

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAY

01	Rob Overman
02	Gina Balagot
03	Sidney Nelson
04	Mary Bindner
07	Hank Edwards
08	Mark Murray
08	Shannon Vogel
11	Babette Larson
12	Nancy Elofson
13	Audrey Murray
16	Dennis Vogel
17	Teresa Crawford
17	Irene Wogrin
17	Gerald Eslinger
18	Connie Leberer
21	C.J. Romine
22	Erik Adcock
24	Ray Schwindt
24	Judy Johnson
25	Sandy Naatz
26	Joanne Eslinger
27	Eugene Vinsonhaler
30	Diana Bern
30	Debbie Kovacs
31	Trevor Larsen

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

MAY 2009



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



United Church of Christ
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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... ENGAGEMENT and GRACE

Ted Loder, in his book, The Haunt of Grace, talks about engagement, which he defines in several ways. “Engagement involves pressing beyond shallow niceness and congeniality, agreement and pretense, to more honest and deep relationships. It is to seek fairness for ourselves and for others. It is to talk to others, rather than talking about them. Engagement is about building trust between each other by saying what we mean and meaning what we say . . . Engagement involves honestly sharing truths about ourselves, our thoughts, feelings, and experiences, and inviting others to share their truths with us. That is hard to do but infinitely worth it because it empowers us to find new, larger truths together.”

He then goes on to say, “Engagement, then, is our response to Jesus’ haunting promise that the kingdom of God itself is among us or between us. It is not the possession of anyone but is found in our relationships with each other and all God’s creation. Healing, justice, forgiveness, peace reside in whether and how we engage each other.”

Those are powerful words, which, I would suggest, set new rules for engagement. He then quotes “The Invitation,” by Oriah Mountain Dreamer, which sets the tone for these new rules.

“It doesn’t interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart’s longing.”

“It doesn’t interest me how old you are. I want to know if you will risk looking like a fool for love, for your dream, for the adventure of being alive. . .”

“I want to know if you have touched the center of your own sorrow, if you have been opened by life’s betrayals or have become shriveled and closed from fear of further pain. I want to know if you can sit with pain, mine or your own, without moving to hide it or fade it or fix it.”

“I want to know if you can be with joy, mine or your own, if you can dance with wildness and let the ecstasy fill you to the tips of your fingers and toes without cautioning us to be careful, to be realistic...”

NEWS FROM JACK & EVIE COLLINS ABOUT THEIR TRIP TO HONDURAS FOR THE DEDICATION OF A PEDIATRIC WING OF A NEW HOSPITAL IN MEMORY OF THEIR GRANDDAUGHTER BECKY YARBERRY.

It is not very often that one can see, touch, admire, and inspect the recipient of your donations, particularly when that recipient is 2000 miles away in a foreign country. However, the Collins and Yarberry/Schoedel families did just that on March 27-28. We were invited by CURE International to attend the dedication ceremonies of a pediatric wing of a brand new 30-bed hospital. The dedication was in memory of our granddaughter Becky Yarberry who spent time in Honduras giving medical and loving attention and care to many babies and young children.

Leaving Denver on March 26 was anything but fun. We had to stop 3 times to clear the windshield of ice, and we believed that we would be spending that night at DIA. However, the good Lord was with us and eased up on the storm in time to de-ice the plane and take off for Houston where we spent the night. The next day we flew to San Pedro Sula, one of only two major cities in Honduras, where we were met by CURE International representatives and taken to our hotel.

The dedication of the pediatric building was that evening and was conducted by the Director of the new hospital, her husband (who is a minister), and a senior representative from CURE International. During the service, a plaque with a picture of Becky holding a baby plus a few words plus a few words of description and dedication was presented for mounting on the entrance.

The next day, the ceremonies opening the entire facility were conducted with the full medical staff, personnel representing the city and country, the CURE Representative, the building contractor, our two families and a string quartet, all of which gave the hospital a big send-off. It was both interesting and heart-warming that both national anthems were played and sung at the outset of the ceremony.

The final two days were spent visiting an orphanage nearby and a beautiful beach on the Caribbean. Needless to say the senior members of the group sat in a thatched roof open-air facility, scanning the ocean with a cold drink hand.

CURE International, with international headquarters in Lemoyne, PA, is dedicated to the health and wellbeing of young people around the world who have no medical services available to them. It was through them that Becky and a small medical staff from Vail provided medical assistance with special emphasis on the very young.

Jack & Evie Collins

video/discussion series of 12 sessions entitled, “First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God.” This series features Dr. John Dominic Crossan and Dr. Marcus Borg on location in Galilee and Jerusalem. The series elucidates primary Biblical themes in the time and place of Jesus’ life and teachings and presents latest scholarship on themes such as the Atonement, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. The Forum meets on Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Commons Room. Coffee and donuts are available. Leadership is provided by the two pastors. You are invited to join in at any time during the series.

