

Heart to Heart the newsletter of Heart of the Rockies Christian Church

August, 2011

One Worship Service, August 14

Our high school youth will share their formative mission experiences in worship on Sunday, August 14. We'll have one worship service at 10 a.m. that Sunday, followed by lunch courtesy of the youth. Plan to stay and enjoy some fellowship.

Chi-Rho on Mission to Alamosa

Pray for our middle school youth who are now serving the Alamosa community through La Puente Home (www.lapuente.net). The following are cooking and serving meals and doing other work around this agency that provide emergency food and housing for the San Luis Valley: **Jaden Adamson, Tessa Beaty, Mary Falsetto, Brady Harding, James Mahon, Bekah Matthews, Emily Mosley, Jeff Peters, Lauren Sluss, Tony Strafand** and their mentors, **Stacy Poncelow, Linda Harding, Brent Wiescamp** and **Scott Hardin-Nieri**. The families they are serving live in one of the poorest counties in Colorado.



An Emerging Plan

Our All-Church Conference Steering Team has completed a draft plan that emerged out of the all-church gatherings and subsequent small group discerning sessions. Participants in the two gatherings will recognize their input.



A presentation of the team's work was made to Church Council in July. Moderator **Joe Cowan** shared recommendations from our Alban consultant. These highlights of the proposed five-year plan were reported for the council's initial consideration.

Overall Goals

- Thrive in pursuing Heart of the Rockies' mission:
 Loving God. Serving others. Changing lives.
- Grow *intentionally to fulfill our mission more effectively, through:*
- Inviting others into discipleship and nourishing them along the journey
- Additional facilities, e.g., classrooms, nursery and associated infrastructure
- Additional part-time staff in key areas
- Adequate compensation for staff

Visions or Strategies to Fulfill our Goals

- Nurture & Grow, especially families with children
- Address Our Space Limitations
- Become Better Known in the Community
- Build on Our Strengths
- Increase our Environmental Stewardship
- Adapt our Culture & Governance to live into our strategies and move toward our goals

The team also identified five challenges our church community faces in reaching toward our goals. Once Church Council approves the plan and it has been reviewed (and perhaps revised) by our *Heart* Ministry Teams, it will be brought to the congregation for its consideration and adoption.

Fall Schedule

We return to our fall schedule on Sunday, September 11. Worship will be celebrated at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday school classes for all ages resume at 9:50 a.m. We'll be offering three adult classes on Sunday mornings this fall, including a class for caregivers of children and a men's class exploring male spirituality.

A variety of Monday evening classes will include a book study led by **Becca Hardin-Nieri** on *The Gospel of Father Joe*, by Greg Barrett. Watch your mail box, Sunday bulletins, our website (www.heartoftherockies.org), and September's newsletter for a complete listing of our fall classes.

What then are we to say? If God is for us, who could be against us?
 — The Apostle Paul

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Summer Worship Schedule: 9 & 11 a.m. services

In the Community

On Sunday, August 7, the community is honoring Sister Mary Alice Murphy on her 80th birthday. The community is invited to the 2-5 p.m. reception at the Northside Aztlan Community Center, 112 Willow Street. In lieu of cards or gifts, you may make a contribution to any of the organizations impacted by Sister Mary Alice: CARE Housing; Catholic Charities Northern; HandUp; Homeless Gear; Homelessness Prevention Initiative; Homeward 2020; the Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope.

Heartbeats

- ♥ **LUNCH BUNCH** is a casual gathering for *all* who meet at the Welcome Desk after second service to select where to join for lunch together. Everyone is invited! No dues, no membership, no long-term commitment.
- ♥ Our Worship Team will retreat on Saturday morning, August 27, to plan for fall worship and consider other ideas and projects.
- ♥ Are you interested in knitting, crocheting or needlework of any kind? The next gathering for Knitwits will be August 11, 9:30 a.m. at the church. Contact **Sherri Jackson** (204-1774) for more information.
- ♥ Aveda salons are no longer accepting our bottle caps for recycling, so PLEASE don't bring any more to the kitchen. Thank you so much for the many caps you avid recyclers brought to church. We turned in several hundred (maybe even over a thousand) but now have several hundred that must be put in the landfill, unless we find another "taker".
- ♥ Jeff & Janet are hosting an alternative tour to Israel and Palestine on January 26-February 5, 2012. For more information, check out their website, www.footstepsofJesustour.org.
- ♥ Assistive Listening Devices are available to aid those with hearing loss during Sunday morning services. The devices can be checked out at the sound desk at the back of the sanctuary.



