

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR



You Are Welcome Here!

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

Thank you!

On behalf of your whole church staff -- Carol, Ray, Kathe, Diana, Laura, Norman, Nate, and myself -- allow me to say that it is a privilege to serve Christ's mission in this place and amidst this community. And all of your staff are very grateful for your generosity to the Staff Appreciation Fund, and for the lovely and much-appreciated Christmas gift from that fund. Thank you!

Pastor Chuck

Where We Are from Pastor Chuck



When I was a child, my parents had a record album (remember those?) of a comedian from Maine (where they hailed from). There was one joke on that album I especially loved: It seems that a couple of tinkers decided to build a hot air balloon and then launched themselves one fine spring day. As hot air balloons will, it drifted. It drifted a lot. And pretty soon, the two men had no idea where they were. Finally, the balloon was sinking lower and passed over a pasture where a man was standing. One of the men in the balloon yelled down, "WHERE ARE WE?" And the laconic man standing in the pasture yelled right back: "YOU'RE IN A BALLOON, YOUR DURN FOOLS!"

Where is First Christian Church? I ask the question in light of a couple of things: We have a marvelous vision and ministry statement which the church has claimed and which we re-visited in October which calls for us to deepen our spiritual life together, to become people of radical hospitality and joyful generosity, and to grow our worship attendance back to the 300-350 range. Exciting stuff! A second thing: we finished 2010 with a deficit of about \$16,000 in our ongoing annual budget. And, my friends, in one way that is to be *commended*: a 3.8% deficit on an expense budget of close to half a million dollars is to be celebrated – particularly in an era of economic uncertainties and when sister churches around the country are struggling with situations many, many times worse than this. You are a generous people and we have dedicated leadership and staff who seek to live both imaginatively and responsibly amidst the reality of our resources.

In light of these things, the General Board at its November 2010 meeting chose not to seek to put in place a budget for 2011 at that time, but rather approved a "continuing

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 fcccos



Worship Hours

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

- INSIDE
- Where We Are (cont)
- Thank You
- New Class
- Music Notes
- Concert Series
- February Birthdays
- Easter
- CWF
- IHN
- Addie's Kitchen
- Invite
- Picture Directory
- Small Groups
- Outreach
- Income & Expenses
- Welcome

Jesus as Holy Healer of Desire: In Response to God's Love

Do you find your closets, garage, basement and storage shed overflowing? Is your "stuff" beginning to own you? Do you find yourself looking with longing at catalogs and store windows at yet more new stuff? Are your credit cards maxed out or so high that you cannot give all that you want to the church and other causes? If so, you may want to consider whether you need a healing of **diseased desire**. It's a common ailment in our culture. But Christ has the cure. Join fellow sufferers in a Bible study where we will laugh at our foibles and hopefully find some strategies toward a cure.

Barbara Blaisdell
author, facilitator & fellow sufferer

When: Wednesdays @ 9:00 am and 7:00 pm
February 2 through March 2

Where: First Christian Church Parlor

Schedule

SESSION I	Feb. 2	<i>"In Response to God's Love: Clean Out Our Closets"</i> Luke 12: 13-21 (<i>Sermon on the Mount</i>)
SESSION II	Feb. 9	<i>"In Response to God's Love: Be Not Anxious (You're Kidding, Right Lord?)"</i> Luke 12: 22-32 (<i>Sermon on the Mount</i>)
SESSION III	Feb. 16	<i>"This Night Your Stuff Will Demand Your Soul From You"</i> Luke 12:33-34 & Luke 18:18-30 (Rich young ruler)
SESSION IV	Feb. 23	<i>"What Does God Desire?"</i> 1. <i>Our Fear (?)</i> Psalm 111 (see especially verse 10)
SESSION V	Mar. 2	<i>"What Does God Desire?"</i> 2. <i>A Broken and Contrite Heart (?)</i> Psalm 51 (see especially verses 16-17)

Dear Church Family,

I cannot thank you all enough for the cards, email, prayers and other condolences sent at the time of my mother's passing. Your love and concern meant so much to my family and me. I do not know how people get through these things without a church family. I am grateful that you are mine. Blessings and Love, Barbara

Music Notes by Ray Killian



The last half of the year, I concentrated on the use of the arts, in particular music, as components of our worship services.

