

Christ Congregational Church
2500 South Sheridan
Denver, CO 80227
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Dated Material
Please Expedite

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

JUNE

02	<i>Jim Lynch</i>
04	<i>Shirley Schwindt</i>
04	<i>Virginia Flanders</i>
05	<i>Claudia Murphy</i>
08	<i>Sandy Maben</i>
09	<i>June Burnes</i>
09	<i>Lizzie Rock</i>
12	<i>Jeremy Blubaugh</i>
13	<i>Rhonda Overman</i>
19	<i>Bill Bell</i>
20	<i>Betty Lynch</i>
21	<i>Evie Collins</i>
22	<i>Jo Ann Conroy</i>
22	<i>Sue Duncan</i>
23	<i>Kim Larsen</i>
24	<i>Stan Elofson</i>
24	<i>Virginia Black</i>

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

JUNE

2010



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

2500 South Sheridan Boulevard

Denver, CO 80227

(303) 935-8350



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.VISITCHRISTCHURCH.ORG

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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

Ambassadors for Christ

It is hard for those of us born and raised in the church to understand what it means that we no longer live in a Christian country. It means that people don't think about going to church. In fact, most people don't think about church at all. As for Christianity, they go by what they hear in the media. Christianity, in fact religion, is widely seen as negative and bigoted. Society does not hold Sunday mornings open for worship. The fast pace of life disposes many people to grab personal time wherever they can find it.

But people still believe in God. And many believe in Jesus Christ: they just don't like his fan club. What's more, people who are tired and frustrated and overbooked are also almost desperate for community, for a strong support system of the kind that we in the church have always taken for granted. They want to feel connected.

What does all this mean for us, for the local church? It means that we have something to offer that is wanted and needed, but that people don't know how to find. We have precious gifts of community, of healing, of hope, of belonging. But people won't come in our doors unless they find out they can trust us.

A young woman of my acquaintance came to me seeking comfort when her fiancé was killed. For two or three years she has been reaching out and then pulling back. I have encouraged her to find a church, but she is terrified of being what she calls "trapped." When she was in college, she was urged to join a church where she found friendship, but a friendship that became dependent upon her believing things that were against her conscience. She found that church to be emotionally abusive. Today, she remains hungry and lonely, and unfortunately she represents a huge number of younger Americans.

People like my friend will not come to church because there is an ad in the newspaper listing our worship times, or because they drive by the building. Those who have been hurt by churches are very wary, and those who know nothing about churches are at

(ah, the joys of aging), the members are: Carolyn Anderson, Brad Bern, Joyce Blubaugh, Stan Elofson, John Murphy, Grant Neptune, Mark Pleuss, John Rea, Sandy Selzer and Lori Worthman. We had 20 nominations from our congregation and ALL of those nominated are dedicated and talented folks. Our selection was based on wanting a cross section of our church family – ages, genders, long-time members and relative newcomers. This group will receive some initial guidance from the Rocky Mountain Conference of our UCC denomination, and we need to keep them in our hearts and prayers as they embark on this journey for us.

Also at the May council meeting, Karen Bickett and John Rea presented information about an Energy Assessment that was conducted of CCC (at our request) by Xcel Energy. The findings were that CCC could realize reductions in energy consumption (and expense!) by retrofitting lighting, installing occupancy sensors, changing our electric rate schedule, replacing our rooftop air conditioning unit and replacing the existing furnaces with condensing furnaces. The change in rate schedule has no associated cost and is projected to save us close to \$2,000 per year! The other items have an estimated total cost of just a bit over \$30,000 that could result in annual savings of around \$4,500. We are not in a position to implement all of the recommendations immediately, but the Facilities & Grounds Ministry will begin to develop a plan for doing so. A full copy of the audit is available from Karen Bickett if anyone would like to read it.

There was also discussion at the May meeting of a document handed out at the April council meeting that summarizes the work done at CCC by an Open & Affirming Committee in 1991. There was consensus that we would like to revisit this important topic sooner rather than later, especially as we embark on the search for a new called pastor. In describing our congregation to potential candidates, we are likely to be asked about our O&A position as it relates to church membership, leadership and staff positions. In my mind, during the time that I have been a member of CCC, we have acted all along like an open & affirming church family. Council asked Pastor Beth to explore alternatives for leading us in this discussion.

Our "Official Church Year" runs from June 1 to May 31. So, may I wish all of us a Happy New (Church) Year!

Inspiration for the Day: from the newsletter of Koinonia Farm in Americus, GA: "The place God calls you to is where your deepest gladness and the world's deepest hunger meet." May we all experience the joy of finding that call.

