

THE E- COMMUNICATOR

Our ministry...extravagant **W**elcome, openness to **W**onder,
positive and proactive **W**itness to the possibility of a just world.

JULY 2011

Maintaining Financial Transparency

By Polly Strovink, Treasurer



We've completed a second successful audit, with no material weaknesses. Congratulations to Ruth and Christy, whose hard work throughout the year in preparation for the audit led to these good results. The auditors have made suggestions for further strengthening our processes, which we are implementing. Our goal is to ensure that the handling of your donations is always above reproach.

The audited financial statements, which are available in the office for review, allow us to apply for more grants. The Project Management Team is currently in the process of applying for several of these grants requiring audited financials. Many thanks go to them as well for their careful stewardship of our resources and the excellent work in bringing projects in on time and under budget.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Polly Strovink at polly.strovink@usa.com.

Seven Pillars Fellowship Honors Legacy Donors

By Jennifer Malenky, Planned Giving Committee Chair



Ralph and Siri Everett were the gracious hosts for this year's Seven Pillars Fellowship dinner, held May 20th. Twenty guests were recognized for their visionary contributions to the mission and ministries of FCC. Members of the Seven Pillars Fellowship comprise those who have made a planned gift to the church in their will or estate plans. In the first five months of this year, five households have notified FCC of their decision to include the church in their legacy plans, and three of these new legacy members were in attendance at the annual dinner.

Polly Strovink and Nancy Henjum, Church Council Treasurer and Moderator respectively, welcomed guests and expressed appreciation for their willingness to plan for their personal legacy and to include the church in those plans. Lead Minister Benjamin Broadbent shared that he and Brooke had only recently become aware of the need to create wills and, upon reflecting on the twelve years of loving community their family had experienced at FCC, had included a bequest to the church in their plans. New fellowship members Karen & Steve Brown shared that in re-doing their wills to account for the fact that their children are now grown, they also decided to remember FCC with a bequest.

Have you considered leaving a legacy in this important way for the future needs of our church community? Making a planned gift is easier than you may think! You can designate the church as a beneficiary in your life insurance plan, as one example, with the simple completion of a beneficiary designation form.

Thought about leaving a contribution to FCC in your will? Check out www.fcucc.org to access helpful tools from PhilanthroCorp, such as the Estate Plan Organizer that takes you step-by-step through the process of creating your estate plan. Contact Ruth Roland at the church office (635-3549) for more information.



Left to right -Siri & Ralph Everett, hosts. Sylvia Wesche & Marcy McNeill, Legacy Donors. Left to right Jane Ridings & Ruth Roland, Legacy Donors & Nancy Henjum, Church Council Moderator.

Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build

By Rick Purinton, Mission Giving & Outreach Committee Member



As many of you know, First Congregational Church is a partner in the 2011 Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build. We're joining with ten local churches (Calvary United Methodist, First United Methodist, Holy Apostles Catholic, Holy Trinity Anglican, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic, St. Michael's Episcopal, St. Patrick Roman Catholic, Sunrise United Methodist, Tri-Lakes Chapel, and Wilson United Methodist) to help build a home for a deserving low-income family right here in our community. Pikes Peak Habitat for Humanity offers the opportunity for us to put "our faith into action and promote self sufficiency and affordable housing."

During the June 12th services, we were introduced to this year's designated recipient of the Apostles Build home. Special kudos to Del Hokanson for involving the family in an interactive house building project. In fact, their children had so much fun that they wanted to stay and participate in the 11:00 Sunday school class.



The Apostles Build began on May 1st at the Woodmen Vistas site (near Woodmen and Powers) with a Ground Blessing Ceremony and will continue through the remainder of the year. Habitat hopes to finish construction in December so the family can move in by Christmas. FCC has been assigned the following Saturday work dates: May 28th, July 30th, Aug 20th, Oct 1st, and Nov 12th. Volunteers will perform various tasks such as framing, siding, insulation, roofing, etc.

It's such a blessing to be part of this incredible outreach project and to follow Jesus' example of loving our neighbor. Thanks so much for the overwhelming eagerness to help with the Apostles Build.

