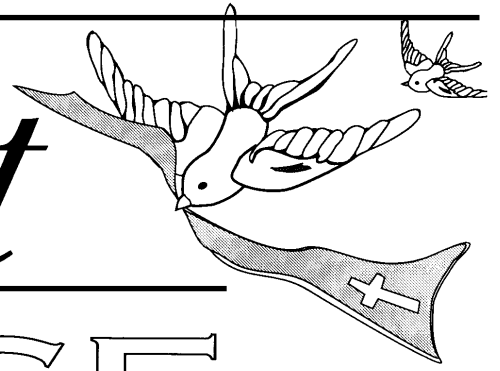


Valmont VINTAGE



Jan/Feb 2010

Valmont Community Presbyterian Church

A Bird's-Eye View ...

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:

a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,

a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

Ecclesiastes 3:1-4

My heart is heavy as I write this "Bird's-Eye View." Stewart Strickler, a man I have worshiped and worked with for the past 13 years has completed his journey here in this world. My heart is heavy at the departure of Stewart Strickler, not only for my personal loss, but for that of the church, as well. Without exception, everyone I know has received the news of Stewart's death as a personal blow, a loss that effects them directly. In the last couple of days I have learned much about the wide ranging impact his life had on many people in our church family and beyond.

we know that there will be a time to celebrate. It is perfectly normal, and we should be saddened as we learn to live without someone so dear to us. But we rejoice with Stewart and the many who have gone before him, knowing that we all live in the promise of the Resurrected Christ. We are happy that we were able to live and serve with Stewart, and we look forward with great anticipation to joining him in that great cloud of witnesses around the throne.

in Christ's service,

Ask a friend to join you.

You Have A Friend At Valmont!

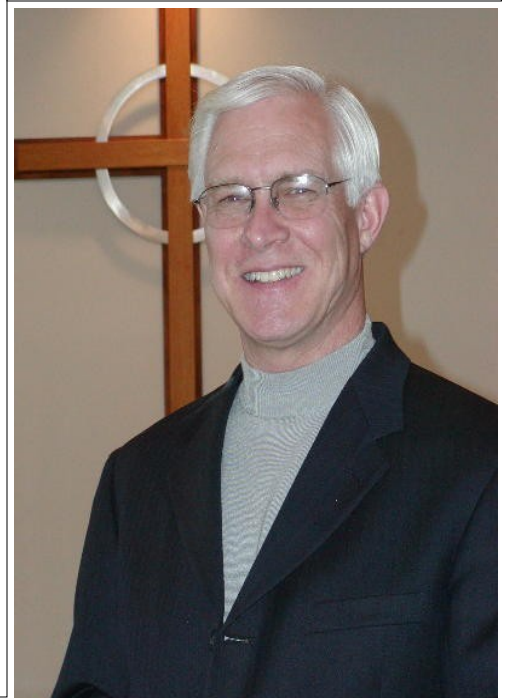
Sunday School: 9:00
Worship Service: 10:30

3262 N. 61st Street, Boulder
(61st Street & Valmont Road)

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Bird
303-442-2135
www.ValmontChurch.org

My personal experience, of course, has been with Stewart as a man of God and church leader. He was a deliberate, thoughtful man who minced his words carefully, but when he spoke, his quiet voice carried exceptional weight. His counsel and wisdom impacted many in our congregation, and reached far beyond the boundaries of Valmont Church.

My heart is joyful as I write this "Bird'-Eye View." As Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes, "there is a time to mourn and a time to dance." Even in the midst of our mourning,



Bulletin Board



Thank you ...

Thanks to Ken Crowe, Ruth Lewis and Debbie Starin for there dedication in doing the Lord's work by serving as an Elder or Deacon respectively



Elders:

Cheryl Craig

David Hustvedt

Chris Brickey

Joyce Glazier

Clerk of Session:

Stewart Strickler

Deacons:

Stella May Montgomery

Ruth Tisdale

Dotteyanne Bird

Activities



Every Sunday – Iglesia meets 3:00-5:00pm

Every Thursday – Iglesia meets 7:00-9:00pm

Every Friday – AA meets 8:00-10:00pm

Every Tuesday—Choir meets 7:00

Men's group on Tuesdays at noon

Jan 23-23: Elder/Deacon Retreat

Feb 5-6: Presbytery Meeting at Harmony P.C.

Feb 14, Valentine's Day

Feb 17, Ash Wednesday

Feb 24, Mar 3, 10, 17: Lent Film Series;
6pm supper; 7pm movie.

