

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

02 *Jim Lynch*
04 *Shirley Schwindt*
04 *Virginia Flanders*
05 *Claudia Murphy*
07 *Michael Hiskey*
08 *Sandy Maben*
09 *June Burnes*
09 *Cory Crook*
09 *Lizzie Rock*
12 *Sally Allen*
12 *Jeremy Blubaugh*
13 *Rhonda Overman*
19 *Bill Bell*
20 *Betty Lynch*
21 *Evie Collins*
22 *Jo Ann Conroy*
22 *Sue Duncan*
23 *Kim Larsen*
24 *Stan Elofson*
29 *Byron Anderson*

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.

CALLER

JUNE 2008



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



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

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 . . . Our Attempts To Be Worthy

Dr. Robin Meyers, in his book, The Virtue in the Vice, writes that ... “in our secularized pursuit of fulfillment we have struck an impossible bargain with ourselves. While the authentic language of religion tells us that we are as we relate, our society tells us that we are as we accumulate. What’s more, when it comes to personal security, real or emotional, we are as we insulate. Just consider the explosion of walled neighborhoods, and tinted glass and the promise of safe passage through the corridors of privilege.”

He makes the point that it is no wonder we are so unhappy. We are both estranged from others and unacquainted with ourselves! What looks like excessive pride is often just a form of compensation. Perhaps the “world is too much with us,” as Wordsworth wrote, simply because we are on such unfriendly terms with ourselves.

A noted theologian once said that there is no way to modulate the human voice in such a way that a whine becomes acceptable to God. But the whiners are everywhere. “Excuse me for being such a constant disappointment, we say, but we were born for it. We are experts at qualifying accomplishments and second-guessing compliments.” Meyers goes on to say, “We are like possums, which as far as I can tell are embarrassed to be alive.” This raises the question, “Is our pride born of spiritual amnesia?” Have we forgotten the first premise of faith, which goes by the Latin phrase Imago Dei – made in the image of God? Gratitude, not belief, should be the first religious impulse. God is in our DNA. Meyers goes on to say that “Loving oneself is not the same thing as being in love with oneself.” So he would put the emphasis, instead of pride or self-esteem, on WORTHINESS.

There is nothing to prove, because worthiness can’t be earned. It can only be recognized. It springs from creation itself. What a dramatic change would take place in our culture if more people felt not just good about themselves, but worthy? Meyers tells about having breakfast in a diner at a meeting down South. When his order came, there was a small, milky-covered, grainy-looking pile of

mush on one side of his plate. “What’s that?” he asked the waitress. “Them’s grits,” she said. “But I didn’t order grits,” he said. “You don’t have to,” she replied.

YOUTH NEWS FOR JUNE!

Join us for “Sunday School on the Road” in June!

What’s this? In June we will be taking our Sunday School program “on the road” to worship with other congregations in our local Denver community — to experience the Christian tradition as it is lived out in its broad range of experience! Sunday School on the Road dates are:

Sunday, June 8th: Sunday School on the Road at All Saints of Russia Orthodox Church. All youth and children meet at CCC at 9:15 am. We will attend the 10:00 am worship service at All Saints of Russia Orthodox Church. We will return to CCC following the service and expect to be back by 11:30 am.
Sunday, June 15th: Sunday School on the Road at Shorter Community African Methodist Episcopal Church. All youth and children meet at CCC at 9:15 am. We will attend the 10:30 am worship service at Shorter Community AME. After services we will have a picnic lunch in City Park and go to the IMAX Theater at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. We will return to CCC by 2:30 pm.

Help Needed: Sunday School on the Road Adult Chaperones/Drivers. Are you interested in joining our young people for Sunday School on the Road? Contact Amy at 303-906-7508.

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

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$90,342.94	\$96,018.00	94.1%
Total Expenses	\$88,860.24	\$95,686.46	92.9%
Net Income	\$ 1,482.70	\$ 331.54	
2008 Pledges	\$81,228.93	\$88,585.00	91.7%

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!!**

CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES!

Emma Coburn, granddaughter of Stan and Nancy Elofson. Emma graduated from Crested Butte High School and will be attending the University of Colorado in Boulder. Emma has been honored for her scholastic and track achievements by the *Denver Post*, the Denver Athletic Club and 9News. See the newspaper clipping on the bulletin board at the church.

Krista Richter and Eric Richter, grandchildren of Jack and Evie Collins and Joan and Roger Richter. Krista graduated from Chatfield High School and is headed to CSU. While Krista was in high school, she participated in basketball, tennis and orchestra and also established a string quintet. Her interest is currently in sports management. Eric graduated from Oregon University, majoring in sports management with a minor in economics. During 2007 summer break, he was given a position at the Pepsi Center in order to fulfill curriculum requirements. He was also responsible for the development of a first international soccer tournament at the university.

Ranee Boyd Tomlin. Ranee is a former member of Christ Church. She graduated from the University of Denver with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education with a concentration in Adult Studies.

Emma Walker, granddaughter of Tim and Betty Walker. Emma graduated from the baccalaureate program at Lakewood High School and will be attending the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Erica Warren, granddaughter of Kay Waggoner. Erica graduated from Florence High School where she participated in volleyball and basketball and will be attending the University of Colorado in Boulder.

