

# THRUST & PARRY



SEPTEMBER

2010

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

## *Scribbles by Steve*

We are in the season of Ordinary Time of the Christian calendar. It is the season of the church year after the Day of Pentecost, which we celebrated on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The season of Ordinary Time is a very long season which lasts through November 21<sup>st</sup> this year. On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November we will begin the season of Advent.

You may remember we began worship on Pentecost Sunday with vivid colored streamers swirling among us during the Call to Worship. As the Spirit moved us, we also offered our individual prayers by tying ribbons to the branches placed in the chancel area of the sanctuary.

We tied red ribbons for those who are suffering and in need of healing. We prayed for the earth by tying green ribbons, and for our church we tied yellow ribbons. We offered prayers for our families by tying blue ribbons to the branches and when praying for our friends, co-workers and neighbors we tied purple ribbons. We acknowledged our joys and prayers of thanksgiving with orange ribbons. Our eyes could not miss the colorful ribbons in the front of the sanctuary, which grew from a few dozen ribbons to over 350.

The friends and members of Parkview went to great lengths to offer their prayers. Each great lengths to offer their prayers. Each ribbon was about 12 inches long. At the end of 12 weeks 352 feet of ribbon were tied on the branches. For a numbers guy like me, that's 15% of a mile. I even counted the number of prayers offered for each of the six areas that were designated:

78... were for people suffering or in need of healing (red)  
ing (red)

41...were for the earth (green)

57...were for friends, co-workers & neighbors (purple)  
(purple)

36...were joys and prayers of thanksgiving (orange)  
(orange)

101...were for our family members (blue)

39...were for our church (yellow)

The average number of prayers acknowledged on any of the given 12 Sundays was 32. It is remarkable that we have been willing to testify to the belief in the power of prayer as witnessed by the worshipping congregations each Sunday. Add those 352 prayers to the silent prayers during each worship service, the daily prayers of our 24/7 Prayer Team, and the prayers of each member, friend and their households. I wonder how long it might take us to reach 5,280 prayers?

One of the disciples asked Jesus: "Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples." to pray as John taught his disciples."

And Jesus responded, "Ask and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." *Luke 1b, 9-10*

Tis the season to pray

## **CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010, 10:45 a.m.

in the Sanctuary.

This meeting is to elect

Moderator, Assistant Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer,  
Assistant Treasurer, Financial Secretary and Assistant Financial Secretary.

And other business which may need to come before the congregation.

There also will be proposals presented by the Columbarium Team  
and a proposal by a representative of the Capital Campaign  
of the Rocky Mountain Conference.

Watch for information about both of these proposals.

## **WORSHIP & PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM**

By the time this Thrust and Parry has been printed, the Seasonal Worship Planning Team and the Weekly Worship Planning Team will have met to review the last half of the season of Ordinary Time. We will be planning the worship services through Reign of Christ Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. We will focus our attention on two very special services in the life of Parkview Church. The first is the celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on October 3, 2010, which is also World Wide Communion Sunday. The second is our annual Remembrance Sunday on November 6<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate All Saints Day and remember loved ones who have passed away.

The Weekly Planning Team is responsible for fulfilling as best they can the suggestions created by the Seasonal Planning Team as well as finding resources appropriate for designated Sundays. We have tried to be creative and imaginative while providing opportunities for each Sunday's worship service to be experiential, meaningful and transformative.

We are always open to suggestions or comments. Please feel free to share individually or by filling out the evaluation form on the table in the hallway next to the sanctuary.

Have you ever considered silent meditation as a way to enhance your spiritual journey? The chapel – adjacent to the sanctuary is an intimate space where you are free to explore the depths of God's presence in your life. It is available during office hours: Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The east courtyard is also a wonderful outdoor sanctuary that is shaded and has a fountain flowing to sooth your inner soul. Please consider one or both as the Spirit moves you.

**Steve Hoffman, Team Leader**

## **A heartfelt THANK YOU!**

Mary Lou Hughes has been our service deacon since our operational structure of Parkview was re-organized from boards and committees to ministry teams. When the Board of Deacons was no longer, we needed someone to set up for 52 weekly worship services, as well as all of the special services throughout the year.

