

**caller**

CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
2500 S. SHERIDAN BLVD  
DENVER, CO 80227



## Christ Congregational Church

United Church of Christ  
2500 S. Sheridan Blvd.  
Denver, CO 80227

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## From the desk of Jerry Eslinger

### The Whole World in our Hands

One of the Apollo 17 astronauts said that, as he looked back upon the earth from the moon, the earth, spinning slowly against the vast, black background of space, looked like a "big, blue marble."

Psalm 8 is a magnificent recounting of our being "entrusted" with the care of the earth. It reads: "Yet you have made (us) little less than God, and dost crown (us) with glory and honor. Thou hast given (us) dominion (power, control, mastery) over the works of thy hands. Thou hast put all things under (our) feet. All the sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the

paths of the sea. O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!"

Alex Gondola, in his book, *Holidays are Holy Days*, asks us to think about this "big, blue marble" God has entrusted to us. It's old. Scientists estimate the earth is 4.6 billion years old. It has a solid core of iron and nickel surrounded by molten liquid. It's hot: somewhere between 1,000 and 3,000 degrees centigrade.

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!"

But at the same time, two-thirds of its surface is cooled by water: 97 percent salt water, only three percent fresh. The oceans surrounding us cover nine times the surface of the moon. The earth below our feet is, in a sense, alive. Beneath the surface, twelve gigantic plates, some carrying continents, are

constantly drifting and shifting. Sometimes they smash into each other. The earth quakes. Above us, polar jet streams, subtropical jet streams, atmospheric winds, El Nino, hurricanes with names like "Bonnie" and "Charley" are twirling and swirling and forming.

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!"

The earth reaches up to the peak of Mount Everest, 30,000 feet in the clouds, and down to the depths of the Dead Sea, 1300 feet below sea level. The "big, blue marble" is a marvel. It has tropical rain forests and bone-dry deserts, glaciers and grasslands, inlets and islands.

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!"

Gondola recounts how everywhere, the earth is bursting with a variety and rich

### This month's birthdays:

# May

- |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 01 | Rob Overman     |
| 02 | Gina Balagot    |
| 03 | Sidney Nelson   |
| 04 | Mary Bindner    |
| 07 | Hank Edwards    |
| 08 | Mark Murray     |
| 11 | Babette Larson  |
| 12 | Nancy Elofson   |
| 13 | Audrey Murray   |
| 15 | Roger Richter   |
| 17 | Teresa Crawford |

- |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 17 | Irene Wogrin       |
| 17 | Gerald Eslinger    |
| 18 | Connie Leberer     |
| 22 | Erik Adcock        |
| 24 | Ray Schwindt       |
| 24 | Judy Johnson       |
| 26 | Joanne Eslinger    |
| 27 | Eugene Vinsonhaler |
| 30 | Debbie Kovacs      |
| 31 | Trevor Larsen      |



## More from the desk of Jerry:

ness of life, like a rhododendron blossom exploding into bloom. There's so much life. Like the Samoan dwarf goby, the world's smallest fish, so tiny each weighs just 1/14,000 of an ounce. Or the giant blue whale, that can grow to 150 tons and 110 feet long. The blue whale's tongue alone may weigh three tons, as much as 35 men. There's the smallest flowering plant, a floating duckweed so tiny 25 could fit on your fingernail, and the giant Sequoias of California, over 270 feet tall, and nearly eighty feet around. Each one has enough lumber to build forty houses.

But what have we done to God's good earth? We know. Already, half the rain forests are gone. Over 1,000 species are on the endangered or threatened species list in America alone.

Each year our country loses two million acres a year of prime farmland to erosion.

"O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is thy name in all the earth!"

I close with an excerpt from a letter from Chief Seattle to President Franklin Pierce, now nearly 150 years old: "Continue to soil your bed and one night you will suffocate in your own wastes. Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but the thread of it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls also the children of the Earth."

## Notes on April council meeting

Item No. 1: Present: Steve Nelson, Joanne Eslinger, Sandy Selzer, Nancy Pleuss, Hank Edwards, Shirley Hendry, Janet Burns, Steve Schonberger, Don Kennedy, and guest Dr. Hal Youngblood. Jerry Eslinger excused for illness.

Item No. 2: Minutes for February and March were approved as written.

Item No. 3: Steve introduced Dr. Youngblood who helped coordinate discussions on topics such as, "How to grow in a consumer driven society" and "What is the vision for the church?" Several thoughts were generated which include:

Above all, it should be WORSHIP because people need a transforming religious experience from Worship; worship is both Heart and Head, and MUSIC DRIVES WORSHIP; organs are nice, comforting, familiar, but piano and instruments are livelier; growth thinks ONLY ABOUT THOSE NOW OUTSIDE; and by-law/ structural change could open Ministries to replace Boards. After our discussions, Dr. Youngblood gave a presentation on "Survival Systems vs. Growth/Mission Systems".

Item 4: Reports were submitted from the Treasurer, Deaconess, and CE Board.

Meeting adjourned 9:15. /s  
Jan Burns

## 9Health Fair

### Largest yet at Christ Church

Janet Burns and Joyce Blubaugh

On Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 382 people visited the 9 Health Fair at Christ Church, making it the largest in our 4-year history with the Fair. When the front doors were opened at 7 a.m., the waiting line stretched out to Zurich Ct. During the next 1 1/2 hours over 100 participants were processed through the blood pressure, blood chemistry, height, weight, vision and education centers. We used 7 free vouchers as requested while more people arrived all morning in a steady flow, keeping 93 volunteers very busy. Volunteers included 57 from Christ Church, and the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club and Red Hat ladies. Our volunteers received great food from LeMars Donuts, CiCi's Pizza's, 4 G's, Giuseppe's, Rosemary's, and Meadow Gold. This Fair could never have happened without our superb coordinators. First and foremost was Claudia Murphy, Medical Coordinator, whose job was to organize the spaces and supplies for all medical tests, and ALSO to recruit phlebotomists, nurses, & EMT's with help from 9 Health Fair. Bill Bell and Ken Miller worked together on Non-Medical personnel and plans, and did an outstanding job. Thea Rock was Publicity Coordinator, and a highly professional job she did. We also thank Dr. Charles Grosshans and (new recruit) Dr. Gene (Herman) Doyle. And of course, all Volunteers deserve a big round of applause! Our hope is that Christ Church will continue this tradition of a highly visible evidence of service to this community.

## May 13th, Mother's Day

Now, celebrated in many other countries around the world, as well as the United States.

"Children are the anchors that hold a mother to life" -Sophocles, ancient Greek playwright

# Summer Camps at LaForet this summer:

A brochure with complete camp descriptions is located on the Education Bulletin Board outside the Fellowship Hall.

Pioneer Camp July 8-13  
entering grades 2-4; \$380

Explorer Camp – July 8-14; entering  
grades 4-6; \$380

Explorer Music – July 15-21; enter-  
ing grades 4-6; \$390

Voyager Camp – July 15-21;  
entering grades 7 & 8 only;  
\$380

Voyager Music – July 8-14; entering  
grades 6-8; \$390

MADD Camp – July 29-August 4;  
entering grades 9-12; \$390

Young Adult Retreat – May 18-  
20; adults 18-30ish; \$160

Young Adult Wilderness Experience  
– June 18-20; more information TBA

Grandparent & Me Camp – July  
5-7; grandparent(s) with  
child(ren) 5-11 years; \$150 per  
grandparent; \$90 per grandchild

Men's Fishing & Conversation;  
date and location TBD; \$380

Contemplative Life – July 8-14;  
adults 19 and older; \$380 (limited  
to 12 participants)

Open and Affirming Gathering –  
May 11-13; adults 19 and older

## Other news

### Owd Dabar Supports Monthly Music, Fellowship Night

Katie Overman- Owd Dabar sponsored a youth lock-in on March 17 that was so much fun for the youth and the adult chaperones. There were a total of 20 youth at the church, which was very nice. I personally would like to thank the youth for making this event so much fun! I would also like to thank them for singing with us on Sunday, March 18. It was nice to have them join us. I would love to see them doing more at the church, and I hope that they will get to know all the people at church because I think the youth have a lot of good ideas and they just need to find their place at church. I hope that this lock-in was the beginning of many more activities with the youth and Owd Dabar. This was an experience that I'm sure not to forget. The youth keep me laughing and on my toes, and I can't wait to do more with them. I also would like to thank all of the chaperones and the people who helped make this event possible. If you would like to see how much fun this event was, Owd Dabar asks that you check out the pictures that are in the Narthex. This was the first of many fun events for Owd Dabar and our congregation.

Our next event is a Friday night contemporary song service that will take place the third Friday of every month. I personally can't wait for this event because I love the music we have picked for these Friday night services. I also can't wait for the potluck and the games that we are also doing at this event. I feel like this will be a good way to get to know more people in the church and the community. We hope that you will all come and check it out.

