

Expanding Our Vision

“All things are possible to those who believe.” Mark 9: 23

Eva Chipenda challenged and inspired me to go to Angola. Let me tell you a little about her: As Eva closes in on 80 years of age, she has pushed with all her considerable might to open the Canata Preschool Program which currently enrolls nearly 100 children between the ages of 3 and 5. When you walk in the courtyard door, the children run to greet and embrace you – but, not with the same fervor that occurs when they see Dona Eva enter. They cry out her name and last week practically knocked her off her feet in their enthusiasm to hug her!

Creating a better life, for herself, her family, and others, has been the story of Eva's life. Of twelve children, she was one of only three in her family who survived to adulthood. Frequently uprooted, Eva often felt herself to be an outsider, but never let the changes that distanced her from family and peers stop her quest for education and training. As her husband José became internationally known as head of the All Africa Conference of Churches, Eva often lived in his shadow, not uncommon for Angolan women. But in her own way, Eva always managed to emerge from that shadow to shed her own bright light. Everywhere they went – from New York to Geneva to Nairobi to Lobito – Eva availed herself of opportunities to learn, and developed her vision to start projects in Angola – including dressmaking, culinary arts, and children's programs. Now these many projects have improved the lives of hundreds of women and children.

Eva has encouraged me and stretched my own vision of what is possible for women to achieve. The challenge is for each of us to step out of any shadow that can hide our light and become our best selves.

Written by Donna Dudley

*Donna serves with the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola.
She assists with development projects and staff leadership training programs.*



Medical Mission Trip to Venezuela

Here is an opportunity you may not want to miss! A small group of people from the UCC Rocky Mountain Conference and DOC Region will be traveling to Venezuela in October and **you are invited to participate**. Team members will be providing day clinics, medical supplies, and health education for the poor and the indigenous people of Venezuela. Persons with medical and translating skills are needed, but folks without those skills are also encouraged to participate.

Previous teams have said their lives were greatly enriched by the experience of working alongside Venezuelan and Cuban doctors, meeting the poor and indigenous citizens, and celebrating the similarities and differences of our faiths and cultures with our host denomination there.

Travel dates are approximately October 7-14 of this year. The team will be there October 12 for the Venezuelan Celebration of “The Day of Indigenous Resistance” (their take on Columbus Day), which is an exciting cultural experience.

Cost for the trip is approximately \$1500 per person. For more information contact Alice Silver, agsilver@pair.com, 720-344-6947, or Merv or Danni Bangert, bangert@infionline.net, or call 303-444-0350. Registration deadline for the trip is July 1, 2010.

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Rev. Tim Bobbitt, Senior Minister

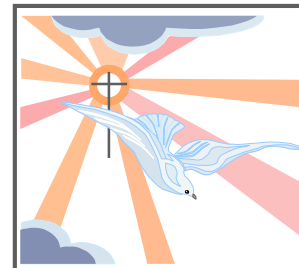
Linda Harding, Youth Director

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

May 2010

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“I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you.”

John 14:16-17 RSV

A MOMENT WITH TIM

“And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:2

The month of May brings with it a breath of fresh air: graduations and the end of the school year; the ordination and installation of our Youth Director Linda Harding; Memorial Day weekend with remembrance and freedom; and the celebration of the day of Pentecost.

Pentecost is the celebration of the Holy Spirit. It is the celebration of the breath of God being present not only in the midst of creation and life, but the breath of God being present and powerful in the lives of Christians. Talking about the Holy Spirit may make some of us a little nervous, because we think of speaking in tongues and things we don't understand. While it is true that we don't always understand God, it is also true that God's Spirit is present in many ways beyond speaking in tongues. God's Spirit is present to encourage, to challenge, to lift us up, and to empower us to do ministry.

The Holy Spirit is symbolized by fire, and for this reason we invite you to wear red as we celebrate Pentecost on May 23rd. The Spirit is also symbolized by wind. As the wind is ever present, it reminds us that God's Spirit is ever-present. My prayer for us is that the winds of Pentecost blow new life into each of us.

When we are aware of God's Spirit, God's power, God's presence, and God's life flowing through us, we are renewed to a new way of life. We are opened to new and wonderful ways of experiencing God. We are empowered to share with others the wonder of being touched by God's Spirit. We are strengthened to be God's people of love, forgiveness, and grace wherever we go. Catch the wind. Catch the Spirit.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Tim



Summer Worship Hours

On Sunday, May 30th, we will begin our summer worship hours with only one service on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We will return to our 8:15/10:30 schedule on the Sunday after Labor Day (September 12th).

