



Heart to Heart

the newsletter of
Heart of the Rockies Christian Church

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May, 2011

Capital Campaign 2011-2014



On Sunday, May 15, we kick off our new three-year campaign, *Securing the Future*, to receive pledges toward our building fund.

Our past campaigns have been for two years. However, this year we are asking members and friends for a three-year financial commitment to pay our church's mortgage and building maintenance needs.

The good news is that we are past the half-way point in paying down the mortgage with about eleven years behind us and about nine years to go. As with most mortgages, the closer we get to the end, a larger percentage of the payments go to the principal and less to the interest. We have a good record with our past faithful commitments, yet still need to persevere. Giving toward this campaign starts in June 2011 and ends in May 2014.

Our church building is now approaching twelve years of existence and showing some wear and tear. With a successful campaign we hope to do more improvements, and make as-needed repairs to the parking lot and roof.

The brief campaign will be conducted with Sunday announcements and weekly letters from Sunday, May 15, to Sunday, May 29. Watch for more details as the campaign nears.

Way to Go!

You'll recall, during our last Building Fund Campaign, that Council committed to using over-and-above giving to re-carpet our church and provide other improvements. Thanks to the congregation's generous and consistent giving, we've received enough to pay our monthly mortgage – and more! Bids are being gathered now for re-carpeting, which the Property Management Team plans to arrange shortly after the completion of Vacation Bible School!

VBS – June 6-10, 9 am -12 noon

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School! Children ages Kindergarten – 5th are welcome to participate. Preschool and Nursery groups will be available for children of volunteers participating at VBS. Sixth grade and older are encouraged to volunteer!

June 5, following second service, we will have Volunteer Training & VBS Decorating. Lunch will be provided.

June 10, 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m., help us tear down after VBS; lunch will be provided.

Don't forget to check out the "Hometown Hero" display in the sanctuary! We hope you will be a hero for us!

Please contact **Erica Wharton** (227-4832) or **Karen Ramsey** (556-0433) if you would like to sign up to participate or volunteer! Registration forms are in the church lobby.

All-Church Conference, Part II

Join your church family Saturday, May 14, for the second and critical part of our All-Church Conference. You don't need to have attended the March event!

Eight working teams will lay out their proposed action plans for our congregation. These plans come out of the first portion of the conference, attended by over seventy members and friends. Larry Peers, our consultant, will be sharing other important insights and learnings, based on his experience and the input from our church family.

We'll begin at 9 a.m., have a light lunch together and go until 2 p.m. Childcare will be provided. *We're asking for a significant investment of our members' and friends' time*, because we're setting the direction of our church's life and ministry for years to come. Call the church office to let us know that you're coming.



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 • www.heartoftherockies.org • Email: office@heartoftherockies.org

Worship Schedule: 8:30 & 11 a.m. services; 9:50 a.m. Sunday School

We create ourselves by our choices.
 —Soren Kierkegaard

In the Community

- Community members of all faiths are invited to Taste of HarShalom, a Jewish Family Festival in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month. This day of Jewish food, culture, entertainment and fun will be held on May 22, 12 noon to 4 p.m., 725 West Drake Road.
- There are spots available for the Wilderness Backpack Camp for all youth and young adults ages 16-21. The trip will be guided by Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries and co-directed by Scott Hardin-Nieri. The adventure is August 7-12 and the cost is \$275.

Heartbeats

- ♥ Next time you see **Erica Wharton**, express your thanks for her over three years of service as our Childcare Coordinator! Then seek out **Erin Tyler** and thank her for taking on this role, so important to the life and health of our church family.
- ♥ A second All-Church Work Day is being planned for a Saturday in June. We'll concentrate on outside projects.
- ♥ WOW (Women on Wednesday) Prayer Lunch meets – on Wednesdays – from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch. **Our last meeting till fall will be May 11. WOW will resume in September.**
- ♥ The date has been set for the Shiprock Golf Tournament: August 20, 2011, at Cattail Golf Course in Loveland. For more information, check the announcement board or call the church office.
- ♥ Men, gather for laughter, Bible study, prayer and a great breakfast each Saturday morning from 8-9 a.m.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ Are you interested in knitting, crocheting or needlework of any kind? The next gathering for Knitwits will be April 14, 9:30 a.m., at the church. Contact **Sherri Jackson** (204-1774) for more information.

