

Christ Congregational Church  
2500 South Sheridan  
Denver, CO 80227  
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# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## FEBRUARY

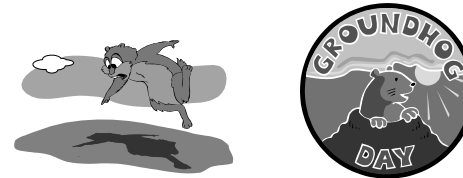
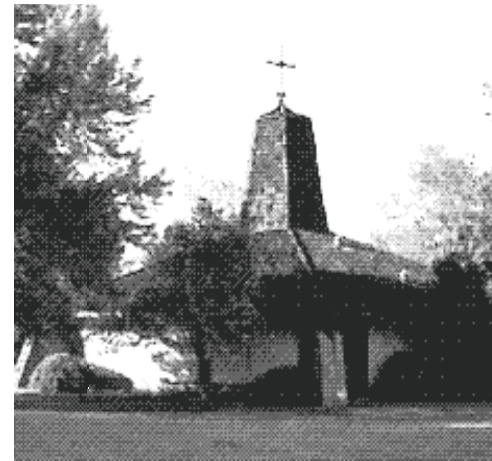
02 Carolyn Tegeder  
02 Vicki Dixon  
03 Scott Gomer  
03 Jeanna Johnson  
04 James Rogers  
05 Ginny Bodemann  
09 Ginny White  
12 Anthony Medina  
13 Marjorie Alexander  
13 Alexander Vogel  
17 John Murphy  
19 Mary Jo Bruskiwicz  
25 Edith Graf

*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

## FEBRUARY

2010



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

2500 South Sheridan Boulevard

Denver, CO 80227

(303) 935-8350

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.VISITCHRISTCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.VISITCHRISTCHURCH.ORG)

[CHRISTCONGREGATIONALCHURCH@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto: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 . . . .** It seems fitting that the turn of the year is a time of endings and beginnings at Christ Church. We have celebrated the lives and grieved the deaths of two friends, each of whom is dearly remembered in connection with special aspects of the church community.

In the same period of time, we have seen the sanctuary seem to expand to almost twice its former size, as the fence came down and the risers were removed from the choir loft. A breathtaking effect of that change came almost unexpectedly,

as sound and light both flooded into the space! I can hardly wait to see the next step in this exciting transformation.

Then the congregation approved a budget that appeared to have a \$6,000 deficit, only to find that there were pledges yet uncounted, that brought the budget essentially into balance!

We have a way to go in our task of claiming an essential core mission and reinvigorating our life in the wider community, but doors are opening, possibilities are beginning to present themselves, and members are impatient to be about the work of the Gospel. God has been good to us here in this church, and we are moving forward.

2009 began a transition that will come to fruition in 2010, if we keep listening to our Stillspeaking God, and following the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Let us follow the old words of wisdom: pray as if everything depends on God, and work as if everything depends on us!

You will receive this issue of the Caller early in February, but it is not too late to wish you a happy and blessed new year!

Beth Robey Hyde

## **MISSION EMPHASIS FOR FEBRUARY**

Our mission emphasis this month is “Families First.” Our own Betty Miller has been involved with this organization for many years. The mission of Families First is to strengthen families, empower parents, nurture children and end the cycle of child abuse and neglect.

Families First started out as one person’s dream to protect children. A local organization, Firstel, sponsored a contest that would be a public/private partnership committed to protecting children. Donna Adrain-Falzone won the contest and the rest is history.

Two years after winning the contest, Donna was able to see Families First open the doors to a new building focusing on abused children and families. Children can be brought to the center any time of the day or night to seek help. The founders believe that helping abused and neglected children is more than a social service problem; it is a community problem that requires community involvement.

Families First has a family support line for parents with family concerns, parental education classes on discipline that works for a child, what behaviors are typical for specific ages, etc. They also maintain a treatment center where a child who has been mistreated or abused (one who cannot live in their normal family situation) can then live in an environment away from their family where they can develop healthy relationships with other adults. The hope is that through counseling, for both child and parents, a healthy relationship will develop and the child can return to his/her own home environment.

Please give generously this month for a very worthy organization.

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### **HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF**

Please give to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund of the United Church Christ. Please pray for the injured, people who’ve lost loved ones, and those who are homeless. Your donation to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund will help provide immediate and long-term assistance to and through partner agencies who are in the area right now assessing the damage.

For more information go to:

[www.ucc.org/disaster](http://www.ucc.org/disaster)      [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org).  
Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ  
700 Prospect Ave., Cleveland OH 44115  
1-866-822-8224 Ext. 3210 or 3215

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY FOOD DONATIONS

Thank you for your generous donation of 1,348 pounds of food in 2009. Your contribution is valued at \$2,615.12. In addition you contributed \$2,038.28 to us in cash donations. We are counting on your support again this year. Thank you for helping us feed the hungry in Southwest Denver.

