

First Christian Church
520 CY Ave
Casper WY, 82601

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(307) 234-8964

www.fccasper.org

fccasper@qwestoffice.net

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CASPER WY
PERMIT NO. 129



THE CALL



April

SPECIAL EVENTS

Rev. Don Sarton a Vice President of the Christian Church Foundation, and his wife Bev, will visit Casper on April 2-3 to talk about Planned Giving. We are blessed to have Don back with us before his retirement later this year.

Rev. Amy Gopp Executive Director of Week of Compassion will visit FCC Casper Saturday April 9 and Sunday April 10. Week of Compassion supports disaster relief and recovery around the world, such as in Japan following the 8.9 quake and tsunami. Amy will share a powerpoint presentation with photos and updates on WoC's work on Saturday following a noon potluck. She will preach during both services Sunday morning, when we'll also welcome Jose Morales in worship.

The **General Assembly** of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will be held July 9-13 in Nashville, TN. Meet other Disciples, experience wonderful worship, learn about our broader church family - Register anytime online at www.disciples.org. We would love to have 10 members from FCC Casper sign up before April 1 to take advantage of a group discount. Pumpkin Patch funds are available for youth and college students to make G.A. our summer mission trip! Read more inside....



Church Staff: Rev. Cynthia McBride Lead Pastor

Lois Koch Business Manager, Elisa Jones Church Secretary,

Thomas May Custodian, Betty Walts Organist, Amber French Director of Music

Cyndi Trimmer Nursery, Jenny Black FCC Preschool Director

A Life of Learning and Love....

"BIG Church - small Groups"



The broader church... Sometimes it's easy to think that "church" is just the folks we see on Sunday mornings, just the other members of First Christian Church Casper, but we are part of a much broader community of faith. When I was growing up in FCC Alamogordo, NM, every year my Dad went to Men's Retreat. He came home spiritually recharged and talking about friends that he'd seen from other congregations. Our men have the opportunity for that same great experience this May at the CRMR Men's Retreat in Estes Park. Those who attend will hear a super preacher - Dr. Juan Rodriguez who's the Vice Moderator of our denomination. When our youth attended Midwinter Retreat at La Foret, they were part of our regional church family. (By the way, I recently handed out one of the "mission bags" the kids brought home from retreat - and a hungry veteran standing by the road was VERY grateful for the snack food it contained.) When Don Sarton and Amy Gopp visit us in April, we'll hear first-hand of our Disciples ministries shared through the Christian Church Foundation and the Week of Compassion. Our Disciples of Christ church family reaches across the Central Rocky Mountain Region AND around the world!

But "church" is not just Disciples... During the "Case for Christianity," at least 100 people from 12-15 local congregations gathered in our sanctuary. During Holy Week, Servants United will host noon worship services at First United Methodist Church. Methodists, Presbyterians, Evangelicals, Lutherans, Catholics, Christians of many different "flavors" will worship together as we remember the last week of Jesus' earthly life.

As amazing as it is that we are part of all this - a BIG church family - I often find that the deepest "God moments" happen in small groups within the church. Every other Tuesday evening, a small group meets for prayer. On Thursdays, our Bible reading group is working their way through Exodus - and sharing joys and concerns together. Whether you sing in the choir, attend Sunday School or participate in a women's circle, it's often the relationships formed within a small group in the church that draw us closest to Christ.

My prayer for you this Lenten season is that, in some way, you will experience both the BIGNess of Christ's church and the intimate fellowship of a small group - and, in so doing, you will grow closer to Christ. - *Pastor Cynthia*

"The Case for Christianity"

The Case for Christianity simulcast was, by many comments, a success. That success was the result of a great group of people who worked hard to make it so.