Mary Lou set up for worship, making sure the appropriate colors were used during the various seasons of the church year and ensuring that the candles, bible and offering plates were in their appropriate places; and that the bulletins and friendship pads were set out for the ushers. She also prepared the elements for, and contacted those who served, Holy Communion. With the assistance of her husband, Jay, and many others, Mary Lou ensured that the interior of the sanctuary was ready for worship, including preparation for the changes of the seasons within the church calendar, as well as for special events.

As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, Lynda Emerson and Bonnie Jo Furler have consented to be service deacons. We appreciate their willingness to serve. We welcome them to this ministry as we offer our heartfelt thanks to Mary Lou for her dedication and commitment as service deacon.

## **SEPTEMBER MISSION**

Our mission for September is Neighbors in Need. Neighbors in Need is the UCC's annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council for American Indian Ministriess(CAIM), justice and advocacy efforts, and direct service projects funded by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries. One third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota ,Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. The Mission Committee would like to thank each of you for all the support you give to missions each month.

*Sondra West* (Missions Ministry)

## **Hospitality Mission News~**

Hello! I am the new Team Leader for the Hospitality Ministry and I thank Mariellen Hoffman for her superior organization of the committee. I look forward to touching base with all of the supportive volunteers for this important ministry and pledge to keep the hospitality of Parkview Church at its best!

Thank you, *Tiana Cesare*

**Praise** the beloved!  
Praises be to You in earth's sanctuary;  
Praise be to You in the mighty  
Firmament!  
Praise the mighty works of Love;  
Praise the glory and extol the  
Greatness of Love Divine!

Give praise with trumpets;  
Give praise with lute and harp!  
Give praise with timbrel and dance;  
Give praise with strings and reed!  
Give praise with booming drums;  
Give praise with crashing cymbals!  
Let everything that breathes  
Praise the Beloved with their lives!  
May it be so now  
And forever!  
Amen.

Nan C. Merrill, Psalms For Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness, 1996.

Submitted by: Ruth Roehrman, 24/7 Prayer Circle

## **Proposal for the Capital Campaign of the Rocky Mountain Conference**

Over the past year, it has become apparent that while rent has continued to climb for the Conference office, OCWM giving has declined. This really became critical when the building which currently houses the office was put on the market and we realized we might have to find different space at a much higher cost. The conference office has had to move numerous times over the past few years which had been expensive as well as stressful for the staff. With the real estate market being depressed and interest rates at their lowest in history, it was determined that this would be the perfect time to buy a building which would permanently house the office. This would not only allow us to control expenses, but would free up funds for programs and mission at the conference level. Parkview has been asked to make a pledge over the next three years to assist in reaching a goal of \$500,000. The Conference Board of Directors feels that there are a number of properties that could be purchased for this that would provide adequate space and accommodations for the Rocky Mountain Conference office and possibly another tenant. A proposal will be made at the Annual Congregational Meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup> for your consideration.

*Jan Hepp*

## **History Team**

Twenty-five years ago Don Crandall was Parkview's Moderator and asked Joan Erickson to share the following points that shape a servant church:

“The servant church is a church that turns to God as its source of sustenance and nurture. God longs for the world's suffering to end as much as we do and empowers us to be of service.

Secondly, being a servant church means we will set as our primary mission establishing justice in the world. This means creating spiritual and physical wholeness in all of God's creation.

Thirdly, we must be willing to fail. Often Church goals are picked because they are safe and easily attainable. To serve in the fashion of thrust, we must take risks. We at Parkview have just celebrated 25 years of service in this community and are looking to the future. [Will we] play it safe, or will we dream dreams that force us to take the same kinds of risks that were taken by those who established this congregation?

Fourth, being in a church that serves means we will be called to stick our necks out for others. We are called to open our doors for the poor, the hungry and the alienated of society. Often we are called to take stands that are unpopular but this is part of our commitment to God. Only by our commitment will the will of God be manifest in this very demanding and confusing world.

Finally, being a servant church means commitment. Faith Promise forces us to deal with the question, “How much time, energy and money can I give my church this year?” Both our energy and our money are needed to keep a servant church giving.

