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VOLUME 15, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2009

From Cookies to Children's Education

Methodists have always been supporters of education and we are no exception here at First Church, Fort Collins. Last spring students from our Wesley Foundation baked and sold cookies at Sunday morning social times to support Ben and Jennie Bleckley in their Peace Corps work in South Africa. Among their work was helping with schools. The cookies brought in \$400 dol-

lars. At the Bleckley's suggestion we sent some of the money to a scholarship fund which pays for stu-



dents to go to school. They told us of a fellow Peace Corps worker, Dr. Nancy Thompson and her program to equip a grade school with a modern media center.

We have sent the money to South Africa through the Peace

Corps. Both gifts of money were in honor of Ben and Jennie.

It is exciting to know that we are helping to bring education to children in another part of the world. Thanks are due to the students for completing the cookie sale and to members of the congregation for their support. Ben and Jennie send along their thanks for this project and for honoring them.

The Bleckley's have finished their



Stupid Cupid, Love is in the Air

Charles Schuster

“Loving is an action. Love is a feeling. The difference between love and loving is the difference between fish and fishing. I like loving – the moving, growing, changing, active, dynamic interplay (inner play?) between self and others, and self and self.”
From *Life 101* by Peter McWilliams

Many of these short essays in the church newsletter have to do with something we might apply to congregational life. The space I am given provides an opportunity to point some aspect of ministry, giving, outreach, or education that could have ramifi-

cations for us as a community of faith. This article is more about each of us individually than all of us collectively.

I recall the day I met with a couple prior to their wedding and we talked about what they thought the secret to a happy marriage might be. They had some good ideas and it seemed they were pretty much on target but there was something missing in their assessment. I know now, what I didn't know then that their ideas were wonderful theories but they lacked the expansiveness of inclusion; they were locked into themselves.

About that same time I was meeting with a woman whose husband had died suddenly concerning what should be said at the funeral. On the wall of the home was written the following words of wisdom: “What is love? Take a look at a rose. Is it possible for the rose to say, ‘I shall offer my fragrance to good people and withhold it from bad people?’ Or can you imagine a lamp that withholds its rays from a wicked person who seeks to walk in its light? It could only do that by ceasing to be a lamp. And observe how helplessly and indiscriminately a tree gives its shade to everyone, good and bad, young and old, high and low; to animals and humans and every living creature – even to the one who seeks to cut it down. So this is the first quality of love: its indiscriminate character. That is why we are exhorted to be like God, ‘who makes the sun to shine on good and bad alike and makes the rain to fall on saints and sinners alike; so we must be all goodness as God is all goodness.’ Contemplate in astonishment the sheer goodness of the rose, the lamp, the tree, for there we

have an image of what love is all about.” *The Last Meditations* Anthony De Mello.

February is a time to think about love; whom we love; how we love; and how far love goes beyond us. The measure of our happiness is dependent upon it. The depth of our faith is inspired by it. The quality of our accomplishment is increased as we find the capacity to live it.

The difference between goodness and greatness is in proportion to the ability to extend compassion and caring. Those who are moving toward greatness have come to realize that, in truth, there are no boundaries where love is concerned.

If we contemplate, in astonishment, the sheer goodness of the rose, the lamp, the tree, we will begin to understand the ultimate goal of the unconditional love of God. That's reason enough to believe in the Gospel and to be followers of the Christ.

**ASH
WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICE
FEBRUARY
25TH
AT
7:00 P.M.**

Membership Memos

Deaths:

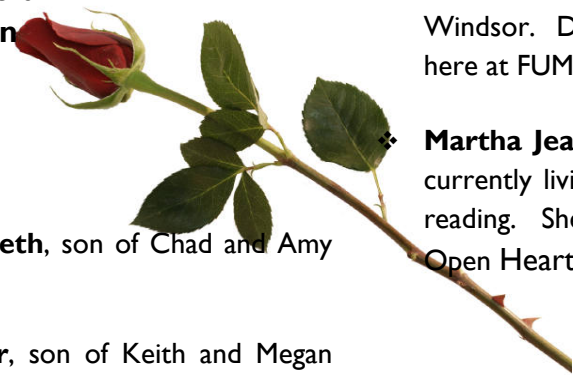
- † **Isabelle Judy Arnold**
- † **Maurice Albertson**

New Members:

- ❖ **Dick & Marilyn Wood** are retired and live in Windsor. Dick is active with several committees here at FUMC.
- ❖ **Martha Jean Hodges** comes from Texas. She is currently living in Loveland and enjoys travel and reading. She is a storyteller and is active in the Open Hearts and Disciple I class.

