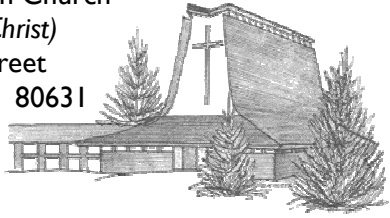


First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2230 13th Street
Greeley, CO 80631



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The Christian Caller

Monthly Publication of
First Christian Church
Greeley, Colorado

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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.

September 2008

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Excerpts from a Letter by Sharon E. Watkins, General Minister and President Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Church,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Resolution 0728 adopted at the Fort Worth General Assembly asked that I write a pastoral letter to the congregations about the pain to the nation and to the church related to the war in Iraq. As we surpass the 4000th American death in that war, as at least one of those deaths is a Disciples young man from one of our churches in the Northeast Region, as we pass the unnumbered tens of thousand of Iraqi deaths, I write out of deep sorrow. The families and congregations of those who have died are living with a depth of loss that is unimaginable for those who have not traveled that road. And yet, there is also a depth of pride for the courage displayed by men and women who serve their country through military duty.

As General Minister and President, I have the privilege of participating in conversations with a broad range of persons and partners in mission. Recently I convened a table of persons to reflect on issues raised by the war in Iraq. There were military chaplains present, as well as retired military officers now involved in the church. There were peace and justice activists, representatives of Global Ministries, and two Iraqi refugees—a doctor and a chemist. There were local congregations represented, including a congregation that has been outspoken in its opposition to the General Assembly resolution on Iraq. Personal stories were shared, tears shed, anger expressed and connections made among individuals who ordinarily expect to find themselves on opposite sides of a cavern of divergent opinion. The meeting ended with a strong sense of hope growing out of the oneness in Christ that flows deeper than human opinion...

During the next year, I am calling each of us to continue our prayers for those whose lives have been disrupted or lost, to continue our prayers for peace and understanding, and to continue to be engaged in meaningful dialogue that seeks first to understand those who differ from us, before we seek to be understood.

You may read this letter in it's entirety on our bulletin board or at www.disciples.org/watkins/news/2008/08/05a.asp



A MOMENT WITH TIM

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord! - Psalm 134:1a

On September 7th we return to two Sunday morning services at 8:15 and 10:30. I hope you will continue to make worship a high priority. It is central to our life as a community of faith. For many, however, worship is the totality of their church experience. I invite you to take part in the fullness of what First Christian Church has to offer. Below are some ideas of how to do that:

Learn more about your faith, yourself, and others. At 9:30 on Sunday mornings, we have Sunday school for all ages. Sunday school for children and youth shapes lives for years to come. We also offer two adult Sunday schools classes. Through study of the Bible, conversation, and prayer, our Sunday school classes are not simply informational. They are transformational. If you are not part of a Sunday school class, simply drop by the Parlor or the Library on Sunday morning and you will be welcomed.

Share with the church family in fun and fellowship. Fellowship is found in many forms. I share the following from my Dr. Seuss style poem from a sermon in April:

Do we do fellowship, do we fellowship, are you kidding, is that a joke?
 We fellowship day, noon, and night, and on Easter even before the sun broke.
 Our fellowship could draw some fame.
 Did you know we have four groups with fellowship right in their name?
 The Christian Women's Fellowship, Men, Youth, Juniors too.
 We wouldn't want to leave the Chi Rho out or they might go boohoo.
 We fellowship by age as well.
 Our LAFF and GIFT groups how they swell.
 We fellowship on Wednesday nights, and at other times we do.
 We fellowship at movies, meals, Luas and even an Irish Stew.
 We have picnics and camping that can't be beat
 We take trips, get together, and perhaps a retreat?

Use your gifts. If your gift is music, sing in the Chancel Choir or play in the Bell Choir. If your gift is teaching, we have opportunities in Sunday School, Youth Group, and Wednesday Night Fellowship. If you enjoy worship, you might serve as an Elder, a Deacon, a greeter, or a Worship leader. We will continue to offer opportunities to serve in Greeley and beyond including Mentoring at Maplewood Middle School, Habitat for Humanity, and participation in the Weld Food Bank and the Clothing Bank. Come read with the Preschool kids. Our different Ministry Groups offer other ways to get involved.

