

# Missions & Outreach Chimes

September 2017

## Rockland Youth Mission Trips

### Middle School Mission Trip to Loveland, CO

For just under a week a group of our middle school students and adult leaders served the community of Loveland Colorado! It was an absolutely amazing week full of fun, laughter, hard work, friendships, and the Lord working in all of our lives in miraculous ways!

Our Rockland group was split up during the week into smaller serving crews where we had the opportunities to serve in different locations and pour ourselves into different ministries and organizations across Loveland. One of our groups worked at the OUR Center of Loveland where they sorted clothes for a thrift store and served meals to those in need and hungry. Another group worked at the Boys and Girls Club where they cleaned, pulled weeds and performed various chores that blessed the Boys and Girls Club tremendously! A couple of our groups worked on a farm that had recently lost its owner and needed a lot of help by cleaning, weeding, mowing, feeding the animals and built a flagpole memorial garden in the middle of the farm.

Our service days were long, hard, and very hot, but each evening our students and adults spent time in the Word and reflecting on Jesus and their service throughout the week. To top it all, our Wednesday evening program was so special and so powerful that we saw the Holy Spirit moving in each one of our middle school students! They had the opportunity to reflect on their journey and their road with Jesus and where they were in a relationship with Him. It was a fantastic evening in that ended with my personal favorite moment of the trip which was getting the opportunity to pray with each student individually and pray a blessing over them! It was amazing and God showed up that night in our student's hearts!

Our team had so much fun in Loveland serving the community and getting closer together as a group and closer together to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Thank you to everyone who made this middle school mission trip to Loveland Colorado possible and for praying for us as we served!



### High School Mission Trip to Orlando, FL

For our group of 28 students and adults, our week serving in Orlando Florida was one that we will never forget! First of all, as many times as we talked before the trip about the weather we would be expecting and tried to be prepared, nothing could've really prepared us for the rain, humidity, heat, and outdoor tent showers we would face on our trip! Trust me, ask any high school teenager that went on this trip if they have any plans of going back to Orlando anytime soon and I'm sure you won't get the best response!!

This trip was a different trip than our high school students were used to going on in the past. The service work that our students and adults had the opportunity of doing in Orlando was different from some of the work they had done on pass mission trips. Most of our group spent the week in relational ministry with the local organizations that we partnered with around Orlando. This relational ministry entailed being alongside people, sharing the love of Jesus with people and interacting with them.

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We hardly did any physical labor on this trip, so this sort of relational serving pulled most of us out of our comfort zones! And it couldn't have been any better for our group!

A few of our groups spent the week at local adult care facilities with older adults who were suffering from Alzheimer's and Dementia. I saw our students feed the elderly, play games (dominoes and bingo) with them, lead chair exercises, and just getting to sit next to them hearing their stories and telling them a little bit of their own stories. The smiles that I saw from the elderly as our students walked in each morning for were the most excited, honest, and loving smiles I've ever seen! Their faces lit up when our teenagers walked into the room each and every day! And watching our students interact with these amazing people throughout the week was one of the most enjoyable experiences I've ever had on a mission trip.

A few of our other groups spent time at a thrift store sorting clothes, at a food bank stocking food, and at another adult care facility for patients with psychiatric issues. Again this trip was very different from what our students are used to, but as I heard from a few students at the end of the trip this is exactly what they needed to be pushed out of their comfort zones in serving Jesus in a totally different way!

We had such a blast in Orlando and, of course, we had to do a few of the fun things like going to Disney Springs as well as the Universal CityWalk! It was a fantastic week in Orlando meeting new people and seeing the love of Christ in them and getting to show God's love to others!

*Kyle Knight*  
*Student Ministry Director*



## Loaves & Fishes

*Serving Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties*

## Loaves & Fishes

Hard to believe summer is winding down and the school year is upon us! As you are aware, with your generous support and the hard work of countless individuals through VBS, Loaves and Fishes clients were the beneficiary of more than 200 bags of nutritious food to supplement out Schools Out program this summer! It was an outstanding success thanks in no small part to the love and support of all of the congregation at Rockland! From all 36 families and 60 children we can only say THANKS!!!

