

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December

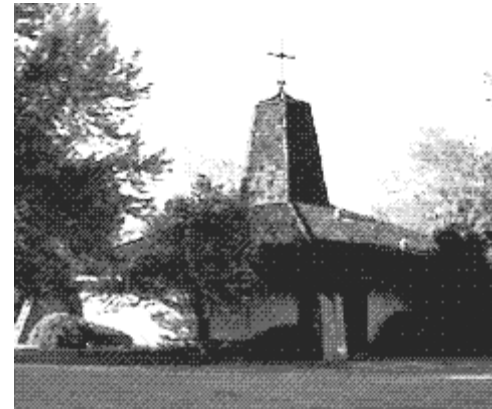
- 01 *Lee Greene*
- 02 *Vi Engelking*
- 03 *Grant Neptune*
- 03 *Susan White*
- 05 *Donna Green*
- 05 *Allen Marble*
- 06 *Bill Martin*
- 08 *Gloria Medina*
- 08 *Charles Grosshans*
- 10 *Floyd Kerr*
- 10 *Georgia Bachmann*
- 18 *Sandy Selzer*
- 18 *Betty Walker*
- 20 *Jack Collins*
- 22 *Bob Wogrin*
- 23 *Mildred Edlun*
- 23 *Deborah Contreras*
- 23 *Ryan Matthew Applegate*
- 27 *Nathan Otsuka*
- 29 *Mark Pleuss*
- 29 *Michael Larsen*
- 30 *Don Kennedy*
- 31 *Shannon Worthman*

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

DECEMBER

2009



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

2500 South Sheridan Boulevard

Denver, CO 80227

(303) 935-8350



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.VISITCHRISTCHURCH.ORG

CHRISTCONGREGATIONALCHURCH@HOTMAIL.COM

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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

There is something about the anticipation of Christmas that restores the spirit, even though the first indications we get of the coming event come from retailers hoping we'll drop a little more money with them this year than we did last.

Here at Christ Congregational, the spirit is evident in other ways. The warmth of friendships, a growing awareness of our need to treat each others' feelings tenderly, a sense of anticipation as we move toward brightening our worship space WITHOUT spending a million dollars, and an energetic readiness to get back out into the world in active mission.

God trusted humanity enough to send the Christ child into the world, tiny and vulnerable, as God sends every child into the world, needing nurture and protection and guidance. A congregation can be like a vulnerable child, feeling its way into the future with growing confidence and vision.

So we approach Christmas with hope and joy and great love, in gratitude for one another and for the presence of Jesus Christ among us, singing with the angels: "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace and good will!"