Many, many Thanks to the following:

Deb King - communications
Rick Black - Technical wizardry
Virginia Yohn & CWF ladies - coffee, lunch & baked cookies
Lani McBee - Publicity
Floyd Field - church contacts & much other help
Lyle Cox - site preparations
Lynda Williams - ticket co-coordinator
Elisa Jones & Cynthia McBride - much busy work & correspondence
The CWF Quilters - drapes
Godly Girlfriends - baked cookies

Each of the above had many helpers, who I've not named, but whose help was invaluable. To each, and all, my heartfelt thanks for a job "WELL DONE!" God Bless you all, Chuck Stewart

2011 CRMR Men's Conference

Date: May 13-15, 2011

Registration begins at 4:00 pm with conference starting at 7:00 pm

Place: YMCA of the Rockies - Estes Park, Colorado



Guest Leader: Dr. Juan Rodriguez, Pastor of Iglesia Del Pueblo - Hope Center, Hammond Indiana and the Vice Moderator of the General Church.

Weekend Theme: "The Spirituality of Men."

Discovering what it means to be full of the Spirit and our role as such in the church.

Registration Deadline is April 11. See the bulletin board across from the church office for more information and a registration form.

Or visit the CRMR website at

 www.centralrockymountaindisciples.org 

2011 CRMR Women's Renewal

Save the Date: September 16-18, 2011

At the Glen Eyrie Retreat Center in Colorado Springs, CO.

Theme will be "God's Wonder FULL World - It's Not So Small After All."



April Greeters:

8:00 a.m. Jack Walts

10:45 a.m. Steve & Cindy Huckfeldt

To volunteer as a greeter,
talk with Roger Cook at 234-2525.

Presiding Elder:

8:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

Apr. 3-	Linda Mosteller	Laura Glasspoole
Apr. 10-	Laura Glasspoole	Linda Mosteller
Apr. 17-	Dennis Baker	Jenny Black
Apr. 24-	Jenny Black	Dennis Baker
May 1-	Linda Mosteller	Kathy Winders
May 8-	Randisue Davis	Linda Mosteller
May 15-	Linda Mosteller	Brenda Lloyd
May 22-	Linda Mosteller	Kathy Winders

Bread Elder:

Cup Elder:

Apr. 3-	Dennis Baker	Russ Black
Apr. 10-	Russ Black	Dennnis Baker
Apr. 17-	Russ Black	Linda Mosteller
May 1-	Randisue Davis	Brenda Lloyd
May 8-	Kathy Winders	Brenda Lloyd
May 15-	Randisue Davis	Kathy Winders
May 22-	Brenda Lloyd	Randisue Davis

Please sign up on the bulletin board by the front door

to serve as a scripture reader or acolyte at 10:45.

Erika Stupak coordinates our acolyte program.

From the Business Office:

Balance on hand, January 31, 2011	1,004.47
February Income from Pledges and Gifts	20,566.28
Invested Funds	4,078.83
Total Income	24,645.11
February Expenses	25,611.21
Balance on hand, February 28, 2011	(11.63)

NEWS OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

NEW MEMBER: A warm welcome to James Gehres who joined FCC on March 13th. James is a student at Kelly Walsh High School and sings in our chancel choir.

PASTOR'S CLASS: Rev. McBride will be teaching a baptism preparation class for youth and adults on Wednesdays from 5-6 PM . Please pray for those who are considering baptism in Christ.

CONTINUE TO PRAY: for Jerry and Billy Triplett as Jerry has "good days and bad days" living with cancer at their winter home in Parump, Nevada. She is under home-health-care and truly appreciates all of our prayers.

Congratulations! Our church family has two new babies:

Lindsey Rebecca Ann Lutz was born Feb. 28, 2011 to Jason & Jereca Lutz, grandparents are Randy & Becky Hodges & great-grandma is our very own Business Manager Lois Koch.