As we head into fall we continue to concentrate our effort on the needy and impoverished of Clear Creek and Gilpin Counties. We help nourish almost 130 families weekly and we greatly appreciate your continued support.

The Back to School supply drive is almost complete and with the help of many partners in this effort we are set to distribute almost 50 backpacks full of all the necessary supplies to insure a strong start to the school year for the children within our community!!!

For these and so many other reasons we can only say THANK YOU and may God continue to bless us all!!!

*Patrick Delaney*  
*Executive Director*

### 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.  
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# Overheard by the Church Mouse

What a way to spend Memorial Day!

On May 29, we stepped back in history and celebrated. Can you think your way back to our early church history, to a church building and cemetery created in 1879? Imagine a congregation singing, worshipping, and communing together.

Well, on Memorial Day we celebrated the beginning of summer by meeting at the Historic church and honoring our veterans of many wars. The church was packed to overflowing. Tom Hobson, WWII veteran (in uniform) led us in the Pledge of Allegiance then we joined together singing our National anthem. Stan Bull led us in prayer before the Fellowship of Ringers chimed the bells for My Country 'Tis of Thee". The Joyful Noise Quartet sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic and God Bless America and the Rockland Chancel choir gave us a delightful presentation of "The Church in the Wildwood." The congregation joined together for Amazing Grace and God Bless America along with the Quartet.

Susan Banning Hutchinson brought us music from the ancient pump organ. Sid Platt gave us a short history lesson on the roads that led to Rockland last century and Ken Williams shared a touching sermon in celebration of our faith, our gathering of both Rocklanders and members of the community. It was a concerted effort by many eager participants including a preceding morning cleaning the old church, cleaning up the cemetery grounds, planting flowers and setting up the tents that would be our outdoor Fellowship Hall...and it was all done in the rain...off and on! So many helped but one man was the impetus for this celebration, Steve Engle, just recovering from serious back surgery directed part of all this from his bedside but then was there on workday and the celebration. Steve welcomed us all, and shared his love of this third oldest church in Colorado with us. His warm welcome, his eagerness to make this a special day added to the holiday ambiance even to the point of humor when he proudly announced that the outhouse was working...finally! After the service, it became clear that there are many who care deeply about Rockland's history...there was \$1,157 in the offering plate. Hooray!

.....*An unexamined life is not worth living. – Socrates*

Congratulations to Steve Engle, after many years and total devotion to Rockland's Historic Church, Steve has been asked to serve on the Jefferson County Historic Commission, District 2, for the next four years. What a great opportunity for Steve...you go guy!

...*no one ever plowed a field by turning it over in their mind.*

Mean Street had a special website celebration and we were delighted to see and hear Rocklanders James Fry, Patty Stermole and Sean Ensley speak. The love, dedication and enthusiasm of the many people from our church who work at Mean Street illustrates God's work within those who are receiving and certainly those who are giving.

...*I'm thankful for my struggle because without it I wouldn't have stumbled across my strength.*

...Summer in our Rockies shows God's creation in its fullest majesty. That's why Rockland's annual hike on Mt. Evans begins at the upper trailhead 12,152 ft. with the words from scripture: "this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice in it."



Julie & James Deleeuw. Betty Snow, Nikki, Hannah, Seth, Abigail Gribnitz, Robin & Larry Black, Michael & Kathy Hutchison, Steve Engle.

...*Hope deferred makes the heart sick but desire fulfilled is a tree of life. ...*  
*Proverbs 13:12*







There was a Memorial Day celebration at the Colorado Freedom Memorial in Aurora, near Buckley Air Force Base. Rockland's Dick Over was there representing the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and its important contribution to WWII. The Memorial celebrates "Colorado Remembers – From Hallowed Ground to Home's Embrace."

*...If you can imagine it, you can do it!*

When Pieter and Ricki Hoekstra were camping at the Sand Dunes Campground, they were walking on a narrow trail towards the river and the dunes. Ricki talked to all the people she met. One was a boy about 13/14 years old, carrying a book. In Ricki's words, "After talking about the Pulsating River, I asked what book he was reading.