Pentecost Sunday

On Sunday, May 23rd, at both services we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. It is a day to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church. Plan to wear red, as it is representative of the Holy Spirit.

Delightful **Daughters' Dessert**

Every daughter is invited to attend our Daughters' Dessert, May 4th, at 7:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a delightful evening of entertainment provided by the Highland High School "Highlights" while feasting on desserts.

To please your eye, Diane Doyle is providing our table decor. Enjoy being treated as a princess for the evening, as the men serve the desserts and beverages.



Von Prichard will be giving the devotion. Feel free to invite a daughter in your life, perhaps one who doesn't have a church family.

Preschool Thank You Note

A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in some way in the preschool spaghetti luncheon on April 18th. It was a big success because of all of you who care about and keep the preschool in your prayers. Thanks to those who came to eat, to those who made donations, to Andrew at Olive Garden, and to those who helped prepare, serve, and clean up. We made \$604! One of our first projects is to get another outdoor sign to advertise our preschool.

Tricia Reynolds, Jennie Maddocks & Gerre Tjardes

FCC Hits Facebook!

No, this isn't an April Fool's joke. Become a fan of the "First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Greeley, Colorado" page on Facebook to stay informed and to promote FCC! If you have an event you would like to have posted, contact:

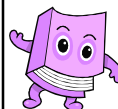
David at thehainings@comcast.net

Pastor Linda Harding at

fcclinda@comcast.net

or Pastor Tim Bobbitt at

fccrev.tim@comcast.net



More FCC Pictorial Directories

LifeTouch has sent us a free batch of church directories that are half the size of the first ones. If you would like one, catch Carla Ikenouye at church on Sunday or stop by Susan's office during the week. You can keep your larger directory or, if you don't think you'll use two, swap it for the smaller one.

Pentecost Special Offering

Thanks to your generous support, 640 new churches have been started!

One of the primary ways we are raising awareness and support of the New Church movement is through the Pentecost Offering. As Disciples, we welcome and embrace with the love of Christ all who will come to the table.

Our 2020 vision is: 1,000 new congregations; 1,000 transformed congregations; the leadership necessary to realize these congregations; the context of anti-racism/pro-reconciliation.

Special Offering envelopes are included with this newsletter. The Pentecost Special Offering will be received May 16th and May 23rd.

Life After Fifty-Five Group

On Saturday, May 8th, the L.A.F.F. Group will visit the Greeley Freight Station Museum (680 10th Street). We will meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. to go get lunch and then visit the museum. We'll take the bus if needed.

Senior tickets are \$5 for the museum. Along with the trains, there are 600 artifacts and a real caboose. The world class model railroad can be viewed from the floor or the balcony.

A sign-up sheet will be posted in the hallway at church. More details will be announced soon. For more information, call Hazel or Bob Gibson at 352-4903.

Mark your calendar now!





Save the Date!



VBS will be June 7-11
and will conclude with a
multicultural celebration on
Sunday, June 13th.



Our theme this year is
God's Love is Everywhere!



We will be visiting the countries of India,
Congo, Argentina and Haiti—and then we'll
learn to be missionaries where we are.

We welcome ideas, suggestions and
help, as well as glue bottle tops
and the other materials listed on
the b-board outside Pastor Linda's office.
Let Jodi Bobbitt or you are interested
Caitlin Berg know if
in helping out.



GLUE

See you there!

Vacation Bible School Help Needed

We need your help. Please consider offering
your time and talents to this year's Vacation
Bible School (VBS). See the dates/times above.
We have opportunities for everyone: craft and
worship leaders, recreation and music helpers,
registration folks, teachers, snack helpers,
decorators, public relation gurus, clean-up
crew—and of course, your prayers are all
needed. Tell all your friends and neighbors.

Look for VBS item requests on the youth bulletin
board. Some most-needed items include liquid
glue bottle tops to use for a recycled craft, plastic
material (such as old inflatable beach balls) to use
for drum tops, and fabric paint/markers. We are
happy to collect monetary donations, as well, to
help pay for snacks and cloth bags, decorated
with our church logo, to be given to each child.

Registration forms will be available outside Pastor
Linda's office. Sign up your kids and grandkids,
neighbors, friends and even your neighbor's
friends! Come and join the fun!

Open Enrollment

First Christian Church Preschool is now
taking applications for the
2010-2011 school year.

You can pick up a registration form from
the front office or the preschool office.

If you have any questions,
contact Tricia at 970-352-2543.