Youth Sunday Update



The Heart of the Rockies annual Youth Sunday was May 1, an experience of joy and gratitude as we explored the Revolution of God's Love! In addition to inspiring youth-led worship, we enjoyed a delicious

lunch from Albert Pit BBQ and a silent auction, all to benefit the costs of camp and mission trips for our kids.

We had so many donations and are so grateful for your support. Around \$4,000 is an early estimate of the event's receipts!

Congratulations to our graduating seniors! We will miss them and know they are moving out to experience and serve God by growing and serving others: **Nate Anderson, Travis Arnold, Brandan Clark, Sean and Trae Field, Alex and Spencer Johnson, Elizabeth Mahon, Cody Main, Luke Matthews and Lexi Reeder.**

Summer Worship Schedule

We begin our summer worship scheduled on Sunday, June 5. We'll worship at 9 and 11 a.m. We resume our fall schedule – and Sunday school classes – on Sunday, September 11.

Moderator's Moment

"... IS GROWING NUMERICALLY" – that's the name of the Action Planning Group (APG) that I'm leading as a part of our *Planning with Purpose, Acting with Passion* process. There are 7 other APGs underway, each addressing a vision statement that begins with "Heart of the Rockies is a church that...". You can find the complete list of APGs in the "All-Church Conference Overview" report included with our last HRCC newsletter email.

An APG on just numerical growth sort of rubs me the wrong way. After all, HRCC really exists to carry out its mission of *Loving God, Serving Others, Changing Lives*. I'm not one who believes in growth simply for the sake of growth. Bigger is not always better. Not everyone even wants growth. If we grow too big, we may lose some of what makes HRCC so special to many of us. Growth requires change, and change is hard. So why am I leading an APG on numerical growth? Well, I believe that HRCC is at an awkward size. We are blessed to have a dedicated and gifted staff. Yet, as a long time member of our Finance Team, I know how hard HRCC has struggled especially the last few years to compensate our staff adequately, and I've been dismayed at being forced to cut salary and other compensation because of our current size and giving levels. I also see our mission as being impacted by limited resources like classrooms & nursery facilities. So, even though I never envision HRCC becoming a mega-church, I think we need to grow a bit in size and giving!

—Joe Cowan, Moderator



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!

May's list includes: sunscreen (SPF 30 and above), beach towels, sunglasses for children, shampoo, plastic shoe boxes, slim fit tampons, thin and ultra thin maxi pads, hair ties, bands, barrettes, etc., digital timers. A box is located in the church lobby to collect these gifts. Thank you!

—JustFaith Group

From Our Disciples Family

- Our regional church, in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Synod of the United Church of Christ, is planning a medical mission to Venezuela in September. The mission is in need of translators (Spanish), medical personnel and other volunteers (non-medical). If you're interested, learn more by calling Barabra Hanst at Boulder's First Congregational Church (303/443-1397).
- A Church World Service paper presented at a University of Oxford conference explores the positive historical and contemporary role of U.S. churches in refugee resettlement and advocacy. Disciples Jennifer Riggs, Director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM), was one of those interviewed for the paper, which highlights the positive impact of resettlement not only on refugees but also on the communities that welcome them. RIM is a program of Disciples Home Missions funded by your Week of Compassion offerings.

Kids at Heart Beats

Mark your calendars for the NEXT Heart of the Rockies Fundango night on July 16 at the Loveland Boys & Girls Club! Kids at Heart would like to make a night dedicated just for our wonderful Heart of the Rockies



Families to volunteer at Fundango. I was reminiscing, thinking way back when we ONLY had you all as volunteers and how much fun that was, how well we bonded, how we leaned on each other each month to show up AND how much work that was. New volunteers need to arrive at 3:30 p.m. for training and returning volunteers need to arrive at 4:15 p.m.

