

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR

You Are Welcome Here!

Phone: (719) 633-8888—Fax: (719) 633-8832—Prayer Phone: (719) 635-4000—www.firstchristiancos.org

Mountaintop and Riverside: Moving Toward Our Vision

Barbara and I had a marvelous vacation last week - 8 days exploring the beauty of southern Colorado. We were amazed at the incredible mountain peaks and their above-the-timberline stark granite contrast with the lushly wooded valleys below. We were captivated to watch a flock (is that the term?) of hummingbirds feeding in the early afternoon against the backdrop of thunderclouds rolling in over the peaks. Even the long stretches of the San Luis and Wet Mountain valleys were awesome in their own way, particularly when thinking about the challenges that settlers faced in such a land of beauty and yet aridity. The patient millenniums' worth of carvings by the Arkansas River as it gives life to the land repeatedly left us at a loss for words. We even found something I never expected to find in the middle of southern Colorado - a bed and breakfast flying the Hawaii state flag!



But two images keep especially keep coming back to me: first, looking west from the summit of Wolf Creek pass, thousands of feet above the valley floor, and, second, the rivers - the Animas, the San Juan, the Rio Grande, the Arkansas - that sustain and make life possible



and have done so for thousands of years.

It strikes me that life - and church -- **must** have both sorts of perspectives. We all need the "aerial" view, the view from up above, the mountaintop view that orients us and inspires us and calls us forward. But that sort of perspective has to be complemented by the view from below, the view from along the riverbank. The view from the mountaintop *inspires* us; the view from the river *nourishes* us. In order to live, in order to thrive, in order to be the best we can be, we **need** to do both.

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FCC is now on Facebook! Look for us there and add your name to those who "like" us! You can also follow FCC on Twitter at fccos



Worship Hours

Sunday Worship Service @ 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. - Sunday School @ 9:30 a.m.

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And here at First Christian Church, we have both perspectives indeed. We have that glorious, mountaintop vision expressed so beautifully in the "Ministry and Vision Statement" adopted by the congregation: *"We will be a community of faith, radical in hospitality, outrageous in generosity and joyful in service to God and neighbor,"* where *"spiritual growth is the norm"* and *"growing in faith is expected."* Underlying this mountaintop vision is also the *presumption* that we can and do and will indeed also grow in numbers, seeking to become once again - because it will mean we can do that much more for God! - a church with a worship attendance of 350+. That's the vision from the mountaintop, and like all mountaintop visions it gives us our direction and points us in the way that God is calling us to go.

But we will live out that vision at "ground level," and we therefore also need the "riverside" perspective as well - for as we grow in spirit, faith, and numbers, we will change, and so we will need habits of mind and heart and action that are truly welcoming of newcomers and new ways and new opportunities. We will need to find ways to honestly talk about where we might be - often unintentionally! - impeding the living out of the vision day by day. We will want to joyfully seek to re-commit ourselves to assuming the best about one another, to welcoming (and not just tolerating) those who find us to be a spiritual oasis along their thirsty journeys, to nurturing and nourishing those ways of walking together that focus on what unites us, to celebrating that a thousand kinds of ministries are blooming here - even if this or that one may not be "your thing."

The mountaintop view shows us the way we are called to go and inspires us; the riverside view helps us walk each day faithfully and fruitfully towards our goals. I am looking forward to spelling all of this out more in a sermon series in October. I am also looking forward to re-convening the "Vision Team" (that produced our Ministry and Vision Statement) to help us shape some opportunities for ALL of us to share our wisdom and excitement, and to working with the Board and the Elders in continuing to cultivate those "habits of the heart" that will lead us forward toward that vision. If you have thoughts or ideas to share about this exciting prospect don't hesitate to be in touch!

Pastor Chuck

Adult Sunday School

Chapel Class, led by Gene Brink, is discussing our beliefs on the significant issues of faith. (*Chapel, at far end of north hallway, 1st floor*). **Seekers Class**, led by Bruce Smith, is studying Lee Strobel's book *The Case for Christ*, which examines the claims of Christ, reaching the verdict that Jesus IS God's unique son. (*I Do classroom—end of south hallway*). Our "**Potpourri**" Adult Sunday School class resumes in September. Each month brings a different topic and leader. In September, Lu Jean Baxter will be leading the class on the topic of "Parting Words," based on Christ's parting words in Matthew 28. In October, Barbara Blaisdell will be teaching the class on the topic of Joseph, looking at five key stages of his life and what those stages and Joseph's response to their challenges have to teach us. The Potpourri Class meets in the Church Parlor, immediately across from the sanctuary.



CROP Walk is Coming!



Please mark your calendars, the 2010 CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) walk is planned for October 3rd, starting after church at about 1:00 PM. We are starting at the IHN Day Center at 519 Tejon St, so we can easily stay parked at FCC and walk over.

As in years past, 25% of the money raised will go to the local Interfaith Hospitality Network, the remainder to the worldwide mission of Church World Service. It is an ecumenical event; 16 local churches have historically participated, and it is exciting to walk alongside brothers and sisters. FCC has a pretty good history in the 4 years of the modern Colorado Springs walk -- we are in 5th place in both number of walkers and money raised.

As usual, we have need of walkers, donors, crossing guards, cheerleaders -- this year the route is laid out so that FCC is the halfway point, so we will also need volunteers to operate a refreshment and restroom stop.

Please go to <http://coloradospringscropwalk.com/> to get more information now and sign up for Facebook and Twitter updates if you are inclined. If not, don't worry, we will be providing plenty of information at church.



The really exciting news for "fashionistas" this year is that the "Imani the Giraffe" themed T-shirts will be available in children's and adult sizes. The traditional logo T-shirts and hats will also be available. We will get you more information in the coming weeks. Save the date, and dust off those walking shoes.

"We walk because they walk" is the motto -- it is about bringing nutrition and clean water to people who walk miles daily to get those things. Contact Steve Delaney, s.jdelaney@comcast.net, or the church office for more information.

Contact Steve Delaney, s.jdelaney@comcast.net, or the church office for more information.

In honor of your generous support of the children and families served by Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home join us for our Annual Appreciation BBQ Saturday, August 28, 2010 1:00pm—4:00pm Enjoy a day of fun the sun with the kids from Tennyson Center ! There will be outdoor games, water play and beach volleyball! Tennyson Center for Children 2950 Tennyson Street, Denver . Please RSVP no late than Monday, August 23, 2010. Please contact Jennifer Force at 720.855.3312 or email Jennifer.force@tennysoncenter.org

Pictorial Directory Coming

FCC will have a Pictorial Directory this fall. A project coordination team, Nancy Haley and Betty Baker, is on board making plans for this effort. We will begin the photo shoot for the directory the first week of November. Your family pictures will be here in time for Christmas. More information to follow.

Celebration of the Music Room Renovation

Recognition of Donors to Music Room Renovation

Charles & Barbara Blaisdell
Betty Garrison
Norm & Myrna Heimer
Ryan & Jennifer Moreno
Jonathan Thompson
Phil & Jaima DiMartino

David & Zoan Harclerode
Jack & Nancy Lingbloom
Bill & Nancy May
Steve & Jeanette Walgren
Don & Doris Farmer
Gay & Diana Hatler

Cathy McClellan
John Shumaker
Betty Baker
FCC Concert Series

Donations in Memory of John Shumaker for the Music Room/Ministry:

Dan & Nancy Woods
Jan & Nancy Lingbloom
James & Jeanne Shumaker

Marion E. Reid
Bob & Jan Needham
Eloise J. Wynne

Olin & Pamela Hounshell
Lillie Schaak

Donations in Memory of Leland (Lee) Hock for the Music Room/Ministry:

Al & Wilma Brown
Michael & Kathryn Trapp
Alice Banzhof
George Fagan
John & Nancy Newcomer
Gary & Carole Lentz
Keith & Lisa Omsberg
Shirley Ryan
Jack & Nancy Lingbloom

