

# Chimes

December 2021



## **ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT**

Tuesday December 7, 2021

6:30 PM

Women's Ministry at Rockland Community Church

To RSVP or volunteer to help with the event, please contact

Tammy Roth at [coroth@comcast.net](mailto:coroth@comcast.net)

### **Inside this Issue:**

Advent by Candlelight  
Page 1

Rockland Talks  
Page 2-3

Hearts for Romania  
Page 3

Mean Street Ministry  
Page 4

Elders Corner  
Page 5

Church Mouse  
Page 6

Stephen Ministry  
Page 7

Children's Ministry  
Page 8

Tanzania Committee  
Hot Cocoa Bar  
Page 9

Loaves and Fishes  
Page 10

The Baroque Folke  
Page 11

Historic Rockland  
Page 12

ECHO  
Page 13

Caring Ministry  
Page 14

A Night of Worship  
Page 15

## Rockland Talks

We were very pleased with our first Rockland Talks. Feedback from the event was positive and we plan to continue in the future and likely plan for more with the next tentatively scheduled for February 2022. The event afforded those who attended the chance to engage in fellowship outside Sunday worship, break bread together, deepen their Biblical Worldview, unite with our Eastern Orthodox historical roots, see the World as God sees it, and be moved to reinvigorate their personal discipleship to the next generation.

We started the conversation by posing the question, "What to do next in post-Christian America?" Our speaker, Fr Lou Christopoulos, did what all discerning Christian thinkers do. He challenged our assumptions and the premise of our question. He asked us to look at the entire World, not just America. He asked us to look at non-Christian countries. He asked us to look at historically Christian countries that experienced multi-decade oppression from communist governments and cruel dictators. Elena (Russia) and Alina (Romania) told of their childhood experiences in communist countries and how they sustained their faith. Fr Lou highlighted the Ottoman Empire's multi-century rule where Christians were oppressed and persecuted for over 400-500 years inside a Muslim empire and asked, "How did they (Christians) do it?"

He pointed us back to biblical examples of Christian martyrs, Christian saints, and Jesus as a role model. He asked us to remember that with the exception of Apostle John's exile to Patmos island, all of the other apostles were killed for their Christian beliefs. He reminded us that during Stalin's rule, over 200,000 monastic clergy were killed. The historical context and message was clear. Christians have suffered far much worse than Americans and we should expect to suffer for our faith in our lifetime, and likely more in the future given the direction of our culture. He asked us to relinquish any worldly affinities to political party, governments, nation-states or other man-made societal constructs and instead focus on the sovereignty of God, be connected to Jesus above all else, see everyone as an eternal soul, and when it comes to raising children (and the next generation) to "speak more to God about our children than to our children about God."

To facilitate our introduction to the Eastern Christian Orthodox faith, Fr Lou utilized Byzantine iconography which played an important historical role in sustaining the faith. Today, the iconography offers a link to our Christian roots and provides us with "windows into the divine world." At Rockland, we have the luxury of a Bible under every seat and a literate population. We know that the full Bible has been translated into over 700 languages and the New Testament has been translated into over 1500 languages with over 6 billion copies of the Bible having been sold and distributed. Yet for the first 1500 years of Christianity, most of the population could not read and Bibles were only available to the clergy. That means, iconography was used to chronicle, narrate, inspire, and spread the Word.

Icons are created through a meticulous process of fasting, prayer, and ritualistic painting. In Asia minor, Luke created over 70 icons during his lifetime. Some of his paintings still exist today on Mount Othos in the monasteries of northern Greece. Fast forward across the centuries and over a wide expanse of geography, in Austria, Mozart composed over 600 symphonies, operas, chorales, chamber music pieces, piano sonatas, concertos, string quartets, masses, serenades and signed each Soli Deo Gloria, Glory to God alone.

Jesus who never went into politics, never led an army, lived in a backwater nation, and never ventured more than 100 miles from his home, set more pens in motion and furnished more themes for sermons, learned volumes, songs of praise and works of art than all the great men of ancient and modern times. Luke and Mozart drank from the same Wellspring of inspiration.