JustFaith

Your generosity has been a great gift to the children at the Disciples Tennyson Center for Children and Families/Colorado Christian Home. Our *JustFaith* group has collected thousands of items over the years to meet the everyday needs of the children there. Thank you!

Augusts' list includes: hand lotion, construction paper (assorted 9x12), Kleenex (regular size boxes), toilet paper, slim fit tampons, thin and ultra thin maxi pads, chapstick (regular and flavored), hair gel and Q-Tips. A box is located in the church lobby to collect these gifts. —**JustFaith Group**

Library Corner

Seasons of Life by Mary Batchelor

Comparing the seasons of the year to the changing patterns of life isn't new, but this little book does it beautifully with poems, scripture, and lovely photos. It's a thoughtful, relaxing little book to page through. Even if you haven't yet experienced every "season" yourself, I think you will be able to identify with each season from the experiences of others. It's a book worth a careful perusal, and very likely, some thought afterward. —**Karen Smith**

News from the Outreach Team

Here is an update on a few of our current activities:

Angel House – More than twenty folks from Heart of the Rockies attended volunteer training sessions in April. In July, **Mary Chappell, Sue Anderson** and **Alice Austin** attended a coordinator's meeting. Angel House Executive Director AnnMarie Arbo reports that as soon as expected grants come in to ensure necessary funding, Angel House Fort Collins will begin. Ten host churches and five support churches have committed so far. Volunteers from Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church will be helping here. Under the leadership of Mary Chappell, Heart of the Rockies will be ready when we get the word! Donations still needed: alarm clocks, crib sheets, children's books, coloring books, crayons, diapers, baby wipes, twin sheets, tissues and cleaning supplies. Please leave donations in the church office for pickup by Sue Anderson, keeper of the supplies.



Shiprock (Navajo Nation) Work Trip – **September 21-25**.

Look for article on page 1 in this newsletter for more details.

Venezuelan Medical Mission Trip – Three members from Heart of the Rockies (**Alice Austin, Linda Cowan, and Roz Ruppert**) will be going on the Global Partners medical mission trip to Venezuela, October 4-13. They'll be supporting the partnership that's been in place between our Disciples region, the Rocky Mountain UCC region, and the United Pentecostal Evangelical Church of Venezuela for the past fifteen years. We'll be working to raise funds for needed supplies for the group to take with them. They're hoping to take suitcases full of the following donations:

- First aid tape
- 4" gauze bandages
- Antibiotic ointment
- Vitamins (especially prenatal)
- Children's Motrin (generic)
- Antifungal cream
- Bar soap
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Hand towels and wash cloths
- Children's clothing (particularly infants'), clean and in good condition
- School supplies
- Small toys
- Children's books in Spanish
- Work gloves and bandanas
- Anything having to do with the Rockies: caps, balls, kid's clothing

Tennyson Center Mission Trip – We would love to offer a one-day, or possibly overnight, work/mission trip to serve the youth at the Tennyson Center. We are looking for someone to lead this effort, possibly in the fall or early winter. Contact Alice Austin if you would like to learn more. A drum circle experience might be included!

Amy Gopp, Director, Week of Compassion – We are looking forward to hosting Amy Gopp! She'll be preaching here February 26, 2012, and teaching us more about this important ministry our church supports.

—**Sue Anderson, Outreach**

Kids at Heart Beats

A BIG THANKYOU to everyone who came out from Heart of the Rockies Church to volunteer at our Fundango event on July 16 in Loveland. We had 70 children who had a blast at Field Day Fundango. From what I have heard, the parachute rotation lead by **Jeff Wright** was a huge hit. Thanks everyone. If you missed this past Heart of the Rockies Fundango, don't worry. We have another one coming up on December 6 in Loveland. We will be celebrating our ten year anniversary in December, so bring a friend and come support a ministry that has done amazing things these past ten years.