Just as we serve together, we suffer together and through the suffering we become better servants in a world that needs the love of each of us. This love will bring healing and justice to all. Just as God's love nurtures each of us, our love and service nurtures and brings peace to all of the earth.” (Parkview Thrust & Parry December 1985)

I thought Joan's points were worth another reading in 2010 as we look toward a new church year and our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

## **Looking Back with Nat**

**1960-** Committee chaired by Les Leversee met to select a name for the new church

**1961-** Parkview conducted the first building fund drive

**1962-** David Hartman signed the contract to begin building first unit of Parkview (\$59,224.22)

**1969-** Patio Party-Fundraiser for new patio

**1979-** Memorials program established by the Diaconate

**1987-** All church workday (Parkview gets a bath!)

*Natalie Nethers*

## **YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT**



*¿Dónde está el pueblo? ¿El pueblo dónde está? ¿Estamos en la calle  
exigiendo libertad!* Where are the people? The people where are they? We are in the street demanding liberty! On Sunday August 1, a group of about 30 people, including Anne Dunlap and some others from Comunidad Liberación, stood outside the Immigration Detention Center (the building reads “Aurora Processing Center”) chanting this phrase over and over again, hoping that the people inside could hear us. We stood on the sidewalk off the detention center’s property, separated by a bridge from the guards and the front door. The center holds people waiting to be deported or waiting for trial on their immigration status. This was the beginning of a 24 hour stake out to stand in solidarity with those in Arizona affected by SB 1070 and those in our more immediate area who every day live with fear of deportation.

Surprisingly, I slept extremely well that night in my sleeping bag on the sidewalk. I woke sometime around 6 am to the sky filled with light. As someone said in our morning reflection, that night we were going to sleep at the same time as the detainees, just on the other side of a wall and over a bridge.

Several of us chose to fast, some for 24 hours, some for several days. In our group reflection Sunday night, some people raised the question of why fast? What good does it do? Does it do anything to help the people in the detention center or change systems of power that got them there in the first place? Several undocumented people who were there spoke about the privilege of eating. All of us who were there had the resources and power to eat what we want when we wanted it.

As Monday drew toward evening, two people were released from the center after three weeks. That told us that they *could* hear us when we were chanting and singing. They knew they were not alone and that someone outside was thinking of them. Then what seemed like multitudes showed up for the breaking of the fast, some bearing fruit. First those who had done the 24 hour stake out were invited to come to the altar, then those who had been fasting at home, and then everyone else who was there for the breaking of the fast. We read a bilingual ritual and then served each other bread. *Comunidad Liberación*, Liberation Community, joins with other advocates for immigrant rights every first Monday of the month to hold a vigil and protest outside the detention center.

*Kate Hoffmeyer*

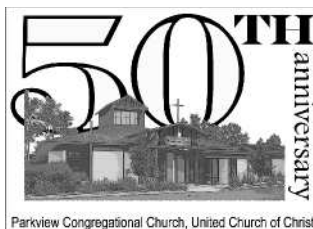
hoffmeyer.kate@gmail.com

## **COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS**

Produce from the Community Garden and others abounds on the table inside the front door. Help yourself. Money contributions go toward the garden expansion effort. Even though Steve's cabbages have been nourishing the rabbits, some of those handsome full heads also made it to "freezer slaw" in their household. All the gardens are growing well and inspiring interest from the neighborhood. We're taking names for next year's plot expansion--sign up with Kate or Jessie by contacting the church office.

With no August projects planned for the garden, the workday was a potluck of garden produce, yummy dishes, and good company. News on the September workday will be sent to the gardeners, and we are getting itchy about learning to compost.

Jessie Tramutolo for the Parkview Community Garden



October 3, 2010

Don't forget to RSVP

with your check made out to Parkview Church

with your meal choice to Joan Velotta

**no later than September 15**

The 50th Anniversary Committee has been planning an interesting & fun afternoon, at Dumitri's restaurant. You won't want to miss this historic day in the life of Parkview Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Evangelism

### Is Parkview a COMFY fit?

Clothes feel so much better when they are a comfortable fit...why not church? People will want to return if they feel "at home." Instant connections are made when someone speaks our name. Try to make that extra effort to learn and use people's names as you greet them. We have name tags at Parkview...are you wearing yours? I know I need to do a better job about doing that.

Parkview doesn't seem to have many "No" signs...and that's a good thing. You know what I'm talking about? ...Signs that actually have the word "No" on them...like "No food or drink allowed" or "No cell phones"...signs like that. Sometimes signs have the red circle with a slash to show something is off limits. I'm glad that Parkview doesn't have many signs such as these...they tend to be unwelcoming and folks can feel a need to be perfect when entering or joining in our activity. Can you think of a way to say "Yes" in our signage? We do want to keep the building clean and comfortable for all, so how do we encourage helpful and respectful attitudes and participation?