Fr Lou challenged us and anchored on six "takeaways/themes" for us be Disciples and Apostles of Christ regardless of our time in history or country of origin:

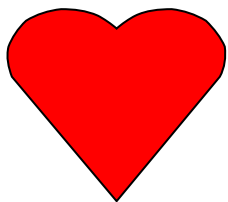
1. Church unity in Christ, as early Christians did
2. We are called to be Holy ones, as were the Saints
3. Be humble, as Jesus was
4. Expect to suffer for our faith, as martyrs did
5. Be a bearer of God and submit to His Will, as Mary did
6. Pray and have mercy for others, especially our enemies.

**CLOSING THOUGHTS** - The current state of affairs in America calls to mind the apostle Paul's second letter to Timothy. When Paul wrote his first letter to Timothy, he was under house arrest, but he was free to receive visitors, send and receive letters, and move about as he pleased. When he wrote this second letter sometime around 67 or 68 A.D. during Nero's horrific persecution of Christians and Jews alike, Paul was chained in a dungeon, awaiting his own execution. His friends had deserted him. He was cold and hungry and alone. He knew death was imminent. But Paul didn't use the letter as an opportunity to complain. He didn't use the letter to demand deliverance. His purpose was to encourage Timothy, whom he feared might become timid in the face of suffering and persecution, to set his mind on Christ and persevere for the sake of the Gospel.

In 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul reminds Timothy that *"you were not made with a spirit of fear, but of power and love and self-control."* The good news is you have the opportunity every single day, in every aspect of your lives, to demonstrate courage, stand up for your faith and create a legacy for the next generation of Believers.

God Bless.

The Discipleship Team



.....

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5**  
Dinner \* Dancing \* Entertainment

***HEARTS FOR ROMANIA***

A celebration of the success of the Romanian Scholarship Program will take place Saturday, February 5, 2022 at Mount Vernon Canyon Club. Please mark your calendar and make plans to bring your Valentine. We wish to thank all the generous sponsors who have contributed to our Mission in Romania throughout the years. Further details on how to register to follow.



A Beloved Ragamuffin Project

## **The Holiday Season**

The thought of Thanksgiving and Christmas can bring anticipation of parties, good food and time with friends and family for most of us. But sadly, it can be a time of dread for many of the people who come to Mean Street Ministry. It can bring the anticipation of cold, lonely days and nights, empty bellies and wondering what their families are doing. Our wonderful volunteers do their best to love them, pray with them and help with their basic needs during this time. Would you consider coming along side of us and touching the hearts of these great people?

### **Monday, Dec. 13th and Tuesday, Dec. 14th**

Our box truck will be going out to the motels along East and West Colfax. We will be caroling, serving hot cocoa, handing out toys, coats, gloves and hats. Would you be willing to collect toys and cold weather items to help us bless those in need?

### **Wednesday, Dec. 15th...Christmas Dinner**

We will be making a Christmas turkey dinner with all of the fixings for our gang. Want to help by donating pumpkin pies or other holiday dinner items? We're also giving wrapped "care packages" for every client. Donations of hand warmers and canned food with pop tops would be appreciated towards these.



### **Client View**

A new client, Mary, ended up on the streets after a violent relationship and has been living outside for two months now. We have been able to listen to her, help her with lifesaving supplies and pray with her for God's guidance. We hope to get her connected with the agencies that can get her off of the streets and start a new, positive life. Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers that make this possible!

Thank you so much for the support you have given all of us at Mean Street Ministry. May you and your families be blessed during Christmas and in 2022. Together, we truly can make a difference in the lives of those God has placed in our path.

Phone: **303-232-2500**

Email: [info@meanstreetministry.org](mailto:info@meanstreetministry.org)

Web: [www.meanstreetministry.org](http://www.meanstreetministry.org)





God is on the move at Rockland! More of us now worship in person, surrounded by the Church family we love. Fellowship is back- the Annual Picnic, Rockland Talks, Connection Sunday and doughnuts. Our Caring and Discipleship ministries are doing great work. The Choir is back. The Cantata is back. We are welcoming new members monthly. God's love and grace abounds.

