

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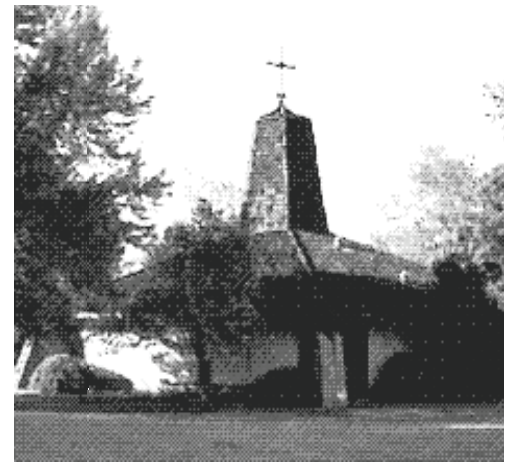
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## APRIL

- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 03 | Kelsey Anderson   |
| 06 | Alan Willyard     |
| 09 | Danielle Worthman |
| 11 | Judy Jacobs       |
| 14 | Sherm Higgins     |
| 14 | Liana Lansing     |
| 14 | Gina Neptune      |
| 15 | B.J. Bell         |
| 16 | Donn Bruskievicz  |
| 17 | Hart Axley        |
| 27 | Tom Arnott        |
| 27 | Roy Jones         |
| 27 | John Rea          |

*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 APRIL 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 . . . Spirit, Joy, Courage**

God did something powerful with this congregation on Sunday, March 14. God helped you understand who you are

When I arrived at Christ Congregational Church, it was with the understanding that I would be here at least one year, maybe longer, because the congregation had several steps to

take before you would be ready to search for your new pastor. The church council has been clear on the necessity for this “in-between” time, as has been explained by Sandy Maben and by me.

My article in last month’s newsletter outlined the progress that had been made toward the much-awaited time when a search committee would be formed. Briefly, it includes a time for grieving losses, a time to begin to look outward again, a revival of enthusiasm (replacing anxiety), and a growing understanding of who you are as a church. This last understanding needs to be independent of who your pastor is.

On Sunday, March 14, at our planning gathering, you achieved something critically important. I can best explain it by referring to the long-range plan developed three years ago. This long-range plan, carefully thought out and crafted, expressed what it would be like to be the ideal, even the perfect, church. All your ideal qualities are listed, along with hoped-for goals.

Someone said we should always hold our goals lightly, because life has a way of changing them. At the planning meeting, David Popham told the gathering that if the long-range plan were to be presented to a prospective pastor as the church’s current agenda, he/she would either run the other way or accept the huge challenge and be burned out in a short time.

We have talked a lot about starting where we are. We have been listening for God’s call to us in this time and place.

## **“HAPPENINGS”**

**Virginia Black** has a new address — Sunrise Assisted Living, 5195 W. Quincy Ave., Denver CO 80236, phone 303-734-2829.

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

All of our Shut-ins  
Bill Martin  
Gladys Lansing

## **MEDICAL MISSION TRIP TO VENEZUELA**

Here is an opportunity you may not want to miss! A small group of people from the UCC Rocky Mountain Conference and DOC Region will be traveling to Venezuela in October and **you are invited to participate**. Team members will be providing day clinics, medical supplies, and health education for the poor and the indigenous people of Venezuela. Persons with medical and translating skills are needed but folks without those skills are also encouraged to participant.

Previous teams have said their lives were greatly enriched by the experience of working along side Venezuelan and Cuban doctors, meeting the poor and indigenous citizens, and celebrating the similarities and differences of our faiths and cultures with our host denomination there.

Travel dates are approximately Oct. 7-14 of this year. The team will be there Oct. 12 for the Venezuelan Celebration of “The Day of Indigenous Resistance” (their take on Columbus Day) which is an exciting cultural experience.

Cost for the trip is approximately \$1500 per person. For more information contact Alice Silver, [agsilver@pair.com](mailto:agsilver@pair.com), 720-344-6947 or Merv or Danni Bangert, [bangert@infionline.net](mailto:bangert@infionline.net) , or call 303-444-0350. Registration deadline for the trip is July 1, 2010.

# A LITTLE STORY ABOUT JOY

A little boy fell asleep each night to the sound of his mother’s voice singing hymns as she finished up her day’s chores. Then the unthinkable happened. The boy’s father passed away, and his mother’s voice was stilled. Each night, the boy curled up in his bed and clutched his pillow to him as he strained to hear her voice. Each night, he went to sleep in a deep silence of his own, lonely and afraid.

After several months of silent grief, the boy believed he heard something. Sure enough, low and quiet, it was his mother’s voice, humming, and then the words came, “My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures.”

After he was grown, he recalled, “That’s when I learned that joy doesn’t rely on happiness, but it is something that will not be banished, something that finds its way back into our lives, opening the door to hope and healing.”

# COURAGE

The important thing is this: to be able at any moment to sacrifice what we are for what we could become. ~Charles DuBois

Courage is the foundation of integrity. ~ Keshavan Nair

# SPIRIT

All of the places of our lives are sanctuaries; some of them just happen to have steeples. And all of the people in our lives are saints: it is just that some of them have day jobs and most will never have feast days named after them. ~Robert Benson

During the planning session, people looked again and again at the values in the long-range plan. No one wants to let go of any of them, and rightly so. But finally, rather than focus on the ideal church, the conversation moved to the living identity of this church. At the same time, the conversation moved from ideals to heart-felt, experienced understanding of what matters most.

At that point, I would say, the congregation “got real.” And three priorities rose to the top above all others. Surprisingly, none of them used words that are in the long-range plan, but they undergird and strengthen that plan. The three priorities are: spiritual nourishment and inspiration, courage, and being a joy-filled community. Spirit, Courage, Joy.