Mar 20-27: Mission Trip: : We will be sponsoring a PDA mission trip to Houma, LA to do hurricane recovery work.

Six Sundays of Lent are Feb 21 & 28, Mar 7, 14, 21, 28
(Mar 28 is Palm Sunday.)



Pig Roasts and Potlucks



Chocolate Lava Cake From the Kitchen of Debbie Starin

These individual cakes are easy to make and are very rich and delicious. They are not intended for a day when you are counting calories.

Ingredients:

- ◆ 6 oz semi-sweet or 60% dark chocolate bars
- ◆ 3 eggs
- ◆ 1/3 c flour
- * 6 oz butter, diced and room temperature
- * 1/2 c granulated sugar
- * Butter for Ramekins

Instructions: Serves 4

1. Heat oven to 350 degrees
2. Butter four Ramekins
3. Break up the chocolate bars and gently melt them in your microwave oven, stirring as needed
4. Remove chocolate from the microwave and stir in the diced butter until it melts
5. In another bowl, beat eggs and sugar until it starts to whiten and get fluffy
6. Stir in the melted chocolate and then the flour
7. Pour the chocolate batter into the Ramekins

My notes:

1. I doubled the recipe and used 8 oz semi-sweet chocolate and 4 oz 60% dark chocolate. I used Ghirardelli chocolate bars.
2. The recipe says to cook the Ramekins for about 10 minutes and also says the tops of the Ramekins should be firm. I would go with the firm tops rather than with 10 minutes. You want the insides to be liquid, while the outside is a cake. When you tip the Ramekin into the serving plate, the cake will look like a volcano and inside will be the warm, delicious chocolate lava.
3. You can easily serve this plain or with ice cream, whipped cream or English cream.

Decadent is a good word for this dessert. Enjoy!



Low-Carb Swiss Loaf

I adapted this from a recipe that had a whole pile of bread crumbs and cup of milk in it; I simply left them out, and I've never missed them.

- * 2½ pounds ground beef
- * 1 medium onion, chopped
- * 1 teaspoon salt or Vege-Sal
- * 5 ounces Swiss cheese, diced small or grated
- * 1 green pepper, chopped
- * ½ teaspoon pepper
- * 2 eggs, beaten
- * 1 small rib celery, chopped
- * ½ teaspoon paprika

- ◆ Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- ◆ With clean hands, combine all the ingredients in a large bowl, until the mixture is well blended.
- ◆ I made the meat into one large loaf pan or two small ones. Bake a large loaf for 1½ to 1¾ hours. Bake two small loaves for 1¼ hours.

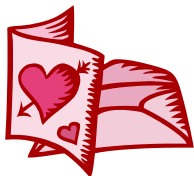
I turn the loaf out of the pan and onto the broiler rack, and I bake it there so the excess fat runs off—not because I'm afraid of fat, but because I like it better that way. If you like, though, you could bake yours right in the pan, and it would probably be a bit more tender.

Yield: 8 servings, each w/3 grams of carbohydrates and 1 gram of fiber, for a total of 1grams of usable carbs and 30 grams of protein.

Reprinted from *500 Low-Carb Recipes* by Dana Carpenter, © 2002 Fair Winds Press

Dear Valmont Church Family,

We were so happy to be at church with you on the first day of Advent, then visit a little after. We always come away from any contact with Valmont feeling blessed and warmed. The flow of God's love between believers is so real.



But it's not just when we're there that we feel your love. When Claudette's unique, creative, hand-made cards appear in our mailbox with notes from you, we are suddenly right back in the Fellowship Hall with you! Thank you to each one of you who takes the time to send those personal notes. It's always a surprise, always a breath of fresh air, always an encouragement. Thank you, Claudette, for using your gift of creativity to bless others at a distance. Thank you to all of you who take advantage of that way to stay in touch.

