

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

October

01 Shirley Taborsky
05 Laura Murray
06 Ellen Kennedy
07 Monika Graf
07 Karley Overman
08 Pam Higgins
08 Jessica Leberer
09 Nancy Clair
10 Karen Bickett
10 Dean Crouch
11 Sherry Crawford
18 John Reid
19 Emma Coburn
20 Doug Hicks
21 Gloria Henderson
24 Gladys Dreith
26 Marie Hahn
26 Carolyn Eslinger
26 Ann Coburn
28 Ashlyn E. Wilmot
30 Renee Marble
31 Kathy Hicks

If your name was omitted or if the date of your birthday is incorrect, please call the church office so that we may add or correct your information on our Birthday List.

CALLER

OCTOBER
2008



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



United Church of Christ
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Denver, CO 80227
(303) 935-8350

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E-Mail: christcongregationalchurch@hotmail.com

Christ Congregational Church Identity and Mission Statement

Christ Congregational Church is a progressive, caring, and celebrating Christian Congregation of the United Church of Christ. We are a serving, learning, and worshipping community of faith. We welcome and care for one another. We desire to be diverse, justice-promoting, tradition affirming, future directed, and multi-generational. The focus of our ministry is on our neighborhood and to the larger Metro area, with ongoing attention to the needs of the global community.

From the Desk of Jerry Eslinger . .

. Greed as Enemy

These last weeks have unmasked a word which we need to recapture in the church, for it is so descriptive of what can undo our democratic system. Francis Bacon had it right when he said, “If money be not thy servant, it will be thy master. The covetous (man) cannot so properly be said to possess wealth, as that may be said to possess him.” Avarice, so well-illustrated by Michael Douglas as Gordon Gecko in the ‘80’s movie, Wall Street, has Gecko saying: “Greed, for lack of a better word, is good. Greed is right. Greed works....Greed, in all of its forms – greed for life, for money, for love, for knowledge – has marked the upward surge of mankind, and greed, you mark my words, will not only save Teldar Paper (of which he is CEO, seeking to “downsize it”) but that other malfunctioning corporation called the USA.”

So, as we approach our stewardship campaign, let’s admit that some truth underlies what the fictional Gecko says. Had he used the word “desire,” he might have gotten away with it. The fact that human beings “want” things in life, beyond what they merely “need,” is the engine that drives free enterprise, fuels creativity and makes sure that the nest is not just built, but feathered.

Dr. Robin Meyer says, “Our problem is not that we want things. Some things are worth wanting and waiting for. Desire is life’s rawest form of energy, but the sad truth is that we are taught to want without limits. Enough is never enough.”

Unbridled greed is and always has been the foremost enemy of free enterprise. Gandhi was right when he said that capitalism without a conscience cannot survive. The problem is that we don’t know where to draw the line between wanting things in an appropriate way and being consumed by greed.

Greed, by definition, is the inordinate love of money and material possessions, and the compulsive behavior that is driven by the need to have more and more of both. The cutthroat competitor, the workaholic, the swindler, the miser and the gambler can all be greedy. Even the church has gotten into the act. Prosperity theology is everywhere, promising people they will get rich if they just invite Jesus

into their lives. The airwaves are full of televangelists whose principal appeal to their faceless audience is the possibility of instant riches – and they aren’t talking

UCC STEEPLES AD TO RUN

On our UCC website the message was “Thank You! We Did It.!”

Thanks to the 1500 individuals, churches, associations, and conferences, the United Church of Christ will air its Steeples ad nationally from Monday, September 29th through Sunday, October 12th.

“With the aid airing on four prominent national cable networks – CNN, Bravo, BET, and TV One – we anticipate reaching more than 10 million people with the United Church of Christ’s message of extravagant welcome, unity and hope.”

So reads the message from our national website. Look for it! Watch for it! And, as a church, let’s see if we can brainstorm ways to make this ad work for us.

ADULT FORUM NEWS

The Adult Forum is now into its sessions on “Faith and Politics: Liberty and Justice for All.” The sessions have involved study, discussion and reflection on the value of faith in the exercise of our citizenship. Through the use of videos and readings, this theme is developed by examining:

- * our founders’ understanding of liberty and how their founding documents seek to protect our liberty within the government they created to serve the people;
- * the call of Jesus and the prophets for just societies;
- * diverse Christian responses to these ideas.

A key feature of the program is to build small-group learning communities that practice civil discourse -- through group exercises and one-on-one conversations, group trust develops as participants help identify behaviors that promote common understanding and respectful dialog. Rev. Jerry Eslinger and Rev. Tamara Boynton facilitate the sessions at 8:45 a.m. on Sundays in the Sunshine Room. Coffee and donuts are always available.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT NEWS

Think of your Christian Education ministry as an amoeba. It surges and expands, extends and retracts, grows and stretches, and then divides into two cells who share the same core. The process continues and ministry grows. As such, the Christian Education ministry for the fall is still finding its shape while we listen for God's speaking voice among us.

Here is what we have heard so far for October:

Children (ages 0-5) are invited to the nursery every Sunday during the worship service for loving, playful care by our own Danielle Worthman.

Younger Youth (Grades K-6) are invited to the beginning of the worship service to join their families in experiencing the mystery of God in worship. On Communion Sundays (first Sunday of the month), you will remain during the entire service or may join Dani in the nursery. On all other Sundays, we will send you forth from worship after about fifteen minutes to join one of our teaching ministers for Sunday School. Parents may collect their children following the worship service at Fellowship Hour.

Middle and High School Youth (Grades 7-12) are invited to join their families in the worship service and stay throughout the entire service. Following worship every week, we will gather from 11:15-1:00 in the Youth Room for our weekly gathering. During this time, we will have deep talks, develop our spiritual life, support one another, serve God, share a meal, and have holy adventures!

Blessings from Rev. Tamara

Greetings to you! It has been a joy to begin to get to know you all at Christ Congregational Church. Thank you for welcoming me with such open arms and such energetic hearts. After a fruitful conversation with a few youth at the Kick-Off Sunday, we decided to spend our next weekend participating in the Second Wind Fund Run/Walk/Ride. What a blast Danielle Worthman, Samantha Shonberger, Shannon Worthman, Lori Worthman, and I had running and walking for a great cause! Thanks for the great conversation, aerobic inspiration, and community creation. We are off to a fabulous start. I look forward to meeting the rest of you and having more Holy Adventures in the weeks and months to come!

Peace, Rev. Tamara

More from the Desk of Jerry . . .

about peace of mind or spiritual riches, mind you. They are telling people that God will reward their faithfulness by making them wealthy on earth. This involves an "initial investment," of course – a "seed gift" to the ministry. But with "sufficient faith" (more and bigger gifts), it will all come back tenfold.

What we need, from church and society alike, is a clearer understanding of when desire is good, even essential to elevating life beyond mere survival, and when it becomes an obsessive vice. What we need is a means of deciding whether we are WANTING WISELY, or just being greedy.

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WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP will meet on Thursday, October 9, 10:00 a.m., at the home of Jean Slivka, 2237 E. Mineral Ave., 303-798-0203. The discussion book is *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS MINISTRY.

Missions Ministry. Our October mission offering is Neighbors in Need which supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries. Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible.

- b) Education of the membership to the mission of the Church;
- c) Oversight of all working groups dealing with the Church’s mission, stances and social actions.

Owd Dabar Worship/Song Service on Friday, October 24, 7:00 p.m. Be sure to mark your calendar! Elizabeth Montgomery will be sharing her songs of faith and her walk with Christ here at Christ Church. You won’t want to miss her amazing style of music and ministry. More information coming soon.

HOLIDAY MART CANCELLED! Due to lack of vendor participation, the economy, time and energy (mine), this year’s Holiday Mart scheduled for November 22nd has been cancelled. Sid Nelson

Greeters for October

The greeters on Sunday mornings in October will continue to be members of the Ministries of our church. The descriptions of the ministries were excerpted from CCC Bylaws.

October 5 – Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry (Coordinator Diana Bern)

Matthew 28.19: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.”

This ministry shall directly, or through the assigning of committees, be responsible for the following:

- a) Developing and initiating strategies for attracting new and retaining existing members to our Congregation.
- b) Coordinate publicity campaigns for the Church and our activities.
- c) Website design and maintenance.

The Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry shall work closely with other Ministries to ensure that our Church instills a sense of belonging in members and that we integrate new members into the whole life of the Church.

October 12 – Social Justice and Missions Ministry (Co-coordinators Bobbie Hayhurst and Seichi Otsuka)

James 2.26: “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.”