We began our 2022 Stewardship Campaign a month earlier than usual this year, at the beginning of October. The Elders appealed to all of you who call Rockland home to pledge, even if you have not in the past. We believe that the establishment of a 2022 budget which is tied to pledged giving is more prudent than a budget based on gifts which are expected in 2022, but not actually pledged. Five weeks into the Stewardship Campaign, we have not yet reached levels of pledging we saw in 2021, and we are facing the possibility of needing to cut our planned annual budget for 2022. The good news is that of the folks who have pledged, the average pledge has increased, close to the 15 percent level of increase the Elders requested.

Rockland's people have been incredibly generous over the years, even during the worst of the worst of the pandemic. The Elders understand that we are still in a time of financial uncertainty, and that we are asking folks to pledge who have never pledged before. We ask that you prayerfully consider the following:

Please consider pledging, even if your circumstances require less giving than prior years.

Take the time to discern God's plan for you and Rockland for 2022. A pledge made by December 1 will still give us time to set the budget we will present to the annual meeting early in 2022. However, a pledge made at any time over the next couple months or into next year will still be very helpful.

Of course, your non-pledged giving in 2022 will still support God's mission and plan for Rockland.

Please feel free to call Peter Miterko 303-882-9741 if you would like to discuss anything related to the Stewardship Campaign and the Elders' request. In Him,

### **Rockland Elder Team**

Tracy Adreon  
Jed Burnham  
Joyce Dunbar  
Jim Gribnitz  
Todd Graber  
Kevin Grieve  
Steve Hannah  
Patrick Heck  
Peter Miterko

## OVERHEARD BY THE CHURCH MOUSE



As I look around the congregation on Sunday morning, I realize we have new folks worshipping with us. This is VERY good ! I also realize that there may be those who don't have a clue as to the story of the "church mouse." Seems that this is not a figment of my imagination but an actual event here at Rockland. Considering our church is the third oldest church in Colorado we may have all sorts of stories that can't be verified; however, the story of the mouse seems to be part of our history.

Early on, Rockland (the old historic building) was so isolated that we didn't have a regular schedule nor a permanent pastor so when a pastor would arrive the message went out to the community that there would be a worship service at Rockland Church. One of those times when the church was nearly full, the visiting preacher was behind the altar giving the worship service. As he was talking the congregation started whispering and laughing. Needless to say he was embarrassed until he looked down on the outside of the altar was a small mouse quietly staring at him as he had been listening to the sermon. (Thus the church mouse!)

As we enter winter and the cold non-growing season, it might just be an upper to think about the spring and coming summer when the front of Rockland and the Prayer Garden are filled with flowers and greenery that makes us realize God's creations. Dave Teeter, our expert gardener, has been busy cutting back, fertilizing, improving the soil so that when the growing season starts in the spring, it will have every advantage. Don't you think you would like to be a part of that? Think about it...when you arrive at Rockland in the summer and the flowers are in bloom and everything around our church is declaring God's creative hand in our lives. Dave has a great saying he carries with him..."He who makes a garden works hand in hand with God."

When you look at your life in the coming year, what about including helping Dave with this gardening effort. You don't give that much time and you need no special talent, just desire to make Rockland as beautiful as is possible. In the spring edition of Chimes, we will remind you that you are needed as a gardener and that there is a special place for you. Think about it and decide you will help Dave as you work "hand in hand" with God.

As we look forward to Christmas and the new year, we can be thankful for our Rockland Church up here above the city. Simply looking out our window behind the altar and see our magnificent snowy mountains. Gathering together to worship and give thanks we realize we are so blessed to be here...now! We can celebrate together.

"I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world."