Ryan Jackson Bush was born Mar. 5, 2011 to David & Shiela Bush. Grandparents are Jack & Betty Walts

April Birthdays

Tyler Ambrosino	April 3	Amy Russell	Apr. 16
Kristen Atkinson	Apr. 4	Ashley Budack	Apr. 17
Hanna Slominski	Apr. 4	Becky Foster	Apr. 18
Don Davis	Apr. 5	Lowell Rymill	Apr. 19
Bob Dundas	Apr. 8	David Sallstrom	Apr. 19
Shirley Downs	Apr. 9	Dennis Baker	Apr. 20
Kelli Slominski	Apr. 10	Jennifer Grooms	Apr. 20
George Marble	Apr. 12	Brenda Lloyd	Apr. 24
Briana Black	Apr. 13	Paul Hallock	Apr. 26
Harriet Ames	Apr. 14	Joan Linenberger	Apr.27



April Wedding Anniversary Dates

Billy & Jerry Triplett	April 2, 2005
Casey & Sarah Brown	April 12, 2008
Darin & Crystal Rodgers	April 15, 2005
Fred & Shirley Hudson	April 21, 1945
Steve & Cindy Huckfeldt	April 24, 1976
Del & Brenda Lloyd	April 24, 1999





The Boy Scouts camped out at Izaak Walton the weekend of March 11th. They hiked, fished, and tied knots. They also got to experience what it was like to receive food from Joshua's food bank. Each patrol received the amount of food a 3-person-family would receive for a week. They had to piece together meals and make it last the weekend. They didn't receive milk or butter so Dylan Stupak learned how to make macaroni and cheese with cream of mushroom soup!

Upcoming Boy Scout events include:

- 3/27 Soup Feed Fundraiser** after the 10:45 service to benefit 6 new Scouts' Boy Scout Camp Registration fees
- 4/1-3 Tree Planting at Ft Robinson in Nebraska
- 4/16 High Plains Shoot
- 4/30 Scout O'Rama

FCC PRESCHOOL NEWS

Our Annual Dinner and Fundraiser for Preschool was held on March 3rd and was a huge success! We had over 300 church and family members attend the program and served over 200 bowls of chili for dinner! We raised just under \$3,500 with the dinner and silent auction. We had some AMAZING auction items, from a private dinner/party at the Fire Station (courtesy of our own Jeff Atkinson), wonderful themed baskets and even a John Deere wagon (donated by Julie Black). We owe a HUGE thank you to our families and church home at FCC for supporting our preschool program.



A Staff "Atta-Boy"

At a recent monthly board meeting, it was pointed out by one of our "at-large" members that Tom May has given extra hours of his time on weekends at the church and is doing a great job keeping up with maintenance items around the grounds. "Way to go, Tom!" Thank you for your hard work.

Christian Education News

What We Need

- Someone to make and serve a snack meal for our next youth activity on March 27. Contact Jennifer Grooms if you can make that happen (jgrooms11@bresnan.net or 234-1138).
- Individuals who could give us the gift of time and talent during Vacation Bible School (July 18-22) to assist with registration, snacks, crafts, worship, etc. please contact Jennifer Grooms or Sarah Brown.

Youth Group Happenings

On Sunday, Feb. 27, 15 youth from FCC enjoyed bowling at El Marko, eating sloppy Joes at the Grooms' home, and listening to a devotion about how being good Christians involves more than just saying you are a Christian, but living as a Christian through simple acts of honesty, kindness, and consideration of others.

On Sunday, Mar. 27, the Atkinson's will lead a sucker-making activity at FCC from 4-6 PM. During a lull in sucker making, older youth will address younger youth's questions about our faith. Rev. McBride will help facilitate this discussion. JYF'ers are encouraged to bring a "God question" that night.

On Sunday, April 3, Jeremy Camp - In Concert at 7 pm. We will again meet at the Black's at 5 pm for appetizers and then head to the concert at Highland Park CC. This concert is a fundraiser for the Central Wyoming Rescue Mission. We are using funds that the youth raised from selling suckers to offset the cost of the tickets. Contact Jenny or Briana Black if you have questions or would like to attend this great night of Christian music and fellowship.