RECYCLING TO BEGIN SOON.

Recycling of paper plates, napkins, cans, bottles, jars, etc., will begin soon with the placement of blue bins with circling arrows in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall. Stewardship and Fellowship Ministries are together in this venture – placing and emptying the bins. Styrofoam is still NOT accepted for recycling. Let’s see if we can make a start in Greening the Church and in greater stewardship of the earth.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS MINISTRY, MAY 2009

Missions Ministry. The mission offering for May is “Strengthen the Church.” Journey UCC’s media purchase was supported by Media with a Mission, a Stillspeaking grant programs that receives funding from Strengthen the Church. Last year, Journey joined with Christ Church and thousands of other UCC congregations in supporting Strengthen the Church. Your gift to this special offering grows the UCC’s future by funding The Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation – especially among women and people of color.

MARATHON BRIDGE BANQUET, MAY 16, 6:00 P.M. AT PAPA J’S, 7360 SHERIDAN BLVD. OPEN TO ALL – BRIDGE MEMBERS (PAID); OTHERS \$17.00. Great entertainment and fun for all! Call for reservations by May 9 – Betty Clark 303-985-8611 or Marilyn Forest 303-650-4975.

THE AUCTION – A GREAT SUCCESS. A fabulous “Live Auction” was held on March 15, 2009. Donna Green, the auctioneer, kept the momentum going and the bids rising! The offerings included use of vacation homes, an art museum tour, wine, golf, computer help, wonderful meals, lessons, art, home decorating and home services. A “Silent” Auction was completed the following Sunday. The two-day Auction was a fantastic group effort with over 50 different contributions, 85+ bidders and 40 lucky winners contributing a total of \$4,769 to the church. We are grateful to all the contributors and buyers, all the “worker bees” and all the participants for the fun and fellowship. How fortunate we are to be in this church community. Karen Bickett, Charles Grosshans, Sandy Selzer

More from the Desk of Jerry

“I want to know if you can live with failure, yours and mine, and still stand on the edge of the lake and shout to the silver of the full moon, ‘Yes!’”
While he goes on to add several more, these are the new rules of engagement to topple the old ones, topple the claims we make for our goodness and our innocence and our smarts, topple our insistence that we deserve what we want but know we can’t get on our own or by our own rules. Then there is grace, and it’s what we want most deeply in life, and it’s a gift.

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REV. ESLINGER TO RETIRE IN JULY

Rev. Jerry Eslinger read a short resignation statement following the worship service on Sunday, May 3. The statement read as follows:

It was July 19, 1964, when I was ordained into the ministry at Christ Congregational Church in Longmont, Colorado, almost 45 years ago. I began my ministry here at Christ Church on November 1, 1985, almost 24 years ago, nearly a third of my lifetime. Since I will turn 70 in several weeks, I feel it is time to move into a new chapter or phase in my life. Therefore, I will retire from active ministry on July 31, 2009. I will plan to be available, at the leadership’s request, to help ease the transition to future leadership. Our family has planned a trip for my birthday in two weeks, so I will not be available at the Annual Meeting, but will share my thoughts in my report to the congregation in the Annual Report. I will offer reflections on my ministry here at Christ Church through the next several months. May God continue to bless our congregation and its ministry and mission and witness to this community.

BUILDING/REMODELING COMMITTEE

You might be wondering what is happening to the Building Task Force

Committee. Well, it is restarting its engine and will be developing a design to fit our current needs and a budget that will be achievable. On March 10th the church council gave the committee the go ahead to start our work. The first step is to bring together members that would like to be part of the committee. I will be contacting the prior members and also inviting any church member that would like to join us. Please call me at 303-234-1355 if you are interested.

Thanks,
Mark Pleuss

**TREASURER’S REPORT
For 2009 to Date**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$16,441.09	\$17,591.25	93.5%
Total Expenses	\$13,682.75	\$18,957.28	72.2%
Net Income	\$ 2,758.34		
2009 Pledges	\$13,786.09	\$15,507.92	88.9%

MISSION OFFERING FOR MARCH

One Great Hour of Sharing \$1,945.00

MISSION OFFERING FOR APRIL

LaForet Scholarships \$1,069.09

RESIGNATION FROM THE REV. TAMARA BOYNTON

Dear friends at CCC,

A mixture of emotion flurries within me as I announce to you my resignation from the position of Minister of Spiritual Formation and Christian Education at Christ Congregational Church UCC. Although it was my intent to stay at Christ Church for a longer period of time, it was also my intention from the beginning to remain honest to my sense of calling. Less than a month ago, I was offered a ministry opportunity that aligns very closely with my sense of where God is calling me to serve. After much prayer and reflection, I have decided to accept the position. My last Sunday at Christ Church will be May 31, 2009. I am pleased with the ministry we have done here together and I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your generosity of spirit. I am blessed to have walked this small part of the journey with you and will continue to hold you in my prayers.

