

# Chimes

February 2018

## Our Hearts Serve Romania

Thank you for supporting our Romanian Mission throughout January during the offertory “Dollar Program.” The proceeds from this, along with the Hearts for Romania Dinner/Dance on **Saturday, February 10** contribute toward matching funds that support the Romanian Scholarship program.

Plan to bring your Valentine to Mount Vernon Canyon Club for this memorable evening, which has become a popular annual event.

*New this year is a performance by Heidi Duston and her live Jazz Combo!*

Enticing Live Auction items include:

- “Romanian Rhapsody Gourmet Dinner & Concert” (Private gourmet dinner for 12 with a private piano concert from Bogdan Ota himself!)
- “A Summer Night Under the Stars” (Summer BBQ buffet for 12, including croquet, bonfire and Laser celestial star/planet/galaxy presentation)
- “Pub Jazz Fest” (Fun evening including hors d’oeuvres, libations and music by well-known musicians)
- Colorado River Rafting – family event!

An added bonus in February will be a visit from Cipri Tehei from World Vision Romania, who coordinates the scholarship program for Rockland. He will speak at the Hearts for Romania event and be available to meet one-on-one with those who either currently sponsor a Romanian student or who may be interested in doing so.



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# Clear Creek Rock House



## *The Rock House hosts its largest Thanksgiving dinner EVER!*

For the past 15 years, the Rock House kids (with their mentors) have cooked a full Thanksgiving dinner for their parents and families at the Rock House. With 20 mentees and their families, and 20 mentors and staff, we served over 80 people at the Rock House on that special night. This year was the largest dinner ever hosted and we served several turkeys with all the fixin's! For many of these families was the only Thanksgiving dinner they would have.

The kids and mentors spent all afternoon cooking different dishes and learning how much effort goes into preparing and serving a big dinner. They also learned how to set a table properly (new for most kids).

Another very special portion of this evening was when each mentee stood up in front of the crowd and introduced themselves and their families and shared what they were thankful for.

Many of these kids have never stood up in front of a crowd to say anything, much less express their feelings. So we use this as a special learning opportunity. The week before, we hosted a professional speech therapist to come to the Rock House and teach them to project and speak clearly. We are very grateful to Rockland's own Tammy Roth who volunteered her time and expertise to teach these kids this important life skill.

After each kid shared, the parents stood up to say what they were thankful for. Each mentor then stood to express a special thought about the 'gold' they see in their mentee and what they appreciate about them. Many parents were very thankful about the changes that they are seeing in their kids due to the Rock House involvement.

As you can imagine, this dinner was quite a monetary investment in our kids and their families. It was made possible by your generous donor support and help from the volunteers and the great mentors we have from the Rockland Community.

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

-Howard & Ann Hargrove



The Rock House converted to serve 80 mentees, families and mentors



RH teen sharing and Rockland's Rich Sidoroff and John Burkhart looking on as mentors.



Rockland's Barb Gaspar volunteered to help for this evening. RH teen and mentor making deviled eggs with Barb.





# Tanzania

## ***"PATHWAYS" TO BRIGHTER FUTURES***

Paulina had no means of support from her impoverished family and no good options for a future until she was selected for sponsorship for secondary school. Successfully completing secondary school on a scholarship, she now is continuing her studies. Education, skills and encouragement are changing her prospects and her hope as she studies to enter the field of Community Development; helping others to find ways out of poverty.

Esuvath was orphaned before she could complete secondary school and now looks forward to completing her business diploma in June and be self-supporting. She considers that it has been God's Grace that lifted her to be like others who have parents.

Lilian has been the head of her household since she was 13 and had difficulty being safe while she finished secondary school. Excelling in her studies, she is on track to enter a university with her Lord and her sponsor at her side. A degree in Commerce will allow for a safe and secure future.

