



Christmas Eve Service

All of our Christmas Eve services are candlelight.

Our Family services are at **4pm & 6pm** and feature a living nativity. The Chancel Choir, Brass and Bells are featured at our **8pm service**. Our **11pm service** includes Holy Communion. **Our Spanish worship service will be at 6pm in the Celebration Hall. Child care is available at the 4pm, 6pm and 8pm services only.** Note the worship times have been adjusted a bit to allow more transition time between each service. We look forward to sharing this special holiday with you and pray traveling mercies on those who will be out of town.

December 2011
www.smokyhillumc.org

IN THIS ISSUE

Pastors ReportPage 2
 Nurturing.....Page 3
 MissionsPage 4
 Church & SocietyPage 5
 Small Groups.....Page 6
 Information.....Page 7
 Cradle Care.....Page 8
 Children/Family.....Page 9
 Youth News.....Page 10
 Music.....Page 11
 Upcoming.....Page 12

Welcome to Worship!



Worship Hours:
8:30 am & 10:00 am
Weekly Communion at 10am
.....

MINISTERIO EN ESPAÑOL
10:00am - Celebration Hall
.....

Sunday School
10:00am preschool - 5th
10:00am - Adult
10:00am - Youth 6th-12th



This year Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Sunday. On those days we will have one family service at 11am. There will be no Sunday school. There will be no childcare on Christmas Day only.



New Year's Day
WORSHIP SERVICE

Newsletter DEADLINE DATES

- ◆December 9 for January newsletter
- ◆January 13 for February newsletter

Please submit articles to JanetteBrink@msn.com

Important Info:
Because SHUMC pays a Non-profit postal rate any articles that promote for-profit companies cannot be published.

It is That Time of Year Again!

The holidays are upon us. This year, I will be staying in Colorado through the season and celebrating with friends. My family is all so far away. I miss my mother this time of year! This will be my second Christmas without her. I am sure that everyone who has lost a loved one misses them more at this time of year. Holidays are a stressful time for everyone. It is a challenge to create a holiday celebration that honors individual values and life-styles. How can we keep our spiritual center in this season so given over to consumerism and conspicuous consumption? How can we stay in touch with the spiritual meanings of this season in our family celebrations? How do we honor Christ and honor each other during this season of sensory overload? How do we choose between so many good things to do, so many opportunities to give to the "less fortunate"?

In this newsletter you will read about many opportunities for worship, learning, fellowship and service. Our church family is busy this time of year as we seek to offer seasonal involvements that integrate the spiritual dimension of the holidays into the celebrations. Can the holidays really be holy-days?

I believe that they can if we follow some simple guidelines. First, don't try to do it all, to buy it all, to eat it all. Pace the commitments that you make so that there is time for the quiet cup of tea at the end of the day and time to reflect about meaning of the season and choices you make. Second, simplify! During the holidays, less can be more. Take care to not over spend, over commit, over eat. Play some games, sing Christmas carols, laugh and help someone who is less well off than you. This year with unemployment at a record high and social services cut by budget pressures, there are lots of needs. SHUMC will let you know of some giving opportunities, but do not feel like you have to respond to them all...pick and choose and enjoy this season. Together we can celebrate the deepest meaning of the holidays and have a lot of fun doing it!

-Rev. Glenda

Prayer: "O God of mangers, God of lullabies, simple shepherds, and silence, you knew exactly what we needed. Forgive us our clamors for what we want, while we miss what we really need. Turn on the Light again above the stable and let it shine into our confused hearts. Visit our busy lives with quiet grace. Still our hurrying, and give us moments when we see in the face of Jesus Christ how to want what we need. We long to be at Bethlehem where he is born in us, that we may become a crossroads where love is lived out in his name for the least and the lost. Amen"

Intentional Fellowship Time

From now through Sunday, May 27 we will be having a weekly time of fellowship, with food, following the 10:00 service. We are asking the congregation to help provide snacks for this time and to that end have divided the congregation by their last name:

December: E, F, G

January: H, I, J

February: K, L

March: M, N, O, P, Q

April: R, S

May T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

When it is your month to help, we are asking that you bring finger foods, sweet or savory ie: cookies, veggies, pretzels, etc. on one Sunday during that month. Bring your food to the coffee service area in the Gathering Space.

Thank you for your participation in this opportunity for our church to renew friendships and welcome those who are newer in our midst.



NURTURE YOUR FAITH

Where are you on your journey of faith?
How would you like to deepen your faith?