Joyce Neufeld, Director  
Community Ministry

## COMMUNITY MINISTRY CELEBRATION HEART

### (CELEBRACIÓN DEL CORAZÓN)

Music, Dancing, Silent Auction, Food to celebrate the service of Community Ministry, an ecumenical organization providing food, clothing & utilities assistance to SW Denver residents in need.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2010

7:00—11:00 P.M.

El Jebel Shrine Center

More information call 303-935-3428 ext. 102.

## LENTEN DEVOTIONAL STUDY

I have selected a Lenten devotional study entitled “Jesus’ Parables about Discipleship.” This is a six session study and is suitable for individual or group use. The cost of the book is \$11. I will offer group time at 11:30 a.m. each Sunday from Feb. 21—March 28. Each week’s study is self-contained, so you can join the discussion any Sunday that is convenient for you.

Please sign up so that I can order a book for you. Pastor Beth

## PRAYER LIST

Members and friends who have been on our prayer list during the past month are:

Hank Edwards (now home from Houston)  
Gladys Lansing (recovering at home)  
Family of Rob Overman  
Betty Walker (now in rehab at home)  
Ginny White, currently in Life Care Center

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sandy Maben

*This article is a plea for help – plain & simple.*

I am excited about the new things that are happening at Christ Congregational Church. It has been a challenging time in many ways, including the need to adapt to new financial realities! But I could not be more proud of the work that was done by both the staff and the lay leadership of our church in crafting the budget for 2010 that was approved by the congregation on January 17. I am enjoying the energy around changing the look of our sanctuary space. I’ve enjoyed worship & music ministry meetings as we discuss creative new approaches to worship. And I admit that I am having a BLAST at choir!

But we have a tremendous need for lay leadership at CCC right now for the church program year that begins on June 1, 2010. As Vice Moderator, Sherm Higgins will soon be recruiting next year’s (2010-2011) leadership team. Having served in his position last year, I know how large this task is! Sherm agreed to accept the vice-moderator position last year, but not with the (often) automatic move into the moderator position, so he has asked me if I am willing to serve another year as moderator. My response has been that I will – if someone is willing to fill the vice-moderator position next year who would then become moderator in 2011-2012. I am certain that Sherm will check with the current coordinators of each of the ministries to see if they are willing to serve another year. So, next month I hope to update you on those ministries. But I wanted to tell you about some positions that are vacant now.

First is the position of Treasurer. Rhonda Overman has, understandably, needed to resign as our Treasurer in the wake of the loss of our brother and her husband, Rob. This position works closely with our fabulous bookkeeper, Sid Nelson, in tracking our income and expenses against budget and reporting to council once/month. Is there anyone in our congregation that has just a bit of a comfort level with finances who might be willing to serve in this position?

Second is the coordinator of the Stewardship Ministry. I was unable to recruit someone to this position last year. As a result, the annual stewardship drive was managed by council with great assistance from Pastor Beth and from the UCC denomination. But our dream for this ministry is for Stewardship to be a year-round effort. And it is also for the focus to broaden as we consider the many ways in which we can be better environmental stewards of our part of planet earth. Is this an effort that tugs at your heart?

(cont’d on next page)

(“Where Do We Go From Here?” - cont’d)

Finally, we have a true need for someone who is willing to be the co-ordinator of the Christian Education Ministry. We want to look at ways to provide creative education opportunities for members of our congregation, young and old. I began an effort to recruit some Sunday school teachers but ran out of both names to call and (yes, I admit it) energy to finish this task. Our hope is to have about 8 individuals who would agree to teach Sunday school about once every 2 months. We would also like to have a couple more venues for adult education. Is God calling you to serve in this capacity?

My dream is for each of the ministries to have 2 co-coordinators in order to focus on a particular aspect of each ministry and, honestly, to spread the tasks so that no one is called upon to take on too much. I will write more next month, but please be kind to Sherm Higgins as he heads the nominating process over the next few months. And don’t be afraid to raise your hand and, in the words of my favorite hymn, say “Here I Am Lord”. Call me if you’re hearing a voice call you.



**THE FENCE IN THE SANCTUARY HAS BEEN REMOVED** along with the risers on the platform. Next step is to remove the paneling on the back walls, repair the drywall and have the same paint treatment that was done on the paneling. Following this work we will be resizing the platform and putting a new floor surface on it. Thanks to all who helped on Saturday the 16th in doing the demolition work. If you have any questions or concerns, call me at 303-234-1355.