A Special Opportunity for FCC Youth, Junior High-College

We have committed funds toward sending youth to the General Assembly in Nashville, July 9 – 13. (Also allow 2-3 days travel on each end of the assembly.) The funds would cover lodging, registration, meals, and fuel for travel. In Nashville, students would stay at Vanderbilt University. There are great activities at the assembly, including opportunities for mission work (repair of homes damaged in floods last year, literacy projects, etc.). The opportunity to worship and learn with thousands of fellow Disciples will be incredible! For more information about youth activities go to www.disciples.org or speak with Rev. McBride. Registration is discounted if completed by April 1. Please give thoughtful consideration to this trip which includes mission work, powerful Christian worship and fellowship.

CRMR Summer Camp Information "Get Spirit" at Camp LaForet

The following camps are offered for youth through the Central Rocky Mountain Region Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Scholarship assistance is available.

- Discovery Camp (June 24 – 25) finished grades 1- 3. (\$135)
- Junior Camp (June 19 -25) completed grades 3-5. (\$350)
- Chi Rho Camp (June 26 – July 2) for youth who've completed grades 6-8. (\$385)
- CYF Camp (June 19 – 25) for youth who've completed grades 9-12. (\$390)
- Wilderness Backpack Camp (Aug. 7-12) for older youth and young adults (\$375)

For information and registration forms please contact Jennifer Grooms, Sarah Brown, or the church office. Forms can also be found online at www.centralrockymountaindisciples.org.

Registrations must be received in our church office by April 1!

Applications for youth who are interested in applying for the CRMR Executive Council of Youth "ECOY" are also now available. Please note the addition of a new "Wilderness Backpack Camp" which is open to college students and young adults as well as high school youth. Applications are posted on the hallway bulletin board. Donations towards FCC's camp scholarship fund are always appreciated.

To FCC Family;
Thank you for your concern and prayers.
I do appreciate all that you did.
Thank you again. Scott Wallace



Dear FCC Friends & Family,
I am doing some better and want you all to know how much I appreciate your cards and prayers. Jerry Triplett

Angels Among Us...

Angels are messengers of God, performing missions for God here on earth... strengthening and encouraging others, worshiping and praising God, and revealing God's will to people. All of these tasks are designed to serve God.

So to all of those First Christian Church "angels" who worked so hard with such purpose and dedication to bring The Case for Christianity to the Casper Community via First Christian Church, thank you! Well done, thou good and faithful servants!

To all FCC "angels" who consistently strengthen and encourage our home-bound members and nursing home residents by calling, sending cards, visiting, and taking communion to them, thank you! Your kindness has not gone unnoticed.

To our "angels" who preside at the funerals of our friends and loved ones, you are envoys from a loving God. Your care and concern are evident in your demeanor and your thoughtful words of condolence, faith, and hope. Thank You!

Thank you, Lord, for the angels among us.

Ted's Tornados are batt'n again!

Ted Grooms is generously paying our league fee again this year and **Amber French** will be managing the team. Player fees are \$15 and need to be turned into Amber (or the office) BEFORE April 1st. Please indicate on envelope that it is for player fees/t-shirt. If you are interested in playing on FCC's co-ed softball team this year, please add your name to the sign-up sheet posted outside Elisa's office, **sign a player card** and turn it in with your player fee. We need at least 6 men and 6 women. If you do not have a team t-shirt, Amber will get one printed – the cost will be \$12. If you DO have a shirt, let Amber know the number so there are no duplicate numbers. We will be playing from mid-May to mid-July.

Bowling – At a recent game, Bryant Badger bowled 5 strikes in a row! With a final score of 706 with his handicap, he even beat Tom May's score by 2 pins. Congratulations to Bryant and all of the "Holy Rollers" who are currently in 4th place. Stop by El Marko Lanes any Sunday at 5 PM to watch them bowl & cheer on FCC's team. Their last game will be April 17.



THE SEASON OF LENT

The theme for this year's Lenten devotional is "Jesus, The Wounded Healer." Each Wednesday evening during Lent, our church elders are leading a time of prayer in the sanctuary beginning at 6:00 PM. The central message at these services comes from a well-produced dvd series out of the UK, looking at the wounds of Jesus and how He is our healer. Following the service, a light soup supper is served in Fellowship Hall. If you've not yet picked up a devotional booklet, they are available in the narthex. (If you're able to make a contribution of \$5, that will help to cover the costs of these materials.)

