

THE LINK

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Washington Park United Methodist Church



FEBRUARY 2011

Those of you who listen to Tom and Ray Magliozzi, who host "Car Talk" on NPR, know the section of the program entitled, "Stump the Chumps," during which they call back someone to whom they had given car advice to see if they were right. Five years ago I had a "stump the chump" Sunday, on which I responded to questions the congregation had written. It was fun, and I intended it to be an annual event. Five years later, it's time for the Second Annual Stump the Chumps. (Actually this will be the first "Chumps," since before there was only one "chump.")

I invite you to write a question to which Char or Andrew or I will respond some Sunday this spring. Date TBA! There will be a box in the narthex. I look forward to your questions.

Shalom,

Dick

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February Birthdays

Feb 1 - Hines, Hollan
Feb 2 - Rodriguez, Dennis
Feb 3 - Gerard, Stephanie
Feb 4 - Blair, Gladys
Feb 4 - Evans, Richard
Feb 4 - Jack, Elly
Feb 5 - Gilbert, Virginia
Feb 5 - Miller, Katy
Feb 7 - Edgar, Jack
Feb 7 - LaBrash, Liz
Feb 9 - Hurd, Ernest
Feb 13 - Hurd, Bonnie



Feb 15 - Ford, Jason
 Feb 17 - Dale, Kristi
 Feb 17 - Gibson, Thomas
 Feb 17 - Johnson, Liesje
 Feb 17 - Wieder, Bill
 Feb 18 - Eronymous, Maggie
 Feb 18 - Musslewhite, Aidan
 Feb 20 - Rhody, Hyacinth
 Feb 20 - Rodriguez, Kaitlin
 Feb 20 - Tobler, Sydney
 Feb 21 - Connelly, Bob
 Feb 21 - Wagoner, Evie
 Feb 23 - Lydigsen, Tom
 Feb 25 - Justice, Miles
 Feb 26 - Douthit, Sharlene

What does it take to Build a Home?

Talk to anyone at a Habitat for Humanity home-building site, and you are likely to hear, "This is the most rewarding volunteer work I've ever done!" Standing beside others to lift, then raise the first exterior wall always brings a heartfelt cheer. And it's hard to beat joining with others to attach siding, paint walls, or swing a hammer. Usually, the crew also gets to know the family who will own the home.

But none of that rewarding physical labor can begin without raising money to launch each year's home. While not everyone can work on the construction site, this is one volunteer job in which everyone can take part by contributing or helping to raise funds. The 14-church Loaves and Fishes coalition, including our congregation, has begun raising funds to sponsor a home this year.

How much money? First, we hope to bring in the final \$14,000 needed to fulfill the pledge we made to build the Fernandez home, completed in October. Then we can begin raising \$85,000 to sponsor a new home during 2011. This figure is roughly half of what it takes to build a Habitat home. (Yes, that's a lot of money, but it is tens of thousands of dollars below the average market price for modest new homes in Denver.)

Here's a rough summary of where the money comes from and how Habitat turns those dollars into a home:

Income:

Sponsoring organization: \$85,000.

Permits (site, water tap, sewer connection), which are typically funded by government grants: \$20,000.

Individual donations plus donated goods and services (for example, a volunteer electrical crew provides all electrical work, or various building materials are contributed): \$36,000.

In-kind donations (for example, partnership with Whirlpool provides appliances and Valspar provides paint): \$21,000.
Total funds available: \$162,000.

Average expenses:

Land: \$30,600.
Soil tests, surveys, permits, etc.: \$37,989.
Construction: \$64,446.
Landscaping and development: \$28,192.
Total cost: \$161,227.

For 2011, each Loaves and Fishes church has pledged to raise a portion of the sponsor's contribution. It is an ambitious goal, but Loaves and Fishes has already successfully sponsored a dozen homes since 1998.

Habitat homes are not given to the families. Each homeowner pays back a no-interest mortgage equal to either the actual cost or the appraised value, whichever is lower. That money becomes available to build additional Habitat homes. In addition, prospective homeowners must show a need for affordable housing and agree to partner with Habitat through sweat equity hours.

Senior News

Michael J. Shada: 96, born February 14, 1914 and passed away on December 6, 2010. His memorial service was held on Dec. 19, 2010 at WPUMC with Pastor Dick Evans officiating, followed by internment at Fairmount Cemetery in Denver. In February of 1993 as part of our church's 100th Anniversary Celebration, Mike and Irene were honored as being the couple who had attended our church services the longest. Irene passed away on June 24, 2008. Their twin daughters, Lou and Sue came to Denver to help their father as needed, and arranged a dignified reception following his memorial service. Keep his family in your prayers at this time.

Jane Hawkinson- age 96 flew to Wimauma, Florida to spend Christmas and the winter with her daughter, Susan and husband Tracy Wilder. Her Christmas was enjoyable. On January 8, 2011 she had right shoulder replacement surgery, which went okay but her blood count went down, so she was put in ICU until it was back to normal. On January 10th she was out of ICU feeling much better. She will spend the rest of winter in Florida, to come back to Denver in the Spring. Keep her in your prayers for healing.

Charlotte Blackmer- age 93 fell on December 12, 2010 when she was getting out of her son's car at the family home in Miliken, CO. She broke her right ankle and went into the ER in Denver. She stayed in Porter Hospital with a cast. She feels better now, but she wears a boot and is getting around in a wheelchair.. As long as she is in the wheelchair, her doctor will not allow her to come back to her home. She is getting lots of care, but she misses church and friends and is looking forward to being back before too long. Please keep her in your prayers for healing as well.