August 1 (communion) Scripture: Luke 12:13-21 Story: The Rich Fool Theme: Soul Investment	August 29 Scripture: Luke 14:1, 7-14 Story: Dinner guests wanting the best place at table; Inviting the poor Theme: Open Table
August 8 Scripture: Luke 12:32-40 Story: Lay up treasure in heaven; be prepared Theme: Watchful Servants	September 5 (communion; last 9:30 a.m. worship) Scripture: Luke 14:25-33 Story: The cost of discipleship Theme The Cost and Joy of Discipleship END SUMMER SPLASH!
August 15 Scripture: Luke 12:49-58 Story: Jesus the cause of division; Learn to interpret the times Theme: Understanding Change	September 12 (return to 10:00 a.m. more usual worship service) RALLY DAY
August 22 Scripture: Luke 13:10-17 (Beth's Favorite Bible story) Story: Jesus heals the bent-over woman Theme: Healing Reign	

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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? Sandy Maben

I had a dream last night about butterflies. I don't often remember my dreams as others I know do. But the occasional dream about butterflies always brings an especially strong sense of joy to the beginning of my day. And I am usually able to connect both the dream and the joy to the events of the previous day or so. In this case, the dream came after the May 11 council meeting where we appointed the Pastor Search Committee. By the time you read this we will have installed this committee at the May 23^r worship service. In case you missed it, or need it in writing in order to remember (cont'd on next page)

best tentative. So what is a church to do? I think it's quite simple. We must find ways to make friends, to help people to know us and understand what we are really like. How do we do that, you ask, when the people we associate with are churchgoers?

Well, here at Christ Congregational, God has dropped an amazing opportunity in our laps. (To give proper credit, God has been helped in this by Jerry Eslinger and several members of this congregation, but nevertheless it is an amazing opportunity.) This is what we call a win-win situation. This congregation wants children and young families. Across the street at Children's Haven, 180 children of busy young parents gather each day. Another church in this neighborhood has made it clear that they would prefer not to have those noisy school children around, and the staff and owners of Children's Haven are grateful for the support we offer.

Our relationship is growing. The next step is being planned, and it is an important step for all of us. We're inviting some of those families to come share a simple dinner with us on a Friday evening when they pick up their children. Just to give them a break and to help us get acquainted and develop actual friendships. In turn, they are planning a summer barbecue, where we (and any neighbors who wish) may continue to deepen friendships. We'll let you know dates. Some of those families might just be surprised to find that church people can offer real friendship, and those of us who participate will also be enriched by making new friends. Our future lies in building bridges.

* * * * *

**REMEMBER THAT SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES BEGIN AT
9:30 A.M. JUNE 6, 2010 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 5, 2010.**



SUMMER SPLASH

What an unusual Springtime we have experienced this year. Well, our summer music is going to be likened to our Springtime weather . . . different. I am calling it **Summer Splash**



because we are going to have fun -- just like when we ran through the water and slid down the slipper slide, or when you had cotton candy at the fair, or when you enjoyed a beautiful sunset while listening to the locust or crickets. Wherever you grew up . . . you had experiences that you can recall and are capable of taking you right into the experience of your childhood Summers. Well, the musical sounds of summer are “almost” here!

If you haven’t taken the risk to come and join the music team, this would be a GREAT time to come. We are going to have fun, and EVERY-ONE is welcome to be a part. Practice will begin at 6:30 pm on Thursdays. The music is going to upbeat, contemporary sounds and easy to learn. I haven’t made a poster yet, but imagine me pointing at you with a long white beard, saying, “I want You.”

Come be a part of Summer Splash and bring a friend!

Robin Miller

SUMMER WORSHIP

Summer Splash at Christ Congregational Church promises to be fun and exciting; just the thing to which you might want to bring your friends! It’s also the thing to which we hope you will bring your talents, your creativity and your ideas. As we walk through the summer following Jesus’ ministry in Luke, we will bring the Bible stories to life with art, music, dance, poetry, stories, sculpture, mime, or whatever your imagination may come up with.

We (Robin, the worship team, and I) invite you to look over the summer worship information in this Caller and see if some Sunday’s theme evokes a memory or an idea. Submit your ideas to us and we’ll see if and how we can fit them in. (We hope to use them all, but we keep getting

ATTENTION: ALL GROCERY SHOPPERS!!!

