

Christ Congregational Church
2500 South Sheridan
Denver, CO 80227
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Dated Material
Please Expedite

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST

07	<i>Jason Bachmann</i>
08	<i>Lois Higgins</i>
09	<i>Joyce Blubaugh</i>
10	<i>Keith Allen</i>
10	<i>Gretchen Gomer</i>
10	<i>Richard Medina</i>
11	<i>Andrew Worthman</i>
14	<i>Fred Fox</i>
15	<i>Amy Kennedy</i>
16	<i>Roger Rock</i>
16	<i>Karl Wilderson</i>
21	<i>Jake Nelson</i>
23	<i>Dylan Gomer</i>
29	<i>Rosa Nunez</i>
30	<i>Sheri Langford</i>
31	<i>Paul Worthman</i>

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

AUGUST

2010



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
2500 South Sheridan Boulevard
Denver, CO 80227
(303) 935-8350



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.VISITCHRISTCHURCH.ORG

CHRISTCONGREGATIONALCHURCH@HOTMAIL.COM

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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 Beth Robey Hyde . . . COPING WITH CHANGE

There is a hymn (no. 306 in The New Century Hymnal) whose words are these:

The church of Christ in every age beset by change, but Spirit led,
Must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.
Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry
For shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.
Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be
A partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

I find these words particularly poignant in times of rapid change, for they speak of a truth that has marked Christianity from its earliest days until now, and, if Christianity is to survive as a living religion, will continue to do so for ages to come. Change, and its inescapable search for faithful responses, has been the hallmark of Christianity from its beginnings. Bible studies and explorations of history are rife with chaotic change.

But the fact that the church has survived change ten times, or a thousand times, before, does not do much to comfort one who feels bereft because of changes that are taking place in his or her recent lifetime. Our heads know that the church always needs to be reinventing itself to reach the lost and the lonely and to confront injustice in whatever guise it assumes. This knowledge does nothing for us if we feel the church is going off and leaving us among the lost and the lonely!

So how do we deal with aching hearts? It does no good to go in search of another church that is just like ours used to be, for there is none, or if there is, it too will soon be undergoing rapid change. It does no good to withdraw into ourselves; it only deepens the problem because we also give up our fellowship.

There are things that restore our spirits and our equilibrium. Prayer that sincerely asks God to show us our path through the turmoil; prayer for guidance and well being of the church and its leadership; and moving further into, rather than away from, the faith community. Join a Bible study, help create a prayer group, associate with those who see hope in the future and ask them to help you see what they see.

clean up. The Fellowship Ministry graciously donated funding for this and last month 3 young men came and worked with us:

- This is a highly effective program. It works well for the participants and is a huge resource for Juan is originally from Miami. He and his family lived here but through his addictions he lost everything and came to Step 13 a few months ago. He is working hard to rebuild a relationship with his children and get back on his feet. Juan asks for our prayers.
- Jay has been in the program for 5 years. He sometimes has steady work but also does some day labor. He finds that the structure of the program works well for him.
- Ryan came here a few weeks ago from California to be in the Step 13 program. He expresses his intense desire to “make it” in the world and thought getting away from his situation in California would help him.

These men were courteous, personable, very hard working and really trying to get and keep their lives on track.

It's easy to request help from Step 13. Just call (303) 295-7837 and make a request. Let their office know how many workers you need, what type of work is to be done, when you need them and what you will pay them per hour (\$10-12 seems to be the average for routine yard work). They usually have men available with special skills (painting, movers, plumbing, carpentry, tree trimming, etc). Just let them know what you need. A scheduler will call you later in the same day you place a request to let you know who is coming. The men will find their own transportation to and from the job (usually by bus or light rail).

This is a highly effective program. It works well for the participants and is a huge resource for our community. Let's help them be successful and keep them working!

Karen Bickett

FROM CHILDREN’S HAVEN CHILD CARE CENTER

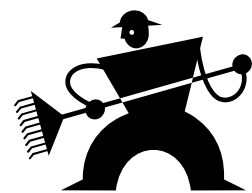
We received the following letter from the Children’s Haven Child Care Center:

“We are a little late getting this note to you, but wanted to thank the Church and Church members for providing a delicious evening meal in June to the parents and some of the staff at Children’s Haven. It was an outstanding meal and provided many parents an opportunity to mingle with Church members and each other as well as some of the staff. We were advised that around 50 people attended from Children’s Haven which was around the number anticipated.

