

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

AUGUST

07 *Craig Anderson*
07 *Jason Bachmann*
08 *Lois Higgins*
09 *Joyce Blubaugh*
09 *Gregg Fernandez*
10 *Keith Allen*
10 *Gretchen Gomer*
10 *Richard Medina*
11 *Andrew Worthman*
14 *Fred Fox*
15 *Amy Kennedy*
16 *Roger Rock*
16 *Karl Wilderson*
21 *Jake Nelson*
23 *Dylan Gomer*
29 *Rosa Nunez*
30 *Sheri Langford*
31 *Paul 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

AUGUST 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 . . . Just Showing Up

A colleague of mine was writing about their Bible study group studying the last 15 chapters of Acts. He compares Paul’s action heroics to the latest Indiana Jones movie where Harrison Ford does his thing. Well, we know that Paul’s heroics helped launch Christianity as he faced seemingly insurmountable odds and one cliffhanger after another. (Read the Book of Acts)

But, for the most part, our lives are not like an action movie, not at all. As thrilling as Paul’s and Indy’s escapades are, it would be wise not to live our lives like an action hero in an action film. In fact, life is almost exactly the opposite of an action movie. In action films the hero is always in and out; they sweep in and they perform some act of heroism and then they leave. In real life, if you want to be a hero, you have to stick around. Real life heroism is about showing up day after day. Just showing up. Showing up in your marriage, showing up at work, showing up at your kids’ games. Getting up and showing up. One comedian said that 80% of success is showing up. And over time as a real life hero, if you can display that steadfastness, if you show up, then that will become over time something really heroic.

There’s a truism in Washington, D.C., sort of inside the beltway, that a politician’s downfall is almost never in the given mistake, but it’s in over-reacting trying to, in a defensive way, cover up for their mistakes. It’s in the cover-up; it’s in the over-reacting that they cause more problems. It’s like that for all of us. We have to be careful not to act too quickly. We have to be more prudent than the action hero in the film.

Like in action films, they always face completely and clearly defined challenges and it’s always easy to tell the good guys from the bad guys – they wear black hats or it’s the woman with the severe black haircut and a thick Russian accent holding the crystal skull – you know who the enemy is. You need to get the skull back!! The challenges we face aren’t so clearly defined and obvious. Each and every day you have to navigate far more vague and ambiguous challenges and you don’t always know the path to take. You don’t

really know who the bad guys are.

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

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$126,938.85	\$133,338.00	95.2%
Total Expenses	\$123,099.29	\$132,300.58	93.0%
Net Income	\$ 3,839.56	\$ 1,037.42	
2008 Pledges	\$116,390.09	\$124,019.00	93.8%

**MISSION OFFERING FOR JULY
TENNYSON CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES \$1,345.00**

CONGRATULATIONS TO TOM KOVACS (son of Bob & Deb) **AND JUDY SOFEN**, who will be married on Friday, July 25, in Urbandale, Iowa.

GREETER MINISTRY ANNUAL SIGNUP

Thank you to all who volunteered to be greeters and substitutes during 2007/2008. You were instrumental in making our program a success this past year. The sign-up sheet for the coming year will be available after services on Aug. 3, 17 & 24.

For the months of September and October, each Ministry will provide greeters for scheduled Sundays. Beginning November 2, greeters will sign up to greet for a set of five Sundays (for example, the 1st Sunday of odd number months, 11/2, 1/4, etc.). We need a minimum of 2 greeters on each Sunday - but more are welcome. If you sing in the choir or have other obligations during part of the year and just want to pick a Sunday or two, there is a spot for you too.

Substitutes are also needed for the rare occasion that an assigned greeter needs to call them. See Sue White after services and thank you

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!!**

For more information, see our website: www.eco-justice.org
You may contact Eco-Justice Ministries at (303) 715-3873 or ministry@eco-justice.org

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE WORKSHOP ---
GREENING YOUR CHURCH
GETTING STARTED & GOING DEEPER**

Eco-Justice Ministries invites you to join with other church leaders from your community to learn about ways to "green" your church. We'll give you practical steps for environmental stewardship, and share ideas for bringing ecological perspectives into the full range of church programming.