## Care Receivers Share How Their Stephen Ministers Made a Difference

My Stephen Minister listens - really listens. **He doesn't judge me or tell me what to do** but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through. -Brian

My Stephen Minister loves me, listens to me, cares for me, prays for me, and gives me a **safe, confidential relationship** where I can totally share my heart. No matter how much I have to unload on her, she listens to whatever is going on. -Celeste

When I was with Stephen Minister, I felt Jesus was with me. I saw **the love of God in her eyes while we talked and prayed**, and it would fill me with such comfort and peace. It helped me know that I could make it through. -Ashley

My Stephen Minister was a consistent presence walking with me throughout my divorce. He would always show up, and **most importantly, he refused to give up on me**. I'll be forever grateful for the way he changed my life. -Ralph

When things seemed like too much to handle, my Stephen Minister **brought normalcy and calm**. With him by my side, I knew I could make it from one week to the next. I could feel God's presence when my Stephen Minister was there. -James

Experiencing loneliness, isolation, health issues, a spiritual crisis, job loss, grief, infertility or other life difficulties? Rockland is a community that cares! One of our highly trained Stephen Ministers is available for confidential conversations and support to help you. Feel free to contact any of our pastors or Dr. Elaine Swope ([elaineswope@gmail.com](mailto:elaineswope@gmail.com)) for information about this awesome, free, personalized resource.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Our goal is to inform, inspire and connect the people to our community of Rockland Church .**

Staff: Shirley Johnson, Editor. Jan Bakken, Janis Graham

Contributing Writers/ Photographers: Sid Platt, Steve Engle , Kelly Selva, Penny Jacobsen, Pastor Paul Lucks, Annie Barnett, Lori Fullmer, Jennifer Kelly, Elaine Swope. Diane Chapman, Taylor Billingsley, Jo Haynes, Peter Miterko

Production Staff: Marty Hutt, Steve Engle, Sue Sells, Valorie Gubbins, Marion Ilgen, Sid Platt, Joy Gabler

Lead Pastor: Jim Gribnitz..... Kid's & Connections Pastor Lori Fullmer.....Care and Missions Pastor Paul Lucks



## Impacting lives

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD CELEBRATING 28 YEARS OF FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION!

What goes into the box is fun...what comes out is eternal!  
Every gift-filled shoebox is a powerful tool for evangelism  
and discipleship—transforming the lives of kids and their  
families around the world through the Good News of Jesus  
Christ.

Thank you Rockland Community Church for sharing the love  
of Jesus with the kids who receive your generous gift of a  
shoebox in the coming months!

## Wild Time in Kids Ministry!

October 31<sup>st</sup> is typically known as Halloween for most kids but for the kids at Rockland this year it was something quite different. Instead it was Pop Tarts & PJ's Sunday!!!

We invited the kids to come in their snazziest pajamas and wear their craziest slippers to church for this one morning. Even Pastor Lori showed up in her pj's and cat, or were they dog slippers? Pastor Jim joined in the fun as well, sporting a pair of dog slippers.

The smell of toasted Pop Tarts was evident once the kids headed downstairs to their classrooms, and they quickly devoured their special treat. Pop Tarts were not the only treats found in the kids' rooms.

Bags overflowing with individual packs of candy, cookies, and other delicious treats were ready and waiting to be packed into Halloween treat bags. The filled treat bags were then donated to Mean Street Ministries.

So, it really was a  
**Pop Tarts, PJ's and  
Outreach Sunday**





## Tanzania Action Committee

October was Rockland's fundraising month for the Tanzania Action Committee. The committee presented opportunities to the congregation to sponsor five new Form 1 (first year of high school) girls in their Secondary education in Arusha, Tanzania. Three additional Secondary girls, as well as one Pathways (Post secondary education) student were presented for sponsorship as well.

Rockland has a long history of sponsoring the education of girls who would otherwise have no chance of completing their education and going on to live meaningful, productive lives. They are educated in Christian schools and are chosen by an education council based upon their performance in school and fitness for the educational program. Thanks to the generosity of several members of the congregation, all nine girls found sponsors during our fundraising Sundays at the end of October.

In addition to sponsoring girls' education, Rockland participates in the Milky Goats and Egg Laying Hens program, which provides goats and hens to two Maasai villages to help sustain them by providing milk and eggs to dozens of people. This has been a very successful program over the last two years. This month several members of the congregation stepped forward to purchase animals for this program.