More from the Desk of Jerry

"They just come." That's the way it is with worthiness. You don't have to order it, it just comes. The Protestant work ethic demanded that we earn everything. Meyer raises the question, "Isn't that what Luther was trying to help us crawl out from underneath?" Obviously, faith without works is dead, but just as deadly is the illusion that one's worthiness can be earned or lost. The truth is, none of us could afford it, or find it.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS at their Outlet Store in Denver. The Outlet sells donated building materials, appliances and furniture to benefit Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver. The store has been extremely successful as a fund-raiser for Habitat. Help is needed on the warehouse floor, especially on week day afternoons from 2 – 5 p.m. or 6 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, call Alice Goble at 303-996-5468 or e-mail her at alice@habitatmetrodenver.org. You can also sign up online at www.habitatoutlet.org. They are also in need of donations of new and used building materials, appliances, tool, hardware, light fixtures, plumbing, electrical items and furniture. To donate call: 303-421-5300.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM MAY COUNCIL MEETING

- 1) Jerry confirmed that Race Relations Sunday will be May 18th in conjunction with National UCC nationwide. He said more such conversations will be planned for this summer, hopefully with Tony Bandele, one of the Visions leaders. Al wants to have Wednesday evening "Dialogs" on difficult subjects -- next one on Health Care.
- 2) The remodeled Library is nearly finished, including repainting. Praise Be!
- 3) Church Growth will continue to investigate the flyer suggested by Abundant Life Church.
- 4) Preparation for Annual Meeting on May 18th -- Ken Miller wants to be replaced as Treasurer.
- 5) Parking lot resurfacing is complete for \$5,200. Sprinkler system can be repaired quite reasonably.
- 6) Church Growth is hoping to begin a class on "Parenting" aimed at Children's Haven parents.

7) Pledges are up to about 90%. Everyone should remember that a Pledge is a promise to pay.
New Ministries will be meeting on June 3, and the next Council meeting is on June 10th.

Jan Burns

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS MINISTRY.

The mission effort for June is “TECH FOR ALL.” Tech for All has been in the business of taking older computers that individuals and businesses were discarding and rebuilding them for children who did not have a computer and whose families did not have the means to provide them for their children.

Rose Keating, a computer expert, started this project in 1999 using her own money to rebuild the computers. Tech for All is a 501-C3 not-for-profit foundation. Well over 1400 computers have been rebuilt and placed with families since 1999. A staff of trained volunteers collects, catalogs, cleans and assembles components.

Everything is donated at Tech for All, including the space where individuals and businesses drop off computers and computer parts and where volunteers rebuild the computers. Tom and David Gamel are providing the space, without charge, in their building at Artcraft Signs, 1709 S. Acoma Street. Financial donations provide for needed parts and other associated costs to complete the rebuilt computers. Several people from Christ Church have donated computers and printers.

One of the projects for Tech for All has been a partnership with Goddard now has a computer at home that is coordinated with the school computer system. Children can do work at home and print it at school which has resulted in a substantial improvement in grades.

Rose Keating is a very capable person who has given time, money and expertise to this dream of hers which has helped so many people! Over the past several years she has also taught classes for the libraries in the Denver area, who have asked Rose to give presentations about computer technology. These classes are very popular for seniors and, to date, over 1327 have graduated.

Rose will worship with us on Sunday, June 1, and tell us her story, a very heart warming story. Please consider supporting this very worthwhile project.

Social Action Gazette

The next few months will be packed with exciting events. Come participate in practicing the art of Dialogue to be held on June 18 and every third Wednesday at Christ Congregational UCC from 7-9 p.m. We will be dialoguing on controversial topics.

On the evening of June 29, come explore the issue of our Health Care System. Come, explore, and dialogue around the reasons why health care costs are escalating and how you might participate in controlling your own cost of care. The movie “Sicko” will be shown prior to the dialogue. It will be held at Christ Congregational UCC from 6-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Social Action Committee is in need of expertise and advice. As a service we are trying to put together evenings for 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.

**NEW CHURCH OFFICERS AND COORDINATORS OF MINISTRIES
FOR 2008-2009**

Church Council Officers

Moderator	Randy Arnold
Vice-Moderator	Sandy Maben
Clerk	Joanne Eslinger
Treasurer	Kathy Hicks

Coordinators of Ministries

Christian Education	Thea Rock
---------------------	-----------

Evangelism & Church Growth	Diana Bern
Facilities & Grounds	Jim Lynch
Fellowship	Charles Grosshans
Social Justice & Missions	Bobby Hayhurst
Stewardship	Jan Burns
Worship & Music	Georgia Bachmann

Our Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to Vi Engelking and family on the death of Lee Engelking on Wednesday, May 28th. Lee was a long-time member of Christ Church, serving in a number of leadership capacities as well as singing in the Chancel Choir for many years. A memorial service will be held on Thursday, June 5th at 11:00 a.m., with a fellowship luncheon to follow. Memorial gifts, in lieu of flowers, may be directed to Christ Church.

Baptism

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, May 18th, was Grayson John Neptune, son of Grant and Gina Neptune. A number of family members and friends attended in support of the family, and the Fellowship Ministry held a luncheon for them following the service.

Church Picnic

A “thank you” to Karen Bickett and Sandy Selzer, as well as Amy Smith, our Director of Christian Education, for lining up the church potluck picnic at Lakeridge Pavilion on Sunday, June 1st, following morning worship.

Upcoming Weddings

Tom Kovacs (son of Bob and Deb Kovacs) will be married on July 18th at Urbandale, Iowa UCC. Your minister will officiate at the wedding of Cheryl Wheeling and Christ Buescher on June 7th.