The Bible, he said! I responded how wonderful that was. He asked if I was a Christian too. Yes. I asked what version he was reading (I tried to be with him a little bit longer); he said it was the NIV version.

We parted and he said GOD BLESS.

*...You can be the change you want to see in the world – Gandhi*

Dave and Mary Teeter took off for a respite from the city to find the tranquility of our high country. Somewhere along the way that all changed when they asked GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?

After setting up their tent near Chambers Lake up Poudre Canyon, they anticipated a lovely evening and a good night's sleep. Alas, at 2:57 am they had a visitor – a bear! Inside their tent they stayed quiet, even muffling their dog Cody so he wouldn't bark. (Later they discovered that making a great deal of noise is one way to scare/shoo the bear away). The bear helped herself to their food supply, just eight feet away from the tent. At 3:45 am the bear wandered off, Dave and Mary attempted to salvage as much food as possible for their anticipated three-day stay. The bear didn't eat the salmon or the chicken but sure enjoyed their brownies.

Next morning the Teeters spoke to the campground folks and discovered that that bear had shown up for seven out of the past eight nights. They decided to leave the tent up but they would sleep in their pick-up. the second night. At 2:58 am the bear returned and the campers were better prepared as they pounded on cooking pots, yelled and honked horns, – so much for the tranquility of the wilderness. By the third night Dave and Mary were braced and sure enough the bear returned at 2:57 am. Now the Teeters have been camping up above Estes Park for the past ten years but with this encounter, they have concluded that their tent camping days are over, they'll rent a cabin up there in our mountains. However they will still spend their days canoeing with Cody, who has his own special life preserver.

*...There is only one thing more painful than learning from experience and that is not learning from experience – Archibald MacLeish.*

## Women's Retreat

**Saturday, September 16 in Fellowship Hall  
9:00am - 4:00pm**

How exciting to have Michelle Lange speak to the women of Rockland on **Saturday, September 16**. Everyone should have received the invitation to the Women's Retreat to be held at church. We hope to have a packed house to hear our very own Michelle guide us to "*Find Focus in the Chaos*."

Michelle Lange



She has prayerfully considered this opportunity to speak. When God nudges you, you respond. The doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and there will be coffee and tea as we gather in Fellowship Hall. The program will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. A delicious lunch prepared by Fresh Tracks will be served. We will conclude the day with communion at 4:00 p.m.

**The deadline for registration is September 7, so respond as soon as possible.**



# Worship Team Announcement

## Changes Coming



**UPDATE:** As you know, we have been searching for a Worship Leader for over a year, believing this was a necessary ingredient for a successful launch of two expressions of worship at Rockland. It has become obvious this is not what the Lord has in mind, since we have been searching for over a year and the search team has not found anyone to fill this full-time. We agreed that the time has come to move forward with two distinct expressions of worship, and, as Pastor Jim has mentioned from the pulpit, this new format will begin **September 10**. The first service will move from 8:30 to 9:00 and be essentially the same as it is now, with familiar faces! The choir will be leading us at that service beginning in September, Heidi Duston (formerly Schmidt) and Susan Hutchinson-Banning will be leading the music portion of the worship.

What about the new service? First, the Elders, the Worship Team and the staff are very excited to see this change come about. We have been talking about it for over a year, and now it's nearly here! It will feature more modern upbeat music, not smoke and mirrors, but a drummer, keyboard, and guitars. No, it won't be loud enough that you get free ear plugs! Pastor Jim will give the same sermon at each service and both will have a children's time. Heidi and Susan will be leading at this service as well, though the music selection will, of course, be different. Communion will remain weekly at the first service and monthly at the second. The second service will shift in time to 10:30.