Finally, we are proud to report that eleven of our students graduated from Secondary school this past year. They were presented with a card and gift from Rockland to celebrate their achievement. Thank you, Rockland Church, for continuing to support this important ministry.

\*\*\*\*\*

Oh, Baby, It's Cold Outside! Warm yourself up with a cup of hot cocoa.



December 5, 12 & 19 in Fellowship Hall

### Have we reached our goals for 2021?

We are very happy with all the wonderful changes that have happened this year at Loaves & Fishes. We have been able to reach many of our goals that we have set for the year and have even exceeded our own expectations. Earlier this year we decided to focus on building relationships within our community to better serve those in need. We are excited to share that we have build many new relationships within our community that we believe will help to expand our food distribution and expand what services Loaves & Fishes can offer. We have been working all year with our new partners and we are excited to announce a new program that we have never been able to do before this year. Loaves & Fishes only closes 3 weeks out of the year, one week in November to celebrate Thanksgiving and two weeks in December to celebrate Christmas.

This year we are excited to announce our partnership with the Clear Creek Health & Wellness Center that will allow us to provide much needed food boxes to families in need even while we are closed. If you are interested in more details about this great new program, please feel free to contact us over the phone at 512-285-7697 or drop by for a visit during our hours of operation.



### How will we finish 2021?

This has truly been a wonderful year for Loaves & Fishes, and we hope to continue this momentum in closing out 2021. We will be providing holiday baskets for Thanksgiving to all of our clients who sign up. These baskets are a wonderful way for us to spread the holiday spirit and provide a bit of extra food to struggling families. We will also be providing even more holiday baskets around Christmas to help make the holidays even more special. These baskets are designed to give families high quality food that will nourish them and help them to celebrate with those who matter most.

### How can you help?

We are in need of extra volunteers to help make all these wonderful programs possible and would greatly appreciate any help for our mission. Feel free to join our team of volunteers that help to make everything possible by either stopping by during our hours of operation or by texting (512)-285-7697. We would also greatly appreciate monetary or food donations to help fuel our operations. Another big way to help support us is to share our mission with others and help spread our goals within the community. We hope to hear from you soon and God Bless us all!

*You are invited*

**The Baroque Folke  
Traditional, Classical & Baroque  
Christmas Music**

**Tuesday, December 14  
4 PM**

**Where: Historic Rockland**

**24225 Rockland Road  
Golden, Colorado 80401**

**Irish/Scottish Recorders plus Harpsicord and Baroque  
Folk vocal ensemble and sing along  
Come see the little Rockland Community Church in  
Christmas Decoration.**



## HISTORIC ROCKLAND MEMORIES

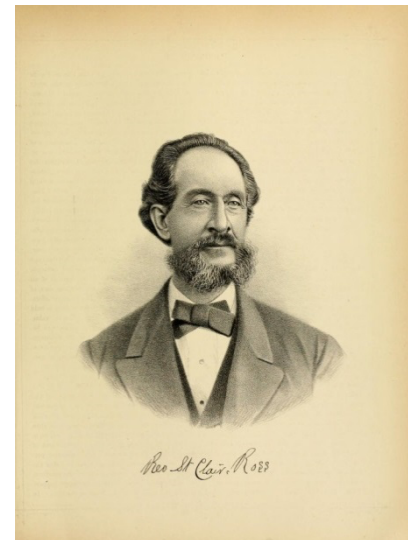
Reverend St. Clair Ross was one of the earliest pioneer ministers in the state of Colorado. He was instrumental in the founding of the Historic Rockland church, as well as several other churches in the state.

Reverend Ross was born in Ohio on May 8 of 1815. He left Ohio in 1849, when he was 25 years old to move to Keithsburg, Mercer County, Illinois. He worked there for a while as a superintendent of a packing and grain shipping company.

He later decided to enter the ministry of the United Brethren Church in 1858. He worked as a missionary under the direction of the church's presiding Elder. He traveled around Ohio for three years in that capacity.