Additionally, we also appreciate the volunteers that provide additional guidance to the young children and help ease the dependency upon our staff to provide individual help. The time spent with the children is invaluable.

We are truly blessed to have you as neighbors and supporters of our programs. Thank you again.”

* * * * *



Step 13 is a non-profit, voluntary, transitional living program founded in 1983 for addicted homeless who show a desire to give up their alcohol, drug, shelter and soup kitchen dependency cycle and become productive

members of society. Step 13 is structured so that one size does not fit all. That is why they do not set a time limit of 30 days, 60 days or a year. Some people have skills and just need a helping hand, others have no skills or education and need time to acquire the necessary skills to compete in today's market. The men must “pay their way”, attend meetings 2-3 times weekly. Breaking the rules leads to immediate expulsion.

Several members of our church have hired men from Step 13 to help with house/yard chores at their homes and recommended them to us for Church clean up. The Fellowship Ministry graciously donated funding for

Mostly, take your whole self into conversation with God. Trust God, who has always been there for you and who always will be there, loving you, comforting you, leading you, healing you and calling you into tomorrow.

You are beloved; you do belong. As someone once said to me, “Hold onto the mast while this ship is a-rocking.”

Pastor Beth

P.S. The organ and the “old” version of the Lord’s Prayer will both be back within the next few weeks.

* * * * *

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sandy Maben

I mentioned in my June article that there was a brief discussion at the May Council meeting of work done at CCC by an Open & Affirming Committee in 1991. The end result in 1991 was a decision to NOT take a vote to formally become an open & affirming congregation because it would be too divisive within our congregation. We welcomed Rev. Mark Lee from Plymouth UCC in Fort Collins to our July meeting. Rev. Mark is one of several folks from our denomination’s conference who assist congregations in entering this process.

Council emphasized in our July discussion that we need to be clear with all of you about why we are choosing to begin “The Welcoming Process” at this time. First, I believe that we are already an open & affirming (O&A) church in reality. We have welcomed our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters into our membership, our lay leadership and our staff. One of the council members who was a member back in 1991 even said “I thought we had already done this.” This spoke volumes to me because, in so many ways, we have. Second, if we vote to go forward, we want to make this known to neighbors who might be seeking a welcoming church. One of the ways that we do this is to be named at the Rocky Mountain Conference UCC level as an O&A church. Third, we need to represent ourselves as honestly as we can to a prospective new minister. And, frankly, the fact that we are not named as an O&A congregation makes its own statement to potential candidates.

Finally, it is just time to do this. I expressed at the council meeting that I came to CCC in 2004 as a reforming Presbyterian who thought that all UCC congregations were O&A. (In the Presbyterian church, there are denominational rules about these things, you know.) The banner that hung outside CCC that proclaimed “Progressive Inclusive Caring Church” was absolutely what drew me in – I would not be at this church otherwise.

(cont’d on next page)

(Where Do We Go From Here — cont'd)

This will NOT be a quick or “rubber stamp” process. We will NOT just bring in the document from almost 20 years ago and take a vote. We have much to learn because so much has changed over the last 20 years. And we want to hear from all of our members on this, especially those who have the strongest doubts about taking this step. It will be a challenge to make sure that all members feel that their voice can be heard and that their views will be respected.

We would like about 5-6 members of our church to agree to serve on a task force, a mini-ministry if you will, that will lead us through this process. If this is something that you are called to respond to (I believe strongly in the calling of the spirit), please speak to me or to Pastor Beth about your interest and willingness.



YOUTH NEWS

Samantha Schonberger and Amanda Higgins attended MADD (music, art, dance and drama) Camp at La Foret from June 26 to July 1. This year, yoga was added. The girls enjoyed their camping experience; however, unfortunately the camp closed early because the flu virus was spreading among the campers.



Amanda also went with the youth from First Plymouth to Miami, Florida to work with DOOR. Discovering Opportunities for Outreach and Reflection (DOOR) is a faith-based network of urban service-learning programs that expose, educate, challenge, and motivate participants to respond to the issues and concerns

facing an increasingly urban world. Program offerings range from a weekend to a year and include opportunities for individuals and groups

UPDATE FROM PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Search Committee has now completed the church profile, a description of nearly all aspects of the church – our church life, activities, values, finances, building, and more.

Thanks to all who participated in our church meetings on June 27 and July 11, as well as to those who mailed in their responses to the profile questionnaire.

The Rocky Mountain Conference office will be sending the church profile to all persons interested in applying for the position of minister of Christ Church. For the next step, the Search Committee will start the actual selection process by carefully reviewing the applications we receive.

