

CHIMES

February 2017

HOPE for Romania

There is much “HOPE” for Romania!

Romania’s first generation of high school students who have not grown up under the shadow of communism is coming of age! Romania is still struggling to get on its feet from the damage of their history. Their “FAITH in God” and belief in education are the beginning steps in this hope and rebuilding.

How does the Rockland Community give hope to this generation of families in Romania? How can we count the ways? Mother Theresa says, “I do what I can, where I am, with what I have.”

Rockland’s history with Romania began with the work of Kitty and Bob Ehret, World Vision Romania and the village of Urisor.

World Vision calls this history process...community relationship building (trust), mobilization, empowerment and authorship as well as “SIGNS from God” leading towards peaceful relationships with God, people and the environment.

Since 2007, Rockland congregation, partnering with World Vision Romania in Cluj County, has sponsored over 100 students from poor rural villages to attend High School in distant towns and cities. Many of the kids have graduated and gone on to college, trade school or employment. All of which required a high school diploma.

James Fry, director of Mean Street, traveled to Romania as spiritual leader for the mission trip several years ago. He spoke of how he was aware of God’s presence and direction during the visit in Cluj at St. Mary’s adult daycare, Vacation Bible School (VBS), with leaders of village communities. Rockland Church and the Romanian Orthodox Church worked together as partners with God through the beginning of a Bible study class in Urisor.

Rockland youth have traveled to Romania and have provided leadership for VBS and renovations for homes and a Romanian mission team have come to Rockland and experienced community outreach and caring, VBS and Colorado host family hospitality. This trust continues to build as a sign of God’s work.

A special THANK YOU to all the past, present and future donors to Romania from the Romania Task Force.

God is working in special and wonderful ways in Romania.

-Roseann Stiblo-Haave and Bob Ehret

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Mean Street Celebrates with Rockland

Christmas on Colfax was an amazing event and many of the Rockland congregation stepped up to help to make this event a success. More than 40 Rocklanders stepped out in faith and came to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. We had a great time serving the homeless and working poor at Christmas on Colfax.

Guests were welcomed outside with fresh popcorn and hot chocolate. Inside they were entertained with *The Magic of Christmas*, a fabulous magic show, by Mel La Mar and some beautiful music. Mel does an incredible job of weaving the gospel into his show and nearly 100 guests made a decision to accept Christ as their Savior!

From there they enjoyed a meal of smoked turkey donated by The Big Kahuna BBQ. Pattie Stermole managed the toy room and Kyle Knight, Pastor Jim and Pastor Ed brought down a team of 20 youth to serve in the toy room and deliver gifts to the children.

All children in attendance were given gifts with special raffle prizes of homemade wagons and cradles with quilts at each seating. Once they were done with their meal they were able to get a family photo and last but not least, a carriage ride with Clydesdale horses!

The families were very thankful for all they received. The children's faces lit up as Mel La Mar pulled a live rabbit out of his hat and several of the adult guests were in tears following the meaningful program. One child was heard saying as he left, "MOM, THIS WAS THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE!" Thank you so much for all of you who volunteered and so generously donated food and gifts for the event. Rockland donated more than 30 boxes full of toys and the Rockland youth wrapped those gifts for the children. It is great to see what God can do through His people!

-Suzanne Wilson, Mean Street

Tanzania

The SOURCE and POWER of Education

Education is highly valued in Tanzania. Unfortunately, it is not available to all on an equal basis. For the orphaned and marginalized, a good education is often out of reach. Rockland-sponsored students know the TRUE SOURCE of their opportunity and the POWER it has to impact their future. These students offer Praise to God and Thanksgiving to their sponsors.

RIZIKI I wish to tell you about the good life that I want because education is everything to our life. This can help me to stay free and happy without other problems. I am looking forward to my life because of different challenges that make me have courage. You are encouraging me to be an excellent teacher. I have the opportunity to really impact lives of children. Education is their opportunity to lift out of poverty.

JUDITH I thank God for making you able to help me. "Education is the most powerful thing that you can use to change the world." That is why I thank you for helping me to get education.

ELIFARAJA My heart has a lot of thanks to God because now I am going to start my college studies. It was a long period of time that I lost hope. I was asking God every day about my studies. But God is not a person who can lie to us. He has given good answers to us. I was discouraged since I was still staying at home, but now we are to make a joyful noise to the Lord, because of his answers. There is no God like our God. Rockland Church, you are among the people who support God's work as

you help the young girls of Africa, especially me. The time I lost the hope you were near me to make me comfortable. Thanks a lot, you have helped and continue helping me to be an educated girl. You are the ones who make me to be seen in our society. You are the roots of my life to grow that I can eat the fruits later. Our prayers will make us close. I give you this word of God: Psalm 91 "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

FURAHINI My grades have been rising and I am promising you that I will study hard in order to perform well in my exams and to make sure that my parents and Rockland Church are happy with me. The Bible says, "Keep hold of instruction, do not let go, guard her for she is your life."