The introduction to this year's booklet states: "In this series, we discover that God isn't watching from a distance. God isn't just the God of heaven but of all His creation. We find Him, in Jesus, fully immersed in and engaged with our fallen world, experiencing what it is to be found in human form; suffering the same barrage of pain, prejudice and misunderstanding we can know." Throughout life, all of us experience pain and suffering in some way, it's part of being human. This series will help us explore once again the humanity of Christ, and discover ways in which His suffering can bring healing to our own.

"Servants United" will again be hosting an all-community worship and prayer service at noon each day during Holy Week at First United Methodist Church. This year's theme "A Week of Grace" is based on the daily events in the last week of Jesus' earthly life as recorded in

Mark's Gospel. The preachers for the week will be: Monday, Rev. Steve Burnett (First United Methodist); Tuesday, Pastor Wes Connell (Community of Hope); Wednesday, Deacon Don Stewart (Saint Anthony's Catholic Church); Thursday, Pastor Mark Sundstrom (Highland Park Community Church); and Friday, our own Rev. Cynthia McBride. A variety of musicians and participants from across the community will share in worship leadership.

During Holy Week, FCC will offer a "tenebrae" service on Maundy Thursday which includes readings of Christ's passion, prayers and communion. Youth interested in helping to lead an Easter sunrise service are encouraged to speak with Amber French.



The Worship Commission is once again asking that you share a lily to decorate the Sanctuary during the 2011 Easter Season. The lily will cost \$7.00. Please put your check marked for lily in the offering on Sunday morning or send to the church office by **Monday, April 18th, 2011.**

We will be placing live Easter lilies in the sanctuary this year. After talking to florists, we found that removing the stamens from the lilies will greatly reduce the pollen that drives allergy sufferers crazy. All of the lilies, which will be put at the front of the sanctuary and in the narthex, will have the stamens removed. No live lilies will be in the windows.

All donations will be recognized in the usual manner in the "CALL".

Please attach the form below with your remittance so that we may know who your plant is in memory of or in honor of.

Please attach this form to your check when you return it to the church office.

Name:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

“The Commitment Tree”

There's a difference between interest and commitment. When you're interested in doing something, you do it only when circumstances permit. When you're committed to something, you accept no excuses, only results.

Look around our church and you will see the results of 90 years of commitment. Dr. Badger wrote the following in the 1996 pictorial directory:

"First meeting in tents, then at the Odd Fellows Lodge, our first facility. 'The Tabernacle' on Grant and Lind was built in 1955, the education wing added in 1978, and major capital improvements in 1984-1994. The church has had three different parsonages, the last being at 2105 S. Poplar, bought in 1961. During these years we had eleven pastors, five associates, five youth workers and six "Timothies" who have entered the Christian ministry." None of this would have happened without the commitment of church members.

Much has occurred since then...the addition of an elevator, a new boiler, a new kitchen, new flooring, and a new minister. In March committed members brought The Case for Christianity to the Casper Community. Without our audio-visual equipment and screens in the sanctuary this couldn't have happened at our church.

As part of the celebration of 90 years of Christian ministry at First Christian Church, a Commitment Tree will be planted in the fall. We will create a beautiful banner with only the trunk and branches of a tree. It will then be up to committed church members to add leaves, doves, and other meaningful symbols to help the tree "leaf out," by offering various donations from \$1.00 on up. Half of this money will be used to buy the tree; the other half will be used to replenish the endowment funds. Members will put notes on Commitment cards which will then be buried with the tree to help nourish it.

Let's all move beyond interest to commitment. Take the Lord at his Word. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Hosting an exchange student means learning about a new culture.