The function of this ministry is to ensure opportunities exist within our Congregation to live our faith through works. They shall directly, or through the assigning of committees, be responsible for the following:

- a) Coordination of opportunities to minister to the needs of people through worldwide, local or denominational activities and donations;

TREASURER’S REPORT
For 2008 to date

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$161,504.20	\$170,570.00	94.7%
Total Expenses	\$158,042.77	\$170,295.70	92.8%
Net Income	\$ 3,461.43	\$ 274.30	
2008 Pledges	\$149,236.25	\$159,453.00	93.6%

MISSION OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER
Karis Community **\$925.00**

Christ Congregational Church Website – www.visitchristchurch.org

Our website is open to the general public and we also have a “Members” section on this website. Our Church Council intends to post a few documents in this area of the website, so all our members are encouraged to request a username/password for our site. (Please be patient while your request is processed.)

To be assigned a username and password for our Members section of our website, send an email to webmaster@visitchristchurch.org (this is Sue White). Website login accounts require a unique email address – so each person in your family who wants a login should send a separate email. Include your first and last name in your email. Church membership will be verified in the membership directory and you will receive an email with the login and “how to” information. If the person(s) is/are not in the member directory, Sue will forward the request to the church office to verify membership.

DINNERS FOR 6-8. If you are interested in getting to know our church members, Dinners for 6-8 is a great way. This group is not just for couples, it is for anyone. This group meets once a month, usually the second Saturday, in members’ homes. The host provides the main dish and the others bring dishes to fill in. Our hope this year is to have some new people join the group and to have enough participation that each couple or individual would host only once this season.

Please join us for good food, great fellowship and sometime even some fun games may follow. If you are interested in joining, please call Rhonda Overman (303-232-1861) or Renee Marble (303-233-4540) by October 11, 2008. We would like to have our first gatherings start in November.

In case you are alert and realize that we forgot the **Christian Education Ministry**, they were the greeters on September 7 (Pam Higgins and Sandy Maben as stand-ins for coordinator Thea Rock). But we neglected to get the ministry description into the September Caller.

Colossians 3.16: “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.”

Each member of the Congregation shall have the undisturbed right to follow the word of God according to the dictates of his or her conscience, under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. This Christian Education Ministry shall supervise the total program of the Church in the area of Christian Education for children, youth and adults. They shall directly, or through the assigning of committees, be responsible for the following:

- a) Classes for children, including the selection/development of curriculum;
- b) Development of programs for youth fellowship, directed specifically at junior high/senior high school and college aged individuals, providing them with opportunities for growth within our Christian community;
- c) The Confirmation Class;
- d) Coordination of opportunities for Bible study, prayer groups and spiritual discernment for members of the Congregation;
- e) Making recommendations to the Council relative to the recruitment, hiring, compensation, evaluation and dismissal of the Director of Christian Education.
- f) Coordination of learning opportunities of Christ’s teachings and the application of same in our daily lives.

October 19 – Worship and Music Ministry (Coordinator Georgia Bachmann)
Psalms 100.1-2: “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.”

This ministry shall be responsible for the overall worship and spiritual life of the Church. All Ministerial staff and Music staff shall serve as ex-officio members of the Worship and Music Ministry. This ministry shall directly, or through the assigning of committees as appropriate, coordinate with the Pastor and music director in ministering to the spiritual needs of the Church and Congregation including:

- a) Coordination of a diverse musical program of the Church including traditional and contemporary forms of musical expression;
- b) Conduct of all services of worship;
- c) Preparation and responsibility of the sacraments of the church – Holy Communion and Baptism;
- d) Coordination of the activities of ushers and acolytes;
- e) Making recommendations to Council relative to the recruitment, hiring, compensation, evaluation, and dismissal of music staff;
- f) Making recommendations to Council relative to the compensation and evaluation of ministerial staff.

October 26 – Stewardship Ministry (Coordinator Jan Burns)
Deuteronomy 16.16-17: “They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed; all shall give as they are able, according to the blessing the Lord your God has given you.”

This ministry shall promote, on a year-round basis, the understanding of each member of his/her opportunity to express gratitude for God’s gifts through financial support of the Church. This ministry shall directly, or through the assigning of committees, be responsible for the following:

- a) Conduct of the annual stewardship program including time and talent along with financial contributions;
- b) Providing new members with an opportunity to make a financial commitment for support of the Church;
- c) Education of the Congregation on the present and future needs of the

Church and encouraging their financial support on a basis consistent with their own resources;

d) Facilitation of long range planned giving.

The Stewardship Ministry shall work closely with other Ministries to maintain the financial viability of the Church.