We have many different adult Christian education opportunities to help you grow in faith. Short term and long term studies, weekday, evening and weekend workshops, Bible classes and topical classes. Find a place to nurture your faith! See the Adult Education brochure, the bulletin, or contact Rev. Patti for more information and help finding the right class for you.



The season of advent is a time to prepare our hearts and make room in our lives for the coming of Jesus. I encourage you to take a moment each day to stop and reflect. Members of our congregation have written daily reflections which are available in an Advent Devotional guide. The daily devotions are available in print form or digital. You can pick up the booklet at church or find the devotions posted daily on our blog at www.umcsmokyhill.blogspot.com which is also fed onto our Facebook page. However you want to access them, take a moment each day to reflect and be inspired during this busy but meaningful season.



Discipleship **Where are you in your Christian walk?** If you are interested in deepening your relationship with God and with others on the same journey, join us in exploring discipleship, in a study of the book *Accountable Discipleship: Living in God's Household* by Steven W. Manskar. **Class will begin Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 7 PM** and will be facilitated by Barbara Reuteler (Barbara@reuteler.org) and Linda Wyatt (lindawyatt15@gmail.com)



Many thanks to all who brought in peanut butter and canned tuna for our brothers and sisters in need; for those who helped "stuff" baskets, boxes and bags at Smoky Hill High School and then delivered the boxes we were allotted. You all put a special touch to Happy Thanksgiving for many. God bless you everyone.



For information about any of these mission projects contact Bill Reiley, chair of the Mission Team 303-690-5337

LOCAL MISSION PROJECTS- Smoky Hill is involved in many local missions. Listed below are six projects which we support financially and/or by "on-the-site" efforts.

● **AITF (AURORA INTERCHURCH TASK FORCE)**

This is a non-profit volunteer agency whose aim is to express Christian concern for individuals and families by providing substantive emergency assistance. All funds, goods and hours of service are donated by churches, civic organizations, schools, individuals and volunteers. Their programs include food/clothing banks, rent and utility assistance, bus tokens and emergency prescriptions. SHUMC has given food on a regular basis and contributed financially to their efforts.

● **AURORA WARMS THE NIGHT**

This non-profit's mission is to preserve the life, health and stability of Aurora's men, women and children experiencing homelessness. The primary goal is to provide shelter on severely cold weather days at low-cost motels. In addition, they provide food, toiletries, clothing and other necessities, and referrals for medical and dental care, substance abuse treatment and permanent housing. SHUMC's contributions have been mostly financial.

● **DENUM (DENVER URBAN MINISTRIES)**

DENUM's mission statement is that it "nourishes the spirit of community and cultivates awareness of urban life. We provide resources for persons in crisis and create opportunities for individual and community growth and service." Organized by Methodist clergy and laity in 1981, DENUM provides essentials of food, rent/utility assistance, infant items and bakery items. Last year, nearly 14,000 food packages were given to those in need. Legal advice, ID assistance and job services are also offered. SHUMC contributes financially, and with food and on-site help on a regular basis.

● **DENVER INNER CITY PARISH (DICP)**

Founded in 1960, DICP's goals are to cultivate a spiritual/social/educational center in Denver's Westside area. This is being done through developing community leadership, fostering hope through education (La Academia and night school), and strengthening families and individuals of all ages so they achieve stable and self-sufficient social and economic lives. Programs include Parish Seniors, Project ReNew (to reduce community crime), an emergency food bank, Young Fathers and a summer day camp. SHUMC's contributions have been both financial and with "on-site" help.

● **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF METRO DENVER**

Habitat for Humanity believes that everyone, everywhere deserves a decent place to live. It's a goal, which when attained changes lives, families and communities. Homes are built on a regular basis in the Denver area. SHUMC is a member of Loaves and Fishes, a group of churches in involved in hands-on construction efforts on a regular basis. We also make a sizable yearly financial donation.

Church and Society News

Paraphrased from the United Methodist Social Principles, Section 1, The Natural World: *All creation is the Lord's and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it...Therefore, let us recognize the responsibility of the church and its members to place a high priority on changes in lifestyles to support a more ecologically sustainable world.*

Copies of the Social Principles are available from the Church and Society Team.

Please contact Susan Allen (susanallen@aol.com) if you would like to have your own copy of the booklet.

Ideas for eco-friendly wrapping: (from Gaiam Life)

Say "silver bells" without leaving a metallic taste in your mouth. A different twist on recycled paper, **recycled aluminum foil** adds shiny happiness and closes the loop on recycling.

