

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

CALLER

JUNE

2009

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*
24 *Virginia Black*
29 *Byron Anderson*



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



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

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.

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 . . . **Religious Literacy**

Several years ago I purchased a book by Stephen Prothero entitled: “Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know – And Doesn’t.” His thesis is simple: The United States is one of the most religious places on earth, but it is also a nation of shocking religious illiteracy.

In the book cover he indicates, for instance, that “only 10 percent of American teenagers can name all five major world religions and 15% cannot name any. “Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe that the Bible holds the answers to all or most of life’s basic questions, yet only half of American adults can name even one of the four gospels and most Americans cannot name the first book of the Bible. So, in the interest of proving him wrong about our congregation, I give you the “religious literacy quiz” from his book. I trust that if you don’t know some of the answers you will be concerned enough to find out. So here goes: the answers will also appear in next month’s Caller.

1. Name the four Gospels. List as many as you can.
2. Name a sacred text of Hinduism.
3. What is the name of the holy book of Islam?
4. Where according to the Bible was Jesus born?
5. President George W. Bush (now ex-President Bush) spoke in his first inaugural address of the Jericho road. What Bible story was he invoking?
6. What are the first five books of the Hebrew Bible or the Christian Old Testament?
7. What is the Golden Rule?
8. “God helps those who help themselves.” Is this in the Bible? If so, where?
9. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God”: Does this appear in the Bible? If so, where?
10. Name the Ten Commandments. List as many as you can.
11. Name the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sandy Maben

I am writing this just after being elected at the Annual Meeting on May 17 as moderator of council for the next church year. I am humbled by your confidence and just a little bit overwhelmed by the tasks ahead. Thank you to all who have expressed your love and support to me.

The discussion that we had on next steps in the pastor search process was enlightening and thought-provoking. So I thought I would summarize some of this here. At the May 12 Council meeting, Tom Rehling, conference minister for the Rocky Mountain Conference of our UCC denomination, described the process for seeking a new pastor. The first step is the appointment by Council of 3-4 church members to an interim pastor search committee. This will be accomplished at the June 9 Council meeting. I have spoken to several folks who are interested and willing to serve on this committee. At the June 9 meeting, we will also have an important discussion on what the top 3 priorities of Christ Congregational Church will be during this interim period. This is a discussion that will take all of the honesty that we can bring forth while also listening deeply to everyone. I hope that both last year’s and this year’s leadership team will attend, and I invite all of you to consider attending. This discussion will lead us to a sense of the leadership skills that we want in an interim pastor. We will also determine a range of financial package to guide the interim pastor search committee in their negotiations.

One of the questions raised at the Annual Meeting was how long this process is likely to take. I have heard estimates of anywhere from 6 months to 2 years. Although we are beginning the process right away, Rev. Tamara Boynton shared some wise words. She commented to us that experience suggests that a period of long ministry, such as our own Pastor Eslinger’s 24 years (!), tend to be followed by a long interim period of defining who we are as a church family. After all, we haven’t had to do this for a pretty long time!

Next month, I will report on the progress of the interim pastor search. Our hope is to have a recommendation from the search committee of a candidate who could start on August 1 or shortly thereafter. I will also tell you a bit more about our priorities during the interim period and the search process for a permanent called pastor.

ADULT FORUM NEWS. In May the Adult Forum completed the series of 12 sessions entitled, “First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God.” The Adult Forum will resume again in the Fall.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND MISSIONS MINISTRY, JUNE 2009

Missions Ministry. This month’s mission emphasis is the “Three cups of Tea/Pennies for Peace” program which is under the umbrella of the non-profit organization Central Asia Institute (CAI). Our emphasis is to help fund schools and teacher training in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Greg Mortensen wrote the book “Three Cups of Tea” to tell of his journey in Pakistan and his desire to build schools there. In 1993 Mortensen was descending from a failed attempt to reach the peak of K2, the world’s second tallest mountain located in Pakistan. Exhausted and disoriented, he wandered away from his group into a village in the most desolate reached of northern Pakistan where he was nursed back to health.

While recovering he observed the village’s 84 children sitting outdoors scratching their lessons in the dirt with sticks. The village was so poor they could not afford the \$1-a-day to hire a teacher. Mortensen promised that when he recuperated, he would return and build them a school.

In an effort to raise money when he returned to the States, he wrote hundreds of letters to celebrities, wealthy Americans and business men. He only received \$100 from Tom Brokaw. A group of elementary children eventually donated \$623 in pennies (Pennies for Peace fund began). This effort inspired adults and he was able finally to raise enough money to build the Korphe Bridge and the Korphe School which was completed in 1996.

Since that time, the CAI was formed and 78 schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan have been built educating over 28,000 students. The schools are required to include a certain percentage of females in the classes. Students learn subjects based on the Government curriculum, including Urdu, Science, English, Islamic Studies, Social Studies and Mathematics.

We ask that you give generously to this cause to build schools in countries where the literacy rate is as low as 20%.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY COUPON CLIPPERS

Community Ministry offers a volunteer opportunity for those who are unable to do heavy lifting and other volunteer activities that take a lot of physical stamina, although everyone is welcome.