How do you make someone comfortable who is visiting your home? We try to offer some of those same comforts here at church...we try to keep the temperature comfortable...we make sure there is toilet paper in the restroom...What else will make people feel most at ease so that they want to return week after week?

We are working on a new brochure for Parkview, we have our website, but remember...YOU are our best source of information and invitation.

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*

# *Re-Member*

## *My experience volunteering on a Native American Reservation*

By Forrest Huntington

This year was my second year volunteering at Re-Member, an organization on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. These last two years I have learned a lot, I learned that here in America a horrible injustice has been continuing for over five hundred years. Most of us know land was taken from Native Americans, but what you may not be aware of is the systematic slaughter of natives in the past, the fact that there are still attempts to take land from them, and that the government has been unfair in their negotiations with the natives and it continues. Today the quality of life on the reservation is absolutely disgusting, and Re-Member and its volunteers try to change that.

Here are some statistics that might alarm you:

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

Unemployment: 73-85%

Per Capita Income: \$6,143

Life Expectancy: Male 55 (US Avg. 75)

Female 60 (US Avg. 80)

Suicide Rate: 72% higher than national average

Diabetic Rate: 37% of the population is diabetic

Alcoholism: 4 million cans of beer a year (10,958 beer cans a day) are sold just one mile from the border of the reservation in White Clay, NE, where the population is 14.

Children in Poverty: 69% of the children on the reservation live in poverty.

*For more information about Re-Member, the volunteer organization, go to:*

*<http://www.re-member.org/>*

**DID YOU KNOW??** that the Rocky Mountain Conference produces a wonderful newsletter twice a month???? It is called ROMOCO News of the Rocky Mountain Conference. It contains news of the conference as well as national UCC news with links to further information. To receive this newsletter, go to the RMC website , [www.rmccucc.org](http://www.rmccucc.org), and enter your email address in the newsletter box. You will see what is happening and the work our denomination is doing in our area as well as the nation and around the world. Check it out!!

## Inclusivity Ministry

Parkview's Covenant of Inclusiveness was approved at the Annual Meeting on September 20, 1992. At that time there was a controversial amendment regarding sexual orientation to be placed on the Colorado ballot in November. But what I didn't know until I researched it-Parkview's work to be an inclusive congregation began two years prior to that embattled political environment.

In 1990 the Inclusiveness Committee began as a group to "study the issue of homosexuality" and to educate and make recommendations to the congregation. I am sure this was an active and anxious time in the life of the church. It is interesting to note that the group "...came to understand that the question before [them] was less one of who someone else is, and more of who we are, as a congregation; and what our attitude is toward those whom we perceive as different in any way." (Sep 1992 Thrust & Parry) This is a great example of Parkview church from its' roots in the UCC to present day: the willingness to do self- examination.

After the committee created a covenant statement it was disseminated to various groups within the church "for discussion and feedback". They revised the statement and presented it for a vote to the congregation in September 1992. Personally, I would like to thank the Inclusiveness Committee for their work on this covenant and those of you who contributed to the conversation of inclusion.

I would like to take the time to mention here-if you are a member of the military one who is bound by the DADT policy and seek a safe place to worship-Parkview offers that space to you.

If you are still in the closet- prayer will give you light.

If you want to come out of the closet- prayer will light your path.

If you are out of the closet-you can share the light of your path.

Offering trust, love, and understanding to all—*Natalie Nethers*

**All are welcome at Parkview...for no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey... YOU ARE WELCOME HERE.**

WHO WE ARE (from Parkview's website)

We are a multi-cultural, multi-generational church of people who are believers and seekers, faith-filled and skeptics seeking community, working toward peace and justice, believing we can make a difference in the world.

We were organized in 1960 and continue to be guided by our Vision Statement and five Covenants (for more information about our Vision and Covenants see the links below under the Parkview circle). We are proudly progressive, intentionally inclusive and creatively spiritual.

We worship together on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. (See our homepage for the seasonal worship schedule.)

Our Chapel is available for individual and group meditation during the week. Check with the office for availability.

## **Music and the Arts Ministry**

**ATTENTION BELLES & BEAUS !!!** Our first rehearsal will be September 8th at 6 p.m. and our first opportunity to play during the service will be September 26th. We have new ringers to welcome, and music to prepare for a festival as well as the worship services. Should be a great year.

**THANK YOU TO SANCTUARY CHOIR!!!** The whole congregation is so blessed to have such dedicated singers who are willing to sing the ENTIRE YEAR! Your leadership during worship is always such a blessing with not only the music you produce but seeing your passionate faces while you are singing. May God bless you richly!

**THANK YOU** also to the musicians who have been sharing their talents during the worship service these past few months....Diana Cable, Joe Cesare Marie Clark, Cameron Crow, Jan Hepp, Jackie Jensen, Ellie McKeeman, Mary Morrissey, Kirk Nicholls, Susan Sadler, Fred Seybold, and Lynn Wohler. What great musicians that provide a variety of music for Parkview!

There is still room for you in both of these groups. Belles & Beaus rehearse Wed at 6 p.m. and Sanctuary Choir rehearses every other Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. Ask or email me for the schedule or it can be found on the church's website, [www.parkviiewucc.com](http://www.parkviiewucc.com).

## **5 Ways to Bring God To Work With You by Christy Trudo**

Here are some tricks to keep focused on what matters most to you and to remind yourself that God is with you all the time. You will find it on the UCC website, [www.ucc.org/Feed your Spirit](http://www.ucc.org/Feed your Spirit) **Check it out**

*Karen Harris*

[harclef@comcast.net](mailto:harclef@comcast.net)

Director of Music Ministry

Core Team leader for Music and the Arts

**DINNERS FOR SIX** is a great way to get to know your Parkview family. We meet monthly in homes in a group of six people. The groups change each month so you get to fellowship with different people throughout the year. We always welcome singles as well as couples. We will have a kick-off evening on Friday, September 24 at 5:30 p.m. at Steve and Mariellen Hoffman's clubhouse. There is a sign-up sheet at the church, or anyone wishing to participate can call Cec Jensen.

Sign-up deadline is Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> to give us time to get organized. Everyone who signs up will be contacted about what to bring to the pot luck on the 24th. Looking forward to seeing you.

**A HEARFELT THANK YOU** to all who have sent cards and donations to the Alzheimer's Assn. in memory of our Mother and Grandmother, Lucile Erickson. Your thoughtfulness and caring have meant so much during this time of loss.

Jan Hixon, Cheryl & Jan Knibbe, Kelsey, Erin, Kyle & Erica and Christie & Randy George

## *Sept. News from the Education Team*



We can finally say Parkview has gone to the birds, or should we say raptors. Rally Day was exciting with The Wild Wings presentation. It was fun to learn about the birds and all the things Wild Wings does for the community. Thank you Kate for bringing Raptors of the Rockies to Parkview.

New Creations did a lot of hiking about on the Denver paths and had lots of fun. The fall session of New Creation will be on mime with Mary Morrissey, register today. It will be on Thursday evening with a light supper at 6:00 p.m. and end at 7:45. Contact Kate for more details or to register.

Summer is winding down and most of you have returned to school. I have been hearing from you about all the fun you had this summer. Ask Jody and Forest Huntington about their week at the Indian Reservation, or the Crow's about their month and half long truck across the country from Colorado to Utah to California and some how Wyoming got in there too. Knibbe's, went on a road trip to a family reunion, but I haven't heard too much about that trip, I bet there are stories to tell. Chaney and Rachel went to Oregon to spend the summer with their Grandmother and Rebekah and Amanda played ball and helped Kate with the garden. Debbie Jo had a lot of fun riding her knee wagon and we are so glad to say **WELCOME HOME FROM IRAO JOHN!!!!** Makelsii is getting ready for her Mom's wedding and Marissa went to Mad camp with Kate.

This Fall session in youth and children's ministry we will be using The Gather Round curriculum and they will be studying and learning about the families in the book of Genesis.

In Children's church time it has been requested that we do more music, so we *will be learning some new songs* that will compliment the lesson from Gather Round. *Giving* is going to be discussed. *Giving* can be more than putting money in the offering plate. It can be a smile to warm the heart of a sad person, or helping someone weed their garden, or picking up a piece of trash as you walk buy it in the hallway, helping a friend or a neighbor or just being a good listener. We all can give everyday in some special way.

