



VOL. 55 DECEMBER NO. 12

Thoughts from Terilynn

SLOWLY - Prevent Christmas from becoming Chaos-mas

A Dennis the Menace cartoon shows Dennis playing in the midst of all his new Christmas toys and games. "I must be getting older," Dennis says to his visiting friend, Margaret. "I don't think I could stand Christmas oftener than once a month."

I can hear a faint echo of hundreds of adults throughout the Security-Fountain- Fort Carson area whispering a mantra: "Thank you, God! Christmas comes only once a year! Thank you, God..."

The Wonder of Christmas, that's what I want to celebrate! The Holy Spirit's nurturing peace shining through holiday lights reflecting colorful sparkles in fresh snow. The wonder of God's love in the sanctuary as the candles flicker and people sing Silent Night. Oh, yes! I'm ready for that kind of celebration. What I dread is the culture of chaos and commercialism that wears down my holiday spirit, stretches my last nerve and leaves behind an additional eight pounds on my physical frame.

CHAOS-MAS, the chaotic frenzy of holiday schedules, the shopping misadventure of festive mayhem and the temptation to binge large amounts of rich food. Oh yes, that's chaos-mas.

CHRISTMAS does not need to become an exercise in Chaos-mas. Few of us can escape the schedule, shopping, food and commitments. But we can focus on keeping the cultural chaos at bay. Here's one suggestion that might help.

SLOW DOWN! So simple! So obvious! So opposite to what cultural Christmas has become. Drive under the speed limit. Walk at a snail's pace. Give gift-giving and shopping decisions time to solidify. Take a week to gradually put up the Christmas tree. Cook slowly. Talk slowly. Breathe slowly. Sit still. Pray. Slowly.

We don't have to swear off Christmas to avoid Chaos-mas. We can still celebrate and not overdo the buying and eating and scheduling. In the midst of slowing down we can remember to focus on the wonder of God's gift in Christ.

Serving Christ is an adventure! *Terilynn*

Help Wanted

Are you looking for a place to serve the church? Don't have a lot of time? How about considering the communion steward position! This job requires that you purchase and prepare the communion elements. It takes about an hour and fifteen minutes once a month. During the service, you also present the elements and serve

those taking communion in their seats. If enough people are interested, you may not have to do this every month. Youth are encouraged to consider this position. Please notify Joyce Nicholson if you are interested.

Poinsettia Tree

Come see the decorated tree in Cooper Hall. Beginning December 7 and continuing through December 14, you're invited to take a few moments to stop by and complete a card in memory, honor or celebration of a loved one or event. Your card will be hung on the tree for all to enjoy! As in the past, a list of dedications will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. Altar Flower Committee

Write it Down Now

Get out your 2015 calendar and circle these dates right now: February 7 and March 7. It's amazing, isn't it, how quickly our calendars fill up; but you won't want to miss these two unique events.

On February 7, at First UMC of Castle Rock, from 1-3 p.m. you'll have the chance to learn of leadership opportunities through five specific service areas in the life of the church: trustees, SPRC, treasurer/finance, lay leader, and missions. Open to everyone—those serving now, those new to committees, and those who are simply curious.

Exactly one month later, on March 7, the Mile High Pikes Peak District Conference for laity and clergy alike will be from 8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. at Parker UMC. The keynote speaker will be Peter Sawtell, a man known for his environmental messages seen through the light of Christian perspective. A United Church of Christ clergyman, he is also director of Eco-Justice Ministries and lives in the Denver area. There will also be breakout sessions offered on a variety of topics. Always good.

Those of you who have attended the district conference the past three years remember how worthwhile it has been, and this year's program and breakout sessions promise to live up to that tradition.

Watch for more information and registration forms for both of these opportunities in the January newsletter; but right now, put both of them on your calendar. *Mary Ann Tabor*

Super Saturday

Do you need a little Christmas shopping time, or just quiet time, without your kids this Holiday season? If so, bring your kids by the church on Saturday Dec. 6th from 11:30am to 1:30pm for a fun time making crafts. We will even feed them for you. Contact Shirley Greener at 382-5841 if you need any more information.