Baptism:

- ◆ **Henry Oliver Hoseth**, son of Chad and Amy Hoseth
- ◆ **Jake Daniel Fisher**, son of Keith and Megan Fisher and grandson of Tom & Melody Mistr



Altar Flowers and the Flower Ministry

Did you know you can sign up in the hallway by the church office to give flowers for the church altar?

There are a lot of Sundays

left open. If you choose to, you can donate the flowers to the flower ministry at the church. We redistribute the altar arrangement into several small vases and deliver

them to people who would benefit from the flowers. We have a great list of volunteers but we do not have the flowers.

Forgiveness is not an occasional act; it is a permanent attitude.
—Martin Luther King, Jr.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held **Tuesday, February 24th at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall.

Did you know that the word “shrove” comes from the word “shriven” which means “to dry up?” The night before the Lenten period, people celebrate with a

party or feasting before the period of denial. Our rendition of the celebration is a pancake supper. Come enjoy pancakes, games, prizes, and learn the history of Shrove Tuesday. For more information or to volunteer to help with the festivities, contact Jo Ann Belk @ 482-2436 or joannbelk@fcfumc.net

Upcoming 2009 Events @ FUMC

- FUMC @ CSU/Utah Men's Basketball Game.....Feb. 18, 6:00 PM
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake DinnerFeb. 24th, 6:00 PM
- Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?May 2nd, evening
- Garden TourJune
- All Church Picnic.....August 15 or 16
- 3 vs 3 Basketball Tournament.....September
- Trunk or TreatOctober 25th
- Chili Cook-offNovember

If you have questions or would like to help with any of these events, please contact Jo Ann Belk @ 482-2436 or joannbelk@fcfumc.net.

President's
Day
February
16th
Church
Closed

Preschool Registration Fall 2009

BEGINS February 10TH FOR FUMC CHURCH MEMBERS

It's time to start thinking about Pre-school Registration for Fall 2009. We will be offering three different morning classes for **three-year-olds**:

1. Tues./Thurs.
2. Mon./Wed.
3. Mon./Wed./Fri. mornings.

We will have classes for **four-year-olds**:

1. Mon., Wed., and Fri. morning
2. Mon., Wed., and Fri. afternoon

We are also offering for **four-year-olds**:

1. four mornings per week class

We invite you to visit our program. Please spread the word to your friends

and neighbors about this excellent preschool program! **FUMC members not currently enrolled in preschool will be able to register February 10th at**

9:00am. Open registration for the public will be February 11th. Persons may register after their designated day, but they will lose their priority status. Registration involves fil-

ing out a registration form and paying the \$50 non-refundable registration fee. If you have any questions or would like to visit this excellent program, please call the Preschool Director, Laura Lechtenberg 482-0343.

First United
Methodist Co-op



Preschool

New Stephen Ministers

Congratulations!



From left to right: Linda Ambrose, Bonny Thomas, Len Jones, Pat Willener (and Jackson), Leanne Jones

What brought them to Stephen Ministry and their experience with the training?

I believe that we see God's LOVE best through the caring hearts of God's people. In the darkest hour of my life, when in recovery from childhood sexual abuse, God was very much with me through the people God put in my path, who helped me cry and learn to heal. When I

moved to Fort Collins a year ago I asked God how best to use the deep compassion I have for hurting people. God directed me to the Stephen Ministry program here at First UMC. It has been an honor to be with these other amazing, caring

Christians throughout this special training and I look forward to the grand adventure of loving that God has in store for us all.

—Linda Ambrose

My wife and I were originally trained as a Stephen Ministers in the '80s but decided take the training again as a refresher. We discovered that the training has grown significantly in scope!

The dedicated Stephen Leaders and Ministers here at First UMC not only renewed our commitment; they helped form the core of many wonderful friendships in our new community! I consider myself very blessed to be part of this much needed ministry.

—Len Jones

The Stephen Ministry has always been very close to my heart, a true gift of God. For me, it is a chance to serve God by being His hands and heart to someone who is hurting. Our class was wonderful and was a real bonding experience with fellow trainees as well as the Stephen Ministry leadership. I look forward to serving!"