FCC volunteers include: Angie Adams, Shawn Ahlers, Cami Bengel, Rita Cardin, Sara Doud, Mickella Duffy-Webb, Penny Edyvean, Royce Field, Carol Fuhrer, John Fuller, Peggy Fuller, Andi Greco, Tay Greco, Ardith Hanson, Nancy Henjum, Taryn Hill, Char Holderby, Suzanne Holland, Jen Jarry, Heather Jensen, Teresa Latimer, Benita Martinez, Cindy Nath, Pam Palmer, Laura Pfender, Sue Predinger, Rick Purinton, Mary Jane Ray, Drew Robinson, John Snyder, and Sandy Termeer.

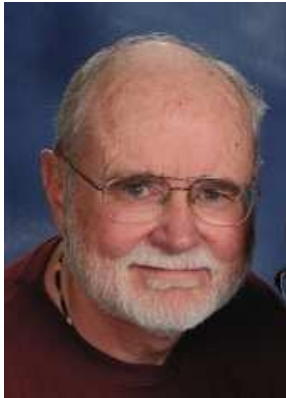
I'd also like to express my gratitude for the Church Council's generous gift of supplying Habitat t-shirts for all of the volunteers and for the special summer collection led by the children.

Hope to see you on the construction site! Look for Serene on the morning shift. She's usually out there every Saturday.

With sincere appreciation,
Your Mission Giving & Outreach Committee
Contact: Rick Purinton rpurinton27@msn.com

First Congregational Church Celebrated Juneteenth

By Mike Matthews, Communications & Marketing Committee



Nearly a dozen members of First Congregational Church helped celebrate a spirited Juneteenth 2011, themed "It Takes a Village," on the Quad on the campus of Colorado College on Saturday, June 18th. FCC members and friends participating in the event were Sid Shelton, Charles Barber, Margery Layton, Marsha Garcia, Miriam Giese, Mary Jane Ray, Jerusha Goebel, Lori Pinello, Mike Matthews, Linda LeMieux and Richard Grebenstein. First Congregational Church was a \$1000 platinum sponsor of the event.

The Church's event booth featured a lovely poster designed and named "It takes a Village" by Margery Layton and her daughter, Marsha Garcia. There were origami demonstrations, Prayer Shawl knitting, knitting tips and lessons for the children, and face painting. Our event tent attracted and was a big response from the kids in the crowd.

Juneteenth honors the freedom of black Americans and seeks to unite all cultures in the community, according to the Colorado Springs Branch of the NAACP, which sponsored this year's 10th annual event. Juneteenth included entertainment, soul food, local justice advocacy groups, and arts and crafts vendors.

Juneteenth 2011

Colorado College Campus



Pictures taken at the Colorado College Campus at the First Congregational Church
Top Middle, Valencia painting her own face, Right, Rosemary Harris Lytle presenting a plaque to Richard Grebenstein on behalf of First Congregational Church \$1000 platinum sponsorship, Posters made by Marsha 1000 cranes and "It takes a Village." Knitting lessons, Origami demonstrations making cranes for peace with the traditional art of paper folding, face painting by Lori, made a great day for the kids at the event.

Home Town Nazareth Vacation Bible School



Garden of the Gods

I am down in a flat land, where the crickets are chirping
With a soft breeze of the wind, it makes it so, peaceful.
The clouds are covering me like a blanket on a cold winter night.
The little sounds of airplanes and cars make me feel happy.
The birds squawking and voices electrifying are so calm.
The sun is now out and I can feel the nice warmth like in my nice cozy
bed on a rainy summer night.
Everyone around me, quietly drawing or writing is so amazing.
The Kissing Camels right behind me and the one patch of flowers in
front of me.
All of this makes me think how the Gods made this Majesty.
~ Richie Flores

The collage pictures were taken at First Congregational Church and the Garden of Gods on June 6 – 10. On Friday of the Vacation Bible School, Children wrote their reflections. Richie Flores reflection featured, was written in the Garden of the Gods.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

By Rev. Dr. Jacque Franklin, Associate Minister



Within the last month, from May 22 – June 22, we have experienced confirmation graduates expressing their faith, leading and planning worship; congratulations to all the graduates of High School and College; celebration for our Kindergarten and First Graders, Fifth and Sixth Graders who participated in age-appropriate, faith-grounded, comprehensive sexuality education programs called Our Whole Lives (OWL). We had Vacation Bible School where 37 children experienced what it might be like to live during the first century during Jesus' time. There have been three baptisms; a membership orientation luncheon; and a New Member Joining. Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday. Thirteen youth and 3 adults experienced a three day mission trip to Denver's DOOR. Breathe.

