

Save the Date!

September 4-7	Camping Trip
September 11-13	Women's Retreat
September 12	Block Party
September 18-20	Men's Retreat
September 23-27	Shiprock New Mexico Mission Trip
October 12-17	Phone/Address Directory Photography
October 12-20	Venezuela Medical Mission Trip
November 1-7	Room at the Inn Hosted by FCC

Navajo Golf Tournament

For the past 14 years the Christian Churches of Northern Colorado and Denver have sponsored a golf tournament to underwrite the cost of materials for the annual Navajo Mission Trip to Shiprock, New Mexico. The 2009 Tournament will be held on Saturday, August 15th, at Cattail Creek Golf Course in Loveland, Colorado. The registration fee is only \$45.00 per golfer. For that \$45.00 you get to play nine holes of golf, have lunch, win a prize and help support an important mission project.



Remember the Mission Trip, which will take place September 23-27.

Monthly Publication of
First Christian Church
Greeley, Colorado

The Christian Caller

970/352-1292

www.fccgreeley.com

Rev. Tim Bobbitt, Senior Minister

Rev. C. fester Coffee-Prose, Associate Minister

Our Vision: First Christian Church - called by Christ's transforming grace and love to share hope and life in community.

Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ

Minimum Wage

Linda Hanson

Never take advantage of poor and destitute laborers, whether they are fellow Israelites or foreigners living in your towns. You must pay them their wages each day before sunset because they are poor and are counting on it. If you don't, they might cry out to the Lord against you, and it would be counted against you as sin. Deuteronomy 24: 14-15

My co-workers at Christian Development Commission are worried. The Honduran government has raised minimum wage. The previous minimum wage of 3500 L. (\$184) a month, yes A MONTH, has been raised by almost 60% to \$290 a month. The move by the president was designed to help those workers at the bottom of the economic ladder: the cleaning women, the store clerks, and the security guards. It is fair and just to raise the minimum wage. The price of food has skyrocketed. Fuel to cook food is still extremely expensive. Even \$290 a month is a bottom of the barrel existence that allows families to just barely scrape by.

But, the effects have been devastating. Small businesses can't afford the new wages and there have been massive layoffs. This morning at 7 am. there were more than 500 people lined up at the door of the Labor Department, workers who had been laid off, seeking the official paper from the government stating how much their employees owed them. Ten thousand are projected to be laid off from the factories in San Pedro Sula. These are not small businesses, but multinational corporations making cheap clothing for us back in the US, companies that could afford an increase in wages. I'm not sure which is more appalling, having 10,000 people laid off, or realizing that 10,000 people were making less than \$290 a month.

So, my co-workers are worried. They are frightened to go to work next Monday, fearing they, too, will receive the "white envelope," the Honduran equivalent of the pink slip. Christian Development Commission, a non-profit corporation and our partner organization in Tegucigalpa, often struggles to meet payroll, to pay bills, to have enough money to provide the services we want to provide. How can they treat workers fairly, provide a living wage and still offer the services we have promised to provide? What is a faithful response to this reality?

Let us pray together for God's light to shine on those faced with layoffs, and for an understanding of our own role and responsibility to strive for a just world.

Linda and Bruce Hanson are assigned by Global Ministries to the Christian Commission on Development to serve the Honduran Theological Community.

August 2009

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See what love
the Father has
given us, that we
should be called
children of God.



A MOMENT WITH TIM

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. –Acts 2: 42

Fester, Kayla, Jodi, and I are joining over 6,000 other members of the Disciples Church for the General Assembly in Indianapolis from July 29th – August 2. It is a time for learning, fellowship, and worship. It is a time to reconnect with friends and colleagues. It is a time to be reminded that the church is always more than what is going on in Greeley and even Colorado.

For those who are going, all that sounds great, but how does sending both our pastors benefit First Christian Church in Greeley? It costs money to attend and having both pastors away means that someone has to step in and preach, attend to spiritual needs, and deal with the issues of the church while we are away.