It is impossible to include all that we do in a newsletter article, but I strongly encourage you to move beyond being a Sunday morning Christian. Come talk to me if you are struggling to find the right place for you or if you have thoughts about other ways we might share in faith, service, and fellowship. I think you will find that First Christian has something for you.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Tim

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

HOW DO YOU RATE?

The annual budget process has become too much of a numbers game. A budget is proposed and we make annual commitments toward the support of the budget needs. There is no question we must minister within our financial resources; we cannot spend more than our available funds. We often look at the proposed budget and make pledges based on previous giving levels rather than giving to our fullest potential. Generally the initial pledge level is less than the proposed budget. So the budget generally gets adjusted downward to more closely match the pledges.

This year I encourage all of us to look at our blessings and make a pledge not so we meet a budget number, but give what we truly know is a fair share in supporting the many ministries of FCC. Below is a chart summarizing the giving levels of our membership? Where do you fit?

During employment, most of us have been subject to an annual review of our performances. If God were to review your giving, how would you rate?

2008	IDENTIFIED	GIVING
Giving Units	Annual Amount	Weekly Amount
1	\$9,000+	\$173+
0	\$8,000+	\$154+
2	\$7,000-\$7,999	\$135-\$154
6	\$6,000-\$6,999	\$115-\$134
5	\$5,000-\$5,999	\$96-\$114
2	\$4,000-\$4,999	\$77-\$95
7	\$3,000-\$3,999	\$58-\$76
18	\$2,000-\$2,999	\$38-\$57
22	\$1,000-\$1,999	\$19-\$37
20	\$500-\$999	\$10-\$18
22	\$100-\$499	\$2-\$18
6	\$1-\$99	\$1-\$2
	0	0



BEREAVEMENT


Ed Schneider went to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 26. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruth Schneider and Lacy Lowry.

GREELEY CROP HUNGER WALK

Saturday, October 4, 2008

Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

A Little Help Can Make a Big Difference

 **\$25**—can provide blankets to a family of five displaced by violence or natural disaster

\$45—can provide 30 jerry cans to carry clean water for drinking and cooking

\$150—can buy a hundred chickens & two wire chicken coops (eggs, protein & income) for two families.

\$500—can provide start-up loans to jump-start a business such as making school uniforms.

Join the CROP Hunger Walk or contribute to a Walker.

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE

NEW CHURCH PATIO

Have you seen our new patio? It is on the west side of the building through the north door of Fellowship Hall. We give thanks for a special gift which made this possible, and for the work of Sam McMichael and Dale Graham, along with other members of Christian Men's Fellowship. It is a great spot for morning activities. Check it out.

G.I.F.T. "Welcome Back" BBQ

The Generally In-between Fifty-five and Twenty Group is kicking off the season with a barbecue at the Wartz home, 2236 45th Avenue. It will take place from 6-9 pm, Saturday, Sept. 20. Hamburgers, hot dogs, lemonade and paper products will be supplied. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Babysitting will be provided at the church. See the sign-up sheet in the main hall.





**CHRISTIAN
CHURCH
FOUNDATION**

**Guest Speaker:
Don Sarton
Sept. 7th**

No one knows what the future holds, but you owe it to yourself – and your heirs – to have everything in order. If you don't decide, who will?

Join us September 7th after our 10:30 worship as Don Sarton, vice president of the Western Zone of the Christian Church Foundation, holds an inheritance planning seminar. You will learn:

- ~About why you need a Last Will and Testament
- ~How an inheritance plan can provide for heirs for years to come
- ~Ways to make a gift that will produce income for the donor

What you won't get is:

- Somebody trying to sell church members a product
- Somebody trying to raise money for their own institution
- Somebody pressuring members to divert money away from the congregation

Don would welcome the opportunity to discuss how you can make a difference in your favorite Christian Church ministries.

The Christian Church Foundation helps Disciples make a difference forever and discover the joy of serving Christ through sharing their resources.

Dear Friends at First Christian Church in Greeley,



Thank you so much for your kindness and thoughtfulness in adopting Welcome Table Christian Church for your baby bottle campaign. Your gift was by no means small to us and your generosity is very much appreciated!!

Blessings to you in Christ's Love,
Pastor Lisa Worthington on behalf of
Welcome Table Christian Church



MEN'S RENEWAL CONFERENCE

Looking for a weekend of inspiration, fellowship, relaxation, and good food in a beautiful setting in the Rocky Mountains with other Christian men? The 2008 Men's Renewal Conference will take place September 19-21 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park. This year's theme will be "Transformation of the Local Church." Our guest leader will be Don Shelton, the interim president of Homeland Ministries.

