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F L A M E

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Angel alert
by Elsi Dodge

Beth Sheveland was cooking jambalaya. The regular Saturday group was busily preparing for the Lamb's Lunch, an inter-church outreach to the homeless of Boulder County. Volunteers were sorting donated clothing—men's slacks, men's shirts, women's coats—getting ready for the guests' arrival. Tables and chairs were being set up. A sound system was plugged in for the band.

Fifteen young adults from Youth with a Mission in Arvada were there for an outreach day. On the streets, hungry, chilly people were beginning to gather, hoping for men's long johns in extra large, cough drops, a bus pass, a friendly smile. Beth Wettergren had just put out the welcome sign: *The Lamb's Place*.

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The workers are plentiful
Messenger Work Days to take place April 5 and 12

The 2008 University Ministries Messenger program is unprecedented in size and scope. This vibrant ministry continues to grow in every way, presenting even greater challenges to provide the resources to sustain and support such an important program and now is the time to help! This summer, 37 students (the most we've ever had is 22) will travel to 10-12 different locations around the world to get a two-month taste of cross-cultural missions. From working in orphanages and youth camps to teaching and

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Over 300 university students are willing to give up their time to help their peers raise money for the Messenger program.

Looking for Easter eggs and finding Christ
2008 First Pres Easter Egg Hunt to take place March 16

by Kellie Coe

In the late 1990s my husband, Scott, and I were tentatively "church shopping" in Boulder. Not necessarily because we were looking for a place to worship, or to grow closer to God, but because we had recently become a family. As children, Scott and I both attended Sunday school, so it just seemed like the right thing to do for our daughter.

The entire "shopping" process was overwhelming and intimidating for a number of reasons; First, other than weddings and funerals, neither of us had stepped foot in a church in over 15 years. Second, neither of

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The First Pres Easter Egg Hunt is an ideal entryway we can use to bring our non-church going friends, family, and neighbors into our church family and God's amazing love.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Church Women United will sponsor a World Day of Prayer on March 7 at 10:00 A.M. in the Frasier Meadows Manor Chapel. The topic of the program will be "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding" written by the women of Guyana. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. All are invited.

LENTEN PRAYER PLAN

The following activities are planned for a season of focused prayer during Lent:

1. **Thursday prayer nights**, 7:00-8:00 P.M. in the Chapel. A staff member will be on hand to guide us in a time of prayer. The final date of March 13 will be a service of prayer and praise in the Chapel.

2. **Noon prayer services** during Holy week. From 12:15-12:45 P.M. each day of Holy Week (March 17-21) we will host prayer services in the Chapel.

3. **Holy Week Prayer Room**. Sunday, March 16-Sunday, March 23 in Geneva 250, 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

4. **Weekly emails** with prayer suggestions and updates. These are designed to go to various existing prayer groups or individuals who regularly meet for prayer at First Pres. If you'd like to be included in the master list for those receiving updates, contact Keith Vandegrift (kvandegrift@fpcboulder.org).

For questions or comments, contact Keith at 303.402.6411.

Angel alert

ANGEL from page 1

A typical Saturday morning for the Lamb's Ministry at First Pres.

The Lamb's Lunch had met in the courtyard during November, due to construction on various church buildings. Even patio heaters didn't totally hold off the winter winds, and the lunch had been moved to the Fallout Shelter on this, the first Saturday of December, 2007.

Beth Sheveland was moving up and down the steps, back and forth between her jambalaya in the small caterers' kitchen and the serving line in the Fallout. She kept an eye on the roasting pans, her watch, the helpers, the weather, and the lengthening line of guests.

As she cruised past the double doors from the hallway to the courtyard, a man asked, "Do you work here?"

"I didn't pay a lot of attention," Sheveland explains. "He was just a guy, a 40s-ish, brown-haired, Boulder, dad-type. I told him I was just cooking."

He said, "For the soup kitchen?"

And when she responded, "Yes, for the Lamb's Lunch," he went on, "Who can I talk to about giving a donation?"

Grateful for his kindness and with her mind on her jambalaya, she turned toward the shed where the Deacon's Closet donations were being organized, asking, "Clothing donation?"

He said, "No—money."

"Wait here," Sheveland told him; "I'll find Beth Wettergren, the director of Lamb's Lunch, and you can give it to her."

He quickly pulled an envelope from his pocket and shoved it into her hand, saying, "No, it's OK, just give this to her."

Sheveland chuckles as she recalls the incident. "As quickly as he shoved it into my hand, he was gone through the double



Beth Sheveland, a Lamb's Lunch cook, had an unexpected encounter with a Christmas angel one Saturday morning last December.

doors into the courtyard. He was gone so quickly that I'm not even sure I said thank you."

She took the envelope and turned to find Wettergren. For about ten minutes she looked in all the logical places: the line of waiting guests, the kitchen, the storage shed, the serving area, the courtyard. Finally she tracked her down, in her office. A bit out of breath, Sheveland told her story and, "just as the man shoved the envelope into my hand, I shoved it into her hand."

For a few minutes they discussed who the man might have been: What did he look like? About how old? What did he say?

Finally Sheveland said, "Would you open the envelope?"

Wettergren did.

"She broke open the envelope," Sheveland explains, awe in her voice, "and from where I stood, I could see that it was a group of bills banded by the paper bands that banks use. I could see the color purple, but couldn't see the denomination of the bills. I asked, 'So how much is it?' And she said, 'They're 20s. It says \$2000.'"

The two women stared at one another.

"Holy cow!" Sheveland whispered.

Wettergren asked, "Describe him again, so we know who it was!"

And Sheveland told her, "He was just an average Boulder-type dad. Or ... maybe not a dad at all. He's your Christmas angel. He's a hug from God to tell you to keep doing what you're doing, to keep feeding the poor and to remember that He will always provide."

"God is so good!"

Wettergren says now. "The Lamb's Ministry has been spending a lot of money lately, on the shed, patio heaters for serving in the courtyard, \$1200 worth of long underwear, and all the paper goods and food. I had been praying for a sign that we were centered in God's will."

Her eyes shine with unshed tears as she recalls that day. "And look what God did!"