

The Messenger

January 2008

Rev Linda Pelletier, Pastor



Care Packages to Ring in the New Year

I can't imagine how lonely and depressing it must have been to have spent the holidays in Iraq or Afghanistan. We would like to send love and support to our soldiers by sending them care packages in January. We currently have the names and addresses of **ten soldiers**, so we will be sending ten **care packages**.

Listed below are frequently requested items that are easy to ship and favorably and thankfully received. If you would like to contribute any of these items or anything else that you think soldiers would appreciate, **please leave your contributions in the church foyer in the cardboard box marked "Adopt-a-Soldier Care Packages."** It costs \$8.10 to mail one box.

If you would like to help financially with the mailings, please mark your check or envelope "Soldiers' packages," and our financial secretary will see that it gets to the right place! Money and all contributions must be received by **January 20, 2008**. All help is greatly appreciated. Thank You! If you have questions, please call **Kathy Carson (587-2707)** or **Carolyn Hopkinson (686-5321)**.

- Letters of support & appreciation
- Hard candy (Jolly Ranchers, lollypops, etc.)
- Sunflower Seeds

- Beef jerky
- Dried fruit
- Cereal/protein/granola bars, etc.
- Condiments-individual packets (Tabasco sauce/hot sauce/ salt/ pepper/ spices/ sugar etc.)
- Chap stick
- Sunscreen
- Baby wipes/Wet Ones (small packages- unscented)
- Quart-size Ziploc bags
- Bandannas
- AA batteries
- Hand-held games
- Puzzle books/word & number games, i.e. sudoku, word search
- Homemade cookies (slices of bread in bag with cookies; bread will be hard when it gets to the soldier, but the cookies absorb the moisture & will hopefully be moist) (If you would like to make cookies, please either keep them frozen or don't make them until right before the 20th.)
- Movie & music CDs & DVDs

Thank you, Kathy Carson

Inside this Issue:

Bulletin Board	2
Letter from Pastor Linda	4
From Our Hearts to His	5
Announcements	7
Happy New Year! God Bless each and every one of you	

Do you have something you would like to share with the congregation? Have it added to the Messenger.

The FUMC Messenger is looking for submissions from the congregation to keep all of its members up to date on what's happening in our church. The deadline is the 10th of the month. Please email fumcmessenger@gmail.com



God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. -Psalm 46:1

Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. -Romans 13:8



As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. -Mat 3:16 NIV

And a voice from Heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." -Mat 3:17 NIV

Special dates

- New Year's Day, Jan 1
- Epiphany, Jan 6
- Baptism of the Lord, Jan 13
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan 18-25
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan 21

Soup Supper

Please join **Stepping Stones** and the **Windsor Ministerial Association** on Sunday, **January 13 at 6pm** for a Soup Supper. It will be held at **Cornerstone Baptist Church**. A Free Will Offering will be accepted and donations will go to support those in the Windsor/Severence School District who are in need of assistance with rent, utilities, medical bills or food. Local restaurants will be providing the soup. We hope to see you there!



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." -Mat 19:14 NIV

Next Emmaus walks...

Next Emmaus Men's and Women's walks

Men's– April 10-13– Valley Vista UMC– Denver, CO

Women's– April 17-20– First UMC– Fort Collins, CO

*Please see Perry Cogburn or anyone who has attended for details.

More information at the Northern Colorado Emmaus Community website:

<http://www.northcoloemmaus.org/>

A hymn for the New Year

Washington Gladden, a prolific Congregationalist pastor during the early 20th century, became well-known for his stands on social issues.

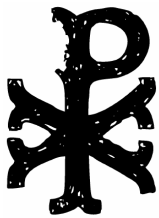
His hymn "O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee," partially quoted below, appeals to Christ for his companionship, guidance, inner peace and hope. It's an ideal hymn for beginning a new year.

