

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JULY

CALLER

JULY 2008

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



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



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

We are sorry 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.

WEBSITE: www.visitchristchurch.org

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 . . . Moving Toward a Theology of “Enough”

As we all struggle through difficult economic times with high gas prices, high food prices, and the increasing costs of health care, I was particularly intrigued by a chapter in Jim Burklo’s excellent book, Open Christianity, in which he writes about a “theology of enough.”

He defines “enough” as “a spiritual state of equanimity and deep satisfaction. It’s a way of being that is not driven by desire for more. If you feel you already have enough, and more comes to you, you might use it, or you might pass it on to others. If more doesn’t come to you, you are serene and unbothered. “Enough” allows you to avoid the attack on the soul that often accompanies material obsession.”

Beyond enough is the realm of increasingly grotesque excess. We all know roughly where that point is, much as we try to deny it. If your most basic needs are met, then you can decide whatever you have is enough, whether that’s a little or a lot.

This is the way of living Jesus taught. As Burklo states, “He was not averse to new pleasures, or even to extravagances (see John 12:1-8). He was known for enjoying good food and wine at the parties of well-to-do people and was criticized for not maintaining an ascetic lifestyle. So Jesus’ point was not about rejecting pleasures or giving up good new experiences, but was about abandoning anxiety, abandoning the kind of grasping desire that consumes the soul. As Burklo states, “If you need no more than the shirt on your back and the food in front of you, you are free to identify yourself with God instead of with your possessions or the things you desire.”

Burklo refers to the Amish as providing us a model of what it would be like to live with simply “enough.” Contrary to stereotypes about them, the Amish are neither opposed to pleasure nor opposed to the new and better things that come with technological progress. Their way of life does change. For instance, he says, they have no trouble with use of the telephone, as long as it doesn’t intrude into their households. So they use phone booths that dot their countryside.

Slowly, they do add comforts and conveniences to their lifestyle. The dramatic

CCC Youth Summer Camping Trip

Where: Golden Gate State Park

When: Saturday, July 12th - Sunday, July 13th

Cost: FREE!!!

Logistics:

- Meet at Church at 10:00 am, Saturday July 12th
- We will carpool to Golden Gate State Park just 30 miles West of Denver (parents we need a few volunteer extra drivers to help get us there and pick us up with all our stuff!)
- We’ll enjoy a great hike on Saturday, cookout Saturday night, sleepover in tents, and then head back to CCC Sunday morning
- Arrive Back to CCC by 10:30 am Sunday, July 13th
- Everyone is welcome - no camping experience required. Feel free to ask a friend to join us!
- Questions? Contact Amy at amysmithco@yahoo.com or 303-906-7508.

**TREASURER’S REPORT
For 2008 to date**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$108,442.07	\$114,584.00	94.6%
Total Expenses	\$105,393.38	\$114,193.52	92.3%
Net Income	\$ 3,048.69	\$ 390.48	
2008 Pledges	\$ 98,578.76	\$106,302.00	92.7%

**MISSION OFFERING FOR JUNE
TECH FOR ALL**

\$1,021.00

Plus all the computers and other equipment donated.

FACILITIES AND GROUNDS MINISTRY needs recruits who are willing to be trained in the various aspects of our church building and maintenance issues. We have a very short supply of people who have knowledge of our plumbing, electrical, heating, air conditioning, etc. We are seeking a date for a training session. Please call or speak to Jim Lynch (303-936-0664), Facilities and Grounds Coordinator, or Bill Greene (303-697-8571). **WE NEED YOU!!**

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS MINISTRY.

Social Action Gazette

The Social Action Committee is trying to put together parenting classes for members of the local community. We will be reaching out to the local schools and day care centers to help parents develop effective ways to communicate with their children. We are looking for people who would be willing to share their expertise and/or contacts to find someone, or a group, to develop these classes. These classes are targeted to start in the fall at the beginning of the school year.

Missions Ministry

The July mission offering will support the Colorado Christian Home, Tennyson Center for Children and Families. This center has given hope to thousands of children. The Tennyson Center is a community of people dedicated to breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect, serving children, and strengthening families. As professional and concerned citizens, they strive to provide competent and caring treatment, educational, and advocacy services that are community-based, family-focused, and child-centered. A few services they offer are an accredited program designed to meet the academic and behavioral needs of students, a program for intensive short-term assessments for children, and a 24-hour treatment for troubled children. The program we support with our mission offering is called "Dress A Child." As school approaches in August, the goal is to be able to buy some new school clothes and shoes for each of the children who live on campus. We all know how good it feels when we have new things to wear. Please support this valuable organization.

NEW "SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH" FLYER

ENCLOSED WITH THIS CALLER. This is a new flyer that was developed by the Fellowship Ministry and we hope to give it to visitors at church and to prospective

new members (and to anyone else who wants one). Please read it and provide any feedback that you feel is appropriate. Thanks.

More from the Desk of Jerry

difference is that they do so without an obsessive, compulsive desire to have more than what they already enjoy. As new things come along, they take a long time to evaluate whether or not these things will do them any good. And they have concluded that the price they would pay in reduced quality of life, if they fully adopted the consumer products and services of the mainstream culture, would be far too high. Since they have a culture that presumes they already have "enough," it takes a great deal of convincing to get them to make sacrifices to get more.

Burklo states, "The Amish don't believe they are poor. And their lifestyle is not based on asceticism or abstinence. Like Jesus, they enjoy the physical pleasures of life and delight in the luxuries they make available to themselves. They live according to a theology of "enough."

He then goes on to say, "If First World people stop believing what the advertising industry tells them, if we spent vastly less time in front of the television, if we stopped being embarrassed to drive cheap cars and live in modest homes, it would have a dramatically beneficial effect on those Second and Third World people who study everything about us with a mixture of disgust, jealousy, and admiration."

An interesting interpretation of our contemporary lifestyles, isn't it.

THANK YOU

My family and I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all the food, cards, love and support you all have given during Lee's recent health problems and his death. It is such a help and comfort to have so many loving friends. Couldn't make it without you all. Thanks, Vi Engelking

PAID POLL WORKERS ARE NEEDED TO WORK ON ELECTION DAY: If you live in Denver and are interested in working, information is available at www.denvergov.org/elections or by calling 720-913-8683.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNCIL RETREAT ON SATURDAY, JUNE 28

The Church Council met for a planning retreat on Saturday, June 28, at the Rocky Mountain Conference offices. Dr. Hal Youngblood, Interim Associate Conference

Minister, led the dozen participants through a discernment process leading toward adopting several goals for the coming year. The Council, which meets on the second Tuesday of each month, is composed of the officers (including the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer), members-at-large, and the Coordinators of each of the Ministries. They will, at their next meeting on July 8, adopt several goals for the coming year, given the data produced at this retreat. The congregation will be apprised of the goals for their consideration.