

# Heart to Heart

the newsletter of  
Heart of the Rockies Christian Church

September, 2011

## Worship Schedule

On Sunday, September 4, we will gather in two worship services, per our summer schedule: 9 and 11 a.m. The next Sunday, September 11, we begin our fall schedule:

### September 11

- 8:30 a.m. worship
- 9:50 a.m. Sunday school for all ages
- 11 o'clock worship

## Adult Sunday School Classes

There are three options for Adult Education classes beginning September 11.

*Reading Colossians in 2011* Led by **Scott Hardin-Nieri**, this class will explore Paul's Letter to the Church in Colossae through reading, cultural contextual study, and discussion. Our class will learn about the Way of Jesus in Colossae and how that movement can speak to us personally and as a North American community.

*Parents And Caregivers Class* Facilitated by **Bill Stout** and **Celeste Scott**, this class will revolve around the *Adults Relating to Kids (ARK)* Course and the *Five Love Languages of Children*. Some of the newer lessons include the topics of avoiding over-reaction, praying for our children, dealing with the rebellious child, bullying our kids, promoting school success, letting our children go, and addressing our anger issues. During the first session, we will discuss the diverse level of needs of participants and make accommodations to meet the goals of all.

*Male Spirituality* This men-only class will take a look at the twelve disciples together in a boat out on the sea of life, and what it meant for them –and means for us – to ground our lives in the movement of Jesus' life: life, death, tomb and resurrection. There are unique ways – some healthy, some unhealthy – that men are conditioned to respond to the pain and joy, the disappointment and hope, and the loss and accomplishments of life. Join **T Adamson** and **Jeff Wright** for lively discussion.

## Weekday Study Opportunities

Starting the week of September 11, we have three new Monday night classes (7-8:30 p.m.) and one Tuesday morning class (9-11 a.m.).

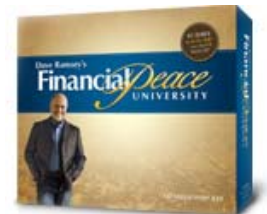
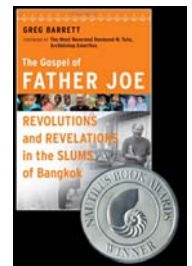
Our Monday classes are:

*First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God* led by **Jeff Wright**. Why did Jesus happen when he happened? Why were the titles of Caesar Augustus — Divine, Son of God, God from God, Lord, Redeemer, Liberator, and Savior of the World — taken from a Roman emperor on the Palatine Hill and given to a Jewish peasant on the Palestine plain? Was it low lampoon or high treason? Either way, the Romans were not laughing. Jeff Wright will lead a 12-session DVD study of the historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God.

*The Gospel of Father Joe* by Greg Barrett, 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.

*Financial Peace University* led by **Harry Edwards**. This 14-week study designed by Dave Ramsey introduces you to practices that will transform your financial life and bring financial peace. If you are interested in taking this class, please contact **Harry Edwards** (223-0824) or the church office (223-1230). We would like to determine how many people might be interested.

*DISCIPLE I* will be held on Tuesday mornings and taught by **Rachel Chappell**. Many of our members and friends have taken this extraordinary study of the New Testament.



- 6501 Brittany Street • Fort Collins, CO 80525 • Phone: 970.223.1230 • Fax: 970.266.9408
- [www.heartoftherockies.org](http://www.heartoftherockies.org) • Email: [office@heartoftherockies.org](mailto:office@heartoftherockies.org)

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

## In the Community

- *Sacred Spaces* (a six-week creative arts workshop) and *Writing Through Loss* (an eight-week opportunity; no writing experience necessary!) are fall offerings from Pathways Hospice, northern Colorado's extraordinary hospice. For more information, call 663-3500.
- Extra veggies in your garden? Anne Genson will accept donations of fresh homegrown produce for Homegrown Farmers Markets in higher-need neighborhoods. You can donate to her office (1029 Luke Street) or home (1301 Buttonwood Drive). She would also like volunteers to help staff the markets from 4-5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Contact Anne ([amg4@pvhs.org](mailto:amg4@pvhs.org); 495-7433).

## 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.
- ♥ This Sunday: worship at 9 & 11 a.m. Sunday, September 11: worship at 8:30 & 11 o'clock, with Sunday school classes for all ages at 9:50 a.m.
- ♥ WOV (Women on Wednesday) Prayer Lunch resumes meeting on September 21, from noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch.
- ♥ Men's prayer breakfast will resume at 8 a.m., Saturday, September 10. Please join us for food, fun (bad jokes) and fellowship.
- ♥ Are you interested in knitting, crocheting or needlework of any kind? The next gathering for Knitwits will be September 8, 9:30 a.m. at the church. Contact **Sherri Jackson** (204-1774) for more information.
- ♥ 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](http://www.footstepsofJesustour.org).

## ODDS (Older, Definitely Denying Sanity)

Looking for a group to join? O.D.D.S. (formerly *Older, Definitely Denying Seniorhood*, but we've gotten there!) is comprised of fun-loving boomers, but we're extending an invitation to pre- and post-boomers. It's not age but ATTITUDE that matters! Come share food, laughter and great camaraderie!

Fall Kickoff Event:

*Sunday, September 11*  
*6 p.m.*

**Jack and Sue Krueger's**  
*212 Camino Real*  
*R.S.V.P. to 224-5525*

Grilled food provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

## Not Too Late for Shiprock

It's not too late to participate in our mission to Shiprock, New Mexico, where on the Navajo Nation Reservation we will renovate homes of the elderly: painting, building wheelchair ramps, creating accessible bathrooms, roofing and more. For more information, call **John Shaw** (493-0572) or **Bob Willhour** (207-9450).

## Moderator's Moments

Well, we're almost ready to share the results of our *Planning with Purpose, Acting with Passion* process with the entire congregation! After months of going through this process, we hope to conduct several informational meetings and then a formal congregational meeting in late September or early October. Council and the Steering Team held an extended work session in late August to refine the remaining details of our Strategic Plan.



We've managed to create a one-page *Strategic Plan Summary*. It lists a significant but manageable number of specific goals we hope to achieve over the next five years, organized along six identified visions/strategies under four specific time periods. For example, one of our strategies is addressing our space limitations, and it includes some specific goals scattered over the next several years. We've identified two *overall goals* of the plan: (1) thriving in the pursuit of Heart of the Rockies' mission; and (2) growing intentionally to achieve our mission more effectively. The summary page also lists a few key challenges we'll be facing, e.g., handling transition when our founding pastor retires.

It's important to note how this Strategic Plan reflects the interests, energies, and passions of the congregation as a whole. During our two All-Congregation Conferences in March and May, you the congregation helped paint the vision of where we want to go as a church, and areas where you are the most passionate. Since then, the work of the Steering Team and Council has largely been to determine how to get there and what our priorities need to be. I'm excited to be able to share this with you soon!

—Joe Cowan, Moderator

## SKYhill Update

**Jeff Wright** has been attending meetings of the Family Consumer Council (FCC), the county-led initiative to create Community Centers around the county. The Community Center model sounded close enough to plans for SKYhill – our vision for a Kids campus – that the SKYhill board of directors decided to join the FCC to: 1) discern the similarities and differences in models; 2) participate in the needs assessment survey; 3) then discern whether to pursue SKYhill in some form or join in the county's efforts. The county's needs assessment has just been completed, and it's expected that the SKYhill board of directors will be called back together soon to hear the results and decide next steps.

## A Simple Way to Help

Laurel Elementary, our faith-based partner, can benefit from your shopping! From August 10 to September 13, all qualified purchases you make at Safeway will earn Laurel 10% of the money you spent. You will see the amount you earned on the bottom of your grocery receipts, and can assign them to Laurel on-line at the Safeway redemption site.

Target shoppers can also designate Laurel to be the recipient of dollars they give to public schools based on your purchases. It's an easy way to help!

## Kids at Heart Beats



I can't believe it is September already! Where did the summer go? Kids at Heart wrapped up the summer with our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Camp Fundango program. It was such an amazing weekend. This year, with the help of the Colorado Post Adoption Resource Center, Kids at Heart took one hundred and thirty two campers (parents and children) from twenty families for a

weekend of fun and relaxation at Camp Timberline in Estes Park, Colorado. We were blessed with fantastic weather. The families got to hike, make s'mores, dance, zoom on the zip line, and swim. For a lot of our families, camp is their vacation for the year. I'm so grateful we can give these families a weekend break. You can check out a little video of camp at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDDo82MWGvU>.

If you would like to join the fun, we are always looking for volunteers to help with our Fundango program. To learn more about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Mary Beth Freeman (970-223-1230;

[volunteercoordinator@kidsatheartfundango.org](mailto: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](mailto:director@kidsatheartfundango.org))

Kids at Heart has teamed up with Noodles in Old Town Fort Collins to help raise money for our Fundango and Camp Fundango programs. On Wednesday,

October 5, come out and have a bite to eat with us. 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 starting at 6 p.m. that night. Remember to mention Kids at Heart when you pay.

Our 2011 Fundango dates can be found at our website [www.kidsatheartfundango.org](http://www.kidsatheartfundango.org).

—Erica Wharton, Executive Director

## Community Garden

Join us in a Community Garden (CG) Brainstorm and brown bag dinner, Thursday, September 1, 5:30 p.m., at Heart of the Rockies. If you have a green thumb and want to share your skills, if you need more garden space, if you seek eco-justice, if you simply like gardening, if you want to help create a Community Garden for church members, if you want to create a CG for our neighbors, if you want to create a CG in order to have produce to share with neighbors, or if you like being around people while they talk about community gardens — then join us as we take another step of the garden journey together. Contact **Alice Austin** (282-9358), **Erica Wharton** (227-4832) or **Scott Hardin-Nieri** ([scott@heartoftherockies.org](mailto:scott@heartoftherockies.org); 223-1230) to find out more.

## August 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 August meeting:

**Alice Austin** reported that the Outreach Team has made plans for the coming months.

**Denny Soucek** reported from the Property Team that all that is left to do in the work on the building is work on the kitchen floor and an inspection of the new carpeting.

Council also discussed the information put together by the Steering Committee based on information from the congregation meetings and Action Planning Groups earlier this year.

The next Council meeting will be September 14, 7 p.m. in Room 1.

—Hugh Mahon, Council Secretary



## An Emerging Plan

Our All-Church Conference Steering Team has completed a draft five-year action plan that emerged out of the all-church gatherings and subsequent small group discerning sessions. Participants in the two gatherings will recognize their input. Council has put its finishing touches on the draft plan,

which will be presented to the congregation for its vote in a special Congregation Meeting on Sunday, October 2, during the Sunday school hour.

To prepare our church community for this important step in our life together, Council will hold three information meetings lasting an hour each. Childcare will be provided. You may attend any one of the three meetings to learn and ask questions about the five-year plan:

- Sunday, September 18, 2-3 p.m.
- Tuesday evening, September 20, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, September 24, 9-10 a.m.

Larry Peers, our consultant during the planning process, helped the team identify five challenges our church community faces in reaching toward our goals. These, too, will be explored at the information meetings. All of the proposed action items fall under one of the following strategies to meet our two goals to thrive in pursuing our mission; grow intentionally to fulfill our mission more effectively.

### 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

## Formal Congregation Meeting

9:50 a.m., Sunday, October 2

To consider and vote on our five-year action plan!



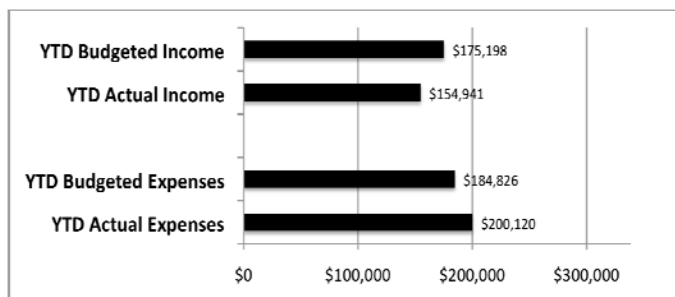
## Treasurer's Trove

Hard to believe that the summer is wrapping up already. As they say, the days may go slowly, but the years sure go fast! Sending our two sons off to their first year of college this year has been a scary, exciting, daunting, exhausting, invigorating, and, well, just a life-changing experience.

Change is inevitable, it can be thrilling, but often is hard. Around Heart of the Rockies we've been spending a lot of this year looking at our strategy and planning for the future. Some exciting changes are being looked at based on feedback from the congregation and prayerful discernment and learning from the steering committee and council.

Of course, some changes will take on some new financial needs as well. With that in mind, as we return from our summer breaks/vacations/relaxation, I'd like to request that our members review the summary financial picture below to see the snapshot of our current spending vs. budgeted and actual income. Please take this time to review your own estimates of giving, and consider catching up or even where possible putting in a little extra. The better we're managing and understanding our current year's finances, the better prepared we'll be to plan for next year and new and exciting changes! Thank you and God bless!

### Jan-July 2011 General Fund Performance to Budget



—**Scott Johnson**, Treasurer

## Library Corner

Thanks to those who helped during the painting of the library by boxing up books, and then putting them back again! Come see the Library's new look, and also leaf through some new books from various contributors — thanks to YOU, too! We hope you will take a book home often, and read it. The ideas we put into our minds contribute greatly to our goals and the way we spend our time.

—**Karen Smith**, Library Team

## 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!

September's list includes: Halloween candy, Halloween accessories, band-aids, shampoo, Chapstick, Clorox wipes, kids' body wash, hand sanitizer, plastic shoe boxes and washable markers. A box is located in the church lobby to collect these gifts.



—**JustFaith Group**

## News from the Outreach Team

No break for the Outreach Team this summer! We've been busy planning new and existing opportunities for friends and members of Heart of the Rockies to serve locally, regionally and internationally.

*Shiprock (Navajo Nation) Work Trip, September 21-25* – **John Shaw** and his team from around our Region are busy planning this year's trip. Thanks to the many Heart of the Rockies folks who participated in the very successful golf tournament which helps fund the work. John and Jack Krueger recently visited Shiprock to scope out work projects. Thanks to John for his presentations after worship on August 21 to let the congregation know more about this very important mission. Suggested donations for this year's trip include children's clothes, clothes for large adults, leftover paint, kitchen and bathroom supplies, towels, and material for making curtains.

*Fort Collins CROP Hunger Walk, October 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 1:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 531 South College Avenue.

*Venezuelan Medical Mission Trip* – **Alice Austin, Linda Gail Cowan, and Roz Ruppert** will be going on the Global Partners medical mission trip to Venezuela, October 4-13. Each volunteer will bring two suitcases filled with needed supplies, including medical supplies, children's clothing, school supplies and much more. Check the suitcase display in the lobby for suggested donations.



*Laurel Elementary* – **Pam Deal** is once again working with Laurel teachers to identify the areas where Heart of the Rockies volunteers and support is most needed. Each school year, the students (and teachers!) at Laurel look forward to the many servants from Heart of the Rockies who faithfully contribute their time and talents to helping Laurel kids reach their potential.

*Tennyson Center Mission Trip* – Interested in participating in a mission trip but don't have the time to travel to Shiprock or Alamosa? The Outreach Team is hoping to offer a "mini mission trip" to serve the youth at the Tennyson Center in Denver. Contact **Bill Stout** (223-6976) if you would like to learn more.

*Equal Exchange Coffee* – Heart of the Rockies will soon participate in this program which supports fair trade practices in developing countries. Look for more information on purchasing the delicious coffee and tea (and chocolate!), beginning later this fall, when cooler weather will bring out the coffee lover in all of us!

*Matthews House and CSU Geller Center* – the Outreach Team looks forward to once again organizing and serving an occasional dinner to the young people who participate in these programs. Look for announcements on dates and how you can help.

*Angel House* – As soon as we get the word from Angel House that the necessary funding has been secured, we will be ready to go. Much of the ground work has been laid for our congregation's participation, and we are looking forward to getting started!

—**Sue Anderson**, Outreach Team

## Youth News

**Club 456** (Grades 4,5&6) will meet Wednesdays, September 7 (massive ice cream sundaes!) & 21. *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 Poncelew, Stacy Poncelew & Shelley Johnson.**

**Chi-Rho** (grades 7 & 8) 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 **Donna Greene** and **Scott Hardin-Nieri.** *Upcoming events include: September 11, 4-6:30 p.m. – Fall Kickoff at Heart of the Rockies – MUDFEST!; September 18, fellowship at the church; September 25, fellowship at the church.*

**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: September 11, 4-6:30 p.m. – Fall Kickoff at Heart of the Rockies – MUDFEST!; September 18, fellowship at the church; September 25, fellowship at the church.*

## 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

The Sunday Morning Children's ministry "Mystery Mountain", for 3-year-olds through sixth graders will kick off their year Sunday, September 11. Join the fun and learn about God's love from 9:50-10:50 every Sunday morning.

## Sunday Morning Expedition

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

Sunday School will begin again September 11, 2011. The high school and middle school groups will be sharing in a series about the *Basis of the Bible*. In ten weeks **Paula Beaty** will teach a dynamic overview of the scriptures. **Mickey Ruff** will be 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 will 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](mailto:scott@heartoftherockies.org)) for information. Normal meeting times are once a month and at various locations.

## ARK Parenting Support

Adults Relating to Kids (ARK) is a program that uses small groups to teach a Christ-centered way of relating to kids. Parents of children of all ages are encouraged to join the 11-week class beginning September 11.

### What Is ARK?

Low self-esteem is the root cause of adolescent violence, drug abuse, sexual promiscuity, and gang activity. If a young person does not feel good about himself, he will "cave in" to the coercion of his peers in hopes of winning the approval and acceptance of others.

New, ground-breaking research provides us a new paradigm for understanding how healthy self-esteem is generated in children. This research shows the essential connection between a child's sense of self-esteem and the quality of his relationships with the primary adults (parents, teachers, Sunday School teachers, etc.) in his life.

When a child is loved for who she is rather than for what she does, she is enabled to value herself in spite of her imperfections. This gift of unconditional love is an adult's greatest contribution to the life of a child. In providing unconditional love to our kids, the world's greatest delivery system is the Christian faith.

The ARK Program helps adults to become vessels through whom the unconditional love of God revealed through Jesus Christ is poured into the lives of our children.

### What is an ARK Group?

ARK provides a fun, relaxed, confidential, small group environment in which adults can practice giving unconditional love and healthy self-esteem to children.

ARK Groups:

- Meet once a week for one hour for eleven weeks.
- Equip adults to give God's unconditional love, revealed through Jesus Christ, to their children.
- Help group members learn how to discipline children with love.
- Enable members to develop "love-based" relationships rather than "fear-based" relationships with their kids.

### Who Does ARK Benefit?

Children, parents, foster parents, grandparents, teachers, Sunday School teachers, youth workers, and all caring adults who want to enhance their skills at loving and nurturing children.

**Celeste Scott** (669-7586) and **Bill Stout** (223-6976) will be facilitating the class. Contact them directly if you are interested or you may learn more about ARK by visiting [www.thearkgroup.org](http://www.thearkgroup.org), or call toll free 888-ARK-0744.

*Perhaps there is nothing in this world as powerful to break selfishness as is the simple act of looking at our own children. In our love for them we are given a privileged avenue to feel as God feels – to burst in unselfishness, in joy, in delight, and in the desire to let another's life be more real and important than our own.*

— Ronald Rotheiser



## Meet the Elders

*"Vacation Bible School Saved My Life"* by Judy Chapman

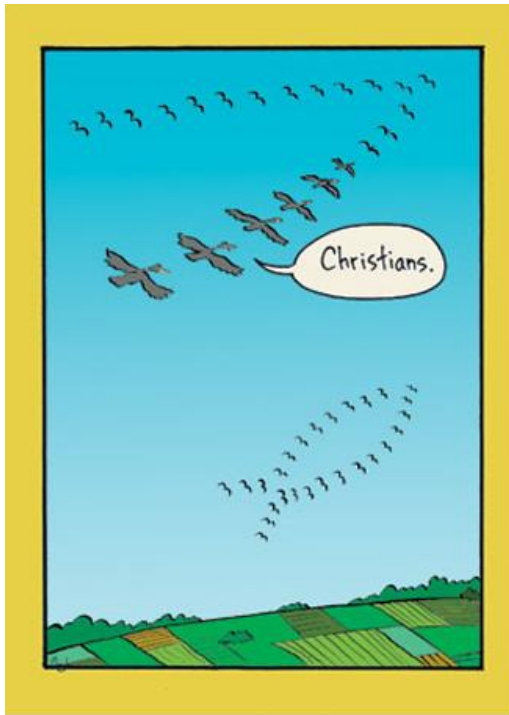
I am thankful for a congregation, very similar to ours, in Saint Louis, Missouri for starting my journey.

Childhood trauma affects many lives. It devastates the minds and hearts of children. Negative effects can last a lifetime. Because of caring church members like you, I was able to survive the aftermath of trauma.

At the age of seven a friend invited me to attend Vacation Bible School. The message of Jesus' sacrifice and unconditional love touched my heart. I couldn't get enough of it. It was difficult to believe that Jesus could love me. . . me, a struggling, frightened child who tried so hard to be invisible.

I started attending church every Sunday. It was a refuge from my turbulent world. Church members would give me a ride or pick me up when they saw me walking to services. Later that year I was given a Bible to reward perfect attendance. I thought, "Wow someone actually noticed that I was here." Through the members of that church I began to experience the healing that comes from faith. I began to believe that my life had value. I also started to believe that I could become a whole and happy person.

Vacation Bible School started me on a path toward recovery and healing. The members of my church didn't know that they were saving my life. They were serving the Lord with grace and humility. It takes many volunteers to support our Vacation Bible School and Children's Ministries at Heart of the Rockies. The programs thrive because of the generosity of our members. These gifts of time and treasure are saving and changing young lives. I wonder if you know how much impact we have on the children we touch. I know because I was one of them many years ago.



## Choir Begins This Thursday

Our Chancel Choir, which sings at the 8:30 a.m. service, begins its fall rehearsals this Thursday, September 1. You don't have to have a performer's voice; you just have to have a love of singing. Join the fellowship and practice from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

## *The Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

### *Preamble*

[Editor's Note: Many Disciples still hold a long-discredited understanding about our denomination's founders and their thoughts about formal creeds. It's true that Stone and Campbell and others eschewed the church's historic creeds, but only when they were used as tests of a person's faith. Our founders actually appreciated and studied the creeds as testimony to the historic understandings of the church. Still, when it came to making a faith statement as part of the official Design (constitution) of the Disciples, we preferred the word *preamble* to *creed*. The following statement of faith was approved in 1994. Never intended to be an official creed, it speaks for a characteristically Disciples of Christ understanding of the Christian faith.]

*As members of the Christian Church,  
We confess that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God,  
and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.*

*In Christ's name and by his grace  
we accept our mission of witness and service to  
all people.*

*We rejoice in God,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and in the covenant of love  
which binds us to God and to one another.*

*Through baptism into Christ  
we enter into newness of life  
and are made one with the whole people of God.*

*In the communion of the Holy Spirit  
we are joined together in discipleship  
and in obedience to Christ.*

*At the table of the Lord  
we celebrate with thanksgiving  
the saving acts and presence of Christ.*

*Within the universal church  
we receive the gift of ministry  
and the light of scripture.*

*In the bonds of Christian faith  
we yield ourselves to God  
that we may serve the One  
whose kingdom has no end.*

*Blessing, glory and honor  
be to God forever. Amen.*

## A View from the Mountains

After many months of planning and a significant investment of time and dollars on the part of our church community, Church Council is prepared to present the five-year action plan that the congregation has created through two all-church gatherings and several follow-up small groups.

During a Sunday afternoon retreat, council members talked through and made adjustments to the draft plan which will be distributed to the congregation in advance of three information meetings. You can read more about the plans and these meetings on page three of the newsletter). I hope you'll attend one of these information meetings. Because the proposed plan has the potential to have an enormous, positive impact on the life and ministry of Heart of the Rockies.

Once his work was essentially complete, Larry Peers, the Alban Institute Consultant who worked with us, shared five recommendations/challenges to our leadership. These recommendations will be explained further and explored in our information meetings.

1. Numerical growth is important for the health of Heart of the Rockies.
2. Explore alternatives to your current model of governance.
3. Come to terms with your space limitations and what it is "costing" the church.
4. Prioritize staffing and volunteer resourcing.
5. Begin to make the leadership shifts that congregations always need to make: generationally and with newer members.

—Jeff Wright, Pastor

## Disciples News

• The last printing of the Chalice Hymnal is close at hand. One of the most popular and best-selling hymnals, it includes more than 620 easy-to-sing traditional and contemporary hymns. Orders placed by the September 23 deadline will be delivered by Advent. Order online at [www.chalicepress.com](http://www.chalicepress.com) or by calling 1-800-366-3383.



• 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](http://www.nccusa.org/witnesses2010/ga2010relatedevents.htm#newfire)

• A rich cache of resources from the 2011 General Assembly is posted on the web. Resources include downloadable documents, presentations and videos used during learning opportunities or plenary sessions. The online "Toolkits" can be found on the General Assembly web site at [www.disciples.org/ga](http://www.disciples.org/ga); click on the "Toolkits" link.

## Heartfelt Thanks To...

... **Scott Hardin-Nieri, Stacy Poncelew, Brent Wiescamp and Laura Field** for giving of themselves so generously to the care and maturing of our youth this summer; everyone who helped make the Lawrence, Kansas

church group feel welcome here during their travels.



## Letters

Sincere thanks to all who donated items for the Chi Rho Mission trip to Alamosa. The PALS staff loved the many children's books, the Shelter was grateful for the gift of coffee, and the Food Bank gladly accepted the gift of corn. We appreciate you joining us in serving the customers of La Puente!  
—Stacy Poncelew

Dear Heart of the Rockies,

Thank you so much for your continued commitment to service and to the mission of La Puente. We so appreciate the service of the Chi-Rho group this past month as well as the donations they brought down from the rest of the church. It was a joy to work with you. Thanks!

Sincerely,

Alissa Tombaugh, La Puente Home

*To pray, I think, does not mean to think about God in contrast to thinking about other things, or to spend time with God instead of spending time with other people. Rather, it means to think and live in the presence of God. All our actions must have their origin in prayer. Praying is not an isolated activity; it takes place in the midst of all the things and affairs that keep us active. In prayer a "self-centered monologue" becomes a "God-centered dialogue."*

—Henri Nouwen

## Venezuela Medical Mission

Curious about the large suitcase in our lobby? It started out empty and has filled up nicely, thanks to your donations. It's one of six needed for the ten-day Global Partnership Venezuelan Medical Mission Trip happening in October. Three of our members, **Alice Austin, Linda Cowan, and Roz Ruppert**, are traveling with others in our Disciples Region and Rocky Mountain UCC Region to partner with the United Pentacostal Evangelical Church of Venezuela. If you'd like to help, a list of needed supplies is available next to the suitcase.

## Interfaith Council News

*9/11 Observance* — On Sunday, September 11, 3 p.m., the Fort Collins Interfaith Council will sponsor a special event for the whole community at Plymouth Congregational Church, 916 West Prospect. The interfaith service will bring together Jews, Muslims, Protestants, Unitarians and Roman Catholics, joining in remembrance and hope and in a commitment to peace. The service will draw prayers from different traditions, musical offerings, and will enable us to grieve the tragedies of 2001 and commit ourselves to a different course ten years later.

*Human Trafficking* — Two program meetings will be held in September, both concerning the issue of human trafficking. On September 15, 9 a.m., the video taken will be shown — a film which delineates the issue across the world. This event will take place at Mackenzie Place (4750 Pleasant Oak Drive). The issue of local human trafficking will be explored on September 29, 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church (1005 Stover). Everyone is welcome to attend these program meetings.

—Sue Anderson

# September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(1) Room One (2) Room Two (S) Sanctuary (M) Modular (O) Other Location	CHECK OUT & REGISTER FOR OUR WEEKDAY opportunities for study, prayer and fellowship!			1 5:30 - 6:45 pm Community Garden Brainstorm (M) 5:30 pm Choir (1) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	2	3
4 9 am Worship 11 am Worship	5 <b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED!</b>	6 5:30 pm Outreach (M)	7 9 am Humane Society (1)  5 pm Elders 6 pm Club 456 (M)	8 9:30 am Knitwits (2)  5:30 pm Choir (1) 7 pm Finance Team (2) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	9	10 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast  5 pm Fundango (Fort Collins B&G Club)
11 <b>FALL KICK-OFF!</b> 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 11 am Worship  4:30 pm Youth Fellowship	12 7 pm Together at Heart Gatherings	13 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1)	14 7 pm Council Mtg. (1)	15 5:30 pm Choir (1) 6:15 pm Worship Meeting (2) 6:30 pm Kids at Heart (1) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)	16 7-8 pm Community Drum Circle	17 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast
18 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 10 am Rehab Nursing Center of the Rockies (O) 11 am Worship 2 pm Church Action Plan Info Meeting 4:30 pm Youth Fellowship	19 7 pm Together at Heart Gatherings	20 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1)  6:30 pm Church Action Plan Info Meeting	21 12-1 pm WOW Prayer Lunch (1)  6 pm Club 456 (M)	Shiprock Mission Trip New Mexico, September 21-25		24 8 am (1,K) Men's Prayer Breakfast 9 am Church Action Plan Info Meeting  5 pm Fundango (Fort Collins B&G Club)
25 8:30 am Worship 9:50 am Classes for all ages 11 am Worship  4:30 pm Youth Fellowship	26 7 pm Together at Heart Gatherings	27 9-11 am DISCIPLE I (1)	28 12-1 pm WOW Prayer Lunch (1)	Congregation Meeting, 9:50 a.m. This Sunday, October 2		30 5:30 pm Choir (1) 7:30 pm Praise Team (S)  5:30 - 8:15 pm Grandparents' Group (1,S)