**"I heard the bells on Christmas Day,
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men." –
Henry W. Longfellow**



Around here, you don't just hear the bells on Christmas Day, you can hear them all year long. Good Shepherd Ringers has hit the ground ringing since August. This group works hard but still manages to have fun. They

meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. and play at least once a month as part of Sunday worship. It ranges in abilities from the beginner to the advanced and is open to anyone even if they can't read music. We practice and perform with anywhere from 10 – 12 people. This group has also had trios and quartets perform in the past as well as full ensemble music. Look for us again on Christmas Eve at the late service. Or if you feel up to ringing with some ding-a-lings, come join us on Wednesdays.

2015 Altar Flower Calendar

The 2015 altar flower calendar is now available. We invite you to sign up for your special dates in memory or celebration of special events and loved ones.

More Opportunities to Share with Others

The Christmas Eve offering at Good Shepherd is another opportunity to share beyond our local church. This year the Mission Committee is planning to share the offering between PARTNERS IN HOUSING and our Covenant Mission Partner in Clinton, Oklahoma, DONNA PEWO, who is serving as a Church and Community Worker with youth and children of Cherokee—Arapaho Tribes.

Ms. Pewo visited our church in October and we learned of her dedication to these children, many of whom are poor, and are surrounded by substance abuse or problems at school. The children meet with her one afternoon a week after school and share a healthy snack. She listens to what the children want to share and many come from broken or single-parent homes or have a parent incarcerated. The Community Center is a place of refuge for them. YOUTH meet one night a week, sometimes to assist with homework, and to continue their Christian education.

The youth she works with know that Native Americans have worshiped the Creator in their own ways and traditions. In today's society, Native Spirituality and Christian spirituality can blend together. This spring, her youth are planning to visit the Providence United Methodist Church of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. who have sent mission teams to Clinton over several summers.

They provided the new playground equipment shown on the Mission Board about Clinton. This mission - minded church is pastored by Rev. Jacob Armstrong, author of the study book, TREASURE. Your Christmas Eve offering will provide support for youth and children who are being served by DONNA PEWO in mission at Clinton, OK. Support for a local agency, PARTNERS IN HOUSING, will be part of our Christmas offering.

Since 1991, PIH has helped 1000 families in the Colorado Springs area overcome homelessness and move to stable housing. They operate locally and provide families up to a year of housing, case management, life skills training and budget counseling to help families learn critical skills for independence. With hard work and determination, clients in the program (called Partners) find employment, continue their education, and increase their income. Partners are succeeding at a rate of 77% and last year, 367 people received services and 219 of them were children.

Please plan to support this Program by giving homeless families a "hand up" to transform their lives.

Everybody Loves Goodies



Come and stock up on Santa's favorite treat at the UMW cookie walk and goodie sale on December 14 in Cooper Hall right after worship services. Grandma's never-fail fudge, red-sprinkled sugary shapes, chocolate-dipped pretzels, and icing-decorated treats that have been baked every Christmas for generations will all be offered for your holiday enjoyment.

Pick out the ones your family enjoys, and remember also that home-baked goods make welcome gifts. See you on December 14. Your sweet tooth will be happy. *Mary Ann Tabor*

December Worship Schedule

- December 7 **ADVENT II – EMMANUEL=GOD WITH US: *The Unique Son***
Matthew 1:18-25
- December 14 **ADVENT III – The Chancel Choir Cantata, Children's Moments and Noisy Offering**
- December 24 **CHRISTMAS EVE – EMMANUEL=GOD WITH US: *The Choice***
Philippians 2:1-11
- December 28 **Terilynn Russ, Jennifer Montgomery, Julie Seibert on Vacation**

Lay Leader Note

Yesterday I met a friend whom I had met previously while going through cardiac rehab. It was wonderful seeing him again and to renew old stories about rehab and the ups and downs of those hours. This gentleman's name is Patrick Hettle and he was attending the memorial service for Louise Fitzgerald. What is so unusual about Patrick is that he was a volunteer worker at the cardiac rehab and became friends with everyone who attended the sessions. In addition, Patrick gladly shared his own experiences about cardiac rehab with all of us. Patrick has undergone two heart transplants, the first one in April 2003 and the second one in February 2012. Along with those traumatic surgeries, he also has had numerous other cardiac procedures.

What an inspiration to all who have had cardiac concerns throughout the years. In my conversation with Patrick yesterday he said to me in parting, "At first I said "WHY ME"?? Then a second question came to him, "WHY NOT ME"???

Could we not all learn from that?? Isn't that a question we could all ask ourselves when things get tough and the road seems long and narrow?

God's Blessings to all. I will be retiring from being one of your Lay Leaders beginning in January 2015 and Rob Rohren will be assuming the position. I will accept the position of Chairman of Church Council and prayerfully serve you all in that capacity next year. I might even write a Note from time to time. Thanks so very much for

the honor and privilege of serving you all for several years. Blessings and God Bless. *Dick Gilham*

November Budget Report

Weekly

Contributions	11/2 \$	8,872.00
	11/9 \$	3,190.00
	11/17\$	3,062.00
	11/23\$	2,502.00

Total Giving

October	\$	17,417.00
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Monthly Income

Needed	\$	22,837.00
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Under

\$	5,420.00
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Total Needed January thru December

\$	274,044.00
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2014 Received January-November 23

\$	179,790.00
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Memorial Anniversaries for December

Dorothy Kashner	12/6/63
Vernon Ritter	12/9/68
Leonard Peters	12/23/71
Martin Nielson	12/17/73
Rosa Diggs	12/21/73/
Robert Carter	12/23/75
Esther Marcy	12/2/78
Annabelle McClintock	12/22/83
Lois Thomas	12/5/84
Darlyne Payton	12/1/87
Trula Eaks	12/9/87
Charles Leaf, Jr.	12/2/90
John Millar	12/28/93
Charles Speirs	12/11/96
Alfred Hale	12/5/02
Dorothy Orvis	12/29/02
Alta Cunningham	12/20/03
Jim Myers	12/25/04
Thelma Kilgore	12/30/06

Prayer Concerns

Long Term Prayer Concerns

The Heather Dillard Family, Maynard Fullington, Rhonda Harrington, Mollie Harris, Candy Hatton, The Brendan Hogan Family, Kayla Hogan, Debbie Krause, Shirley Lossing, Jean Martell, Tomas and Helen Negrette, Donna Neumemacher, Letha Phillips, Marketa Protzy, Fred Shaw, Don Shelstad, Dewey Staatz

Short Term Prayer Concerns

The Michelle Beckman Family, The Cinkusky Family, Kathy West and Family, James Johnson, The Betty Quinn Family, Jenny Mae Beal, Tony Schmitt, Becky Hanson, Al Bossley, Lin Eno, Donna O'Donnell, The Joyce Gaither Family, David Moore, Chad Andrews, Jeremy Pettis, The Joyce Grauberger Family, The People of Hawaii, Jason Coahran, Mickey Tabor, The King Reul Family, Jill MacInnes, Amber McCutchen and Family, Darrel and

Mary Moberly, The Francisco Family, Phillip Buchanan, Don and Paula Scott, The Louise Fitzgerald Family, The Lee Woosley Family, Brad Thacker, Lorraine Helmski, Mark vanTuil, Mary vanTuil, Ashley and Josh Abercronbie, The Aunt Joannie Family

GSUMC Loved Ones

The Shirley Lossing Family, The Dale Littlefield Family, The Barbara Lewis Family, The Delton Ledebouer Family

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Virginia Street	1
Terry Clayton	4
Dan Reimer	5
Phylcia Fields	6
Erin Stock	9
Shelby Randsell	10
Kim Davis	11
Ken Vossler	11
Belinda Jensen	15
Lori Lang	15
Melba Williams	16
Dewey and Gladys Staatz	16
Rena Emrick	18
Samantha Montmeny	22
Renee Young	23
Betty Riley	25
Joyce Nicholson	26
Rob and Sherri Rohren	27
Stephanie Krick	30

Catholic Heart Attack

After suffering a heart attack and having quadruple bypass surgery, a man woke up to find himself in a Catholic hospital with nuns taking care of him. As they nursed him back to health, one of the nuns asked him if he had health insurance.

"No," he replied, "No health insurance."

"Do you have any money in the bank?" asked the nun.

"No. No money in the bank."

The nun asked, "Do you have any relatives you could ask for help?"

The man replied, "I only have a spinster sister, who is a nun."

At this the nun became irritated. "Nuns are not spinsters. Nuns are married to God!"

"OK, then," said the man. "Send the bill to my brother-in-law."

First United Methodist Church

Magnificat Concert, Sunday, December 7 at 3:00 p.m. Music of John Rutter, Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers and Orchestra, James Steven Harter, Conductor. Tickets are \$10. First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada, 471-8522 – www.fumc-cs.org

Widefield Community Center

9th Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration, Tuesday, December 2 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:0 p.m. Join them for the festivities! Crafts for the kids, holiday photo booth, Santa Claus, hayrides, holiday shopping, caroling, cookie and hot drinks, food vendors. Donate and be entered for a chance to win! Donate non-perishable food items or gently used coats at the Widefield Community Center, November 1 through December 2, and get a ticket to place into the drawing for gift certificates from the WCC. Winning numbers will be posted weekly on their Facebook page

(www.facebook.com/WidefieldCommunityCenter

throughout the month of November and on December 3. The donated food will be distributed to families in need throughout Widefield School District 3. The coats will be distributed locally through "Warming Communities...One Coat at a Time." Widefield Community Center, 705 Aspen Drive, Colorado Springs. Cc.wsd3.org, 391-3515.

Christmas Angels

The Christmas Angel board is ready in Cooper Hall! Please have a look, make your selection, and be sure to write the Angel number you choose along with your name and phone number on the list. This helps us to be able to help you in case the dog eats your angel slip or if it just disappears. It also helps us if we are missing a gift on Saturday morning, December 13 when we are sorting the gifts into the family bags. Thank you!

All Can Help

Please save Campbell's soup labels, and Box Tops for Education from General Mills. Labels go in the big soup can on the west side of the Narthex and we thank Beverly Weinert who processes them to mail to Mc Curdy Ministries. There they become needed school and craft supplies.

Thank You

Thanks to all who helped supply stuffing and beans to the Fountain Valley CARES for 35 families. Boxes were packed and given out on Tuesday, November 25. Helping with organizing the baskets were Jerri and Norm Nix; Carol Teal, Dorothy Thompson and Mary Humphreys. Please continue to remember emergency food needs during the holidays and fill up the Big Grocery Cart: Needs: Mac & cheese boxes, canned meals such as chili, canned fruit, tuna, empty egg cartons, NO plastic grocery bags.

January 2015 Newsletter

We will no longer mail our monthly newsletters. You can find them on the website, www.gsumc-cs.org, at the welcome center, or if you would like them e-mailed, please make sure the office has your email address.

Staff

- Ministers.....Members of the congregation
- Senior Pastor.....Pastor Terilynn Russ
- Office Manager.....Loraine Scoman
- Treasurer.....Juli Gill
- Director of Music
- Ministries.....Jennifer Montgomery
- Accompanist.....Julie Seibert
- Nursery Attendants.....Marjorie vanTuil
Amidon Schar

Lay Leaders.....Dick Gilham
Shirley Greener
MaryAnn Tabor

Head Usher.....Rob Rohren

Address: 1201 Leta Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80911,

Phone: (719) 392-5782,

E-Mail: Office@gsumc-cs.org

Web Page: www.gsumc-cs.org.

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

In an Emergency, After Hours, please call Pastor Terilynn Russ at (719) 469-9929

Service Time

Sunday Morning.....9:30 am

Good Shepherd

United Methodist Church

1201 Leta Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80911

Return Service Requested

Time Value

The Core Values of This Ministry

Worship Seeking God First

Discipline Growing in Faith

Service Serving in the World

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church