Stan Elofson, Chair



PRAYER LIST

During the month of July, the following people have been on our prayer list.

John Bachmann
Evie Collins
Helen Poynter
Helen Smith

We were saddened to learn of the death of Roberta Brosky. She had been a member of Christ Congregational Church for many years. Her memorial

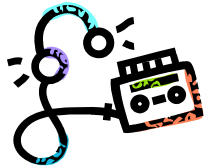
**TREASURER'S REPORT
THROUGH JULY 2010**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$91,691	\$97,569	94
Total Expenses	\$90,733	\$96,535	94
Net Income	\$ 957	\$ 1,034	
Pledges to Date	\$86,429	\$91,126	94.8

MISSION OFFERING FOR JULY

**CUE (Chicago, United & Eden
Seminaries of the UCC**

\$611.00



CHURCH REMODELING UPDATE. The wiring has been run for the sound system. Added audio wiring has been completed for the organ and now the organ can be played. Organ speakers have been checked out and they are OK.

Electrical work to start soon. Getting a price for hardwood flooring for the raised Chancel area. Thank you, Brad, for the work on the control/sound booth. More work will take place on the booth when the rough electrical work is done. If you have any questions, talk to Mark Pleuss.

NOTES FROM MISSIONS/SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

AUGUST MISSION OFFERING — TENNYSON CENTER FOR CHILDREN.

Children come in all different shapes and sizes and from all kinds of backgrounds, but the children in the residential treatment program have at least one thing in common: Tennyson Center is their temporary home.

Tennyson Center works with children, youth and families to overcome a variety of life crises, including abuse and neglect. The program Christ Congregational Church supports is called “Dress a Child.” Each fall new clothes for the school year ahead are purchased; now, to buy two changes of clothes and shoes runs close to \$160. The children have come to the home battered in mind and spirit but also tattered and torn in their appearance; the idea of wearing brand-new clothes to school is something they only dream of. By helping to dress these kids, you let them know that they are special, that they matter and that they are loved by someone whom they have never even met. Our Social Justice and Mission Ministry asks for your support for this “Dress a Child” program.



**HELP RAISE \$\$\$\$ FOR COMMUNITY MINISTRY
BY EATING PIZZA!!!!**

Eat at Cici's Pizza in Bear Valley Shopping Center on the 1st Tuesday of each month, and CiCi's will donate a portion of the net sales back to Community Ministry. Give your receipt to the Guest Greeter.

**Save the Date - Sunday, September 19 – 9th Annual Second Wind Fund
Walk/Run/Ride for Teen Suicide Prevention**

Second Wind Fund provides free, fast and frequent counseling by licensed therapists to uninsured or under-insured youth at risk for suicide. In the first 7 school years that Second Wind has operated, over 1,850 youth from over 300 schools throughout the metro Denver area have been referred for these services. Beginning in 2007, our church, through the Mission & Outreach board (now the Social Justice and Missions Ministry), decided to become a Faith Partner at the Friend level with the Second Wind Fund. As a Friend, we commit to a financial donation of \$500 (Second Wind will be our September special mission offering) and a team of 15 participants.

This year's walk/run/ride event is on Sunday, September 19 at the Jefferson County fairgrounds. As always, there will be lots of activities for kids, massages after the event and a fabulous picnic with tons of great food. There were 66 participants in the first walk/run event in 2002 that raised \$4,000 for the Second Wind Fund. Last year, 3,200 participants raised \$220,000! Brochures and instructions for registering are available in the narthex. The September Caller will have more information, or ask Sandy Maben, the CCC team captain.

AUGUST 2010		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY 1 SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	2	3 7:00 p.m. Ministry Mtgs.
NINETEENTH SUNDAY 8 IN ORDINARY TIME 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	9	10 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.
TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN 15 ORDINARY TIME 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	16	17
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY 22 IN ORDINARY TIME 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	23	24
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY 29 IN ORDINARY TIME 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hal	30	31

AUGUST 2010			
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4	5 6:30 p.m. Worship Band & Chancel Choir	6	7
11 6:30 a.m. Men’s Bkfst at Rosemary’s	12 6:30 p.m. Worship Band & Chancel Choir	13	14
18	19 6:30 a.m. Women’s Bkfst at Rosemary’s 6:30 p.m. Worship Band & Chancel Choir	20	21
25	26 6:30 p.m. Worship Band & Chancel Choir	27	28