

A P R I L 2 0 1 0 E D I T I O N

Christ Church CONNECTIONS

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST, 690 COLORADO BLVD., DENVER 80206



Christ Church United Methodist: A Reconciling Congregation

✧ Upcoming Events ✧

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD-DAYS

April 17 & 24 (and May 1 & 15)

Sign up to build homes for those in need with the Christ Church Social Action Committee and Habitat for Humanity. *See page 5 for further details.*

PROCESS THEOLOGY COURSE

Thursdays, April 22 & 29, 7:00 p.m.

New Adult Education class taught by Christ Church Theologian-in-Residence, William Dean. *See page 4 for further details.*

RECONCILING SUNDAY

Sunday, May 2, 10:15 a.m.

Celebratory worship service acknowledging our anniversary of becoming a Reconciling Congregation. Featuring special musical guests the Denver Women's Chorus and speaker Phil Campbell. Potluck lunch to follow!

See page 4 for further details.

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Christ Church is a United Methodist congregation committed to theological pluralism and cultural inclusiveness. Our faith community encourages a thoughtful approach to religion, taking seriously both the heart and the mind in nurturing the spirit. We strive to meet the world around us with compassion and love. We seek wholeness in living by working to identify, articulate, and act on the connections between our personal lives and the world around us.

Our hope is that you will find here a Christian community of integrity that will challenge you and encourage you in your spiritual journey. We offer many opportunities for congregational involvement and community service. We invite you to be a part of our congregation.

✧ Water Words ✧

A monthly column by Christ Church pastor, Rev. Carolyn Waters

The path we are on is not necessarily the path that will take us where we are going.

Change is the most difficult and the most exciting part of life! Some changes are welcomed, others dreaded. Some changes come by choice; others are forced upon us by the circumstances of living. Change of thought is perhaps the most challenging! Change of perception of another person can also jar our relationships.

But life is about change. When we stop changing, we die... both emotionally, spiritually, and literally.

I am amazed by the changes taking place at Christ Church. The energy of the young adults who are coming through the doors, the spiritual hunger of aging baby boomers, and the quest for meaning of the wise old ones all inspire me for the ministry that is to be done.

The changes in the neighborhood are also challenging. Paying attention to and participating in our local community is much of what it means to be a community of faith.

I hope that you welcome the changes you make, both those anticipated and those unexpected. Change is the fertile soil for personal growth and the perfect opportunity for spiritual renewal. The thought of spring sounds like a good idea to me right now — just a little change in the weather would be nice!

Be about the opportunity of transformation! It's how God shows up in the world.
—Rev. Carolyn Waters

EDITOR'S NOTE: This Water Words column originally appeared in the February 2008 edition of Christ Church Connections.

Pastor's Emergency Fund

This special fund is available to give emergency financial assistance to families and individuals within the Christ Church congregation. Because the fund has been well utilized this past winter, it will need to be built up over the coming summer months. Please consider making a donation to this very important fund by specifying "Pastor's Emergency Fund" on your offering. Thank you!

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Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School

& Adult Education

10:15 a.m. WORSHIP

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

Church Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon;

1:00 — 3:00 p.m.

Monday—Thursday

CLOSED on Friday

✧ Steering Committee Update ✧

A LETTER TO THE CHRIST CHURCH CONGREGATION

Dear CCUM members & friends,

As most of you know, Christ Church had an all-church meeting in January to discuss the financial issues that we face as a congregation. This note is intended to give an update to a number of the issues that were discussed at that meeting.

At the time of the January meeting, the Finance Committee was still trying to determine the actual funds that the church has that could be used to cover our budget deficit. The Finance Committee has completed that review and has determined that Christ Church has approximately \$70,000 in undesignated cash reserves. Our 2010 budget includes an approximately \$50,000 gap between income and expenses that will need to be drawn from these general funds to balance our budget. This obviously means that without significant increases in income and/or cash reserves or decreases in expenses, Christ Church will not be able to meet its budget in the very near future.

We also have some funds that the Church has chosen to set aside for various uses (building contingency, mission fund, etc.) that the Steering Committee could vote to move from those accounts and use in an emergency. In addition, we are anticipating receiving a bequest from the estate of Alice Walker that is currently undesignated and therefore could be used for general funds, but the amount of that bequest and when it will come to the church are not known for certain at this point. Even assuming that those funds become available, at our current rate of spending Christ Church's undesignated cash reserves will likely be depleted in two or three years and the church budget will have to be cut even more severely than it has been.