First Christian Church Preschool



(Disciples of Christ)



"Let It Go" Spring Sale



FCC is planning a yard and heirloom
sale on Saturday, June 5th, from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During the week prior to the sale, you may store
items in the church garage; Granny's Attic and
heirloom pieces may be placed in Fellowship Hall.

In regard to heirloom pieces:

- FCC will provide advertising and space—
please let us know about your special items
so we may advertise them properly.
- Seller will decide asking price & lowest price.
- We may be able to assist with
transportation of your items if you arrange
it with us ahead of time.
- FCC requests a minimum 10% donation for
heirlooms sold. Feel free to donate more.
- Anything that does not sell must be picked
up shortly after 3 p.m. (we may be able to
return them if arranged beforehand).

Proceeds: 10% will go to Outreach/Mission
and the remainder will benefit the Youth
Group and church improvements. Volunteers
are needed to set up, price, sell, greet, clean up
and cashier.

Jodi Bobbitt, Verna Recor & Diane Doyle

Youth News

I have always thought that May is an exciting month! For me, May seems to be just as busy as December. The warm weather brings more options for day-to-day activities, plus there is Mother's Day, Memorial Day, graduations, end-of-the-school-year activities, and planting & gardening. For me personally it will be an exciting time as I am graduating May 15th! In all the excitement I am reminded to finish strong! Paul in his address to the elders in Ephesus says, "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24. My prayer we will be for us all—whether we are students, teachers, or parents—to finish strong, knowing that God is with us!

Upcoming Events:

May 2nd is Youth Sunday for both services!

Our scripture is John 13:31-35,
and our theme is *Love One Another!*



I hope to see everyone as we gather together in celebration and as the
youth lead us in worship! We will have our regular Youth Group at 4:30!

May 9th—No Youth Group due to Mother's Day.

May 16th—Regular youth group at 4:30!

Feel free to bring your friends!



May 23rd—End-of-the-Year Water Party at 4:30!

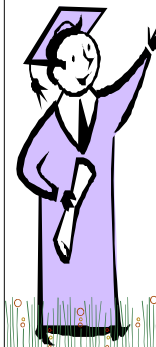
We will gather for water games, snacks and fun!
Bring your swimsuit and towel, a snack to share,
water guns, and a friend!



Camp Dates: CYF June 13th -19th, Chi Rho June 20th - 26th, Discovery Camp July 9th-11th.

Linda

Calling All Graduates



May 23rd will be Graduate Recognition Sunday. Graduates from high school,
college, and beyond will be recognized during worship, with those graduating
from high school receiving a special gift from the church. Graduates and their
families are invited to bring photos and achievements from their time in school
to decorate a table in Fellowship Hall. To make this event a great success, we ask
that each graduate please provide Pastor Linda with his/her full name, school,
degree, and future plans. If you know of a graduate connected to our congrega-
tion, please help ensure that all information is provided prior to this event.



Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF will meet on Thursday, May 6th, at noon for a catered lunch. Instead of a having a program, we will be installing group officers at this meeting. The meal will once again be catered by Platte Valley High School and will cost \$4 per person. Please RSVP on the board by May 2nd. Joy Group will be the hostess.

The Daughters' Dessert is scheduled for May 4th at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Highland High School "Highlights," and a devotion will be given by Von Prichard. Diane Doyle has volunteered to provide our table decorations, and she is still looking for brightly colored spring flowers to give away. If you have any individual silk flowers that you would like to donate, please put them in the box marked FLOWERS in Fellowship Hall.

We are continuing to collect items for the baby layettes. There is a collection box in Fellowship Hall, and we will collect items until the end of May.

The board will meet on May 13th at 9:30 a.m. Devotions will be given by Charlotte Kidd. Joy Group will meet at the Eaton Country Club on May 3rd for their year-end social at 11:45 a.m. If you wish to carpool, be at the church at 11:30 a.m. Kindness and Peace groups will meet on the 27th at 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. respectively. Kindness Group will meet at Phyllis Hansberry's home.

Christian Men's Fellowship (CMF)

The FCC Christian Men's Fellowship will be meeting May 8th from 8:00—9:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will have breakfast and a very interesting program on a dessert venture. The CMF group is a group of men of all ages who get together for fellowship, fun, and service. There is no membership required! Come and bring a friend!



Walk of Faith Fundraiser



Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home is doing the 2nd Annual Walk of Faith on Saturday, May 15th, at 10:00 a.m. (registration is at 9:00). It's a fun, educational and inspiring three-mile walk aimed at raising awareness of the issues affecting children of today—particularly abuse and neglect. It's a fun, educational, and inspirational way to show support for abused, neglected and at-risk kids.

