

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JULY

If someone's name was omitted or the date of his/her birthday is incorrect, please call the church office so that we may add or correct the information on our Birthday List.

02	Tom Reid
03	Bill Greene
06	Marilyn Petrik
08	Todd Bruskiewicz
11	James Duncan
11	Pauline Muzzy
11	Steve Nelson
12	Len Ewald
13	Samantha Schonberger
18	Renee Schonberger
19	Thea Rock
22	Howard Taborsky
24	Kathryn Crawford
28	Steven Schonberger

NEW PASTOR FOR WASH PARK

Rev. Todd Smiedendorf will be installed as senior pastor of Washington Park UCC on September 25

WEEDING PARTY

A vote of thanks to Sue Duncan, Mim Willyard, Karl Wilderson, John Rea, John Gaudreau, Joyce Blubaugh, Claudia Murphy, Vi Engelking, Andy Peterson, Joie Schiefelbein, Jack Collins, Sandy Selzer, and Karen Bickett (also Hanna the poodle, who is an outstanding squirrel locator) for answering John Murphy and Stan Elofson's invitation tidy up the church grounds

TOM REID'S ADDRESS

PFC THOMAS REID
3-12 MOTOR T
UNIT 36110
FPO, AP 966021
(first-class postage for a letter is 44¢)

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

Judy Jacobs and Virginia Black's Family
Margie Sullivan
Joan Wagner
Del Musgrave
The Medinas

THE CALLER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

Christ
Congregational
Church

United Church of Christ

*Open
Minds,
Open
Hearts*

JULY 2011



Christ Congregational Church
2500 South Sheridan
Denver, CO 80227
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BROTHERJOHN GAUDREAU

. . . a few thoughts from my heart

Just two weeks ago, I drove to and from Salt lake City for the 2011 Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Meeting. Around 70 of the conference churches were represented and the energy level was quite high. This was my first annual meeting in the last three years and the format has changed dramatically. The conference was facilitated by a behavioral psychologist by the name of Tenneson Woolf who steered the attendees with small group discussions and numerous break-out sessions. Topics of presentation included:

"How is life different now?"

What has changed; what remains the same?

What does evangelism look like?

How do small churches survive?

How does your church see mission?

Are you authentic?

What role does music play in your church?

There was a great deal of discussion surrounding the role of technology and how it can assist with our ministries. It's not just a matter of joining the 21st century. More importantly, we need to utilize all of the communication tools available to reach the churched and unchurched around us. From interactive websites to the employment of facebook, twitter and blogs we need to actively connect with those who use these media on a daily basis to stay connected.

In addition, it was stressed that what we as Christ Church can offer is our authenticity, our fervor and passion for hospitality and mission.

I am so very proud of what this faith community has achieved prior to my arrival and I anticipate even greater service is possible as we move forward together.

Peace and Joy in the fullness of Christ.

brother john OEF

GIFTS



Our members share many gifts with our congregation. In the photo above, brotherjohn Gaudreau wears his new robe, which is the work of seamstress Mary Lou Martin. The fine woodworking of Matthew Bern is demonstrated by the baptismal font stand pictured on the facing page. We are proud and blessed to have these faithful craftspeople in our midst.

Thank you!



The Caller, Christ Congregational Church

On the move. . .

Kay Waggoner enjoyed a "Road Scholar" (formerly known as Elderhostel) trip to Williamsburg, Virginia.

Shirley Taborsky continued her tradition of twice-a-year hiking holidays with her college roommate with a trek in the Appalachians. This energetic duo plans to hike in Bryce-Zion National Park in September.

Karen Bickett and Sandy Selzer have been on the move visiting family and plan a bird-watching trip to Ecuador this fall.

The Elofson's followed the fortunes of their University of Colorado track star granddaughter to the NCAA championships in Des Moines June 9-11. Emma Coburn won the college crown in the 3,000 meter steeplechase. [On June 26 Emma also won the U.S.A. Track and Field championship in Eugene and will compete in the World Championships in South Korea later this Summer]

Donn & Mary Jo Bruskiewicz traveled to Phoenix where Mary Jo was honored for her many years of service in home economics education.

A short but exciting trip for Vi Engelking ended when she was rescued by the fire department after she trapped herself in her own window well. Luckily she had her Lifeline emergency device with her.

Jan Burns visited family in Oklahoma City and Phoenix.

Pictured at left: Women's Book Club luncheon June 17—left to right:

Jan Burns, Jean Slivka, Jacque Smith, Nancy Elofson, Betty Sanders, Kay Waggoner, Betty Walker, Midori Abe

CONGRATULATIONS

From all of us at Christ Church to

CAROLYN ANDERSON

And

LEN EWALD

On the joyful event of their marriage on Sunday, June 26. The ceremony and reception took place at the church with Rev. Jerry Eslinger officiating.