What will it be like is the question most often asked. The answer is, come and see! We are praying and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we move forward at Rockland. This is a bold step forward to reach those who seek our strong sense of being part of a caring and loving body of Christ, yet also seek different worship experiences. Most churches grow and reach out with the love of Christ because members invite friends – so invite friends to join you at a service. It's an exciting time and a chance to reach people who may not know Christ. We urge you to be excited with us, to pray with your Elders, staff and volunteers, that our Lord will guide us and bless us moving forward.

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## Dedicated volunteers key to success

A team of dedicated volunteers is a key component to the success of any ministry. This is especially true when it comes to Children's Ministry. Here at Rockland we are blessed to have those individuals or couples who have made it a priority and not only invest their time, but give with their whole hearts as they share God's love and the truth of his Word with our kids. We would like you to hear from a couple of those leaders as they share their experience.

A few words from one of our Children's Sunday School Leaders...

At a time when the media and publicity can be so disparaging of today's young, I am writing to share praises of the Rockland Christian Education program. Fresh off of VBS 2016, the *best* week of the summer, Lori Fullmer invited my husband Kelly and I to be "Christ Connectors" in our outstanding Sunday School program. Honored to be asked, we eagerly accepted and joined a vibrant team of Christ-centered teachers. Kelly and I have had the privilege of knowing the 2nd-5th graders with an emphasis on the 4th-5th grades on Sunday mornings.

Lori and Heidi's consummate organization provide detailed lesson plans and supplies are ready in our rooms each week. An every-other-week opportunity, it gives people time if they have other commitments. We have been blessed beyond measure and hope to provide joyful classes while giving parents time to worship and interact with their friends.

Teaching the Word of God to our kids is not only an honor, it is absolutely imperative. The Lord has declared great plans for them! —I'd encourage you to come be a part of it! *Pam Lowdon*

Now, from Nikki Gribnitz, one of our Wednesday Night KidzLife Leaders...

The previous school year, I served as a small group leader for Kindergarten-2nd graders in KidzLife, our Wednesday night program. Throughout the school year we studied the Sermon on the Mount and talked about what it means to live for Jesus and how His kingdom is very different from the world in which we live. Each week kids would come in with Bibles in tow, ready to recite the verse they had memorized. Hearing them speak these words of truth brought joy to my soul. It was such a treat to teach them how to use their Bible, how to look up a verse, and explain how God's truth is relevant to our lives today. Our lessons concluded with the stories of Jesus' death and resurrection. What a privilege it was for me to share the Best News Ever with our group!

I've enjoyed serving in Children's Ministry for many years, even before having kids. Even so, I've found that some programs or days of the week are a better fit for me than others. With KidzLife, I feel like I have found my niche. When you're in your "sweet spot" in ministry, it doesn't feel like a burden or an obligation. It is a joy! We all as Christians have been given gifts to build up the body of Christ and share his love with a hurting and lost world. I encourage you to pray about where you can put your giftedness into action.

Come and be a part of connecting all generations to Jesus!

Thank you Pam and Nikki for sharing the incredible things God is doing with children. Although we have a great base of volunteers serving in Children's Ministry, we have room for more! As Nikki states, "Come and be a part of connecting all generations to Jesus!"

*To learn how to get involved or what it means to be a leader in Children's Ministry!*

Contact Lori Fullmer – [LFullmer@Rockland.Church](mailto:LFullmer@Rockland.Church) or Heidi Barnett – [HBarnett@Rockland.Church](mailto:HBarnett@Rockland.Church)



# kidzlife



# September is Romania Month

In late August we were fortunate to host both new and returning visitors from Cluj, Romania – Ciprian “Cipri” Tehei (World Vision Romania) and students Tony Baran and Denisa Simiciuc. They were on hand to represent our ongoing mission efforts on behalf of Romanian high school students, who are supported by members of Rockland’s congregation. Since this is the start of a new school year, a number of new sponsors are needed to cover the incoming freshmen students to the program.

Jessica and Scott Kern, who have three daughters in Rockland’s youth group, hosted the visitors. They were able to participate in worship services as well as Carnival Day on August 27. Additionally, they saw some of the area sights and the students visited Golden High School, where Grace and Lydia Kern attend.