Inspiration stations, which will focus on prayer for children near and dear to us as well as those around the world, will be placed along the walk route.

If you live too far away to join the Denver walk, you might want to consider forming your own walk route closer to home and inviting other churches to join you in a Walk of Faith for Kids. Have a wienie roast after?

Make sure you register online so the Home knows you are supporting the event! Go to www.childabuse.org to create your teams and donate online.

Let's Go to the Rodeo Together!

Mark your calendars now for a trip to the Greeley Independence Stampede Rodeo with your church friends on June 30 at 7:00 p.m. Watch the Weekly Caller for more details.



Tennyson Center Needs for May

- Beach Towels
- Children's Sunglasses
- Shampoo
- Digital Timers
- Plastic Shoeboxes
- Slim Fit Tampons
- Sunscreen (30+ SPF)
- Thin & Ultra Thin Maxi Pads.
- Hair ties, bands, barrettes, etc.



Elder's Message

Read I Corinthians 12: 4-30 as an introduction to the message:

We must understand we all have gifts God has given us and that are originated by the Holy Spirit. We can see God at work everywhere and God is behind all that we see.

How does God's work get done? By us, of course, by you and me. We are his hands, his feet, and his voice.

Do we all have the same gifts or all of the gifts? NO! That is what makes us unique. That is what God wanted and that is what Jesus taught us. That is how the church is made. That is how the church gets things done.

The church is made up to help us understand what the kingdom of God is like. And if anything, it suggests that the kingdom of God is comprised of many different parts that must function and operate in sync for the benefit of the whole. If the hands, eyes, arms, legs and brain aren't working in harmony, well, there's chaos and eventual death. Likewise, if our Spiritual Gifts—wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, and speaking and interpreting languages—if these aren't working in harmony within our church, there is chaos and eventual death. God wants us to take our Spiritual Gifts and work in harmony with each other to build, serve, grow, and spread His word and above all His love.

The church is designed, in part, to display to the world what the kingdom of God is—and how it works. Sometimes we hear people say, "I don't need the organized church. I can worship on my own." How does that get God's work done? It doesn't.

Churches do a lot for a community—for the nation—for the world. You **know** where the plug is. You have the power of the Holy Spirit and you use it. You feed the hungry, you clothe the naked, you visit the sick, you provide a place of worship and do how many other things that I don't know about? Could you as an individual do all this church does? **NO!**

God needs us all to work together to make a better world. God needs his church as a place for us to **gather**, to **fellowship**, to **worship**, to **serve**, and to **work together** to make a better world and spread the word and the love of Jesus Christ.

Roger Harbert



FCC Preschool News

Wow! It is May, and school is coming to a close for the year. It has been an awesome year. I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to be your Preschool Director and Pre-K teacher. Monday, May 17, will be the last regular day of class for Miss Jennie's class. Tuesday, May 18, will be the last day of Pre-K. Wednesday, May 19, will be our End-of-the-Year Celebration. Both classes will "Show 'n' Tell" what they have learned throughout the school year. The show will begin at 9 a.m. with snack time following the celebration.

We are still taking registration applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Please pass the word about your preschool. You can pick up a registration form by the front office or by the preschool office. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Reynolds.

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered their time preparing, donating, setting up, and cleaning up at the Preschool Spaghetti Lunch.

Thank you,

Tricia, Jennie, and the families of FCC Preschool

Room At The Inn

FCC will again host Room at the Inn June 13th through June 19th. A sign-up sheet is posted for members to volunteer for various activities. There has been a great response when we have hosted in the past. Through this wonderful hands-on ministry, we are helping those who have fallen in difficult circumstances to get back on their feet. Those who are unable to volunteer may help by making a donation to help with expenses. Simply indicate *Room at the Inn* on the memo line of your check.



May Birthdays



1 Mitchell Moore	12 Jayne Hays	24 Dean Turner	29 Eleen Nauman
6 Kane Shirley	13 Raleigh Newby	24 Lauryn Waldo	29 Maximus Skow
7 Gretchen Howland	14 Betty Jensen	25 Lynn Boyce	
8 Todd Loschen	17 Linda Harding	28 Andrew Bishop	
8 Hilde Naftz	20 Michael Recor	28 Ron Shetler	
9 Jodi Hartmann	22 Katelyn Waldo	29 Debbie Berg	



Baby Bottle Offering



We will continue our tradition of collecting money in baby bottles from Mother's Day (May 9th) through Father's Day (June 20th). This year our donations will go to the Haiti's Babies project sponsored by Church World Service. This program helps provide medical care, clothing, food and shelter for infants and children who are the most vulnerable during and after disasters including the earthquake that occurred in Haiti on January 12.