In this evening session, we'll help you consider the special opportunities and obligations that churches have for "creation care", and share resources to support your programming, including worship, education, energy conservation, and advocacy. You'll be able to hear about what other churches are doing, and to share stories about your own congregation.

This meeting is suitable for pastors and educators, those who are responsible for the church's buildings & grounds, and anyone in the congregation who has a specific environmental interest. It will be helpful for churches that have established environmental programs, and for those who want to take some first steps in that direction.

Join us at any of these locations, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

- **Boulder - Monday, August 18**
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 3700 Baseline Rd.
- **Colorado Springs - Tuesday, August 12**
First Congregational United Church of Christ, 20 E St. Vrain St
- **Denver - Monday, August 11**
Washington Park United Church of Christ, 400 S Williams St
- **Fort Collins - Wednesday, August 20**
Plymouth United Church of Christ, 916 W Prospect Rd
- **Highlands Ranch - Thursday, August 21**
St Andrew United Methodist Church, 3350 White Bay Dr

More from the Desk of Jerry

In action movies they always employ one specific technique – the technique of force. Now in movies it's usually physical force. Now in our own lives, force and manipulation aren't effective. We all have to be about winning people's hearts and minds. Force doesn't really work. Not in our lives. Not in real life heroism, the day-to-day living we face.

A Starbucks commercial of a few years ago shows a young guy getting up to face the day and he doesn't look ready. He kind of stumbles into the kitchen and he whips out one of those double espresso shots and he takes a gulp -- bam-o, there appears in his kitchen the rock band that played the theme song to "Rocky," you know, "The Eye of the Tiger." The guy's name is Glenn and they go, "Glenn, Glenn, Glenn, Glenn...." They follow him throughout his day, having this rock band to boost him up.

Now our lives aren't like action movies and you won't have a rock band following you, but you should wake up each day and in the back of your mind you should hear the music theme from Indiana Jones because you are to be a real life hero. You will face far more complex challenges than any movie, far more vague and not so clearly defined. You will have to be a hero without the use of force, but with your integrity and your insight and your creativity, real life heroism. The Holy Spirit moved Paul into those adventures. Each and every day the Holy Spirit is moving you off, and knows that you can face those challenges. May God bless us in our real life heroism.

* * * * *

beginning at 9AM on the west steps of the Colorado Capitol building and will begin the March to the Pepsi Center at 10:30AM. Those of us who are going are hoping that the rest of you will forgive us for missing worship that morning!

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS MINISTRY.

Missions Ministry. The August mission offering will support Heifer International. Heifer International is an organization that is 60 years young. It is built around several principles which help to create sustainable communities. The program is designed to help poor people by providing animals that produce products which people are able to sell and also use for their own needs. For example, cows are provided to people in order to produce milk and milk byproducts. This helps to feed the family and also provide resources to sell. As cows reproduce, the families are asked to donate these offspring to others in order to pass on their good fortune. In addition to a gift of a cow, the families and individuals are taught animal management, planning, record keeping, reporting, and evaluation.

Heifer International also works with communities to teach accountability, help members set goals, plan strategies, and evaluate success. By creating a sharing and caring environment, communities rely on their own efforts to create a sustainable environment of growth that is long term. This is an essential part of the project, since Heifer International can only fund an individual project for a limited amount of time.

Heifer International selects individuals in communities based on need. Training involves both formal and informal sessions with demonstration projects. It incorporates techniques in improving the environment, such as improving soil fertility with animal manure, promoting forestation, respecting and encouraging biodiversity, monitoring watershed conditions, and minimizing erosion. Specific training needs are decided by each community. Both men and women share in the decision making.

Heifer International's spirituality is seeded in its beliefs about the value and meaning of all life. It provides a sense of connectedness to the earth and a shared vision of the future. Please help support this very worthy project.