### Attention: Clean up day is Saturday May 5th

There will be plenty of jobs for people of all ages and abilities. Bring work gloves, sun-screen, any tools you want to use (other tools will be available for those who don't have any) and most of all yourself! We'll take a break about noon for grilled hot-dogs and other "goodies". Let's get the church ready for summer!

### Bridge Marathon Banquet

The end-of-the-year Bridge Marathon Banquet will be held May 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the Red Tango restaurant which is located in Wheat Ridge CO. The address is 5807 West 38<sup>th</sup> Street, which are several blocks east of Sheridan Blvd. A sign-up sheet will be available soon. Guests are welcome; however we will need to know how many will be attending by the first week in May. Please call either Helen Poynter or Vi Engelking if you need more information or have questions. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Outreach Board- May Mission

"Strengthen the Church" has been selected for May as the Christ Church mission focus. Strengthen the Church is one of 4 annual offerings that are collected to support the efforts of our national denomination. Together with our annual budgeted contribution to Basic Support of our denomination, the support of these 4 annual offerings has brought Christ Congregational Church recognition as a "5 for 5" congregation and we can be proud of this designation!

Through Strengthen the Church, our national denomination furthers our commitment to be a multiracial, multicultural church, open and affirming and accessible to all church. Our local Rocky Mountain Conference receives and directs 50% of the total offering collected based on local needs.

The Local Church Ministries area of our national denomination directs the remaining 50% in 3 primary ways:

- 60% is used for grants to support new church starts and revitalizing congregations

The "planting" of new churches is a priority for the UCC denomination and the need for funds to help pay salary and benefits for the pastors of new church starts is incredibly important.

- 30% supports leadership development for the whole church

Leadership training is vital to new church starts and to established churches that have a new generation of leaders in their midst.

- 10% provides programs specifically for youth and young adults

Scholarships and grants are provided to empower youth and provide leadership development, including participation in the National Youth Event in 2004 that was attended by over 3,600 UCC youth and young adults.

Please generously support Strengthen the Church this year.

The Balloon Release on Easter Sunday



## Congregation Holds Annual Meeting on May 20th

Christ Congregational Church's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, May 20 in the Fellowship Hall after worship. A potluck lunch will precede the meeting. Dessert will be provided by the Christian Education Board (cake in honor of our church's graduating high school seniors). Church members are asked to bring a main dish, salad, side dish or bread to share.

A committee established to review and revise the church by-laws will present a report as part of its work to implement goals from the long-range planning process. All church members and interested friends are invited to participate in this important meeting.

## New Nursery Attendant Joins Church Staff

The Christian Education Board is pleased to announce the hiring of a new nursery attendant – Allyson Morris. Allyson is a life-long southwest Denver resident. She graduated from Mullen High School in 2006 and is currently taking classes at Arapahoe Community College. Her long-term goal is to become an elementary school teacher. She works in one of the toddler rooms at Children's Haven daycare center across the street from the church. Allyson is certified in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, including pediatric first aid and infant and child CPR. We are excited to welcome Allyson to our church staff and hope you will stop by the nursery to

greet her. She began work on Sunday, April 15.

## New Nursery Attendant Joins Church Staff

The United Church of Christ, our national denominational body, is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Today's United Church of Christ is the result of a 1957 merger between American Protestant denominations with rich histories of their own: the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. For the next five months, we will highlight a few pieces of UCC history in each edition of the Caller. In the month of May, we can look back and celebrate these notable events:

- In 1979, the UCC's first national women's meeting was held.
- In 1980, the first National Youth Event was held.
- In 1981, the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Haystack Meeting was celebrated in Williamstown.
- In 1983, the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries was created.

[visitchristchurch.org](http://visitchristchurch.org)

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Some features to look forward to:  
Calendars, Blogs, Online Sermons,  
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just some of what we plan to include.

launch in summer  
2007

## 5.28.07 Memorial Day

"Over one hundred years ago, Memorial Day was established to commemorate those who died in the defense of our national ideals.

Our ideals of freedom, justice, and equal rights for all have been challenged many times since then, and thousands of Americans have given their lives in many parts of the world to secure those same ideals and insure for their children a lasting peace. Their sacrifice demands that we, the living, continue to promote the cause of peace and the ideals for which they so valiantly gave of themselves... We are resolved to stand firm against those who would destroy the freedoms we cherish. We are determined to achieve an enduring peace – a peace with liberty and with honor. This determination, this resolve, is the highest tribute we can pay to the many who have fallen in the service of our Nation."

-President Ronald Reagan