This year, our congregation is blessed to be a “church home” for two wonderful exchange students. Patrick (from Germany) is part of the Budack family, and William (from Sweden) has joined the McBrides. If you haven't met these young men, take advantage of an opportunity to speak with them and learn something about their cultures – as well as our own country when seen through their eyes.



During Spring Break, Cynthia used some of her vacation time to drive William to see a “big city” American style - Chicago. She says that her favorite part of the trip was watching the wonder on William's face as he stood at the top of the Sears Tower and looked out across the lights of Chicago at night. They visited the Field Museum and Brookfield Zoo as well as the top of the Arch in St. Louis. Patrick has also had the privilege of seeing parts of our great country on family trips with the Budacks.

Next year, perhaps you'll be a host family! There are wonderful students like Maria who enjoys watching movies, cooking, listening to music and writing. Maria loves dogs, and would be happy to live with a full-year host family that has one! Ilse enjoys watersports, making short movies, and hanging out with friends. She would love to have a host sister in her family. For more information about hosting an exchange student please contact Suzanne Sandoval 307-259-2221.



The local student exchange program “EF” is thankful for the use of FCC's Fellowship Hall for a potluck dinner and talent show as well as last fall's pumpkin carving contest.

Library Update – The church library is in the process of being “weeded” and many duplicate books are being pulled. During this process, we are finding that the church library is filled with outdated books. We encourage anyone planning to donate books in the future to help modernize our library by choosing books with current publishing dates and items of a religious, theological or spiritual nature.

New Titles on the shelves: Stop in and check us out!
The Questions Christian Hope No One WILL ASK (with answers) by Mark Mittelberg and *The Case for the Real Jesus* by Lee Strobel

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 A.M to noon & 1:00-4:30 P.M. Fridays 8:30 A.M to noon

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 March 8 AM & 10:45 AM Worship 1 PM Financial Peace 4 PM Youth making suck...	28 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA	29 7 PM AA Meeting	30 9 AM Quilters 4 PM Staff meeting 6 PM Lenten Services 6 PM New Bible Reading 7 PM Choir	31 5:30 PM Godly Girlfriends	1 April	2 International Affairs... Don Sarton 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
3 International Affairs Seminar (H.S. Juniors & Seniors) Don Sarton Donut Sunday 8 AM & 10:45 AM Worship 1 PM Financial Peace	4 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA 7 PM Elders Meeting	5 6 PM Prayer Group 7 PM AA Meeting	6 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Lenten Services 6 PM New Bible Reading 7 PM Choir	7 10 AM CWF Board Meeting	8	9 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 10 AM State quilters 12 PM Amy Gopp potluck
10 Amy Gopp visit 8 AM & 10:45 AM Worship 1 PM Financial Peace 5 PM 2nd Sunday Service	11 6 PM CSA 6:45 PM Prayer in Sanct... 7 PM BSA 7 PM Commissions 8 PM Exec. Board Mtg	12 CALL DEADLINE 7 PM AA Meeting	13 9 AM Quilters 10 AM Call folders 11:30 AM CWF #3 12 PM CWF #2 6 PM Lenten Services 6 PM New Bible Reading More...	14 10 AM CWF #1	15	16 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
17 Palm Sunday 8 AM & 10:45 AM Worship 1 PM Financial Peace 3 PM Pat Willis Piano rec...	18 CALL DEADLINE 12 PM Holy Week @ Uni... 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA	19 12 PM Holy Week @ Uni... 6 PM Prayer Group 7 PM AA Meeting	20 9 AM Quilters 10 AM Call Folders 12 PM Holy Week @ Uni... 6 PM New Bible Reading 7 PM Choir	21 Maundy Thursday 12 PM Holy Week @ Uni... 5 PM Godly Girlfriends	22 OFFICE CLOSED 12 PM Holy Week @ Uni...	23 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
24 EASTER 6:30 AM SONrise Service 8 AM & 10:45 AM Worship	25 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA	26 7 PM AA Meeting	27 9 AM Quilters 4 PM Staff meeting 6 PM New Bible Reading 7 PM Choir	28	29	30 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9 AM All Church Clean-up