But why do we worship, and how has that worship changed over the years? I think there is an inherent need to worship in our spirits. We must think on our Creator and our Savior. We need to tune out the noise of the world and turn toward a different sound. For me, that desire wells up on Sundays, or when I view an incredible sunrise or sunset, or just because the desire spontaneously comes over me. After services on Sunday I will occasionally go upstairs, pull out my guitar or favorite choral CD, and continue worshipping our Maker. When I finish a project or a concert, when I think of the beauty that surrounds me here in the Springs, I often do the same.

Today, music can be used to serve as a vehicle for social justice, and in our time there are countless examples.. To that end, I am pleased to announce The Bill May Memorial Concert to be held on a Saturday TBA in April.. The choir will perform *Songs of Children* by Robert Convery. And the free-will offering will go to the Tennyson Center for Children, a cause dear to FCC in no small part due to Bill's passion about the Center.

This collection of nine poems written by children while interned at Terezin Concentration Camp were selected as the lyrics for a cantata composed by Robert Convery in memory of all children who perished in the Holocaust. It was first performed in NYC, April of 1991.

The composer wrote in his notes that the ordering of the poems in the cantata demonstrates a spiritual transformation, beginning with the naive state of entry into the concentration camp, the quick and brutal confrontation with the reality of the camp; a sense of having one's soul stripped from one's body; a cool vision of the reality of the camp; and finally, a transcendence of that reality, an affirmation of life even in the face of certain death.

The cantata is unified musically by use of a cantus firmus, the melody of one song divided to provide a melodic theme for each section. The Jewish folksong of faith the Ani Maamin, the one chanted by the Jews as they marched to the gas chambers, is the cantus firmus and the tune would be recognizable by anyone familiar with this song.

Watch for updates, and please join us in this new adventure.



On Sunday, February 13 at 3:00 p.m., our concert series is presenting a program of chamber music played by members of the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs and friends. Some of the featured works are a Serenade for Winds by Dvorak, Church Sonatas by Mozart for organ and strings, a trio by Rachmaninoff for violin, cello and piano, a trio by Shostakovich for flute, clarinet and piano, and movements of a violin sonata by Cesar Franck. Bring a friend for an afternoon of delightful music. A free will offering will be taken.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

	Joan Arnold	2/8	Anneliese Dickman	2/19	
	Jeanmarie Prohaski	2/10	Phil Rollins	2/19	
	Nancy Freeman	2/11	Marsha Bishop	2/20	
	John Bryan	2/12	Susan Griswold	2/20	
	Brady Fowler	2/13	Kerry Johnson	2/20	
	Todd Metz	2/13	Lonnie Hamilton	2/21	
Suzanne King	2/2	RaeLee Smith	2/13	Shelby Morgan	2/22
Norma Driskill	2/3	Harold Carroll	2/14	Nancy Lingbloom	2/24
Ian Dodd	2/7	Tom Cline	2/18	Wanda Woods	2/26
Jessica Horn	2/7	Paula Carnell	2/19	Bart Johnson	2/27

Easter Basket Items Needed !

Already! The Searcher Women's Group will be making as many Easter baskets as we can gather supplies for to give through Christian Women United. Last year we made seventy five and would love to top that as the need is greater this year.



And we need supplies for FCC's own Easter Egg Eggstravaganza for the children.

And for the children to make baskets for our shut-ins.

A collection Easter basket will be in Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations are welcome. Make checks to FCC designated for Easter baskets. Mark envelope with same designation for cash.