General Assembly provides a place to gain new insights and ideas for our congregation's ministry. It is easy to focus solely on what we in Greeley are doing as a church. It is easy to get stuck in assumptions of how the church should work. The workshops and conversations of the General Assembly provide the possibility to see different forms of worship, education, and mission. The vision and mission of our congregation is enriched as we ask, "How can we serve God better?"

The worship and prayer times provide renewal. Pastoral ministry with all its demands can be draining. Personal prayer and worship provide some renewal, but leading worship every week means that it is sometimes difficult to feel renewed. The worship and music of General Assembly are always excellent, and being able to attend as part of the congregation is refreshing.

The times of fellowship provide connection to colleagues and a space for support and understanding. Reconnecting with friends from seminary and other ministerial settings not only provides a space for important conversation, it also creates a supportive community of those you can call or e-mail once you return to the congregation. The times of fellowship often reaffirm the call to ministry as well.

General Assembly provides a great opportunity for all church leadership. It is essential for having healthy pastors and strong congregations. I encourage you to continue making it an important part of our ministry. I also hope you will consider joining me at the 2011 General Assembly in Nashville, Tennessee.

Bendiciones (Blessings),



 **Both of our pastors will attend General Assembly from July 29 through August 4.**

If you have spiritual needs during that time, you may contact Nancy Turner at 330-8087, Lena Morris at 301-0273, or Connie Harbert at 330-1413.

 **A Time to Vision Together!
Our Region's Future Story– First Edition**

All Disciples of Christ church members are invited!
South Suburban Christian Church
7275 South Broadway St., Littleton, Colorado
August 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Lunch will be included.



Baby Announcement

Zayden Lawrence Reed
was born to Lynde and Josh Reed
on Saturday, July 4th, 2009.

Zayden was born at 9:57 a.m., weighed
7 lbs, 4 ounces, and measured 20 1/2 inches.

Thank You Note

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts during my recent hip replacement and recovery—the Heitmans for the dinner they brought and the Hollands for the salmon, and all the others for their good will. I'm sure it was helpful in my speedy recovery.

John Campbell

Thank You Note

Thank you for the cards and continued prayer, and for your other expressions of thoughtfulness. I appreciate them all.

Margaret Crawford

Wednesday Prayer Gathering

We will continue our prayer gatherings on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. (August 19th). The gatherings are proving to be a good place for learning, growing in faith, and communing together with God. Come take advantage of this special time.



United Way School Supply Drive

Crayons, #2 Pencils
Erasers, Glue Sticks
Tissues, Glue Bottles
Spiral Notebooks
Folders, Pencil Bags
3-Ring Notebook Paper
Wooden Rulers
Red Ballpoint Pens
3-Ring Notebooks
Black or Blue Pens
Colored Pencils, Calculators
Highlighters, Back Packs

Tennyson Center Needs for August

Hand Lotion
Toilet Paper
Toothpaste, large
Kleenex, Q-Tips
Slim Fit Tampons
Thin/Ultra Thin Maxi Pads
Chapstick, Hair Gel

**Baby Bottle Offering
for United Way
Backpack Program:
\$116.79**

Thank You Note

To Our Church Family,

Thank you so much for every good deed that was extended to us after the passing of Jeff, our son-in-law. We were truly blessed with your love and prayers.

Dale and Paula Graham

Thank You for VBS Help

A very BIG and sincere thank you to all who helped make Vacation Bible School 2009 possible! From our wonderful teachers, to our rockin' registration helpers, to our special snack ladies, our amazing youth helpers, our fabulous "camp counselors," our pumped up party planners, and of course, to all of you who donated supplies and decorations--we thank you very much for being a part of it all! Camp E.D.G.E. was a great success and it is all thanks to you and the support of our church family. Thank you, and God bless!

Erika Hartmann and Caitlin Berg

Community Block Party Date Set

Plans are taking shape for our church to serve the community in yet another way. This exciting and fun-filled community event is scheduled for Saturday, September 12. Activities inside and on the grounds will run from 11-2 pm. We need the participation of the whole church to make it a success.

We are asking each of our groups (CWF, LAFF, Youth Group, etc.) and each of our ministries teams to host a table or booth. Your table could feature anything from Habitat to Room at the Inn; from Food Bank information to games for children. The committee is also asking police and firemen to bring their vehicles and provide more activities for the children and youth. There will be food and fun for the whole family.

All are invited to share in the next planning meeting on Wednesday, July 22, at 5:30 pm. Or, if you have ideas you would like to share, you could contact me at hrgibson55@msn.com.

Hazel Gibson



Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF Board will meet at its regular time on August 13th at 9:30 a.m. At this time we will decide on a new time to meet, as I will be working in the preschool starting towards the end of August. We will also discuss the Block Party and bereavement teams. If you know of anything else that needs to be on the agenda, please let me know by August 10th. It is also time to begin collecting school supplies. Please place them in the barrel in Fellowship Hall.

I am looking forward to the coming year and working with you all!
~Judi Ring

CWF Study and Worship Magazine

The magazine, "New Day for Christian Women," is available for purchase at \$12.00 each. The theme of the study and devotion materials is prayer; how we pray, how God answers prayer, and how we are changed by prayer. This is the material used in the CWF groups, but you may purchase a copy for your own use. They are available in the church office, at the next CWF Board meeting & at the Sept. 4th CWF Luncheon.

Carol Hypes, CWF Study & Worship Chair

Church Financial Update

At the FCC Congregational Meeting last November, FCC adopted a budget that included using the church's savings to pay for operational expenses. The General Board would like to update you on our financial situation so far this year and receive your input. Please plan to attend the service on **August 23rd**, where a brief update will be given. On **August 30th**, in Fellowship Hall immediately following the service, additional information will be shared and there will be an opportunity for you to share your thoughts with the Board.

Income 2009

Actual as of 6/30/09 \$124,241.87*
Budgeted Year to Date \$130,254.48**

Expenses 2009

Actual as of 6/30/09 \$143,884.55
Budgeted Year to Date \$148,154.46

*Does not include Trustees' \$20,000.

**Does not include Trustees' \$18,000.

Elders' Message

This time of year reminds me of the time during the life of Jesus when he was most actively teaching us how to follow God. We are busy in our individual lives. For me, that means growing plants—vegetables and flowers. The plants need tending to: weeding, watering, doing all of the things necessary to having a successful harvest.

In my life as a Christian, to prepare for the eventual "harvest," I read the Bible, pray, and try to spend time in quiet meditation with God. Perhaps during this busy summer, each of us can slow down enough to tend to our religious lives. An opportunity that the Elders are sponsoring is the All-Church Picnic scheduled for Sunday, August 16, at 5:00 p.m. We hope you are able to join us then.

Enjoy the rest of your summer.
And don't forget to tend to your plants for a successful harvest this fall.

In God's love,
Julie Hoskins, Elder



Church Security Volunteers Needed

In May the Police Department sent a representative to the General Board meeting to make our church aware of several programs the City of Greeley is putting into place to help churches in the area develop appropriate security procedures. The programs include training for emergency situations and helping the church evaluate processes that may help make the church a more secure place. We have not received any specific dates for these, but the Board would like to recruit a few individuals who may have an interest in helping our church evaluate our involvement with the city and these training sessions. If you have an interest, please contact David Haining at 353-7613 or Pastor Tim.



Christian Men's Fellowship

The FCC Christian Men's Fellowship will not meet in August. We will resume our regular meetings in September.

Youth News

Greetings,

I cannot believe that it is already August. It feels like only yesterday I was packing for CYF camp, and now I have been there, been to Chi Rho, we have finished VBS, and as you read this I am in Indianapolis at General Assembly. Where did the summer go? This month is just as exciting as school gets started up, and we begin to look forward to another year of youth groups.

