

Community UCC  
2650 Table Mesa Drive  
Boulder CO 80305  
303-499-9119  
www.cuccboulder.org

Worship and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Pete Terpenning, Minister  
An Open and Affirming Congregation

## DECEMBER 2004-JANUARY 2005



### The ECHO

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#### CARING MINISTRY – SANDY MACKAY

A Christmas Lament (May be sung to the tune of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear")

I cannot welcome Jesus now, there isn't time enough;  
With greens to hang and lights to string, and other Christmas stuff.  
There's gifts to buy and food to fix, and silverware to buff.  
I cannot welcome Jesus now, there isn't time enough.

I have to take the children to see Santa at the mall.  
There's Christmas cards to write and mail, and guest list I must call.  
The garland isn't long enough - the Christmas tree's too tall!  
I cannot welcome Jesus now, I just can't do it all.

The children's Christmas pageant at the church this Sunday night;  
Five dozen cookies to be baked and costumes sewn just right;  
The office party gift exchange, expenses out of sight;  
I cannot welcome Jesus now, with time and budget tight.

The sermon says that Advent is the time I should prepare.  
My datebook says it's Christmas Day, and I don't even care.  
I kept so busy doing things, I never was aware,  
That Jesus came unnoticed, for I had no time to spare.

Dean McIntyre (Copyright 2000 by the General Board of Disci-  
plineship, The United Methodist Church.  
<http://www.gbod.org/worship>)

#### ADOPT-A-FAMILY:

CUCC is participating in Boulder County's Adopt-a-Family project again this year. You may choose a gift to give to one of the members of our two parent, four child family or one of our two foster children in need of support this Christmas. Sheets describing the gifts will be on a table on Sunday, the 28th of November and again on Sunday, the 5th of December. There is also a sheet for cash donations. Please make a check out to CUCC and give it to either Carl Love or Gene Thoele. Please denote Adopt-a-Family or Family-to-Family in the memo on your check. We will use this money to help pay for expensive items purchased by someone who is willing to shop if you help pay for the gift. Any money left over in the fund we will convert into food coupons and let Social Services distribute them where needed. All gifts need to be wrapped and brought to Church by **Sunday, December 12th**. Sue Wilson will accept late gifts at her home at 2837 Tincup Circle on Monday, December 13th. She will be unavailable after that date. Thanks again for supporting this worthwhile Outreach mission.

—Sue Wilson and the Outreach Commission.

**Pete's Letter:**

Facing Christmas by Grace Noll Crowell

I shall attend to my little errands of love  
 Early, this year,  
 So that the brief days before Christmas may be  
 Unhampered and clear  
 Of the fever of hurry. The breathless rushing  
 that I have known in the past  
 Shall not possess me. I shall be calm in my soul  
 And ready at last  
 For Christmas: "The Mass of the Christ."  
 I shall kneel and call out His name;  
 I shall take time to watch the beautiful light  
 Of a candle's flame;  
 I shall have leisure - I shall go out alone  
 From my roof and my door;  
 I shall not miss the silver silence of stars  
 As I have before;  
 And, oh, perhaps - If I stand there very still,  
 And very long -  
 I shall hear what the clamor of living has  
 kept from me;  
 The Angel's song!

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter does not reach you too late for you to attend to Christmas early. Of course, your idea of early may be different than mine, as I tend to be a last minute person, and early December seems early to me for Christmas errands. But Grace Noll Crowell has good advice for us so that when Christmas comes, we can be silent and calm.

I remember a Christmas when the silence of Christmas reached me. I was on a choir tour with The Wittenberg University Choir. Each evening that Christmas time we sang in Lutheran Churches around Florida and at the end of each concert we circled the Congregations and sang a beautiful arrangement of "Silent Night". I remember clearly one night when I made it to the silence of Christmas. Standing in that Church in Florida, I understood for a brief time what Christmas was about, and the peace that passes all understanding. I believed that night that Jesus the Christ was born and walked among humans for a time and that he was somehow still alive and present with our choir and in that congregation and with me.

I hope you make it to the silence of Christmas this year. In that peaceful place we are safe, we are not alone and we can trust that everything is unfolding as it should. There perhaps we shall hear the Angel's song.

Pete, Nov. 19, 2004

**ECHO INFORMATION:**

The deadline for the February 2005 Echo will be **Sunday, January 23**. Please get articles to Susan Carter Ruskell (ruskell@pobox.com) by 3 p.m. that day.

*What is our mission?*

"We who are members of the church are the lighthouse of the world. We are responsible for one task above all others – to keep the light of the gospel burning. All else must be secondary..."

*Why give to the church first?*

"The church has always put us first before anything else. It took us in as babies, before it knew who we were, what we might be, what we might have. It called us 'children of God' and received us into its arms; it walked beside us in good times and in bad times... It prays for us when we go astray, welcomes us back as a loving mother when we come to ourselves; it is with us in sickness, sorrow, and death. Every other organization we join first ascertains who we are, what we have, what our social standing is; asks if we will 'fit in,' what we have to offer, etc. How different is the church that turns to us and says, 'I don't care who you are, what your background is, what you have. You are a child of God and as such I welcome you without reservation; I offer you all the privileges and blessings; and I shall belong to you and you to me now and forever.'"

- Dr. Martin Luther King, sermon, October 1957

**NOTICE ANYTHING MISSING?**

Do you notice gaps in the information available in the newsletter? If so, please send the information to the editor (Susan Carter Ruskell, ruskell@pobox.com). I would rather get the information multiple times and edit for the most complete information than leave out important news about what is going on at CUCC. And don't wait until close to a deadline — early submissions actually make my job easier!