The Larimer County Child Advocacy Center (www.larimercac.org) is having their 15th annual – Run for a child's sake – fundraiser on June 11. This is a great opportunity to support a great organization as well as Kids at Heart. We are hoping to have a large Kids at Heart Team that will run /walk together. If you are interested in supporting two great organizations, please sign up <http://runforachildssake.eventbrite.com/>. Remember to include **Kids at Heart** as your team name.

If you would like to join the fun, we are always looking for volunteers to help with our Fundango program and to help in the office. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Mary Beth, Volunteer Coordinator (223-1230; volunteercoordinator@kidsatheartfundango.org).

Our 2010 Fundango dates can be found at our website www.kidsatheartfundango.org.

—**Erica Wharton**, Executive Director

General Assembly in Nashville

Our Disciples family will gather in Nashville for its biennial family reunion on July 9-13. In addition to great worship (with thousands sharing in communion and song) and amazing workshops, learning experiences and a huge book/church supply store, speakers will include Fred Craddock, Brian McLaren, Marian Wright Edelman, Holly McKissick and more. Drop by the church office for registration forms and hotel information, or go to www.disciples.org/ga.



Letters

Thank you for the cards, calls, flowers, and condolences. Your thoughtful gestures meant a great deal. How blessed we are to have you in our lives!

—**Sue & Jack Krueger**

On behalf of the Property Team, we would like to thank all those who showed for the clean-up of the church in April - you all did a great job and the church looked spic & span. A special thanks to **Jack Krueger** & the youth counselors and youth in creating two new rooms in the modular.

—**Denny Soucek**

Heart of the Rockies,

Homeless Gear would like to thank you for your generous cash donation. The money we collect helps us purchase items that we cannot collect in sufficient quantities. Imagine having a clean and NEW pair of socks on a wet spring day!

With Kindest Regards,
Ken John, Homeless Gear

April 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 April meeting:

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 April meeting:

Denny Soucek from Property Management reported that the team is getting bids for replacing carpeting and painting.

Alice Austin reports from the Outreach Team that they have created a new brochure for the church and are continuing with planning and training for Angel House.

The next Council meeting will be May 11 at 7 p.m. in Rm 1.
—**Hugh Mahon**, Council Secretary



Interfaith Council News

The program at a recent Interfaith Council meeting was presented by Ben Smith, of SAVA (Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Center). The Center provides a 24-hour rape crisis hotline, numerous therapy options for individuals affected by sexual violence, and educational and outreach programs. Here are some opportunities to become involved:

The Clothesline Project – View hundreds of t-shirts as they hang throughout Old Town, created by survivors of sexual violence and their supporters, representing the journey of pain, survival, hope and empowerment. Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m. to 6 p. m. Live musical performances throughout the day.

Lean on Me Secondary Survivor Seminar – Is someone you are about a survivor of sexual assault? Learn how to support yourself and your loved one through the healing process. Tuesday, May 3, 6:30 to 8 p.m., 331 South Meldrum.

Until Someone Wakes Up – An ensemble of teens, college students and adults approaching the complex issues of sexual violence, gender role socialization and healing, with a balance of sensitivity, realism and humor. Meet new people, contribute to your community, perform throughout Colorado. Auditions ongoing.

For more information about SAVA, contact Ben Nelson (ben@savacenter.org).

—**Sue Anderson**, Interfaith Council representative

Sunday Morning Expedition

(Sunday School for 7-12 grades) - 9:50-10:45 a.m.

The high school class, taught by **Paula Beaty**, is studying "The Gospel According to the Simpsons". Have you ever thought about the spirituality of America's favorite cartoon family, the Simpsons? Be there or say "D'oh!" The junior high group meets with **Caleb Matthews**, looking at issues of faith and formation. Join us as we share stories, explore scripture and grow closer to God. Both groups meet in the modular.

Treasurer's Trove

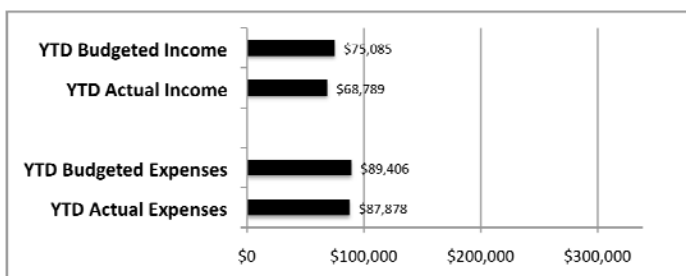
Welcome to spring! It's been a couple of months since I've submitted a newsletter report from the Treasurer and financial perspective. I'm not sure if an apology or a "you're welcome" is more appropriate.

But lack of the articles doesn't mean a lack of activity! This past month we got to meet with John Davidson from Church Extension (CE), one of the financial arms of the Disciples. John is a primary contact at CE for HRCC's building loan and was very informative about a lot of different areas. He has a blog and web page at <http://churchoperations.wordpress.com/> that has a lot of interesting information, at least for those of us interested in the financial aspects of a church family.

A related topic is that we're about to kick off our next building fund campaign, Securing the Future. There are more details available about this campaign in the newsletter from the Campaign Team. Based partially on feedback from John and CE; we're going to conduct a 3-year instead of a 2-year campaign this time. Hopefully good news in terms of how often we need to ask, but it will take a new mindset for thinking about the 3-year vs. 2-year commitment.

Also the good news is that thanks to the ongoing generosity of the congregation from the last 2-year campaign, we've got about 2 months to go and we've been able to achieve our pledged target. This has allowed us, of course, to continue to pay the monthly installments on the loan, and start to spruce up our church building! Look forward to some updates coming soon! Thanks to the congregation's generosity (and the legwork being put in by the Property Management Team.

Jan-March 2011 General Fund Performance to Budget



—**Scott Johnson**, Treasurer

Membership at Heart of the Rockies

Have you thought about taking the step of faith to become a formal member of Heart of the Rockies? The apostle Paul makes the startling claim that the church is the Body of Christ. Committing ourselves to become an intimate part of his Body opens us more deeply to the gifts and joys and accountability of community.

Persons who are making their initial step into a life in Christ are asked the question, "Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, Son of the Living God, and do you receive him as your Lord and Savior?" Making one's profession of faith is followed by baptism. Persons desiring to become members – having been baptized and a part of another faith community – are asked to re-affirm their faith.

While we encourage people to come forward during the invitation at the end of worship, there are some who – for a variety of reasons – prefer to meet more privately with the pastors and a couple of members after worship. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to speak with one of our elders or pastors.

The Bigger Picture

Statistically, every hour in Colorado a child is the victim of abuse or neglect by a caregiver. While this problem is on the decrease in the rest of the nation, it is on the rise in Colorado. The dinner for the children at Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home will be on Friday, May 6, at the *Hilton Fort Collins*. This is a way to make a difference in the lives of abused and neglected children in the Rocky Mountain Region. Just last year, the Home served 16 children from Larimer and Weld counties. With so many facilities closing their doors due to lack of funding, Tennyson remains a constant in the fight against abuse. Lori Rathbun, a former resident of the Home, will be the featured speaker. Please join us for a fun evening for a great cause! Contact **Corinne Adams** (593-0603) to sign up!

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.

News from the Outreach Team

Sunday School Presentations – On Sunday, April 17, informative and uplifting presentations were given on the experiences of the Shiprock Mission Trip, the Alamosa Inter-Generational Mission Trip, and the Alternative Tour of Israel/Palestine.

Geller Center Dinner – on April 27, Stacy Poncelow coordinated the dinner our church provided to CSU students at the Geller Center. For more information on the Geller Center, see our church website or go to <http://lamar.colostate.edu/~ucm/index.html>.

Matthews House Dinner – on May 18, we will serve dinner to young adults who are working hard to transition from foster care to supporting themselves. Contact **Karen Smith** if you'd like to help (kaxsmith@earthlink.net)

Just Faith – this group continues through mid-May, led by **Alice Austin** and **Karen Ramsey**. They have studied many justice issues through the eyes of faith, such as poverty (local and global), compassion, racism, simple living, environmental issues, oppression of women around the world, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, immigration, and nonviolence.