Tini grew up in a Maasai village and was a strong student in secondary school and had a strong desire to be a nurse. She entered ALMC Nursing College and is now working at ALMC Hospital in Arusha. She expresses gratitude to her sponsor and her Heavenly Father for making it possible.

Jenipher was always at Babu Frank Mathews side trying to learn everything possible about sciences and studied fiercely until she was at the top of her class. She is now completing advanced level secondary and will head for university studies in sciences in the Fall.

Gladness, Evaline, Ester, Neema, Adelina, and Sinyati celebrated graduation from Culinary and Hospitality training in November and are prepared to work in the tourism industry or self-employ by building a business of their own.

These are the stories of only a few of the Tanzanian students who, following graduation from secondary school, have found a pathway to a better future through further studies in a profession or vocation.

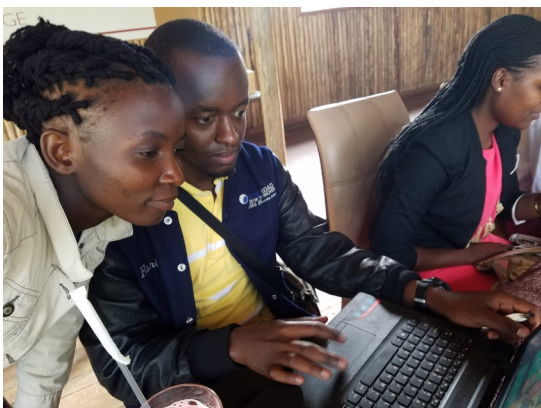
These studies have ranged from short courses in computer, tailoring, culinary or secretarial to college programs for preschool teaching, community development, business or nursing training. There have been two students who completed university studies as teachers.

These student's achievements resulted from their focused desire for education and a continuing pathway out of impoverished conditions. From the hearts of Rockland individuals to make these opportunities possible, **PATHWAYS** was born.

As sponsored students graduated from secondary school, many sponsors asked if there was a way to help their student gain a profession or a vocation. **PATHWAYS** became the vehicle to make that happen. Contributions from sponsors and other Rockland individuals who believe in the value of helping deserving and disadvantaged students continue their education make the path possible.

**PATHWAYS** is the recipient of the March Dollar Bill offerings. It is an opportunity for the congregation or you, as an individual, to join in building a path for young girls in Tanzania.

-Nancy Clement



# Mean Street

## Greetings Rockland and Happy New Year,

Last Tuesday evening on our street outreach, seven people gave their hearts to Christ. I've been doing this ministry for seventeen years, and never have I seen so many people in one night just fall into HIS arms. The first time I saw this supernatural phenomenon on Mean Street, I witnessed two prostitutes and their pimp come to the Lord, flush their drugs down the toilet and then turned their lives around in a dramatic transformation. We have witnessed a number of other occasions similar to that one where we would see a couple of folks in one night receive the Spirit, but never this many in one night!

It was just a normal night as far as any of us volunteers knew, when we were gathering up that evening to go out on the streets. After we wrapped up, we all loaded back into the van to head home. As usual, the volunteers started sharing their stories from the evening. That's when we realized that something really special had just happened. Everyone was awe struck and mostly quiet especially considering what had just transpired. As we circled up to pray out before everyone went home, I heard Todd say, "I wish I knew the words to Lamentations 3:22-23," when one of the most quiet volunteers in our crew standing next to Todd had it on his lips:

**It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.  
They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23**

Which crowned the night, then everyone quietly scattered.

Following days later the volunteers there have all been processing this to see if this could be explained, if something stood out, or if there was something special about last Tuesday night. One the volunteers, Pat, likened it to a "rogue wave," something awesome and unexplainable which would be quite fitting to God's character. That's about the best explanation I've heard yet.

It is such a privilege to get to see a miracle, I'm very blessed to have seen as many as I have over the years. It always leaves me humbled, introspective, and awestruck. Working in ministry can be mighty difficult, packed with spiritual warfare, unexplainable events, soul crushing moments, but right when you start to question it all... Bang, something happens that clearly tells you that you are in the right place doing HIS will!

