

# THE LINK

A monthly publication of the  
Washington Park United Methodist Church



DECEMBER 2010

Dear Kevin,

**"So hallowed and so gracious is the time."**

In Shakespeare's *Hamlet* (Act I, ii), on the dark battlements of Elisinore, Marcellus speaks to his companions about Jesus' birth:

"Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes  
Wherein our Savior's birth is celebrated,  
The bird of dawning singeth all night long;  
And then, they say, no spirit dare stir abroad,  
The nights are wholesome, then no planets strike,  
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,  
So hallowed and so gracious is the time."

This Christmas season, with all its activities, and not enough time to do everything you need or want, may you discover that this time is both hallowed and gracious. May you discover the Incarnation of Christ for you. Emmanuel-God with us.

Merry Christmas,

*Dick*



Christmas reminds us that the gift of life is not just for "us," but for all God's people. It sometimes comes in unexpected places, and in unexpected ways. May it come for you. Merry Christmas!

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## December Birthdays

Dec 1 - Haemer, Emily



Dec 3 - Mefford, Mary  
 Dec 5 - Smith-Williams, Vera  
 Dec 8 - Dale, Henry  
 Dec 8 - Dollis, Kathy  
 Dec 8 - Hall, Jean  
 Dec 10 - Dudler, Randy  
 Dec 11 - Abman, Ryan  
 Dec 11 - Strother, Maren  
 Dec 12 - McFarren, Tobin  
 Dec 13 - Gonzales, Barb  
 Dec 13 - Steger, Jody  
 Dec 15 - Blair, John  
 Dec 17 - Curtis, Marti  
 Dec 21 - Musslewhite, Elaine  
 Dec 21 - Strickland, Lucas  
 Dec 22 - Dickson, Geoffrey  
 Dec 23 - Obleski, Jaime  
 Dec 26 - Jack, Michael  
 Dec 26 - Marutle, Noreen  
 Dec 28 - Traeger, Jennefer  
 Dec 29 - Marutle, Malebo  
 Dec 29 - Wieder, Bill  
 Dec 31 - Edwards, Audrey

### **Habitat Home Finished in time for the Holidays**

Rebecca Fernandez and her daughter Danielle moved into their new home in November, just in time to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas. The home was built by Loaves and Fishes, the Habitat for Humanity coalition of churches, which includes our congregation. Many of the volunteers, contributors and other friends who helped build the home attended the dedication, cheering as the new residents cut the ribbon. The one-story duplex home and its identical twin, built by other Habitat teams, are located at 1005 and 1007 S. Patton Ct. in Denver.

"I'm actually moved in," Rebecca says. "I can't express the feeling of taking every item out and putting it in its place. I'm so grateful for this opportunity." She is teaching Danielle, who is 13, to cook on the new stove; the stove in their former apartment was defective, even dangerous.

"The apartment was not a place where I could feel safe or where I felt my daughter was safe," she says. "Kids in the neighborhood were drinking and using drugs. I didn't even let her go to the playground. Now we can make snow angels in our own yard and decorate our own Christmas tree."

Rebecca's son attends a Bible college in Pennsylvania, but he will be home for Christmas. "There was a time in my life that was very, very dark. I was lost," she recalls. "My family didn't see me for the holidays. Now, thanks to my rehabilitation and Habitat, we can share the warmth of being together in our own home for the first time."

Homeowners qualify for the program through rigorous preparation, including extensive interviews, homebuyers' classes, and hundreds of

hours of "sweat equity," working on Habitat projects as well as helping to build their own homes. Habitat does not give away homes. Rebecca will pay off the no-interest mortgage over about 30 years, and her repayments will help provide money to build more homes. (Habitat built 32 homes in the Denver area this year.) Additional funds come from a variety of donors and sponsors as well as contributions from the member churches of Loaves and Fishes. Fund-raising is continuing to in hopes of finishing payments on this house in early 2011.

## SENIOR NEWS

The Snow Buddy Program at Volunteers of America is connecting seniors with volunteers to remove snow throughout the 2010 - 2011 winter season. The program's goal is to assist seniors in the community who need help with shoveling snow for the winter. To get help for your senior, please contact Amelia Sidinger at 303.297.0408 X 13130. For more information about the Snow Buddy Program or to offer your help, call Volunteers of America at 720.264.3379 or email: [snowbuddies@voacolorado.org](mailto:snowbuddies@voacolorado.org).

## FROM THE WPUMC PRESCHOOL

We have had a wonderful and busy fall. Our Fall Festival was so much fun for everyone and we had a great turnout and amazing weather to boot.

**On November 7<sup>th</sup>**, we had our official opening of the playground! What a long-awaited celebration! Nearly 70 people came out to see the special bricks they purchased as well as enjoy a beautiful day.

**On November 11<sup>th</sup>**, the Dinosaur Class went on their "first-ever" field trip to go see the King Tut exhibit at the Denver Art Museum. With the help of 4 teachers and numerous parent helpers we succeeded in not only viewing the museum, but actually learning something there.

This year, our Children's Christmas Program is patterned after the book, "Who Was Born This Special Day?" and I know you will find it very sweet and heartwarming. At the end, everyone will sing a beautiful song by Avalon, called "Light a Candle." I truly hope you will join us for this very special day. See the Upcoming Events schedule for dates and times.

**From December 13 to 17**, we are holding a Santa's Workshop from 1:30 to 3:00. Wonderful homemade gifts, jewelry and boutique items are available. You are all invited to our Workshop.



**Youth  
Group**

## Update

Our Youth Group worked with DeNUM to provide food and support for families in the Denver area this fall. With help from groups like ours, DeNUM reports that the Food For All 2010 program was an overwhelming success! Over 42,000 lbs of food and \$6,913 in gift cards were collected! In addition DeNUM was able to provide over 470 Thanksgiving meals, feeding over 3,500 people! At least 900 volunteers from all across the metro area were involved in making this happen, including those from WPUMC.