March Against the Iraq War, Sunday August 24

There will be a March against the Iraq war on Sunday, August 24, the day before the Democratic National Convention convenes in Denver. Folks will gather

ENJOY CLASSICAL HATHA YOGA, THE DAY-STAR METHOD, to build strength and flexibility both inside and out. Day-Star Yoga is gentle enough for beginners and yet challenging for the more experienced. If you have never done yoga before, this is the perfect opportunity for you to try it! Students are encouraged to work at their own level. Please wear comfortable, layered clothing and bring a mat to class.

Monday evenings from 6 – 7:30 p.m.

Christ Congregational Church

September 8 – October 27, 2008

8 weeks \$60 – or \$10 “drop in”

Payment for the session can be made the first night of class or on a “drop-in” basis. **Your first class is free.** If you decide you love the class, you can register for the session or pay on a drop-in basis. If not, there is no obligation.

BUY A SAFEWAY OR KING SOOPERS GIFT CARD. We all buy groceries, and most of us buy gas for our cars. So, why not purchase these things at either Safeway or King Soopers with a “gift card” bought at Christ Congregational Church? This is one way to give the church a little extra, without even feeling the pinch! The church gets 5% from each King Soopers and 4% from each Safeway card purchase, so you don't have to feel guilty for buying that extra steak or piece of wild salmon! On sale every Sunday after the church service – see Joyce Blubaugh or Mary Bindner.

The Library is almost finished and is looking great! Suzy Hiskey is working to get all the books on the computer and needs help with data entry. Any volunteers? Contact Suzy at 303-975-0070 or mom2kalee@yahoo.com. Also, we are planning to use the computer exclusively for library transactions (no more card catalog). There will be a demonstration on use of the system soon (it's easy). Let Suzy or Sandy Selzer know if this change would be a problem for you.

AUCTION. Remember the fun auctions we have had in the past? Think about

what service or object you could donate to an auction in the fall. Funds could be used to help those in need in and out of the church.

Fellowship Ministry

UPCOMING EVENTS

PARISH RESOURCE CENTER OF COLORADO
1420 S. Holly St., Denver, CO 80222, 303-756-9099
infocolorado@parishresourcecenter.org

“Praying with the Senses,” Saturday, August 9, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Explore prayer practices together and learn strategies for teaching children, youth, and adults. Experience “Prayer in Color,” using prayer beads, praying with music, praying the labyrinth, and more. The Center will remain open until 2 p.m. for individual time at prayer stations.

Leaders: Charlotte Shepic, St. Paul Episcopal Church and the Parish Resource Center Staff.

Cost: \$10 for members of subscribing congregations and \$20 for others.

Bring a brown bag lunch.

To register, call or email the Center by August 2nd.

“Back to Sunday School Teacher Training,” Saturday, August 23, 2008,

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Explore topics that will make your task easier and your time with children more effective. Topics include how children learn, setting up your learning space, addressing special needs, using the creative arts, and incorporating spiritual practices. A hands-on event for returning teachers and those who’ve never taught before.

Cost: \$15 per person or \$40 for a group of three or more from a subscribing congregation. \$25 for others.

Bring your Sunday school curriculum, if available.

To register, call or email the Center by August 9th.

Also on August 24 - Jim Wallis to Appear in Denver

Jim Wallis, Executive Director of the Christian organization Sojourners and celebrated author of God’s Politics and The Great Awakening, will speak in Denver (actually Highlands Ranch) on Sunday, August 24 at 7PM at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3350 White Bay Drive (actually the 9300 south block of University Blvd.). Tickets are \$15.00 each (students \$10.00). Please make checks payable to St. Andrew United Methodist Church and give to Sandy Maben on Sundays August 3, 10 or 17 and she will buy the tickets on August 18. Scholarships are available – please see Sandy with requests. Sandy spent a year at Sojourners in Washington, DC as an intern in 1996-1997 (don’t ask her about it or she’ll talk your ear off!) and admits to being a Jim Wallis groupie. Also let Sandy Maben know if you would like to carpool.