Flexibility in room and meal plans make it easy to participate. Join us for the whole conference or for the days that work for you. See the bulletin board across from Pastor Tim's office for a complete description, scholarship information, and a sample registration form.



CHURCH LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



In the Bible Paul talks about gifts each of us are given and how it takes all of these gifts to make the church operate. First Christian Church of Greeley needs your gifts as part of the leadership team. Have you thought about how you might be able to help?

How about being an Elder, greeter, a member of the Diaconate, part of the Staff Relations Ministry or Property Ministry, or part of the Men's, Women's or Youth Ministries? How about helping the church to grow—both in numbers and financially?

Maybe your interests are more aligned with the music ministries. Or maybe you are already a leader and are ready for a change. We have needs to match almost any interests.

The Nominations Ministry will be starting the nominations process during the months of September and October and would like to hear which gifts you are willing to share. Please let David Haining (353-7613), Kris King, fester Coffee-Prose or Tim Bobbitt know your interests. Please look for an upcoming meeting that will give an overview of the structure of the church leadership and the associated ministries.

September Birthdays



- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Ernest Kidd | 10 Ella Heitman | |
| 1 Pamela Warntz | 11 Becky Boyce | 17 Evelyn Fletcher |
| 3 Austin Loschen | 11 Weston Boyce | 18 Deb Richardson |
| 4 John Hammons | 12 Steven Meisner | 21 Charlotte Shetler |
| 5 Michelle Gray | 12 Idella Straight | 22 Sue Evans |
| 6 Scott Haining | 14 Thelma Christiansen | 28 Eunice Fine |
| 6 Bradford Loschen | 15 Garrett Shirley | 29 Connie Maxwell |
| 7 Tom Teixeira | 15 Deb Thompson | 30 Natalie Worthington |



REMINDERS

We'll go back to two worship services beginning September 7th.
Chapel Service will start at 8:15.
Sanctuary Service will begin at 10:30.
All **Sunday School** classes will begin at 9:30.

In addition, **Wednesday Night Fellowship** resumes Sept. 24 at 5:30.

Choir and Praise Band will rehearse Thursday evenings beginning September 4.

Hi Everyone!

Wish you were here! It has been a lovely summer. We hope all is going well at 1st Christian. We will be back sometime in October. We miss all of you!
Love,
Ruth Stewart



Do we have your e-mail address? If not, please send it to fccadmin@comcast.net



Thank You

Thanks so much for the kindness, prayers, cards and thoughtfulness during this difficult time. We are so grateful for the love and support given by our church family.

God bless you,
The Ed Schneider Family

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for thoughts, prayers, cards, and expression of concern during my recent surgery. The surgery went well and I am doing better than expected. There is much recovery left and it is difficult being inactive. A checkup in September will determine if any further treatment is necessary.

Blessings to everyone,
Bill Kehl



You are invited to witness a miracle!

Milagro Christian Church's Charter Celebration

Sunday, September 7th, 2008, 5:00 p.m.
We will worship, celebrate, and sign our charter.
Come and share in our joy, stories, refreshments and fun!
2111 S. Pueblo Blvd.
Pueblo, CO 81005
545-6400



BUS REPAIRS



You may have heard that our bus had problems on the ICYF trip to California. We give thanks that no one was hurt except our budget. Repairs totaled \$1,714.03, including the cost of new tires.

We give thanks that we received a few donations. If you would like to contribute, please write a check to FCC and note "bus repairs" on the memo line.