Reusable gift bags or shopping bags make an ingenious alternative to gift wrap, and these days they come in all manner of styles.



Make your own cloth tote bags or gift bags. Let surplus maps lead the way to sustainable wrapping. Reclaimed subway maps and topographical maps give your package a hip design. Not to mention, they're educational.



Add a bulb instead of a bow — a compact fluorescent bulb, that is. When you stick it on top of your gift you'll help reduce your gift recipient's carbon footprint (and electric bill).



Make the wrapping part of the gift! Containers make great no-wrapping-needed packaging: A bucket or watering can is easy to fill with gardening supplies and a mixing bowl or stockpot makes the perfect package for your favorite cook. And don't forget soft wrapping paper alternatives that are also great gifts, like **scarves**, organic cotton baby blankets, and beach towels.



Opt for tree-less sources of paper, such as **100% recycled paper printed with soy-based inks.**



Some of the best decorations for your gifts can be found in backyards, beaches and fields. **Sprigs of berries, branches, shells and pinecones are naturally beautiful and don't require any manufacturing at all** ... just a short hike. Or try paper that's embedded with wildflower seeds. Instead of tossing or recycling it after gifts are opened, just plant it in your garden! There's no waste ... just beautiful blossoms that make this wrapping paper a gift in itself.

SMALL GROUPS



- **THE SCRAPBOOKING GROUP** call Karla at 303-693-6070.
- **THE QUILTING GROUP** continues to meet **on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm**. Contact Mary at 303-693-5186 with questions.
- **NIGHT READERS** have changed the meeting night to the **3rd Monday night at SHUMC, in room 210, at 7pm**
December 19th will be "Heaven is for Real" by Todd Burpo
January 16th "Laugh your way to Grace" by Susan Sparks
February 20th "Sold" by Patrick McCormick
March 19 "Growing Friendship Connecting more deeply for those who matter Most" by Tracy Kelhn
April 16 "On the way with Jesus" By Richard Shaw Walter
May 21 "Undertakers Wife" by Celia Hastings
- **"IN OUR PRAYERS..." PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** at SHUMC meets every Tuesday afternoon, 1-4 pm, in The Upper Room. For more information contact Pat Davis at (303) 752-4093 or by email at inourprayers@comcast.net
- **"UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** will have a Christmas party for all SHUMC ladies on Sunday, December 11, from 12-2p.m. in Room 214. There will be a White Elephant Gift Exchange (don't buy anything new, just bring an item from your house or garage that's a 'White Elephant' all wrapped up or covered in a brown bag.) Also, we'll be having an "Ugly Sweater" contest so, please find an appropriate sweater! There will be a prize for the 'ugliest'!! Come, before the Children's Christmas Program, and join us for a fun time to start off the holiday gatherings!"



- **THE RESTAURANT RAMBLERS** - Tis a very busy season at Christmas time so Restaurant Ramblers will take a rest. Watch the newsletter for a January activity. Have a very Merry Christmas.
- **DINNERS FOR FAMILIES GROUP** - Do you have young children and would like to get to know other families in the church with children? All families are welcome to join the Dinners for Families Group for social activities and service projects. New groups will be forming in January for the upcoming 2012 year. Your family will be in a group with two other families and will rotate homes to have a meal together. It's a great way to meet other families and fun for the kids! Other events include a Cookie Exchange in December and Adopting a Family for Christmas. If you would like to participate in either event or for more information, please contact Kristine Wussow at 720-570-8683 or kristinewussow@yahoo.com



Senior Adults On December 9 at

noon the Senior Trailblazers will present an A Capella student group from Lamont School of Music at D.U. They will serenade us with a selection of holiday music while we dine on another excellent holiday meal. Cost of the meal is still \$6.00 per person. Please call Charlotte Faris at 303-690-8466 or Gene Aist at 303-766-8882 or Genny Tribett at 303-693-5976. We need reservations for this special event so that our chef will prepare enough food for all of us. You may also fill out the sign-me-up insert in the Sunday bulletin. God Bless Us One and All.



CONTACT US

Church Office: (303) 690-9816

Fax: (303) 766-1980

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Hours:

M–Th...8:30a.m.–4:30p.m.

Fri...Office Closed

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Aaron Carr

TECH CORNER

Podcasts of Sermons are now available. You can get them in 4 ways:

1. From the link on our website at www.smokyhillumc.org
2. Go to <http://shumc.podbean.com> from here you can also subscribe and get the sermons automatically
3. Go to the iTunes store and search (upper right-hand corner) for “smoky hill umc.”
4. For other feeds, type in the feed URL:

<http://shumc.podbean.com/feed/>

If you have any questions, contact Corey Kesler at cskesler@gmail.com.