Also I would like to thank **Mickey Ruff** for all her hard work. Mickey volunteered her time to organize the Kids at Heart closets. They look great!!

Our 3rd Annual Camp Fundango is almost here! We have worked hard on planning a great camping experience for our 140 campers that will be attending camp this year. I can't wait to share the stories and photos with you all next month.

If you are interested, please call (970-223-1230) or email me (director@kidsatheartfundango.org). To learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Mary Beth, Volunteer Coordinator (223-1230; volunteercoordinator@kidsatheartfundango.org). Our 2011 Fundango dates can be found at our website www.kidsatheartfundango.org.

—**Erica Wharton**, Executive Director

General Assembly Update

I had the honor of being one of the voting delegates representing Heart of the Rockies at the General Assembly in Nashville. What an awesome experience to be among thousands of fellow Disciples from all over the U.S. doing the "business" of the church! The issues discussed ranged from immigration to supporting our troops and their families in the war. I was able to visit with old and new friends at lunches and dinners with great food and programs. I enjoyed the music in worship and at the Country Music Hall of Fame, as well as the excellent speakers each evening. What a delightful city ... Nashville ... especially to a music lover like myself! The workshops were many and varied with interesting topics and presenters. I was grateful to have the opportunity to attend the conference. I urge all who can, to go to future General Assemblies. The next one is in Orlando, in 2013. See you there!

—**Sharon Kunze**

So every day

So every day

*I was surrounded by the beautiful
crying forth
of the ideas of God,
one of which was you.*

Poet Mary Oliver, from *Red Bird*



July Council Notes

Heart of the Rockies Council – comprised of executive officers, *Heart*Ministry leaders and two at-large members – is charged to administer the life and ministry of our church. Each month, council minutes (along with a list of council members and a copy of the treasurer's report) can be found on the bulletin board between Jeff's office and Room 2. Items of interest from the July meeting:

Joe Cowan provided an update on the Planning with Passion, Acting with Purpose process and Council discussed next steps, including a meeting in September focused on the Steering Committee's results.

Denny Soucek provided an update on the carpeting and painting and thanked the many people who have contributed time and effort into moving and arranging items.

The next Council meeting will be August 10, 7 p.m. in Rm 1.

—**Hugh Mahon**, Council Secretary



Letters

Dear Friends at Heart of the Rockies,

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers, cards, visits, gifts, meals and many other ways of caring for me and my family over these past several weeks of medical challenges. I am especially grateful for Shelley Johnson (yes, she can still make me laugh even when I'm in a lot of pain). The love and support from all of you is a blessing and strengthens my recovery.

Gratefully,

Betsy Davis-Noland

Thanks for the gift toward General Assembly expenses for the four of us who were voting delegates. All of us appreciated the help! We were renewed by great worship, meaningful workshops/business sessions and the chance to connect with others in our denomination from the US and overseas.

—**Janet Wright**

We'd like to invite everyone to stop inside the nursery, introduce yourselves to our nursery staff and get comfortable on one of our two new rocking chairs. We'd like to thank **Joe & Linda Cowan** for donating them in honor of **Tom & Patsy Nix**. We know many children will be rocked, comforted and loved on these chairs for so many years to come because of them. Thank you for supporting our youngest church family!

—**Erin Tyler & Nursery Staff**

Shiprock Mission Trip

John Shaw has planned this year's Shiprock Navajo Mission trip for September 21-25. This is the week we go down to help repair homes on the Navajo Reservation, and we always need more help. Volunteers from several Disciples and Congregational churches will be driving down on Wednesday, September 21 and there will be plenty of room if you want to slip in! If you can't go, but would like to contribute to the effort, we are especially in need of donations this year to help buy building supplies.

As you may already appreciate, the third week of September is a beautiful week to be traveling in the mountains, as the Aspen color is usually at its peak. Add in the immersion in Native American culture, great food, and the chance to shop for authentic hand-made jewelry, rugs and other crafts, and for me, it is hard to pass up. For more information contact me (207-9450) or **John Shaw** (493-0572).