Wanted list: Either new or in great condition items

- Easter Baskets, buckets, sports baskets: medium size baskets
- Easter grass,
- medium and small basket covers and ribbon
- Individually wrapped Easter candy
- Plastic Easter eggs
- medium and small stuffed Easter animals
- coloring books, crayons, children's books puzzles, pencils, spiral notebooks,
- small toys such as trucks and cars, balls, or girly things for young to older elementary age.
- Larger toys and Easter fun items may be used as appropriate for seniors in shut-in gift baskets, older boys and girls, younger and very young boys and girls, and even babies.



We will find a special use for all the wonderful items you share with us to spread a Happy Easter message this year.

Thank you. Jan Haley, Searchers President

Rebekah Disciples Women Group will meet Tuesday, February 1st @ 7:00 pm for their continuing bible study of *Revelations*. We will pack the annual goodie boxes for the college students. Please bring small items for 10 boxes. Call Ginny Grant for location.

Searchers Disciples Women Group will meet Wednesday, February 2nd @ 1:00 PM for their bible study, "One Person *Can* Make a Difference". They will assemble Easter Baskets for Church Women United.



Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Wednesday, February 2nd @ 11:00 am for prayer and fellowship. 13 shawls have been created and given to console those who are grieving, comfort those who are ill, bring hope to those in despair and to celebrate life and its milestones. We have some interest from quilters to make lap robes for this ministry. If you feel that you may have a heart for this ministry, we welcome you. Donations to purchase yarn are also welcome.

Slimnastics and Tai Chi will meet each Thursday in February at 12:00 pm.

TOTS will meet the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of February at Grace St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.



Card Sharks will start Saturday, February 5th @ 9:30 am. We will learn to make Valentine Cards.

Piece Makers will meet again on Saturday, February 5th @ 1:00 pm. We will learn to appliqué on a quilt.

Quilting Group will meet Thursdays, February 10th and 24th @ 9:30 am.



Chicks With Sticks – Crochet girls will meet Saturday, February 19th at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Participants are asked to bring scrap yarn and crochet hooks. Knitters have not set a date.

Treasurers by Hand will meet again on Saturday, February 19th @ 10:00 am. Bring a brown bag lunch. We will make some more switch plates. Here is a great way to make some "jewelry" for your house! Watch out – told you that once you decorated one switch plate all the rest would cry out to be decorated too! Want to join us?



Chick Flickers will meet in February 26th @ 1:00 pm for dinner and a movie in Fellowship Hall. We will see "Princess Bride".

Dough Girls will meet Sunday, February 27th in the afternoon to learn to make Appetizers/Hors d'œuvres. Please sign up with Sue Hesser.

Red Hatters will meet in February. Date TBD

Heart Whisperers – ongoing prayers for Girlfriends Women's Ministry. We do not meet but communicate through email. We also pray for special requests made through the Girlfriends events.

The 14th annual **Hearts for the Homeless Luncheon and Silent Auction** is coming up soon! Sunday, February 13th at noon, Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of Colorado Springs and its many supporters will gather at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for fellowship and to support families with children who are in homeless situations.

The price for the luncheon is \$35 a person, or \$250 for a table of eight. The reservation deadline is Monday, February, 7th. Telephone reservations will be accepted with credit card information by calling IHN at 329-1244. For further information, visit www.ihn-cos.org.

The emcee for the event is Will Stoller-Lee, Director of the Colorado Regional Campus of Fuller Theological Seminary. Will is quite active in the community, and his family volunteers in support of IHN families staying at his home congregation. Our guest speaker and singer, AriElla Rivka Annais, is a recent graduate of the IHN program. She recently completed training and licensing in Massage Therapy, S.M.T., and opened her practice here in the Springs. AriElla has performed as a professional singer and will share her talent at our gathering.

If you would like to be a Heart's event sponsor, donate an auction item, or purchase an ad in the 2011 Hearts for the Homeless Program book, please contact IHN at 329-1244.

Addie's Kitchen by Addie Sale

Next Freezer Meals/Addie's Kitchen is scheduled for January 29th from 3:00 to 6:00 pm in the Church Kitchen. We will have a pot luck at the end if you can stay and join us. You can sign up at church, with Addie at church on January 16th or 23rd or email Addie at jasale@comcast.net. We will also be creating a email distribution list for those folks interested. You can email Addie or let her know if you would like to be on that list.