Carolyn and Len are both long-time members, each well known for cheerful, faithful service. We wish Carolyn and Len many years of happy, healthy life together.

WELL DONE, WALKERS!

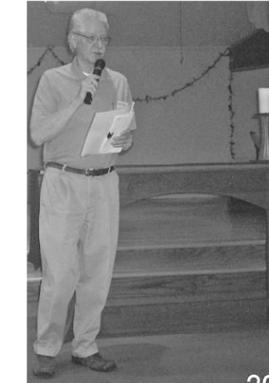
Betty (aka "Queen Sugarbee") and Tim Walker and the 125 bikers of Team Sugarbee have yet again made a major contribution to the effort to find a cure for multiple sclerosis. Team Sugarbee (named in honor of the Walker's daughter Kelly Walker-Haley, who grew up in our church and who battles a very aggressive form of MS) raised more than \$86,000 in the 2011 MS 150 bike ride. Last year this team passed the \$1 million fundraising mark, a first for a family-and-friends team. Now they are hard at work on the next million. The Sugarbees also sponsor a lunch stop for riders during the race, an effort which Betty and Tim spearhead. AND they host a pre-race barbecue for all bikers and team volunteers. Our congratulations on a great accomplishment go out to this wonderful family.

USING OUR



Baptismal font stand by Matthew Bern. Matthew also crafted the lectern. Brad Bern did the altar table and the candle holders.

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH VOTES TO BECOME AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



Moderator Mark Pleuss Chairs the meeting



Nancy Pleuss and Joanne Broten count the votes

At the June 26, 2011 congregational meeting, on a vote of 60 in favor and two abstaining, the following statement was approved:

Christ Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, embraces and affirms the beautiful, amazing diversity of all God's creation. As an open and affirming faith community, we know no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, culture, physical or mental ability. Our faith community extends a spirit of service, sanctuary, worship and fellowship to all. We believe in our hearts and minds that all people, created in God's image, have unique gifts to offer. Together, we seek to embody the love that is Christ.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY ANNUAL 5K RUN/WALK

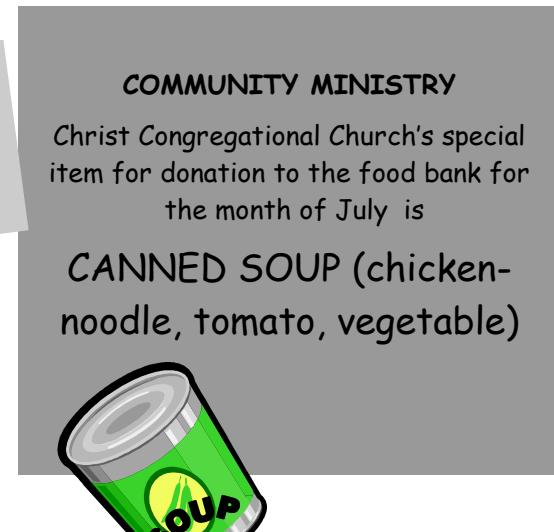
Community Ministry of Southwest Denver will be having its Annual 5/k Run/Walk on Saturday, August 20, 2011, rain or shine.

In 2010, Community Ministry provided food to more than 18,000 individuals. People are continuing to make the difficult choice of

which bills to pay. Many are choosing to pay their rent and utilities and relying on food banks to provide food for their families until the next paycheck.

The church office has registration information.

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS AND NEWSPAPER BAGS. COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEEDS THEM TO BAG THE FOOD ITEMS THEY DISTRIBUTE. JUST PUT THEM IN THE COUPON COLLECTION BOX IN THE HALLWAY.



INNER CITY PARISH NEEDS

Denver Inner City Parish at 1212 Mariposa St. needs the following for their Summer Day Camp: baseball gloves, fishing poles, bikes, roller skates and roller blades, heavy duty headphones, cassette or CD players, all kinds of balls .

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.

MUSIC NOTES: COMING SOON TO A SANCTUARY NEAR YOU

On Sunday July 31, a musical entitled *Faces of God: Embracing Diversity* will be presented.

AND

Special thanks for worship offerings in May and June by guest artists Norah Long and Michael Sullivan, Sandy Naatz, Roger Rock, Betty Walker and the Dance Troupe, Georgia Bachmann, the Worship Band.

FAMILY AND SENIOR HOMELESS INITIATIVE

We've been contacted about sponsoring a new family with children. If you'd like to be part of a mentoring group, or would like more information on the program, talk with Sandy Maben or Sandy Selzer.

HELP WANTED!

We need two volunteers to oversee and check the lawn sprinkler system so that dry spots do not appear. (We have someone who can fix sprinkler problems we identify)

Also, we need two volunteers who can oversee the church thermostat settings for heat and air conditioning and change filters when necessary

If you can spare some time for these projects it would be greatly appreciated!

LAY READER CLASS

A class on liturgical reading will be led by Andy Peterson at 11:30 on Sunday, July 24.