Servers for the Month of September

	September 7	September 1	September 21	September 28
8:15 Chapel Service				
Elder	Tom Rainbolt	Carol Reynolds	Bessie Bishop	Carol Reynolds
Deacon	Sandy Beiser	Hazel Gibson	Sandy Beiser	Hazel Gibson
Worship Leader	Bob Gibson	Patty Endres	Ronell Heitman	Phyllis Hansberry
Song Leader	Caren Renee Haining	Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	Tessa Johnson
Pianist	Chris Coon	Gretchen Howland	Nancy Kurtz	Nita White
10:30 Sanctuary Service				
Elder: North	Bill Kehl	Bessie Bishop	Carol Reynolds	Bill Kehl
Elder: South	Bessie Bishop	Tom Rainbolt	Bill Kehl	Tom Rainbolt
Deacons	Caitlin Berg Tessa Rainbolt ■ Darron Berg ▲ Debbie Berg ▲ Lynde Reed Michelle Gray ■ Kelly Davis ☆ Rich Davis ☆	David Miller ☉ Chris Hartmann Erika Hartmann Carol Walker ■ Chuck Walker ■ Dana Bechler ▲ Porschia Gray ☆ Dylan Bechler ▲	Caitlin Berg ■ Tessa Rainbolt ☆ Darron Berg Debbie Berg Lynde Reed ■ Michelle Gray ☆ Kelly Davis ▲ Rich Davis ▲	David Miller ▲ Chris Hartmann ☆ Erika Hartmann ☆ Carol Walker Chuck Walker Dana Bechler ■ Porschia Gray ▲ Dylan Bechler ■
Worship Leader	Bruce Waldo	Jodi Hartmann	Nancy Turner	Tom Rainbolt
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Gerre Tjardes	Connie Davis	Bill Kehl
Sound Operator	Caitlin Berg	Janice Billings	Bruce Waldo	Gary Ikenouye
Van Driver	Bill Moser	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes
Greeters	Jim/Susan Luecht Ron/Charlotte Shetler Carl/Carolyn England	Evelyn Kehl Helen Stolte Bill/Margaret Crawford	Rick/Janice Billings Norma Basey Marie Caster	Harold/Marilyn Lesser Kathleen Davis Betty Jensen
Coffee Hour	Ikenouye, Johnson	Basey, Caster	TBA	TBA
Acolytes	Andrew Bishop Kane Shirley	Josh Bobbitt Austin Bechler	Scott Haining Daniel Recor	Cambrie Bishop Lauryn 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.

OCTOBER BAZAAR

Our Bazaar workers have been very busy on Wednesday nights -- crafting, sewing, and knitting. The group continues to meet and work together each Wednesday night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the craft room. Join us any time you're able.

Utilizing the talents of Diane Doyle, the group is currently putting together themed gift baskets to sell at the Bazaar. Items needed for donation include baskets, containers, and items to put in them. Themes we are thinking about using are: Sports, Movies, Weddings, Baby, Bath/Pampering, Christmas, Tea/Coffee and Cooking. Please place your donated item in the Craft Room. Other ideas and themes are always welcome.

Thanks for your support of the All-Church Bazaar (Fri. & Sat., October 3rd & 4th, '08).

RECONCILIATION OFFERING

"We are the Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us."

-Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister and President
-21st Century Vision Team

The table is a central image to our understanding of ourselves as Disciples. The table is the place where we are drawn together as invited guests. The table is a place of invitation, conversation, and transformation. The table is where we are called to become the gift of reconciliation!

Your gift to the Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (DOC) will empower others to come to the table and become the gift of reconciliation.

2008 Reconciliation Special Day Offering
September 28 and October 5

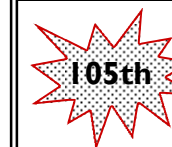
A special offering envelope is enclosed in this newsletter.



FCC PRESCHOOL NEWS

The Preschool is looking forward to starting a new year at the beginning of September. New staff members Courtney Landon and Michelle Thompson are joining us this year. In addition to being the director, Ms. Courtney will be teaching Pre-K. Ms. Michelle will be teaching our MWF and T/Th classes.

Both Courtney and Michelle have had years of experience teaching preschool-age children and are looking forward to being part of the FCC Preschool staff this upcoming year!



**First
Christian
Church**

Anniversary

Our church will be 105 years old on September 20, 2008. The Sunday School had begun in the spring and the congregation consisted of 30 charter members. By the first anniversary, there were more than 100 members and 133 enrolled in the Sunday School. They were meeting in Hurlburt Hall above the Greeley Steam Laundry at 718 Seventh Street. In October 1904, property for a building was purchased and a small church was built on the northwest corner of the intersection of 13th Street at 8th. In 1909 a large brick church was built at 8th Avenue and 13th Street across from what is now Brattons. Glen Tegtman's grandfather dug the foundation with a team of horses and a scraper.

Glen and Don Fine are the two longest-time members of our church. In 1962, our present building was constructed. Copies of our church history are available in the office for \$15. You can borrow one from our church library or you can read it at the Centennial Library on 23rd Avenue near the fire station.
-George Hypes



CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CUWF will meet on Thursday, Sept. 4, at noon for refreshments. The program will start at 12:30 p.m. and focus on Hospice. It will be given by Ken Easterly, R.N. Peace Group is hostess and devotions will be given by Bessie Bishop.