DORIS The aim of writing this letter is to thank you and Rockland Church group for all good that you did for me and assisting me in another step toward a diploma education. I am so happy and blessed to have good people who are always remembering to pray for me and encourage me in difficult situations of continuing my education. May God bless you for your kindness.

UPENDO I thank God that when we did the qualifying exams I am passing. I promise you that I will do my best and God will do the rest and finally I will achieve my goals. I know that you will be proud of me.

JOYCE Form four candidate's class is not easy but I know God is there for me and I will at the end succeed, knowing I am aiming to be "somebody" for future. Keep on praying for us so that we have sweet fruits and not bitter fruits. Other students and I appreciate what you are doing for us. May the Almighty God bless you for that. Right now I am being empowered but later on I want to be the one empowering.



Happy New Year from Loaves and Fishes!!

Loaves & Fishes
Serving Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties

With the help of the Rockland Congregation we were able to make many people merry in our ministry here in Idaho Springs. Thanksgiving brought more than 185 families to our doors in the week prior to the holiday and all left with a full basket of traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

Christmas came quickly after and we had another 150 families take part in our Christmas dinner basket give away. We also were able to provide Christmas presents for almost 40 families with young children keeping alive the spirit of Santa Claus!!

With the ongoing support, both financially and through countless volunteer hours, the Rockland congregation accomplishes the most important mission of the holiday season and throughout the year – keeping Christ present in all we do. Thanks you from all of us at Loaves and Fishes!!!!

-Patrick Delaney, Executive Director, Loaves and Fishes

Following in HIS Footsteps....



We have all heard the stories of Jesus's life, ministry and passion for years.....come "see" them by walking in Jesus' footsteps. Some of the women who have traveled to the Holy Land will share their journey by sharing their photos, videos, and collected items intertwined with Scripture. See all of the sites believed to be where Jesus was born, performed miracles, and suffered and died as they have been preserved for us.

Tuesday, April 4 at 6:00pm

RSVP required Cost \$10

Sign up in Fellowship Hall during March
or email: nancy.judge@icloud.com

We will begin the night in Fellowship Hall with appetizers of what the travelers ate while we peruse pictures and souvenirs from the Holy Land. We will continue with an inspiring presentation in the Sanctuary.

Is this you?

- Rockland is a caring church and we would like to expand this outreach to our church families that are hospitalized, in skilled nursing care or confined to their homes. If you are a compassionate, caring person and would like to serve this community, we invite you to contact Linda Mensching, Congregational Care at LMensching@Rockland.Church or 303-526-0668 ext. 203. We have developed guidelines for the visits and will make sure you are well equipped.
- We are looking for individuals, couples and families who are interested in answering basic questions about Rockland and welcoming our new comers Sunday mornings before informational/training day for our volunteers. If you are interested in being a volunteer please contact Polly Lownsberry, Office Administrator at PLownsberry@Rockland.Church.
- We are looking for people who are interested in being in a Sunday rotation to help behind the booth with audio and/or video. Contact Chuck Banning at charlesbanning@gmail.com.

Save the Dates!



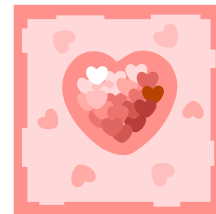
VBS 2017: June 19-23

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Age 3 thru 5th Grade

Valentine Brunch

The annual Valentine Brunch for the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team is scheduled for **Monday, February 8**. Please join us in **Fellowship Hall from 10:00am until 1:00 pm**.



Bring your knitting, a dish to share, and your loving hearts.

For more information contact
[Liz Hawkis-ephawk123@gmail.com](mailto:LizHawkis-ephawk123@gmail.com)

Masthead-The Chimes

**Our goal is to inform, inspire and
connect the people to the community of
Rockland church**

All articles will be published and/or edited at the discretion of the editor and the staff of Rockland Community Church. Questions? Call Shirley Johnson 303-670-0520

Editor: Shirley Johnson

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Jim Gribnitz, Lead Pastor, Ed Lange, Associate Pastor



Empire

Thanks to Rockland and other volunteers, construction of one home in Empire is now completed and doors, cabinets, flooring and interior trim are being done in our second home!

Echo Hills

Our home in Echo Hills is under way, with the floor trusses and subfloor being completed. Two of the four exterior walls are now up!

Volunteer!

