

# THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR



You Are Welcome Here!

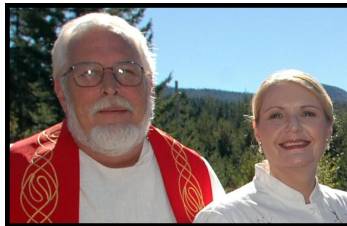
Phone: (719) 633-8888—Fax: (719) 633-8832—Prayer Phone: (719) 635-4000—www.firstchristiancos.org

## An Open Letter to our Family, Friends, and Church Family: “Stuff”

(For this edition of my monthly column, Barbara is joining me in sharing what’s on our hearts.)

### INSIDE

Thank You  
Fiona  
Music Notes  
Wishing Star Farm  
Make a Difference  
Two by Two  
Pipe Screams  
Fiona  
Addie’s Kitchen  
Announcements  
November Birthdays  
September Income & Expenses  
Life Line Screening  
Wish List  
November Searchers



We have enough stuff.

In fact, at this time in our lives, we are seeking to cull and get rid of stuff, not get more stuff.

But we are also oh-so-aware of how so many people in this world do **not** have enough “stuff.” And we’re not talking about luxuries but about the simplest of necessities that so many of us are blessedly able to take for granted: clean and safe water that comes from a faucet instead of water of dubious quality that has to be carried in buckets from miles away, or a blanket that is not thin and threadbare and which funnels the cold instead of dispelling it, or inoculations that we hardly even think about but which in some corners of the world are too-little available and whose lack has doomed too many children to disease and even death. This list could go on and on and on.

What’s the most memorable Christmas gift you ever received? What’s the most memorable Christmas gift you ever gave? We suspect that for many, maybe even most, folks the answers actually have very little to do with “stuff.” After all, ask yourselves: do you remember what you received for Christmas last year? The year before? But you likely remember other things, no? – a relationship mended, a handmade card from a grand-baby, a gift given in your honor to a favorite charity.

Do you remember the parable that Jesus told (found in Luke 12) of the farmer who had so much “stuff” that he decided to tear down his current barns and build even bigger barns so as to have a place to keep on hoarding his growing piles of “stuff”? Do you remember the outcome? The most common translations say this: “...Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” Barbara has pointed out, though, that this version can also be translated in this way: **“Tonight your stuff will own you.”**

Friends, if your stuff has begun to own **you**, or if you are finding a certain repetitive sameness to Christmas giving that has turned too much of it into chore instead of joy, or if you’d simply like to honor the Christ child this year who was born in a barn, far from

Continue on next page

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.

Continued from Page 1

home, poor and on the margins by making life better for those who lack so much – **then we invite you to join us in doing “alternative Christmas gifts” this year.**

Nancy May and her Missions and Outreach Committee has put together a wonderful gift-giving catalog with opportunities to make a gift to some of the “least of these.” Opportunities range from \$5 to \$500, and you will receive a card that you can send to the one you are honoring in this way to tell him or her of your “alternative Christmas gift.” You can find that catalog on the church’s website or you can pick one up at church or we will mail you one. You can also attend the “Make A Difference Christmas Festival” this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at the church to see in-person the many, many opportunities to do an “alternative Christmas gift” that will make a difference in the lives of those who whom Jesus calls us to love and serve.

***This year, we are going to be giving such gifts to our friends and families, and (if you were planning to give us a gift) we are inviting you to choose a favorite charity (perhaps especially one that helps children?) and make a gift to that in our honor instead.*** Maybe it’s one of the gift choices from the Alternative Gift Giving catalog, maybe it’s a craft or other item from Ten Thousand Villages (who will be having a display at the Alternative Christmas Fair) whose purchase directly helps women, children and families in struggling Third-world situations. Maybe it’s a charity or effort dear to your own heart.

We invite you to think and pray about this with us. This is not a call to give up gift giving; far from it. It is a call for all of us to think about how we might give gifts this Christmas that will truly “make a difference” in the lives of folks who often have so little. It is about the joy we can take in knowing that a life was made better.

And that seems to us oh-so-much better than more “stuff.”