Yearbooks will be given out by the group leaders at this meeting, and dates, times, and locations of September group meetings will be announced.

The CUWF Board will meet on Sept. 11th at 9:30 in the church parlor.

CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

FCC Christian Men's Fellowship will start regular meetings again on the SECOND day of each month from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Our next meeting will be Sept. 13. All men of any age are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall for breakfast, fellowship, and a program. Bring a friend!



Tennyson Center for Children

Needs for Sept.
Bandages
Shampoo
Chapstick
Bar Soap
Hair Accessories
Hairbrushes, combs
Halloween candy
Halloween Accessories
Toothpaste (large)

School Supplies for Collection Barrel:

crayons, #2 pencils, erasers, glue, tissues, notebook paper, folders, pencil bags, wooden rulers, pens, calculators, colored pencils, highlighters, 3-ring binders.

How are We Doing?

Income 2008

Planned Year to Date = \$140,000.00
Actual as of 7/31/08 = \$143,149.10

Expenses 2008

Planned Year to Date = \$169,166.74
Actual as of 7/31/08 = \$161,851.06

Ordination gifts for
Tennyson Center = \$302.10

ELDERS' MESSAGE

As we head into the fall, we look forward to starting back up two Sunday morning services, 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. I am excited about the cool crisp mornings as we start to change seasons. School is back in session. Summer is over. This time of year it is easy to enjoy God's bounty as neighbors share their excess zucchini and other prolific vegetables. As we enjoy nature's feast, let us always remember that it was made possible by God, the one who created and loves each of us.

In Christ's love, Julie Hoskins, Elder Chair

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP

The ever-popular Wednesday Night Fellowship returns Wed., September 24th, and will run for seven weeks. We need Group Leaders and/or ideas for the sessions following the dinners. We also need cooks—they can be individuals or groups—and food costs will be reimbursed by the church. Plans are in place to recruit a "Clean-up Crew" so the cooks don't have to do it all. If you are interested in helping in either ministry, contact Debbie Berg at 352-3091. We look forward to seeing you all around the family dinner table!

LAFF GOES WILD

Tuesday, September 9, the Laff group will go by van to visit the Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conservation Center near Keenesburg. See the wild animals up close. A \$10 donation per person is requested. The tour and visit will last about an hour and requires a short walk. We will plan to eat at one of the nearby restaurants. Meet at the church at 9 a.m. if you plan to sign-up sheet will be posted. For information, call Hazel Gibson at 352-4903



Watch for your favorite burritos and award-winning casseroles at the Fall Bazaar!

Thoughts from one youth about ICYF:

There were many neat things about ICYF. I really enjoyed meeting new people from all over the country, learning about where they were from, and about the traditions that they had in their youth groups and at their camps. It was really cool to see how so many people could come together from so many different places to worship God together, and I even learned some new ways to keep our youth group together.

—Porschia Gray

ICYF was a great way for our CYF to end the summer together, and it is my hope that throughout the semester we can continue to share some thoughts and lessons learned by our youth while they were there.

Last month we officially kicked off our school year with 25 youth gathering at Highland Park Lanes for a bowling party. It was a lot of fun, and it was exciting to have to open up another lane because we had filled the number we had reserved.

This year our youth meeting time has changed. Instead of meeting from 5:30-7:30, we will now be meeting from 4:30-6:00. We will not be offering a snack supper anymore. Our hope is that this change will offer our youth more time for homework and family time. We will also be able to wrap up earlier even on a week when we must run late. We will almost always start our meeting with games; then we will have worship before breaking into our individual groups.

We hope that you will all be able to join us this semester.

Here is what is going on this month.

September 7, 14, 21, 28: Youth will gather from 4:30-6:00 for their normal youth group meetings.

See you all on Sunday

festo



Calling all Young Adults

This month we will be kicking off a new Young Adult ministry program. We will begin with an informal Dutch treat dinner at Old Chicago's at 7:00pm on September 18th. We hope to continue to at least have dinner once a month, but are open to starting more groups, meeting more often, meeting any of the needs of this unique group. If you are, or know of anyone, 18-35 years old who might be interested in joining us, please encourage them to join us on the 18th.

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