

From: Washington Park United Methodist Church <hbs691@yahoo.com>

To:

Subject: The LINK May 2011- Washington Park United Methodist Church

Date: Tue, May 3, 2011 8:03 am

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THE LiNK

A monthly publication of the
Washington Park United Methodist Church



MAY 2011

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May Birthdays

May 1 = Kimbrel, Mark
May 2 = Berger, Sam
May 6 = Meade, Chad
May 7 = Hawkinson, Jane
May 8 = Dickson, Juliana
May 8 = Strickland, Pearce
May 9 = Murrey, Erik
May 15 = Gibson, Ali
May 16 = Elliott, Char
May 16 = Wilkinson, John
May 17 = Stermole, Marygrace
May 18 = Jordan, Mildred
May 18 = Strother, Lucas
May 20 = Bondy, Ella
May 26 = Eberie, Annika
May 26 = Sehl, Lola
May 26 = Soika-Schumacher, Janine
May 26 = Wallace, Patti
May 27 = Wierman, Laura

"The world is my parish." So said John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. This was at first in response to criticism that he was taking church beyond a building to the fields of England. Later it also came to mean that the scope of his ministry was not limited to one place. It was not even limited to "church"; for example, he established a publishing house, and a garment factory where women could work and make an income.



The world is our parish, too. Our Missions Team leads our involvement in many opportunities beyond our building: Habitat for Humanity; Redemption Fellowship (for ex-offender and other marginalized people); Urban Peak (homeless teenagers); Bread for the World; three Food Banks; Heifer International; Operation Christmas Child; Morning Has Broken orphanage in South Africa.

This summer nine of our youth will go to the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming to work for a week, doing both manual labor and providing programs for children.

On May 1, we heard a presentation from *Pura Vida*, an organization which builds adobe houses and chicken coops in the

highlands of Guatemala. Twenty people stayed after the service to hear more. We are exploring making a mission trip there next spring. If you are interested, let me know!

Shalom,

Dick

*Loaves and Fishes and Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver
are proud to introduce:*



The Ali Kased and Kamila Ruhaif Family

800 S. Patton Ct.

Denver Co. 80219

A refugee family who has endured years of conflict and instability in the Middle East will have their own Denver home by this fall, thanks to Habitat for Humanity, the Loaves and Fishes Coalition, and our congregation. We will make an amazing contribution to this family, and you can be a part of that effort!

Ali Kased and Kamila Ruhaif, both born and raised in Kuwait, married more than 18 years ago and began a family. When political conflict between Kuwait and Iraq escalated, they were forced to move back to Iraq because of their Iraqi descent. During the Gulf War and because of the many embargos and sanctions in Iraq, it became very difficult and dangerous to raise their family. When his son Hussein was very sick in the hospital, Ali

prayed to Allah that he could leave Iraq and bring his family to a safe environment.

They fled to Jordan as refugees. However, refugees had no right to work, so he worked illegally, "under the table" to support his family for the next nine years. The Jordan government would not allow kids of refugees to attend school during their stay. Ali said there were about one million Iraqi refugees in Jordan at that time. (Thankfully, the Queen of Jordan now allows all children to attend school.)

When the US opened its doors for Iraqi refugees in 2008, Ali and Kamila as well as Ali's father and other family members applied. Ali and Kamila were sent to Colorado, and Ali's father was sent to Alabama. Ali and Kamila and their four children, Hussein Jaber, Abdulrhman Jaber, Salsabel Jaber and Tasneem Jaber, came to live in Denver.

Ali works for the Grand Hyatt as a security officer, and Kamila is attending Emily Griffith Opportunity School. Ali also volunteers at his mosque to help new refugees and translates part-time for Allstate. Ali feels that you first take care of your "circle of interest" - your family, and then you can take care of your "circle of influence" - others you can help. He explains, "Family comes first; our efforts are for our kids."

"Owning a home is a dream come true!" says Ali. He never felt secure, safe, or confident in someone else's home. With your own home, no one can tell you to leave, as long as you pay your mortgage, he observes. Ali wants his family to know this is their home and their land. The kids and family will be good American citizens, while keeping their faith as Muslims.

Ali and Kamila are volunteering at Habitat and have started working on their sweat equity hours. They also attended their first Habitat class on "How to be a Good Neighbor." They are very appreciative of Loaves and Fishes and Habitat for Humanity.

To begin and celebrate our new home build, the Loaves and Fishes breakfast will be on Saturday, May 21 from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. The breakfast will be held at Littleton United Methodist Church. (For more information, please see the article below.) This is a great time to meet our new family as well as other volunteers from the Loaves and Fishes Coalition. Please mark your calendars and let Carol Nelson (303.766.1978) know you plan to attend.

FREE LOAVES AND FISHES KICKOFF BREAKFAST

Have you always wanted to know more about Habitat for Humanity?

Have you participated in a Habitat build and are happy with your contribution?

*Would you like to meet our new homeowner family
named Ali and Kamila and their four beautiful children?*

Would you like a free breakfast on a Saturday morning?

*If you answered yes to any of these questions,
**please come and learn more, celebrate what Loaves and Fishes
has accomplished, meet the family, and have a free breakfast!***

Saturday, May 21, 2011

8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

*Littleton United Methodist Church
5894 South Datura Street
Littleton, Colorado*

If you would like to attend, please RSVP with Carol Nelson (303.766.1978 or customtrainingllc@a.com).

PLEASE JOIN US!