Equal Exchange Coffee – our congregation will soon be enjoying Equal Exchange Coffee during Fellowship Hour, and selling the coffee to folks who would like to support this worthy cause (supporting small farmers and their families through Fair Trade). Contact **Mary Chappell** for more information (mrybchppl@aol.com)

Angel House – We're getting closer! Look for an update elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Tennyson Center Mission Trip – We would love to offer a one-day work/mission trip to serve the youth at the Tennyson Center. We are looking for someone to lead this effort, possibly in the fall. Contact **Alice Austin** (alicejaneastin@msn.com) if you would like to learn more. A drum circle experience with the kids might be included!

Don't hesitate to contact Alice Austin (alicejaneastin@msn.com) or any other Outreach Team members if you have any questions or would like to help plan and/or participate in any of the great outreach programs of the church.

—**Sue Anderson**, Outreach Team

Youth News

Club 456 (Grades 4,5&6) will meet Wednesdays, May 14 & 18. *Regular meeting times are the first and third Wednesdays of the month, 6 – 7:30 p.m.* This meeting combines Bible study, drama, games and food to create an atmosphere of fun, learning and spiritual growth. Leaders for this vivacious group are **Scott Hardin-Nieri, Cassie Poncelow, Stacy Poncelow & Shelley Johnson**. *Long Range Stuff: look for a mission excursion this summer; check out Summer Camp June 19-25.*

Chi-Rho (grades 7 & 8) meets *Sundays from 4:30-6:30 p.m.* We come together for games, sharing, prayer, Bible study, worship and dinner during our regular fellowship nights. We will also have service experiences and Splash (fun) events as well. Please bring \$3 to offset the cost of dinner. Youth leaders include **Brent Wiescamp** and **Scott Hardin-Nieri**.

Upcoming events include: • May 8, fellowship at the church; • May 15, fellowship at the church; • May 22, fellowship at the church; • May 29, no fellowship for the summer. *Long Range Stuff: Chi-Rho Mission Trip Parent and Youth Mtg, June 5; Vacation Bible School help needed, June 6-10 (Contact Erica Wharton-227-4832).*

CYF (grades 9-12) meets *Sundays from 4:30-6:30 p.m.* We come together for games, sharing, prayer, Bible study, worship, and dinner during our regular fellowship nights. We will also have service experiences and Splash (fun) events as well. Please bring \$3 to offset the cost of dinner. Youth leaders include **Scott Hardin-Nieri & Laura Field**.

Upcoming events include: • May 8, fellowship at the church; • May 15, fellowship at the church; • May 22, fellowship at the church; • May 29, no fellowship for the summer. *Long Range Stuff: CYF Mission Trip Parent and Youth Mtg, June 5; Vacation Bible School help needed, June 6-10 (Contact Erica Wharton-227-4832).*

Heartfelt Thanks To...

... **Mickey Ruff** and her team:

Jack Krueger, Brent Wiescamp, Caleb Matthews, Mark Turner, Ana Sluss, Holly Soper, Spencer Johnson, Luke Matthews James Mahon, Sam Ruff, Lauren & Grace Sluss, Caroline Soper, Carrie, Jaden & Kyra Adamson, Olivia Hardin-Nieri, Lily Soper, Nate Anderson, Kara Friedrich, Scott Hardin-Nieri & Tessa Beaty for their amazing transformation of the modular; everyone who helped with our Spring Indoor Cleanup Day: **Denny Soucek, Jeff Wright, Brent Wiescamp, Ray & Nancy Hild, Laura Field, Richard Austin, Korey Albert, Tom Nix, Alan Anderson, Stacy & Bob Poncelow, Jim Austin, Ron McMillan, David Hartley and Olivia Hardin-Nieri, Ruth Meyers and Murray Oliver**, our music staff, and our Choir and Praise Team, for incredible music during Lent and on Easter morning; Tour of Life mentors: **Michele Pennington, Ruth Meyers, Heather Fjare, Sharon Peters, Paula Beaty, Arlene Carlson, Shelley Johnson, Karen Smith, Cassie Poncelow and Stacy Poncelow**; to the WOW (Women on Wednesday) Group for their generous donations for treats to acknowledge the Laurel Elementary teachers for all they do for the Laurel children; **Ruth Meyers** and everyone who helped host a Spring party for the Laurel and Putnam Elementary Special Education children in April.