He became an elder of the church in 1862, and he ultimately was ordained as the presiding Elder of the Illinois conference. He left that position in October of 1869 to move to Denver.

Reverend Ross came to Colorado with his second wife Elizabeth Watson Rawls. He organized a church on Ralston Creek and another church on the Platte River 14 miles below Denver. The United Brethren church chose him to become the first missionary to the state of Colorado. He ultimately became the supervisor of the all of the churches in Colorado until the church reorganized as the Colorado conference in 1872. The church chose him to be the presiding Elder when the conference was founded. He held this office until 1875.



Reverend Ross was very active in the United Brethren church. He attended all of the church conferences that were held during his career. The church held these conferences every four years. We have a copy of the minutes of one of these conferences that he attended, in the records of the historic Rockland church.

He spent his later years as a minister in the Golden area where he assisted in the development of a number of the early churches including the Historic Rockland church.

He became active in the formation of the Historic Rockland church in 1876. The congregation that was to become the Historic Rockland church began to use a school building in 1876. The activities primarily consisted of having a Sunday school for the children of the area but there were some services. Abraham Hartzell was one of the residents on Lookout Mountain who was accustomed to preaching in rural communities. He was instrumental in having Reverend Ross give sermons at the school. This was his first involvement with Rockland church.

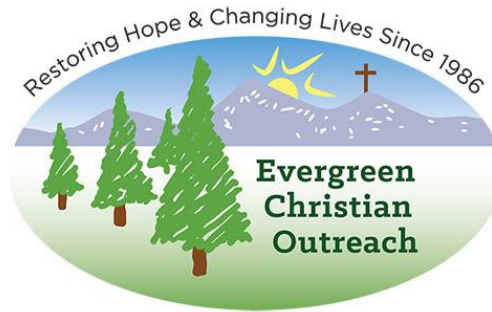
Later Reverend Ross conducted the dedication ceremonies after the construction was complete. An article in the Golden Globe tells us that:

“the dedication was well attended by neighbors from all parts. Every available seat was taken. Services were conducted by Rev. Ross who was assisted by Rev. Abraham Hartzell and a minister from Denver Rev. Bowlin.”

Reverend Ross passed away on October 9 of 1896. His grave is located in the Riverside cemetery along with his that of his wife.

**Sid Platt-Rockland Historian**





**SAVE THE DATE DEC. 7, 2021**

**GIVE**  
WHERE YOU  
**LIVE**

COMMUNITY FIRST FOUNDATION  
**COLORADO**  
**GIVES DAY**   
ColoradoGivesDay.org **Dec. 7**

### Schedule Your Donation

Since 2010, Colorado Gives has hosted "CO GIVES DAY" for all of the nonprofits in Colorado to collaborate toward their end of year goals. This is a great opportunity for all of us to work together to better support the wellbeing of our state by way of local community efforts through nonprofits like ours. *#givewhereyoulive*

### What does this look like for EChO?

Your donations are greatly valued as each and every dollar is poured into EChO's programs to better serve our mountain neighbors on their path to self-sufficiency.

### Give with confidence

Every nonprofit is vetted and your data is respected.  
Your giving history and tax receipts are all in one place.

**\$1.6 Million**

That's the size of the Colorado Gives Day Incentive Fund! Every donation scheduled for or made on #COGivesDay on Dec. 7 gets a piece of it!