At the end of 2009, the Finance Committee recommended that the church cut \$20,000 from staff salaries to help reduce the budget shortfall. Just prior to the January meeting, the District Superintendent requested that the congregation not vote on that recommendation, but instead allow the District to review our pastoral appointment with all other conference appointments, as the Bishop and her cabinet do

every year. Carolyn has communicated our financial situation to the DS and the Bishop, but we have not received word yet about whether Carolyn will stay for another year or Christ Church will be appointed a new pastor. The District Superintendent asked a few weeks ago that the Finance Committee prepare a six-month budget in the event that we receive a new appointment in June. The Steering Committee reviewed and passed that budget (essentially splitting the current annual budget in half) at the March meeting. Should we be appointed a new pastor, the Staff Parish Committee will follow the procedures set up by the UMC Book of Discipline. It is important to remember that, as a United Methodist Church, unlike other congregational traditions that emphasis 'calling' pastors, our ordained clergy are appointed by the Bishop. Please also remember that whatever decision the Bishop makes about who will pastor Christ Church, we will likely continue to have a gap between our income and our expenses for some time to come. It is vital that all of us continue to honor our pledges to support the work of the church and give what extra we can.

I know that some members have been frustrated with how long these issues have taken to move towards resolution; others are frustrated with the feeling that the financial status of the church hasn't been communicated more clearly. I'm afraid that we will all need to continue to be patient as the denominational review process moves forward. Carolyn and the lay leadership of the church will certainly communicate with everyone as soon as we have significant news of any sort to share. In the meantime, please continue to pray and to talk to and listen to one another about our individual and collective vision for what God intends Christ Church to be in the coming years.

Grace and peace,
Andy Blackmun
Chairperson, CCUM Steering Committee

✧ Adult Education ✧

PROCESS THEOLOGY

In April William Dean, Christ Church's Theologian-in-Residence, will offer "A Short Course on Process Theology." The class will meet at 7:00 pm on the consecutive Thursdays of April 22 and April 29, in the Christ Church Chapel. Each session will be built around a lecture and be interspersed with at least fifteen minutes of discussion.

In the first class, "Theology for a World in Change," William will begin by defining the very idea of theology, noting how it is difficult to be a thinking Christian without the roadmap that a theology provides. He will then explain how process theology is advantageous partly because it fits into the world of the modern sciences, especially physics. Most basically, we will consider, how the revolutionary worldview of process philosophy suggests process theology and its radical implications for an understanding of God.

In the second class, "A Theology for a World Built on Relations," William will explain the meaning of process theology for concepts of love. Especially important here are two ideas: (1) that relations between people may be more important than people as individuals; and (2) how aesthetic, or beautiful, relations between people may be more important than moral relations.

The course will have no textbook, but will use a short set of readings for each class, distributed by e-mail, if you have it, by hand if you don't.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

On Reconciling Sunday, May 2, the Adult Education Committee is hosting a celebratory potluck luncheon. Sign-ups to bring food will be circulated during the previous services. Everyone is welcome!

On May 13, the Adult Education Committee is hosting a quiet conversation about Marriage Equality led by the Rev. Jeremy Shaver, executive director of the Interfaith Alliance of Colorado.

Beginning Sunday, April 11, please stop by the Narthex and pick up a copy of the pamphlet, "Same-Gender Marriage & Religious Freedom" by the Rev. C. Welton Gaddy, president of the Interfaith Alliance. —*Lauren Fortmiller*

United Methodist Women

The Leadership Team for Mission will meet at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Study room at the church on Monday, April 5.

The VIBE Circle meeting will be April 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Adult Study room at the church. Lorrie Wright will present the program and Sheryl Byers will furnish refreshments. All ladies are invited to attend.

The UMW is sponsoring a tour and visit of the Denver Inner City Parish on Wednesday, April 14. The Denver Inner City parish, located at 910 Galapago St., is one of the mission projects supported by the UMW and is also a Conference designated mission. This organization serves the local community with various outreach programs, including an alternative high school, day care, summer camp for grade school children, senior citizens' programs, community meals, a food bank, and worship services. There will be a tour of the facilities and programs at 5:00 p.m. with a worship service at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to stay after worship and participate in the community meal. All interested persons are encouraged to come and learn about this local mission in the heart of the city. The director, Steve Johnsen, has asked those coming to bring a couple of cans of food to add to their food bank. Reservations can be made by calling Margaret Simmons at (303) 287-1119. If you are interested in carpooling, please let Margaret know when you make your reservation.

The annual Conference UMW Retreat theme this year is "Breath of Life: A holy conspiracy with God" and features Bishop Elaine Stanovsky as the guest speaker. The retreat will be held in Estes Park on April 23-25. Christ Church has nine people planning to go to the retreat: Margaret Simmons, Diane Lewis, Sheryl Byers, Lorrie Wright, Carla Schwartzkopf, Anne Stonington, Michele Michaels, Rebecca Bourgerois and Kenita Gibbins. If you are interested in joining the group for this weekend retreat, please contact Margaret Simmons at (303) 287-1119.