Notes from A Wide-Eyed Journey

Last night I dreamed of running. In the past, when running was in my subconscious it was because I was trying to go somewhere. I was being chased by some creepy boogie person (not all boogies are men) or a fire or some other tragedy stalking me. It seems I have also dreamt of times I was running toward someone or something trying to help them. Most often it was a loved one that was in trouble. Either way there was a threat attached to the action of running – my feet were laced with fear.

Last night was different. My movement had no real purpose, I was not driven to or away from something. Just running with a freedom, a movement, a quiet sense of peace and joy.

Purposelessness movement is rare isn't it? Sitting still with no reason is also very rare. This is one of the most busy times of the church year, with Lent, Holy Week and Easter for the capital C Church and graduation, camp prep and Youth Sunday for our church. It has been an incredibly fear-filled, heart-wrenching couple of months outside the church as well. We have seen the torments of oppression extinguishing life, the challenges of moving water, fire, land and weather causing destruction. We have seen our leaders fight about budget concerns, threatening one another's favorite causes. It is enough to make someone want to run and hide. It is cause for alarm. In the busiest or scariest times stillness often seems silly, almost sinful.

I am reminded even through the movement of my subconscious feet that freedom and joy can sometimes erupt out of the silliness of purposelessness. The song writer writes in Psalm 46 "Be still and know that I am God." Eugene Peterson paraphrases this verse beautifully by writing "Step out of the Traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything."

Could that be where my feet have taken me, toward a loving look at our High God? Tasting, even briefly in my sleep, the stillness, freedom and peace that can be given only from God.

—**Scott Hardin-Nieri**, Pastor

College-Aged and Grads

Join us this month as we gather to eat dinner and talk about *spirituality and life*. We will meet at HuHot at 11:45 a.m., Monday, May 23 to connect with old friends, meet new ones and talk about how our spiritual life informs our experience of college, work and home. Contact **Scott Hardin-Nieri** (223-1230; scott@heartoftherockies.org) for information.

Laurel Volunteers Needed

- Violin Teacher, Chad Fisher, is looking for violin or fiddle players to come in and help with individual instruction. Days and times are very flexible throughout the week. He is also looking for help with Fiddle Club on Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 pm.
- Music Teacher, Kevin Brinkman, is in need of volunteers to help with the 5th grade musical, Annie. Help is needed with rehearsals, set design, and painting. The performance is May 3rd at 5:00 pm. The night of the show, volunteers are needed for backstage management, prop help, lighting, sound, video recording, etc.
- Nancy Brauhn-Curnes needs volunteers to help in her Integrated Learning Services classes Mondays through Fridays, 8:45-12:00; afternoons 2:45-3:30 to go to Encore classes with first grade, any day! She could really use your help!!

If you can help with any of these, please contact **Pam Deal** (rfdeal@aol.com; 674-1280).

A View from the Mountains

I hope you'll set aside a chunk of your Saturday, May 14, to join others in the last event of our All-Church Conference. Larry Peers, our consultant from The Alban Institute, will return to share critical insights and a framework for our moving forward with concrete and practical plans.

We had a great turn-out for the event in March, representative of the entire congregation and enough to lay out a blueprint for our life and ministries together. During this follow-up meeting, eight teams will report their concrete hopes and plans – a critical step in the congregation's embrace of its future.

If you weren't able to attend the March portion of the conference, you'll easily catch up and then play an important role in shaping our identity and mission over the next four to five years. Please, make plans to attend even if you can only be present for a portion of the gathering.

—Jeff Wright, Pastor

Meet Your Elders

[Each month, we offer a story from one of the elders — fun, reflective, and inspirational. Some may reflect your own story.]