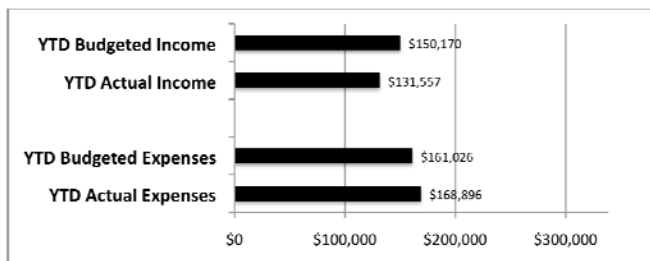
—**Bob Willhour**

Treasurer's Trove

So it seems here we are yet again – our nation seems to be struggling with how to stave off the next financial crisis. Debt numbers that are already unfathomable, exploring how to increase limits even more, and politicians continuing to do more posturing and finger pointing on both sides of the fence vs. doing a better job in listening to each other and working towards responsible and even common sense, long-term solutions. (Well, that's admittedly my somewhat ignorant opinion anyway!)

Which just makes me all that more grateful to be part of a congregation that truly wants to be good stewards of God's given resources. I have to first of all extend a huge thank you to **David Hartley** for his efforts in leading our three-year capital campaign (aka, building fund) these past months. Through his efforts and the tremendous response of all of you, we have once again achieved pledges to meet our goals and commitments. In our all-church retreat and planning meetings, I heard my own desires to pay down/off our debt echoed in others. We are certainly very grateful to have our loan and the services provided by Church Extension that has enabled so much for our congregation. At the same time, we are paying roughly \$75,000 annually towards our building loan, right around half of which is going towards interest we all know could be put to other newer and exciting opportunities. So I'm thankful for the continued support and outpouring generosity from this congregation to be models of good stewardship that God calls us to be.

Jan-June 2011 General Fund Performance to Budget



—Scott Johnson, Treasurer

Youth News

There will be no regular fellowship or Sunday School during the summer. Instead look for special events, camps, service opportunities and mission trips. Regular meeting times will resume in September.



Here are some upcoming events. Stay tuned for more details.

- **July 31-August 6**, Chi-Rho Mission trip to Alamosa;
- **August 14**, Youth Stockholders Lunch;
- **August 17**, Chi-Rho and CYF Water World Excursion.

Chica Chat Young Women's Bible Study

Young women ages 13-18 pray, talk, snack and laugh together. They rotate meeting days and locations. Please call **Becca Hardin-Nieri** (225-8002) or **Holly Wolsey** at (229-9646) for locations and times.

Mystery Mountain

Mystery Mountain, our Sunday School ministry for 3-year-olds through sixth graders, will resume in September.

Notes from A Wide-Eyed Journey

In Carrillos, Costa Rica, the roosters began their crowing every day around 3:30 in the morning. Sleep was often difficult in the hot, sticky Sunday School rooms nestled along the outskirts of this rural town. Some mornings my half-conscious mind would hear actual words pouring from that beak. One day I heard, "Get quiet dog!" over and over again in rhythmic ear-grating melody with a neighbor's dog howling and barking.

It is odd to admit that I miss those roosters now. It could be simple nostalgia that longs for the incredible hospitality of the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan people, the community of our team of 15, the witness of several churches fighting poverty with love and creativity, the amazing food, the difficult and muscle pounding work, and the space each morning and evening for reflection and prayer.

If not nostalgia, perhaps the roosters serve as a signal to wake up. Not just from my slumber but from my numbed place in the world. The rooster might have been stirring just as Jesus does who, with loving persistence, invites all humanity to wake up. Inviting us with a shock to leave our comfortable places and to serve the least of these, to live life abundantly and to become aware of, then engage in, the transformation of injustice and brokenness.

It is an abrupt profound sound – that COCKA DOODLE DOOOO! But it is gone now as I am protected by double paned windows, air conditioning and an urban environment. I am protected from the early screech by my own busy-ness and unintentional routine.

