

THRUST & PARRY



August

2010

*PARKVIEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
12444 PARKVIEW DR.
AURORA, CO 80011*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

SAVE THE DATE!!

***PARKVIEW CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
IS CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
EXISTANCE!!***

***WE WILL PARTY AT DUMITRI'S
ON
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2010
FROM 11:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M.***

We will look forward to seeing you!

***Invitations will go out on a later date
with additional information.***

The 50 Year Planning Committee

Cake, cake and more cake!!! We do like to celebrate at Parkview, and celebrate we have done this summer. We celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Peg and Bill Beatty and 40th Anniversary of Dianne and Dale Pettapiece. We celebrated Marvin Gardner's 80th birthday and Joe Reichel's 90th. Congratulations and best wishes to each. One of the blessings at Parkview Church is its family-like orientation, and its emphasis on fellowship.

We were blessed to have the GQ's (a gospel quartet) with us in worship and at the 4th of July Picnic/Potluck. It was great to have Rick Velotta, son of Joan, back at Parkview. He attended Parkview while growing up, and offered to give back to the church through the quartet. I have heard nothing but positive comments about GQ's contributions in worship and at the BBQ.

The annual 4th of July Potluck Picnic was a huge success. So many people attended. And thanks to the members of the Chuukese Church, who worship at Parkview, a roasted pig was enjoyed by all at the picnic. We are beginning to understand ourselves as being multicultural as we develop relationships with members of churches who worship at Parkview.

The community garden plots are thriving. Several people have indicated they may be interested in a plot next year. We hope to continue our working relationship with Denver Urban Gardens (DUG), who helped tremendously in the planning and provided the compost and gravel. Members of three of the five churches using our building are involved in the community garden. And just the other evening as I was watering my garden, one of our neighbors who lives on Uvalda Street stopped to inquire about the plots. I was glad I had the chance to meet Roberto and his son, William.

Several people have inquired about the class, "The Bible for Dummies" which is beginning in the next week, as I write this article. Seven people have signed up for it. And there is room for more if others are interested. This is a summer class that will meet for 6 weeks beginning July 22nd through the month of August. It is intended to be educational, but small group classes provide opportunities for faith development as well as meaningful relationships.

Worship services have been well attended this summer. The new order of worship, which includes having the choir sing throughout the summer, and trying to provide worship services that are meaningful, experiential and powerful through people sharing their faith, has continued to enhance the spiritual life at Parkview. Deepening our connections with the sacred is our goal, as it is experienced through grace and wholeness, joy and peace.

I am convinced the product we have to "sell" within the faith community is that of RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING. It cannot be found on the shelves of grocery stores or hung on racks in department stores. It doesn't have a price tag, nor does it lose its value. I believe the church is called to provide opportunities for relationship building: relationships with God and with neighbor. May God continue to bless Parkview Church as we seek to build relationships in healthy and positive ways.

WORSHIP & PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

One year ago twelve to fourteen people gathered on Wednesday evenings to reinvent and design a new worship order for Parkview. Several ideas were suggested in how to make worship more meaningful and vital. The result of their efforts was the current worship order divided into four basic sections: Gathering, Encountering, Responding, and Sending. A number of changes were made, and most of them were well received.

The Seasonal Worship Team, the Weekly Worship Team and the Worship and Prayer Core Ministry Team are committed to creating services, which are, as the Rev. Robert Schnase describes them, passionate worship services. We continue to make evaluation forms available on the table in the hallway near the south entry doors into the sanctuary. Your comments are read and taken seriously. Please note that all three teams feel called to enhancing the worship life at Parkview. Please let your thoughts be known.

The 24/7 Prayer Circle, a team facilitated by Ruth Roehrman, enlists people who will commit to praying for others on a regular basis.

Passionate Worship bends us toward God so we can reach outward to others!

Steve Hoffman, Team Leader
Worship & Prayer Core Ministry Team

WANTED: TEACHERS and FACILITATORS

August is always a reminder for me that Fall is just around the corner. Classrooms will soon be filling up with students to begin another year. And we at Parkview are beginning to think about what classes might nurture faith development, and who might provide leadership for them. We look to members and friends to do just that.



Some people hesitate to step forward to teach adult classes. However, in the course of the last three years several people have shared their gifts to teach or facilitate a class or project. We are seeking persons interested in leading a Fall class.

