

First Christian Church
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THE CALL

Aug. 24 - Natrona County schools begin

Aug. 28 - Choir retreat @ Jack & Betty
Walts' house

Sept. 6 - Preschool open house

Sept. 7 - First Day of preschool

Sept. 11 - Kick off Sunday - potluck lunch, youth group meeting,
Second Sunday Praise planning meeting

Sept. 16- 18 - Women's renewal

Choir retreat at Jack & Betty Walts' house
on August 28th. Meat provided, please
bring a side dish. We will meet there
around 12:00 p.m.

Lots of good music! New members always
welcome.



"Let's Celebrate!"

Join your church family on Sunday,
September 11, 2011, in CELEBRATION of
FCC's 90th Birthday! With hats, horns,
balloons, and music, we'll gather together
for a festive and fun-filled fall "home
coming." Bring your favorite POTLUCK
dish and your appetite to Fellowship Hall
and we'll see you after second service! It won't be a party
without YOU!!!!



The "**kick off**" for **youth groups** will also start this day
DURING the birthday party with a planning session for youth &
their parents and the planning team for **Second Sunday Praise
Service** will meet as well.

Church Staff: Rev. Cynthia McBride Lead Pastor

Lois Koch Business Manager, Elisa Jones Church Secretary,

Roger Koch Custodian, Betty Walts Organist,

Amber French Director of Music

"Letting Go"



It is a spiritual discipline to "let go." Sometimes that means letting go of our stuff. College students moving to a dorm have to leave some things at home. Retirees ready to down-size find they need to give away or sell belongings collected through the years. Families who have experienced a death may struggle to give away worldly goods tied to precious memories. "Letting go" is not always easy.

There are different forms of letting go. When we've been deeply wounded by another person, we may need to let go of anger before we can forgive. Some people struggle to let go of trying to always control their lives and trust that God is in charge.

As I write this column, I am practicing "letting go." Typically, when it's time to print The Call, I read through every article. I may add information about upcoming events or reorganize articles a bit. Now, early Monday morning, I'm at Ring Lake Ranch. Elisa will print and mail the Call while I'm here. Since internet service is limited, I'll email this article to her - and not worry about the rest. I'll simply trust that every commission chair who has plans for an upcoming event will get that news out to our congregation, and Elisa and Lois will proof The Call. So, I'm "letting go"....

Ring Lake Ranch is a perfect place to practice this spiritual discipline. Ancient peoples marked this valley as sacred ground by carving petroglyphs on the rocks here. In 1966, Maggie Kahin, a Methodist minister chose this site for a retreat center. People travel from near and far to BE in sacred wilderness. (This week, along with four clergywomen from Casper, families and individuals have come from Seattle, Boston and points in between.) As I stroll around the lake and raise my eyes to the mountains, the only sounds are my own footsteps, lapping water on the shore, and a bird's call. Letting go of my daily routine in such a beautiful setting reminds me to let go of other things as well - lingering grief held in, concern for parishioners who are ill or struggling, eagerness for our second Sunday praise services to begin again... Only when I lay aside my own burdens for a while and open my hands and heart, laid empty and bare before God, will I be able to receive what the Holy Spirit may give. This week, I invite you to find someplace very quiet, still yourself and sit - just BE for awhile, then pray with your hands open and practice your own "letting go." - *Pastor Cynthia*

4 YEAR GAS COMPARISON

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
1st quarter	5,360.69	6,072.17	4,545.13	3,251.55
2nd quarter	3,380.66	3,118.99	2,700.21	1,773.37
July	107.37	84.97	122.00	131.44
August	114.80	119.19	66.50	103.29
TOTALS	8,963.52	9,395.32	7,433.84	5,259.65

The church office will resume normal office hours starting the week of August 29th.

Office hours are as follows:

Monday thru Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



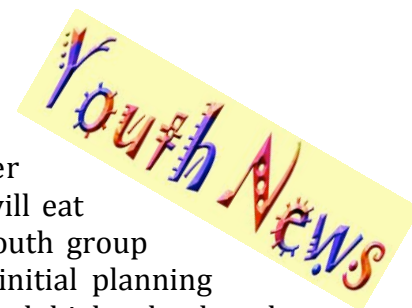
Youth Group Planning

Youth are invited to attend the potluck birthday luncheon after church on Sunday, Sept. 11. We will eat together as a group and discuss youth group plans for the coming year. This initial planning meeting is for youth in middle school, high school, and Casper College. Our hope is to continue to plan one activity per month and to attend the praise service once each month. We hope to begin JYF activities in October.

Volunteers to lead spiritual components, as well as the activities, provide food and/or transportation are needed. Once again, volunteers do not need to commit to the entire year. Just let Jennifer, Sarah or the church office know if you are willing and if possible, when you can help.

Ideas for activities, programs, etc. are also needed.

Jennifer Grooms and Sarah Brown



September Presiding Elder

8AM Prep - Marie Robertson

10:45AM Prep - Darlene McIrvine

Debbie Mapp	Tracy Padilla	Elaine Singleton
Larry Winders	Virginia Yohn	Val Williams
	Cal Decker	Monica Decker



September Greeters:

8:00 a.m. - Cal Decker

10:45 a.m. - Linda Mosteller

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

Vacation Bible School Recap

This year we had 26 children attend VBS and our average daily attendance was 20. Twenty-two volunteers assisted. Kathy Winders ran the Café and served up wonderful snacks. Sarah Brown and Amy Black worked with our preschool group, Carol Sage, Kristin and Jeff Atkinson led our craft center, Lynda Williams and Jenny Black kept our games center going, Jennifer Grooms ran the science center, Amber French was our music director, Rick Black provided media support and took some incredible photos, Pat Buck was our storyteller, assisted throughout the week by Peg Jackson, Lynda Williams, and Jason Baker. Verla Jerde was present each day to help with registration, manage children, and trouble shoot. Janet Fields and Melanie Dowler helped with registration as well. Val Williams, Sara Williams, Jared Black, Emily Dundas and Jason Baker were group leaders and did anything else that needed doing. Amanda Dowler, