

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

- 03 *Suzi Brownlee*
- 07 *Stephanie Larsen*
- 09 *Ian Vogel*
- 10 *Janet Burns*
- 13 *Les Hendry*
- 13 *Jim Beall*
- 15 *Amanda Higgins*
- 16 *Cathy Eslinger*
- 17 *Kelly Walker Haley*
- 17 *Jill Warren Carl*
- 20 *Garret Michael Jordan*
- 22 *Tom Redfield*
- 25 *Jeff Eslinger*
- 25 *Bobbie Hayhurst*
- 26 *Kay Waggoner*
- 27 *Shirley Hendry*
- 29 *Camille Wylie*
- 29 *Grayson Neptune*
- 29 *Diane Otsuka*

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

NOVEMBER

2009



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

2500 South Sheridan Boulevard

Denver, CO 80227

(303) 935-8350



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.VISITCHRISTCHURCH.ORG

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Denver, CO 80227

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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

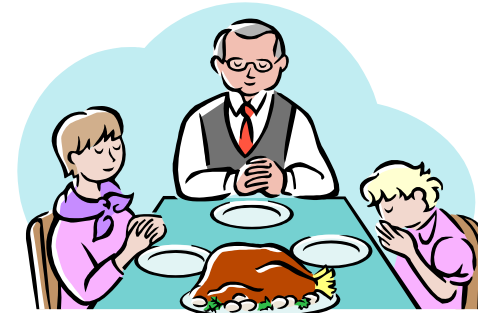
Students of economics tell us that when a nation starts to come out of a recession, some areas precede others, but all are ultimately tied together. People who do not feel financially secure remain wary for a long time. In the case of a community like a church, people who are tired, or are wary withhold not only their finances, but their presence, waiting for a signal that they will get good return for their investment of themselves and their money.

Good things are happening at Christ Congregational Church. The church is reviving! Widespread participation in our exploration of the “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations”; a lively Bible study class; the arrival of our new choir director, Robin Miller (you’ll learn more about her elsewhere in this Caller); Generation Gap reviving; mentors reporting how much they feel wanted at Children’s Haven.

But much remains to be done before we have this community ready to accept its new pastor, or even to begin the search. Do not make the mistake of thinking that this is simply a time of waiting. Indeed, it is a crucial time in the life of the church, and it is a time when the participation of every person is needed. Sunday worship attendance is slowly starting to pick up, and life is changing here.

Before long, a search committee will have to begin considering how they will describe this congregation to prospective candidates for pastor. If you are not part of what’s happening, you are missing your opportunity to help shape the future of this church, and I can report that you are missed. If no one has called you to ask where you are, it is not because they don’t care about you but because those who are here and are active are already doing more than their share. If you have not been here in several months, I especially invite you to check us out and catch the growing spirit here. (Do you like having children’s time and sermon talk-backs? Seems like a lot of people do!)

I need also to make a special request that people honor their pledges, because no church can thrive without the financial commitment and support of its members.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



“From Jesus’ fullness we have all
received, grace upon grace.”

John 1:16

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus traveled around, feeding and healing and teaching not just a few followers, but great crowds in many places. He generously shared his gifts and ultimately offered his own life out of love for the world. Jesus, full of grace and truth, didn’t measure carefully or count the cost.

For most of us, courage has not been a requirement of faith. Our commitment to Jesus and to the ministry of his church has most often called for perseverance, service, loving forbearance of one another . . . But courage? Not often. And yet, all around us we hear measurements and statistics about our economy, not about fullness but about scarcity.

These numbers take on real meaning in our own lives and in the life of the church we love. In such times, courage and generosity go together. Both require a deep trust in God who has already blessed us with overflowing grace. By our heartfelt commitment and generous giving to our church, we become part of the body of Christ: still feeding, still healing, still teaching not just one little community but the world that God loves. What grace, what fullness: a generous person is radiant with God’s grace!

From the Desk of Beth Robey Hydecontinued

Remember, this church provides vital service not only for you, but for many, in bad times as well as good.

One more note. There has been some misunderstanding around Jerry’s retirement. Some people have thought that you are not supposed to be speaking with Jerry and Carolyn. Not so. Friends are friends. The important thing is that Jerry has retired as your pastor. He will not be involved in any church decision-making, and he, in fact, would like to be able to relax. Visit with the Eslingers; talk to them about anything *except* church business. No longer are you to depend on Jerry for pastoral duties or for advice on how to run the church. Honor Jerry’s decision to retire and respect the need of the church to move forward. May you have a long and warm continuing relationship with your friends, and may you prepare to give your allegiance to a new pastor.

*“No church can
thrive without the
financial
commitment and
support of its
members.”*

In the love of Christ,

Pastor Beth



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

ROBIN MILLER

Robin A. Miller is joining the Christ Congregational Church as our new Music Director. She holds a PhD in Musicology from The University of North Texas, and is a trained Mezzo-Soprano. During her career, she has served numerous church music programs to include directing choral groups and praise and worship bands. She has performed the role of the mother in **Amahl and the Night Visitors** and presented a lecture recital on Ned Rorem’s song cycle, **Poems of Love and the Rain**. She has completed a Master of Divinity at Iliff School of Theology (2004) and has been ordained in The United Church of Christ (2006), serving in an extended ministry. She has said that she is delighted to



DINNERS FOR EIGHT

I will not be organizing Dinners for Eight this year. I hope that someone will assume this responsibility, as I feel this is a worthwhile group because people get to know each other better.

Thank you, Rhonda Overman

Volunteer needed!

*And thanks to
Rhonda for the good
job she's done on
this great program
over the years.*

HELLO TO ALL WHO BUY AND USE KING SOOPERS AND SAFEWAY GIFT CARDS. Last Christmas we bought what we thought would be a good supply of \$10 and \$25 cards for people to give as appreciation gifts to the paper delivery people, mail carriers, etc. We ran out right away! So this year we want to be better prepared. **Please let Joyce and Mary know if want these small gift cards, and if so, do you prefer \$10s, \$25s or both?** Let us know, so we can order with our next batches of cards – in other words AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!! Thanks so much for buying! And even if you are among those who don't buy regularly, you might want some cards for Christmas giving!

Thanks!

Joyce & Mary

Your every-Sunday-sales ladies

Stewardship Sunday on November 8 may be just around the corner or just passed. In either case, if you will be able to make a pledge to CCC for 2010 but have not yet done so, please do so as soon as you can.

Finally, please pray for the leadership of this church, and especially for the council members who will be serving on the budget and finance subcommittee to draft the 2010 budget. Sherm Higgins, Rhonda Overman, Sid Nelson and I, along with Pastor Beth, will begin shortly after the November Council meeting to look at the pledges, other sources of income and our projected expenses to bring an initial report to council in December. In spite of the challenges, this will be an important time for us to work together to identify our priorities for the next year. Is there something old that we need to let go of in favor of something that brings new life?

*“Please pray for
the leadership of
this church”*

On a personal note, I want to thank you for your patience with me as I have tried to organize the work to be done this church year. I have struggled to find the time to complete the tasks that I have agreed to take on, as well as tending to some extraordinary family needs. If I have failed you in any way, forgive me, and know that I have renewed energy as we enter the holiday season.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sandy Maben

The October 13 Council meeting was one of the most difficult that I have experienced in my 2½ years on Council, so let me tell you a bit about it. Many of us have noted that attendance on Sunday was low during the month of August. Like me, you may have chalked that up to the normal summer pattern of low turnout because folks were off on summer vacations. And we also knew that a great deal of energy had gone into the process of saying farewell to Pastor Jerry after more than 23 years with our church family.

But it seemed that attendance continued to be low in September, and this suspicion was confirmed with our September financial report. Sid Nelson came to our meeting to report that we had used up most of our easy reserves, including the \$10,000 that we had carried over from last year to support the deficit budget that was passed in January. So we approved a very difficult transaction – the early “cashing in” of a certificate of deposit that had been held for the funding of a sabbatical for the pastor. These are funds that we do not expect to need for many years, but this was still a very tough action to take. One of the strongest feelings about this situation was that we needed to tell all of you. And we have some requests to make of each of you, dear friends.

The first thing that we need to ask is that you let us know if you will not be able to fulfill your pledge for 2009. We know that this has been a difficult financial year for many folks, and I’m sure that among our members are those who have seen adverse changes to their finances. We are NOT in the guilt business around here – and we don’t want anyone to carry a burden in having to deliver the news. But we DO need to know, if you are behind in your pledge, whether you expect to be able to make up the amount that you are behind by the end of the year. If you are unable to fulfill your pledge, please let Sid Nelson know so that we can plan well.

Second, please recognize the many ways in which your (our) lives have been blessed by Christ Congregational and be as generous as you can in response to these blessings as you commit to support the 2010 budget. What gifts has God bestowed on you? How are you called to use those gifts in response to the extravagance of God’s blessings? Only a part of the call to share our gifts is financial, and we need all of the gifts that you bring to us, but the financial call is an important one. As you read this,

TREASURER’S REPORT
For 2009 to Date

	Actual	Budget	Percent
Total Income	\$158,594	\$175,913	90.2
Total Expenses	\$171,377	\$189,573	90.4
Net Income	(\$12,783)	\$(13,661)	
2009 Pledges	\$142,850	\$155.079	92.1

MISSION OFFERING FOR OCTOBER

NEIGHBORS IN NEED \$819.00

NOVEMBER SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

November's special offering goes to the pastor's discretionary fund. This fund insures that emergency help is available to members of the congregation, as well as to others. Pastor Beth likes to keep King Sooper's cards and bus passes on hand for help for those who come to the door, many of whom she then refers to Community Ministries for further assistance. Members and friends of Christ Church can receive help for urgent needs, whatever those may be, depending on the amount of funds on hand. The book of Acts tells of how the early church shared their resources so that none would be in want. Ever since, church communities have tried to care for one another in the same way. In this time when breadwinners may be out of work or have their hours cut back, or when unexpected expenses arise, we can be there for one another by insuring that there is money in the pastor's discretionary fund.

NOVEMBER 2009		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	2	3 7:00 p.m. Ministry Mtgs.
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship & Pot Luck 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	9	10 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.
THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 15 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Youth Gathering 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	16 7:00 p.m. Emerald Estates HOA Annual Mtg. in Fellowship Hall	17
REIGN OF CHRIST 22 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	23	24
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 29 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	30	

NOVEMBER 2009			
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	5 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	6	7
11 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Rosemary's 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	12 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	13	14
18 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	19 6:30 a.m. Women's Breakfast at Rosemary's 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	20	21 1:00 p.m. Bridge Marathon
25	26 THANKSGIVING DAY OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28