MISSIONS CORNER

Bread for the World Letter Writing Day will be May 15. "As citizens of the United States and stewards of God's creation, we have a unique calling. The way the United States responds to those in need is God's concern and our responsibility. Reforming U.S. foreign aid policies and programs is our chance to join God in creating something new. Making these changes can touch millions of lives and transform poverty and despair into life and dignity. Increasing the effectiveness and delivery of foreign assistance can move people from suffering to dignity-mothers can live through childbirth, infants can survive the clutches of parasitic illness, boys and girls can learn to read, and parents can earn enough to feed their families." www.bread.org. We will once again be writing to encourage our Senators to focus on:

- Reducing poverty
- Accountability for how aid dollars are spent and their results
- Assuring that US aid meets the needs of local people

"It's not just Republicans and Democrats wrangling over how deep to cut. The U.S. budget is a moral document. We are deciding what kind of country we want to be." David Beckman, head of Bread for the World

Food Banks: Thank you so much to those who have volunteered to deliver the food we collect to the food banks. We will make sure you get all the information you need to make this easy for you to do. Those still wishing to participate, please sign up on the Missions bulletin board in the Narthex.

Upcoming events:

- Operation Christmas Child---save those empty shoe boxes
- Loaves and Fishes 2011 Habitat for Humanity Build
- Gleaning of the Fields in Southern Colorado
- Redemption Fellowship will be June 19

SENIOR NEWS



Vera Andersen: Celebrated her 101 year Birthday on March 23, 2011. Her son, Troy and wife Eva treated Vera to a family party with all 8 of her great grandsons - no girls. After partying they took her out to the Longmont Airport where she was given a surprise ride in a Helicopter.

Since she was the oldest person to ever ride in their Helicopter, the newspaper came and took her picture and printed it in their local newspaper.



Mildred Jordan will celebrate her 100th Birthday on May 18, 2011. She is staying well and now lives at Eaton Terrace, 333 S. Eaton St. Apt. # 421, Lakewood, CO 80226. Hard to believe she is 100 years old.

Jane Hawkinson is home from Florida. Her right shoulder replacement surgery is healing well. Her right hand still bothers her. She is trying to be careful when hugging people or doing things. Before leaving Florida, her doctor took her around the Hospital to his patients to let them see how well his oldest patient (96 then) was doing following right shoulder replacement surgery. She will celebrate her 97th birthday on May 7th.



Charlotte Blackmer (93) recovered from her broken right ankle which required her to be in a wheelchair and stay at her son's house in Milliken. She came home March 18 to live with her cat, who sure missed her. Now she uses a cane to help her when out walking. She hasn't started driving yet, so Marie Dorr has been giving her Taxi Service to church and wherever needed. It was so good to have them in Church Sunday service again.



Rev. Dr. John Spangler (83) is at home recovering from Lung surgery in early April. His wife, Dixie reports he is doing well and appreciates your prayers. Rev. Spangler used to be our interim pastor here at WPUMC for a few years. We are happy to hear about him and are asking for continued prayer.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will have their year-end Lock In on Saturday, May 21st. Adult chaperones are needed. Please contact Kevin Eronymous if you are interested. The Youth mission trip will be held at the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming from July 3rd to July 8th. The Youth Group will also help to open up Camp Rosalie this year and will hopefully spend some time there this summer. Be on the lookout for these dates.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

On Saturday, April 16th, from 10 a.m. to noon, we held our first Ladies Tea. Nearly 40 preschool moms and church ladies came together in our beautiful South Parlor to enjoy a

magnificent high tea complete with dainty sandwiches, luscious chocolate covered strawberries, cream puffs, beautifully decorated cookies and fragrant teas. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Liesje Johnson, Lana Banbury and their lovely daughters for making all the elegant food for us which was not only delicious, but exquisite. Afterwards, we gathered in the Sanctuary where Angela Kana entertained us with a beautiful solo, "More Precious Than Silver." We then enjoyed the antiques of Char Elliott and Sandy Warble, with Chris Mikesell as the narrator, as they demonstrated the "Proverbs 31 Woman," and put on a very visual skit bringing this lady of the Old Testament up to date. Our special guest speaker was Sandy Warble's daughter, Tiffany, who talked to us about her interests as a child and how she has continued to develop those interests at her company, Interweave, bringing beauty and creativity to women. She then demonstrated some scarf-tying styles and taught everyone how to make a simple, yet elegant flower arrangement, using the techniques she learned as a florist. A wonderful time was had by all with a promise to plan another get-together in the fall.

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!

Upcoming Events and Calendar

LADIES BIBLE STUDY will meet on Tuesday, May 3, from 1:00pm to 2:30pm in the Library. Email AlisonGibsonUS@comcast.net or call (303) 993-4426 for information.

May 4, 11, and 18 **WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY and SUPPER** Our supper and study begins with supper at 5:45 p.m. in the South Parlor. All welcome! Child care available! Contact Char at education@washparkumc.org to make a nursery reservation for your child.

May 7 **LUNCH BUNCH** 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Children 3 years of age (potty trained) through 5th Grade invited. Meet downstairs!

May 22 **EDUCATION SUNDAY** All Christian Education teachers at Wash Park UMC will be honored during our 9:30 a.m. worship service.

May **LIBRARY** Throughout the month of May our library will be audited, cleared out and reclassified in order to start the process of providing a better faith formation resource for members. Please return all books that you may have at home by the end of May please. We will be accepting donations of suitable books after the initial stocktake and clearout if you wish to thin out your library at home. A fundraising event for new books will take place later in the year. Contact Ali Gibson on 303 993 4426 or by email to alisongibsonus@comcast.net if you would like more information about the project.

Community Events / Free Days

May 7 = Denver Art Museum

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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Denver, CO 80210
Email: office@washparkumc.org
Phone: (303) 777-3043

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