

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAY

If someone's name was omitted or the date of his/her birthday is incorrect, please call the church office so that we may add or correct the information on our Birthday List.

02	Gina Balagot
03	Sid Nelson
04	Mary Bindner
07	Hank Edwards
08	Mark Murray
11	Babette Larson
12	Nancy Elofson
13	Audrey Murray
17	Teresa Crawford
18	Connie Leberer
22	Erik Adcock
24	Ray Schwindt
25	Sandy Naatz
26	Eugene Vinsonhaler
30	Diana Bern Debbie Kovaks
31	Trevor Larsen

A NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations to Lucas Sanchez and wife Clara (and to proud great-aunt Sherry Spaar) on the birth of Otis Michael Sanchez. Baby Otis has quite a Christ Church pedigree, being the great grandson of Jack and Ruth Spaar, who were charter members and early stalwarts of our congregation, and the grandson of Deb Spaar Sanchez and Mike Sanchez. Deb grew up in our church, was supported by the church as she studied for the ministry, and was ordained here shortly before her death. Mike also is well remembered here, for his work on building the playground and on remodeling the fellowship hall. Welcome, baby Otis, to our church family.

NEW ADDRESS

Bob and Irene Wogrin are in their new home. Their new address is:

7925 W. Layton Ave. #513
 Littleton, CO 80123
 Telephone (same) (303) 697-0275

PRAYER LIST

Our church members and friends on our prayer list during the month of May

Betty Clark
 Judy Jacobs
 Margie Sullivan
 Joan Wagner
 Lori Worthman's Family

THE CALLER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

Christ
 Congregational
 Church

United Church of Christ

*Open
 Minds,
 Open
 Hearts*

MAY 2011





BROTHERJOHN GAUDREAU

. . . a few thoughts from my heart

To quote the famous sage, Sister Maria of Salzburg, when I am in the mountains I hear the sound of music. I don't twirl around and sing aloud. (Please get that image out of your mind!) I stand still and listen to the sound of the mountains. At the risk of sounding like Paul Simon, it is the sound of silence.

There is a quality of silence heard only in wild places. It is different than regular silence, like the difference between

tap water and spring water - not the kind out of a plastic bottle, but direct from a spring, clear, cold and crisp.

Years ago I used to visit a friend who had a cabin near Granby in the Routt National Forest. He had a hand pump in the kitchen that drew water from the lake for washing. But if you wanted a drink, you had to walk down a winding path to a spring and dip a ladle in the water. Jesus called such water "living water." Living water is running water, as opposed to still water.

The silence in the mountains is living silence, as opposed to the dead silence of human places. You can't usually hear it near human habitations. There is too much noise pollution, even in rural areas. The only place I hear it is in far into the mountains. I especially savor the silence when I'm out on a photo shoot. There is just the sound of the wind, my own footsteps and the birds playing around me. Other than these Whispers of nature, all is quiet.

This is the silence I hear in prayer. It sounds like the voice of God. It speaks. It stirs the emotions. It enlivens the heart. It invigorates the soul. It is nourishment for the human spirit.

Jesus said, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." I don't think he was talking about Bible reading. I think he was talking about silence.

That is why Jesus often went into the wilderness to be by himself. He was feeding on silence. I need silence. It is best when gathered in wild places - mountains, oceans and forests. But a prayer closet provides the next best thing. Right beneath the

MOTHER'S DAY ART SHOW

How grand! We can view and admire the works of the wonderful artists in our church community. So painters, quilters, photographers, multimedia artists, jewelry makers . . . whatever your talent . . . All are welcome. Artists, please bring your work to the church on Saturday, May 7 at 10:00 a.m. Call Betty Clark at (303) 985-8611 with any questions.

The EVERGREEN CHORALE

(Christine Gaudreau, Artistic Director), will sing in concert with the Jefferson Symphony Orchestra in its performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony, *Ode to Joy*, on May 7 (7 p.m.) & May 8 (3 p.m.) at the Green Center, Colorado School of Mines.