We used to have a policy of answering personally every personal card or letter. Given that the number of people we relate to keeps growing, we can't do that now. But we do want Valmont's "Caring Carders" to know they are effectively communicating God's love. Thank you all! Stu & Edith Nelson

Gift Cards

Did you know that gift cards are an important part of the ministry here at Valmont. The proceeds from the gift card sales are used to augment the finances used by the deacons and some other projects. All of the gift cards available at the Safeway "Gift Card Mall" are available to you including the following and more:



AMC Movies	Kohls	Chilis	Pizza Hut
Barns and Noble	Landry's	Circuit City	Ponderosa
Bass Pro Shops	Lowe's	Dave & Busters	Radio Shack
Bed Bath and Beyond	Macaroni Grill	Foot Locker	Red Lobster
Bennigan's	Marriott	GAP	Safeway
Best Buy	Nordstrom	Home Depot	Sears
Black Angus	Old Navy	iTunes	Starbucks
Blockbuster	Olive Garden	J C Penny	Steak n Ale
Bonanza	On the Border	Joe's Crab Shack	Target
Borders	Papa John's		
Chart House	Pier 1	King Soopers	Toys Are Us

The church purchases these cards at a discount and sells them to you at face value. Gift cards are easier to use than either cash or credit cards. We only accept cash and checks for the purchases. If you are willing to help by selling the cards to your relatives or neighbors let me know and I will explain how to do it. We buy all of our gasoline using these cards and it seems we use a lot. Most of the newer Safeway and King Soopers stores have these gas stations.

Thank you, Don Lewis

What a difference One Person Can Make - submitted by Deb G

This was a very moving piece I received from a Wycliffe liaison. What a difference one person (for Valmonters - one bubble) can make to many lives. Be sure to watch the attached video at the link below. Deb

Dear Friends – below is a short letter I receive (along with other people) from Tracy Hagman (her husband is the Area Director for Wycliffe Associates in Africa). She runs a center for children with special needs in Kenya. It was a very touching answer to prayer that I wanted to share with you and ask you to please pray for the center and for all those who have followed God's call to leave the comforts of their homeland to help those less fortunate. They are true heroes. There is more info in the links on the center if you are interested. Tracey mentions her son Simon who is a child with special needs.

God bless you! May your Christmas be blessed to overflowing as you celebrate the Greatest Gift of all!

Pamela Dumas of **Wycliffe Associates**

*"When I pray, You answer me;
You encourage me by giving me the strength I need."*
- Psalm 138:3 -



Hi Heshima friends,

In the link below is a picture of Simon at Heshima dressed as "Father Christmas"... as they say here. We did a Christmas party for the families and the kids. All the families got a big bag of food, clothing and toys. We sang Christmas carols and ate Christmas cake....if it was up to the staff we would have killed and cooked a goat but I thought cake was much easier and less clean up!!

The chief of Ngando slum (where we are located) called a meeting with the community last week. We did not attend but we "heard" that the chief told the "thugs" from the slum area to protect Heshima and not to destroy the center. He told them that Heshima is a good place and that "there is this white lady there who does not make any money, so do not steal from the center." Angels come in many forms!

We at Heshima are thankful for all of you!

Tracey Hagman

www.heshimachildrenscenterkenya.wordpress.com



"The Edge" by Christopher Logue

Come to the edge.
We might fall.
Come to the edge.
It's too high!
COME TO THE EDGE!
And they came
And he pushed
And they flew.

(Many thanks to Stewart and Edith Nelson
for introducing us to this insightful and
challenging poem.)

DEACONS' NEWS BOX

Deacons news.....

Deacons' Christmas Activities

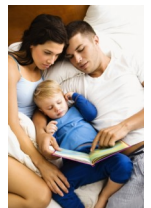
The Deacons area always especially busy during November and December and this year was no exception, with the coordination of two gift giving programs and the distribution of funding to worthy organizations.



The Women's Organization was very helpful in wrapping boxes for the Good Samaritan Shoe Box program. The Deacons collected 31 boxes this year, which will be shipped to children in distant countries who have no expectation for Christmas presents other than the ones they receive in their very own shoe box. It's always fun to put a box of gifts together and to think about what the child might enjoy. Thank you everyone for your generous participation with this program.



Our second Christmas gift collection was for local children and families through Boulder County's Families to Families program. This year, the County suggested that we might want to give gift cards so that moms and kids could find just what they want and buy it themselves. The Deacons thought this was a good idea, so in consultation with the congregation we decided this is the way we would go this Christmas. Three hundred dollars of gift cards were purchased by the congregation and were donated to the mom and children referred to us by the County program. We know the recipients will be very happy to have the pleasure of shopping for themselves and picking out items of delight. Thank you, again, for generously participating in this program that helps lower-income families.



