

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH

01	Tom Kovacs
05	Shana Fasick
08	Lori Worthman
10	Lucas Sanchez
12	Gladys Lansing
14	Randy Marble
16	Mary Lou Martin
17	Helen Poynter
17	Roy Canfield
17	Penny Evers
18	Rosemarie (Schwindt) Applegate
20	Mark White
21	Janet Canfield
21	Athena Lansing
22	Maxine Willingham
27	Robert Reid
28	Bob Petrik
29	Audrey Vestel
30	Amy Vannier

f 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

MARCH

2010



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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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.



*DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME BEGINS*

MARCH 14, 2010



From the Desk of Beth Robey Hyde

It has been seven months since Jerry Eslinger retired as pastor of this church. There is a rule of thumb that says that when a church has known only one pastor for many years, it will take that church one to two years to become ready for a new adventure. Any congregation that jumps too quickly into the search process is likely to doom the next pastor to a very short tenure and unhappy relationship, thrusting the church back into another loss and another search.

Several factors contribute to the need for a longer interim between permanent pastors. One is the grief process that inevitably accompanies the loss of a long-time leader and companion. The congregation needs to have time to mourn and heal. Else it will consciously or unconsciously try to find a pastor who does things just like their old friend did. "Don't change anything" can easily become both a guide and a stumbling block.

Another and closely related factor is the discomfort that comes with change, even when the change is desired. Feeling a loss, a congregation, or any community, seeks first to find stability. Stability seems like the thing that will ensure continuation. Oddly enough, when stability is a primary goal, it can mean not safety and continuation, but stagnation and slow death. It takes time and care in order

MISSION EMPHASIS FOR MARCH

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, administered by Wider Church Ministries, is the refugee, relief and development fund of the United Church of Christ. It provides support to people in more than eighty countries.

The 2010 OGHS theme is inspired by John 21:15-17 when Jesus asks Peter, "Do you love me?" If you are familiar with this scripture, you may know that after Peter confesses to loving Jesus, Jesus tells him, "Feed my sheep." We too are called to care for all who are in need, just as God cares for each of us.

OGHS is a shared mission offering for over nine denominations in the United States and has always been an annual event here at Christ Church. The purpose of One Great Hour of Sharing has remained the same: to collect special gifts to assist those in need. Today, projects are underway in more than 80 countries, including the United States and Canada. In the 1990s, receipts exceeded \$20 million annually. While specific allocations differ in each denomination, all use their One Great Hour of Sharing funds to make possible disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid. All monies from our church are sent to the National United Church of Christ and are disbursed to various causes in the world.

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing make a difference in the lives of people. Church World Service, a division of the National Council of Churches, with overseas partner churches and church councils are often the first on the scene following a disaster of natural or human origin. Local church leaders identify the needs of their people. Priorities are set to bring long-term solutions that will improve the quality of life for individuals and communities around the world. One Great Hour of Sharing, nearly 50 years old, continues to respond to needs equally critical as when it was first created. Give Generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

STILLSPEAKING MAGAZINE. The United Church of Christ will begin publishing the StillSpeaking Magazine twice a year beginning with the Spring 2010 edition. The 88-page StillSpeaking Magazine will be published in Spring and Fall. An inaugural, three-year subscription is \$29 if purchased before July 1. After that date, subscriptions will be \$39 each. To subscribe online, go to ucc.org/magazine, or you can call in your order at 800-537-3394.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL STUDY

The Lenten devotional study entitled “Jesus’ Parables about Discipleship” will continue each Sunday at 11:30 a.m. through March 28. Each week’s study is self-contained, so you can join the discussion any Sunday that is convenient for you. Books are available in the narthex. Please take one and leave your \$11 payment in the basket beside the books. Thank you.
Pastor Beth

PRAYER LIST

Members and friends who have been on our prayer list during the past month are:
Joanne Broten
Sue Duncan
Family of Mary Wilderson
Bob Petrik
Betty Walker and family, on the death of her brother, George Stroh

Mary Wilderson, charter member of Christ Congregational Church, died on February 13, 2010. A memorial service was held at Christ Church on February 17. She had been very active in many phases of our church life and we will miss her greatly.

to get used to the feeling of change. Learning to live with change is like learning to ride a bicycle. As long as one is perfectly still on a bicycle, with one’s feet on the ground, there is no fear of falling. Learning to enjoy the imbalance of motion takes trust and practice. So the search committee that called me as interim pastor planned that I would be with you for at least a year, maybe longer, to give the congregation time to regain its balance and its joyous spirit. We have not yet formed a search committee, because your lay leaders and I were waiting for that sense of readiness to move into an unknown future.