Unpacking these phrases, let me mention some of the things I heard. “A joy-filled community” is the actual definition of this church. That joy has been quickly reviving. “Courage” includes internal and external aspects. Internally, the courage to make our relationships with one another both honest and kind at all times, and the courage to return to issues that had been left unfinished. Externally, the courage to claim that our progressive form of Christianity is indeed Christian, and that it powers our life as a joy-filled community. And “spiritual nourishment and inspiration” is the central claim that worship is at the heart of this community. Several other possible priorities that seemed to describe this congregation arose (fellowship, hospitality and service were three of them) and always the spiritual nourishment of worship came back to the center.

These three things, spirit, joy and courage, arise out of your experience and your real need to live in these ways. They describe not your **ideal** church, but your **unique** church. They say who you are, and they do so in a powerful, easily repeatable way. You have a message to share. A few days after the planning meeting, David Popham said, “This congregation wants to share its joy with its neighbors.” I think he was right.

Fellowship, hospitality, service, social justice all become the fruits of a joy-filled, courageous, spirit-inspired community.

It is my belief that a congregation that claims these three things will attract an exciting pastor, and also a houseful of new people. It’s time to move into the future, as a joy-filled, courageous community nourished and inspired by the Spirit of God.

\* \* \* \* \*

**A NEW EIGHT-WEEK BIBLE STUDY** entitled “Invitation to the Old Testament” will begin on Wednesday, April 7, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. and will be held in the Commons Room. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Books will be available soon and may be purchased for \$11. You may also call the office if you wish to participate in this Bible Study.

**NOTES FROM MINISTRIES**



**Facilities & Grounds.** Thanks to John Rea and his “inspection” team for their report of the state of our facility. We have begun implementation on some of the recommendations. A full report will be submitted to council. In addition, we have requested a full energy audit from Xcel. With the information from both of these reports, we hope to prioritize the issues.



**Missions.** Dear friends, the carefully chosen benevolent organization receiving our special offering for April is Doctors Without Borders. Doesn't the name say so much? This is an organization that brings hope and healing to many of our brothers and sisters in need around the World. Doctors Without Borders already had staff in Haiti before the earthquake hit on January 12th. They immediately brought in many more staff, along with inflatable hospitals and by day 7 had treated over 3,000 people! Did I mention Doctors Without Borders was awarded the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize. Please consider making a special offering to support the important work of this great organization. Many thanks from your Missions Ministry.

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?** **Sandy Maben**  
Just a short article this month to tell you how excited I am about the upcoming council meeting on April 13. Our planning day on March 14 was incredibly successful in helping us to define who we are as a congregation. Please make sure to read Pastor Beth’s article about that planning day and the shared values that we were able to affirm. It has led us to the place we are now – ready to form the pastor search committee. At the April 13 meeting, we will decide the way in which council will select a pastor nominating committee. As a quick refresher, our bylaws state:

- B. When a vacancy occurs in the pastorate (ordained clergy), the Council shall appoint a Pastoral Search Committee. With the cooperation of the Conference minister and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this committee shall:
1. Elect their own Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and any other officers necessary to fulfill its function.
  2. Canvas available ministers, settle upon one who, in its judgment, should be called to pastor the Congregation, and introduce the candidate to the Church. The race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age or physical handicap of potential candidates shall not be considerations in the work of the Pastoral Search Committee.
  3. Coordinate discussion of salary and benefits with the Council.
  4. Call a special meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of voting on the candidate. Rules and regulations under Article II shall apply with the following exceptions:
    - a. A quorum shall be 25% of the active membership according to the Church Register.
    - b. A two-thirds majority of the votes cast shall be required for the Call.
  5. The work of the Search Committee shall cease following the vote by the Congregation to Call the candidate and acceptance of the Call by the candidate.

So, here is my special request of you. If you would like to suggest someone to serve on this important committee (including yourself!), please contact me, Pastor Beth or any member of council. And even if you have expressed interest to one of us in the past, please do not assume that we will remember J – tell us again! I would like to ensure that we reflect the wonderful diversity of our membership in this process. And remember that council meetings are open to all members – you are welcome to come and join in the discussion on Tuesday, April 13 at 7PM.

**TREASURER'S REPORT  
THROUGH MARCH 2010**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$39,380	\$41,817	94.2
Total Expenses	\$41,557	\$43,447	95.6
Net Income	(\$2,177)	(\$1,631)	
March Pledges	\$36,470	\$39,054	93.4

**MISSION OFFERING FOR MARCH**

One Great Hour of Sharing      \$610

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**SUGGESTION BOX**

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ IN "THE CALLER."

WE ARE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS. IF YOU SEE A JOKE  
OR A CARTOON THAT YOU THINK WOULD BE APPRO-  
PRIATE, PLEASE SUBMIT IT TO THE OFFICE. PERHAPS  
YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION OR AN ARTICLE  
ABOUT A CERTAIN SUBJECT. BE CREATIVE!

**THINK OUTSIDE "THE BOX."**



*Life After Easter*

Some of you may be wondering what happens musically after Easter. The season seems to be very busy with preparing for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. One might want to stop and take a little breather or look back and marvel at where we have been and ponder where we are going.

Well, there is life after Easter! Summer is often a time to take off and enjoy the warmer weather. I particularly enjoy planting flowers and working in my yard. The smell of a good barbecue comes to mind as well. In between these events will be a hymn-sing for the congregation, new vocal combinations will grace our ears during the summer months and possibly a hidden instrumentalist or two. Summer is full of adventure and adventure will be part of our music and worship.

Of course, there is **Life** and **Music** and **Fun** coming our way. I look forward to sharing it with you.

Robin Miller



