to be the guest soloist for the Colorado Young Sinfonia concert on Sunday December 9th at 7:30 p.m. Jim will play the historic LUMC 27 rank Moller pipe organ for the Handel Organ Concerto #13, also known as "The Cuckoo and Nightingale." CYS Conductor Basil Vandreyes is excited to be able to perform the piece here at LUMC since our organ was designed in a "neo-baroque" style which perfectly fits the Handel concerto. Jim promises you'll hear sounds coming from the organ you've never heard on a Sunday morning in this light, fun 15 minute piece. The rest of the concert will feature other baroque music favorites. Colorado Young Sinfonia is a professional level orchestra featuring the most talented string and instrumental musicians in the Denver metro area, ranging in age from 14 to 26. LUMC is proud to have been the musical home of CYS for the last two years. Admission to the concert is by freewill donation, and a reception will follow the concert.

Lakewood United Methodist Church
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CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Melanie Rosa, Pastor
Julie Cicak, Congregational Care Minister
Jim Marshall, Minister of Missions and Youth
Jim Ward, Director of Worship and Discipleship
Rev. Ken Gies, Hospitality Coordinator
Linda Cheek, Director of Children's Ministries
David Heck, Jr., Director of Music
Jim Ward, Organist
Shirley Jobin, Organist Emeritus
Sue Hill, Financial Administrator
Milly Helgeson, Administrative Assistant
Mary Parkovich, Preschool Director
Brenda Stiner, Parents Day Out Director



YE WANTON SINGERS

Dec. 2nd, 11:00 a.m.

If you haven't heard this fine a cappella group at one of our services before, you are in for a treat. They sing a wide variety of music and have been a Denver tradition for over 20 years. Please come and hear this wonderful group.

Check out our website at www.lumc.net