If you' like to help, it's easy to sign up for any Build Days - volunteers will be needed on Wednesdays and Saturdays in Echo Hills, and Thursdays and Fridays in Empire! Visit the Blue Spruce website for more information: www.bluesprucehabitat.org. To sign up to volunteer registration site at or <http://bluespruce.volunteerhub.com>. Men, women and youth 16 years and older are welcome! No experience is necessary...our on-site experts will guide you! We hope you'll join us. Questions?

Contact Dusty Dodge at 303-909-7565.

Rockland Men "Saturday Service" Event

We had a handsome crew of Rockland men that provided oil changes and vehicle inspections on November 17 for about 30 single mothers and widows in need... services that they often can't afford. The next service day took place on November 19!

It's only a half day commitment from 7:30 am until 12:30 pm "Hands Of The Carpenter" is a faith-based ministry at Hands Automotive in Lakewood. No experience is necessary! These events take place on the third Saturday of every other month.

Our next service event will take place on January 21

Please consider joining us in this important ministry!

Questions? Contact Dusty Dodge at 303-909-7565 for information and to sign up.



Children's Ministry Honors our KidzLife Volunteers...



Here they come! Thirty or more kids, ages three through 5th grade dash through the doors on Wednesday nights, warmly greeted by an amazing group of dedicated volunteers. These individuals, adults and teen students, share Jesus and God's Word with our kids in a number of ways. Some teach the lesson, some lead small group activities, some listen and encourage the kids as they recite the weekly Bible verse, and others lead games or focus their time building relationships.

If you were to slip in to take a peak, this is what you might see: two or three of our youth students dressed as Bible Characters acting out a Bible story for our BigKidz (preschool and 5 year old kids). In our Kindergarten through 2nd Grade small group you would find the leaders taking the time to help each child locate the Bible verse so they can all follow along as they read. And in the 3rd through 5th Grade small group you would hear their leaders encourage them as they wrestle with questions and thoughts on how to apply the lesson or Bible verse to everyday life.

We are blessed to have these individuals involved: Hunter Aldrich, Mollie Beach, Angel Boe, Julie Brodsky, Meredith Buchholz, Hannah Gribnitz, Nikki Gribnitz, Liz Hawkins, Bob Jacobsen, Monica Neal, Hollis Politte and Kim Wolniak. They are touching lives, spreading God's Word and pouring the love of Jesus into our youngest set at Rockland. They are carrying out Rockland's vision of *Connecting all Generations to Jesus!*

Annual “Etiquette” Dinner with Mentors at The Briarwood.

In December, around Christmas time, the Rock House hosts

Mentors with their Mentees to a Holiday Celebration dinner to a very upscale restaurant to teach the life skill “Etiquette.” None of these young peoples have ever had a “dress-up-dinner” where manners matter. They don’t even know what the word etiquette means. As we help prepare them for success in life, it is important to know about hygiene, how to dress and act in different social situations.

This is a fun way to celebrate the Mentor program and teach a life skill of being polite and polished. This prepares the students for prom, interviews for jobs, gives students confidence and much more. In preparation for the event, many of the youth went to the Senior Resource Center Re-sale shop to buy their fancy clothes. For many of the girls, this was their first dress. Then the Rock House was busy as those that didn’t have showers at home, cleaned up at the Rock House. Tooth paste and brushes were brought out with shampoo, conditioner, deodorant and cologne. We even had a chance to teach the girls how to walk and sit like ladies. The way they were walking in dresses was pretty scary at first. Cheryl and Lindsey were busy as hair stylist and the result was a great looking group of young people ready to go out to a fine dinner. The next step was the etiquette dinner review designed by Jan Thulin, a Rockland member, preparing them for what was to come.



This year, the Briarwood graciously donated one-half of the value of each meal and hosted a private dining experience for the Rock House, complete with private menu.

They learned how to use the correct fork and glass for the correct purpose, to put their napkin in their laps, knowing where their glasses and bread plates should be, eating with their mouths shut and not starting till all had their food. All worked on polite and respectful conversation and good behavior in such an establishment. We were so proud of all the students!! They enjoyed it immensely, most had no idea eating could be more than just food but atmosphere, music, and wonderful conversation made it a beautiful memory for life. Jan Thulin, one of Rockland members, started this tradition many years ago. We have seen such a success from this outing, Rock House tries to do it every year as it is a life changer in behavior. It motivates students to appreciate and like more than what they have known.



This then motivates them to do better in school to get better jobs etc. We strive to give students a reason to do better in life.

For some of these students it was the first time to get clean and dressed up.

They all felt so good about themselves because they knew what to expect, and how to behave. It is a lot of fun when you know what you’re doing.

A great time was had by ALL !! What we all take for granted at this time of year, means so much to these kids – who would never have this kind of experience without the Rock House. And the Rock House could not afford to pay for such a dinner without the support of the Rockland Church generosity.



