

**Washington Park United Methodist Church**

1955 E. Arizona Avenue  
Denver, CO 80210

*Address Service Requested*

# THE LINK

A monthly publication of the Washington Park United Methodist Church

**September 09**

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Denver, CO 80210  
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www.washparkumc.org

## Gleaning

For several years now, our church has made an annual pilgrimage to the San Luis Valley near Alamosa, Colorado to extend the harvest a little further.

Gleaning is the act of collecting leftover crops from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested or on fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest. The project involves combing the fields for vegetables that may have been missed during the commercial harvest.

Last year it was potatoes; this year, carrots. Regardless, the recovered crops are given to a local food bank and provide vital nourishment for an impoverished community.

Some ancient cultures promoted gleaning as an early form of a welfare system. For example, ancient Jewish communities required that farmers not reap all the way to the edges of a field so as to leave some for the poor and for strangers. Other traditions held that reapers should not remove all of the stalks of grain but should leave some for the poor who would follow after.

The Bible refers to gleaning repeatedly, but in particular, in the story of Ruth.

This year, as in years past, the Palizzi family joined Pastor Dick Evans on the trip. It seems to have become a tradition and one that surely has benefits for the soul as well as the stomach. Maybe next year, you'll join too!



*Tony, Liz, Megan and Malory Palizzi and Dick Evans harvested 450 pounds of carrots for the La Puente Foodbanks in the San Luis Valley on August 29.*



2009

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
			Choir Rehearsal - 7 PM Knitting for a Cause - 7 PM South Parlor		FREE DAY - Children's Museum of Denver & Chatfield Nature Preserve	FREE DAY - Denver Art Museum  Lunch Bunch 10:30- 1:30
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30 am Worship Service 5:00- 7:30 pm Youth Group			Knitting for a Cause - 7 PM; South Parlor	Leah Circle Meeting		
FREE DAY - Nat & Sci Mus13	14	15	16	17	18	19
FOOD BANK SUNDAY & RALLY DAY 9:30 am Worship Service 5:00- 7:30 PM Youth Group			Choir Rehearsal - 7 PM Knitting for a Cause - 7 PM South Parlor			FREE DAY - Denver Botanic Gardens
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30 am Worship Service 5:00- 7:30 PM Youth Group Ministries Meetings Fall Hay Ride & Picnic			Knitting for a Cause - 7 PM; South Parlor			
27	28	29	30			
9:30 am Worship Service 5:00- 7:30 PM Youth Group			Knitting for a Cause - 7 PM; South Parlor			

## A letter from our pastor

Jacob woke up from his dream of angels and ladders and exclaimed, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it." (Genesis 28:16)

Poet John Ciardi wrote:

"Who could believe an ant in theory?  
A giraffe in blueprint?  
Ten thousand doctors of what's possible  
Could reason half the jungle out of being."

Jacob might not have known about God at that point, but awareness, wonder, surprise are religious emotions. It is important in our faith development that we do not dull ourselves to the world; that we do not stunt our souls by pre-set certainties. Giraffes and ants? Impossible. With the eye of a dreamer, Jacob realized he awoke to a re-enchanted world.

Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) That means living with hearts at full throttle, open to the electricity of experience. Who would willingly choose a world that always met our expectations? Appreciating God's surprises is a special kind of prayer. I hope you will keep praying that prayer.

Shalom,

*Dick*

## September Birthdays

September 3	Lloyd, Mary
September 3	Roebken, Annie
September 7	Shermer, Jason
September 8	Abman, Megan
September 8	Abman, Mark
September 9	Nelson, Mabel
September 11	Strickland, Chaz
September 13	Bondy, Steve
September 14	Keller, John
September 14	Wieder, Katie
September 15	Carter, Nicole
September 15	Munroe, Michelle
September 16	Robertson, "Wil"
September 16	Shober, Wilma
September 17	Hines, Andrew
September 17	Johnson, Raymond
September 23	Justice-Bondy, Karee
September 25	Barnard, Jean
September 25	Johnson, Margor
September 26	Tobler, Faryn