I am very pleased to say that after only seven months, the signs of readiness are becoming very clear. Reading this Caller, you will find news about a newly activated Care Team, whose job is to look after the well-being of the members, and information about missions and also about great social action activities. Among other good things, the congregation is blessed by the sounds of infants and toddlers in worship, by joyful musical experiences under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Robin Miller, and by warm relationships with one another. The word Evangelism is beginning to join hands with the word Service as the congregation once again focuses outward beyond itself.

Even the more meditative time of Lent does not dampen the underlying spirit that marks this congregation as welcoming, compassionate and concerned for others.

What remains for us to accomplish now is to take a serious look at God’s calling to this congregation in this time and in this place; to pick from the long-range plan formulated several years ago those values that move us most powerfully today; and to prepare to tell prospective pastoral candidates who we are as a congregation and how we want to live in the coming years.

This we will work on at our planning day, Sunday, March 14, after which we will indeed form a search committee.

Two things I want to tell you. First, most congregations do not move nearly this rapidly into readiness for the future. I am proud and pleased at the spirit and the energy reemerging here. Second, be prepared for a pleasant surprise when you advertise for candidates. You are in a position to have to make a difficult choice among good applicants. Christ Congregational Church can expect to be the bearer of Good News in Southwest Denver and Lakewood for many years to come.

* * * * *

MISSION BOARD KICKS OFF SOCIAL ACTION VOLUNTEERS

**“Those who seek to save their lives should lose them
in service to others.”**

A special meeting was held recently to enlist those in the congregation who are interested in Social Action service volunteer work. Over 20 people attended the session where we discussed the many possibilities that are possible for our actions. The suggestions were varied and together represented someone for everyone in terms of needs and abilities. We talked about painting graffiti in the neighborhood, park clean-up, Bean ministry, Habitat for Humanity, clipping coupons, reception work at SW Denver Community Ministry, food bank work, gleaning crops in fall, serving food at Denver Rescue Mission, and hosting church dinners for the neighborhood. These are but a few of the many service-oriented projects that were discussed. There is something to do for everyone...from answering phones, cooking, painting, to building houses or serving the homeless. We are reviewing each of them and hope to have some special plans for March. If you are interested in service projects, please come and join us. Call Bobby Hayhurst and get your names on “The List”!

Church Seasons and Their Drama

Long before Opera or Musical Theater ever existed, Liturgical Drama was found in the church. It was usually performed in the nave of the Church and existed to teach the biblical stories to the congregants, who neither spoke Latin nor understood it.

On Palm Sunday, the women in the congregation will be presenting a spoken dramaturgy with music. Spoken word will be interspersed with music that describes the moments leading up to Maundy Thursday from the perspective of the women that were present in the life of Jesus. This will be an event that enhances the meditative moments during our Lenten season.

THEN, on Easter Sunday, the cloak will be lifted, the trumpets shall resound and a glorious moment will be experienced. Easter will arrive. Death and Life will have made a full circle once again, reminding us that transition moves us forward into new possibilities.

**We welcome everyone. Plan on attending throughout
this season and bring a friend!**



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Sandy Maben

I'm taking a break this month from writing articles on our church's future. But before I do, I wanted to let you know that Christ Congregational has a new Treasurer – John Rea! Council, under its ability to appoint leaders between annual meetings, elected John as our new Treasurer at the February council meeting. We are delighted that John is willing to share his skills and energy in this important position. Please thank him for his willingness to serve in this way.

Many folks have kindly asked me to share my story of my year of interning at Sojourners in Washington, DC, so I decided to try to tell you just a bit here. Sojourners is a nonprofit organization that publishes a Christian magazine 11 times per year. When I was at Sojourners in 1996-97, the focus of the agency was finding ways to bring people of faith together to find common ground on the issues of the day. Those who define themselves as liberal or conservative, Republican or Democrat, moderate or Libertarian tend to have different views on how to solve problems. Sojourners framed the abortion issue, for instance, in this way – Can we agree that the rate of abortions in our nation is too high, and find ways that we agree on to reduce the number of abortions? Or on poverty – Can we agree that poverty in our rich nation is unacceptable and find ways we agree on to address this issue? In other words, can we seek out the places where we agree instead of arguing the points on which we differ?

