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October, 2011

World Communion Sunday

This Sunday, October 2, we will share communion and celebrate our connection with billions of Christians whose racial/ethnic, cultural and theological diversity reminds us that the Church is one in Jesus Christ.

Heart of the Rockies has always had a sense that we're a part of a Church much larger and more inclusive. Each Sunday, we read the same Scriptures that are heard in congregations around the globe. We've sent our folks on missions into at least eight other nations. Our giving to the Disciples Mission Fund and Week of Compassion blesses the lives of tens of thousands of people in North America and around the world.

José Morales, our Transitional Regional Minister, has been invited to preach at both services, 8:30 & 11 a.m.

Three of Us to Venezuela

Keep **Alice Austin, Linda Cowan** and **Roz Ruppert** in your prayers as they leave on their medical mission to Venezuela on Wednesday, October 5. They join others from the Disciples' Central Rocky Mountain Region and the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ, which has an historic partnership with the United Pentecostal Evangelical Church of Venezuela.

They will be serving and worshipping in rural villages, including Portuguesa, Peritu and Barquisimeto. Linda, Roz & Alice are limiting their personal stuff to carry-ons so that each can check two suitcases full of supplies.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, KIDS AT HEART!

We're celebrating ten years of an amazing ministry!

Just over ten years ago, one of our families decided to pursue adoption. In the hope of adopting a most amazing little girl, they began to offer her foster care. Another member noticed how demanding it is to provide foster care twenty-four/seven! She provided an evening of childcare for the little girl and a dinner out at a nice restaurant for her parents-to-be. *She planted the seed of an amazing ministry.*

The program grew when a few gathered suitcases to give to kids who, often on a moment's notice, have to pack to leave either their home of origin or a current foster home. Too often, children have to move their belongings in a garbage bag. County social workers welcomed our suitcase ministry.

While the congregation looked for unmet needs in our community, organizers of the "suitcase ministry" approached the county's Department of Social Services and suggested a partnership to provide respite for foster parents. Awarded a county grant, Heart of the Rockies began a monthly party for the children. Guardians spend a few hours together alone. In county surveys, parents/guardians have listed Kids at Heart Fundango parties as the #1 support families enjoy from month to month. The kids who participate might rate the experience even higher!

Over ten years, the ministry has grown. Grants from Larimer County now cover less than half the costs. Kids at Heart is dependent on the generosity of a wide variety of donors: our members and friends, local restaurants and other businesses, and grants from foundations. *After ten years and around \$225,000 in income and expenses, Kids at Heart is suffering its first deficit (\$1,700). Through gifts from members and friends who want to support this ministry, we hope to celebrate Kids at Heart's birthday by raising that \$1,700 – and more!* We want to see our Kids at Heart ministry get off to a strong start in its second decade. If you'd like to help, make your check payable to Heart of the Rockies and write on the memo line, "Kids at Heart's Birthday Party".

Some of you will recall that, in past years, the State of Colorado has offered a Colorado Childcare Contribution Credit (CCCC). This gives the donor a *credit* toward their state taxes of fifty percent of the gift. While this credit is not being offered in 2011, we've been told that, when the CCCC is reinstated, persons may claim their past gifts. For more information, contact Erica Wharton (223-1230), Kids at Heart Executive Director, or your own tax consultant. In any case, we look forward to receiving your gift of any amount to erase the \$1,700 deficit.

God does not love us because we are good. God loves us because God is good.

—Richard Rohr

Vote on Our Five-Year Plan Sunday



This Sunday, October 2, our church community meets at 9:50 a.m. to vote on Council's recommendation to adopt our proposed five-year ministry plan.

You should have received a copy of the plan in the mail, along

with a two-page overview. You can also access the plan by going to our website, www.heartoftherockies.org, and clicking on Proposed 5-Year Plan.

In the Community

• *Lutheran Family Services (LFS)* is recruiting foster families for a unique group of children: unaccompanied refugee minors. These minors (URM) are children under the age of 18 who have been resettled in the United States without a parent or relative to care for them. Refugee minors are generally long-term foster placements. For more information, check out the URM brochure in our office or call our local Lutheran Family Services (266-1788).

• *Pathways Hospice* offers a variety of fall experiences for those suffering grief and loss: a cooking class for widowed persons; a monthly discussion group for the widowed; a journaling class and more. Call Pathways at 663-3500.

Heartbeats

♥ We're grateful to the twenty-one persons – young and old – from our church community who travelled to the Navajo Nation Reservation in Shiprock last month. Seven homes were renovated and two newer "cabins" were insulated and sheet-rocked.

♥ Heart of the Rockies and **Erica Wharton**, Kids at Heart's Executive Director, will be honored by the Larimer County's Division of Children, Youth and Family at their meeting on October 7, 2011.

♥ Keep **Scott Hardin-Nieri** in your prayers as he gathers this month for a week with other pastors, Bethany Fellowship Alumni, who meet for prayer and mutual support.

♥ WOW (Women on Wednesday) Prayer Lunch meets on Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch.

♥ Our Men's Prayer Breakfast is open to all of the men in our congregation – and their friends. Join us from 8-9 a.m. on Saturdays.

♥ 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 October 13, 9:30 a.m. at the church. Contact **Sherri Jackson** (204-1774) for more information.

OWLS (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors)

Fall Kick-Off, Saturday, October 8, 4-7 p.m.

Come see your friends! The Older, Wiser, Livelier folks will hoot together for fun at **Bob & Jane Willhour's** (612 Hillview Court.,

map/directions to follow). Please bring a potluck dish and a game! Meat, table setting, and drinks will be provided. Call **Jane** (207-9450) or **Corinne Adams** (593-0603).



Moderator's Moments

I've noticed something interesting in our Council meetings this year. Our meetings are actually structured as a form of worship, starting with a call to worship and devotional, and ending with a benediction/adjournment. Some of the agenda items are rather dry, for example, the Moderator's Moment or Treasurer's Report (no offense, Scott J!). Not surprisingly, I often sense a lull in the overall energy in the room.

However, as we get to the Team Reports, suddenly there's usually a dramatic shift in energy. As our HeartMinistry leads start talking about their ministries, there's more excitement, more questions and interactions – more passion! I've commented on this several times to the group, so proud to see the passion that our leaders have for the ministries of our church.

A significant part of Council's focus this year has been on our *Planning with Purpose/Acting with Passion* process. I'm really glad that the Steering Team chose that name. Strategic Planning is so important, yet it's often so draining of energy. To be frank, I'm exhausted. I assume that a number of others closely involved with the process are exhausted as well. Yet, I know there's an Acting with Passion phase ahead of us, and I can feel the energy rising. Can you?



—Joe Cowan, Moderator

"If there is a problem somewhere," he said with his dry chuckle, "this is what happens:

Three people will try to do something concrete to settle the issue.

Ten people will give a lecture analyzing what the three are doing.

One hundred people will commend or condemn the ten for their lecture.

One thousand people will argue about the problem.

And one person, only one, will involve him or herself so deeply in the true solution that he or she is too busy to listen to any of it."

"Now," he asked gently, "which person are you?"

From *Blood Brothers*, Elias Chacour

Geller Center for Spiritual Development

A few of us will provide dinner there for some hungry college students on Wednesday, November 2. The Geller Center is considered a satellite of our congregation as they provide programs and spiritual guidance to those attending CSU and Front Range Community College. Please contact **Karen Smith** (kaxsmith@earthlink.net) if you are able to help.

Kids at Heart Beats

As I write this, I'm sitting in a hotel in Orlando, Florida, attending a conference on respite and how organizations can start respite programs in their hometowns. I was so moved to see 50+ participants from all over the United States who have the same passion for God's children as we do at Heart of the Rockies. I'm blessed to have the opportunity to talk about our ministry and how we have evolved over these past 10 years. I am hopeful that Kids at Heart will plant seeds and that more and more children and their families will find programs similar to Fundango to help support them.



"For the first time in ten years we got to truly relax. It isn't as if we haven't had a vacation in that period of time, it's just that when we do, I'm always stressed out that one of my kids is going to act out and have difficulties while other parents glare in disapproval. The true relaxation occurred because I got to spend time amongst non-judgmental, like-minded families that have walked a similar walk and know how to handle challenges and a staff who simply wanted to love and serve the way Jesus did." —The Corson Family, a Camp Fundango Family.