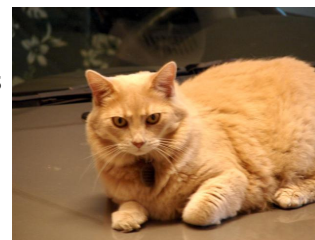
Pastor Chuck  
Rev. Barbara

Thank you from Pastor Chuck

I would like to thank you for all your kind remembrances on the first anniversary of my being with you as Senior Pastor. It's been a wonderful year, and Barbara and I are both so very blessed by this caring congregation. Thank you! Pastor Chuck

Fiona needs a loving home by Pastor Chuck

Fiona is a sweet, 10 year old, spayed medium-haired calico female. She was rescued from the pound (after being abused by someone as a tiny kitten). She is very, very affectionate, curious, and a delightful companion. She is probably not at her best with very small children, although older children and adults will enjoy her very much. As we have discovered (the same thing that others have discovered), the wonderful Colorado climate that is so awesome in so many ways at the same time has very significantly made much worse Barbara's allergies and heightened her sensitivity to cat dander. We both hate to make this decision, but after months of trying other options, it seems that it is what needs to be. Fiona has in the past suffered from occasional seizures, but those have been eliminated by the twice-a-day medicine routine she is on. I would certainly be very, very willing to offer to help with her ongoing vet visits (and the yearly lab to monitor the levels of the anti-seizure medicine in her blood) in some fashion, and we have a fantastic vet.



Out of many, one. By Ray Killian

*E Pluribus Unum*, once defined for me by a particularly zealous Protestant as, "That's Hebrew for Jesus Saves."



Riiiiight. However, in the music ministry, we come to understand this phenomenon during rehearsals. While made of many voices, we seek to become a unified ensemble. In worship, we lift our voices with at least one singular purpose: to praise our Creator. This is a good thing. For if we look at Scripture, we find that many of God's might acts are not far removed from music.

Music is often the accompanying counterpoint to God's message. From everlasting to everlasting, from Genesis to John's Revelation, from creation to judgment, the sound of music is to be heard. The people of the Old Testament were the singing church of the old covenant, whose responsorial art was begun with the Song of Moses after the birth of the nation after the Exodus from Egypt. Joshua used music to win a battle. The birth of Jesus was accompanied by the songs of the angels. How can I keep from singing?

It seems to me that the human melody and the melody of God are often in counterpoint. In fact, alone they are really useless. God needs us. God wants our love and adoration in all its forms, especially through music. And we certainly need God. Taken together, you have meaning and beauty in their rise and fall, the dissonance of life that resolves into a final harmony.

So, as Oliver Wendell Holmes put it, "Take a music bath today."



**WISHING STAR FARM**

KIDS—MOMS & DADS—GRANDPARENTS—AUNTS & UNCLES—  
FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

All-church Fall Festival, Sat., October 23rd, 4-7 (or so).  
[www.WishingStarFarm.com](http://www.WishingStarFarm.com)

\$10 admission (includes all things listed on website)  
Sponsored by Children's Train, and for the whole church and our friends!  
Unlimited hayrides, pumpkin of your choice, games, food...fun!



## Make a Difference by Katie Kjeldsen-Tullis

In the last Visitor and the past few Sundays, members of our congregation have shared experiences about "alternative gift giving" - that is, giving a gift that may have symbolic value to the recipient and benefits a meaningful cause at the same time. We've expanded that meaning slightly to include tangible purchases of goods that benefit a charitable organization.



It is through shared experiences like these that FCC's Missions and Outreach Committee are excited to offer two such giving opportunities. On October 22-24, we are hosting an Alternative Gift Fair, featuring products from Ten Thousand Villages, providing vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts; BeadFor-Life, creating sustainable opportunities for women in Uganda to lift their families out of extreme poverty; Disciples of Christ Coffee Project, helping small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the U.S build a better future through fair trade; Denver based Women's Bean Project, helping women break the cycle of poverty and unemployment; and the International Princess Project, Punjammies initiative, a self-sustaining enterprise providing physical, emotional and spiritual needs of women formerly enslaved in prostitution and trafficking.

The second opportunity, available at the fair and during the holiday giving season, is an "alternative gift catalog" from which you can purchase a wide variety of gifts to give in honor of someone that will provide goods, services and hope to those in need, both home and abroad. The selection includes everything from baby chicks to clean water, clothing, education and more in a broad range of prices. Gift cards will be available for you to include with your holiday greetings so that the recipient will know what you've given in their honor.

In conjunction with the fair, we will be hosting a "Punjammie Party" on Friday evening, and an Indian Luncheon, Sunday after 11:00 service - watch for details!

We hope to make these opportunities a tradition at FCC and that you will be blessed by your own giving and have some fun too!



**YOU ARE INVITED TO A PUNJAMMIES PARTY**  
**Friday, October 22 @ 7:00 p.m.**  
**First Christian Church**  
**Fellowship Hall, North Entrance**  
**Great Gifts for Christmas for family and friends.**

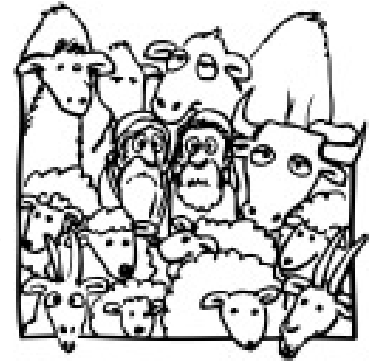
### *A Taste of India—Fellowship Dinner* *October 24<sup>th</sup>, 12:15 pm*

This is a catered dinner, suggested donation \$10/person - \$20/family. Please help us know approximately how many will be attending by adding your name to the Sign Up Sheet in the hallway.



