really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys."
- Charles Dickens

YOU HAVE QUESTIONS? Contact Alicia Gossman-Steeves, religion editor, at (719) 384-1428 or send her an e-mail at reporter@ljtdmail.com

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SINGING PRAISE

Sacred Harp Singers gather

COURTESY PHOTO

Carol Selleck of Santa Fe, N.M. sang at a Sacred Harp gathering at Harmony Hall in La Junta on Nov. 21.

Harmony Hall lived up to its name on Saturday, Nov. 21, as singers from Colorado and New Mexico gathered to sing from the "Sacred Harp."

"Sacred Harp," is a collection of psalm and hymn tunes in the shape note singing tradition.

According to Pete Mathewson of La Junta, who hosts a singing group in his home, 30 singers from La Junta, Las Animas, Boulder, Denver, Evergreen, Centennial, Colorado Springs and Santa Fe assembled to sing from the Sacred Harp.

Throughout the course of the day, 17 leaders led 50 tunes from the Denson and Cooper revisions of the Sacred Harp. Dinner on the grounds centered on chili generously supported by an excellent range of salads and desserts supplied by the singers, Mathewson said.

The day was also planned as a test to see if Harmony Hall was a suitable site for a two day singing convention. The day demonstrated the wonderful acoustics of the building and the willingness of singers to travel a significant distance to join with local singers in a celebration of music and tradition. This event was sponsored by Arkansas Valley Sacred Harp, an interfaith group of local singers who welcome others to sing the early Christian music of America's Founding Fathers.

Arkansas Valley Sacred Harp meets on the fourth Monday of every month from 6:30 to 8: 30 p.m. at the home of Pete and Susie Mathewson, 417 Carson Ave. La Junta, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. No experience is needed. Instruction is provided. Books are available for loan. There are no membership fees or dues.

"Further, while we sing Christian music, we are non-denominational, have no particular political persuasion and are open to singing with anyone who loves our music and our traditions," Mathewson said.

For additional information, call (719) 383-9056.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Southeast Colorado collects more than 3,000 shoeboxes

Alicia Gossman-Steeves
reporter@ljtdmail.com

The volunteers at Operation Christmas Child in Rocky Ford see a child's face in every box that is collected, This year, they are seeing 3,581 faces because that's how many boxes were collected in Southeast Colorado this year.

"I believe that 3,581 lives will be

team who are going to work at the processing center. The boxes will then be shipped all over the world to children who are living in troubled areas.

"Not only the children who get the boxes are blessed," Estep said. "The people who packed them are equally blessed."

In 2008, Southeast Colorado gathered 3,008 shoeboxes for Op-

ease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through his son, Jesus Christ. OCC is part of that mission and provides Christmas gifts for children, shares the gospel and disciples believers.

DID YOU KNOW?
A total of 3,581 shoeboxes have been collected so far for Opera-

Church Directory
For The La Junta, Swink, Rocky Ford & Cheraw Areas

First Presbyterian Church
111 East 20th (719) 384-2852
office@lajuntapres.org • www.lajuntapres.org
Rev. MJ Romano
Luke 1:26-38
Sunday School 9:00
Worship 10:30
High School Youth Group
Sunday 6:30
Middle School Youth Group
Wednesday 6:30

First Church of the Nazarene
1111 W. 10th St.
(719) 384-4723
Rev. Brian Williams
Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Valley Cowboy Church
Pastor Gail Allen
384-2304
Tuesday @ 6:30 pm
La Junta Livestock Auction Barn
South of Hwy 50-East side of
La Junta, Everyone Welcome!

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (ELCA) & St. Andrews Episcopal Church
Worshipping at: 621 Raton Ave.
(719) 383-3504
Rev. Bernhard Ebert
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Worship Service 10 a.m.

United Methodist Church
6th and San Juan
(719) 384-7717
"The Wonder of God's Nature."
Sunday School 9 a.m.
The High School Breakfast Bunch meets in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.