The beginning of the school year is always filled with excitement. Some of you have made a move—elementary to middle school or middle school to high school. That move is filled with fear and excitement. But I know that those same feelings are felt by not only the students as the school year starts, but also by the teachers and administrators. We all enter this year ready to see what it will have in store for us all. I can tell you that here at the church it will be filled with fun, education, retreats, games, lock-ins, service, and who knows what else.

If in the past you have been looking for the best time to get started with our youth group, either as a youth or as an adult, then the beginning of the year is the best time. If you have any questions, please give me a call or stop me on Sunday and ask. We would love to see you on Sunday nights.

Our first meeting of the school year will be August 30th from 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. for a pool party kick-off. We ask that you all bring chips or drinks to share, and we will provide the pool and hot dogs for everyone. You will receive a postcard with details once we have them. We will then meet September 13th (following Labor Day Weekend) from 4:30-6:00 for our first "normal" meeting of worship, games, and group meetings.

See you all in youth groups soon.



Life After Fifty-Five Group Activity

The L.A.F.F. Group's August 13 activity will be a 2:00p tour of the Police Station and dessert at V.I.

Church Event – Faith Day 2009

On August 23rd a group from FCC will watch the Rockies play the Giants at Coors Field and stay for a MercyMe concert following the game. If you signed up, check for details in the Weekly Caller. Questions? Call Carol at 351-8740.

FCC Preschool

School will be starting up again before we know it! Classes for preschool begin September 8th. We still have plenty of slots available, so if you know of anyone looking for a preschool, please have them contact me at 352-2543.

I would like to thank George Hypes and Bill Kehl for all of the new shelving. It is really going to help us get organized. I am looking forward to a great year!
~Judi Ring



August Birthdays



6	LaShonda Turner	15	Caren Renee Haining	23	Matt Bruch
6	Nancy Turner	15	Nancy Kurtz	24	Kodi Hays
9	David Haining	16	Paula Graham	26	Emma Lubbers
9	Kayla Highley	19	Viola Corliss	26	Mariah Valencia
10	Sandy Beiser	22	Rick Billings	27	Phyllis Hansberry
13	Samantha Galindo	22	Porschia Gray	28	Cambrie Bishop
13	Ronell Heitman	22	Ed Nealy	29	Nori Bruch
14	Brice Cochran	22	Hannah Sinnwell	31	Sam McMichael

Room at the Inn Update

~Mark Weiler

After several months of conversation with the folks at Room at the Inn and with church members, FCC decided to become a host church, along with the 11 area churches already involved. This program strives to select those in our community who are truly working hard to attain housing for their family. These families are screened closely by Room at the Inn, and when placed into the program are helped in many ways to get to the place of obtaining their own housing in a stable situation. We on the Outreach Ministry Team feel it is a privilege to help these folks who are helping themselves.

Jim Prichard has agreed to be the Overall Coordinator of the program. **Milt Hollingshead** has agreed to be the Coordinator of Calling. When we need volunteers in certain areas, Milt may be calling. **Kelly Jensen** will be the Coordinator of Food for all families involved. This includes an evening meal, a simple breakfast and a take-away lunch. **Nancy Kurtz** will be the Coordinator of Linens. And **Sam McMichael** will be the Coordinator of Beds (including setup, takedown, and transport). If you have an interest in helping out, please contact these folks, and they can help plug you in.

The first time our church will host families will be **Sunday, Nov. 1st through Nov. 7th**. These families will arrive about 5:00 p.m. on Sunday evening and stay with us the whole week, leaving the following Sunday morning by 7:00 a.m. Each day they will be gone from 7:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., working in a variety of ways toward eventually getting into a home.

To prepare for that first week of November, we will need twin bed sheets, pillow cases, mattress pads, blankets, six small lamps, and six small alarm clocks. Some may want to make a cash donation, and that too is welcome. In the memo line of the check, just indicate that it is for “Room at the Inn.”