## Seeking Animal Ornaments Two by Two

Pastor Chuck has a pair of armadillos to lend. Pairs or singles of Christmas tree ornaments depicting the passengers on the ark, and particularly emphasizing the chickens, geese, hamsters, camels, oxen, goats, sheep, etc. of the Heifer Project are wanted. The ESM theme is "Christmas Around the World" and FCC's tree is "Gifts That Last" from this year's Heifer Project. Our tree will be a rainbow and ark theme along with the animals given to help families provide for themselves and grow livestock to help their neighbors in gifts that last and spread God's love around the world.



The ornaments will go on FCC's tree for the 2010 Festival of Trees, November 19, 20, and 21 at the Doubletree. The trees are auctioned to benefit ESM. If you do not wish to donate, only lend animal ornaments, we will do our very best to keep them safe and remove them from the tree to return after the Festival, but we prefer not to risk highly cherished items. If your donations (decorations) can stay with the tree that is even better.

Much help is needed during October through set up on November 18th. We have a prelit 6' tree. We need glue guns, small wire cutters and pliers to come with their owners to use them as every ornament must have the cap glued on and be wired to the tree. We have blue ornaments to turn into "blue marble globes" Needed are a topper, (God's hands holding a globe?), a tree skirt carrying out the ark theme, ornaments that recall rainbows, ark, raindrops, the people or animals of the Heifer Project, live animal boxes or shipping crates and stuffed animals to represent presents under the tree. We also need a little display explaining our tree and maybe Heifer Project flyers for the Festival. Artists and Craftsmen, just plain willing-to-work folk and enthusiastic supporters are needed to create and complete the tree project after we see what we have donated to begin with. It's likely that we will be making animal ornaments. Patterns and ideas are welcome!

There is a sign-up for the crafts Girlfriends small group in Fellowship Hall, This group is for both men and women. As soon as we have a few volunteers we'll set a work time and place. There is also a paper to list items that you can donate to the "Gifts That Last" tree. Questions or to volunteer: Call Jan Haley @ 598-6920. This will be fun. Thank you all for your help.

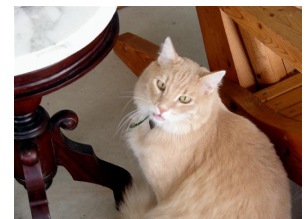


*Pipe Screams*

On October 31 at 3:00 p.m., our concert series is presenting *Pipe Screams*, a Halloween concert played by members of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Featured selections will include Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor* played by the Phantom of the Opera, the *William Tell Overture* played by the Lone Ranger and Tonto, a suite from *Carmen*, and many others. All performers will be in costume, and the audience is invited to come in costume if they wish. Come and have a good laugh at this not-so-serious organ concert. A free will offering will be taken.

### Fiona by Ray Killian —

I have been watching Fiona for a couple of months, and without a doubt she is one of the sweetest animals I have known. She is warm, cuddly, and still maintains that wonderful independent cat nature. Her fur is soft and her eyes are beautifully expressive. She will even have a conversation with you! Fiona self-feeds. I put her little pill in a soft treat, and she is none-the-wiser. There are a few fake mice she plays with, batting them around with much fun. Please speak with me directly if you have any questions. Fiona will be a wonderful and loving addition to any home.



## Freezer Meals Fellowship by Addie Sale

We had 23 people join us in the church kitchen for the first freezer meals and it was LOTS of fun! We would love to have more next time. The next Freezer Meals is scheduled for Saturday, November 13th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm in the church kitchen (Note we had to move off November 6th due to the Veteran's Day Parade). Since this overlaps supertime, please bring a dish to share or your favorite snack and we will take a break and eat! The menu for this freezer meals session is:

Meals Available 2, 4 or 8 serving size:

- Cajun Meatloaf
- Addie's Twice Baked Potato Casserole
- Beef Barley Soup
- Chicken Florentine
- Asparagus and Potato Frittata - Vegetarian

Cookies available by the dozen:

Addie's Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies



There will be a sign up soon in the Fellowship Hall and Addie Sale will be available in Church on the Sunday's before for sign up. You can also call Addie at 471-3249 with any questions.

### David Van Heyningen

David Van Heyningen has been called to serve as an Intentional Interim Senior Pastor of Lake Street Church, Evanston IL. LSC is a historic Downtown church, (1856) historically associated with the American Baptist Church and a founding member of Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.

David begins Nov. 15, 2010.

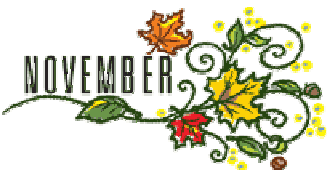
David Van Heyningen  
1222 Chicago Ave Unit 602  
Evanston IL 60202

Cell phone 206 948 7107

Grayson James Bailey Deweese was born on Monday, October 4, to Michael and Rebecca Deweese, daughter and son-in-law of Chuck and Barbara Blaisdell. Grayson joins 2 1/2 year old brother Elias.



All are doing well and Grandpa and Grandma Chuck and Barbara can't wait to see the new addition!



### BIRTHDAYS

		Jon Tausan	11/2	GeorgiaAnn Woelk	11/18
		Haley Hock	11/6	Myrna Heimer	11/19
		John Reynolds	11/6	Georgia Wright-Niswonger	
		Donna McWhirter	11/10		11/19
		Charlie Parker	11/10	Devon Pilger	11/20
		Joan Porkka	11/11	Nicholas Schmurr	11/20
		Caleb Hatler	11/13	Kim Jackson	11/24
		LeAnn Pilger	11/14	Lois Steilwagon	11/24
Bill Robertson	11/1	John Boley	11/15	Hannah Broman	11/25
Tyler Hedges	11/2	Rich McCormick	11/15	Nancy Reinking	11/25
Jenniece Paris	11/2	Martha Patterson	11/15	Hannah Harders	11/29

September 2010 Income & Expenses	September	YTD
Contributions	\$27,545.72	\$234,767.91
Facility	\$1,200.00	\$15,673.00
Tejon Property Receipts	\$3,500.00	\$31,500.00
Copy Charges	<u>\$288.79</u>	<u>\$1,819.32</u>
Total Income	\$32,534.51	\$283,760.23
Less: Expenses	<u>&lt;\$34,157.04&gt;</u>	<u>&lt;\$303,694.38&gt;</u>
Net Income/<Loss>	<\$1,622.53>	<\$19,934.38>
Transfer from Reserve		<u>\$7000.00</u>
Adjusted income/<Loss>	<\$1,622.53>	<12,934.15>
Special Offerings—WOC	\$1,200.00	
Designated Donations	\$715.00	

The downtown "First Churches" Community Thanksgiving Service will be held on Wednesday, Thanksgiving Eve November 24 at 5:30 pm. at FCC and that childcare will be provided. With more info to follow.



### Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be at First Christian Church on Monday, November 22, 2010 offering five safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and live longer for yourself, your family, and your community, call to register at 1-888-653-6441 or visit [www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners). For only \$149 you can learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease. There is no time like the present to take action!

### Wish List for November

#### Tennyson Center at Colorado Christian Home

Holiday Plates and Napkins  
 Holiday Table Covers  
 Scotch Tape

#### ESM

Thanksgiving Dinner Items

#### IHN

Large Diapers

### Searchers Meeting in November

The Searchers, an FCC Women's Group will hold it's regularly monthly meeting beginning with refreshments in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, November 3 at 1:00, followed by Bible study in the Parlor.



Donna McWhirter is leading the study from *New Day*, "One Person can Make a Difference." Participants are encouraged to read all of lesson 1 on Hunger to prepare for the lesson. Study booklets for the year may be purchased from Donna for \$15.

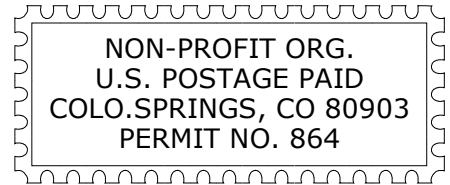
Bring items for donation to Tennyson Center, IHN ditty bags, and greeting cards to recycle. All FCC women are welcome. Questions? Call Jan Haley, President 598-6920.



# First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

16 E Platte Avenue  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903



Return Requested

## 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.

### Norman Heimer

Coordinator of Small Group Ministries

### 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.

## QUILT SALE

OCT 29<sup>TH</sup> ..... 11:00-2:00

OCT 30<sup>TH</sup> ..... 9:00-4:00

OCT 31<sup>ST</sup> ..... 8:00-3:00



### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

16 E. PLATTE (CORNER OF CASCADE / PLATTE)

COLORADO SPRINGS CO

### ITEMS FOR SALE:

*Hand quilted quilts (various sizes)*

*Tied quilts (various sizes)*

*Wall hangings*

*Table runners*

*Table toppers and Misc. items*