NEW MEMBERS



Vicki

Christine

John

On June 5, 2011 Christ Congregational Church welcomed into membership three new individuals:

- Vicki Young
- Christine Gaudreau
- John Gaudreau



**VIRGINIA BLACK
1924-2011**

of our congregation. Virginia was a blessing to our whole church family. We will miss her deeply.

Vicki lives in Evergreen, where she and her husband have a medical massage business. Vicki is much welcomed as a new member of the Mission and Outreach Ministry. We are delighted to have her in our church family.

Christine and John Gaudreau, now "official" members, have been very much part of our church life since last November. As we've grown to know them we appreciate more and more the wonderful gifts that each one brings to our church, and we are thankful to have them here.

Virginia died Sunday, June 26 at the Hospice of St. John in Lakewood. Services were held at 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 30 at the church. Virginia was born in Omaha and lived in Minneapolis where her father was cartoonist for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. She graduated from Macalester College and earned her Master's in Social Work from UC Berkley. She worked for Church World Service in Italy and was an early volunteer for the Peace Corps, serving in Peru. She also worked as a social worker in California and Colorado Springs. She was widely traveled and fluent in Spanish, always active in PEO, church, social and cultural organizations.

Virginia moved to Denver in 2004 and immediately became a much loved and respected member of Christ Congregational Church. Virginia was the beloved older sister of Judy Jacobs

MISSION OFFERING FOR JULY CHICAGO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (an affiliated seminary of the United Church of Christ)

Since its founding in 1855, Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) has led the way through major transformations in the social and cultural landscape, preparing leaders to serve the ever-changing needs of church and society. Through cutting edge scholarship and curricular design, groundbreaking partnerships with multiple faith and academic traditions, and a wide embrace of diversity, CTS helps expand the scope of progressive theological education. Now, more than ever, our complex world needs courageous, visionary and compassionate leaders. CTS will continue its mission as a leading seminary in the tradition of the United Church of Christ.



CTS is committed to educating religious leaders --- pastors, teachers and agents of social transformation--- who are well versed in sacred texts, theology, ethics and religious heritage and are conversant with multiple faith and intellectual traditions. They will continue to challenge their students to ask hard questions about the conditions of belief and to become peacemakers and bridge-builders in our pluralistic world.

When you donate to CTS, your contributions will support six degree programs, 15 renowned faculty members, and 235 students preparing to serve the church and transform the world toward greater justice and mercy. (Taken from a CTS brochure by The Rev. Dr. Alice Hunt.)

JULY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
The Caller, Christ Congregational Church						
0:00 a.m. Worship 1:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA	4	5	6 10:30 a.m. Galaxies	7	8	9
0:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA	10	11	12	13 10:30 a.m. Galaxies	14	15
10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA	17	18	19	20 6:30 a.m. Men's Brkfst at Rosemary's 10:30 a.m. Galaxies	21	22
10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA	24	25	26	27 10:30 a.m. Galaxies	28	29
10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Liturgy Class 7:00 p.m. AA	31					
10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship						

TREASURER'S REPORT THROUGH MAY 2011

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$59,909	\$62,546	95.8
Total Expenses	\$63,538	\$66,574	95.4
Net Income	<\$3,630>	<\$4,029>	
Pledges to Date	\$56,177	\$57,447	97.8

Mission Offerings	
May -Strengthen the Church	\$665
Disaster Relief	\$255
June—Heifer Project	\$602

COMMUNITY AUCTION HUGE SUCCESS

By Jan Burns

The "silent auction" began on Sunday June 5th with 45 item pages ready for eager signers. The bottles of wine from Willyards, alterations from Mary Lou Martin and lunches and dinners were very popular; lessons in fly fishing , tours of Denver Art Muuseum by Docent Jo Broten and painting lessons from Betty Clark showed the expertise of members. The fruit pies from Georgia, Shoo Fly Pie from Claudia and candies from Vi and Shirley became hot items, as did beautiful art work from brotherjohn, Bob Wogrin and John Murphy.

When the "live auction" opened on June 12 in crowded Fellowship Hall, it was clearly going to be a FUN day. Auctioneer Hilary Blair started things off with Betty Sanders' famous cinnamon rolls, followed by Bruskiewicz' Arizona town house; bidding up

on the carrot cake was Jim Duncan (never mind his diabetes). Hilary was in full bloom when she leapt up onto a chair (since five feet isn't very visible) and called out "Only five dollars more, what's five dollars more?" Stan's furniture refinishing became a race to the finish with Mary Bindner winning. A just-finished set hickory candle holders by Brad Bern stole the show.

Final amount raised was more than \$3,200 ! The Auction Group of Sandy Selzer, Karen Bickett, Mim Willyard, Jan Burns and Charles Grosshans enjoyed putting this event together.

Thanks to the many members and families and friends who DO-donated , SU-showed up and BU- bought !