In the coming weeks we will have an official sign-up sheet for those who want to volunteer one night during the week as either the host family, the family providing a meal, or the family/persons staying the night with the group. We as a Ministry Team feel this will be one of those opportunities when the blessing we receive will outweigh our efforts. We look forward to working together with you in helping these families find a welcoming, encouraging spirit. For when we have ministered to the least of these...we have done it to...

Servers for the Month of August

	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
10:30 Sanctuary Service					
Elder: North	Carl England	Carol Smith	Jodi Hartmann	Jodi Hartmann	Gary Ikenouye
Elder: South	Gary Ikenouye	Julie Hoskins	Gary Ikenouye	Carl England	Jodi Hartmann
Deacons	Myrna Armes▲ Miguel Ramirez ☉ George Hypes☉ Carla Ikenouye Nancy Kurtz■ Lisa Wolsey■ Judi Ring Todd Loschen▲	Kathleen Davis■ Alicia Loschen■ Charlotte Shetler▲ Ron Shetler▲ Gerre Tjardes Bruce Waldo☉ Katelyn Waldo☉ Lynne Waldo	Myrna Armes Miguel Ramirez ■ George Hypes■ Carla Ikenouye▲ Nancy Kurtz☉ Lisa Wolsey☉ Judi Ring▲ Todd Loschen	Kathleen Davis☉ Alicia Loschen☉ Charlotte Shetler■ Ron Shetler■ Gerre Tjardes▲ Bruce Waldo Katelyn Waldo Lynne Waldo▲	Myrna Armes☉ Miguel Ramirez▲ George Hypes▲ Carla Ikenouye■ Nancy Kurtz Lisa Wolsey Judi Ring■ Todd Loschen☉
Worship Leader	Bob Gibson	Lena Morris	Connie Davis	Verna Recor	Shannon King
Song Leader	C.R. Haining	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes	TBA
Sound Operator	Caitlin Berg	Janice Billings	C.R. Haining	Gary Ikenouye	Jim Prichard
Van Driver	Miguel Ramirez	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes	Miguel Ramirez
Greeters	J./B. Holland R./C. Shetler C./C. England	Evelyn Kehl Helen Stolte D.&. D. Berg	R./J. Billings Norma Basey Marie Caster	Marilyn Lesser Kathleen Davis Betty Jensen	M./P. Ramirez LaVonne Rogakis Norma Hammons
Coffee Hour	Billings/Prichards	Marilyn Lesser	Davis Families	Need Volunteer	Need Volunteer
Acolytes	Andrew Bishop Kane Shirley	Josh Bobbitt Emilee Wolsey	Scott Haining Daniel Recor	Cambrie Bishop Lauryn Waldo	Josh Bobbitt Kelli Hays
Children's Moment	Kris King	fester C.-Prose	Jodi Bobbitt	Erika Hartmann	fester C.-Prose
Children's Church	David Haining Lauryn Waldo	David Haining Daniel Recor	David Haining Andrew Bishop	David Haining Emilee Wolsey	David Haining Katelyn Waldo

KEY: PREPARATION=☉ CLEAN UP SANCTUARY=▲ CLEAN UP COMMUNION=■

If you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please make arrangements for a replacement. Please notify your team leader and the church of any changes.

General Board & Ministries Cabinet

The General Board and the Ministries Cabinet met for a combined meeting on Tuesday, June 30.

The following business was conducted:

- ◆ Reviewed financial situation of the church
- ◆ After much discussion, approved the Outreach Ministry's proposal to participate as a “Room at the Inn” church

Board & Cabinet Meeting notes, continued.

- ◆ Received an update on the Neighborhood Block Party plans
- ◆ Confirmed Jodi Bobbitt as a delegate to represent our church at the General Assembly
- ◆ Received an update on brainstormed ideas to restructure the General Board

Submitted by David Haining, General Board Chair