*Anyone interested in sponsoring a Romanian student should contact Sue Engle at [sueengle7@gmail.com](mailto:sueengle7@gmail.com) or (303) 526-0893.*

## ROMANIAN MISSION TRIP 2017

A contingent from Rockland went to Romania in mid-July to examine the projects with which we have been involved over the years. Led by Kitty and Bob Ehret, Heidi and Rich Dunston and Richard Kunter traveled from Colorado for the ten day visit. Cipri Tehei served as tour guide over there and involved a number of current students, who interacted with them during the activities.

While the focus was largely on the progress of the sponsored high school students, the group had a busy and varied agenda. One day was spent at St. Mary’s, a day care for disabled young adults, which Rockland has supported for over a decade. Many remember Anca and Mariana who have dedicated their lives to the creation of this unique facility serving those with special needs in the Cluj area. A highlight of the trip, this “joyous presentation” incorporated skits, crafts and music. Heidi also shared her musical talents throughout the trip.

Hands-on work was done at a park outside the Community Center to spruce up decaying equipment originally donated by World Vision Romania. It is hoped that future mission trips to Romania will further involve Rockland youth to demonstrate “connecting all generations to Jesus.”



# Milky Cow Program for Tanzania

Rockland's Milky Cow program supplies cows to some of the neediest families in Arusha, Tanzania. The program has been active for some years and has worked well at several churches in the Arusha area. Rockland members have contributed thousands of dollars to buy cows as well as train families in the proper care of their animals. Animals are provided regular veterinarian services and monitoring by a committee set up for that purpose at Il Boru Church which reports to the Church Council and Pastor Abel.

Recently Rockland provided funds to purchase 10 cows to be distributed by Il Boru Church to members selected both for their need and their ability to care for the animals. The cows cost about \$500 each. Another 10 cows will be supplied in 2018 during the mission trip scheduled for May-June. Mission trip members will have the opportunity to meet and interact with the grateful families. Recipient families have already attended an initial seminar about animal husbandry and can receive ongoing support and instruction as needed.

Owning a cow is akin to having a career for these folks. Income from the sale of milk provides a steady income stream as well as nutrition for the families. In addition, ownership of a cow is a source of prestige since cattle herding is the traditional occupation among the Masai people.

The goal of the program is to eventually become self-sustaining. When a cow gives birth to its first calf, the calf is given to the church to be provided to another needy family. And this process continues with every cow given away. Through Rockland's generosity, Milky Cow is already self-sustaining at one church. We expect to reach that goal at Il Boru Church in the coming years.

Thank you for your support of this popular and effective ministry.



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## Prayer Shawl Ministry Enters its 9th year!

The summer was filled with creating precious white Baptismal Shawls for all the young ones who will be brought to church to be welcomed into the world of Jesus' beloved.

As fall approaches we begin to think of needing warmth as the air chills. Our supply of shawls for women is severely depleted. We are hoping that people who knit or crochet but can not necessarily attend our monthly gatherings will consider creating a shawl.

Fall meetings will be held September 11, October 16, November 13 and December 11.

If you need yarn, needles, a crochet hook or a pattern, please contact Liz Hawkins at [ephawk123@gmail.com](mailto:ephawk123@gmail.com)



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## Keeping Children & their families fed

The Summer Lunch program at Evergreen Christian Outreach is coming to a close during which we served an average of 85 children each week providing shelf stable items, dairy, protein, and fresh fruit and vegetables. The summer program concluded with these children also being provided backpacks and school supplies. 45 children participated in "going back to school" clothes shopping with the support of the local Salvation Army chapter. Soon we will turn our attention to getting ready to provide holiday meals to 175 mountain families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Rockland volunteers participate in the Stone Soup Ministry which creates five gallons of soup for the clients when they come to shop for their groceries. Our fall dates to provide a week's worth of soup are September 24, October 22, and November 26. A lead volunteer takes a month, picks a recipe and then sends requests through our Prayer and Praises sheet requesting soup ingredients.

To become a part of the Stone Soup Ministry,  
please contact Linda Smith: [LSSevergreen@gmail.com](mailto:LSSevergreen@gmail.com).

