

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September

01	Marie Smedes
03	Sandy Griggs
03	Andy Nelson
05	Verna Ashley
06	Heidi Tegeder
09	Nancy Pleuss
12	Emmy Fisher
16	Marve Evers
16	Linda Larsen
19	Mary Wilderson
20	Janice Redfield
22	Joanne Broten
26	Carolyn Anderson
27	Vesta Giltner
28	Lou Bindner
28	Helen T. Smith
29	Judith Wilson
30	Susan Kennedy

*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

## SEPTEMBER 2008



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

**WEBSITE:** [www.visitchristchurch.org](http://www.visitchristchurch.org)

**E-Mail:** [christcongregationalchurch@hotmail.com](mailto: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 . . .**  
**. Living on a Mission Field**

How would you like to live on a mission field?

Many years ago when I was considering church vocations, I often thought of the possibility of living on a mission field -- Africa, perhaps, or India or Thailand. I envisioned the prospect of residing in an area where the Christian religion was a minority, and where other lifestyles and persuasions held sway. How exciting I thought, and what a challenge it would be! My, how the world has changed! I think of those countries today as opposed to where they were forty-some years ago, and while we still have missions there they are quite different now. The bigger changes also apply to my own country.

Although I haven't moved to the mission field, apparently the mission field has moved to me! This thought struck me after receiving fliers from several churches and being importunately approached by representatives of religious groups from other places who apparently look upon my sedate, middle-class American neighborhood as a mission field.

A reading of Martha Grace Reese's book, Unbinding the Gospel, produced the following statistics.

"There were 179 million Americans in 1960. Twenty-six million of them were members of the seven mainline denominations in the Mainline Evangelism Project (including the UCC). In 1960 14.4% of the people in the United States were members of a mainline church. Forty years later in 2000, these mainline churches had only 21 million members. We have lost almost 20% of our members over 40 years. That's not good."

Where have all the people gone? Many of them are unchurched now, or are members of the "church alumni association." Some of them have probably joined churches outside the mainline.

I must concede a grudging admiration for the zeal and enthusiasm of those groups that confronted me at my house. We could use a hearty dose of it ourselves.

But it does always shock me that we are considered a "mission field." It suggests to me that we have been too blind and too apathetic to recognize a truth that outsiders see quite easily: we ARE a mission field. Fewer than half our

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

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Year-to-Date Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$144,682.00	\$151,904.00	95.2%
Total Expenses	\$141,713.20	\$151,995.64	93.2%
Net Income	\$ 2,968.80	\$ < 91.64>	
2008 Pledges	\$133,473.92	\$141,736.00	94.2%

**MISSION OFFERING FOR AUGUST**  
**Heifer International      \$936.00**

**COMING UP – "SERVICE AUCTION."**  
**When?** A convenient date after a Sunday service next winter.  
**What service could you provide?** A ride? Cook a dinner? Yard work? Voice or painting lessons? Shopping trip? Babysit or pet sit? A weekend at a mountain condo or cabin you own?  
**Why a service auction?** Promote fellowship. Learn more about each other through sharing. Raise funds for the church and those in need both in and out of the church.  
**What can you do?** Donate a service; bid on and then buy a service or two.  
Fellowship Ministry

directory and you will receive an email with the login and “how to” information. If the person(s) is/are not in the member directory, Sue will forward the request to the church office to verify membership.

**CHANCEL CHOIR POSITIONS OPEN**

- Positions Open: Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, Basses. No others need apply.
- Physical qualifications: Must be able to carry light musical notes part way across the sanctuary. Must have sufficient vision to see the director. (Yes, you are supposed to watch the director????).
  - Experience: All applications will be accepted from persons who have sung, hummed, or whistled in the bathtub, shower, or elsewhere, at some time in their lives.
  - Beginning Wage: Increased satisfaction and joy in the service of God.
  - Fringe Benefits: Social Security. We promise you the security of social fellowship with other choir members and lots of FUN!
  - Hours: Thursday evening rehearsals at 7:00 p.m. beginning on September 11. There will be occasional opportunity for overtime. Lead worship at the 10:00 a.m. service beginning on September 14. (Vacations are easily arranged at your determination.)
  - Retirement: Generally determined by the printed notes getting too small (even with the help of a magnifying glass), the hymnal too heavy, notes too high, the sanctuary too hot or cold. But we can work with most of these problems.
- We are an equal opportunity employer!!
- Contact Liana Lansing at [lianalansingstudios@comcast.net](mailto:lianalansingstudios@comcast.net) or 720-272-7044.