Oh, how I long for the roosters. May I continue to wake up to the ways of God in this world and how I might partner in faithful ways. Church, you can be grateful for your youth. They have spent time serving and listening to the jarring impact of God's powerful love. They represented you well and will continue to dream into a life fully awake with Jesus.

—**Scott Hardin-Nieri**, Pastor



Nervous parents, seeing their kids off



Costa Rica Mission-Bound

A View from the Mountains

My apologies to those who make their living – and feed the world – by working the land. The disappointment I'll share pales before the loss and sometimes ruin that farmers and ranchers risk every year when they plant their crops.

On July 13, while Church Council was meeting, our church's neighborhood was hit with a powerful hail storm. Janet and I were returning from the General Assembly in Nashville. As we approached the church, we saw piles of green – thousands of leaves in the road on Lemay Avenue near the church. Then we saw piles of white – the hail that had pounded the roadway moments before. When Janet let me out of the car for the meeting, I picked up golf ball-sized hail. Council members reported that the roar on the church's roof during the storm was deafening.

The next morning when I arrived at work, I noticed the two gorgeous trees that accent the approach to our building. The species, included in **Deanne Frederickson's** landscape design



for our property, is *Aesculus glabra*, commonly known as Ohio buckeye. I love the buckeye. It has a great history. In addition to using the tannic acid for leatherworking, Native Americans roasted and peeled the nut, mashing the contents into a nutritional meal they called *Hetuck*, meaning the eye of a buck deer.

My father used to dry then carve the buckeye. He'd use his knife to cut away a portion of the hard covering and whittle a face into the meat of the nut. Further dried, each face took on the sun-soaked and wrinkled features that reflect the experience of many years.

I love watching the trees leaf in the spring, the first signs of the buckeye emerging with its nettled outer covering. Our church kids often pick the buckeyes at this point, before the inner nuts have matured and developed their rich and varied patterns. That's O.K., because as the two trees have grown they have produced an increasing number of buckeyes – many out of our children's reach! But this year, the hail storm left less than twenty buckeyes on the two trees.

I was saddened that morning. Still am. More important, I'm amazed at the persistence and faith and patience and forgiveness that characterize the farmer who, every year, cultivates the land, plants seeds, fertilizes, weeds the rows and hopes – that *this* year there'll be a crop to harvest. I'm missing the prospect of a buckeye bonanza. I can only imagine the disappointment and sorrow and financial burden of those who – suffering hail, blight or whatever may ravage – get back on their tractors, till the shreds into the soil, and make plans for the next season. God bless them.

—Jeff Wright, Pastor

Disciples News

• New Fire is a network of ecumenical organizations and Christian communions that seek to revitalize the Church by engaging and developing the next generation of Christian leaders. This year's New Fire Gathering will be in conjunction with the National Council of Churches Centennial Gathering in New Orleans, LA, November 7-9. Interested? Check out: www.nccusa.org/witnesses2010/ga2010relatedevents.htm#newfire.

Heartfelt Thanks To...

... **Sue Anderson, Stacy Poncelew, Karen Smith, Sherri Jackson, and Jeff & Janet Wright**

for providing snacks to our guests from First Christian, Lawrence, Kansas, when they over-nighted in our building on their way to and from their mission in Wyoming; all who helped with the moving of furniture and items back and forth during the refurbishing of the church; **Ron McMillan**, who helped coordinate the movers and cleaned the gutters after the hail storm.



Adult Education

Please join us for one of our Adult Education classes which meet in-between church services beginning September 11.

Among the offerings:

Exploring The Journey Back to Authentic Manhood. Class content is based on the book, *From Wild Man to Wise Man* by Richard Rohr (cost \$12), focusing on an exploration of the masculine side of a faith journey. It is a class by men, about men, and for men to allow balanced growth. Led by **T Adamson and Jeff Wright**.

—Celeste Scott, Adult Education

Monday Evenings

A class based on the book, *The Gospel of Father Joe* by Greg Barrett, will be led by **Becca Hardin-Nieri**. In 2010, Becca met Greg when they traveled to Israel and Palestine with Jeff & Janet on their alternative tour. We will be exploring the book and learning about the slums of Bangkok and a Catholic priest who lives alongside the beautiful people there. The hope is that through these stories and our discussions we may explore a part of the world we rarely see or hear about and possibly begin to understand how our connection and disconnect tell a bit of our own story.

