

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

APRIL

02	Louise Stollard
03	Kelsey Anderson
06	Alan Willyard
09	Danielle Worthman
11	Judy Jacobs
14	Sherm Higgins
15	B.J. Bell
16	Donn Bruskiewicz
17	Anna Hunter
17	Hart Axley
27	Tom Arnott
27	Roy Jones

*We are sorry 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

APRIL  
2008



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



United Church of Christ  
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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 Jerry Eslinger . . . When  
Does Worship Begin For You?**

This formative question was raised by an architect in Santa Fe in a discussion on a master plan for the building at the United Church of Santa Fe. It proved to be a take-off point for a book written by Talitha Arnold on worship as part of a UCC Congregational Vitality series. The title of the book is Worship for Vital Congregations. Worship is at the center of our church life. It needs to be continually evaluated as to whether it is meeting the needs of the congregation, but more especially, whether it provides joy and hope for the attendees. As Frederick Buechner writes, “A Quaker Meeting, a Pontifical High Mass, the Family Service at First Presbyterian, a Holy Roller Happening – unless there is an element of joy and foolishness in the proceedings, the time would be better spent doing something useful.” As Hal Youngblood continually reminds us, “the purpose of the church is to transform lives, make disciples.”

As Arnold states, “Worship is not defined by a particular style, liturgical practice, music, or architecture. All of those are means to an end -- the experience of and response to the Eternal.” They help us worship, for they are ways to express praise, connect to the Divine, be filled with the Spirit, and offer our lives back to God. But “they are practices of worship, not the essence of worship, and certainly not the object of worship – though sometimes we make them so.”

The definition of worship she uses is this: “Worship is the conscious, communal, concrete, and covenantal act of connecting with the eternal mystery and power we call God. It is a human creation, rooted in human cultures. In Christian worship we experience God’s mystery and power not only as the life-giving Creator, but also in the life-transforming Christ and the life-empowering Holy Spirit.”

I would like to use this edition of “The Caller” to write of the first two elements of worship she refers to, and then write of the last three elements in the “May

Caller.”

First, she speaks of worship as a conscious act. She writes of Randall Thompson’s “Alleluia,” sung by many church choirs, including our own. The composer believed the whole universe was always singing “alleluia,” the one word used throughout the anthem. All we needed to do was find our voice and sing

**Going My Way ?**

**? Do you or anyone you know ever need a ride to church or a church activity?** The need for a ride may be a one-time occurrence (car breakdown, temporary disability) or it may be a long term need.

**OR**

**? Would you be willing to provide transportation for people needing a ride?**

If you would like to be a part of this “transportation group,” please complete this form. You can return it to the church office or talk with Virginia Black (303 734-2853), Joie Schiefelbein (720 962-4760) or Sandy Selzer (303 935-5808). These folks have volunteered to coordinate the chauffeurs and riders.

☐ I need a ride occasionally      ☐ I can provide a ride occasionally  
☐ I need a ride most of the time      ☐ I can provide a ride frequently

Riders: Do you have special needs (i.e., wheelchair/walker/visual or hearing problems)?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Area in which you live: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximately \_\_\_\_\_ miles from church

Comments:

**OWD DABAR NEWS.** The last month for Owd Dabar has been very busy but it was great. We started by getting ready for Palm Sunday, which went very well. We did things a little differently by using power point to display the words to help with the idea of going green. I think that this is becoming one of my favorite parts of Owd Dabar because I really like it when I can do little things to help save the environment.

This month we have also started to work hard on the songs we will be singing at the Friday night song service in April which will be at Northglenn United Church of Christ on April 25, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. We are very excited for this song service because we will be singing with our friends at Northglenn, and we will be welcoming a Christian Recording Artist, Elizabeth Montgomery. This is going to be a night of fun with great music. So please come and join us at Northglenn for this night of wonderful music.

The month has been busy but it has been fun and great! I can't wait to see what we will be up to this summer; keep looking at the Caller to see what Owd Dabar is up to.