As a faith-based activity, youth are being encouraged to find meaning in lyrics in contemporary music. We are then working together to find ties to scripture from those lyrics

A highlight of the youth group calendar, the annual Ski Weekend, has been tentatively scheduled for February 19th & 20th. Hold that date!



## Alternative Christmas Gift Catalogue

The holidays bring a special opportunity to reach out to our world, to give back. In hopes that we can make this easier for you, WPUMC has once again created an Alternative

Gift-giving Catalogue that consolidates many of our mission opportunities. You may specify multiple gifts on the order form and write one check - we will take care of the rest. Your gift recipients will receive a special card telling them of your contribution

in their name. Please consider making this part of your holiday tradition this year! You may print out the order form and catalogue at home (click on the links below) or sign-up before or after church in the narthex.

[Catalogue](#)

[Order Form](#)

## Upcoming Events

**Bible Study** - Wednesdays, December 1; 8; 15 at 5:45 p.m. we will be meeting in the South Parlor for a soup supper followed by a Bible Study based on the book "Meeting the Messiah" by Kara Lassen Oliver. This book contains six weeks of short daily readings and guided reflections on Scripture for Advent through Epiphany. It is perfect for individual study even if you can't join the group. Books will be available for sale at \$14.00 ex. tax, after the service on December 5 and at the study sessions. Please contact Char or Dick if you wish to join the study but are unable to afford a copy at this time. Visit the blog at [upperroom.org/adventstudy](http://upperroom.org/adventstudy). For further information, contact Char at [education@washparkumc.org](mailto:education@washparkumc.org) or at 719.339.7337

**Lunch Bunch** - On Saturday, December 4, our social group for children will meet in the Sunday School room and the Gym at 10:30 to 1:30. Children 3 years of age (potty trained) to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited. Children bring their own lunch and drinks. Friends are welcome.

**Children's Program Rehearsal** - On Saturday, December 4 from 10:30 to 1:30 the children will be doing their Children's Program Rehearsal in the Sanctuary.

**Pre-School Registration Lottery** - Monday, December 6 through the end of January, Lottery Forms will be available at the Church office for anyone interested in being a part of our school for 2011 -2012.

**Pre-school Santa's Workshop** - From Monday to Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, our Preschool is having a shopping time for adults from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. each day. You are invited to come and shop for some great gifts. Workshop is upstairs in the Youth Room.

**Children's Program Rehearsal #2** - On Saturday, December 18, we will have our final rehearsal for the Preschool and Children's Christmas Program. The times are as follows :

10:00 - 12:00: Rehearsal Time

12:00 - 12:30: Lunch (Everyone pack a lunch if you want to stay).

12:30 - 1:30: Movie and games.

**Children's Christmas Service** - On Sunday, December 19, our regular worship service will feature a Children's Christmas Program during service at 9:30 a.m

**Neighborhood Christmas Caroling** - On Sunday, December 19, we will be caroling in the East Wash Park Neighborhood from 4 till 6:30 p.m. The event will include baby animals in our courtyard and a soup supper at 5:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship Services** - On Friday, December 24 there will be a 5:00 - 6:00 p.m: Children's Christmas Service in the Sanctuary. All children and their families are invited! This service will be followed by our traditional candlelight Christmas Eve Service from 7:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m.

**FIND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SLOW DOWN  
AND REMAIN FOCUSED ON  
THE REAL MEANING OF THE SEASON,  
THE COMING OF THE CHRIST CHILD.**

**JOIN CHAR FOR 3 EVENINGS OF  
STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP BASED ON**

## **Meeting the Messiah**

**by Kara Lassen Oliver**

**WEDNESDAYS 1ST, 8TH & 15TH DECEMBER**

**SOUTH PARLOR AT 5:45 P.M. FOR SUPPER  
FOLLOWED BY DEVOTIONAL TIME.**

Meeting the Messiah contains six weeks of short daily readings and guided reflections on Scripture for Advent through Epiphany. It is perfect for individual study even if you can't join the group.

Books will be available for sale (\$14 ex. tax) after the service on 5th December and at the study sessions. Please speak to Char or Dick if you wish to join the study but are unable to afford a copy at this time. Visit the blog at [upperroom.org/adventstudy](http://upperroom.org/adventstudy)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT CHAR  
EDUCATION@WASHPARKUMC.ORG  
OR TELEPHONE (719) 339-7337**

### **Calendar**

December 1 - Bible Study; 5:45

December 1 Advent Bible Study and Supper South Parlor 5:45-7:00

December 4 Lunch Bunch 10:30-1:30

Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:30-1:30  
 December 5 New Member Orientation following the service  
 December 8 Advent Bible Study and Supper 5:45-7:00  
     Choir Practice 7:00-8:30  
 December 11 All-Church Conference (annual business meeting)  
 December 12 New Members Join  
 December 13-16 Adult Santa's Workshop 1:30-3:00  
 December 15 Advent Bible Study and Supper South Parlor 5:45-7:00  
 December 18 Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:00-12:00  
 December 19 Children's Christmas Program 9:30  
     Caroling and Soup Supper 4:00-6:00  
 December 24 Children's Christmas Eve Service 5:00  
     Carol and Candlelight Service 7:00  
 December 26 Regular Worship  
 December 27 Office Closed

### FREE DAYS IN DENVER

December 3 = Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield  
 December 4 = Denver Art Museum  
 December 6 = Denver Museum of Nature and 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](mailto:office@washparkumc.org) or at WPUMC on the week you need it in the emails by Tuesday of that week. 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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