The King Soopers and Safeway card sales are supposed to generate \$3,000 in 2010, according to the church budget, which was approved in January. However, by the end of April (1/3 of the year) we had added only about \$900 to the church coffers. At this rate we will be at least \$300 short by December 31, 2010. The cards are easy to use, and very handy to have when you shop. So, PLEASE COME SEE US SOON!!! We sell the cards every Sunday during the “social hour” after the church service.

Your every-Sunday sales ladies,
Joyce and Mary



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

Andy Nelson, son of Sid and Steve Nelson, graduated from Bear Creek High School and received All State Honorable Mention in swimming the 100 yard breast stroke. He will be attending South Dakota State University.

Kaycie Carol Warren, granddaughter of Kay Waggoner, graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Denver, with a B.S. (major in marketing and minor in sociology).



HAPPY
FATHER’S
DAY
June 20, 2010

NOTES FROM MINISTRIES

Missions/Social Action.

DID YOU KNOW THAT.....

Southwest Denver Community Center is asking that we deposit our plastic bags in the drums located in the narthex...any and all will be appreciated! You can bring them with your coupons on Sunday.

JUNE MISSION OFFERING

The mission offering for the month of June will go to the Denver Inner City Parish. The Parish is a non-denominational, non-profit agency dedicated to serving the secular and spiritual needs of West Denver's community. They offer educational and human services for people of all ages. Their programs include an emergency food bank, summer day camp for children, senior programs, school programs (La Academia) as well as night school and tutoring, youth programs, mental health programs and coordination with other non-profit agencies.

In addition to the offering, we are planning a "field trip" for volunteers to visit the facilities and give time to some of their programs. The date will be available soon and we do hope some of you will be interested in going. They have some activities in need of helpers.

DENVER RESCUE MISSION VISIT

Ten of our members are going to the Denver Rescue Mission on June 3rd to serve dinner from 7:30 to 9:30 at their downtown facility. It promises to be a very humbling and inspiring occasion.

CHILDREN'S HAVEN DINNER PLANNED

Christ Church has extended an invitation to the parents of Children's Haven to join us for dinner on Friday, June 11th. We are hopeful that this invitation will be well received and that they and their families can join us. We will need people to help us with the following: set-up, decorations, bringing food, serving, greeting and mixing with our neighbors and clean up. Since not all people pick up their kids at the same time, they will be coming and going during the evening. We need folks to socialize with our new friends so we hope you will be able to spend some time at the church on that evening. Sign up sheets are available in the narthex.

(Summer Worship cont'd)

reminded that our worship time only lasts one hour, so we also hope you will understand if you submit something and we have to put it in the "for future use" file.)

Here's to a refreshing and sparkling Summer Splash!
Beth Robey Hyde

Summer Worship Information

June 6 (communion)
Scripture: Luke 7:11-17
Story: Jesus raises widow's son
Theme: Holy Mystery

June 13
Scripture: Luke 7:36-8:3
Story: "Sinful" woman anoints Jesus;
who is forgiven much loves
much: women disciples
Theme: True Love

June 20 (Father's Day)
Scripture: Luke 8:26-39
Story: Jesus heals the Gerasene
demoniac
Theme: Outside the Lines

June 27
Scripture: Luke 9:51-62
Story: Jesus is refused in a village;
would-be followers need to
make hard choices.
Theme: Follow Me

July 4 (Independence Day;
communion)
Scripture: Luke 10:1-11; 16-20
Story: Sending the seventy
Theme: Given Authority

July 11
Scripture: Luke 10:25-37
Story: Parable of the Good
Samaritan
Theme: Caring Neighbors

July 18
Scripture: Luke 10:38-42
Story: Mary and Martha
Theme: Word and Work

July 25
Scripture: Luke 11:1-13
Story: The Lord's Prayer;
learning to pray
Theme: Shaped by Prayer

(Summer Worship Information continued on page 10)

JUNE 2010		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		1 7:00 p.m. Ministry Mtgs.
TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall6	7	11
ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall13	14	15
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall20	21	22
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Fellowship 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hal27	28	29

JUNE 2010			
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 10:00 a.m. Bible Study	3 6:30 p.m. Worship Band & Chancel Choir	4	5
9 6:30 a.m. Men’s Bkfst at Rosemary’s	10 6:30 p.m. Worship Band & Chancel Choir	11 5—7 p.m. Children’s Haven Dinner	12
16	17 6:30 a.m. Women’s Bkfst at Rosemary’s 6:30 p.m. Worship Band & Chancel Choir	18	19
23	24 6:30 p.m. Worship Band & Chancel Choir	25	26
30			