Ticket information:

www.jeffersonsymphonyorchestra.org.

HAPPENINGS

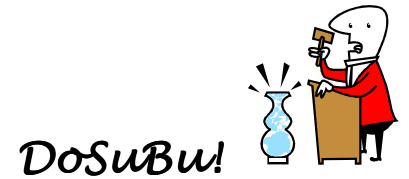
WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, MAY 12,

10:00 A.M. AT THE CHURCH

Women's Book Club/Study Group will meet on April 10, 2011. The book to be discussed on is *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wudunn.

We welcome new members. Please come.



DoSuBu!

Sunday, June 5

Donate (DO) Show Up (SU) and Buy (BU)

Our bi-annual Christ Congregational "AUCTION" is our biggest fundraiser and lots of fun! Members, family, friends and neighbors are all invited to participate. Services such as window washing, music, gardening, painting, and assorted classes have been offered in the past, along with dinners, treasures, homemade goodies, excursions and accommodations.

Now is the time to register your donation. Is there a service, item, class, dinner or some other treasure you'd like to share? See Sandy Selzer, Mim Willyard., Charles Grosshans. or Jan Burns.

Did you know...

Did you know that Community Ministry partners with Congregational Health Ministry, an outreach of Inner City Health Center, to do basic screenings for cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure? Nurses and nurse practitioners come in for the testing and provide medical information and referrals for individuals who don't have a regular family physician. They also bring in special programs such as nutritionists or fitness experts. In April, Denver Public Library provided 10 laptop computers and two volunteers to teach people how to access medical information on the internet. Screenings take place the 3rd Monday of every month from 10:30 to 1:30 at the food bank, located at Garden Park Mennonite Church, 1755 S. Zuni. Anyone can come use these services for free.

SUMMER CAMP FOR GROWNUPS?

Rocky Mountain Conference UCC offers the following La Foret summer camp just for grownups—see the website RMUCC.org for more details:

CONTEMPLATIVE LIFE CAMP: ADULTS

Our pattern is to follow the rhythm of the day so that we begin and end in silence--not a silence of anger or obligation...but a silence that celebrates a Mystery beyond. In between the silence is sharing, swimming, labyrinth walking, and much, much laughter as we seek to practice the presence of God. **Date:** July 17-23. **Fee:** \$440

EASTER BREAKFAST A HUGE SUCCESS

The fellowship ministry served about 65 for breakfast on Easter Sunday. It was a delicious meal, enjoyed by all as always, but this year was made extra-special by Christine Gaudreau's strawberry cream pastry contribution—all hand made! Kudos to all the cooks for their hard work, and to Christine for her memorable (now traditional?) part in it.

RMCC ANNUAL MEETING

Would you like to attend the Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City on June 10-11? It should be exciting and informative, with the theme "Life is Different Now"—please see brotherjohn if you are interested



Women's Retreat—

At La Foret, sponsored by First Plymouth Congregational Church, theme "Transitions: Feminine Souls in Transition" - September 30-October 2, 2011. More information at www.firstplymouthchurch.org.

skin of the soul, divine silence lives.

It is like when you put a seashell to your ear and hear the sound of the sea. When I get to my knees and press my ear to my soul, I hear the silence of the mountains. For a few minutes I dwell in sacred space, and feed upon the silent word of God.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sandy Maben

We did some brainstorming about the next year at CCC at the April council meeting. I thought I would tell you what we came up with. But keep in mind that this is just a laundry list of ideas at this point. The hour that we put aside for this was CLEARLY not sufficient time, so we want to continue this discussion, probably sometime this summer. So, here are the ideas.