1 Timothy 6:

<sup>17</sup>As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

**BULLETIN INFORMATION:**

Please get bulletin announcements to Kathy Leftwich, our Administrative Assistant. E-mail is preferred ucochrist3@qwest.net or call the church office (please have announcements written out before calling) 303-499-9119.

**COMMUNITY UCC:**

Minister: Rev. Pete Terpenning  
 Administrative Assistant: Kathy Leftwich  
 C.E. Coordinator: Karen Sterner-Howe  
 Youth Group Leader: Jamie Paul  
 Moderator: Sue Levy  
 Narrator: Cathy Russell  
 Scribe: Kathy Leftwich  
 Treasurer: Kathy Rudge  
 Financial Secretary: Kamilla Macar  
 Nominations: Vicky Graham

## **World AIDS Day, Dec. 1**

There will be a concert at St. John's Episcopal church in downtown Boulder on Dec. 1 at **6:30** to observe World AIDS Day. As usual, this service is sponsored by the Interfaith Task Force of Boulder County AIDS Project - a group of which our church is an active member.

## **MEN'S GROUP SERVICE DAY - Saturday, Dec. 4th.**

In light of the Hanging of the Greens in Church that day, the men's group will gather for breakfast at the egg and I at **8:30 am** and then adjourn to the church to help with the hanging of the greens and any other projects that need to be done around church to get ready for the Christmas season! Call Pete if you are coming and he can reserve tables at the Egg and I (in Basemar Shopping Center). You can always just come for breakfast and fellowship!

## **WOMEN'S GROUP:**

The CUCC Women's Group meets monthly for potluck dinner, fellowship and guided meditation or other spiritual programs. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month, with the program following at about 7:30. The schedule for the winter is Dec. 15 at the home of Sue Levy, 975 Hartford; January 19 at the home of Diane Martin, 1424 Snowmass Court and February 16 at the home of Kris Zbranek, 2680 Stephens Road.

## **YOU CAN HELP SLOW MATURE GREYING:**

Did you know that last year, only 35 pledges had been returned by a week-and-a-half after Gratitude Sunday? Amateurs estimate that the subsequent slow trickle of pledge cards, which lasted well into January and beyond, was directly responsible for a 7.26% increase in grey hair on our Financial Secretary, Gene Thoele. (The greying of our Stewardship Chair, Leslie Hartten, is believed to be caused by NOAA and CU bureaucrats.) \*You\* can help slow this process! Turn in those pledge cards and Time-and-Talent sheets before mid-December.

## **GROCERY COUPONS:**

If you have not purchased these coupons in the past, please consider doing so. You pay face value for the coupon (or gift card) and the church gets 2.5% of that face value for our budget. See Carl Love to purchase coupons for most of your favorite area grocery stores, including Safeway, King Soopers, Vitamin Cottage & Wild Oats!

"I donate to Community UCC because I am a conservative. I know that may surprise you to hear, but by that I mean, that I believe in conserving and perpetuating what we have here at this Church. It is my belief that it is our obligation to share with others our good news of what this Church has to offer and my stewardship helps facilitate that. My pledge to the Church helps preserve not only the 'bricks and mortar' of the Church, but also the message of progressive Christianity, inclusion and peace that our Church stands for. I hope many more join me in being a 'conservative!'"

- Sue Levy, Moderator of Community UCC

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE :**

### **ADVENT - CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:**

**Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 am** "Hanging of The Greens" Come and help put up Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. Tall persons able to climb ladders especially needed! Snacks and drinks provided

**Sunday, Dec. 5** Second Sunday of Advent; Advent Candle lighting and communion. Stewardship dedication of 2005 pledges and service to the church. Special choir music

**Sunday, Dec. 12** Third Sunday of Advent; Advent Candles; Choir music

**Sunday, Dec. 19** Fourth Sunday of Advent; Advent Candles; Choir music

**Friday, Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Services: **7:30 pm** Traditional Family Candlelight service **11 pm** Service of communion, scripture and hymns and candlelight.

**Sunday, Dec. 26** Christmas celebration and carol sing (all the carols you didn't get to sing enough! - led by Kamilla Macar)  
**Christmas Caroling** We will once again be Christmas Caroling, probably at Fraser Manor. Contact Scott Rudge for time and date and details.

"It is very easy to go through life and ask for things to be given to you; it is not as easy to go through life and ask, 'What can I give?'. In a moment of contemplation and reflection I realized that many of the good things that have happened in my life can be traced back directly to CUCC. Stewardship means taking responsibility for the gifts given by GOD. The act of sharing financially assists the church in its wider mission to help those who do not have the same advantages we have been blessed with in this community."

- a several-year member of Community UCC

# December 2004-January 2005

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>28</b> 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship 1st Sunday of Advent	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Dec. 1</b> World AIDS Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:30 am Men's group 10 am Hanging of the Greens
<b>5</b> 8:30 meditation Communion 10 a.m. worship <b>Gratitude Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship <b>Adopt-A-Family Deadline</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Women's Group	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Services 7:30 & 11 p.m.	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas
<b>26</b> 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship <b>Carol Sing</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Jan. 1</b> Happy New Year!
<b>2</b> 8:30 meditation Communion 10 a.m. worship	<b>3</b> 7 p.m. SLF mtg	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Women's Group	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship <b>Echo Deadline</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>