Thanks, Katie Overman

**We invite YOU to join our USHERS MINISTRY** for Sunday morning worship service plus other occasions. Everyone is welcome to serve as an usher – men, women and YOUTH. A training session will be held to inform you of what is involved and the IMPORTANCE of ushering at our worship services. If you are interested in ushering, please contact Betty Sanders (303-986-3475) or the Church Office, 303-935-8350. Please consider serving on this important ministry. Thank you.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### YOGA CLASS

Enjoy classical hatha yoga, the Day-Star method, to build strength and flexibility both inside and out. Day-Star Yoga is gentle enough for beginners and yet challenging for the more experienced. If you have never done yoga before, this is the perfect opportunity for you to try it! Students are encouraged to work at their own level. Please wear comfortable layered clothing and bring a mat to class.

Class is held in “sessions”; however, you may begin at any time. The next session dates are March 3 – April 28 (with no class on March 24). The cost is \$50 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 the drop-in fee. If not, there is no obligation.

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

along. We need to hear that “alleluia” in the midst of the world’s noise. So “worship is an intentional act designed to let God get our attention and to let ourselves respond.” There are times when God manages to break through to us with a new truth or overcome us with the beauties of nature or the wonder of a child. But, Arnold states, “worship acknowledges that the relationship between God and us, as with any relationship is a two-way street. We have a responsibility to nurture and develop it. God keeps showing up in our lives, be it the beauty of a starry night or the next breath we take. We’re called to show up, too. Countering the distractions of the world, worship is the conscious setting aside of sacred space and sacred time to be in relationship with the sacred Source of life.”

Secondly, Arnold speaks of worship as a concrete act. We also have to practice the presence of God. Worship helps us do that. Through rituals and symbols, it provides a structure for the experience of the Eternal and also for our response. “Worship is never ‘religious entertainment’ performed by the people up front for our inspiration, edification, or amusement.” Instead, Arnold states, “. . . worship always seeks to engage the whole congregation in the lively Word and power of God. Liturgy is literally “the work of the people,” and worship requires our active participation. She states, “even in those parts led by others (e.g., Scripture, sermon, anthem), we are not passive recipients but active listeners, invited to reflect on what we are hearing. In the times of silence when it seems like nothing is happening, we are invited to empty ourselves to receive God’s Spirit, to “wait on the Lord to renew our strength.”

I hope this “book review” will help us both to reflect on our worship and to continue the work of engaging us in deepening our relationship to the Divine.

### YOUTH NEWS FOR APRIL!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm - 8:00 am Sunday, April 13th YOUTH NIGHT @ FATCITY & OVERNIGHT LOCK-IN!**

## HELP WANTED: Drivers/Chaperones for Youth Group!

Would you like to help the CCC Youth Group by providing transportation to some of our off-site activities, have an opportunity to join us for some of our special programs, and get a great chance to spend some time getting to know our CCC youth? See the **sign-up sheet** on the Christian Education bulletin board for upcoming off-site activities, dates and times!

**Highlights From Council.** Much has been happening. Here are some of the highlights:

The Visions Course is ongoing and was held at CCC on March 1.

The Stewardship Ministry provided a yummy pizza lunch after worship on March 2 and many folks filled out Time and Talent cards. Please complete one if we missed you!

Diana Bern and Jerry attended the Sailing the Ship of Faith conference at LaForet on March 3, 2008. They attended sessions led by Dr. Hal Youngblood on church growth. On April 22, the Rev. Paul Nickerson will meet with several representatives from three churches (including ours) to discuss further issues around church growth. Paul is a consultant with the Massachusetts Conference as well.

The Commons Room was painted and rearranged March 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>. After much consultation, the library configuration has been decided. The CCC Foundation has generously contributed the majority of the money to purchase the new bookcases with a matching desk to still be bought.

The Council began a discussion on decision-making policies with more conversation to follow next meeting.

Insurance money was received to replace the items that were taken during the church burglary.

Abundant Life in Christ Church is continuing to meet here for their services. They will be signing a Building Use form.

We have completed the revisions of the new Personnel Contracts and hope to have them signed soon.

A "Share-A-Ride" program to help folks get to church has been started. Contact the office for more info.

We were very busy with Lenten Activities.