- **Social Action and Missions Ministry** - Continue the monthly offerings; > Plan more field trips to agencies that we support; > Provide a community garden; > Make CCC an active center for community activities; > Provide classes for the community; > Look into sponsoring a MOPS group; > Increase our partnership with Children's Haven (summer activities for kids?); > Mentor more homeless families through FSHI; > Ministry to families living in West Colfax hotels
- **Christian Education Ministry** - > Have a children's education program available

Our recent book discussion of Wayne Muller's book The Sabbath, speaks of silence and sacred rest. As this spring leads to summer and you have more daylight, find your own places of rest, renewal and silence. Peace and Joy in the fullness of Christ.

brotherjohn OEF

during Sunday worship service as soon as possible; > Retreats for both men and women; > Bible studies; > Have both daytime and evening opportunities available; > Reconsider our Sunday schedule (see "general" below - this came up several times)

- **Fellowship Ministry** - > Continue the wonderful work already done by this ministry; > Organize or reorganize the Care Committee; > Look into the Stephen's Ministry program; > Provide an "extravagant welcome" to all, which includes rethinking the function of greeters on Sunday morning; > Have more potlucks!
- **Worship and Music Ministry** - > Midweek evening worship service (quarterly?); > Folks like the clear theme to each Sunday service, integrating sermon, liturgy and music; > More quiet time; > More worshipful tone encouraged (folks liked

(Continued on page 4)

the reminder to enter in silence that was posted a few weeks ago); > Can we go paperless (or at least less paper)? > Folks would like the occasional use of Apostle's Creed and UCC Statement of Faith; > Installing a screen(s) needs to be an all-church decision, as does replacing pews with chairs; > Replace doors to sanctuary with glass doors? > Remind folks to wear name tags

- **Facilities and Grounds Ministry** - > Develop a consistent maintenance plan, and budget for it; > Determine standards for building use requests from community groups and individuals; > Have some sort of annual outdoor community gathering; > Community garden mentioned again; > Need to do something about our signage on Sheridan

- **General** - > Reconsider our Sunday schedule for worship, fellowship and education; > Stop changing time of worship every June (now 9:30AM) and September (back to 10AM); > Further develop our church's website; > Recognize the hard work of our volunteers

I want to make an observation that was made that evening at the end of our brainstorming time. We need to figure out how to prioritize these items and not try to do everything - and wind up not doing anything well. I also want to ask everyone reading this to think about whether there is something above that has grabbed your interest and on which you might want to commit to leading an effort. If so, please contact the ministry coordinator - or me! - to express that interest. We need everyone's gifts and energy as we enter our new church year.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY

Christ Congregational Church's special item for donation to the food bank for the month of May is

Baby Wipes.

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.

All of our musicians were called into service for our Easter celebration, and for the final, joyous rendition of the "Hallelujah Chorus" members of the congregation came forward to join the choir as well. Many thanks to all who took part—

Hallelujah

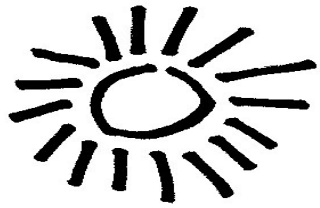
Up from the grave he arose . .

With this hymn on Easter morning, I was transported back home by this hymn, to childhood Easters in my tiny Kansas town, the Baptist church filled with townspeople who were almost all some sort of relative. I believe we were not very talented musically, but this hymn insistently gathered everyone in. "UP from the GRAVE he AROSE" we bounced, up the melody, some of the more confident even adding the extra " he arose" and "o'er his foes" shown in the hymnbook. The final "AROSE" became a rather dissonant chord, the written note outside the vocal range for most of us—but we sang fervently. It seems that for many at Christ Church this Easter Sunday the hymn was unfamiliar—for me it was of gift from the past, and I am humming it still.

Robert Lowry, the hymn writer, was a 19th century American professor of literature and Baptist preacher. Among his other hymns are "Shall We Gather At the River" and "How Can I Keep from Singing," and he wrote the tune and refrain for "Marching to Zion" to words of Isaac Watts.

Is there a hymn that fills you with associations, memories, and stays stuck in your head? Let us know about it. . .