In Christ, Tamara

SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NOTES AND NEWS

"However much one generation learns from another, it can never learn from its

predecessor the genuinely human factor. In this respect, every generation begins afresh, has no task other than that of any previous generation, and comes no further, provided the latter hasn't shirked its task and deceived itself. This authentically human factor is passion.... But the highest passion in a human being is faith."

Fear and Trembling, Soren Kirkegaard

Sunday School:

As we wrap up the Christian Education "academic" year, we extend heartfelt thank you's to our teachers and assistants: Sandy Selzer, Thea Rock, Shannon Worthman, and Shannon Vogel. We will honor our teachers and ministers on May 31 for Christian Education Sunday.

In Sunday School, we spent the month before Easter walking Holy Week with Jesus with curriculum centering on Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, The Garden of Gethsemane, Peter's Denial, Jesus' Trial, and Jesus' Resurrection. Of course, the Easter egg hunt was the highlight of the month, though! What a joy it was to have so many kids on Easter Sunday. Thank you to all who came, brought extended family, or invited friends to worship in Easter Sunday. The body of Christ is strongest when we exercise through worship, service, community, and presence. May will find us spending some time in Sunday School with the disciples and members of the early church. We will see how the roles of the disciples changed, how new believers joined the community, and what it meant - and still means - to follow Jesus and call ourselves Christian.

Youth Group Schedule:

May 3 - 11:30 - ?? We wrap up our series on creation with a trip to the Green Festival at the Colorado Convention Center. We will consider the Biblical message alongside the social movement and seek out points of intersection and divergence.
May 10 - 11:30 - 1:00, Mother's Day. We will spend our youth group time talking about God as Mother and making a little something for our earthly mums.
May 17 - Annual Meeting follows the church service. Youth are strongly encouraged to join in this very important practice of church governance and visioning. How we organize and govern our churches says much about our theology, who we are, and how we practice our faith. All voices must be heard - that includes yours! Afterwards, depending on the time, we will share our impressions of the meeting and talk about the journey of faith over lunch.
May 26 - Memorial Day Weekend. No youth group today.
May 31 - Christian Education Sunday, New Member Sunday and Tamara's Last Sunday at CCC. Come for the church service to receive a gift from the congregation. Stay for the New Member Reception and celebration of Tamara's ministry with us.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ON SUNDAY, MAY 17, FOLLOWING THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE.** The

meeting includes the election of Officers and Ministry Coordinators as well as hearing the reports of Ministries and other activities throughout the program year of 2008-2009. Annual Reports are due from all officers and coordinators of ministries as soon as possible because printing must begin soon. Please submit your reports to the church office.

The TIA-CO INTERFAITH COMMISSION will be offering an evening of facilitated dialogue hosted by the Multicultural Mosaic Foundation on Thursday, May 14th from 6:26 to 9:00 p.m. They are located at 2600 S. Parker Road, Bldg. 2, Suite 100, Aurora, Colo. 80014. Learn about some facets of Islam and experience Turkish food. Learn how to dialogue, then join in facilitated dialogue exploring the possibilities of creating an equitable health care system. Share your perspectives and visions on what this health care system would look like. This night of dialogue should be a great way to brainstorm further after attending the Public Forum on Moral Issues in Health Care. Contact Diane or Seichi Otsuka for any questions.

A Memorial Service on the death of Sara Mae (Sally) Allen was held here at the church on Friday, May 8, at 11:00 a.m. A reception followed the Memorial Service in the sanctuary, hosted by our Fellowship Ministry. Sally and Keith were long-time members of Christ Church. Keith now resides in Phoenix, Arizona. Our sympathies are extended to family and friends on their loss.

35th Annual Meeting, Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC

The Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference will be held at First Congregational Church in Boulder from June 12th through the 14th. The church is located at 1128 Pine Street in Boulder. Besides the business sessions and worship, there are a number of workshops offered, including: Boundary Training for Lay People and Boundary Training for Retired Ministers, the LaForet Master Plan, Church Work Service: Indonesia, Planned Giving to the RMC, "Faith Practices: New Sunday School Curriculum," Association Church and Ministry Committees, Exemplary Youth Ministry, The Art of Parables, Loss Prevention/ Insurance Seminar, Prison Ministry, Finding our Voice for Comprehensive Health Care, and Open and Affirming: Why?. These workshops are offered at two times on Friday morning the 12th, one at 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. and the other at 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Christ Church is allowed two delegates, besides the clergy. As of now, we are seeking these delegates to attend. Registration is on-line through the conference website.