Mark Pleuss, Remodeling Team Member



FROM ROBIN MILLER

### *The Hospitality of Love*

February 14<sup>th</sup> is largely a day filled with cards, greetings, candy and possibly flowers. When I was a child, I can remember going to school with my heart shaped box filled with Valentine’s cards, wondering if I would receive cards from the friends that I liked the most and always surprised and glad to receive them from friends that I hadn’t imagined. As I grew older, I wondered if flowers would come to me, or if I might be surprised with a box of chocolates from an admirer. Were these ever feelings and thoughts that you had on this day?

Now that I’m older, I am surprised to learn of its beginnings in the Christian church by a Christian martyr, St. Valentine. Maybe Christians embraced the act of loving through Jesus Christ or from the fact that God has shown us love by providing grace and mercy. Others, who don’t connect with the Christian tradition, might say that God Is Love. Regardless of its origin, the Greeks noted 5 types of love. Agape love (selfless love) is often discussed in our spiritual context, but I am rather taken by the fifth type of love: Xenia, otherwise known as Hospitality. Hospitality was important to offer to guests and was only expected to be repaid by gratitude—the Greek philosophy largely influenced the Christian perspective of love and of hospitality as well.

This month the choir has been opening the worship service with a song titled, “Welcome to This House.” All are welcome; all are accepted; all are safe. As we continue to focus on “Music with a Message” and as a reminder in our own community, may we remember that “All Are Welcome.” Come and join us in the Chancel and Handbell choirs, and in the Worship band! You will be welcomed; you will be safe; and you will find a community of hospitality.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**For 2009**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$204,304	\$211,095	96.8
Total Expenses	\$199,329	\$227,487	87.6
Net Income	\$ 4,975	\$ (16,393)	
2009 Pledges	\$175,393	\$186,095	94.2

**MISSION OFFERING FOR DECEMBER**

Christmas Fund	\$ 560
Community Ministry	<u>\$ 540</u>
	\$1,100

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**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO BOUGHT KING SOOPERS AND SAFEWAY GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS GIVING!** Our sales definitely picked up through December. As you can see from the Christ Church budget presentation and report on Jan. 17, the church has the projected proceeds from gift card sales figured right into the annual budget projections. So, thanks to all of you who buy those cards regularly — every sale helps our church!!! And it's such an EASY way to contribute — everyone has to shop for food! We'll be looking for you on Sunday.

Your every-Sunday gift card salesladies,  
Joyce & Mary



**JUST ARRIVED IS A DEFIBRILLATOR**  
**FOR CARDIAC EMERGENCIES!** The unit will be in the ushers' stand in the sanctuary. Instructions on its use will be available soon.

**Notes from the Worship and Music Ministry**

**Georgia Bachmann**

As Worship is part of our responsibility we are in the process of recruiting members to help us with ushering on Sundays. Don Kennedy has taken on this task. Let's all take a turn at serving our church family in this special way. Talk to Don and let him know — Yes — I can help!

Our Ministry has planned ahead through the first Sunday in April — Easter Sunday.

February 16, Shrove Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Circle this date on your calendar to join us for pancakes, sausages and fruit.

Robin has some wonderful plans for us. Here are the highlights for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday — Drama presentation — “Directions from the Upper Room” which will include music by the Choir and Bells.

Maundy Thursday — Taize Service.

Easter Sunday — Musical Celebration with all music groups sharing their talents.

**Facility and Grounds Ministry Update- A few items to report**

**Karen Bickett**

- The sanctuary update has started and with the fence removed, the openness is amazing there is so much space!
- We have making some progress on reducing our building and office expenses.
- One of our members, John Rea, has volunteered to put together a team of experts to do a "facility audit" for us - basically doing inspections on systems so that we have an overall picture of what our facility and grounds expenses/needs will be over the next 5 years. This will hopefully include an energy audit also.
- Some more grounds work will be done this winter - bush and minor tree trimming, Thank you to Evie and Jack Collins for covering the expenses for these tasks.
- Plans are being made to remove the huge evergreen shrubs near the office door, and a new planting area will be made there. This area is part of the memorial garden dedicated to Lee Engelking. Thank you to Vi for making this project possible.

If you have ideas for improving/maintaining our buildings or grounds, please talk with Jim Lynch or me.



FEBRUARY 2010		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	1	2 7:00 p.m. Ministry Mtgs.
FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 7 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	8	9 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.
LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 14 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	15 PRESIDENTS' DAY  OFFICE CLOSED	16 6:30 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 21 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	22	23
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 28 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall		

FEBRUARY 2010			
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 10:30 A.M. Gal-axies	4 6:00 p.m. Worship Band 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	5	6
10 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Rosemary's 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	11 6:00 p.m. Worship Band 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	12	13
17 ASH WEDNESDAY 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	18 6:30 a.m. Women's Bkfst at Rosemary's 6:00 p.m. Worship Band 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	19	20 1:00 p.m. Bridge Marathon
20 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	25 6:00 p.m. Worship Band 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	26	27