By John Tregenza

A half mile from my house and sure enough, just as my neighbor said, there were over 50 elk grazing in the field. Actually, they were slowly and methodically crossing the road to go into the next field. One by one, the 50 or so elk slowly walked across the street and stopped at the two-rail wood fence that surrounded the opposite field. Several of them simply approached the fence and stepped over it with their front legs, then gently pushed with their hind quarters and almost effortlessly went over the fence into the next field. Many other elk stood by, waiting and watching as their siblings and friends journeyed to the other side. Then they came to grips with the fact that if their siblings and friends could do it, so could they, and over the fence they went. Still others paced frantically 20 yards this way, and then 20 yards the other way, over and over again. After ten to fifteen minutes of contemplation and agitation, they conquered their fear and stepped over like all the others. Only one elk ran a couple of hundred yards along the road and past the end of the fence line, finding and passing through an opening that lead to the next field.

As I thought later about this nature experience it occurred to me how the elk hopping a fence scenario is similar to people hopping over our own fences or walls into the faith-based mystery we call Christianity. Just like those elk could be grouped into three categories, so can we. Some of us approached our faith methodically and purposefully, and simply stepped over the fence onto the other side. Some waited, and watched to see how our family and friends were doing with this Christianity thing before stepping over; often persuaded by a helping hand or nudge of encouragement. Still others paced nervously and proceeded very cautiously before stepping over into this field of faith, looking for answers to questions like: How much money will I have to give? How much time will it take away from other things? What kind of commitments do I have to make? What about prayer -- how do I do that? What will my friends think?

I wondered about that one, solitary elk that walked along the roadway and found her own way instead of following the herd. Is that one analogous to a non-believer? Or, conversely, was that the only one doing it right, taking the narrow road, you know, the road that Jesus said only a few take?

Adult Education

We wrap up our year with two options for Sunday Adult Education:

A study of 2 *Timothy "Guard the Gospel"* which entails the time when Paul is in prison and passing on his ministry to his follower, Timothy. Examples of areas of discussion include what Paul meant when he told Timothy to "fan into flame the gift of God?", and how do you know if you are quarreling or standing up to false teachings? This class will meet from May 1 - 22 under the instruction of **Rachel Chappell**.

The second option is a continuation of the *5 Love Languages of Children*. This session continues its study of understanding a child's primary mode of receiving love. Discipline strategies, related to ARK parenting strategies are interspersed throughout the text. Although this class has been meeting since November, new participants are welcome to join at anytime. This class will meet May 8 - 22 facilitated by **Celeste Scott**.

Sunday Adult Education classes will not be in session during the summer months, but will resume after Labor Day. Please contact Celeste Scott (669-7586) with ideas for classes or for the opportunity to facilitate a class.

Angel House Update

Wow! We've had more than 20 people sign up to take the two-hour training provided by Angel House. If you missed it, we hope to schedule another session at a later date. The Interfaith Hospitality Network will be using the Murphy Center for Hope as a temporary day shelter until more permanent accommodations are found.

One of the last pieces to fall into place is finding a van to transport families to and from the churches, the day facility, and other places they need to go during the day. So, it looks like it won't be long before we begin this important mission.

We still have two coordinator positions to fill. No experience necessary! The **Overnight Host Coordinator** will recruit and schedule one or two people to stay each night while our guests are staying at the church. The **Take-Down/Cleanup Coordinator** will organize cleaning and preparing rooms for Sunday morning after guests leave at 7 a.m. Thanks to **Jane Willhour**, who has volunteered to launder sheets and towels after our guests leave. Please contact **Mary Chappell** (481-4295, mrybchppl@aol.com) if you are interested as serving as a coordinator!

Thanks to the generosity of our members, and those at our partner church, Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, we've received many of the supplies that we'll need. We could really use several large plastic storage bins with lids to store and transport the supplies. And, here are a few items we still need:

- twin size sheets, wash cloths, alarm clocks, racks for hanging towels and clothes, tissues, toothbrushes and toothpaste, children's books and movies. Take home a card from the envelope on the donation collection box, and use this opportunity to clean out your closets!