Cathy McClellan
Roger Lockrem
Don & Doris Farmer
Bruce & Carol Millhollin
Charles & Margaret Oliver
James & Jan Jurasek
Walt & Sharlyn Wilson
Richard & Martha Wikert
Judy Biondini

Michael & Connie Blunt
Jane Young
Francis & Barbara Murphy
Stephen & Carolyn Hock
Clarice & Connie Byers
Altana Ourada
Helen Eastlack
Dr. Evan & Janet Hock

Recognition of Volunteers:

The Design Team
Mike & Laura Hatler
Diana Serna
Norm Heimer
Grant Apodaca
Val Rollins
John McFann
Lowell Olson
Nancy Lingbloom

Homer Boutz
Gay & Diana Hatler
Betty Baker
Don Metz
Sarah Apodaca
Jackie Foorman
Sandy Hill
Roseanne Crumley
Laura Patino

Dale Katzenmeyer
Dominick & Marissa Serna
Steve Delaney
Robert Apodaca
Chris Straka
Katie Kjeldsen-Tullis
Carroll Bloomquist
David Wells

Recognition of Contractor Bill Serna

Hospitality of the Church

Are you a baker? Do you like to get in the kitchen and cook? Can you provide for our chat and coffee with some cheese, crackers, fruit, cookies or your special dish. Hospitality is looking for volunteers to cook, serve and clean up for our 1st Sunday of the month Breakfast. I am looking for bakers. We provided a mini loaf of sweet bread in our First time attender bags that we hand out to visitors as they come to worship with us. It is a very nice welcome.

Many hands make light work. Please contact Dorthy Smith at 598-4941 or the office at 633-8888 if you can help. Looking forward to hearing from you.—Kathe



Just A Note by Ray Killian



Dear People,

I am so grateful for the many ways in which you all helped the IHN benefit/recital to be a success. We celebrated Carol. We dedicated the Music Room. And we raised hundreds of dollars for the IHN ministry. Their thanks has been numerous and most touching. And my thanks to you is extended again. What a fellowship, what a joy divine!



You might recall that short encounter I shared regarding Colorado's favorite son. I heard John Denver tell me in a post-concert hallway, "You stick with music. It can change the world." I knew I just heard something important. The recital/benefit was born out of that seed. In fact, the whole of Creation stirs me to action. I go there for respite, to connect, and to listen for God's Spirit. This all began when I visited Assisi and re-discovered St. Francis' love for all nature. My inspiration continued when I discovered Creation Spirituality (reading Mathew Fox) a few years ago. I then realized precisely what it is about Denver's music that so satisfies my yearnings, stirs me to perform, and why I rarely want to listen to anybody else. Denver was giving lyrical voice to some of my most sacred beliefs. As a pastor once said, "if theologian Matthew Fox (a former Catholic priest) has written the book on *Creation Spirituality*, it is John Denver who has written its hymnal."

In the West especially, the mystical bonding of the human with the natural world has progressively weakened. We have let the voices of the artificial world take over the natural. No, I am not going to "get my Roman-flavored Paul on" and start in on that argument. But I believe God did create this place and said it was good. I believe that. Verily, verily, even. I believe God said that. It is confirmed every time I look to the hills. And if music can be used to increase awareness of Creation's unique splendor, then so be it. As St. Francis wrote, "All creatures of our God and king lift up your voice and with us sing."

Ray Killian
Director of Music
Director of Children's Ministry
First Christian Church, Colorado Springs
[719-633-8888](tel:719-633-8888) x209

The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts."
-- C. S. Lewis

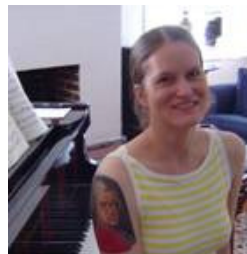
Upcoming special music:

On Sunday morning, September 5, our organist Carol Wilson will team up with Nancy Lingbloom on the piano to play a variety of hymn arrangements for our worship services. The following Sunday, our devoted Chancel Choir will rejoin us after a well-deserved end-of-summer break. On September 19, a woodwind quintet from the Chamber Orchestra – flute, oboe, clarinet, French horn and bassoon – will grace our services with music for this delightful combination of instruments.