A baby bottle represents the nourishment we received from someone who loved us and took care of us when we couldn't do it ourselves. Someone was there to help us grow physically. Someone was also there to introduce us to God and help us grow spiritually. Who were those people for you? We have the opportunity to help others grow. Let's see how many children we can support!

Church Financial Update

Income 2010

Budgeted Year to Date \$65,977.02
Actual as of 03/31/10 \$65,633.96

Expenses 2010

Budgeted Year to Date \$74,227.02
Actual as of 03/31/10 \$67,878.09

Changes have taken place in our personnel expenses since the 2010 Plan for Mission and Ministry was approved by the congregation last December. We hope not to draw down Trustee funds to meet expenses in 2010. Because of this change, we expect the budgeted expenses to be significantly higher than actual expenses.

Ordination and Installation

You are invited to the ordination service of our new youth director, Linda Harding. This special service or Ordination into Christian Ministry will take place at Heart of the Rockies Christian Church in Fort Collins (6501 Brittany Street). The service will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 5th.

On the following day, Sunday, June 6th, at 9:30 a.m., we will celebrate Linda's installation service here at First Christian. Transitional Regional Minister José Morales will be preaching. Please plan to participate in these exciting events.



Spiritual Strategic Journey Reunion

South Broadway Christian Church in Denver is hosting a reunion for those who participated in the Spiritual Strategic Journey process in 2006-2007. The event will take place on Saturday, June 12th, from 9:00-3:00. It will be a time to reconnect with each other, share how we are progressing on our future stories and the changes we may have made, and anything else we would like to share. Plan to bring a few dollars to help pay for lunch. Talk with Pastor Tim about transportation and more details.

Servers for the Month of May

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
8:15 Chapel	Youth Sunday				
Elder		Carol Smith	Carl England	Carol Smith	No Early Service
Deacon		Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	
Worship Leader		Ray White	Martie Miller	Veronica Thomas	
Song Leader		Tessa Johnson	G. Howland	Tessa Johnson	
Pianist		G. Howland	Nancy Kurtz	Nita White	
10:30 Sanctuary					
Elder: North		Gary Ikenouye	Gerre Tjardes	Gerre Tjardes	Gary Ikenouye
Elder: South		Gerre Tjardes	Gary Ikenouye	Carl England	Gerre Tjardes
Deacon		A. Loschen ■	A. Loschen ▽	A. Loschen ▲	A. Loschen ±
		C. Ikenouye ■	C. Ikenouye ▽	C. Ikenouye ▲	C. Ikenouye ±
	Lisa Wolsey ▲	Lisa Wolsey ±	Lisa Wolsey ■	Lisa Wolsey ▽	Lisa Wolsey
	Katelyn Waldo ▲	Katelyn Waldo ±	Katelyn Waldo ■	Katelyn Waldo ▽	Katelyn Waldo ▲
		Judi Ring ▲	Judi Ring ±	Judi Ring ■	Judi Ring ▽
		Von Prichard ▲	Von Prichard ±	Von Prichard ■	Von Prichard ▽
		Beth Warntz ▽	Beth Warntz ▲	Beth Warntz ±	Beth Warntz ■
		Paul Warntz ▽	Paul Warntz ▲	Paul Warntz ±	Paul Warntz ■
Worship Leader		Emilee Wolsey	Kris King	Robert Boyce	Todd Loschen
Song Leader		Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes	TBA
Sound Operator		C.R. Haining	Jim Prichard	Gary Ikenouye	Janice Billings
Van Driver		Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes	Roger Harbert
Greeters	J./S. Luecht	Evelyn Kehl	Marilyn Lesser	Marilyn Lesser	Helen Stolte
	R./C. Shetler	Helen Stolte	Norma Basey	Kathleen Davis	LaVonne Rogakis
	C./C. England	D.&. D. Berg	Helen Stolte	Betty Jensen	J & S McMichael
Coffee Hour	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Education	Worship
Acolytes		Andrew Bishop	Weston Boyce	Daniel Recor	Pyper Evans
		Scott Haining	Becky Boyce	Ian Ploegstra	Amy Haining
Children's Moment		Kris King	David Haining	Erika Hartmann	Erika Hartmann
Children's Church	Michelle Gray	Jodi Bobbitt	David Haining	Lynne Waldo	Lynne Waldo
	Mackenzie D.	Katelyn Waldo	Lauryn Waldo	Daniel Recor	Andrew Bishop

KEY: Preparation=± Clean Up Sanctuary=▲ No Extra Duties=▽ 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.