A Fresh Coat of Paint

Our church community is enjoying the fruit of the congregation's generosity: a fresh coat of paint for the church's interior, a complete re-carpeting/tiling job and a reconfiguration of the administrative office. Our thanks to **Denny Soucek** and **Sue Krueger**, who supervised the transformation, and **Jack Krueger** and Sue for installing cabinets and a desk in the office for Kids at Heart Director **Erica Wharton**.

Shiprock Scramble Golf Tournament

Our home renovation mission on the Shiprock, New Mexico, Navajo Reservation is scheduled for September 21-25. For more information contact **Harlan Ferguson** (669-2192) or **John Shaw** (493-0572).

It's not too late to register for the golf tournament benefitting the Navajo Work Project. Join us Saturday, August 20, at Cattail Creek Golf Course, Loveland. Golfers pay \$50 each (includes green fee, lunch and more). Numerous prizes will be awarded. Non-golfers are welcome to the banquet after golf. An adult meal costs \$8, children under 10 are \$4, and children under 3 are free.

Shiprock Scramble Golf Tournament
Cattail Creek Golf Course, Loveland, Colorado – Saturday, August 20, 2011
Registration

Name _____ Phone # _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Email _____ Church _____
 Team Captain? Yes ___ No ___
 Want to play with a specific foursome? Yes ___ No ___
 If yes, list other player names: _____

** Tee times start at 6:30 a.m. and follow every 10 minutes. Tee times will be assigned. If you prefer a specific time, we will attempt to honor your request. If not registering with a team, you will be assigned to a team to make a foursome.*

** \$50 registration fee per player—including green fees, golf balls, lunch at First Christian Church (2000 North Lincoln Avenue) and prizes for all participants. Also, coffee, water and donuts at 1st tee.*

**Note: There is a limited number of tee times available (30 teams or 120 players, maximum).
 Please return your registration form no later than Monday, August 1.**

Registration fee @ \$50.00 per player x _____ = \$ _____

Non-golfer for lunch @ \$8.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Children (under 10) lunch @ \$4.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Children (under 3) lunch @ NC x _____ = No Charge

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please return registration forms and fees to: Dennis Miller, 4708 Mountain Vista Court, Loveland, CO 80537. Make checks payable to First Christian Church—Shiprock Golf. 50% (\$25) of registration fee can be considered a donation for tax purposes. Please pick up your receipt at registration table at the course.



August 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 9 am Humane Society (1)	4	5	6
Chi Rho Mission, Alamosa, July 31 - Aug. 6						
		Lawrence, KS Mission group overnight	5 pm Elders	7 pm Finance Team (2) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)		5 pm Fundango
9 am Worship 11 am Worship	7	8	9	10 Club 456 Summer Party 7 pm Council Mtg. (1)	11 9:30 am Knitwits (2) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	12 13 Camp Fundango, Estes Aug. 12-14
10 am Combined Worship Stockholder's/All- Church lunch	14	15	16	17 Chi-Rho and CYF Water World Excursion	18 6:15 pm Worship Meeting (2) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	19 7-8 pm Community Drum Circle 20 Shiprock Golf Tournament (Cattail - Loveland) 2 pm - 6 pm Teghan Decker baby shower (1)
9 am Worship 10 am Rehab Nursing Center of the Rockies (O) 11 am Worship	21	22 10 am - 2 pm District Disciples Pastors (Casper)	23	24	25 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	26 27 9 am - Noon Worship Team Retreat
9 am Worship 11 am Worship	28	29	30 7 pm Provincetown HOA Board Meeting (1)	31	FALL KICK-OFF Sunday, September 11 Worship: 8:30 & 11, S.S.: 9:50	
Register now for the Shiprock Mission September 21-25 Forms on lobby table						(1) Room One (2) Room Two (S) Sanctuary (M) Modular (O) Other Location