Have a blessed time as you go back to school.

Mary Cline [clinemary50@gmail.com](mailto:clinemary50@gmail.com)

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There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Charlotte Engelbrecht

Janice Jacobovitz

Cameron Crow

Randy Furler

Tommy Jensen

Norris Netz

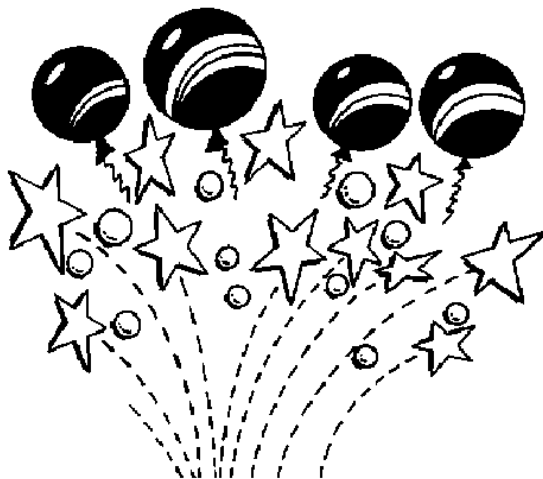
Mary Cox

Chris Cossey

Norm Cruger

Cody Schmitt

Kelsey Knibbe



Joan Crandall

Lynda Emerson

Forrest Huntington

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The parish priest was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building.

Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute.

The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the parish priest paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more.

Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, **please stand up!**"

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The National Anthem"

And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

## Getting To Know You- Tom Lewis by Bev Ford

Tom Lewis and Steve Hoffman were classmates at Iliff School of Theology at Denver in 1996. These two spiritual men supported, laughed, studied and prayed together as they completed their Masters in Divinity, graduating in 1998 and both were ordained at Parkview.

Steve went on to become associate pastor at Parkview and Tom completed his Doctorate in Pastoral Counseling. We all know that Steve later became Pastor of Parkview upon the retirement of his mentor, Beth Robey Hyde.

Tom has also continued his service in the pulpit by acting as a “supply” pastor for various UCC churches when the regular pastor is absent for a brief time. We, at Parkview, have listened to his booming voice and gentle nature as he instills his message of the love of God for each of us.

He was the constant friend of the late Gerry Evans, whom he brought to church services frequently over the past 10 years. They always sat near the front where he could park her wheelchair and she could hear and celebrate her Lord.

Upon her recent passing, Tom and Steve jointly held services which was meaningful to Gerry’s family and our congregation.

Tom was born in 1937 in Troy, Alabama and christened Thomas Jefferson Lewis. He lived in a rural area with a creek running behind the home which they used for water until they could dig a well. Tom can tell many stories of growing up in the Deep South in those days of significant segregation between whites and blacks.

His father left before he was 4 years old and his mother and grandmother did their best to raise him alone. His mother left him in the care of his grandmother while she went to Chicago to find work that would give the little family more money. When he was 9, she returned to take him to Chicago and to introduce him to his new step-father, Charles McConnell.

As a little boy, Tom had developed a stuttering problem. The new elementary school provided speech and language help. One of the techniques used was the recitation of difficult poetry. To this day, Tom can recite the entire poem called, “Abou Ben Adam” by Leigh Hunt, and without stuttering! This poem was imbued with high moral values that instilled a sense of purpose and a manner of living for this young lad.

During his childhood his mother attended a Baptist Church which was two bus rides away from their home because it was a higher class to which she aspired. Tom was encouraged to walk to the local Baptist Church in their neighborhood. He went every Sunday and was frequently accompanied by his best friend, Kenneth. Tom wanted to do some volunteer work for the church but was told he needed to become a member first. So, he and his friend became baptized together. Tom remembers that he convinced his friend to join with him because he “didn’t want to go to the front of the church alone”. He also remembers that when he was baptized he “felt clean”.

He and Kenneth soon began a social/dance club for teens in their area which they called the Imperial Gents. The club also became a place for community activism, basketball games, and other positive activities.

(cont. on next page)

(continued) After graduating from High School in 1955 he attended Woodrow Wilson Jr. College for two years while working on the receiving dock for Sealy Mattress Company. He married his wife, Gladys , in 1961. They had three children, Terry, Nancy and Tom Jr. They were divorced in 1980.