The meals we are preparing for January are:

- * Margarita Pork Chops - Pork loin chops marinated in Margarita mix.
- * Island Rice - Rice cooked with dried pineapple and other ingredients. Goes great with the Margarita Pork Chops
- * Ham Loaf - Jeff's family recipe which is like a meat loaf but made with ground ham and pork.
- * Man, Oh Manicotti - We will make our own manicotti for this one which are like crepes.
- * Chicken Cordon Bleu - Chicken breasts stuffed with ham and cheese and breaded.
- * Apple Crisp - Apples with a crispy topping.

Hope you can join us! Addie Sale



GOOD GRIEF - Gay's turning 70! It's a Birthday Party!

We would like to invite family and friends to join us for this momentous celebration. Please 'save the date' - March 5, 2011.

Hosts: Diana, Geoff, Kim, Mike, Laura & Caleb Hatler

Phone: 719-528-8275

When: Saturday, March 5, 2011 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Where: Gay and Diana Hatler's Home

5920 Ridge Brook Lane

Colorado Springs, CO 80918

*No gifts please - just your presence

PHOTOGRAPHER COMING TO FCC FOR OUR 2011 CHURCH DIRECTORY

WHEN: Tuesday through Friday,
March 1 - 4, 2:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **and**
Saturday, March 6, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Fellowship Hall at FCC.

HOW: Appointments ONLY - Schedule early for optimum choice!

Self-serve link to appointment calendar will be on our church homepage:

www.firstchristiancos.org

Or call Nancy Haley - 471-7330

or Betty Baker - 633-2350

TIME COMMITMENT: 1 hour to check in, be

professionally photographed, immediately view your portraits, and have an opportunity to purchase additional portraits

COST: No sitting fee plus 1 free 8x10 for each family plus 1 free directory (again, with the opportunity to purchase additional portraits, if desired)

IDEAS: We are very flexible with **personal** portraits. You may wish to include grandchildren, a favorite pet, multi-generational groups, etc.

Just let us know!

FCC Small Groups by Norman Heimer Norman@firstchristiancos.org

One of the goals of the small group ministry is to provide a center for social relationships in the church. In an earlier discussion with Pastor Chuck, he pointed out that research suggests that in a larger church, people identify with the church's vision/mission as it is expressed primarily in worship/preaching, but their relationship needs are primarily met in small groups. We are trying to satisfy this need for relationships in the church by identifying and developing small groups that may be either primarily focused on spiritual development or on social interactions.

The small groups that are currently meeting at FCC are the Sunday School classes (the Chapel Class, the Seekers and the Potpourri Class), the Dinner for 8 (2 groups meeting at residences and one larger group that meets at restaurants) the Men's Prayer Breakfast, the Rebecca Group, the Searchers, the Chancel and Hand Bell Choirs, TOTS, Slimnastics/Tai Chi, the Quilting Group, Parents Night Out, the Red Hat Group and Addie's Kitchen. The most recent set of groups have been generated as part of the Women's Ministry Program by Lenna Fajerman with the Girlfriends Unlimited approach. The Girlfriends Unlimited groups currently meeting are: Card Sharks, Piece Makers, Chicks with Sticks, Treasurers by Hand, Sweet Secrets, Dough Girls, Heart Whisperers, Chick Flickers and Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The meeting schedules for and more information on these groups may be found on the FCC web site, <http://www.firstchristiancos.org/>. If you are interested in one of these groups or have a suggestion for another group that could be formed, contact the church office or me, Norman@firstchristiancos.org.

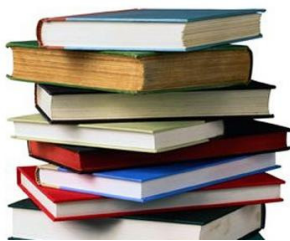
New Opportunity for Outreach by Debbie Metz

The Mission & Outreach committee, after meeting with Shirley Stevens, Principal of Lincoln Elementary, has moved forward with a commitment to partner with the school. This is a school not far from the church.