Thank you Rockland, we could not reach so far into the darkness if not for all your support!!!

-James Fry





**Hello Rockland,**

-Our shelter is open every single night and we need volunteers

-Seems intimidating, but it's simple

-We had a new family come in about a month ago. The mom's name was Debra and she had her husband and 4 kids with her. I sat down at dinner just to make small talk with her and asked her how she was doing. She said, "fine" and I said, "that's the most unconvincing fine I've ever heard. What's going on?" and she just broke down sobbing. Her mom passed away this year, and her mother's ashes got stolen from her car, then their son got extremely sick and was in the hospital for days and the doctors told them he could die any minute. They spent all their money on hospital bills, her husband lost his job, and they ended up homeless. I was able to pray with her and share with her who God is right then and there. Her situation has improved since then, but we still have a relationship with her and she spent Christmas Eve and Christmas day with us, even though she was already in transitional housing.

We each have different gifts and personalities that God has given us. The other day I couldn't even get this group of teenagers to tell me their names. They literally would not open their mouths. But the next night a group of young men volunteers came to the shelter and they were able to get the kids to play basketball all together with them and have then start talking and smiling with each other. Each of us can reach different people in a way that no one else can.

Thank you Rockland for helping start this much needed ministry!

-Tina Stuckey,  
Shelter Coordinator

**mean  
street  
ministry**



# Children's Ministry



## *Children: Generous Offerings and Gracious Giving*

At the onset of 2017 our children were encouraged to participate in regularly giving to the church just like the adults. Amazing things transpired! Each week their Sunday school teachers set aside time to collect the weekly offering, discuss where the monies go (the general fund or monthly dollar bill program) and say a prayer of thanksgiving for the offering collected. Each week, they received a report of the previous week's collection and the amount collected in total for the year. The kids look forward to this time during class. They are excited to hear how they are giving to both the church and to our ministry partners. At the end of 2017, the children's offering hit \$750, which is quite impressive!

Our kids are gracious givers also. The kids who attend Kidzlife, Rockland's Wednesday night program, donated 30 gifts to Student Ministries for their toy collection. All of the Kingdom Cash or points each child earns at Kidzlife is used to buy a Christmas gift for Mean Street's Christmas on Colfax program. The kids attach a note card to their gift to wish them a Merry Christmas, as well as share that Jesus loves them! What a delightful sight it is to watch as these kids, preschool through 5th grade, joyfully hand over their gifts to the youth in Student Ministries to add to the rest of the gifts donated by the church.

Kid's generous giving keeps on going! On a recent Sunday, our Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade class, led by Renee and Izzy Fry, filled approximately 30 gift bags with small toys and goodies for the children who find themselves served by Mean Street. The classroom was filled with joy and laughter as they worked hard to make sure each bag was decorated, then filled to overflowing with special gifts. We received a note from Todd Graber, Mean Street Staff and Rockland member, thanking the children for the gift bags. Todd said, "there were a lot of excited kids wearing glow sticks and jumping around" the day he handed the bags out.

Our children are developing a beautiful understanding of giving back to the kingdom of God through their offering and through their gifts to others. They truly are gracious in their giving!

-Lori Fuller





## ***Connecting all Generations to Jesus during the Advent Season***

If you were in one of the Worship Services on December 17, you were not only a witness to the amazing retelling of the Nativity Story, you were also a participant in some of the music selections. If you missed it, you truly missed something amazing.

The Adult Choir, the Brass Quintet, and the Children's Christmas Choir came together to share the story of Christ's birth through beautiful music. While the children, no matter if they were first time visitors or a part of our regular Sunday school program, had the opportunity to dress in costume and participate in the narration of the Nativity Story.

Over and over again, these resounding comments have been heard, "It was absolutely wonderful! A beautiful Christmas Program. The best ever presented. The music was uplifting and joyful. The children were so sweet and did such a beautiful job. We loved hearing the children and adults sing together."