Facebook

Find us on Facebook by searching “Smoky Hill UMC”. If you have any questions contact Lloyd Bartshe at lbartshe@gmail.com or Kathy Haley silverwolf13@comcast.net.

Join the SHUMC Babysitting Co-Op!!

- ♥ It’s safe. All member’s homes are inspected, so you know your children will be in a safe environment.
- ♥ You can depend on it, and the sitter will be a close, trusted friend.
- ♥ The Co-op isn’t about looking after dozens of kids at once. It’s not about elected officers, but about moms helping moms by trading sits – earn points by providing a sit, and redeem points by requesting a sit.
- ♥ Use the Co-op *as much or as little* as you like.
- ♥ Extra work is not needed. Tasks are well organized.

Call Krista Bayless at 720-346-6439 or email

kristabayless@yahoo.com or

email Erin Kesler at ejkesler@gmail.com

What the Heck is a SHUMC Honey Do?

Since our church does not have a maintenance person, most of the repair, painting and other maintenance is performed by volunteers where possible. Since many individuals have expressed to desire to help out in this area, the “Honey Do List” is a new way we are trying match willing workers with needed projects. These projects can be done at your convenience, and the trustee assigned to that work area will make sure you have all the materials needed to complete the job. The list will be updated on a weekly basis so if you don’t see something you like one week, keep looking because new items are being added all the time. Furthermore, if you see a need in the way of building maintenance that is not on the list, feel free to contact a trustee and we would be happy to add it.

Any questions, call Mark Brinton 303-693-5186.

Nursery and Cradle Care News

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Donna Harris the Cradle Care Coordinator at 303-690-9816 Ext. 252.

The Cradle Care Team has a new program called "Baby Blessings". We would like to invite our families of Smoky Hill to share the joyous news of an expected birth or adoption. Our program includes opportunities for parent, child, and family growth through care of our nursery, books available in the nursery to borrow, relationships with other parents, church family, and staff. If you are expecting a birth or an adoption, we invite you to share the joy of your good news. Information of births or adoptions can be left in the nursery on Sunday morning or it can also be sent to

DonnaH@SmokyHillUMC.org.

Name of Expectant Parents _____

Phone # and/or Email Address _____

Anticipated Due/Arrival Date _____



Listen up!

We will not have a Cradle Care meeting till January. Enjoy the Holidays!!



Nursery Playground Update!

Because of the high winds that Smoky Hill experiences the poles for the shade structure have had to be custom made to be able to hold up to the weather which has increase the costs too. Bailey Brink the Eagle Scout in charge of the project is anxiously waiting to get started on the structure.

Children and Family Ministries' Upcoming Events

Connect, Transform, Serve

- Dec. 10, Practice for Children's Christmas Program at 9-10:30am
- Dec. 11, Children's Christmas Program/ Angel Treats at 2pm
- Dec. 18, Christmas Coffee for Sunday School Teachers at 11:15am
- Dec. 25, No Sunday School- Worship Service at 11am
- Jan. 1, No Sunday School- Worship Service at 11am
- Jan. 8, Love Your Library- All Sunday School Classes
- Jan. 28, Chili Warms the Soul

Christmas Program Rehearsal Set for Saturday

A required practice is scheduled for Dec. 10, for all children participating in the Christmas program. The practice will be in the Sanctuary beginning at 9:00am. The pre-school children will practice first so parents may take them home early. The practice will end by 10:30am; please pick up your children promptly. Parents with children under 6 must stay with their children during the rehearsal.



Children's Christmas Program & Angel Sweets on Dec. 11,

The Children's Christmas Program will be held Sunday, Dec. 11, from 2-3pm in the Sanctuary. The Christmas program will include bells, a Christmas play and the Sunday School classes singing Christmas carols. Come enjoy the sights, sounds and songs of the season at the Children's Christmas Program. Immediately after the Christmas Program there will be Angel Sweets in the Gathering Space for all the children and their parents. These sweets are provided by the Children and Family Ministries' team. If you would like to donate cookies or sweets, please contact Teri Dahn.

It's Mitten Tree Time Again

The annual Mitten Tree is up in the Gathering Space ready for new, warm and wooly mitten donations. Along with mittens you may give: scarves, hats, and gloves. All of your donations will go to DenUm. For more info contact Teri Dahn at 303-690-9816 ext. 216.