—Leanne Jones

Nothing can contain the love of God.

\$100 A Day for Expanding Our Ministries

Dec. 30 In celebration of our 60th wedding anniversary, given by **Lloyd and Marlyss Jostad**.

Jan. 2 Given in memory of **Grant Harris** on his 64th birthday, by the Harris family,

A Reinvigoration of the Love Feast

For our February unit meeting we will share an “agape meal” as the ancient Christians did, “with gladness and singleness of heart.” We will try to rekindle a tradition promoted by John Wesley to bring

people together to share their faith. Circle Sarah will prepare the meal and lead this grace-filled program, beginning at 11:20 a.m. on Thursday, February 12th in the Parlor. Circle Rebekah will greet

All women 6th Grade and up are welcome in UMW. Please join us!

The Executive Board will meet Thursday, February 5th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

Spiritual Retreat

The annual Spiritual Retreat for the United Methodist Women of the Rocky Mountain Conference will be held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, April 24-26, 2009. The theme this year is “Holy

Wholeness.” The Spiritual Director will be Linda Sperber, who will “nourish our souls through an interactive presentation and experiential activities... creating a balanced rhythm for living.” Worshipping with

400 other women in this beautiful location is always an amazing experience. You need not be a current member of UMW. Please watch the bulletin board for registration forms and information.

Circle Meetings for February

<u>Circle</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Abigail	Tues: 10 th & 24 th	7:00 p.m.	Parlor
Hannah	Weds: 11 th	7:00 p.m.	Conf. Room A
Kezia	Thurs: 26 th	9:30 a.m.	Home
Lois	Thurs: 26 th	9:30 a.m.	Village Commons
Mary	Thurs: 26 th	9:30 a.m.	Parlor
Rebekah	Thurs: 26 th	1:30 p.m.	Parlor
Sarah	Weds: 4 th & 18 th	9:30 a.m.	Parlor
Vashti	Tues: 24 th	1:30 p.m.	Parlor
T.U.F. (Teen)	Sun: 8 th	4:00 p.m.	Bride’s Room

Friendship depends on mutual care and a sense of trust. Old friends are as comfortable as our favorite pair of shoes. New ones are as exciting as the best of life’s adventures. And best of all, having friends gives us the privilege of being a friend.

Senior W

Notes from the Senior Council

If you need medical equipment, remember to check the Care Closet from which articles can be borrowed. There are many items available as shown below:

Ambulatory & Mobility Aids

- Child's crutches
- Adult med. and lg. Crutches
- Canes (wooden, adjustable)
- 4-legged canes
- Walkers (adjustable, with seats)
- Knee Walker for ankle/foot injuries
- Walker basket
- Extra walker extensions
- Extra walker wheels
- Wheelchairs
- Wheeled high stool

Bathroom Equipment

- Bathtub benches
- Bathtub grab rail
- Potty Chairs (can be used as bedside commode, shower seat or over toilet)
- Bed pan
- Urinals
- Disposable under pads
- Disposable briefs
- Colostomy supplies

Support/Braces, Etc

- Ace bandages—various sizes

- Ankle braces (air cast)
- Ankle splint
- Ankle support
- Rib splint
- Wrist support
- Shin splint compression sleeve
- Sling
- Jobst compression stockings (man's large)

Various Items

- Bed socks
- Hospital gowns
- Blood pressure monitor
- Cast cover
- Cervical traction set
- Chair pad/Cozy Cushion
- Foot spa
- Handheld massagers
- Humidifiers
- Oxygen cart/carrier
- Pedometer
- Pill boxes
- Pillow set (to sleep face down—eye surgery)
- Platform to raise chair
- Shower head-hand held attachment
- Stethoscope

Prayer is the tiny nerve that moves God's mighty hand.

Expressions of Gratitude

Dale and Jeanne Cavender expressed their gratitude for the Senior Sunday Celebration and for the flowers the church has delivered to them.

Thank you for your donations of coats and outerwear! We will be collecting winter wear this coming fall again...save any articles when doing your spring cleaning.

—Louise Metzner

Thank you to **all our office volunteers** (week days and on Sundays), we appreciate your time, happy dispositions, commitment to FUMC.

—Judy Warren and
Lynne Ellison

Resource Center

Hundreds of New Books! In the Library! Huzzah!