It was a beautiful program. More so, it was a beautiful example of Rockland's Vision in motion as we spent the morning *Connecting all Generations to Jesus!*

-Lori Fullmer



# The Ralston Ranch

One thing that has always fascinated me about the history of Rockland Church is how one can get to know the lives of the people who are involved in the history by looking at their lives.

The Ralston family played a large role in the founding of Rockland Church. Lucian Hunter Ralston first came to the mountain in 1855, and after serving in the civil war he returned to the mountain. He died in 1894, but by then his family had left the mountain and later located back on Lookout Mountain near the southern end of what today is the Buffalo pasture.

His son Lucian Mekee Ralston was a major player in the history of Lookout Mountain for many years. He purchased what became the Ralston Ranch in 1903 from the Shellers. I first heard about this fact when I read the book *Shining Mountain*. I always wondered who that family was.

Steve Engle wrote an article that appeared in the Golden newspaper about the Rockland cemetery. Fortunately Henry Sheller's Great Granddaughter, Shirley Bybee, saw the article and contacted Steve. She wanted to visit the cemetery and find out about her ancestors.

Both Steve and I met the Sheller family at the grave sites of their ancestors. So I finally know who the Shellers were.

Henry Sheller bought the ranch from Egbert Johnson in 1878. Henry died in 1903 and his widow sold the ranch to Lucian McKee Ralston in 1903. Thus Henry Schaller owned the ranch for all of the formative years of Rockland Church.

The original Rockland School was located very close to Henry Schaller's property line and the Historic Rockland Church was located just to the east of his property.

There is not much information on Henry Schaller's life. His wife however was Adeline Mary Loyd and there is a lot of information on this family. The Loyds are buried next to Henry. A number of the people who accompanied Shirley Bybee were from the Loyd family.

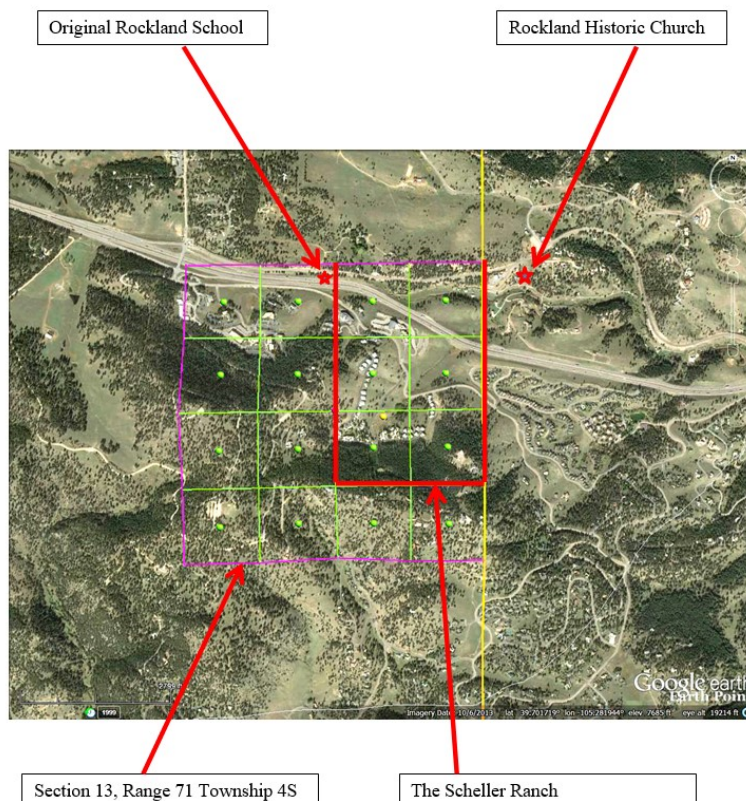
Another mystery about the cemetery was also solved by Shirley's visit. The graves near the Shellers' were the grave of Harry Loyds Children. We now know their names and their dates of death.