Do you want to give a gift to a child that keeps on giving?

If so, you can purchase a new children's book, or a new teddy bear, or a new children's Bible and give it to **Bears, Books & Bibles** located in room 212. This is a wonderful way to spread the Spirit of Christmas, as well as, the love of reading.

Christmas Gingerbread Cookies for Kids

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup of shortening
- 1/2 cup of dark molasses
- 1/4 cup of water
- 2 1/2 cups of flour
- Raisins or currants- optional
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 3/4 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp allspice



Beat sugar, shortening, molasses and water together for 1 minute. Stir in remaining ingredients except for raisins. Cover and refrigerate 1-2 hours. Heat oven to 375 degrees. Roll out dough with a rolling pin until 1/4 inch thick. Cut with gingerbread kid cutter onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Decorate with raisins. Bake until set, 8-10 minutes. Cool and decorate with frosting. (optional) Makes 6- 8 cookies.

Youth Activities

Connect, Transform, Serve

For more information on youth programs please contact Bobbie D'Addario at 303-690-9816 ext. 204 or bobbied@smokyhillumc.org

Winter

Christmas Boutique- Sunday, December 4th from 2-5 following the Bell and Brass Concert at church. Please save some of your Christmas shopping and visit our vendors for jewelry, Tupperware, home goods, baked goods, crafts and more.

Winter Youth News....

- 12/4 - Christmas Boutique Fundraiser, youth needed from 1-4 or 2-6
- 12/11 - Youth Christmas party, please bring a \$10 gift for the exchange and an appetizer or dessert to share, registration and deposit due for the senior high summer trip to Buffalo
- 12/18 - Sponsor Party at Bobbie's house from 5-8, no youth group
- 12/25 - Merry Christmas, no youth group
- 12/28 - Brunswick Zone Lock-In, cost is \$30, slips and money due on 12/18
- 1/1 - Happy New Year, no youth group

Youth Sunday school will continue to meet at the 10:00 hour for the Winter. We meet in room 216 on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays and on the 4th and 5th Sundays we attend worship together and we need parents to make sure that youth are not wandering around the church.

Confirmation Class:

12/4 - parents and students
12/11 - mentors and students
12/18 - students only
12/25 - no class



Spiritual Awakenings meets at 6 am on school day Wednesdays at Bobbie's house. This is a breakfast Bible study group open to all senior high youth that are able to get to school on their own afterward.

Winter Retreat: forms and payment is due on Sunday, January 8th for the trip from January 20-22.

Other dates to put on your calendars:

12/18 - Sponsor Dinner at Bobbie's house from 5-8 pm for youth sponsors and teachers
1/20-22 - Winter Retreat
1/29 - Chili Supper
3/16-17 - 30-Hour Famine
July 7-14, Senior High Mission Trip to Buffalo, 1st deposit due 12/11

Music & Fine Arts

For Information contact Dr. Vicki Burrichter Director of Music
303-690-9816 ext. 215 or VickiB@smokyhillumc.org



Join us on Dec. 4 at 1pm. in the Sanctuary for a Bells & Brass Concert.
Start your holiday season with the sounds of Christmas.
Invite your family and friends!!!



Smoky Hill Gallery

Artists of any media, beginner to professional and any age are invited to exhibit in the Smoky Hill Gallery. So you have enough time to prepare for the exhibits, see the following schedule:

Gallery Exhibit Schedule for November 2011 – April 2012:

- **Winter Exhibit** – Theme: Colors of Winter. Theme examples: winter scenes in any media and quilts that are blue and white.
Submission Date – Jan 15
- **Lenten Exhibit** – Theme: Stations of the Cross in any media. Contact Carol Wadleigh regarding which station of the cross you are doing.
Submission Date – Feb 19
- **Easter Exhibit** – Theme: Interpretations of Easter. Theme examples: your interpretation of what Easter means to you in any media. Quilts should reflect spring or its colors.
Submission Date – April 1

For more information, call Carol Wadleigh 303-690-5819.

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Upcoming Holiday Events

- Dec. 4 Christmas Bell Concert and Holiday Boutique
- Dec. 11 Children's Christmas Program
- Dec. 11 Wagonmasters lunch and Christmas Concert in Castle Rock
- Dec. 11 Women's Christmas Party Presented by UMW
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 4, 6, 8, & 11
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day Family Worship at 11am (no Sunday school and no Childcare)
- Jan. 1 New Years Day Family Worship at 11am (no Sunday school)
- Jan. 11 Choir Party