The Rock House needs mentors. Make a lifelong difference in one of these kid’s lives.

If the Father is leading your heart in this direction please contact our Executive Director Cheryl Holmberg at ccroc-house@gmail.com or Ann Hargrove (President of the Board and Rockland Member) at andehargrove@gmail.com with your questions.

We are very grateful for the support Rockland has given the Rock House over the years and look forward to working together in the future to help our community.

-Howard Hargrove



Overheard by the Church Mouse

...everybody has a boat upon the ocean but not everyone is sailing out to sea.

Dickens Christmas Luncheon –. It was truly a lovely holiday celebration. However, the invitation was sent out and included “please RSVP”. It didn’t work with everyone. The explanation of RSVP is French - *repondez s’il vous plait* or PLEASE REPLY!!! And so the Dickens Christmas Luncheon had 75 people RSVP and 88 people showed up. Those in charge of the luncheon were flummoxed, discombobulated, dumfounded that 15 people did not RSVP which caused disarray and confusion when feeding and entertaining so many. Alas, when you are asked to RSVP PLEASE do!

There was an upside to this picture after feeding everyone there were enough place settings and food left over to take to Loaves and Fishes in Idaho Springs to serve a warm and delicious meal to their clientele.

...don’t wait for everything to be perfect before you decide to enjoy your life.

Jean Hargis’ friends gathered together to celebrate her life in an atmosphere of love and memories. On January 3 fourteen gathered for lunch to remember our dear friend and longtime Rockland member, Jean Hargis who died at age 97 on December 16, 2016. She and her husband, Joe, joined Rockland Church in 1982 – 35 years ago. Over the years Jean touched many lives with her kindness, caring and sense of humor.

She was instrumental in starting Rockland’s prayer chain, active in adult Bible studies, women’s retreats and went on three Rockland international trips led by Ken Williams. The photo shown here was taken of her waving goodbye to some of us after a luncheon we attended last summer. At this memorial luncheon each attendees shared how they met Jean and a fond memory of her. Their stories were representative of all aspects of her personality from spitfire to prayer companion. Among those sharing memories was Jean’s friend Bonnie who has known Jean since she was 13. Bonnie’s comments on their time together affirmed that when the two of them were together, you could count on laughter and trouble! Always a spirited soul, Jean is likely in heaven dancing with her dear Joe.



...a great attitude becomes a great mood, which becomes a great day, which becomes a great year, which becomes a great life.

Words of comfort: When experiencing a life-threatening illness the Rockland congregant responds amazingly, overwhelming: so many cards, calls, emails, well wishes, offers to help feed and run errands and certainly many prayers. One of our Rocklanders described that watching how much you re loved is better than attending your own funeral. You see NOW how many people care. Even when facing life-changing events at Rockland, you are not alone.

...I am too optimistic to be fearful. Too positive to be doubtful. And too determined to be defeated.



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DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE RUSH

For God So Loved the World,

That He Gave His Only Begotten Son,

That Whoever Believes in Him Should Not Perish,

But Have Eternal Life.

John 3:16

Current resident or



An Evening to Remember
Hearts for Romania
Bring Your Valentine
Mt. Vernon Country Club
on Lookout Mountain
Saturday, February 11, 2017 6:00pm
Rockland Community Church
Romantic Dinner & Dance
\$75 per Attendee
(\$35 is Tax Deductible)
To benefit our continuing
Rockland-Romania Outreach
Saturday, February 11th @ 6:00pm
www.blacktie-colorado.com/rsvp Mount Vernon Country Club
Enter Code: *Rockland* 24933 Clubhouse Circle
Golden, CO 80401
RSVP by February 1st  I-70 West to Exit 254 Genesee Park
North through Mt. Vernon CC gate
Right 1.3 miles, clubhouse on left

February is ROMANIA MONTH at Rockland

OUR HEARTS SERVE ROMANIA

The "Dollar Program" during the Offertory benefits the Rockland Romania Scholarship program.

The Hearts for Romania Dinner/Dance on **Saturday, February 11** is the annual fundraiser for the Romanian Mission.

Plan to bring your Valentine to Mount Vernon Country Club for a memorable evening and support high school students in need.

Enticing Live Auction items include:

"Romanian Rhapsody Gourmet Dinner & Concert"

(Private gourmet dinner for ten with a private piano concert from Bogdan Ota himself!)

"A Summer Night Under the Stars"

(Summer BBQ buffet for 12, including croquet, bonfire and Lazer celestial star/planet/galaxy presentation)

"Jazz, Jam Pub-Fest"

(Fun evening for ten people of hors d'oeuvres, libations and music by well-known musicians)

"4th of July Bocci Ball, BBQ and Beer"

(This says it all - What a way to celebrate the 4th with 25 of your closest friends!)