The map that accompanies this article gives a good deal of information about where the Historical Church and the original Rockland School were in relation to the Ralston Ranch. Notice that the school is what today is in the middle of I-70, but it is just off of the ranch.

One can also see that I-70 went right through the ranch property. Lucien traded that property with the highway department, and he obtained the property that was just south of his original property. Those members who live in Chimney Creek live on the land that was the original Ralston Ranch.

Thus we can see that Henry Schaller was very involved in the development of the historic Rockland Church until Lucien McKee took over this role after he bought the ranch.

-Sid Platt





# Meet Lauren Miller!

We want to welcome Lauren Miller, our new Student Ministry Associate.

Lauren is a native Coloradoan from Golden even though she moved to Texas for a few years but then returned home. She graduated from Faith Christian Academy and is now attending Colorado Christian University. Lauren worked with YWAM (Youth With A Mission) and has been on long term mission trips to Haiti and Dominican Republic. In her off hours, having fun is Hula Hoop and Slackline.

As she joins Rockland Lauren is passionate about walking through life with young girls and reflecting Christ's light to them.



In Lauren's own words:

One truth I have learned in my life is that it is **crucial** to understand who Jesus is and why He came to Earth.

Followers of Christ recognize that Jesus was the perfect example and teacher of how to live our lives during our time here on Earth. But if Christ is called "perfect", then why would He, in all of his holy perfection, even consider coming to such an imperfect world?

Here is a different way of saying it:

Why would Jesus, the Son of God who is seated at the right hand of the Father, leave His heavenly realm so that He could come to earth as a man (fully God, fully human), to live a life of sacrifice, be tempted and persecuted, mocked and crucified, so that He could provide salvation on the cross for all people throughout eternity?

Bewildering actions for a perfect, glorious, all-powerful God!

## 1. Who Jesus Is

Jesus is and was God in the flesh. He gave the perfect example of how to live our lives during our time here on Earth. He is an all-loving God, jealous for His people because He views us as His most beautiful creation! There was nothing haphazard about his life—no wasted energy, not an idle word. He was on business for God (Luke 2:49).

## 2. Why He Came to Earth

God wanted everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the Truth. To that end, Jesus gave Himself to provide a salvation from all sin for all men. He lived, He died, and He rose again all according to God's divine schedule. And even though this world is His by creation, He did not seek to make it His permanent abiding place. His plan from the beginning was to come to earth and provide a means of salvation in order to reconcile His people to Himself.

**These crucial foundational points of understanding Jesus and His mission help us relate to Him and give us a greater understanding of Him as we study His life on earth.**

### 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

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# Rockland's Men's Ministry



**2017 was a busy year for your local Habitat For Humanity!**

## Evergreen/Echo Hills

Thanks to Rockland and many other volunteers, construction of a home in Echo Hills (off of Squaw Pass Road) has now been completed!



## Kittredge

Our newest home in Kittredge for a deserving family has also been completed! Our family for this home will be moving in very shortly.

**And we're not slowing down in 2018!**

## Brook Forest

We have a new lot on Grouse Lane near Brook forest Road in Evergreen, and will start building a single family home later this month. A survey has been completed, trees are being removed for the home and driveway, and the foundation excavation will begin shortly.

## Empire

Next month, we will begin construction on our third single family home in downtown Empire! And our volunteers just completed a bus shelter for the children in the neighborhood!



## Volunteer!

If you'd like to help, it's easy to sign up for any Build Days - volunteers will be needed on **Wednesdays and Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays!** Visit the Blue Spruce website for more information - [www.bluesprucehabitat.org](http://www.bluesprucehabitat.org), or go to <http://bluespruce.volunteerhub.com> to volunteer! Adults and youth 16 years and older are welcome! No experience is necessary...there are on-site experts to guide you!