As I write this, I am preparing to attend a discussion and book signing tomorrow evening at the Tattered Cover Lodo by Rev. Jim Wallis, Sojourners' CEO, on his new book, Rediscovering Values. In his newest book, Wallis explores the ways in which the current economic crisis could be an opportunity for us to evaluate the economic way in which we live. Some short excerpts:

“Spending money we don't have for things we don't need is a bad foundation for an economy or a family.” (OUCH!) “It's time to stop keeping up with the Joneses and to start making sure the Joneses are OK.” And most importantly for me was the following paragraph: “What do pastors, lay leaders, activists, and practitioners say about creative opportunities and new solutions that could come out of all this: the possibilities of mutual aid, congregational and community credit unions, and new cooperative strategies for solving problems like health care, housing, and even jobs? How can an economic crisis reconnect religious congregations with their own communities? How might a crisis be an opportunity to clarify the mission of the faith community?”

The book Rediscovering Values is meant to be read within a study group. I will offer an opportunity for you to join me in reading it – perhaps in the spring (April & May) when the snow and cold let up and when the book has been issued in paperback? Thanks for letting me share a part of my story and recommending this book for your reading list.

**TREASURER'S REPORT
THROUGH FEBRUARY 2010**

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Income	\$26,454	\$27,878	94.9
Total Expenses	\$27,298	\$28,482	95.8
Net Income	\$ (843)	\$ (605)	
February Pledges	\$24,555	\$26,036	94.3

MISSION OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY

Families First \$540

CARE TEAM

The Fellowship Ministry has formed a new Care Team to tend to the needs of the congregation. Care Team members will see that shut-ins are contacted frequently, by phone or visit, to offer any assistance people may need, or just to keep in touch. They may take communion to those who want it, make hospital visits, or check in with people who have been ill or hospitalized. Care Team members will let the minister know if follow-up is needed.

The Care Team asks all church members to be sure to notify the office or Shirley Hendry (303-988-6478) when learning that someone is in the hospital or needs caring attention — OR if you are interested in joining the Care Team, please contact Shirley or the church office.

ATTENTION YOUTH — JULY MISSION TRIP TO VENEZUELA

A Youth Mission Trip to Venezuela is being planned for this July and you are invited to participate. For several years youth from the Rocky Mountain UCC and DOC (Disciples of Christ) have traveled to Venezuela with our Global Partners program. The purpose of these trips is to provide cultural exchanges between the US and Venezuelan youth groups and to support one another in our spiritual journeys as we seek peace and justice in our world.

This year we will join the Venezuelan youth for their National Summer Gathering; work together on building projects like the construction of an auditorium at the UEPV youth camp, and participate in music events, sports, reflections and worship. You will experience a great balance of Christian Service, faith, and FUN! This isn't "all work and no play." You will make new friends and have a great time! No specific skills are needed for these trips.

It is amazing what happens when we encounter new places, cultures, and different ways of life. You'll develop closer relationships with each other and with God. As a result you'll come home with a new sense of unity, understanding and respect for each other.

Our next Youth Mission Trip will be July 21-28, 2010. Cost is about \$1500. Registration deadline is April 1, 2010. For more information, visit rmcucc.org/outreach/globalpartners/gpapply.htm or contact Alice Silver, 720-344-6947 or agsilver@pair.com.

Your life will never be the same after one of these trips!

MARCH 2010		
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	1	2 7:00 p.m. Ministry Mtgs.
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT 7 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Lenten Devotional Study 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	8	9 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg.
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT 14 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Lenten Devotional Study 12:30—4:30 p.m. ALL CHURCH CELEBRATION & PLANNING DAY 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS	15	16
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT 21 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Lenten Devotional Study 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	22	23
PALM SUNDAY 28 10:00 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Fellowship 11:30 a.m. Lenten Devotional Study 7:00 p.m. AA-Fellowship Hall	29	30

MARCH 2010			
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 10:30 A.M. Gal-axies	4 6:00 p.m. Worship Band 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	5 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	6
10 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast at Rosemary's 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	11 6:00 p.m. Worship Band 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	12	13
17 <div>  </div> ST. PATRICK'S DAY 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	18 6:30 a.m. Women's Bkfst at Rosemary's 6:00 p.m. Worship Band 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	19	20 1:00 p.m. Bridge Marathon
20 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies	25 6:00 p.m. Worship Band 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir	26	27 9:00 a.m. Special Practice—Band/Choir/Readers/Handbells
31 10:30 a.m. Gal-axies			