Youth Group Update

A highlight of the youth group calendar is the annual Ski Weekend. We look forward to regaling you with the details after this year's event on February 19th and 20th.

The youth group is also hosting a fundraiser. We are selling Chinook Coupon Books to support our youth activities. The books cost \$20.00 and are filled with valuable savings for the whole family. When you buy a book, our youth will receive \$10.00 out of each sale. The book more than pays for itself even within the first few coupons used. What a great gift you'd make for family, friends and significant others! To support our youth in their fundraiser, please consider buying some Chinook Books. For more information please contact Kevin Eronymous at keronymous@aol.com.

Missions Corner

Time to get things off on the right foot. You can help us expand the Mission Experience for all of us at WPUMC by volunteering for some of the great activities we have going on:

Food Banks: The drop-off spot for food has moved to the Narthex or you can send them with your children to Children's time on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We are also providing **recycled tote bags to help you remember** to bring in your food items. Take a bag off the "Food Rack" in the Narthex by the Missions bulletin board and bring it back the following week filled with nutritious food for our food banks. Please remember to bring the bags back, or use them to remind you to bring in your items. Another option is to sign up on the Missions Bulletin board to **help with the delivery of the food** we collect. All needed information about locations and hours will be provided to you. This is a great activity for families to see just where help is needed and who we are helping.

Redemption Fellowship: Our next opportunity to serve others will be February 27, 2011. We still **need food items** donated as well as **people to help** with the serving and clean up of the meal. If February doesn't work for you, we will be providing meals again in April, June, August, October, and finally in December 2011. Keep checking the bulletin board for details.

The Mitten Tree: We more than doubled the number of mittens collected from last year. These mittens were delivered in late January to the Mount St. Vincent's Home. Special thanks to Patti Wallace, Stephanie Gerard, and all of you who helped support this worthy project.

Music at WPUMC

Come, make a joyful noise with the WPUMC Choir! Rehearsals are held in the North Parlor on Wednesdays from 7pm to 8:30pm and every Sunday morning at 8:45 am. The choir explores music of all different styles, and we have fun doing it! Choral experience and musical knowledge are not a requirement to join - only a love of singing. We understand that everyone has demanding schedules; please see Andrew if you are unable to make weeknight rehearsals but would still like to sing. We hope you will join us soon!

Director of Music Ministry, Andrew McCormick, is now offering private lessons in voice and piano at the Church. Lessons are held on weekdays in the music office behind the choir loft. Lessons are given in a fun, relaxed atmosphere. Please contact Andrew at 207.249.9990 or music@washparkumc.org for more information, including rates and availability.

Upcoming Events

Lunch Bunch - will be held on Saturday, February 5th from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Children 3 years of age (potty-trained) through 5th grade invited. Children should come with a lunch and a drink. Our group is growing! We will separate into groups and have activities for older children this year! Parents are needed to help.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study - Wednesday Evening Soup Supper and Bible Study will continue in February! We will begin our new studies with an "overview" of the Bible at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday in the South Parlor. This is a co-ed study! All are welcome. We have purchased pamphlets for a study resource and if you would like to purchase one the cost is \$5.00. We will incorporate stories and parables from the Book of Luke. Please bring your Bibles. Nursery available upon request. For questions, email Char at education@washparkumc.org

All-Church Potluck and Talent Show - On February 27th, 2011 we will be staging a Talent Show in the Fellowship Hall of WPUMC from 11:00 to 1:00. We will have a sign-up sheet displayed and only 12 acts will be allowed. All those interested need to sign-up. If you do not sign-up, please know that you will not be expected or allowed to perform.

Tuesday Women's Bible Study has started. Everyone will be welcome to the study any Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.. Come with your Bible and we will go from there. For more information, please contact Ali at alisongibsonus@comcast.net. You do not have to know the Bible to be a member. You do not have to prepare yourself to attend. It is a great way to remind yourself on some of our readings.

Altar Flowers - We are asking people to sign-up to sponsor altar flowers for this year. The calendar is out and the following days have been taken: all of January, February 13; February 20, 27; March 20, March 27; April 3; 10; 17; June 5, 12, 19; 26; July 10, 17,31; August 14; 21; 28; September 11, 25; October 2, 9, 23, 30; November 13; 20; and December 11;18; 25 (Poinsettia). If you would like to sign-up ask for any of the days not included on this email, you can sign-up by emailing Marni at okmarni@hotmail.com or in person at church service on Sunday. The cost is \$45 for each week you sponsor and you of course, are entitled to take the arrangements with you or give to a friend. We appreciate your participation in this effort.

Vacation Bible School 2011 will be held August 1 - 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Mark your calendars now! More information coming!

Calendar

CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES:

February 4 - Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield

February 5 - Lunch Bunch

February 13 - Food Bank Sunday

February 16 - Admin. Council Meeting

February 27 - All Church Potluck and Talent Show

February 27 - Redemption Fellowship at Trinity UMC

FREE DAYS IN DENVER:

February 4 - Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield
February 5 - [Denver Art Museum](#)
February 6 - [Denver Zoo](#)
February 14 - Denver Museum of Nature & Science
February 21 - [Denver Botanic Gardens](#)
February 27 - Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Timing for LINK and Weekly Info. Distribution

If you have information that has to be in the weekly updates, please make sure that the information reaches the office (at office@washparkumc.org or in person) by Tuesday on the week you need it in the emails. Information for the Link must be received by the 20th of each month. The information must clearly indicate whether it is for the Link or the weekly updates or for both. We really appreciate your help!

Contact Information

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