(adapted from the Parkview Congregational Church Newsletter)

**Christ Congregational Church Website – [www.visitchristchurch.org](http://www.visitchristchurch.org)**

Our website is open to the general public and we also have a “Members” section on this website. Our Church Council intends to post a few documents in this area of the website, so all our members are encouraged to request a username/password for our site. (Please be patient while your request is processed.)

To be assigned a username and password for our Members section of our website, send an email to [webmaster@visitchristchurch.org](mailto:webmaster@visitchristchurch.org) (this is Sue White). Website login accounts require a unique email address – so each person in your family who wants a login should send a separate email. Include your first and last name in your email. Church membership will be verified in the membership

***More from the Desk of Jerry . . .***

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citizens now belong to a church, and less than 20% honor their commitment by being in church on any given Sunday.

Our Church Council has been studying Reese’s book, but also learning how to talk about our faith in a way that can reach out to others without coercion or manipulation. A minister, quoted in the book, states it this way: “A decision to let God use us to share real faith pries us loose from old habits, perceptions, and moorings. We always thought of our church as First Church, on the corner of Broadway and Main Street. Now First Church is a clipper ship, canvas spread, filled with treasures, bound for the Indies. You may feel a little seasick. Change is hard. God is trustworthy.”

\* \* \* \* \*

**SEPTEMBER 14 – KICK-OFF SUNDAY**

Come one, come all! We’re hoping you can join us to start the fall schedule off with a great gathering. We’re preparing to feed the multitudes. Come for church and Sunday School at 10 a.m. and then stay for lunch and fellowship immediately following our service.

Served by,  
Worship & Music Ministry

**ADULT FORUM, “LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL,” BEGINS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, AT 8:45 A.M. IN THE COMMONS ROOM.**

**What Liberty and Justice for All *Is***

This seven-session course of study, discussion, and reflection focuses on the value of faith in the exercise of our citizenship. Through the use of videos and readings, this theme is developed by examining:

- our founders’ understanding of liberty and how their founding documents seek to protect our liberty within the government they created to serve the people.
- the call of Jesus and the prophets for just societies.

- diverse Christian responses to these ideas.

### **What Liberty and Justice for All Is Not**

- It is not a debate between Republicans and Democrats
- It is not a debate between liberals and conservatives.
- It is not an action community that focuses on solutions to specific problems.

**WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP** will meet on Thursday, September 11, at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Betty Walker, 1410 S. Eaton Street, 303-935-4165, to organize the schedule for the coming year. This is a book study group that welcomes new members and/or suggestions of books to discuss. Please come!

**HELP NEEDED** with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Mart, Saturday, November 22, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Please let Sid Nelson know if you are willing to help with advertising, set-up on Friday, clean-up on Saturday, or would like to reserve a space (303-988-5031). Fliers are available on the narthex table; please take one for yourself or someone you know who might want to bring their “wares to the fair.”

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS MINISTRY.**

**Missions Ministry.** The September mission offering will help support KARIS COMMUNITY, a local mental health agency of hope and healing service in the Denver community since 1976. The mission statement of Karis Community is: To provide a transitional community living opportunity for restoring basic life skills and improving the social well-being of individuals recovering from serious and persistent mental illness.

Karis Community is a private, not-for-profit facility, the only “community model” residential program, serving the mentally ill in the Denver area. Their Empowerment Program provides residents the opportunity to learn new coping skills and life skills that promote dignity and greater independence. The name “Karis” (which means “grace”) was adopted because Karis Community is a place for residents to be received, nurtured, challenged and launched. Karis provides a unique combination of private and shared space in a homelike environment.

Applicants are referred by social workers, private therapists, mental health workers, former residents and family members. Applicants are screened by the Executive Director, and those considered to benefit from the program are invited to dinner with the residents of the Karis Community. Applicants are invited to join the community based upon the decision of the current members. A typical resident lives at Karis for an average of 14 to 16 months and then moves on to independent living. Success in this transition is directly related to the achievement of appropriate independent living skills and the development of a

personal support system.

**ENJOY CLASSICAL HATHA YOGA, THE DAY-STAR METHOD.** Classes begin on Monday, September 8. Day-Star Yoga is gentle enough for beginners and yet challenging for the more experienced. 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.