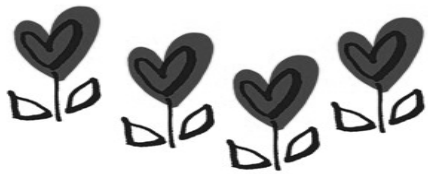
Nancy Elofson



MAY MISSION OFFERING: STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

Spread the Love

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING



Strengthen the Church is one of the United Church of Christ's yearly areas of support. It is dedicated to building the Body of Christ, with one of its programs being to start new churches where the need is greatest. The offering also helps to fund levels of ordained leadership as congregations begin to form and grow. It also will provide money for new starting churches as well as funds for renewing congregations that require assistance to thrive again. The fund supports youth and young adult leadership as well as development for the whole church. Helping this program will make churches stronger to meet the needs of the people they serve. The Mission/Outreach Board asks your support for this effort of our denomination in this May Mission.



OUR GARDEN IS PLANTED—

Watch with us as its beauty unfolds. This project was made possible by memorial gifts honoring Lee Engelking, plus the hard work of volunteers.

AND MORE PROJECTS . . .

From a special gift, we are enjoying beautiful new chairs in Fellowship Hall.

From special gifts and the "88 Key Project" our new grand piano was in place in time for Holy Week.

A beautiful new altar table graces our sanctuary, crafted by Brad Bern.

Thanks to all concerned.

MAY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Adult Ed. 11:30 a.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. AA	2	3 7:00 p.m. Ministry Mtgs	4 10:30 a.m. Galaxies	5 7:00 p.m. Choir 8:00 p.m. Band	6	7
8 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Church Art Show. 11:30 a.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. AA	9	10 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.	11 10:30 a.m. Galaxies	12 10:00 a.m Book Group 7:00 p.m. Choir 8:00 p.m. Band	13	14 1:00 p.m. Marathon Bridge
15 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Annual Meeting 12:00 p.m. Potluck 12:45 p.m. ONA panel 7:00 p.m. AA	16	17	18 6:30 a.m. Men's Brkfst at Rosemary's 10:30 a.m. Galaxies	19 6:30 a.m. Women's Brkfst at Rosemary's 7:00 p.m. Choir 8:00 p.m. Band	20	21
22 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Adult Ed. 11:30 a.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. AA	23	24	25 10:30 a.m. Galaxies	26 7:00 p.m. Choir 8:00 p.m. Band	27	28
29 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Adult Ed. 11:30 a.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. AA	30	31	1	2 7:00 p.m. Choir 8:00 p.m. Band	3	4

The Caller, Christ Congregational Church

TREASURER'S REPORT
THROUGH APRIL 2011

	Actual	Budget	Percent
Total Income	\$46,290	\$50,035	92.5
Total Expenses	\$50,053	\$53,120	94.2
Net Income	<\$3,762>	<\$3,084>	
Pledges to Date	\$43,752	\$45,957	95.2

MARCH MISSION OFFERING:
FAMILIES FIRST \$615

NOTICE
Annual Meeting for Christ Congregational Church
Sunday, May 15, 2011 immediately following worship
Potluck lunch and ONA panel discussion will follow Annual Meeting

SAVE SUNDAY MAY 15!
Sunday May 15 will be a very busy day for CCC. After worship, we will hold our annual meeting to recognize the accomplishments of the past year and to elect the leadership team for next year. We will also have a brief discussion of the sanctuary remodel, including whether to proceed with replacing pews with chairs. After this will be a pot luck lunch. THEN, we will hold the first informational/ educational event on our ONA discernment process. This will feature a panel of both church members and UCC denomination representatives who will speak about the meaning of becoming an ONA congregation and their personal experiences around GLBT issues. Please plan to stay for everything if you are able.

The Caller, Christ Congregational Church

UPDATED
CHURCH DIRECTORY

We are working on a new Directory. Hurrah! We hope to make the list accurate and useful.

In addition, we want to assess whether it is practical and more cost effective to have the monthly Caller e-mailed if possible or picked up by members when at Church and only mail it to those who cannot attend Church.

There will be a form at Church for you to give us your current information and a place to say if you'd like the Caller e-mailed. Or you may get a call to update your information. Thank you.