Upcoming concert:

On Sunday, September 19 at 3:00 p.m., our concert series is presenting a program of classical music for the piano played with grace and elegance by Heidi Basarab. Ms. Basarab, the 2nd place winner of the 2009 Rocky Mountain Amateur Pianists Competition, will perform a partita by J.S. Bach, a fantasy and sonata by Mozart, and a sonata by Beethoven. A free will offering will be taken, and all are invited to a reception following the concert.





2nd Annual Congregational Cook-off

Part potluck, part congregational competition, we'll all be voting for our favorite dish.

Call for submissions:

We are asking you, our wonderful Volunteer Coordinators, and your wonderful cooks to showcase your culinary talents. This year there are even more categories and more prizes. Enter your congregation's IHN dinner recipes in:

Best Main Dish
Best Vegetable Dish
Best Dessert

Best Presentation
Best Heart Healthy
Best Staff/Board



WHEN: Tuesday **September 21th, 5:30pm – 7:15pm**

WHERE: **St. Michael the Arch Angel**

7400 Tudor Road 80919

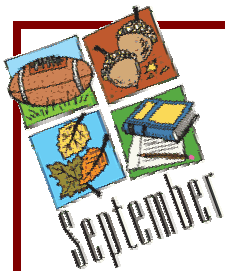
Exit 149 from I 25, turn **Left** on Woodmen,

turn **Right** on Commerce Center Drive which becomes Pine Creek Drive, turn **Left** on Tudor, passed the restaurants and hotels to a beautiful setting in the woods, St Michael's.



The cook-off will take place at the stakeholder's meeting. Dishes should be divisible into sample size portions and serve about 12 or more so everyone can taste and vote. Entries can be submitted in multiple categories. Cooks should arrive with their dishes at 5:30 as the Stakeholder's meeting begins at 6 pm. Prizes awarded.

A registration form for each dish will be due by Sept 9th along with the recipe (needed for cookbook publication). The form will be emailed to you or you can request a hard copy. Should you have any questions, please call 329-1244 or email gail@IHN-cos.org for more information.



Birthdays

John McFann	9/9	Joe Snepenger	9/16
Frank Moore	9/9	John Grider	9/17
Gina Chambers	9/11	John Kauffman	9/18
Martin Prohaski	9/11	Sharon Tausan	9/19
Dorothy Smith	9/11	Mandy Smika	9/20
Mick McHarg	9/12	Mitch Peckham	9/21
Bruce Millhollin	9/12	Ed Wilson	9/21
DJ Gifford	9/13	Ava Crichton	9/23
Marge Parrott	9/13	Marsha Taylor	9/23
Sarah Apodaca	9/14	Bob Beverly	9/24
Karen Gifford	9/14	Mike Hatler	9/24
Georgia Hock	9/14	Norman Heimer	9/24
Pat Urban	9/14	Bob McDuff	9/27
Jesse Boley	9/15	Matthew Peckham	9/27
Erik Bryan	9/15	Michael Deaver	9/29
Wilma Brown	9/16	Katie Kjeldsen-Tullis	9/29
Julie Haley	9/16	Jeanette Walgren	9/30
Jan Durkin	9/1		
Dorothy Myers	9/1		
Grace Ohashi	9/1		
Dan Schwartz	9/1		
Joe Urban	9/3		
Diane Ashton	9/4		
Betty Rapjack	9/5		
Glenna Teghtmeyer	9/5		
Betty McCandless	9/9		



First Christian Church (DoC) will NOT be hosting a Flu Shot Clinic this year. Because of insurance limitations and the availability of the vaccine at many locations we are not getting enough people to participate. Please plan on getting your Flu Shot at the many local locations.