—Sue Anderson, Outreach Team

Mystery Mountain

Mystery Mountain, Sunday School ministry for 3-year-olds through sixth graders, meets on Sunday mornings from 9:50 until 10:50 a.m. Children can join "the hike" at anytime. For more information, contact **Laura Stout** (223-6976).



The Angel House
"Helping homeless families help themselves"

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 9 am Classes for all ages 10 am Combined Worship <i>YOUTH SUNDAY!</i>	2	3 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1) 7 pm Westridge Ranch HOA (S) 7 pm Provincetown HOA Board Meeting (1)	4 9 am Humane Society (1) 12-1 pm WOW Prayer Lunch (1) 5 pm Elders 6 pm Club 456 (M)	5 9-11 am JustFaith (1) 5:30 pm Choir (1) 7 pm Conference Steering Committee 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	6 Tennyson Center Dinner tonight 5:30 - 8:15 pm Grandparents' Group (1,S)	7 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast 5 pm Fundango (Fort Collins B&G Club)	
8 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 11 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth Groups	9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <i>Plan to attend the All-Church Conference Saturday</i> </div>	10 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1)	11 12-1 pm WOW Prayer Lunch (1) 5:30 pm Stewards (2) 7 pm Council Mtg. (1)	12 9-11 am JustFaith (1) 9:30 am Knitwits (2) 5:30 pm Choir (1) 6:30 pm KAH (1) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	13 5:30 - 8:15 pm Grandparents' Group (1,S)	14 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast 9 am - 2 pm All-Church Conference	
15 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 10 am Rehab Nursing Center of the Rockies (O) 11 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth Groups	16	17 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1) 10-11 am Dept of Human Services (2)	18 6 pm Club 456 (M)	19 5:30 pm Choir (1) 6:15 pm Worship Meeting (2) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	20 5:30 - 8:15 pm Grandparents' Group (1,S)	21 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast 10 am UN Association (1) 5 pm Fundango (Loveland B&G Club)	
22 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 11 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth Groups	23	24	25	26 5:30 pm Choir (1) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	27	28 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast	
29 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 11 am Worship NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR YOUTH GROUP FOR SUMMER!	30 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> June 5: Summer Schedule begins! Worship: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. No Sunday School </div>				(1) Room One (2) Room Two (S) Sanctuary (M) Modular (O) Other Location

If you're being recruited...

...by the AARP, you may have smiled when you saw these two listings of member Benefits & Discounts, one from a theatre chain and the other, following immediately, from a company selling exercise equipment!



Regal Entertainment Group

Members pay \$5.50 for a bundled purchase of 32 oz. soft drink and 64 oz. popcorn when they show their AARP membership card at Regal Entertainment Group theatres.

[Learn more.](#)



Smooth Fitness

AARP members receive up to 10% off fitness equipment. Free in-room delivery and 50% off delivery and assembly.

[Learn more.](#)

You make too many of Regal's "bundled purchases", you're going to have to hit the exercise equipment!



(Scott, Ruth, Katie, Murray, Erica, Jeff & Elaine)

As a part of his Christmas gift last year, Jeff invited staff members to participate in the Challenge Ropes Course at Colorado State University. On a chilly day last month, all seven senior staff members gathered for a day of fun, extreme challenge and team-building. After the four-and-a-half hour experience, staff members were invited to enjoy a Middle Eastern lunch prepared by Jeff & Janet.

Planning
with *Purpose*
Acting
with *Passion*

Hear reports and shape our church family's future, as we share together in drafting concrete plans around the following eight statements:

Heart of the Rockies...

- Is known in the community, a visible presence.
- Nurtures spiritual development.
- Nurtures and engages children and youth emotionally, spiritually and physically.
- Is mission-focused (locally, regionally, internationally).
- Serves the community and people in need.
- Is growing numerically.
- Is a good steward of God's creation, caring for the environment.
- Erases boundaries.

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Call the church office to let us know you're coming!