Wake the carillonneur! Sound the bells! The library has big news:

As you may have noticed, something's afoot in the library space. First, the old sofas disappeared, eventually to be replaced by comfy, durable library furniture. Then we acquired a handful of new books and a Resource Center Director (you can call me Librarian, or

Eddy. Hello!). Some smart folks wired the space for free Wi-Fi, and a generous donor gave us an excellent headstart on our reference collection.

Well, if our conspiring has gone unnoticed, then now, no longer! We've just acquired over 300 new titles and we're positively bursting to tell you all about them. Alas, space in the Carillon is short, so I'll limit myself to a sampling.

For Kids

We have:

1. Henry building a cabin in **Henry Builds a Cabin**
2. a duck riding a bike in **Duck Rides a Bike** and a pigeon driving a bus (!) in, you guessed it, **Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!**
3. You'll also find some classics includ-

ing **Harold and the Purple Crayon**, and **The Hungry Caterpillar**, as well as newer titles with great stories and visually stunning illustrations (**Kami and the Yaks**, **The Beetle Alphabet Book**).

Young Adults

Young adults, middle readers, will find great stories about interesting people. In **The Giver**, a young boy becomes the "Receiver of Memory" for a community trying to become more and more the same. A young girl plants a few lima beans in **Seedfolks** and begins a transformation in her neighborhood. If you like graphic novels, we have a few of

those too.



**Eddy
Hopkins,
Resource
Center
Director**

Fiction-readers despair not!

Gone are the days of deciding between romantic fiction with a religious veneer, or decent fiction celebrating the self in a godless, indifferent universe. The library believes in the existence of good fiction steeped in faith themes, and we're out to prove it! To wit: two of Frederick Buechener's modern classics, **Godric** and **The Book of**

Bebb; new writer Miriam Toews' **A Complicated Kindness**; Ron Hansen's recent novel **Exiles** about Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins; and Tim Winton's groundbreaking homage to Australia, **Cloudstreet**.

Poetry Enthusiasts & Faith Perspectives

Poetry enthusiasts, we did not forget you, nor shall we ever: Czeslaw Milosz, Andrew Hudgins, Denise Levertov, Paul Mariani, John Berryman, Wendell Berry, Maya Angelou ...

Looking for faith perspectives on contemporary issues? We spread the net wide and came up with several compelling works. Here's a sample:

1. On the ecological crisis: **The Body of God: An Ecological Theology; Scripture, Culture and Agriculture: Reading the Bible Through Agrarian Eyes; Responsible Dominion: A**

Christian Approach to Sustainable Development

2. On sexuality: **Sex God; Sexuality and the Christian God: Their Way into the Triune God**
3. On grief: **Being Well When We're Ill: Wholeness and Hope in Spite of Infirmary; Lament for a Son**
4. On race: **God and Race in American Politics; Race: A Theological Account**

*Your life helps
paint your
neighbor's
picture of God.*

There's More!

We snagged some classics -- **Pensees, The Imitation of Christ, Fear and Trembling** -- more than a few devotional tools -- **The Green Bible, Seek the Silences with Thomas Merton** -- a plethora of modern theological works -- Heschel's **The Sabbath**, Moltmann's **The Crucified God**, Brueggemann's **The Prophetic Imagination** -- and we couldn't forget our beloved John Wesley -- three volumes by foremost Wesley scholar and guest speaker here in March, Paul Chilcote.



call you to reading! Drop by the library whenever the church is open. If you want to come prepared, log on to fcf.scoolaid.net and check out our online catalog. Simply type your search term in the "Keyword" box on the screen.

When you do drop by, bring kids if you have them, brew a cup of joe, or hot chocolate...with our new hot-beverage-maker, pull down a book and settle into a long winter's read. We look forward to seeing you.