Design your own course. A variety of resources are available. Karen Harris is always willing to assist you at the Parish Resource Center. Lead a bible study, a sacred conversation, or a DVD series. Practice yoga or lead an exercise program. Facilitate a study in a topic of interest to you. There just may be others wanting to learn more about a particular subject matter.

If you are interested in leading, facilitating or teaching a class this Fall, please contact Pastor Steve at the church: 303-366-5224, ext #3 or email him: pastorsteve1995@gmail.com

AUGUST MISSION

The Mission Team would like to thank those of you who volunteered for the Paint-a-thon. Unfortunately, we did not obtain enough volunteers in order to create a team. Therefore, we will not be conducting the paint-a-thon, but are selecting a new mission for August.

The mission for August will be the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. These are funds the pastor uses, at his discretion, to help those in need of assistance. These funds may supply a King Soopers gift card to buy groceries or gas, vouchers for a motel room, bus tokens, pay utility bills, etc. The uses are as varied as the individuals they assist. As the recession, joblessness, and under employment continue, people in our community seek help to meet their basic needs.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to this good cause.

Thank you for your continued support.

YOUR MISSION MINISTRY

Chris Brown, Mission Team Member
bernmann@comcast.net

Hospitality Mission News~

It is with great pleasure that I announce that Tiana Cesare will be our new hospitality team leader. Tiana will be taking over for me in August. Our committees will stay the same for now, and you may contact her when the hospitality committee needs to function! Thanks Tiana for your time to serve on this important outreach mission!

I have enjoyed my time as team leader and I thank all of you who have worked faithfully to serve the members of our church community with flair, finesse, and most of all hospitality!

Mariellen Hoffman

A COLUMBARIUM—WHAT'S THAT?

Basically, a columbarium is a vault (which comes in a variety of sizes and styles). It contains cubic niches (12" X 12" X 12") into which urns can be placed after cremation.

Recently, a group of Parkview people met to learn more information about what we might do to install a columbarium at Parkview.

Would you like to know more about this? There will be a meeting on Wednesday, July 28th at 2:00 p.m. in the Community Room. Come and learn more and express your interest. A committee will then be formed and will meet with a representative from Western States Funeral Supply in mid August.

Please let Pastor Steve or Ellie McKeeman know if you can be there on July 28th, and/or if you'd be interested in helping to pursue this ministry of providing a final resting place.

Ellie McKeeman

“THE BIBLE FOR DUMMIES”

It's not too late to join with Pastor Steve and others in a six-week study entitled “The Bible for Dummies.” It is a great introductory class or a re-fresher course for those who are interested. It is held on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. in The Community Room.

How Best to Pray for Other People

Praying for Others – Intercession – is one of the very highest of human activities, and we can never do too much of it. When praying like this, God, the one(s) for whom we pray, and ourselves are gathered together in a unique relationship, a loving unity of trust, need, and response. Such prayer always creates a new situation.

So, whatever or how pressing the other person's need is, we must always pray for the **whole person**, not merely for the present disability, danger or deficiency. If we are truly able to lift up the **whole person** – body, mind, and spirit to God in quiet trust – then all kinds of things begin to happen to the person prayed for, in the wider kingdom of humanity, and sometimes even in ourselves.

This is often far from easy when our own emotions are mixed up with the situation, when a loved person is ill or at great risk. It is all too humanly easy to concentrate on the immediate need or symptom, while ignoring the wider needs or difficulties. So true intercession must always seek to uplift the **complete person** and all his relationships (not merely with ourselves) into God's loving care.

Spring, 1996, Newsletter by David Gunston, a professional writer, living in Hampshire, England. Most of his writing has been in the fields of religion and psychological matters, and has appeared in 11 languages in 40 different countries. As of Spring, 1996, he had written 9 books.

Submitted by: Ruth Roehrman, 24/7 Prayer Circle

Happiness is an inside job!

When you can't control the wind,

Adjust your sails

Looking Back with Nat

1964- “The Ramblings of a Layman” sermon by Les Leverage, Moderator

1965- Harold Roth, Moderator, proposes “No member is to leave a service without extending their right hand of friendship to someone”

1971- In the last year Parkview gained 58 new members

1972- Church members shared their garden flowers for Sunday worship

1993- Members were asked to sign-up for half hour periods around the clock, when they would be at prayer for an end to violence in our cities

1996- Rev. Steve Hoffman was ordained

History Team

As noted in this month’s “Looking Back with Nat” timeline in 1993 the members of this church were asked to sign-up for half hour periods where they would pray for an end of violence in the cities. Some of you may know that the summer of 1993 was dubbed the “summer of violence” in the Denver metro area. What many of you do not know, however, is that Bobbie and I lived amidst the gang violence. Bobbie had just given birth to Amanda & Rebekah the previous October (1992). We were brand new parents happy and stressed at the same time. I also delivered mail to the area surrounding Parkview at that time-which is how I met Judy (now Gardner) and Don Forward. Judy invited me to Parkview for a prayer vigil to end the violence led by Pastor Beth. I say thank-you to those who prayed around the clock because I believe my family was protected by your energy. Likewise, in the present day Parkview, I believe energy is sent forth as we tie a ribbon or two on the “ribbon trees”. I’ll end with some text from Beth’s “The Pastor’s Corner” article which appeared in the October 1992 issue of the Thrust & Parry:

“And, from time to time, as groups gather in God’s name... to listen to each other... and pray together, God’s spirit seems to break forth with power that blesses and renews those present and, like an electrical current, moves through those people and on to other[s]. And, sometimes we become the power lines through which energy is transmitted to others, even without knowing it.”

Natalie Nethers

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT

One: MADD Camp 2010

All: Say it again

One: MADD Camp 2010

All: Say it again

One: Say amen, MADD Camp 2010

All: Amen.



The theme for this year's Music Art Drama Dance camp for rising Rocky Mountain Conference 9th-12th graders was Say It Again. We often used this call and response to call attention or close up a time together. The week was going along just great. Then the big news of the week came on Thursday at lunch. We learned that the El Paso County Health Department was shutting down MADD early because several campers and staff were getting sick with symptoms of a gastrointestinal virus called norovirus. The camp at La Foret the week before us had been sick too. After much crying, the whole camp (102 campers and 24 staff) gathered to be together and start to process our emotions (denial, sadness, shock). One camper expressed the feeling of the whole camp, saying that we couldn't let our experience of MADD 2010 be defined by the horribleness of losing a day together. Rather we must draw on the strength of the community gathered together and remember the friendships made and deepened and stories of finding sacred space in strange lands. We then continued with the day as if it were Friday and brought the creative gifts produced from each art group to worship even though we may not have been ready to give them.

The strength of the MADD community (staff and campers) astounded me. One reason why I love camp is the culture of community, togetherness, and welcoming. For me camp is one of what Celtic Christians called thin places, places where visible and invisible meet and I can touch and be touched by God. When we leave camp we must now live with the question, how can we "say it again"? How do we continue to experience and tell the story of God's grace and embracing community outside of La Foret?

I hope that the upcoming August youth group events will help bring a little more clarity to these questions. UCC youth groups from across the Front Range are gathering August 15 at 1st Plymouth for a Shindig of epic proportions. This is some time just to laugh together, play Frisbee, tie-dye t-shirts, and roast s'mores. Yes, youth group can't just be about spaghetti eating contests and Twister, we must balance pure lighthearted fun and joy with time to share our stories with each other and attempt to figure out how we will follow Christ together. Youth groups and adult co-journeers from the whole Rocky Mountain Conference will meet at Keystone August 20-21 for Exemplary Youth Emphasis. We will hear the results of a national study done across seven denominations in 2004 to find patterns of exemplary youth ministry. Then, within the context of the findings of this survey, we will split into our own youth groups and plan for the coming year. I hope that by surrounding ourselves with other youth groups and hearing again the importance of whole-church ministry to youth, we can continue to say it again about how God loves us and makes us new.

New Creations is starting a new chapter this month. Mary Morrissey will be leading a chapter on saying the parables again through mime. If you've wanted to try mime and maybe become a part of Parkview's mime group, now is your chance!

Kate Hoffmeyer

hoffmeyer.kate@gmail.com

Our Children & Youth – Our Precious Gift

Thanks to All Who Work with Them

“I would so much like young people to have a sense of the gift that they are” - *John Denver*.

Making children and youth feel loved by God and spreading that love to all others is our challenge. Sincere thanks to the Sunday school teachers, parents and all others who join in this important work through our Christian Education Ministry at Parkview.

Kate Hoffmeyer, our new Youth & Young Adult Leader, has devoted her time and talent to enrich our Sunday School and Youth Ministry. She is doing a terrific job. Also Mary Cline helps in so many ways with creative ideas and willingness to help whenever needed. She has a natural joy at working with children.

Our Sunday School teachers are a talented and dedicated group. Mary Cline, Mary Conover, Eric Crow, Cindy Kennedy, Cheryl Knibbe. Gerrie Hanson, Kathy Hodak, Sharon Hoffines, Jody & Matt Huntington all deserve many thanks for their dedicated service.

For summer, Kate planned a series of lessons on the Creation story. The children also planted a garden and cared for it. Each week they measure how much the plants have grown. Summer Sunday School helpers are Cheryl Knibbe, Mary Cline, Cindy Kennedy, Sharon Lininger, Sandy Nichols, Mary Morrissey, Matt Huntington, Frank & Joan Steiner.

Lynda Emerson shares her amazing creative skills by helping the children make Christmas Cards for Parkview elderly. The children enjoy the delightful treat she brings on holidays. She also is responsible for our church's beautiful Christmas decorations. She is a true blessing to Parkview.

Volunteers and ideas are always welcome.

Special Events

On August 12th. 6pm - Fireside chat at Bluff Lake Nature Center on animal tracking, complete with marshmallow roasting. \$1 donation if you're not a member at Bluff Lake.

On August 22th, Rally Day will be different with a presentation by the “Wild Wings Environmental Education” organization: They take injured birds, provide refuge for non-releasable birds and tell their story in fun and interactive ways. An ice cream social will follow. All ages are invited

Our children are our greatest gift & challenge. I sincerely appreciate all the time, talent, and dedicated service everyone has given.

Laverne Seybold

SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house.

Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served.

When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

"Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do" his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook

Music and the Arts Ministry

On the website www.spiritualityandpractice.com This article appears.

The Practice Days of August

By Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat

Summer traditionally offers a time-out. For the young, it signals a break from studies. For adults, it promises downtime from packed schedules at work and at home. For all of us, the days of August can be times for spiritual practices.

Looking back on August days of my youth, our hearts overflow with gratitude to God for such fond memories. But what of today's pleasures? The month's leisurely pace is perfect for certain kinds of spiritual practice. Here are some ways you can rest in the love of God and savor the presence of the Spirit this August.

Walk in the glory of God. Set aside time each day to commune with God while you walk outside. Slow down your steps to take in the wonders all around you. In appreciation of the beauty of the Creation, say the short prayer: "Glory be to God."

Float. In a poem titled "Avowal," Denise Levertov connects floating in the water with one's face to the sky with the feeling of being held up by the Holy One's all-surrounding grace. When you float in the ocean, a lake, or the pool, reflect upon how divine support carries you through every day.

Offer blessing prayers. Celtic Christians were keenly aware of "the long hand of God" in their lives and said blessings over the signs of this presence. Say blessing prayers for summer's gifts — the sun, rain, flowers, grasses, and breezes.

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Feel the Spirit. When you are at your lowest ebb in the August swelter, your vitality can always be fanned to life again by standing in front of a fan or an air conditioner. When you are cooling off in this manner, remember the Spirit who always is near to revitalize you.

Commune with Animals. St. Francis of Assisi held animals in such high regard that he addressed them as brothers and sisters. Summertime is an ideal season to be present with wild animals. Watching them closely, we become aware of the diversity of the Creation, a sign of God's generosity.

Talk to God. Mythologist Michael Meade notes that one of the great pleasures he experienced as a young boy was sitting in a tree and talking with God. You're never too old for such dialogue and what better place to carry on this conversation than in the lap of a great green being.

Take Naps. Edward Hays, a Roman Catholic priest and prolific devotional author, believes that naps are a form of prayer because they are a time when we let go of the management of our lives and surrender completely to the Lord of the Universe. Now is the perfect time for what he calls "Napping Prayers."

Become familiar with this website.... Great food for thought and action.

Karen Harris

- **Belles and Beaus** are in need of more ringers, no experience necessary. Please contact me and I will get you started.
- If you would like to join **Sanctuary Choir** we would love to have you sing. Our rehearsal schedule is on the church website... parkviewucc.com.

YOU ARE WELCOME

Karen Harris harclef@comcast.net

Director of Music Ministry, Core Team leader for Music and the Arts

Getting To Know You is taking a short break until next month!

Parkview Community Garden News

Hasn't the weather been perfect for the gardeners? Hot weather to grow everything, rainy weather to save on water and cool things down! Much thanks to the Wednesday crew for hauling our weed barrel out to the curb each week.

The plots are looking pretty full right now, and the gardeners can't wait to reap the produce. We're always interested in adding some names for plots for next year, and we have two more plots spoken for so far. Be sure to tell your neighbors about the waiting list. Contact Kate or Jessie if you're interested.

Our July workday is finished, a Friday evening to beat the heat and maybe to complete a temporary garden sign. The Saturday, August 7 workday is coming on the heels of it, at 6 pm for the same reason, with an unknown project as of this writing. Ideas, anyone?

Parkview Community Garden Steering Committee, by Jessie Tramutolo

Evangelism

How can CONNECTION make our church grow?

Parkview tries hard to make connections with people...Parkview, as a unit and as individuals. In our monthly publication of Thrust and Parry there is often an article featuring a person, couple or family that we can get to know. It's a way to help start conversations and find similar interests. Soon the Fall Programming will be published and you may find an opportunity to "connect" with folks in a social, spiritual and/or educational setting. It could be the Movie Group or a Potluck Group. It might be the Wednesday Morning Crew or Breakfast at a Decent Hour...maybe Women Alive or Book Club. Maybe there is a Core Ministry Team that has been calling out to you (you know, God IS still speaking). People who "serve" together grow closer. Maybe you are being nudged to Nurture and Care, Education, Hospitality, Music or any of the other teams (even Evangelism)...there are so many opportunities to serve at Parkview. Have you thought of inviting someone to come sing in the choir WITH you? Bring a friend along to your/our activities...they might have fun and you might have MORE fun! We have improved our signage in the building and have made the effort to be more "visitor friendly."

(cont. next page)

(cont. -Evangelism) We are working on a new brochure for Parkview, we have our website, but YOU are our best source of information and invitation. Introduce yourself often -- Don't assume that everyone knows who you are. When someone is new, they have lots of new names and faces to remember. If you've met someone only a couple of times, it's OK to say, "In case you don't remember, I'm so-and-so, part of the ...ministry team..."

The Evangelism Team will meet August 17 at 6 PM...consider joining us...won't you? Are we a user-friendly church? Parkview is YOUR church...is it still a secret?

Remember that Evangelism serves each other within and those we have yet to meet beyond our doors. Let us continue to strengthen and to build upon our spiritual commitments...that's key to growth...maybe even in numbers...let's look forward to celebrating growth at Parkview!

--Mary Morrissey



SYMPATHY TO: Kathy Bishop and family for the loss of her brother, Ed Raymond. David McMullen, family & friends on the passing of former member, Gary McMullen.

Women Alive: will meet on August 12th at the home of Joan Velotta. All women are invited to bring a salad to share. RSVP to Joan so she can arrange seating.

In September, we have been invited to the mountain home of Marlene Hinkle, former member of Parkview. We will carpool up (because of limited parking) on Saturday, September 4th at 12:00 noon, and husbands are invited. Please RSVP to Joan Velotta no later than August 29th, so that Joan can let Marlene know how many to plan for. It will be a potluck, so bring along your favorite dish. Joan will have maps and directions available for the drivers.



WELCOME

On July 18th Parkview Congregational Church, United Church of Christ welcomed Claire Travis to its membership. Claire transferred her membership from First Congregational United Church of Christ in Holden, MA. Claire has already begun to be active among us as a member of the Sanctuary Choir. Welcome, Claire!

CONGRATULATIONS

Our former student pastor and newly ordained, the Rev. Carol Reynolds, was called to ministry as preacher and teacher at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Cadillac, MI. Carol's installation service was July 25th. We wish her well in her ministry! A copy of the invitation is on the bulletin board at the south end of the hallway near Fellowship Hall.

PEACH FUNDRAISER for Kiwanis Club of Aurora Foundation is being held again this year. If you would like to order peaches, see Dick Jensen, or there are order forms in the church office. The deadline for ordering is August 20th for pickup on August 28th.



Thank You: to all of my Parkview family for your cards and well-wishes in celebration of my 90th birthday. It was a blessing to me and my family to have you share a very special day with us.

Joe Reichel