July 2010 Income & Expenses		July	YTD
	Contributions	\$23,771.00	\$178,369.00
	Facility	\$1,800.00	\$12,948.00
	Tejon Property Receipts	\$3,500.00	\$24,500.00
	Copy Charges	<u>\$127.00</u>	<u>\$1,501.00</u>
	Total Income	\$29,198.00	\$217,318.00
	Less: Expenses	<u>(\$34,105.00)</u>	<u>(\$234,571.00)</u>
	Net Income/(Loss)	(\$4,907.00)	(\$17,253.00)
	Transfer from Reserve	<u>\$7000.00</u>	<u>\$7000.00</u>
	Adjusted income/(loss)	\$2,093.00	(\$10,253.00)
	Special Offerings—WOC	\$100.00	
	ESM	\$200.00	
Designated Donations	\$1,811.00		

You're invited!
 Valley District Disciples
 Churches Potluck
 August 31, 6:30pm
 First Christian Church
 400 S. 9th
 Rocky Ford
 RSVP:
 719-254-4306



Esther Moxham's 90th Bday.
 Sincerely, her daughter,
 Bev Olson

Wish List for September

- Tennyson Center at Colorado Christian Home**
- Halloween Candy
 - Deodorant
 - Cough Drops
- ESM**
- Applesauce
- Tessa**
- Washcloths
 - Soap
- IHN**
- Liquid Detergent

Searchers Will Meet September 1

Summer is coming to an end and it's time for the Searchers Women's Group to "fall" into place. We will have a regular meeting at 1pm beginning with dessert and our meeting in Fellowship Hall. Then Donna McWhirter will begin the new study for this year in the parlor until 3:00pm.

Remember to **bring your blessing boxes** or offering that will be presented at Renewal in September. September is also FCC's Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) host time. **Bring IHN ditty bag donations:** travel size toothpaste, toothbrushes and travel cases, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotions, Kleenex, washcloths and small towels, or gallon zip lock bags, or any other small size toiletries for our guest families. And for Girlfriends Unlimited, please bring used greeting cards for recycle project for "Girls Friends."

All church women are welcome to come to Searchers. Call Jan Haley, Searchers president, for more information 598-6920.

Officers are president, Jan Haley; secretary, Beryl Folsom; treasurer, Pat Snepenger; and study leader, Donna McWhirter.



Carol W.

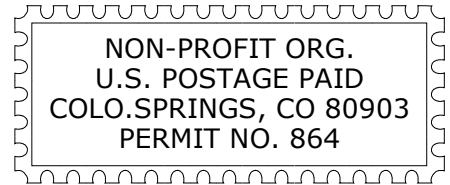
I would like to thank you, my church family, for the gracious recognition of my 21 years of service here at First Christian Church during Ray's delightful recital on August 18. I am so aware of all the love and care and support that all of you have given me. My time here has been such a wonderful learning and growing experience, enabling me to discern and learn to use my gifts and to share my love of music with you in worship. Thank you also for your amazing generosity in the love offering, which is much appreciated. -- Carol Wilson



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

16 E Platte Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80903



CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Charles (Chuck) Blaisdell

Senior Pastor

Ray Killian

Director of Music, Children's Ministry

Carol Wilson

Organist/Pastoral Visitor/Concert Series

Nate Thrasher

Youth Ministry Team Leader

Kathe Petersen

Administrative Assistant

Diana Serna

Bookkeeper/Wedding Coordinator

Mon., Tues., Wed.

8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Laura Patino

Custodian

7:15 a.m.-3:15p.m. M-T; Sunday a.m.

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 9-5:00 p.m.

Friday—9—2:00 p.m.

Got the parking space blues?

FCC has signed (Yay!) a formal agreement with the Regional business offices of the YMCA, who has bought the office building behind the church (depending on your age, you may know it as "the architects' office," "the lawyers' office," or even Swan and Law Funeral Home).

We will be allowing up to 12 YMCA employees to park at FCC during their office hours of 7:30 - 5:30 weekdays (that still leaves us 16 spaces, not counting handicapped and staff), and they have granted us exclusive rights to their 18 spaces on Sundays and special events. There are exceptions for special circumstances, but we have basically increased our close-in parking by about 60%.

I have been using it already. It's clean, freshly sealed asphalt, and an easy walk to the east door above the choir room. Please use it as you desire, and tell your friends.
Steve D