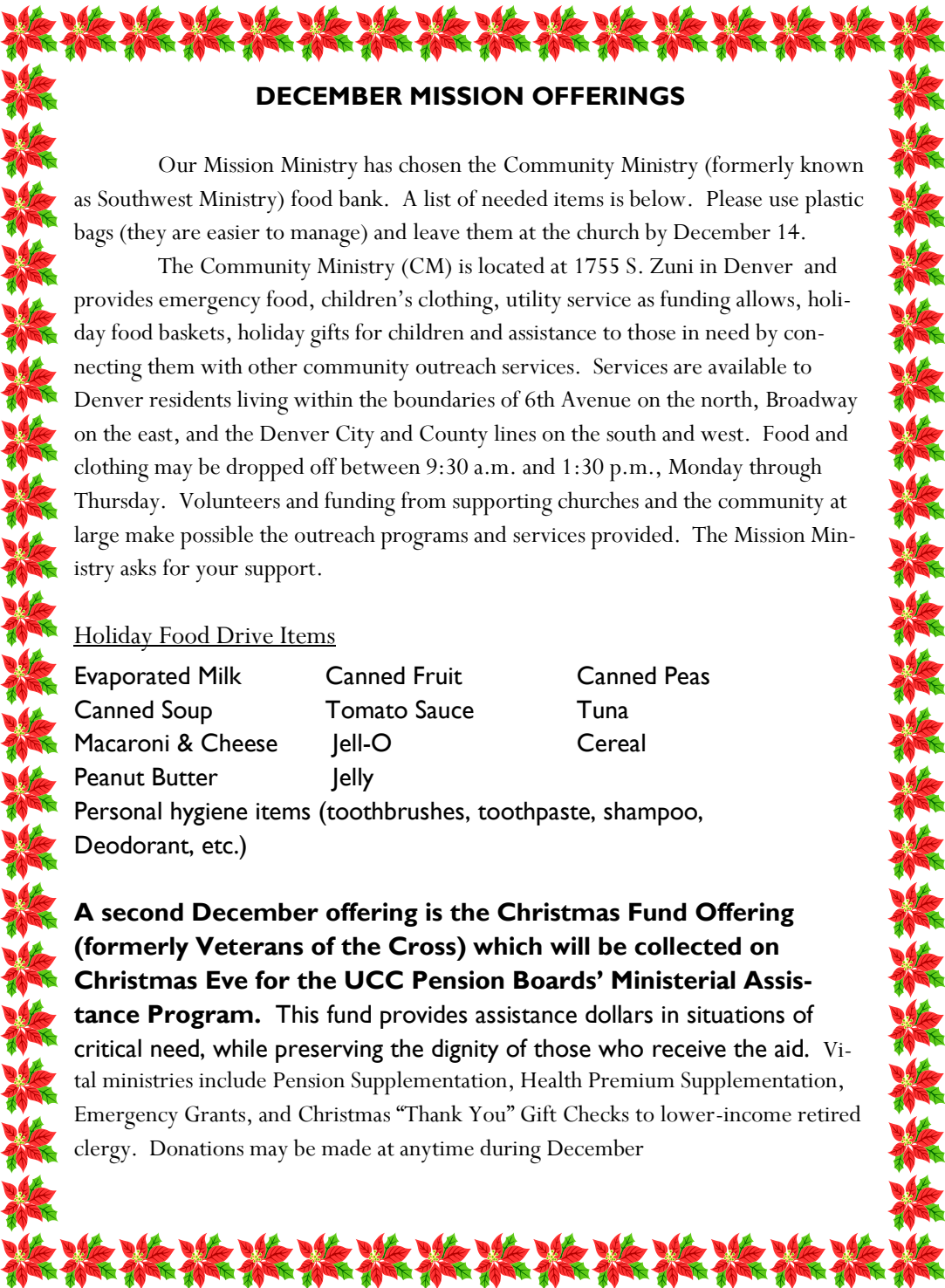
Yours in the love of Christ,

Beth Robey Hyde



*The staff wishes you a blessed
Christmas Season
and
a joyous New Year*





DECEMBER MISSION OFFERINGS

Our Mission Ministry has chosen the Community Ministry (formerly known as Southwest Ministry) food bank. A list of needed items is below. Please use plastic bags (they are easier to manage) and leave them at the church by December 14.

The Community Ministry (CM) is located at 1755 S. Zuni in Denver and provides emergency food, children’s clothing, utility service as funding allows, holiday food baskets, holiday gifts for children and assistance to those in need by connecting them with other community outreach services. Services are available to Denver residents living within the boundaries of 6th Avenue on the north, Broadway on the east, and the Denver City and County lines on the south and west. Food and clothing may be dropped off between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Volunteers and funding from supporting churches and the community at large make possible the outreach programs and services provided. The Mission Ministry asks for your support.

Holiday Food Drive Items

Evaporated Milk	Canned Fruit	Canned Peas
Canned Soup	Tomato Sauce	Tuna
Macaroni & Cheese	Jell-O	Cereal
Peanut Butter	Jelly	
Personal hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, Deodorant, etc.)		

A second December offering is the Christmas Fund Offering (formerly Veterans of the Cross) which will be collected on Christmas Eve for the UCC Pension Boards’ Ministerial Assistance Program. This fund provides assistance dollars in situations of critical need, while preserving the dignity of those who receive the aid. Vital ministries include Pension Supplementation, Health Premium Supplementation, Emergency Grants, and Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks to lower-income retired clergy. Donations may be made at anytime during December

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sandy Maben

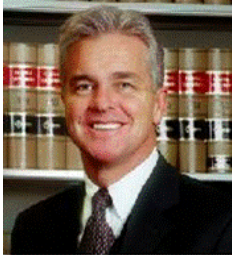
This has been a month of joy-filled and hope-filled experiences for me. I want to tell you about one of them.

I have participated in singing during the past 2 months in the contemporary, or praise music worship group. I was raised in the church, and have sung in a church choir for as long as I can remember. I’ve had a bit of a struggle with entering fully into contemporary styles of worship because of my love for hymns and choral music as I have always known them. Somewhere along the way, the church world (at least in the mainline denominations where I have attended church during my adult life) began to come to terms with the language in those hymns and that choral music that was, well, not very inclusive. And I appreciated those efforts as a woman who in childhood had experienced abuse and abandonment by those I named as “father.” It was freeing for me to be able to relate to God as “mother.” So then, along came today’s contemporary/praise music, and I resisted and resented what felt like a return to male-dominated language, with references to God as “him” and “father” and “king.” It felt like stepping in the wrong direction.

Luckily, one of the most important aspects of this church family to me is that I can express this kind of discomfort or struggle with brothers and sisters who will help me to sort it all out. And one of these brothers said something along the lines of “We have learned that we often (always?) need to read the bible as metaphor. Why do we struggle so much doing the same thing with the music that we sing?” It was a wonderful “aha” moment for me, and allowed me to enter our 3rd Sunday contemporary music experiences with a much different spirit. And I was truly sorry for the snow-storm that made it necessary for so many of our members to miss worship on November 15, because we really sang praises and glorified God that Sunday. And I was able to participate with the same degree of enthusiasm that I can bring to reading the story of Noah’s ark, or singing the Hallelujah Chorus.