For more information contact Nancy Judge:  
[nancy@evergreenchristianoutreach.org](mailto:nancy@evergreenchristianoutreach.org)

The mission of Evergreen Christian Outreach is to provide assistance to residents of the Evergreen mountain communities who are unemployed, under-employed, dealing with a long term illness, or experiencing other forms of personal crisis.



# Summer of 2017 was a very active one for Rock House!

Every summer the Rock House steps up the activities so that kids in Idaho Springs can experience what life is like outside of their home town. Keeping them busy in the summer keeps them focused on good and fun things and away from the negative activities that idleness can spawn. For many of these kids, these trips are the first time that they have been out of Idaho Springs and certainly the first time they have had these experiences. We are striving to provide them with a broader picture of what is possible if they work hard in school and become self sufficient. Below are some of the activities:



Kids love waterparks so we have been to Pirates Cove, The Apex Water Park and Water World this summer. We took over 25 kids to WaterWorld! Many first time at the Rock House.

Every Wednesday we host an all day excursion to Chatfield for tubing and swimming. This is certainly the first time our RH Kids have been out on open water and exploring the fun that boating can bring.



Every Friday night throughout the summer we host “Friday Night Fun Nights” where we roast smore’s and feed them and play games.

One of our Friday night games (believe it or not) was “Chicken Poop Bingo”. Where each kid writes their name in several squares and they put feed on their square to entice the chicken to come to their square and “leave their mark” – thereby winning the round. A proud winner is on the right with “Dexter” the rooster.



We even entered the Georgetown 4th of July Parade and got some good exposure.

Paddle Boating and kayaking and stand up paddle board are favorite events at a local lake. Kind of makes you wish you were a kid again?





Some other activities were:

- Denver Zoo and Cheyenne Zoo,
- Went to 2 live Rodeo's (most kids was first time)
- We have two generous donors who have purchased tickets to 2 Rockies Games (Aug 1 and Aug 6 (Faith Day). This will be the first and most likely the only time these kids will see a professional sports game.
- Live Music
- Karaoke night - where all kids (even most shy ones) got up and sang like rock stars
- Movie night where we took 25 to "The Stork".
- Video Game Playoff Tournament.

All of this has been made possible by your generous support and your help with volunteering as Mentors and Chaperones for these events. As you recall, June was Mentor Month at Rockland where we asked for help in the Mentoring and Chaperoning areas. We have 15 new Mentors (13 of which are from Rockland) that are going through Mentor Training this summer!! The Dollar-Bill-Sunday program from June helped fund all of these fun activities.

Thank you for all your wonderful support. The partnership between the Rock House and Rockland Church is working, and all for the glory of God in these precious kid's lives!

*Howard Hargrove  
Board Member Clear Creek Rock House and Member of Rockland Community Church*

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## Mean Street

This last January I received a phone call from a good friend asking me if I would be interested in running the food bank at Mean Street Ministry as Betty Fry, who had been running it faithfully...for I don't know how many years...was retiring. Well, my great respect for my friend, my love of organizing and my fond memories of playing "grocery store" with my brother, Gary, all came rushing at me. Of course I said "yes." Little did I know what God had in "store" for me. Okay, we are not a "store" but we are "like a store."

Do you know how well you can get to know someone while "shopping" for food? I have always gotten into conversations with people at my local King Soopers over "this kind of canned tomatoes" or whether or not the produce people have "better looking watercress" in the back. But at Mean Street it's not about the diced tomatoes, or the watercress. It's about people. Maybe not the first time I walk through the food bank with an individual or family, but by the second or third time I get a glimpse of their struggles and an idea of what is going on in their lives; legal battles, divorce, health issues, addictions. You name it. Nothing is off limits.

Many of the people that come into the food bank are living on the streets, camping where they can, for a myriad of reasons. Many are living in their cars...some of them families. Some are living in motels (if you can call them that) or sleeping on a friend or relative's couch. Some are drug addicts, felons, just out of prison or jail. Mental illness is a huge issue. Some just don't make enough money to pay for rent and groceries even though they get food stamps. Some just like having no responsibilities.