We had a potluck and thought provoking discussion on March 12 with Dr. Miguel de la Torre. Many of us purchased his book [Reading the Bible from the Margins.](#)

March 16, Palm Sunday – Parade led by Owd Dabar on the patio. March 20, Maundy Thursday - Tenebrae service with soup supper in Fellowship Hall. March 21, Good Friday – Sanctuary was open from 12 – 2 PM. March 23, Easter breakfast was served by the Fellowship Ministry; a balloon release and egg hunt followed worship.

Blessings to All, Sandy Selzer, Moderator

**Feeling Pain at the Gas Pump?** (And who isn't lately!!) If you buy your gas at King Soopers or Safeway, here's a way to make it a little less painful – just purchase a gift card from Joyce or Mary on Sunday and you will know you are helping Christ Church as you pump your gas! The church gets 5% of every \$5,000 worth of King Soopers cards and 4% of every \$2,500 worth of Safeway cards we buy, so keep us busy on Sunday morning!

**Note: You cannot buy other gift cards at King Soopers with your King Soopers Gift card.**

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

The Mission effort for April is to help elementary, junior and senior high youth who are interested in attending our conference camp at LaForet in the Black Forest and be able to offer some financial support. This year they are offering eight different camps divided into age groups, each scheduled for dates during Spring, Summer and Fall. The cost is for a week's time and there are also fall and spring retreats for middle and high school youth. These retreats are for the weekends. The price for a week starts at \$350; if reservations are made early, your cost is less but goes up as time gets closer to camp date.

The camp dates and age groups are as follows:

Grades 2 through 4 – Pioneer Camp, July 13-19

Grades 4 through 6 – Explorer Camp, July 13-19

Grades 7 and 8 only – Voyager Camp, July 20-26

Grades 6 through 8 – Voyager Music Camp, July 13-19

M.A.D.D. Camp – 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, August 3-9

High School Retreats – Spring, April 18-20; Fall, October 17-19

Middle School Retreat – Sept. 26-28

For more information as to what each camp session offers, contact Amy Smith. Thank you for helping to support our conference camps.

**The Mission Ministry wishes to thank Tim Walker** for the many times he helps in taking items we collect for the Southwest Community Ministry to their location at the Garden Park Mennonite Church. **We also thank Betty and Tim Walker** for their contributions throughout the year to Southwest Community Ministry Food Bank and give credit to our church as part of our mission support.

### **A Thank You Received from the Colorado Welsh Society**

On behalf of the Colorado Welsh Society I would like to thank you, your staff and the congregation of Christ Congregational Church for allowing us to hold the Society's St. David's Day Celebration at your church on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Despite the snow that day we had a good event and appreciated the comfortable setting your church provided for our program. In appreciation I am enclosing a check for \$100 as a donation from the Society.

As a non-profit organization we are grateful to all who help make our programs a success.

Sincerely,  
Elis M. Owens

### **“VISIONS” COURSE**

Five members of Christ Church will complete a “Visions” course on Saturday, April 5, with a 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. session planned at Washington Park UCC. The four monthly sessions have alternated between Christ Church and Washington Park. John Ferguson has been the primary trainer for the event, but has been helped by Dr. Anthony Bandele (a psychologist based at Fort Logan), Dr. Al Otsuka and Rev. Emily Hassler of Washington Park. The sessions have focused on the various “isms” we confront in our society with the major focus on racism. Marv Evers, Betty Sanders, Sandy Maben, Mary Bindner, and Rev. Jerry Eslinger have attended the course, offered nationally in a number of settings, in a more intensive three-day format.

### **MEETING WITH PAUL NICKERSON**

A meeting is set for Tuesday, April 22, with The Rev. Paul Nickerson, a consultant on church growth issues from the Massachusetts Conference. We previously hosted Paul and other churches at a workshop here. Parkview UCC and the Kirk

of Bonnie Brae, as well as Christ Church, will be represented by the pastor and several key leaders at the meeting. Our church will have the opportunity to work with Paul on a six-month basis, similar to the work he is doing in Massachusetts.

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulation to Hart Axley on his being named to the Colorado Badminton Hall of Fame. He will be inducted, along with several others, at a ceremony to be held at the Denver Athletic Club. Hart is a member of our Chancel Choir and an active participant in our church life. Again, congratulations!