The Conference announced last week that \$14.5 million dollars have come in from United Methodists for relief aid in Haiti. Every dollar of this money goes directly into the relief effort, because all administrative costs are covered by The One Great Hour of Sharing offering taken in March in all United Methodist Churches. —*Lorrie Wright*

Joys & Announcements

- **Thank you** to everyone who participated in last month's Trustee Work Day!
- **Thank you** to all who were able to attend the Christ Church Holy Week events — the Passover Seder Meal and the Children's Easter Egg Hunt were a smashing success!



Cares & Concerns

- **Pam White** recently had eye surgery and is recovering well.
- Keep choir member **Cathy Hall** in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from upcoming surgery.
- **Neva Windbigler** may now be contacted with cards and well-wishes at the following address: Family Assisted Living, 2948 Routt Circle, Lakewood, 80125-7028.
- Continue to keep **Bonnie Whittlesey** in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: 7877 E. Mississippi, #707E, Denver 80247.

✧ Congregational Care ✧

So far in 2010 Congregational Care has been involved in visiting some homebound individuals (Bonnie Whittlesey & June Horton). We have offered our driving services to a church member (Miriam Arthur) and her friends who would not be able to make it to church without some help. We are planning a Senior Luncheon for May 16 and we will be responsible for coffee hour in May. Our goal is to increase our visitations to some homebound individuals we haven't visited yet and to co-sponsor an all-church event this summer. Members of Congregational Care committee include Sheryl Byers, Michelle Micheals, Marilyn Aguilar, Carol Tudor, Renee and Mike Kappus. Thank you for your support. —*Sheryl Byers*

✧ Social Action ✧

BUILDING HOMES — BUILDING LIVES

Volunteer with Habitat for Humanity on the following dates April 17 & 24 and May 1 & 15. Christ Church is participating in the sponsorship program for Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver's current Bails Townhome Community build. The townhomes are being constructed near I-25 & Colorado and will provide an opportunity for homeownership for 24 families. CCUM will contribute to this unique project with funds from the Mission budget and with volunteer hours (CCUM build days).

We need 10 volunteers on each of our designated four Saturdays at the building sites, as well as people each week who are able to bring lunch and/or provide child care. Please stop by the display in the Narthex for more information about our exciting partnership with Habitat or e-mail the committee for details at ccumsocialaction@gmail.com.

CCUM FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to everyone who brought in items for the food pantry in March! **April's Food Item of the Month: Peanut Butter & crackers.**

FAIR TRADE COFFEE

Did you know that you are supporting Fairly Traded products every time you enjoy a cup of coffee or hot chocolate during fellowship hour? Supporting fair trade is another way to help people in need around the world. You can help the Social Action committee continue this ministry by contributing donations to our 'Coffee Pot' when you fill up cup on Sunday. Thanks in advance for your help!—*Kristen Hampton*

Christ Church Calendar: April 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Christ Church Connections Deadline for May article submissions: April 20, 2010 Submit articles to: briggs@christchurchcolorado.org</p>				<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00 p.m. Neuropathy Support 5:30 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus 6:00 p.m. Easting Disorder Support 6:30 p.m. Passover Seder dinner 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Debtors Anonymous 10:30 a.m. Children's Easter Egg Hunt
<p>4 Easter Sunday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee 	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 p.m. Rocky Mountain Children's Choir 7:00 p.m. UMW Leadership Team <p>Church offices closed</p>	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 a.m. Staff meeting 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 p.m. Dances for Universal Peace 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus 6:00 p.m. Easting Disorder Support 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Debtors Anonymous
<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee 11:30 a.m. Social Action 11:30 a.m. Congregational Care 6:30 p.m. Denver Gay Men's Chorus 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 p.m. Rocky Mountain Children's Choir 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 a.m. Staff meeting 6:00 p.m. Children's Ed Committee 6:00 p.m. Trustees 7:00 p.m. Steering Committee 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 a.m. Lions Club 5:00 p.m. UMW (offsite) 7:00 p.m. Dances for Universal Peace 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00 p.m. Neuropathy Support 5:30 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus 6:00 p.m. Easting Disorder Support 	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Debtors Anonymous
<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee 11:30 a.m. Adult Ed 6:30 p.m. Denver Gay Men's Chorus 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 p.m. Rocky Mountain Children's Choir 7:00 p.m. UMW VIBE Circle 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 a.m. Staff meeting 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 p.m. Dances for Universal Peace 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus 6:00 p.m. Easting Disorder Support 7:00 p.m. Process Theology class 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Debtors Anonymous
<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee 6:30 p.m. Denver Gay Men's Chorus <p>Koins for Kids</p>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 p.m. Rocky Mountain Children's Choir 6:00 p.m. Welcoming Committee 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:30 a.m. Staff meeting 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 p.m. Dances for Universal Peace 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus 6:00 p.m. Easting Disorder Support 7:00 p.m. Process Theology class 	<p>30</p>	