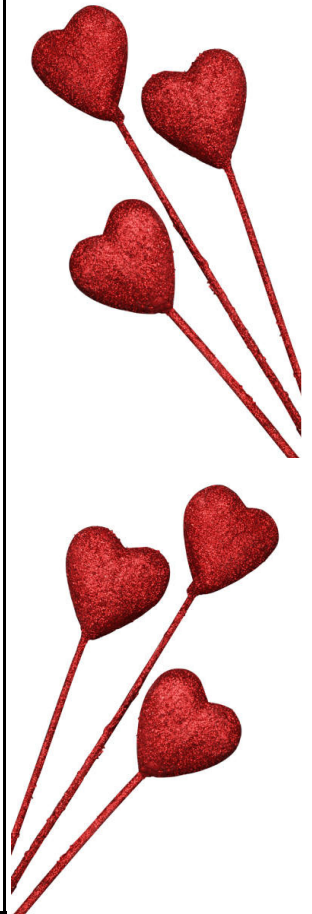
Lincoln Elementary is located on north Cascade Ave. just south of Filmore St. about a block. This is an elementary school with a population with high needs. Lincoln has an enrollment of 200 students at this time with about 63% of those students on free or reduced lunch. They also have 17 identifies homeless families with students at the school.

Mrs. Stevens shared with us many ways in which we as a congregation or as individuals could support the school. We have already provided them with some of our wonderful meals from "Addie's Kitchen" and have taken steps to help with a book display project in the front hallway of the school.

This is an opportunity for us as a congregation to really make a difference in the lives of children and their families in our downtown community. So keep your eyes and ears open for more opportunities for us to reach out as we continue to communicate with the school.



December 2010 Income & Expenses	DECEMBER		YTD
	Contributions	\$28,462.70	\$322,806.94
Facility	\$425.00	\$18,748.00	
Tejon Property Receipts	\$6,213.03	\$47,435.44	
Copy Charges	<u>\$146.69</u>	<u>\$2,160.82</u>	
Total Income	\$35, 247.42	\$391.151.20	
Less: Expenses	<u><\$37,110.88></u>	<u><\$400,464.31></u>	
Net Income/<Loss>	<\$1,863.46>	<\$16,313.11>	
Transfer from Reserve		<u>\$7,000.00</u>	
Adjusted income/<Loss>	<\$1,863.46>	<\$9,313.11>	
Special Offerings—WOC	\$100.00		
- Christmas	\$1,298.00		
- ESM	\$935.00		
- Tennyson Center	\$1,010.00		
Designated Donations	\$5,915.06		



Wish List for January

Tennyson Center at Colorado Christian Home

Red Construction Paper
Zip-Loc Bags
Tums

ESM

Canned Soups

Urban Peak

Thick Warm Socks
Handwarmers
Blankets clean or new

Welcome to our newest members



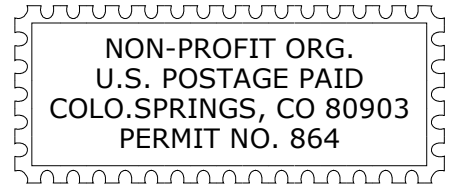
Tracy and Kermit Van Zee



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.

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.



Interfaith Hospitality Network
cordially invites you to the 14th annual

Hearts FOR THE Homeless

Luncheon & Silent Auction
Sunday, February 13, 2011 - 12PM

*Celebrating 15 years of providing hope and
hospitality to homeless families with children.*



Emcee - Will Stoller-Lee
Director, Fuller Theological Seminary
Colorado Springs

Keynote - AriElla Rivka Annais
Singer, Speaker, Massage Therapist
& IHN Graduate

Crowne Plaza Hotel
2886 South Circle Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Reservation deadline
Monday, February 7, 2011

For more information, please call (719) 329-1244 or visit www.ihn-cos.org.