It has been a busy month of May and June. All this is possible through God's Spirit at work in the leadership of staff and volunteers. There are so many volunteers represented in these events

that I cannot name them all. If a name is inadvertently left off please let us know so that we can correct it.

THANKS... to the 2011 Confirmation Class for a beautiful worship experience - **Julia Elizabeth Beebe, *Marisa Erin Cardin, William Campbell Clark, Katherine Hannah Henjum, Taryn Holland Hill, *Emily Ruth Jones, *Justin Lee La Bard, *Mikaela Ann Lansberry, Amanda Vita Maria Lawson, *Melissa Rose Marten, *Lauren Nicole Palarino, *D.J. Lindsey Stanec, *Catherine Jean Steinbach-Payne and *Jillian Ann Sundman** for participating and sharing their faith journey. (Asterisk represents those who have chosen to confirm their baptismal vows). The following were their mentors who met with them once a month to discuss faith questions and experience the class - **Angie Adams, Kathy Lindeman, Del Hokanson, Jenny Finn, Karin Henriksen, Jane Gazal, Richard Grebenstein, Kandiss Horsch, Rosemary Harris Lytle, Shannon Kilzer, Marti Booth, Ted Lindeman, Kristin Stanec, Carol Fields. Jocelyn Bakkemo & Paul Brookens** were present for most of the classes and retreats to help assist and affirm our young people. The worship musicians for Confirmation Sunday were **Steve Kern & Ann Rule.**

Other worship volunteers were; **Rev. Jim White, Wes Burnett, Judith Rice Jones, Luke Cammack, Rev. Lyn Boudreau, Rose Mary Clark, & Rev. Burl Kreps.** Lyn Boudreau offered her musical talent for worship. **Colorado College Summer Music Festival Musicians** delighted us with their musicianship. **Phyllis White, Ann Rule, Joyce Hanagan, and Frank Shelton** played a Trio Continuo....

Sunday School was supported by; **Sylvia Strubel, Donna Kovac, Mary Frances Kerr, Chris Starr, Janis Hahn, Beth Garrison- Kemp, Fawn Bell, Jill Cameron. Chris & Wilma Steenbergen** for Vacation Bible School set up; 27 adults & 7 teens who guided 35 VBS participants. **Elise Rayner** led "Godly Play" for our littlest folk in the nursery.

Our summer offering is taken for Habitat for Humanity's Apostles Build. Thanks to the families who have assisted in collecting change and bills for the effort to build a home for the Hamilton - Toney family. Thanks to all who have signed on to help with the labor of building this home. And thanks to Mission Giving and Outreach for sponsoring this great event.

Others we wish to recognize are; **Acacia Dinner Volunteers** served 167 dinners on Sun, May 22; **Steve Getty & Barry Olesen-Phelps** installed a rope trellis on the south wall of The Dwelling Place; **Sharon Stine** planted flowers in the pots outside the glass Atrium doors; **Nancy Lippincott**, our Parish Nurse, and **Jocelyn Bakkemo**, our Chaplain Intern visited while Pastor Jacque was on a medical leave; Council Member for Care & Fellowship, **Connie Raub**, represented FCC at the Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (80 UCC churches in UT, WY & CO).

The DOOR mission trip, 6/19, 20 & 21, included **Joel Francis, Joe Sciallo, Missy Marten, Mikaela Lansberry, Mickella Duffy-Web, Kyle Smith, Peter Rule, Justin La Bard, Isaac Laffey, Annika Birnbaum, Jillian Sundman, Sydney Sandberg, Marissa Cardin** and their adult leaders **Lisa Birnbaum, Joe Sciallo Sr and Tom Francis.** The DOOR stands for Discovering Opportunities Outreach and Reflection. Our missionaries worked for disadvantaged folks at Denver's outreach missions by painting, playing with children, inviting neighbors to a Hip Hop concert, gathered orders at the food bank.

Juneteenth celebration took place on the Colorado College quad on June 18. Following volunteers represented FCUCC with a table and handouts as well as sponsoring the Juneteenth celebration through our advocacy dollars. **Richard Grebenstein, Linda Lemieux, Margery Layton, Sid Shelton, Marcia Garcia, Lori Pinello, Mike Matthews, Mary Jane Ray, Miriam Giese, Jerusha Goebel and Charles Barber.**

PRAYERS FOR... **David Bribach** recovered after a hospital stay. **Jacque Franklin**, our Associate Minister, **Ruth Lehmkuhl, Susan Holman** and **Bob Murray** continue their recovery from surgery. Nancy **Wenzlau, Linda Stevens**, and **Bill Taylor** are undergoing Chemo treatment. **Betty Lyn Mahaffy** suffered broken ribs from a fall and is on the mend.

CONDOLENCES TO... the families of **David Mora Jr.** and **Elsie Pope**, following recent Memorial Services at our church. **Angela Morgan** lost her mother, **Ursula Ulbrich** who died

6/13. Her service was held in Salt Lake City, Utah. **Denise Ellsworth** lost her brother-in-law **Dr. Larry Hadley** of Norwalk, Ohio. **Natalie** and **Brent Morris** & family lost their niece tragically. **CONGRATULATIONS TO... Jocelyn Bakkemo**, in her ordination process, now "In Care" of the Southeastern Association of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ. **Casey Welch** happily retired June 30 from her work as a medical librarian. **WELCOME... David Wilson** who moved back to Colorado Springs in Assisted Living. Welcome to all our new members introduced on 6/26; **Brenda Brown* & Glenda White***; **Ann Denn & Lauren McNair** ; **Kathryn Eastburn , Taryn Hill* & Suzanne Holland***; **Charles Kovac & Donna Santistevan Kovac** ; **Glenn Marshall* & Kirk Wohlhueter***; **Jerry & Carole Mason**; **Carline Snell and Jill Wright.** (***In absentia**) **Shirley Skirvan** introduced the new members to the congregation representing the Membership Committee.

EDITOR NOTES:

The E-Communicator invites articles, notices, and letters relevant to the life of our congregation. Submissions may be edited for length, clarity, and correctness. Opinions expressed by writers do not necessarily reflect official FCC policy. For the next installment, please make submissions no later than Friday, July 17, 2011. Article submissions should be 500 words or less. Please use Times New Roman 12-point font and left-justify your submission. Suggest a title for your article and include the author's information (name, church role, and additional contact information). If at all possible, please include your article already typed up as a Word attachment in your e-mail message.

The remaining two parts of the "How DO We Eat" series in the Health Ministry Committee's column will be in the September & October issues.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER (THE COMMUNICATOR) is taking a two-month vacation Jul – Aug while the Communications & Marketing Team regroups (see Layout Editor volunteer opportunity below). As the need to communicate never takes a vacation, watch your inbox for expanded versions of the weekly email blast or contact the church office to receive printed versions.

LAYOUT EDITOR sought for church newsletter (The Communicator). Volunteer job description available in church office, and/or contact **Sid Shelton**, Vice Moderator, at sshel0684@aol.com

CHURCH & COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Logo

Join us for these events sponsored by
***The Hymn Society in the United States and
Canada***

Monday July 18

Hymn Festival, 7:30 pm

"A Heart to Praise Our God: Celebrating Lesbian & Gay Poets & Composers"

First Congregational Church

20 E. St. Vrain St.

All events are free and open to the public

ONA SUMMER FILM SERIES

5 great movies this summer



The film series is beginning Fri, Jul 22, 6:00 (potluck), 6:30pm (film) to raise awareness among members and friends about issues surrounding our open & affirming stance as a church & to raise awareness that we can be doing more as Christians to work for Justice. First movie is *Mambo Italiano*. Go to the www.fcucc.org/outreach/openandaffirming for a list of the movies.