As the bells call us to worship, let this article

FUMC Budget vs. Actual

	Actual	Budget	Over (Under) Budget
Unrestricted balance at Jan. 1	\$ 10,205	\$ 9,443	\$ 762
Unrestricted Revenues			
Contributions	\$ 998,111	\$1,036,037	\$ (37,926)
Other Unrestricted Revenue	\$ 71,326	\$ 65,000	\$ 6,326
Total Unrestricted Revenue	\$ 1,069,437	\$1,101,037	\$ (31,600)
Expense			
Administrative Expense	\$ 102,743	\$ 92,700	\$ 10,043
Facilities Expense	\$ 120,146	\$ 27,300	\$ (7,154)
Payroll Expenses	\$ 618,677	\$ 630,000	\$ (11,323)
Program Expense	\$ 93,271	\$ 123,000	\$ (29,729)
Wider Missions Payments	\$ 100,525	\$ 111,400	\$ (10,875)
Loan Payments	\$ 26,080	\$ 26,080	\$ -
Total Expense	\$ 1,061,442	\$1,110,480	\$ (49,038)
Unrestricted Balance at Dec. 31	\$ 18,200	\$ -	\$ 18,200
Designated Gifts			
Program Donations	\$ 29,625		
Memorial Gifts	\$ 62,730		
Foundation Grants	\$ 15,321		
Facilities - Boiler Replacement	\$ 1,005		
Loan Principal Reduction	\$ 50,833		
Good Is Not Good Enough	\$ 50,000		
Emergency Assistance/Van/Other	\$ 9,645		
LLAMP	\$ 5,323		
Special Offerings and Donations	\$ 41,475		
Total Designated Gifts	\$ 265,957		

*We build up the
body with
nutrition and
exercise, but
how do we build
up the body of
Christ? Through
fellowship,
training and
service in love.
—A. Aronis*

Status of Church Debt

Some have asked where we stand on the reduction of our debt. At present we have a debt principal of approximately \$45,000. It is hoped that this can be sig-

nificantly reduced or even eliminated in 2009. Designated gifts for this purpose are always welcomed.

The miracle of giving is that giving makes miracles.
—Bishop Robert E. Goodrich

Stewardship Report for 2009 Campaign

As of this date, January 15, 2009, pledges to support the ministries of the church amount to approximately \$762,000 with additional pledges being received nearly

every day. We will continue to keep you informed.

Peaks Sub-District Classes

Three valuable learning and leading classes will be held on March 7—8 at Long's Peak UMC, Longmont. The 10-hour courses are open to **all** laity, and are sponsored by the Peaks Sub-district Leadership Team and Lay Speaking Ministries. They include:

1. **Reclaiming the “E” Word-Building a Faith-Sharing Congregation.** The task of the church is to make disciples, and the role of the congregation is primary. Participants will consider their church's “E” score, that is, welcoming, including, and making disciples, and consider a strategy for the congregation as evangelist.
2. **Lay Speakers Tell Stories.** This course will be a valuable learning tool for all who

wish to enhance their own verbal “word picture” skills, especially those who lead worship or occasionally fill in at the pulpit. Text for the course is *Dancing with Words*, written by Native American storyteller, Ray Buckley.

3. **Lay Speaking Ministries — Basic Course.** The introductory course in lay speaking ministries, focuses on leading, caring and communicating, and is designed for those who are called to serve in a speaking role, particularly during worship.

Additional course information and enrollment forms are available from Rae Batch, 970-224-0400 or by email at rmlbatch@aol.com. Prepayment and advance registration is required. Deadline is Saturday, February 21.

Making Meaningful Memories

Nancy Lattropp will be speaking on the above topic to the **Preserving Family History** group on **Monday, February 2 at 2 P.M.** at the church. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Jan Hamann has heard her speak and promises a truly enlightening experi-

ence covering various types of oral histories that will help us pass on values, skills, and experiences to enhance the lives of future generations. Nancy has her own consulting business called Operations, People and Solutions.

Camp Hope

Golden Cross Sunday is a national United Methodist offering for the support of the health and welfare ministries. In our Rocky Mountain Conference, this appeal is raised for donations and volunteerism for the ministry of Camp Hope at Buckhorn Camp.

For nearly 30 years Camp Hope has served the developmentally disabled population of Colorado by offering a week-long Christian based summer camp. For many of our campers this one week of camp is the highlight of the year. Last year Camp Hope was honored to be one of the first camps in Colorado to achieve State accreditation. This year, due to program cutbacks by other agencies, Camp Hope will be the only camp of its type on the Front Range. This tremendous responsibility is also an opportunity. Camp

Hope will now be able to reach out to an even larger population with Christian hospitality. Donations are greatly needed at this time to help us

expand this wonderful ministry. On February 15th, the RMC Executive Director of Camping Ministry and the Buckhorn Camp Manager, Gregg Kernes, will speak on the benefits of this ministry and

Pastor Joel Kershaw will relate his experiences with the Camp Hope campers he counseled. There will be a table in Fellowship Hall each Sunday in February to provide more information on Camp Hope at Buckhorn Camp. And on February 15th, Gregg will be available to answer questions on the camping ministry.