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Sept 1	Carter Trip & Boone, Anita
Sept 8	Dana, Doug & Sherriff-Dana, Julie
Sept 13	Sells, John & Patricia
Sept 14	Agnoletti, John & Lynne

## Upcoming Events

September 12 - LUNCH BUNCH, will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the children's Sunday School room downstairs. Children 3 years of age (potty trained) through 5th grade invited! We will enjoy crafts, gym time, lunch, and a movie! Please bring a lunch and a drink. Friends invited! Email Char at mschar0516@aol.com for questions or to make a reservation.

September 13 - RALLY SUNDAY, will be held at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday is the official beginning of our fall ministries. Refreshments will be served in the courtyard during committee sign-up.

September 20 - THIRD GRADE GIFT BIBLE SUNDAY - We will honor our third graders by presenting them with a beautiful gift Bible. Reserve a Bible for your third grader by emailing Char at: mschar0156@aol.com with your child's full name.

Also Sept. 20 - ALL-CHURCH FALL HAY RIDE AND PICNIC! We will have a hay ride and picnic at Stockton's Plum Creek Stables, 7479 Titan Rd., Littleton, CO 80125 at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon! Sign up on the congregational ministries bulletin board in the narthex!

## Young Adults Ministry

Our church is fostering a new ministry directed at young adults. So, what's a young adult you might ask? While there are guidelines provided by the United Methodist Church, we are seeking to create an intergenerational ministry that is enriched by people of all ages. If you see an activity that you want to join but aren't sure your "age-appropriate", please don't let an age label stop you!

So, what is happening in young adult ministry this year?

SMALL GROUPS - This past year before being hired I helped to form a small young adult group and that group is growing strong in the discussion of their beliefs and decisions to help the world. Let's do more of that. The more strong small groups we have the more powerful our ministry can be.

BIBLE STUDY - Starting Sunday September 27th we will have our first young adult after-church bible study. This group will explore a topic to be decided by those of us who show up. As the group goes along or if it gets too big then we will look at forming a second group. Each group will become a unique part of the body of our church. So if you are young in any way and you want to come to a cool discussion please join us.

Gentle and Enthusiastic Peace,

Tyler

(720) 279-4688  
[youngpeople@washparkumc.org](mailto:youngpeople@washparkumc.org)

P.S. If you want to come and have childcare needs please email me or call me and let me know. I need to know about a week in advance to make it happen each week.

## Community Outreach

The Volunteers of America, Safety of Seniors Handyman Program is excited to be holding the 7th Annual Rake-Up Colorado! which helps limited-income seniors in the community with leaf raking and removal. This exciting event will be taking place on Saturday, October 24th, 2009 on "Make a Difference Day". This event is among the many services offered to seniors by the Safety of Seniors Handyman Program, including minor repairs and safety modifications in the home. For more information about the event or about the Handyman Program at Volunteers of America, call 303.297.0408.

## Youth Group

Youth group will be starting up this Fall on September 13th from 5:30-7:30 pm with a parents and youth gathering to play some games and get ready for an awesome spirit-filled year. Dinner will be provided and we look forward to seeing everyone there. Please RSVP by September 8 at [youngpeople@washparkumc.org](mailto:youngpeople@washparkumc.org) but if you forgot, please come anyway.

## Angels Among Us

John & Jan Burnett extend their heartfelt thanks to the members of WPUMC who turned an impossible task into a pleasure while moving them from the Park Lane to a new home at Porter Place. Many hands made light of the work of planning, boxing, protecting cherished possessions, cleaning, advising and keeping everyone's spirits up during the move.

Thanks to: Ali Gibson, Ros Warren, Dick Evans, George Warren, Charlene Sullivan, Katie Wieder and Joanne Roussy. Their services were augmented by these other friends: Marcia Reish, Mary Prout, Nancy Sweeney and Ann Wormley.