What God has shown me is, *it doesn't matter!* "Peoples is peoples" to borrow a line from *An American Tale*. And ministry is ministry.

By God's grace, I truly love the people I come into contact with each and every day at Mean Street. My family tells me that I come home grumpy sometimes because "my shelves" are a mess, things aren't where they should be, the floor is covered with mud and the hall is full of trash because the dumpster is full to overflowing and there are broken down cardboard boxes everywhere because we can't find anyone to take them to recycling. Then I realize, it's not about whether things are done "right" or whether things are "clean." It's about the people that are a part of the Mean Street ministry: the clients and the volunteers. God changes both!

I can only trust that God is using me to change the lives of others, but I *know* God is using Mean Street to change me! God calls us to love "the least of these" Matthew 25.40-41.

I'd love to have you be a part of the food bank ministry! 303-232-2500

*Suzanne Wilson*



# Our Caring Ministry

When filling the position of Congregational Care Associate, the elders and staff knew they wanted someone special who could continue the vision of the caring ministry here at Rockland. When Dawn Wanser was hired it was because of her love of ministry but also her background which makes her a perfect candidate for understanding grief, anxiety, the lack of control in our lives and the total faith that carries us through desperate times.

When Dawn shares her story you may be moved to tears. She had two children, Cody and Jacob. Both were victims of a debilitating disease – a terminal form of dystrophy – at a very early age, five and six years old. Told that their boys would not live long, Dawn and her husband, Kevin, endeavored to make their children as comfortable and cared for as was possible. Both boys were in wheelchairs and needed total care. Then, in Dawn's words, "Cody went to be with Jesus" in 2013, Jacob in 2015. Dawn had served as a caregiver for 23 years and suddenly the life that Kevin and Dawn had known for so long came to an abrupt halt.

The next two years were filled with questions but never with lack of faith. According to Dawn, God was with her on this perilous journey. She was certified as a nurse's aide but knew that God had a calling on her life for ministry. Kevin and Dawn were also given a vision from the Lord about the lack of support and ministry that is provided to Caregivers, thus forming their own non-profit 'A Caretaker's Wish.' She realized that children with special needs are lovingly accepted by those they encounter but behind each of those kids, is a caretaker pushing the wheelchair.

In March, Kevin had a heart attack and Dawn was again faced with yet another challenge to her faith. Kevin made it through this crisis and Dawn continued to search for her place. In June she answered the Rockland ad for a Congregational Care Associate and was requested to interview for the position at a meeting on June 29. That was the date of Jacob's passing two years earlier. She felt that God had led her here at this time.

Well, yes, after hearing her story, her deep faith and trust in God, Dawn is now on staff at Rockland. She certainly has the experiences that provide the empathy and caring for this ministry. She wants to coordinate and expand the various groups within Rockland that care for our people and to extend this to our community: Stephen's Ministry, Prayer Chain, Daily Bread, transportation, etc.

*We welcome Dawn and Kevin into our congregation and will look forward to supporting Dawn in her passion for caring for people.*



## Stephen Ministry

### Stephen Ministers: The After People

People often ask, "What exactly is a Stephen Minister?" One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the *After People*.

#### *Stephen Ministers are there:*

- ... *after* the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- ... *after* the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- ... *after* the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- ... *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- ... *after* the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- ... *after* the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- ... *after* the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- ... *after* the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- ... *after* you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- ... *after* your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the After People. They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long *after* as needed.

[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)

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Over the years, caring for those who have experienced a significant personal loss or crisis has been a well-recognized feature of our church community. Stephen Ministry, which provides one-to-one, distinctively-Christian support, has long been an important part of this well-established culture of caring at Rockland.

As Stephen Ministers for many years, we have experienced first-hand the great blessings of serving and caring for those who are struggling to cope with difficult life circumstances. These blessings have included such things as: the fulfillment found in ministering to others in the name of Jesus Christ; the opportunity to directly experience the healing power of the Holy Spirit at work in people's lives; the close camaraderie of working together with a supportive team of fellow Christian caregivers; and the growth in spiritual maturity and interpersonal skills that comes from supervised practice and experience in caring for others.