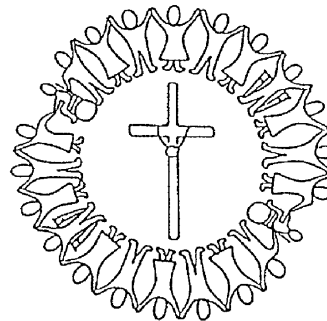
Win G.

Schendel

Financial Services and
Annuities

(970) 204-0703

(970) 206-9082



Guatemala Mission Trip Dinner

The LAMMP 2008 Guatemala Mission Trip Dinner will be held on **Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 6 pm** at FUMC in the Fellowship Hall. Tickets for this event are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (10 and under). They can be purchased at the Mission Kiosk on February 1, 8, 15 (Sundays). Members of the 2008 and 2007 Guatemala Work Teams will prepare and serve an **authentic Guatemalan “highlands meal”**.

Our 2008 team included nine persons from FUMC: Bob Cuomo, Gary and Emmalie

Conner, Jan Hamann, Jerry and Bonny Thomas, Mary Ann Henke, Rich Fisher, Susan Lindholm, four persons from Longs Peak UMC/Longmont, and one person from Virginia.

Our group went to Guatemala in October 2008 to help with constructing classrooms which will be used for educational activities for the Methodist pastors at the Methodist Camp in Lemoa, Guatemala where we stayed. The sponsoring group, Larimer Association of Methodist Mission Partners (**LAMMP**) serves the Body of Christ by

coordinating, promoting and fund raising for mission endeavors of regional United Methodist Churches in Colorado.

Our team is anxious to share our third world mission experiences with you. We will show our pictures and share stories of our experiences. We will also display items we brought from Guatemala. **Come and enjoy!**

Interfaith Task Force News

A recent free dental clinic sponsored by the Colorado Dental Association proved to be a very hard days work! In two days the volunteer dentists saw 1,432 patients and donated over \$1,150,688 of service. Many volunteers other than the dentists were needed to make this two day clinic so successful!

The first clinic was held in

Trinidad and the second here in Larimer county. They have not announced the area that they will set up clinic in 2009.

The Homeless Shelter and the Mission Kitchen fed record numbers of people during the summer months and are worried about what the impact of the economy will do to the numbers they will need to serve during the

cold winter months.

The holidays are over but the cold weather ahead will put these community agencies in great need of your dollars, donations and volunteer time. Our church has been very generous. Keep up the good work

Questions-JoAn Hopkins, cell phone 222-5925.

*Kind words
can be short
and easy to
speak, but
their echoes
are truly
endless.*

— Mother
Teresa

UMYF Schedule

February 1 Super Bowl Party at the Shaffers - Starting at 4:00 p.m.

February 8 Painting the Youth Basement – Starting at 12:00 noon

February 15... UMYF 6:00-8:00 p.m.

February 22... UMYF 6:00-8:00 p.m.

February 27... March 1: Youth Leadership Conference (No UMYF)

Contact Rev. Joel Kershaw for more details.

A Night of Illusion and Enlightenment

Step out for a night of illusion and enlightenment! **Steppin' Out**, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping youth who are stepping out of assistance programs, will be hosting a dinner fundraiser and magic show on **Thursday, February 26th at McCoy's Restaurant** in Ft. Collins. This will be an entertaining night for the whole family! The event starts at 6 p.m. and is \$75 per couple, \$40/ single, and \$15 per child with all pro-

ceeds helping youth exiting out-of-home placement right here in Northern Colorado. The price includes drinks, dinner, an entertaining magic show, and all contributions are tax deductible. Support young people in our community and discover how working together with youth can be magical! For reservations call Julie: 204-9589 or e-mail costarrs@comcast.net.

*If no one ever
took risks,
Michelangelo
would have
painted the
Sistine floor,
instead of the
ceiling.*

Ecumenical Faith and Film Series

Friday, February 6th at 7 p.m., in Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary @ FUMC **Faith and Film** will present the second forum on the UN Millennium Goals . Goals 2 and 3, achieving universal primary education and promoting gender equality and empowering women will be highlighted.