### **Sunday, September 21 – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Second Wind Fund Walk/Run/Ride**

Beginning in 2007, Christ Congregational Church, through the Mission & Outreach board (now the Social Justice and Missions Ministry), decided to become a Faith Partner with the Second Wind Fund. Second Wind provides funds for counseling by licensed therapists at reduced rates for teens identified as being at risk for suicide who are uninsured or under-insured for such services. In the first 5 school years that Second Wind operated, 670 youth throughout the metro Denver area were referred for these services. In the past school year, over 500 students were referred!

There were 66 participants in the first walk/run event in 2002 who raised \$4,000 for the Second Wind Fund. Last year, 2,600 participants raised over \$125,000, and the goal for 2008 is 3,300 participants! This year's walk/run/bike event is on Sunday, September 21, 2008 beginning at Green Mountain High School. Events will take place beginning at 7AM with a pancake breakfast, but the walk/run/ride events begin just after noon. The registration fee of \$25 (\$10 for students) is waived if pledges of just \$40.00 are collected. Andrew Romanoff, Colorado's Speaker of the House, will be one of the featured speakers and musical events will include a concert by Colorado recording artist Nina Storey. As

always, there will be massages after the event and a fabulous picnic with tons of great food. As a Faith Partner, Christ Congregational has donated \$200 and will attempt to provide 14 walking, running or bike riding participants to the event. Brochures are available in the narthex. See Sandy Maben to join the team or for more information.

### **GREETERS FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER**

The greeters on Sunday mornings in September and October will be members of the Council and the Ministries of our church.

#### **September 14 – Council Officers**

#### **September 21 – Fellowship Ministry** (description excerpted from CCC Bylaws)

Acts 2.42: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers.”

This ministry shall directly, or through the assigning of committees, be responsible for the following:

a) Coordination of social programs that are keyed to the mission of the church including, but not limited to: coffee hour, dinners for 6/8, La Foret retreats, Church dinners other festivals and special programs as appropriate.

b) Coordination of programs to care for the sick, sorrowing, poor, indifferent and the stranger.

c) Supporting the formulation of small groups around common interests as well as formulation of small groups among diverse groups within the Church.

It is imperative that the Fellowship Ministry take into consideration the changing lifestyles of congregants when scheduling events. The Fellowship Ministry shall work closely with other Ministries to ensure that our church instills a sense of belonging in members and that we integrate new members into the whole life of the church.

#### **September 28 – Facilities & Grounds Ministry** (description excerpted from the CCC Bylaws)

John 8:2: “And early in the morning Jesus came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down and taught them.”

This Ministry shall be the trustee of care, maintenance and upkeep of all of the

Church’s real and personal property including but not limited to buildings, grounds, furniture, equipment and other Church property. This Ministry shall be charged with coordinating all services related to the Church’s property including but not limited to: insurance, lawn service, snow removal and custodial services.

Watch for the October Ministry Greeters in the October Caller!

### **PARISH RESOURCE CENTER OF COLORADO UPCOMING EVENTS.**

**1420 S. Holly St., Denver, CO 80222, 303-756-9099;**

**[infocolorado@parishresourcecenter.org](mailto:infocolorado@parishresourcecenter.org)**

**September 11, 2008, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Pastor’s Roundtable: The Church and Politics.** Join your colleagues for a conversation about faith and politics and the role of the pastor and the church. A continental breakfast will be served. There is no fee. To register, call or email the Center by September 4.

**September 10, Wednesday, at Green Mountain UMC (12755 W. Cedar Dr., Lakewood) and Thursday, September 11, at Calvary Presbyterian (1420 S. Holly St., Denver), 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 a.m.** See what’s new for 2008 and finalize your stewardship plans. Drop by any time and stay as long as you like. There is no fee and you do not need to register.

**September 18, 2008, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m., Educator’s Roundtable: Children and Worship.** Join in a discussion about including children more fully in worship, worship education and creative worship experiences. A continental breakfast will be served. There is no fee. To register, call or email the Center by September 11.

**Owd Dabar Worship/Song Service on Friday, October 24, 7:00 p.m.** Be sure to mark your calendar! Elizabeth Montgomery will be sharing her songs of faith and her walk with Christ here at Christ Church. You won’t want to miss her amazing style of music and ministry. More information coming soon.