Robin Miller, our new music minister (you did know that she is ordained, didn’t you?) said something incredibly important to a group of us today. I will not do justice to her eloquence, but she basically said that as we go through these times of change, we need to be gentle with each other. When something changes that I didn’t especially want to change, it is easy to respond with hurt feelings or anger. It is harder, but absolutely necessary, to breath deeply and to try to respond with grace. I don’t always agree with my family, but I always love them.

As I write this, we are all preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving. So let me end with: “When I count my blessings, I count you twice.” (Anonymous-as far as I can tell.) Advent Blessings to you all.



Mitch Morrissey,
Denver District Attorney

FRAUD ALERT!

**From the Office of Denver District Attorney
Mitch Morrissey**

Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will gather information about every person living at each address in the United States. Information for the 2010 Census includes name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data. Most people in the Denver Metro area will receive a Census form by U.S. Mail in March 2010. A few remote locations and harder to contact households will be contacted in person beginning in January 2010. It is important to know how to tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist.

U.S. Census workers will have a badge (no photo), a notebook, a black Census Bureau canvas bag with white lettering, and a confidentiality notice.

Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. If you ask, the worker should provide you with a phone number to call to verify their employment with the Census.

Never invite anyone you don't know into your home – no matter who they say they are!

There are only 10 questions on the official Census form.

The Census Bureau will not ask for any financial information, such as a salary range, and will NOT ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

Census workers will never ask for payment or contributions of any kind.

Census workers may contact you at your home in person or by telephone only if you are in a hard to access situation or you did not return your mail-in form. They will NOT contact you by email.

**For assistance or questions related to fraud, call the Denver DA's
Fraud Line: 720-913-9179.**

November 2009



A MUSICAL NOTE FROM ROBON MOLLER

As a child, music was my favorite part of the holidays. I was so excited about it that I started playing my mother's Christmas Collection LPs by mid-October. Mahalia Jackson, Johnny Mathis, Nat King

One month of music wasn't enough for me to have at Christmastime. I also remember the season as a time for recognizing community. They all sought the star that led them to the Christ-child. I would like to offer the same type of community this Christmas season. Everyone is welcome to come join the choir and sing in the birth of the Christ-child. No other commitment is needed--just follow the star and we will journey together. Choir rehearsals will be: December 3 and December 17 at 7:00 p.m., as well as Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the choir loft. I look forward to seeing you!

Thank You

OUR THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE MARIE’S MEMORIAL SERVICE SO SPECIAL — To Jerry Eslinger, Beth Robey Hyde, the choir and those who joined the choir, Georgia Bachmann, Robin Miller, the Fellowship Ministry who served lunch, to all who made a donation to the church choir, and all who came to honor Marie. She would have been so pleased.

Again, thank you and God bless.
The Smedes Family

**TREASURER’S REPORT
For 2009 to Date**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$189,993	\$193,503	98
Total Expenses	\$185,716	\$208,530	89
Net Income	\$4,277	\$(15,027)	(28.5)
2009 Pledges	\$162,365	\$170,587	95.2

MISSION OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER
Minister’s Discretionary Fund \$610.00



LOOKING FOR CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS? (And who isn’t this time of year?) King Soopers and Safeway gift cards make great stocking stuffers! Charitable groups likes Southwest Community Ministry and Jeffco Action Center welcome them to use in food baskets at ANY time, but especially this time of year. And — they make handy tips for your newspaper delivery person or mail carrier. We will be getting an extra supply of \$10 and \$25 King Soopers and Safeway cards for the holiday season, so shop early before they are all gone!! On sale every Sunday during “fellowship time” after the church service.

Joyce & Mary

CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 — Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. — a family service of scriptures, carols and candlelight. Please bring your family and join our Christ Congregational family for this meaningful service.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 10:00 a.m. — CAROLING CASUAL SUNDAY. Come and join us to share our favorite Carols on Caroling Casual Sunday, December 27th in the Fellowship Hall (wear your PJ’s if you want). After our caroling party, we will be served brunch, courtesy of the Council.

SUBSCRIBE NOW. If you have not already done so, you should subscribe to the RoMoCo newsletter. This publication will be sent to you via email the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, and it will keep you updated about activities and people in the Rocky Mountain conference United Church of Christ.

This new communication vehicle means we can share our news throughout the conference, so be thinking about what you might like to submit to share.

Just email Kathy@rmcucc.org and you will be added to the recipient list.

DECEMBER 2009		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		1 7:00 p.m. Open Forum in Fellowship Hall
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	7	8 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 13 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	14	15
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 20 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	21	22
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 27 10:00 a.m. Caroling Casual Worship Service in Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	28	29

DECEMBER 2009			
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	3 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	4	5 12—3 p.m. PEO Party in Fellowship Hall
9 6:30 a.m. Men’s Breakfast at Rosemary’s	10 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	11	12 2—6 p.m. Private Party in Fellowship Hall
16 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	17 6:30 a.m. Women’s Breakfast at Rosemary’s 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	18	19
23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26
30	31		