The Deacons assisted several people throughout the year through the use of funding available to the Deacons from the church budget and greatly supplemented by a percentage of the grocery card ministry that is coordinated by Don Lewis. With the remaining funds available to the Deacons, we were creative this year with our disbursements of funds. We selected local and international organizations with varying missions. Some were new to our list, while others have been supported previously. Recipients included the following:

Heifer International - we purchased a water buffalo and a pig for a family in a developing country Smile Train - we purchased one cleft palate surgery for a child in a developing country



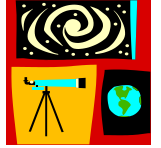
Local donations were sent to Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat, Jubilate Sacred Singers, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Family Learning Center, , Real Choices Pregnancy Care Center and Casa de la Esperanza. Additionally, several King Soopers grocery cards were purchased so that the Deacons' can quickly provide assistance when the need arises.

On behalf of Stella May Montgomery and Ruth Tisdale, please know that all three of us have enjoyed serving this church and the community for the past year or more. We hope we have provided a thoughtful word when needed and have responded quickly to situations requiring special help. It has been our pleasure to be the loving arms of the church, reaching out into the Boulder area community. As this has been Debbie's last year as a Deacon, we welcome Dottyanne Bird to this position and know she will do a thoughtful, compassionate job.

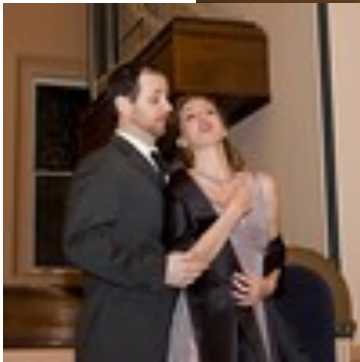
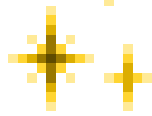


God's blessings to all of you, Debbie Starin

“These Fair Stars” benefits Valmont Amateur Astronomy Group



December 17, 2009 was certainly a night to enjoy “These Fair Stars.” The heavens were celebrated by all as they listened to Anne-Carolyn Bird and Matthew Burns perform a wide variety of music to benefit our Valmont Amateur Astronomy Group. Pianists Christopher Zemliauskas and Margaret Fries accompanied them. The recital concluded with a Christmas sing-a-long of carols that featured the Christmas star. Anne-Carolyn and Matthew delighted the audience with an encore performance of an aria duet from “The Marriage of Figaro.”



Donations from the benefit exceeded \$1200 and will allow the VAAG to purchase equipment to permanently mount their Meade twelve inch reflector telescope. You may still contribute to this important ministry of Valmont Church by writing a check payable to VCPC, marked VAAG in the memo.



Property Matters



For the next number of Tuesdays (the number is “until done”), anyone who would

come to the church on that day can help with a number of internal projects. We will be doing some patching, painting, nailing, re-arranging, spiffing up etc. We will bring the heat up on those days to make it as comfortable as possible for you. Oh, bring your best holey jeans and ragged t shirt so you will look the part. We already have or will supply the tools necessary.

Your servant, Don Lewis



Finis - By Cora Feese

Looking back across the years,
I would not change one day,
Nor would I change one item,
Or all our work and play;
Our lives have had their sunshine,
With plenty of shadow too,
But the love that held us steady,
Has carried our burdens through.

The children grew and married,
And are happy in their way,
And another generation,
Will soon replace our day;
The earth is in a turmoil,
As these words are penned tonight,
And we cannot foretell the victors,
Whether of might or right.

But of one thing we are certain,
Coming nearer day by day,
The end of the dispensation,
Is not so far away.
The signs of the times are showing,
The scriptures being fulfilled,
And God will only allow,
What's according to His will.
(probably written during the First World War)

Questions –submitted by Don

Was John (the Baptist) a descendent of David or Aaron? Luke 1:8,9; Ex 30:7,8

Was Jesus (The Messiah) a descendent of David (note: a trick question)? Luke 1:35; Matt 1:16; Matt 1:25

How many Magi came to worship the one born King of the Jews? Matt 2:1

What two non Jewish women were ascendants of the David-ian line? Matt 1:5

How did Jesus baptize people (another trick question)? John 1:25; John 1:33; John 2:22, 26; John 20:22

How many brothers did Jesus choose to be disciples then Apostles. John 1:40, 45



DON'T PUT IT OFF

(by Cora Feese)

Don't neglect the deed of kindness
That will brighten someone's way,
Don't put off the words of courage
That you ought to say today.

Some poor heart may be in need
Of those very words of cheer,
And a stumbling brother needing
A helping hand that's near.

It's your Vintage

Anyone who would like to contribute articles, picture, recipes or anecdotes, please submitted by the 20th prior to publication month to **Mike Greever** via email at mgreever@prestigerealtygroup.com or give to **Ella in the office**
Publication Months: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov.