

Christ Church CONNECTIONS

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



Christ Church United Methodist: A Reconciling Congregation

✧ All-Church Meeting ✧

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 11:30 A.M.
VOTE ON THE CHURCH BUDGET!

Dear Christ Church family,

As chairperson of the Staff Parish Relations Committee of Christ Church, I want to update everyone on the important conversations happening at our church. First let me thank the Stewardship Committee for their outstanding fundraising campaign this fall. As with most non-profit ministries, however, Christ Church is experiencing the financial pressures of our time. Because of that issue, it has fallen to your lay leadership to reflect on solutions to the short fall.

One of the major expenses of a church the size of Christ Church is staff with the most dedicated to the senior pastoral leadership. Because of this, the Administrative Board voted to cut the salary package of the senior pastor position by \$25,000. What does that mean? Obviously, we would lose the leadership of Rev. Carolyn Waters if this were to be our final decision. This decision is not about Rev. Waters, it is about finances. If Rev. Waters were to leave, we would have another pastor appointed, but they would most likely be one just starting out in ministry or one near or in retirement. *(continued on page 2)*

What's Inside

<i>Stewardship Committee</i>	2
<i>Community Life</i>	3
<i>United Methodist Women</i>	3
<i>Announcements</i>	3
<i>Joys & Cares</i>	3
<i>Christ Church Calendar</i>	4



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

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

✧ All-Church Meeting ✧

(continued from page 1)

Your Staff Parish Relations Committee is still committed to the keeping the present staff and pastor because of the experience and leadership they bring. We see important growth taking place in our church. Exciting new faces, young families, gay and straight, young professionals, those who live in the neighborhood and many who choose to drive 30 minutes to church, and the growing number of children that fill our church with wonderful energy, especially at this time of year.

A decision time is drawing near. On January 10 we will address this concern in an all-church gathering. If you have questions, concerns, or even suggestions, we encourage you to attend this meeting which starts directly after the regular church service.

Again, we see this as an opportunity to confirm the future of our church. Your response, in whatever fashion, is most appreciated.

In gratitude and thanksgiving,
Julie Major-Frunz, SPR Chair

✧ Stewardship Committee ✧

We wish to express our appreciation for the Christ Church congregation's response to the 2010 Stewardship Campaign. As you know, our church has been running a deficit budget, filling in the gap between income and expenses with "gifts from the past." With the combination of the current economy and growth in Church expenses, that gap has increased and endowment resources are dwindling. The Administrative Board asked that we put more effort in raising funds by running a special campaign this summer and early fall followed by a concerted effort to increase the pledges for this coming year's budget.

Thank you for your response to these efforts which were much more extensive than we've done in the past few years.

We feel that the pledge campaign has been very successful, thanks to the work of the Stewardship Committee, Administrative Board, Christ Church Committees, and to the good responses from our members and friends. The number of pledges (81) and amount pledged (\$150,300) to date are dramatic improvements over last year's reported numbers of 59 pledges and \$116,330 pledged. We are particularly gratified with the first time pledges from our members and friends, and hope our work has planted seeds for a stronger culture of Stewardship at Christ Church.

With appreciation,
The Stewardship Committee
Gene Tucker, Joan Foster, Laurie Fujinami, Brian Smith & Ben Houston

Christ Church Staff

Carolyn Waters

cwaters@christchurchcolorado.org

Pastor

Ben Riggs

briggs@christchurchcolorado.org

Director of Worship & Communications

William Dean

WDean@iliff.edu

Theologian in Residence

Cle Lewis

office@christchurchcolorado.org

Church Administrator

Eric Strader

estrader@christchurchcolorado.org

Student Pastor

Joy Jenkins

Assistant Director of Music



Christ Church United Methodist

690 Colorado Boulevard

Denver, CO 80206

(303) 322-0784 (office)

(303) 322-4711 (fax)

office@christchurchcolorado.org

www.christchurchcolorado.org



Sunday Morning Schedule:

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

& Adult Education

10:15 a.m. WORSHIP

11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

Church Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon;

1:00 — 3:00 p.m.

Monday—Thursday

CLOSED on Friday

Announcements

- **Operation Sleeping Bags** was a tremendous success, collecting nearly 90 sleeping bags for the homeless! Thanks to Rev. Carolyn Waters for spearheading this incredible campaign, and to all Christ Church members & friends who contributed sleeping bags & funds.
- **Christ Church worship attendance** reached an exciting high in December, with well over 150 attending on several Sunday mornings!



Cares & Concerns

- **From Betsy & Ron Allen:** Jaryn and I are missing Ron already! He'll be in Afghanistan for 4-5 months. Love and prayers to all the deployed Panthers and the families waiting at home!
- **Neva Windbigler** suffered a fall last month. She is rehabilitating at Villa Manor, 7950 West Mississippi Ave. in Lakewood, Room #61, Bed A. Phone number for Villa Manor is 303-986-4511.
- **Edith Sullivan** is a homebound member of Christ Church who would appreciate calls, cards, and visits: 1155 Ash St, #401, Denver, CO 80220, 303-377-5072.

✧ Community Life ✧

ADULT EDUCATION & SOCIAL ACTION

Your Adult Education Committee along with Social Action and Reconciling Ministries is dedicated to finding ways to bring you information needed for this day and tomorrow. We all want to learn and grow in our thinking. We hope to provide you with tools and ways to use the information in your lives and surroundings. Please save the following dates:

Our first series of topics for the New Year is about HEALTH. **January 17** we invite you to please bring a casserole, salad or dessert to share following worship. After lunch plan to stay for a documentary titled "Sick Around the World."

January 21 at 7:00 our own Darlene Harmon will be telling us about Haven House. We believe drug and alcohol use is a dangerous health issue. Haven House helps babies to be born drug free. Our Bishop Elaine has asked us to concern ourselves with saving children.

January 28 at 7:00 Dr. Don Smith will share with us a history of our how our health care system reached the current peak of despair. With this presentation we will have the opportunity to ask questions and voice our concerns. Don will be using a book researched by his friend. We will have copies of the book available to buy on January 10. We must learn to be our own advocates when dealing with our doctors, politicians, advertising and even our own families.

January 31 following worship you will have the opportunity to discuss with the social action committee members ways you can make a difference in our community.
—Kenita Gibbins

✧ United Methodist Women ✧

Jan. 4: Mission Team meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the church.

Jan. 18: VIBE meeting, location to be announced.

Jan. 23: Empowerment Educational Experience presented by the Metro District UMW from 1 to 4 p.m. This event for local officers and interested women will be held at Phillips, UMC, 1450 S. Pierce St., Lakewood.

Feb. 13: Valentine's Day Tea at 10:00 a.m. for all women of the church. Reservations are required and can be made beginning January 24 on the signup sheet in the Narthex.

Upcoming: UMW Spiritual Life Retreat at the YMCA in Estes Park from April 23 to 25th, 2010. All women are invited. Registration details will be available in January.
—Lorrie Wright

Christ Church Calendar: January 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee 6:00 p.m. Youth Group 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 p.m. Rocky Mountain Children's Choir 7:00 p.m. UMW Mission Team 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 p.m. Dances for Universal Peace 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00 p.m. Neuropathy Support 5:30 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus 6:00 p.m. Easting Disorder Support 	8	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:30 a.m. New Members Orientation 9:00 a.m. Debtors Anonymous 7:00 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus Concert
10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee 11:30 a.m. All-Church Meeting 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 p.m. Rocky Mountain Children's Choir 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 p.m. Children's Ed 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 p.m. Dances for Universal Peace 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus 6:00 p.m. Easting Disorder Support 	15	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Debtors Anonymous
17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee 11:30 a.m. Adult Ed potluck 6:30 p.m. Denver Gay Men's Chorus 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MLK Day: Church offices closed 7:00 p.m. UMW VIBE Circle (offSite) 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11:00 a.m. Lions Club 7:00 p.m. Dances for Universal Peace 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:00 p.m. Neuropathy Support 5:30 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus 6:00 p.m. Easting Disorder Support 	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Debtors Anonymous 9:00 a.m. Christ Church Visionaries Meeting
24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Education Hour 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee 7:30 p.m. Colorado Conductors Chorus Concert 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4:00 p.m. Rocky Mountain Children's Choir 	26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:00 p.m. Dances for Universal Peace 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30 p.m. Mosaic Youth Chorus 6:00 p.m. Easting Disorder Support 	29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 a.m. Debtors Anonymous
31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Coffee 6:30 p.m. Denver Gay Men's Chorus 	<p>Christ Church Connections Deadline for February article submissions: January 20, 2010 Submit articles to: briggs@christchurchcolorado.org</p>					