We hope you'll join us. Questions? Contact Dusty Dodge at 303-909-7565.

## Rockland "Saturday Service" Event At Hands Of The Carpenter (James 1:27)

We've had great crews of Rockland folks in 2017 that provided oil changes and vehicle inspections at their new facility in Golden! Our crews in three bays help about 30 single mothers and widows in need... services that they often can't afford. A BIG "thank you" to our Rockland folks for being great teammates!

Service days take place on the third Saturday in January, March, May, July, September and November.



It's only a 1/2 day commitment from 7:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. "Hands Of The Carpenter" is a faith-based ministry at Hands Automotive in Golden. No experience is necessary...please consider joining us in this important ministry! Questions?

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

-Dusty Dodge





# Overheard by the Church Mouse

As we say goodbye to 2017 and hello to 2018 we want to remember a very special holiday season for Rockland. A church is many things speaking to many diverse people. Looking back to the end of 2017 it is apparent that our congregation joined forces to produce a memorable Christmas season. From the calls for gifts for impoverished kids to contributions for our Missions, a festive luncheon served right here at Rockland by many of our friends to a musical production that impacted all. We watched the Nativity Celebration and were so impressed by the caliber of the performance, the delight of watching the children with halos, wings, and plaintive shepherd's clothes...even a unicorn. We were treated to a musical extravaganza featuring Susan Hutchinson-Banning, Heidi Duston, Liane Rockley, Mark Emmons, Wilson Luallen, the Festival Choir, the Children's Christmas Choir and the Festival Brass Ensemble. As the church observed and participated it became clear that something very special was happening and the feeling was sealed when Festival Choir with soloist Patrick Heck presented "Mary, Did You Know?" There were tears in the eyes of those sitting in the pews. Tears of joy at having had the privilege of celebrating in such a meaningful way.

*.... And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:9-14*

If we look back fondly at 2017, we should also look forward to 2018, a new year to keep our resolutions. If you've not focused on any particular way you want to improve life for the coming year, perhaps the following quote might fit nicely in your future: "Structure your thoughts each day. Hour by hour, you can generate your own radiant health, success and happiness based on the ideas, beliefs and situations you rehearse in the studio of your mind. Remember, putting thoughts into action takes vision: without it, you will lack direction.

You can conjure anything at all in your thoughts, and the more powerful they are, the more they will motivate you to attain your goals. You will become the physical materialization of your own ideal image: a person radiating vitality, agility and health. You can choose to become whoever you want to be. You, with God's help, have the power."

*...Whatever you can do, or dream you can begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it - Goethe*

We recently celebrated Martin Luther King Day. I hope you can indulge the Mouse as this Day brought back a poignant memory. It was 1965 when our country was undergoing vast protests and racially-provoked incidents. The Mouse attended a church in Littleton, and the pastor felt prompted to join MLK in Selma for a march. He went as an individual not representing our church but evidently someone thought otherwise. On Saturday night several church members received phone calls threatening to blow up the sanctuary on Sunday morning. Immediately calls were made to the entire congregation, warning them of the threat. However, everyone showed up for church the next day. The children were taken to the basement of an adjoining building, the teenagers were asked to stay with the children for their Sunday School. The men were posted outside and inside the front door, the women sat in the back of the church. Although this was a politically diverse group, everyone had made the decision to stand up for their faith and not be intimidated by those who felt the church was a menace. It was tense but nothing happened! ... except for all who were involved as they knew what it felt like to declare your Christianity.

*...Live simply, Love generously, Care deeply, Speak kindly, Leave the rest to God.*



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**DATED MATERIALS - PLEASE RUSH**

*Connecting all generations to Jesus  
as we stand for the Truth of the Gospel,  
show God's grace to all people,  
and raise up the next generation to do the same.*

**Current resident or**



**Join us Sunday mornings!**

**9:00am - Traditional Service  
10:30am - Contemporary Service**

***All are Welcome!***