Coupon Clippers meet every Monday from 9:00 a.m. until about noon at Brentwood United Methodist Church, 1899 S. Irving. Their job consists of taking the uncut coupon booklets from the Sunday papers that are collected by churches and cutting out specific coupons ordered by a company in New York. Between

\$4,000 and \$10,000 is raised each year with this effort to help Community Ministry meet the needs of many hungry families. For more information on how you can become involved, call Sue Albers at 303-798-4669. **BECOME A CLIPPER – CALL SUE TODAY!**

More from the Desk of Jerry

- 12. What are the seven sacraments of Catholicism? List as many as you can.
- 13. The First Amendment says two things about religion, each in its own “clause.” What are the two religion clauses of the First Amendment?
- 14. What is Ramadan? In what religion is it celebrated?
- 15. Match the Bible characters with the stories in which they appear. Draw a line from one to the other. Hint: Some characters may be matched with more than one story or vice versa.

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Adam and Eve | Exodus |
| Paul | Binding of Isaac |
| Moses | Olive Branch |
| Noah | Garden of Eden |
| Jesus | Parting of the Red Sea |
| Abraham | Road to Damascus |
| Serpent | Garden of Gethsemane |

Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know – And Doesn’t
Stephen Prothero, pp. 27-28

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TREASURER’S REPORT
For 2009 to Date

| | <u>Actual</u> | <u>Budget</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Total Income | \$85,145.74 | \$87,956.25 | 96.8% |
| Total Expenses | \$94,998.10 | \$94,786.92 | 100.2% |
| Net Income | \$ -9,852.36 | \$ -6,830.67 | 144.2% |

2009 Pledges \$74,115.27 \$77,539.56 95.6%

MAY MISSION OFFERING

Strengthen the Church \$1,974.00

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING GRADUATES!!

Ellen Kennedy, daughter of Sue and Don Kennedy, graduated from Colorado State University with a B.S. in environmental health. She currently has an internship with the Denver Hospice Green Team.

Allen Marble, son of Randy and Renee Marble, graduated from Wheat Ridge High School and will be attending Red Rocks Community College in the fire fighting program.

Scott Marble, son of Randy and Renee Marble, graduated from Northeastern Junior College in Sterling with an associate degree in math and science. He plans to attend Colorado State University to pursue a teaching degree.

Katy Rininger, daughter of Doug Rininger and granddaughter of Betty Sanders, graduated from South High School and is planning to attend Seattle Pacific University in the fall.

Lizzie Rock, daughter of Thea and Roger Rock, graduated from Colorado State University last December with a major in Art History. She is currently an intern at the Denver Art Museum and is hoping to go to graduate school.

Cameron Walker, son of Eric and Angie Walker and grandson of Betty and Tim Walker, graduated from Monarch High School this May. He plans to attend the University of Wyoming.

DEDICATION OF ENGELKING MEMORIAL

We have set Sunday, June 17, Father's Day, as the day for the dedication of the memorial bench and garden given by Vi Engelking in memory of her husband, Lee. The congregation will be asked to gather on the east side of the sanctuary for a service of dedication. Lee, who died on May 28, 2008, was a very active participant in the life of Christ Church, serving as Moderator, as a Trustee, and in various other leadership positions. Lee was a member of the Chancel Choir for many years.

FATHER'S DAY – JUNE 21, 2009





Maggie MacLachan – 3228 S. Garrison St., Lakewood, CO 80227 – 303-922-6419. Maggie sells Mary Kay Cosmetics and is a single mother with her daughter, Makala, at home.

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED

The following people were received into church membership during worship on May 31st, Pentecost Sunday.

Vicki Dixon – 5337 W. Iliff Drive, #101, Lakewood, CO 80227 – 303-986-2409. Vicki grew up in the Presbyterian Church, at one time belonging to Green Mountain Presbyterian Church. She joins by Re-Affirmation of Faith; she calls Christ Church a friendly and welcoming church and especially respects churches who accept all who come to worship, who respect other faiths, and who preach a message of love, not hate. Vicki is a retired accountant who worked at the U.S. Forest Service.

John Rea – 2784 S. Marshall Street, Denver, CO 80227 – 303-987-9181. John is a fourth generation Coloradoan who has lived in Bear Valley for over 25 years. He and his wife Ann have been married for 39 years. He is retired from working as a budget officer and business manager with the State of Colorado. John also was raised in the Presbyterian Church and was attracted to Christ Church because, as he states, “It is open-minded, inclusive of others, and believes in a loving God.” John also joins by Re-Affirmation of Faith.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The 35th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain conference, UCC, is scheduled for June 12 – 14 at First Congregational Church, 1128 Pine Street, Boulder. Delegates from Christ Church will be Joanne Broten, Kay Waggoner, and Jerry and Carolyn Eslinger. A Clergy Appreciation dinner, sponsored by the Conference is scheduled for Thursday evening, June 11. Workshops on Friday morning include sessions on: “Boundary Training for Lay Leaders; Boundary Training for Retired Ministers; Prison Ministry; Finding our Voice for comprehensive Health Care Reform; Open and Affirming: Why?; Association Church and Ministry Committees; Loss Prevention: Insurance Seminar; Exemplary Youth Ministry; The Art of Parables; LaForet Master Plan Unveiled; Church World Service: Indonesia; Planned Giving to the RMC; ‘Faith Practices’ New Sunday School Curriculum; and General Synod Delegate and Visitor Orientation.”

Musical leadership for worship will be led by Cliff Aerie and Oikos Ensemble. Association meetings, worship, and business sessions comprise the bulk of the sessions, along with keynote speaker, The Rev. Paul Borden.

27TH GENERAL SYNOD

The 27th General Synod of the United Church of Christ will be held on June 26-30 at the convention Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A restructuring proposal will be presented to the delegates and visitors who gather. Speakers include Jim Wallis of Sojourners and Eugene Robinson of the Washington Post, along with many others. Christ Church was represented by eight members at the last General Synod in Hartford, Connecticut.