In 1959 he joined the Air Force. While stationed in Omaha, Nebraska he continued his studies and completed his Bachelors Degree in Law Enforcement and Corrections in 1969. During his years in the Air Force he was stationed in Turkey, Spain and Viet Nam. In 1977, Tom received his Masters Degree in Counseling from Ball State University while still serving in the Air Force.

He retired from the military in 1979 and came with his family to Aurora ,Colorado . In 1981 he began working for the State of Colorado at Ft. Logan Mental Health Center as a Public Safety Officer. He was there until 1994 when he retired from the State. During his days working at Ft. Logan he also began taking classes at Iliff School of Theology. Tom says his spiritual side was “curious”, but he also felt that he was meant to assist others in a realistic manner by offering professional support to families.

To this end he received his Masters of Divinity with a focus on Pastoral Care in 1995. He then continued his studies at Iliff and was ordained at Parkview in 1998. His educational goals were met by completing his dissertation and receiving a Doctorate in Marriage and Family Counseling in 2004. It was during these years that he also volunteered as a “listener” at South Middle School for the “Listening Post”. He was there for 5 years, working with Bev Ford, Ruth Roehrman , and Kathy Bishop at various times.

Upon completing his formal education, Tom set out to open his own counseling service when most men are beginning to collect Social Security and plan for retirement years. His main focus is to help families to apply Biblical principals in their daily struggles with life’s problems.

Tom has high praise for the support of the UCC denomination and especially Parkview who has encouraged him along his journey. His office is known as the Family Counseling and Psychotherapy Services and is located at Parker and Mississippi.

We at Parkview have enjoyed the times when he has filled in for Pastor Steve and/or assisted with various religious functions at our church. This remarkable yet humble man is hard to miss as his 6’7” frame strolls into our building . If you have not yet met Tom, take the time to extend a hand of friendship and congratulations on his accomplishment

### **URGENT FROM YOUR LIBRARY MINISTRY WORKERS!**

If you have books at home that are borrowed from Parkview's library, please return them **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** so that they can be entered into our new inventory system! Just check them in and leave them on top of the shelves. You'll be welcome to re-check them soon. Thanks.



**CHICKEN DINNER AT WHITE FENCE FARM** for Parkview will be on August 29th at noon. This is a fundraiser for the Organist Fund. Adults \$18.00, Children \$10.00. Reservations ASAP to Royal Maxwell or e-mail royalmaxwell@aol.com. Make check payable to Parkview with White Fence Farm in the memo. We will carpool, so let Royal know if you need a ride.



**SYMPATHY TO:** Lynn Wohler and family for the loss of his father, Warren, Kiso and Tofaaga La'a and family for the loss of his mother, Atalia La'a Atonio, families and friends for the loss of Lucile Erickson, mother of Jan Hixon, grandmother of Cheryl Knibbe & Christie George.

**Women Alive:** will meet on Saturday, September 4th, 12 noon at the home of Marlene Hinkle former member of Parkview. We will carpool up (because of limited parking) 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.



**Thank You** to everyone for all your love and support during graduation. Also a special thank you to the Paul Lennox Thomas Scholarship interview committee and all those involved in the scholarship process. The scholarship has taken a huge mental (and financial) burden from this time of great change in my life. It has allowed me to focus on the excitement of starting at CSU and not on the worry of paying for it. Thank you to all those that have donated to the scholarship monetarily and through their time and talents. Thank you to all those that make it possible for young people like me to head off to school with a peace of mind. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! GO RAMS! Love Kelsey Knibbe

**I wish to express my appreciation and thanks for the concerns and prayers by the congregation regarding my health issues. You are wonderful people. Yours in Christ, Arlene Lenox**

**KUDOS to the Men's Group** who landed me safely at Windsor Gardens in 97 degrees in August. **You rock!** Nancy V. Machin

Dear Parkview Friends,  
 Thank you so much for your incredibly generous gift to Comunidad Liberacion/Lieration Community. Your support will make a huge difference in our ability to further our ministry of solidarity, justice-making and pastoral presence in the Denver Metro area & Aurora, and to assure that Comunidad continues to be a sanctuary & "place of belonging" (as one of our folks says) for all of God's children. I am deeply touched by your generosity. May God bless your own work in bringing about God's kin-dom. Peace, Rev. Anne Dunlap, Pastor, Comunidad Liberacion/Liberation Community