Film: *I Want to Go to School*, poignant stories of three young ladies in developing countries and their struggle to get an education. Facilitator: Christina Leitinger of Greg Mortenson's Central Asian Institute, Pennies for Peace project.

Learning for Life at FUMC

A Teaching and Learning Center

If you want to learn more about our denomination, join **Rev. Joel Kershaw** on **Sunday, February 1 at 10:45 a.m. in the Bride's Room** for a **Crash Course in Methodism**. Discover what makes Methodism unique, learn more about John Wesley, and deepen your understanding of what it means to be Methodist in the 21st century.

Valentine's Day is the perfect time to explore the essence of love. As best-selling author Gary Chapman says, "Love is the most important word in the English language – and the most confusing." Come to the Parlor to enjoy a delicious dinner at **5:30 p.m.** on **Saturday, February 14**, followed by **Rev. David Dalke** exploring the languages of love in "**What's Love Got to Do With It?**". Tickets are \$10 each and will be available at the Learning for Life table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings and in the office. Only 50 seats available.

Here's something for theatre lovers! On **Friday, February 20 at 8 p.m.**, we've reserved a block of seats to see *Lobby Hero* at Bas Bleu Theatre as part of our new **Theatre and Theology** program. The play deals with people attempting to do what is just within a society that thrives on injustice. After the performance, we'll have an opportunity to discuss the play with the director, cast, and **Rev. Charles Schuster**. Tickets are available at the Learning for Life table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings and in the office. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$14 for seniors, and \$10 for students.

**No One is rich
enough to do
without a
neighbor.**

The Revelation of John, a message of hope for troubled times, beginning **February 25, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.** Following up on classes led first by Joel Kershaw and then by Chuck Schuster, Ray Miller will continue the Wednesday noontime biblical studies during Lent on perhaps the most misunderstood book in the Bible, The Revelation of John. Ray has found this last book of the Bible to be a challenge that produces wonderful fruit to those who study it and grasp its unusual style. Unlike those who try to make this book a prediction of the future, it is more a message about where to find God in difficult times.

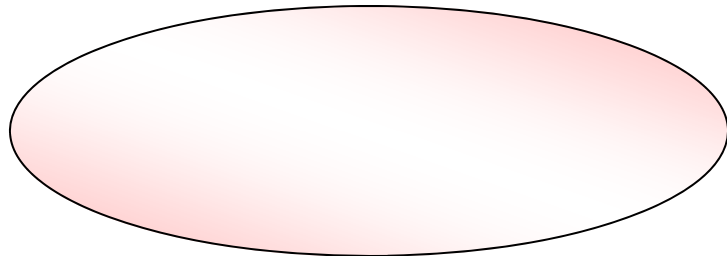
We're looking forward to welcoming **Dr. Paul Chilcote**, professor of historical theology and Wesleyan Studies, at Ashland Theological Seminary. A renowned Wesley scholar, Dr. Chilcote will present **Wesley, Women and Bearing the Gospel** on **Friday March 6 from 7 – 9 p.m. and Saturday March 7 from 8:30 a.m. - noon**. We'll look together at the holistic nature of the Wesleyan vision, the vigorous effort of women to live out this vision, and the rediscovery of a missional church paradigm with evangelism at its heart. This is a great opportunity to learn more about applied Wesleyan studies from a gifted scholar, author, and workshop leader.

First United Methodist Church

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Wellington UM Fellowship

Pastor Roshan Kalantar was presented a handwoven stole at Christmas Eve service.

Weaver, Katherine Tolbert, member of the Wellington UM Fellowship, enlisted other members to treadle and "throw the shuttle" on the loom in her basement studio.

A symbolic hands-on gesture, the stole has subtle colors of the church year as well as

the love of a "budding" congregation interwoven.



Retired ministers Rev. Mary Neil and Rev. Jim Cowell, continue to lead bible studies regularly. Charge Conference was Nov. 6 with Dr. Eric Smith, District Superintendent, presiding and guiding. See bulletin board at the east entrance for minutes and update. Wellington now has church leadership that includes staff parish, finance, church council, Christian education, worship fellowship, outreach and lay leader.

Rice Elementary School is the location for Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. WUMF served lunch on Teachers' Work Day as appreciation and as an outreach. Volunteering at Rice is being studied i.e. tutoring, adult monitoring and open gym staffing.

We wish warmest congratulations and continued success to FUMC's start-up church, its members and leadership, Roshan Kalantar and family.