Now, we would like to offer others at Rockland the opportunity to experience these same blessings by joining our Stephen Ministry team. This fall, we are planning to offer a series of classes that will equip participants to serve effectively as Stephen Ministers within our congregation. These classes will include topics such as listening skills, understanding feelings, crisis theory and practice, maintaining boundaries, and providing distinctively-Christian care to those going through a stressful time or life difficulty.

We want to emphasize that you do not need any special talents, skills, or background experiences to become a Stephen Minister. All that is required is an attitude of compassion for others, an active faith in Jesus Christ, and the willingness to make and keep commitments to God, potential care receivers, and fellow team members.

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If you feel that God may be calling you to explore the possibility of becoming a Stephen Minister, please give us a call at 720-260-7657 or 720-219-3225. We would be happy to meet with you, answer any questions you may have, pray together, and help you to discern whether Stephen Ministry is right for you.

Scripture gives us this word of instruction: “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). Perhaps God is calling on you to take this command to heart and join a ministry that can make a real impact on the lives of those in need - and your own life as well. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mike & Dianne Wittmann  
Stephen Ministry Leaders



## VBS 2017 - A Huge Success!

What does a Fun Factory and God have in common? We found out the answer to this question in June. When these two come together you end up with one spectacular VBS! Maker Fun Factory, this summer’s VBS theme, was phenomenal. Over 150 kids from Rockland and the local community heard the Word of God in some very fun and exciting ways. Kids learned that He created them, loves them and made each one of them for an amazing purpose!

However, the week would not have been possible without the 90 something students and adults who volunteered their time to teach, guide and lead all of the kids through the various activities that reinforced the daily lessons. They were awesome!

One of the most exciting elements, and often offers the greatest impact on the kids each year, is our mission project. This year we collected money to purchase food items that would be used to create meals for Backpacks of Hope, a program offered to families through Loaves and Fishes. On the first day, we set a goal of filling 150 backpacks. By Friday, we collected \$1461.45, which was enough to fill 208 backpacks; 58 higher than our goal. We did not just collect the money; each child in attendance had the opportunity to fill a pack with the food items purchased. They feel such a part of helping those in need!

The dust has settled, the excitement has died down, and theme displays are gone. However, the memories of VBS still linger. I think everyone would agree that VBS 2017 was a huge success! It is our prayer that as the kids grow they remember God’s Word and the truth of his Son, Jesus Christ in the days, months and years ahead.

We would love to have you join us for this incredible week in 2018!

Lori Fullmer  
Children’s and Families Ministry Director





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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



## MOPS

## and

## CBS



Rockland MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) invites you to “Belong, Listen, and Laugh” with us this year. Expectant mothers through mothers of kindergarteners gather in Fellowship Hall the **first and third Wednesday of every month from 9:30-11:30am**. Childcare is available from **9:15-11:45am**. Our hope is that you will find encouragement, support, relevant teaching, and opportunities to develop relationships with other women who are in the same season of life. Join us on September 6 for a free trial meeting! We are confident that as you become more involved in our group, you will be better equipped to face the challenges that motherhood brings. Highlights in the upcoming months include inspiring speakers, autumn-themed crafts and goodies and family service project opportunities.



## COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

### Why Join Community Bible Study?

- Explore and learn what the Bible teaches
- Feel connected to others in a caring environment
- Classes are offered for children from infants to High School.
- CBS is open to all women from different backgrounds and all levels of bible knowledge
- Your children are loved and cared for each week as they learn God’s message
- Grow in your relationship with God
- Come early to enjoy coffee and bagels with others before the morning begins
- We meet Thursday mornings at Rockland Community Church from 9:30 to 11:30

*To find out more, contact Angela Barnhart -  
barnhart.angela@gmail.com*

*Contact Karen Morrison: k\_run2003@yahoo.com*