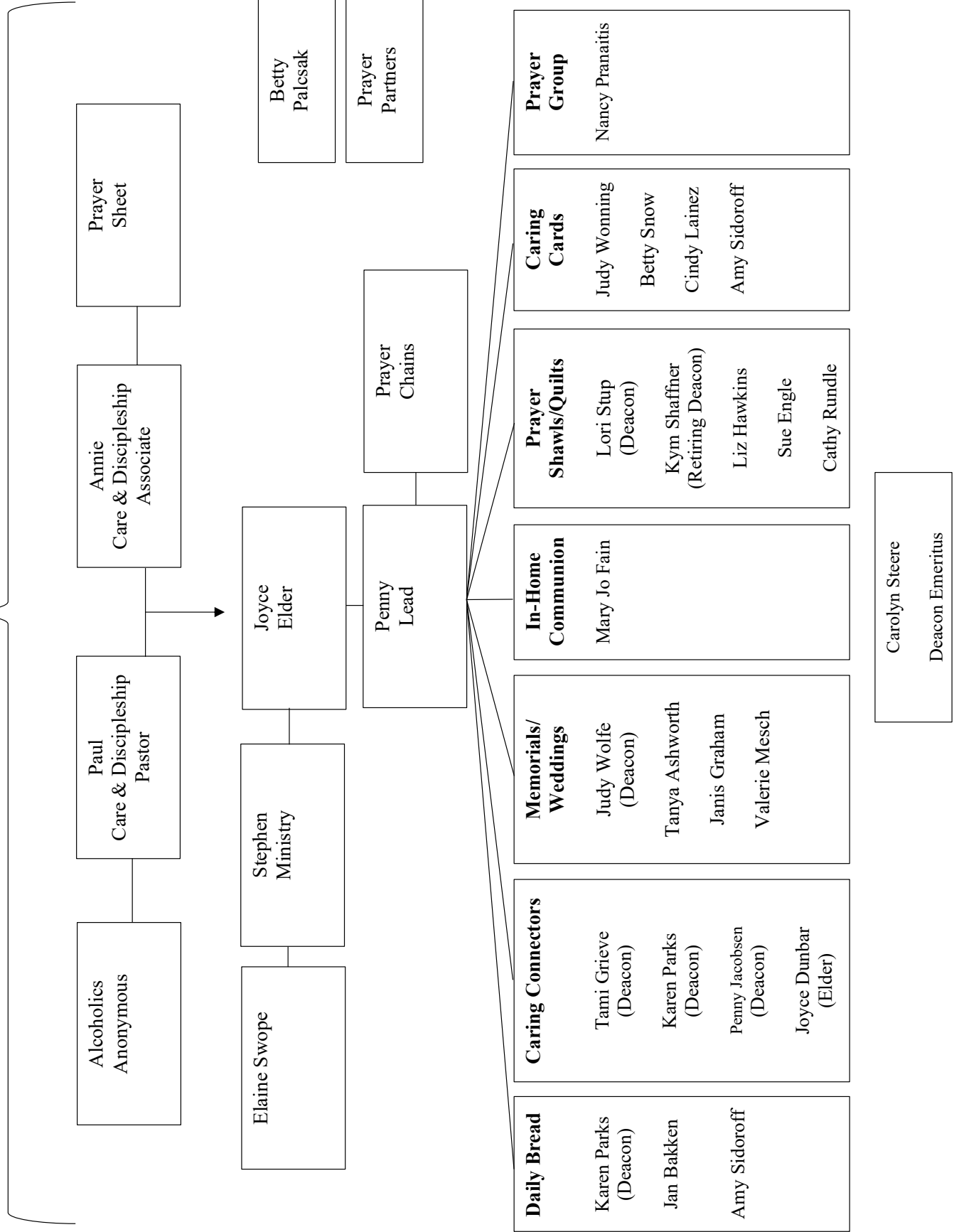
Don't wait! Schedule your donations now and they'll get a boost from the \$1.6 million Incentive Fund.

EChO | [www.evergreenchristianoutreach.org](http://www.evergreenchristianoutreach.org)



# CARING

# MINISTRY





ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH  
Cordially Invites You to

# A NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 19  
6:00-7:00 pm

17 S Mt Vernon Country Club Rd  
Golden, CO 80401

*Dessert Buffet immediately following in Fellowship Hall*

Contact Lori Fullmer

[lfullmer@rockland.church](mailto:lfullmer@rockland.church)





Rockland  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Connecting all generations to Jesus*

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Golden, CO  
Permit No. 128

17 S. Mt. Vernon Country Club Road  
Golden CO, 80401

**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*

**Current resident or**

Welcome Home.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Services: 9:00am & 10:30am  
[www.Rockland.Church](http://www.Rockland.Church)