If you would like to join the fun, we are always looking for volunteers to help with our Fundango program. To learn more about volunteering contact Mary Beth (970-223-1230; volunteercoordinator@kidsatheartfundango.org).

If you would rather help out in the office, I have a lot of tasks that I need help with. Please contact me (970-223-1230; director@kidsatheartfundango.org).

Kids at Heart has teamed up with Noodles in Old Town Fort Collins to raise money for our Fundango and Camp Fundango programs. On Wednesday, October 5, I hope you will come out and have a bite to eat with Kids at Heart. Tell your friends, because like last year, 25% of the total day's sales will go to Kids at Heart. We will have music and fun activities planned from 5 – 9 p.m. Remember to mention Kids at Heart when you pay.

Our 2011 Fundango dates can be found at our website www.kidsatheartfundango.org.

—Erica Wharton, Executive Director

Adult Sunday School Classes

- *Reading Colossians in 2011* Led by **Scott Hardin-Nieri**, this class is exploring Paul's Letter to the Church in Colossae through reading, cultural contextual study, and discussion.
- *Male Spirituality* This men-only class is exploring Jesus' life, death, tomb and resurrection experience as a metaphor for our lives. Join **T Adamson, Jeff Wright** and a room full of men for lively discussion.

"Those who are weak have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have come to call not the righteous but sinners."

Jesus, Matthew 9:12-13

Ways to Help Laurel Elementary

Help Laurel Get Cash & School Supplies for FREE. Collect the following items and drop them in the box at church marked LAUREL.

BOX TOPS – clip the BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION coupon that appears on boxes and plastic packaging from hundreds of products. The school earns \$.10 per coupon. When shopping online, check out BOXTOPS4EDUCATION.COM. Shopping online through the Marketplace tab can earn money for Laurel.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION – clip labels or cut out coupons from Campbell soup products including Pepperidge Farm products like Goldfish crackers. Points earned can help Laurel purchase things for the school.

MILK CAPS – collect the plastic caps from glass bottles of Morning Fresh Dairy milk. Laurel earns \$.05 per cap.

COCA-COLA PRODUCTS – collect bottle caps and codes from cardboard cartons to earn points for Laurel to buy school supplies. If you collect points at mycokerewards.com, you can transfer any or all points to Laurel.

EMPTY PRINTER CARTRIDGES – collect cartridges of any size and Laurel will recycle them and earn \$2 - \$5 each.

ALBERTSON'S COMMUNITY PARTNER CARD – scan your card every time you shop and Laurel will get 1 – 5% of the purchase in cash back. If you need a card, email april@wubbards.com

OTHER WAYS TO HELP LAUREL ELEMENTARY:

- Volunteer in a classroom
 - Prepare a crock pot of soup for teachers during Parent Teacher Conferences in October
 - Purchase Children's sweat pants (sizes 5 to 10 or S to M)
 - Purchase Assignment Notebooks for students
 - Save "Box Tops for Education" coupons, Campbell's Soup labels, Morning Fresh milk caps
- Contact **Pam Deal** (674-1280; rfdeal@aol.com) for more information.

September Council Notes

Heart of the Rockies Council – comprised of executive officers, HeartMinistry 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 September meeting:

Council discussed a new Children's Education Coordinator position.

Council also discussed the new strategic plan in preparation for informational meetings with the Congregation and a Congregational meeting scheduled for October 2.

The next Council meeting will be October 12, 7 p.m. in Room 1.

—Hugh Mahon, Council Secretary



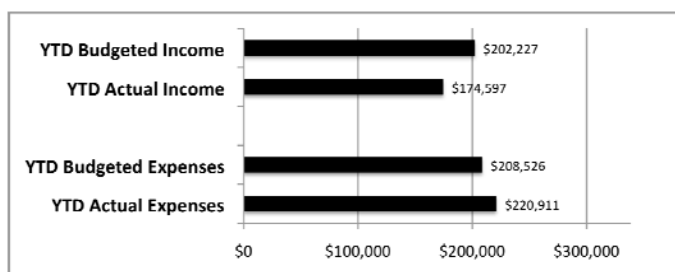
Treasurer's Trove

So many things are happening all of the time. I somehow had thought that this "empty nest" everyone keeps asking about must come with a lot of extra time. But if so, I've yet to find it! Time flies faster and faster!

And yes, that means it is already that time again in the lifecycle of our church. Soon you'll start hearing about our General Fund Campaign for 2012. The details aren't planned out quite yet, but it's sure to involve challenges and exciting new opportunities!

We've been gathering input and putting a lot of work into our church's long term strategic plan. Our first steps into implementing that plan will be starting just around the corner! And a necessary part of that implementation will be our financial support and gifts. So this coming year, as the campaign begins, please think back on all our church family has accomplished, and think forward to all that we have such exciting potential to accomplish.

Jan-August 2011 General Fund Performance to Budget



—Scott Johnson, Treasurer

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!

October's list includes Kleenex (regular size), black and orange construction paper, toilet paper, decaffeinated flavored teas, cough drops, liquid hand soap, deodorant (men's and women's) and canned. A box is located in the church lobby to collect these gifts.

—*JustFaith* Group



New Mystery Mountain Coordinator

We're happy to announce that **Erin Tyler** has been asked to fill a new contract position at Heart of the Rockies. She'll be coordinating our children's Sunday school activities: recruiting and training volunteers; working with our Children's Ministry Team; reviewing curriculum and more.

Erin has been serving as the coordinator of our childcare ministry. Check out the nursery, to which Erin has applied a much-needed coat of paint and seen to other updating.

The Disciples of Christ Coffee Project

During the month of October the Outreach Team will be serving samples of fairly traded coffee after each service. (Fair traded coffee has also been served throughout the summer during fellowship time).

Why Equal Exchange?

The Disciples of Christ Coffee Project, a partnership between the Disciples Home Missions, Week of Compassion and Equal Exchange, is a way for our congregation to join hands with small farming communities across the world. You can put your faith into action by using fairly traded coffee, tea, chocolate and snacks and by learning about how our consumer



choices impact the global community. Through the Project, farmers receive fair prices for their crops, affordable credit and long-term trade relationships with a trading partner they can trust, Equal Exchange. In addition, for every pound of fairly traded products Disciples order through the Project, Equal Exchange makes a donation to the Disciples Hunger Relief and Food Security Fund.

Disciples Home Missions, a General Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), is the enabling and coordinating division of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) congregational program and mission in North America. DHM's priorities include leader development, congregational transformation, faith formation and Christian vocations.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee and development ministry fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada. WOC helps North American Disciples contribute to relief and development efforts world-wide. WOC also encourages and supports volunteer groups in "hands-on" mission and service opportunities in North America and abroad.

The Holy Land itself...

...complete with its cities, rainfall, deserts, and culture, gives us a window into God's purposes for life. *The Promised Land is not an easy land – it is not paradise, neither today nor in biblical times.* The land has a spiritual architecture that incorporates elements that we desire (good cities with ample rainfall and rich soil) and things we would prefer to avoid (wilderness). But this is life. And when God brought his people to this land, he built into it those elements that would provide a framework for people to understand life with God.

Gary Burge, *The Bible and the Land*

Youth News

Club 456 (Grades 4,5&6) will meet Wednesdays, October 5 and 19.

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**.

Our middle school and high school groups are exploring God's story as told through the ancient texts of the Bible. We will "Enter God's Story" through prayer, play, reading, art, music, and a variety of activities. We have already entered into the days of creation and will move into *disruption, Israel's journey, tabernacle, kingdom of God, journey to the cross and restoration*.

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 **Donna Greene** and **Scott Hardin-Nieri**. *Upcoming events include: October 2, 4:30-6:30 p.m. – Fellowship at Heart of the Rockies!-Disruption; October 9, Gleaning-Picking veggies for the Food Bank. Meet at the church at 12:15; October 16, fellowship at the church-Israel's Journey; October 23, fellowship at the church-Israel's Journey 2; October 30, fellowship at the church-Tabernacle.*

CYF (grades 9-12) meets *Sundays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. beginning September 11.* 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, Brent Wiescamp & Laura Field**. *Upcoming events include: October 2, 4:30-6:30 p.m. – Fellowship at Heart of the Rockies!-Disruption; October 9, Gleaning-Picking veggies for the Food Bank. Meet at the church at 12:15; October 16, fellowship at the church-Israel's Journey; October 23, Fellowship at the church-Israel's Journey 2; October 30, Fellowship at the church-Tabernacle.*

CYF Fall Retreat, November 11-13

High school students will be heading to Loveland for our annual regional fall retreat. The group will gather from Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) in Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico. The focus of the weekend, besides connection to God and friends, will be serving others.

Youth Leadership Team - S.A.L.T.

Congratulations to the three young people who have committed to serve, grow, learn and lead this semester on our Student Action Leadership Team. **Jenny Schomberger, Josh Matthews** and **Elizabeth Wineinger** will be deepening their faith and partnering with the adult leadership team as they read scripture, plan fellowship, participate in leadership training events and provide strategic support for the future of youth ministry at Heart of the Rockies.



Notes from A Wide-Eyed Journey

It is a brief question: Is nonviolence a non-negotiable for followers of Jesus? However, as soon as the words hit the page more questions emerge.

What is meant by non-violence?

Are there degrees of non-violence?

Does vegetarianism count in here somewhere?

Can I still like Texas Aggie football?

What is meant by non-negotiable?

Is it possible that the non-violence part of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus was just one aspect of a bigger picture or was it a cornerstone of all his other words and actions?

Is it implied that folks that have experienced or used violence can't follow Jesus?

Is there a time limit on the use of violence and the ability to follow Jesus?

Does this question itself make Jesus seem wimpy?

I don't have many answers today friends. I just know I am struggling to find my way toward the God of life, while the stories I am hearing from my culture say that bombs are more effective and efficient than peaceful confrontation. I guess the deeper question is this: Do I trust that God is loving and that God has a power that is beyond these stories of destruction? Or do I trust or believe something else?

Oh, all these befuddling questions. It makes me want to kick something! Just kidding. I will continue to have conversations with Jesus, Walter Wink, Ken Butigan and Gene Sharp. If you have ideas, please let me know.

—**Scott Hardin-Nieri**, Pastor

Mystery Mountain

The Sunday Morning Children's ministry, "Mystery Mountain", for 3-year-olds through fifth graders has gotten off to a great start. Join the fun 9:50-10:50 every Sunday morning as we explore and learn about God's love through music, drama, art, story-telling and play. Check out the Mystery Mountain blog for more details as we explore each week:

<http://mysterymountain.wordpress.com/>

Our 4th & 5th graders are going on an expedition of their own that digs into the real-life issues they are dealing with every day and what the Bible has to say about these issues. Designed to engage young people in meaningful conversations about faith and life, our 4th & 5th graders "Grapple" with topics that will keep your child engaged all week as they help choose the activities for next week's class.

Sunday Morning Expedition

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

The High School and Middle School groups are sharing in a series about the *Basis of the Bible*. In the next ten weeks **Paula Beaty** is teaching a dynamic overview of the scriptures. **Mickey Ruff** is accompanying the Middle School group on the journey as well. Join us as we share stories, explore scripture and grow closer to God. Both groups meet in the modular.

College-Aged and Grads

If you are interested in connecting with this group contact **Scott Hardin-Nieri** (223-1230; scott@heartoftherockies.org) for information. Normal meeting times are once a month and at various locations.

Heartfelt Thanks To...

... the members and friends of Heart of the Rockies for a successful Shiprock Golf Tournament in August – approximately \$7,000 was raised to support the purchase of supplies for this year's Navajo Nation Mission trip; **Theresa Andrews**, for the beautiful paintings that she created in our nursery which, after many years of blessing our children and parents, have been painted over (a page acknowledging her work, along with a picture, has been entered in our Book of Remembrance); **Mickey Ruff** for her continued work on the modular (the kids and others are loving it).



On Our Lobby Walls...

[Editor's Note: Perhaps you've seen the beautifully framed artifacts that grace our lobby walls. But perhaps you've never approached them to read the texts that accompany them. **Steve Noland** has made and donated each of the oak frames.]

The beautifully tooled, tin cross is a gift from David and Karen Eubank, Global Ministry missionaries who served in Thailand. They visited our congregation in 2000 and gave us this cross along with this explanation:

The Christians who made this cross are leprosy patients whose bodies are scarred but whose disease is arrested and whose spirits are strong.

Week of Ministry, October 16-22

Each year, the Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) hosts a week "to promote an understanding of the place and importance of ministry." It's not just a time to say thanks to our pastors. More importantly, it's a time to help the church identify those in its midst who, if encouraged, might consider a call to ministry.

Heart of the Rockies is blessed to have partnered with God to call into formal ministry Linda Harding, Alan and Julie Cory and Amanda Henderson. We have another couple of individuals in our congregation who have indicated that God may be calling them!

They'll be fortunate to ministry in the Disciples denomination. We have one of the most effective pension funds among the many denominations in North America. Our pastors, Jeff and Scott, are grateful for our church's investment in their pensions.

Letters

Thank you so much for all your donations! We were amazed at how quickly our six suitcases were filled due to your very generous giving. Your support is truly appreciated. Our journey will be October 5-14. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you and ask for your prayers until then.

—**Roz Ruppert, Linda Gail Cowan, and Alice Austin**

Dear Heart of the Rockies,

Thank you so much for accommodating our baby shower held on August 20 at the church. It is so meaningful to us that you allowed us to use your space at no cost. Thank you so much for all your help and support.

Sincerely,
Teghan & Bobby Decker

Dear Church Family,

We've been overwhelmed by the many kindnesses you've extended to us - phone calls, visits, offers to help, cards, food, flowers, expressions of caring and concern, and prayers — before and after my hip surgery August 30. We do not take you for granted — you are special. We love you and thank God for you.

Sincerely,
Kay Hartley

Dear Heart of the Rockies,

Thank you so much for coming to spend time with us, once again, at PALS. It is a gift for you to come to us with such open hearts every year and with a willingness to learn and share with the children. Hope to see you again soon.

Sincerely,
PALS Team, Alamosa, Colorado

Heart of the Rockies,

Thank you so much for the hospitality you showed to our Missions Team. Your church is a true blessing!

Thank you,
First Christian Church, Lawrence, Kansas

Celebration of Marriage

You are all invited to an open house reception
from 2 until 5 p.m.,
Saturday, October 15,
to celebrate the marriage of
Daphne Arias and José Morales,
our Transitional Regional Minister.
Hosted by Sally Cline-Beerman and Garth Beerman
1190 Wintergate Circle
Castle Rock, CO 80104

Off of I-25 between exit 174 (Tomah Rd.) &
exit 181 (Plum Creek Pkwy.) on east side
in Bell Mountain Ranch

Sally's C: 303-204-2046 & H: 303-979-6436

Come and wish the newlyweds well
as they begin their lives together!

A View from the Mountains

Every time our church has paused to do strategic planning, the following years have yielded much fruit in our life and ministry. Some will recall the times we followed the process laid out in Kennon Callahan's *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church*. As Church Council monitored benchmarks along the way, we were always surprised at how many goals we were reaching. A second worship service and the hiring of our second pastor were among the many targets of earlier plans. Each plan led to growth in both ministry and numbers.

This Sunday, October 2, we will vote on whether or not to embark on a new, five-year strategic plan for ministry. We don't expect that, by the end of year five, we will have reached every target. But we're confident that we will have advanced the kingdom of God *much further* than if we hadn't had a plan.

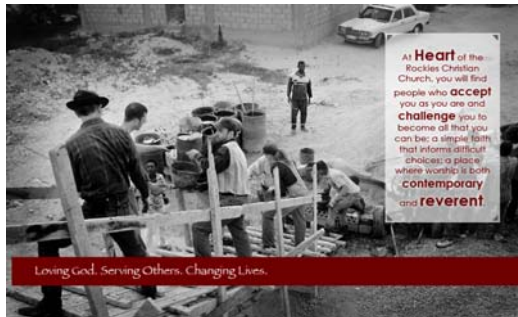
I hope you'll be here Sunday morning to participate in the all-church meeting and to vote on our future.

—Jeff Wright, Pastor

Stephen Colbert hosts a faux news show, *The Colbert Report*, on Comedy Network. His humor — religious, social, political — is often biting. The following quote of his is circulating on the Internet's social networks.



"If this is going to be a Christian nation that doesn't help the poor, either we have to pretend that Jesus was just as selfish as we are, or we've got to acknowledge that He commanded us to love the poor and serve the needy without condition and then admit that we just don't want to do it."



Been to Our Website Recently?

Click here < www.heartoftherockies.org > to check out recent news, information about our worship and Sunday school classes, and to catch up on a sermon you missed (in both text and audio formats).

"Tell me a story'...

still comprises four of the most powerful words in English, words that are intimately related to the complexity of history, the origins of language, the continuity of the species, the taproot of our humanity, our singularity, and art itself."

— Pat Conroy

Glean for Others, Sunday, October 9

All are welcome to meet at the church for lunch at 12:15, go pick veggies at Grant Family Farms, and return to the church building by 6 p.m. The food goes to the Food Bank; the fun goes to you! Let Scott (scott@heartoftherockies.org) know if you plan on coming so we can plan for lunch and rides.

Fort Collins CROP Hunger Walk, Oct. 2

Heart of the Rockies members are encouraged to participate in this year's Hunger Walk with other participating churches. 75% of the funds collected go to support Church World Service, 25% goes to the Food Bank for Larimer County. The CROP walk supports sustainable development and emergency response programs around the world. The CROP walk (5K, 3.2 miles) begins at 1p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Avenue.



October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(1) Room One (2) Room Two (S) Sanctuary (M) Modular (O) Other Location	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>We're celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of Kids at Heart on Sunday, October 30.</p> </div>					1 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast 5 pm Fundango (Fort Collins B&G Club)
2 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Congregational Meeting - <i>no</i> classes 11 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth Fellowship	3 7 pm Together at Heart Gatherings	4 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1) 6:30 pm Kids at Heart Creative Crew Mtg (1)	5 9 am Humane Society (1) 12-1 pm WOW Prayer Lunch (1) 5 pm Elders 6 pm Club 456 (M)	6 5:30 pm Choir (1) 6:30 pm Worship Team 7 pm Finance Team (2) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	7 8:30 am Larimer County's Recognition of Kids at Heart 5:30 - 8:15 pm Grandparents' Group (1,S)	8 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast 10 am Northern Colorado Chapter of United Nations Assoc (1) 4 pm OWLS Potluck (Willhour's)
9 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 11 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth Fellowship	10 7 pm Together at Heart Gatherings	11 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1)	12 12-1 pm WOW Prayer Lunch (1) 7 pm Council Mtg. (1)	13 9:30 am Knitwits (2) 5:30 pm Choir (1) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	14 5:30 - 8:15 pm Grandparents' Group (1,S)	15 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast 5 pm Fundango (Loveland B&G Club)
16 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes 10 am Rehab Nursing Center of the Rockies (O) 11 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth Fellowship	17 7 pm Together at Heart Gatherings	18 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1)	19 12-1 pm WOW Prayer Lunch (1) 6 pm Club 456 (M)	20 5:30 pm Choir (1) 6:15 pm Worship Meeting (2) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	21 5:30 - 8:15 pm Grandparents' Group (M) 7-8 pm Community Drum Circle	22 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast
23 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 11 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth Fellowship	24 7 pm Together at Heart Gatherings	25 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1)	26 12-1 pm WOW Prayer Lunch (1)	27 5:30 pm Choir (1) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	28 5:30 - 8:15 pm Grandparents' Group (1,S)	29 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast
30 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 11 am Worship 4:30 pm Youth Fellowship	31 7 pm Together at Heart Gatherings				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><i>Daylight Savings - Sunday, November 6</i></p> </div>	