Information: **Trey Austin** treyfrog3@gmail.com

THE GOSPEL EXPLOSION CONCERT

The Gospel EXPLOSION
Coming together to educate, recreate and elevate youth in our community.

SUNDAY
July 24, 2011
5:00 PM
Box Office and Doors Open: 4:00 PM

CITY Auditorium

FEATURING
Various Gospel Choirs
Dancers and Mime

CITY AUDITORIUM
221 East Kiowa Street

ADMISSION
\$10/person

PRE-CONCERT VIP PASS
2:00-4:00 PM at Weber Street Center
\$20/person includes meal and concert admission

Free event parking is available ONLY at the First Presbyterian Church and YMCA Parking Garages.

Ticket Pre-sales (CASH ONLY)
City Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Sports Office, 1315 E. Pikes Peak Ave.
Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Proceeds benefit the City of Colorado Springs Youth & Community Programs.

A photograph of a diverse group of young people of various ethnicities and ages, all smiling and holding their hands together in a circle, symbolizing unity and community.

QUESTIONS
385-6005 or 482-0446
www.springsgov.com/GospelExplosion



Contact Rick Purinton for tickets 638-1591

SUMMER TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE



Taizé
Taizé Prayer Worship in the tradition of the Taizé Community.

All is prayer in a Taizé Service.
Music... Reading... Silence.
A safe, sacred space...
A time to be enfolded in
God's Love...
A time to be blessed
and healed...
All are welcome...
Please come.

**Summer
Taizé Prayer
Services**
**Thursday
June 23rd
& July 28
7:00 PM**
(Gathering Chants Begin at 6:50 PM)
**First Congregational
Church Sanctuary**

 **FIRST CHURCH**
20 East Saint Vrain Street, Colorado Springs, 719.635.3549 www.fcucc.org

WOMENS SPIRITUALITY & FLY FISHING RETREAT

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY & FLY-FISHING RETREAT

August 2-3, 2011

John Wesley Ranch/11-Mile Canyon
Led by Anthony Surage & Jim White
Anglers Covey Guides, Colorado Springs

Anyone who has read Norman Maclean's novella,
A River Runs Through It, knows the line,
"In our family, there is no clear line
between religion and fly fishing."

In Anthony Surage's and Jim White's experience, there is
remarkable congruity between fly-fishing and spirituality.
We'd like to explore this idea while teaching basic fly-fishing
to women on an overnight retreat this summer.



You are invited to cast
and contemplate with us!

Reserve your Place by contacting
Anthony Surage suragea1@aol.com
Jim White jwildenwhite@yahoo.com

Lodging, Meals, Gear & Instruction \$100.00

ALL-CHURCH FAMILY CAMPOUT

Friday, August 26 - Sunday, August 28, 2011

All-Church CampOut! is for EVERYONE!

singles ★ couples ★ families ★ kids ★ teens ★ grandparents



★ What is All-Church CampOut!?

A fabulous weekend of fun, fresh air
and fellowship at the beautiful
La Foret Retreat Center
in the Black Forest!



★ What is there to do at All-Church CampOut!?

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| karaoke & dancing | swimming | campfire |
| game night | hanging out | worship service |
| bike ride | frisbee golf | kickball game |
| walk the labyrinth | parachute games | heated cabins |
| talent show | relaxing | yurts for teens |
| capture the flag | ice cream float party | and so much more! |



★ Who should go to All-Church CampOut!?

You! Register today!