*O Master, let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear,
The strain of toil, the fret of care.*



*In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.*

Learn Something New



The Chi Rho is an ancient monogram of Christ. The symbol is composed of the first two letters of the Greek word for Christ: XPICTOC (pronounced Christos). There are many variations, but the most common form superimposes the "X" (Chi) on the "P" (Rho). Although it isn't considered to be a cross, the Chi Rho invokes Jesus' crucifixion. The symbol has been in use for more than 1,600 years. Early Christians used the Chi Rho as a sign of their faith, and Constantine the Great placed it on his soldiers' shields



Your Cross

The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear." The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door and pick out any cross you wish."

The man was filled with relief. "Thank you, Lord," he sighed, and he did as he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses, some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered. The Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in."

When life's problems seem overwhelming, it helps to look around and see what other people are coping with. You may consider yourself far more blessed than you imagined.

Author Unknown

We all fall short

Do you ever feel guilty or like you're falling short, spiritually speaking? Do you try to compensate?

Remember that "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God ..." (Romans 3:23, NRSV). Nevertheless, when we truly repent and ask for forgiveness, we should accept it fully. After all, God doesn't keep score. He accepts us and offers us grace without measure. Remember what Christ has done, so that we could go directly to God at any time, any moment. Prepare your heart, clear your mind, and speak upward!

God's grace is greater than any or all the sins we commit. It's not necessary to keep beating ourselves up over our shortcomings. That is painful and negative thinking. God doesn't want us to do that to ourselves. Focus instead on God's love, which is greater than any human mind can fully fathom.

Author Unknown

Dear Friends,

It seems unreal that we are once again in a new year. This new year of 2008, is fresh and uncharted. It is time, yet to be lived and acted upon. For many of us starting the new year out with resolutions seems to be the norm. Sometimes we actually keep the resolutions we made for ourselves. But, most resolutions just fade away after a few days or weeks. As the days grow longer, our resolutions become less and less important to us.

What needs to happen for most of our "New Year's Resolutions" to be accomplished, is simply self-discipline. It is one thing to have a plan, and it is quite another to have the discipline to carry it out. As much as we would love to have the 10 lbs. of holiday goodies just drop off after three times at the gym and skipping dessert for a week, it just won't happen for us. It takes discipline to make our resolutions come to completion; there are no real short cuts.

Discipline is the key to almost any accomplishment in life. The same would be true of our faith. It would be great if we could accomplish a deeper faith life by just squeezing in a verse or two a day, and offering a short prayer on the fly. But, just like other areas of our lives, a

deepening faith in Christ requires the act of self-discipline.

One of the big road blocks to the discipline of having a deeper faith, is the lack of a reference point to aim. You can get on the scales and see the weight drop off. You can see your clothes fitting better as you continue the discipline of working out. We often see a raise in pay when we earn an advanced degree. But, what is the reference point for a deeper faith in Christ.

I will share with you one of the most significant references points for a deeper faith life, *inner peace*. Inner peace is the calm assurance that you can trust Christ no matter what happens to you. Inner peace covers the bad news you get. Inner peace covers the ups and downs of your daily life, holding you steady when the storms of life come.

Inner peace brings with it the caring about others and their needs. Inner peace is not "I'll just let the world go by", attitude or, "I've got Jesus" so who cares about the rest of the world. Actually, the inner peace that comes from growing in faith gives you an even greater desire to make a difference in someone else's life and in the world in general.

The pitfalls to faith development are the same as we have in other areas of growth. It would be folly to train for one week and expect to finish well in the Boulder, Boulder. The same is true in your faith development. If you get up early for one week to read your Bible, and expect to see a great change, you will be greatly disappointed. It will take months of rising early to read your Bible and pray before you will begin to feel the inner peace Christ has for you. What *will* happen if you stay with the work of faith development, is powerful, you will begin to feel less and less hurried in your daily living. You will begin to have a new sense of calm, because you are learning to rely more and more on Jesus Christ, and that is the real mark of inner peace. You will find that you trust in Jesus Christ more and more, not in the circumstances that surround you.

The self-discipline that it takes to grow in faith is simple. Take time to study your Bible, join a Bible study, or start one, worship, pray, and serve your fellow human beings. Make a difference in the life of another, because you love.

Friends, grow this New Year in the inner peace Christ has promised us all. Start today and the gift of inner peace that is for all who seek Christ will be yours.

Stephen Ministry- Not just for Adults

How many of us think that adults are the only ones that can be a Stephen Minister? Sure, adults are the only ones that can take the class and be commissioned, but all of us, including children, can be a Stephen Minister. Here's a story to prove my point:

There was this 8th grade boy, we shall call him John that was sitting in class, like he did everyday. Beside him sat a girl, we shall call her Sally. These two knew each other and were friends. While sitting in class doing their work, Sally leans over to John and tells him that she is going to commit suicide at Christmas. John looks at her and says, "Life can't be that bad that you would want to do that." Sally only shrugs and says, "That is what I am going to do.

But you can't tell anyone."

John says, "ok, whatever." John goes back to his work. John waits for a while and he finally decides that he needs to tell someone. He goes to the principal and tells him what Sally is planning on doing. The principal takes action and calls Sally's parents and gets help for all of them.

Now, John could have just ignored Sally and not reported what she had shared with him. But instead, John takes that step out and decides that he needs to help Sally. How many of us would choose to ignore Sally? There are many people who are suffering in some form or another. Do we choose to ignore them and think that we are not the

one that can reach out? Let someone else do it. What if John had decided to do this? Would Sally have carried out her intention?

It doesn't take much to reach out and show someone that you are there for them. Just to have someone to talk to. Maybe send a card to someone who is down. Give someone a smile as you pass them. Small things are all that it takes. You never know how you can impact someone with just a smile, a phone call or a card.

Pray and ask God, are you calling me to be a Stephen Minister? Don't shut the door, someone just might need you.

-Susan Cook

From Our Hearts to His...

A year has passed, and here we are. It's almost 2008. A brand new year where we can have a new beginning. We can start over. (By the way, we have this chance everyday. For the sake of the space provided, we'll move forward). We can make plans for what we are or are not planning to do this year. All in all, whatever we sit down and plan, deeply consider, or outline, it doesn't always end up the way we think, does it? Could this be a blessing? Sometimes. I bet you're smiling now.

I've always been a planner. I have my day mapped out from the second I arise from bed each morning until I get back into that same bed each night. Oh what a struggle it is, if the day doesn't go the way I planned it! It has taken me years, but I think I'm learning now that those unplanned moments are God's grace shining down on me with new, even greater moments of blessings.

On January 1st of 2007, I had absolutely no clue of the path I would take this year. What I have realized more and more this past year, is that God calls to us. He has a path for us. He gives us surprises, gifts wrapped up in a bow for us to open. It is up to us to open the gifts and either smile heavenward or frown with our heads hung low. We need to be open to listen, to hear, to understand, to trust, and to follow Him. Sometimes, we might not quite comprehend the events in our lives as they occur. Sometimes good things happen, and sometimes bad. We have struggles and pains, and then the sun rises again. We are cleansed and fulfilled with His love, and we have laughter and joy.

All in all, God knows what is right for us. You might look back in hind sight, and say "Wow, Look what God has done for me!" And if you don't do this, please start, because you're missing something profound, something greater than you know. God provides for us abundantly each day. Whether we notice it or not, He does. Let's open our eyes wider... and our ears wider, and thank Him.

As the new year comes upon us, our friends may ask "So what's your new year's resolution?" I have a couple of suggestions of my own. **Spend more time with God.** He wants a closer relationship with you. His preventient grace has been tapping us all on the shoulder for years. He's loved us since before we were ever born. Set aside time each day to pray to Him, talk to Him, thank Him, give Him your burdens, and trust in Him. He will listen.

Study His word. We each have a Bible, and if you don't have one, get one. Get one that you can study and understand. Open it up and dive into the world inside. I used to have a Bible sitting on my nightstand, one I never opened. It was old and dusty, wanting to be read. Since I began opening one, and reading it daily, and actually studying it, my heart has been enriched greatly. I now thirst for the knowledge within its covers and the connection with God daily. I have the NIV version of the Life Application Study Bible, among many others. It works for me! Get what works for you. Compare them. Get a Bible Dictionary. Take a Disciple class offered at the church. Ask questions, read, learn. You can't go wrong.

Do His work. There are many opportunities offered at our church and in the community. Ask about them. Sometimes opportunities will just arise at your doorstep, and when they do, ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?" Sometimes it starts with something simple as a smile to someone who has had a rough day.

I have some friends here at the church who have done God's work in helping me. I was fearfully tapping on their door, and God must have asked them to give me a try, because here they came a running.... Towards me with open arms, ready to walk with me, hand in hand through my darkness, turning on the light for me, showing me God. Because of them, I looked upward. Because of them planting the seed, opening that door, holding my hand in prayer many times, I am where I am in my relationship with God right now. Thank you so much, my Father God, for working through them!!

No hearts were harmed in the typing of this article. Instead, hopefully some hearts were warmed, nestled in a close embrace with our Father.

God bless you all

-MKW (Inspired by God.... for God)



If you are interested in submitting poetry and/or other writings to "From Our Hearts to His" in praise of our Loving Heavenly Father, please send it to

fumcmessenger@gmail.com

Or drop it off in the Messenger box outside the office.

Meal of Fortune Auction

Please join the youth after Contemporary Service, on Sunday, **January 20th**, for a taco bar, (free-will offering.)

Once everyone is seated we will commence with our first ever, one-of-a-kind "Meal of Fortune" auction. Each individual youth and youth family has created a menu that will be auctioned off on January 20th. The successful bidders, will work with the youth families to schedule the date and time for the meal, with the meals being held at the youth family residence or in the Church Fellowship Hall. This will provide an incredible opportunity for our church family to spend time and build relationships with our youth and youth families. Auction profits will benefit the youth mission trip to Mexico in 2008.

We have a professional auctioneer that is donating his time to run the auction. This is a guaranteed "don't want to miss" fun event! There is a sample menu from one of the youth families, included, which will actually be auctioned at the event. Hope to see you there!

Meal of Fortune Theme: Country Time U.S.A.

Appetizer: Chicken Wing and Veggie Sticks, **Entrée:** Chicken 'n Dumplings, **Side Dishes:** Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

Vegetable: Corn, **Dessert:** Pecan Pie, **Beverage:** Lemonade, Coffee, Water, or Milk.

Chef: DW Ackelson,

Party of : 4

Location: 245 Plum, Windsor, CO 80550

Contact to Schedule: Laura Ackelson, (DW's Restaurant Manager), 245 Plum Court, Windsor, CO 80550
(970) 686-5798

Opening Bid: \$30.00

Become a Champion of a Child

At the All Charge Church Conference on December 1, our Congregation voted to formalize and bless this Church's relationship with Casa Hogar Los Angelitos in Manzanillo, Mexico and The Children's Foundation (the organization that supports Casa Hogar) here in Windsor.

We have a very close connection with these organizations and the projects that they support. We have sent 2 adult mission groups down in the last few years, we have a youth mission trip planned for the summer of 2008 and are trying to put together another adult trip in November of 2008. We have two members of our Church who are on the Board of Directors of The Children's Foundation, Tina Rosenthal is the Administrator of the Foundation, and Sandi Meier works there also. In addition, several of our members and the Windsor community sponsor children at Casa Hogar

We would like our first formal act as a Congregation to be to sponsor some of the children of Casa Hogar. We will have a board with the pictures of our sponsored children as well as their stories and progress reports. It is our chance as a Church to form relationships with some of these children

The cost to sponsor a child is \$40.00 per month. We are asking our members to pledge their support of whatever they can afford (\$1.00 per month, \$2.00 per month, \$10.00 per month or sponsor a child on your own for \$40.00 per month). This would be a year-long commitment, but it is an opportunity to help change the life of a child for a small amount of money.

Please prayerfully consider this request. I promise that you will feel a great sense of pride and fulfillment and you will in turn be blessed by becoming a "Champion of a Child". Together we can change the lives of children from desperate circumstances.

Debbie Covert

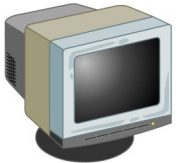
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER FUN

Prayer of Worship

God, you are with me and you can help me. You were with me when I was taken, and you are with me now. You strengthen me. The God I serve is everywhere—in heaven and earth and the sea, but he is above them all, for all live in him: All were created by him, and by him only do they remain. I will worship only the true God; you will I carry in my heart; no one on earth shall be able to separate me from you.

Quirinius of Siscia (d. 308)

Our church is in need of regular lemonade, 13 gal. trash bags, and many other items. Please check out the "Wish List" posted around the church. If you are able to help, please bring your donations to the church office. Thank you so much!



The **Multi-Media Ministry** is looking for volunteers to learn how to run the computer and/or sound board for church services. Anyone who is interested, please contact **Ric Weber** at 970-301-0173.

Thank you to everyone who donated Ice Melt, Paper towels, a vacuum, coffee and anything else I forgot to mention. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Leadership council has given the approval for anyone interested to place a small ad for their business in the newsletter. The council will review all ads submitted. There will be a small monthly fee to run the ad that will help offset office and copier costs. Please contact the church office to submit your ad or for more information.

CPR pledges and gifts as of 12-16: \$99,063.00. Giving Units: 84. Please contact any CPR representative to find out how you can donate and pledge to take part in helping to restore our church.

Any items donated to the church must be approved by the Trustee Board. Please call a trustee member prior to any donation

There is a **signup sheet** for those interested in going on the **November 8-15th, 2008 Adult Mission trip to Manzanillo, Mexico**. Please see either Bill Pratt or Debbie Covert if you are interested.

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself. All the law and the prophets hang on these two commandments." Mat 22:37-40 NIV

Your Church Leaders

PastorLinda Pelletier
 Office ManagerKrista Goddard
 Youth & Family Coord....Lori Baker
 Leadership Council...Monte Savage
 SPR Chair.....Mike Rais
 Sunday School Superintendent
Joyce Johnson
 TrusteesJerry Carson
 Finance Dan VanArsdall
 Financial Secretary Bill Pratt
 Treasurer Tim Johnson
 Bookkeeper.....Marlene Bronson
 UMW Dorothy Emhovich
 Historian /Librarian..Mary Alice Lindblad
 Public Relations Sandi Meier
 Comm. Steward.....
Anne & Neil Hoffman
 One-Hour Ministry....Kathy Carson
 Head UsherBob Foster
 Head Lay Leader.....Jan Cook
 Vestments Arranger.. Vicki Christian
 Boy Scout Rep..... Don Baker
 Nursery Dir, & Custodian..... Hilda Passaretti
 Choir Director Ann Pratt
 OrganistEmma DeBey
 NewsletterMelissa Weber
 Leadership Council.....Rob Bradley,
 Deb Campbell, Shelley Chaney,
 Mark Cook, Deb Covert, Pat Ferrell,
 Eric Freitag, Greg Haddock, Susan
 Jewell-Klema, Phil Neville, Monte
 Savage

Office Hours

8:00am—3:00pm

Monday—Thursday

Messenger Articles:

Send to Melissa Weber

FUMCMessenger@gmail.com

Or drop them by the office

(electronic submissions are encouraged)

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Dated material for January.



Happy New Year to you and your families.