July Birthdays

7/1 Sara Flint
 7/1 Kris Jones
 7/2 Evelyn Howard
 7/2 Lenore Poulson
 7/2 Alan Severn
 7/3 Bill Budington
 7/3 Larry Patzer
 7/3 Tarren Morris
 7/3 Meredith Simmons
 7/5 Janice Simonton
 7/5 Keith Szentes
 7/6 Karen Brown
 7/6 Jill Robinson
 7/6 Linda Margrave
 7/7 Julia Beebe
 7/8 Lauren Palarino
 7/9 Joel Simmons
 7/10 Ben Finch
 7/10 Bill Taylor
 7/10 Becky Parrinella
 7/11 Jane Ridings
 7/11 Lily Dashiell-Mooney
 7/11 Sean Kennedy
 7/11 Cameron Bridgmon
 7/12 Nancy Henjum
 7/12 Eli Harper
 7/12 Kai Rayner
 7/13 Ron Tidball
 7/13 Gigi Holman
 7/13 David Law
 7/13 Bebe Santa-Wood
 7/13 Ben Kiley
 7/14 Debbie Sagen
 7/14 Alex Kurbegov
 7/15 Wilma Steenbergen
 7/15 Chris Carlson
 7/15 Shawn Cardin
 7/16 Chad Glang
 7/16 Rose Mary Clark
 7/16 Isaac Laffely
 7/16 BreeAnn Escobar
 7/17 Nancy Forgy
 7/17 Sara Doud
 7/17 Suzanne Laffely
 7/17 Dylan Harris
 7/18 Novi Hofflander
 7/19 Lori Goodwin
 7/21 Shirley Wick
 7/21 Greg Glick
 7/22 Jason Shick
 7/22 KC Rodman
 7/22 Jordan Purinton
 7/23 Ismael Rodriguez
 7/23 Skyler Kovac
 7/24 Frank Shelton Sr
 7/24 Ruth Connell
 7/24 Jon Thomas
 7/24 David Bailey
 7/25 Faye Gallegos
 7/25 Karen Yuan
 7/25 Greg Kennedy
 7/26 Jen Grimmett
 7/27 Katie Martins
 7/27 Shelby Smith
 7/28 Carolyn Johnson
 7/28 Jonathan Pease
 7/29 Dolores Eager
 7/29 Nicholas Huger
 7/30 Thurmon Seright
 7/30 Chelley Gardner-Smith
 7/30 Bridget Duffy

July Anniversaries

7/2 June & Kenneth Hallenbeck
 7/2 Evelyn & Bob Howard
 7/3 Marta & Gordon McKay
 7/5 Karen & Steve Brown
 7/8/ Sylvia & Jim Strubel
 7/9 Julie Kiley & Mark Schaefer
 7/9 Pat & Larry Patzer
 7/10 Teresa & Bruce Latimer
 7/10 Beth Reasoner & Laura Pfender
 7/16 Shannon & Stu Kilzer
 7/16 Mandy Todd Moore & Mark Moore
 7/16 Kelly & Rick Smith
 7/17 Deborah & Nick Palarino
 7/18 Alyssa & Bubba Schultz
 7/21 Gigi & Benjamin Holman
 7/23 Dorothy & Hans Krimm
 7/23 Chris & Warren Pease
 7/24 Chris Carlson & Marty Wolf
 7/25 Kristin & Scott Stanec

JULY WORSHIP

Services in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

July 3 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion at both services and welcome guest preacher, the Rev. Wes Mullins, Pastor of The Metropolitan Community Church of Colorado Springs, preaching on Romans 7:15-8:1, a sermon on "Radical Grace."

July 10 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Benjamin Broadbent returns from study leave in Chicago to preach a sermon on Genesis 25:19-34 entitled "A House Divided."

July 17 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost – PrideFest Sunday

Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon entitled "What the Bible Does and Doesn't Say," drawing upon the life, witness, and scholarship of the late Rev. Dr. Peter J. Gomes, author of *The Good Book*.

July 24 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost – Flute Choir

Our Flute Choir, directed by Phyllis White, shares music at both services and Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon on Genesis 29:15-28 entitled "Weaving the Future."

July 28 – Thursday – Monthly Service of Taize Prayer – 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**July 31 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost – Folk Music Sunday**

Our annual Folk Music Sunday focuses on social justice and Rev. Broadbent preaches a sermon on Genesis 32:22-31 entitled "It's Hard to Say, I'm Sorry."

Coming in August... Jazz Sunday, Visioning Process, All-Church CampOut!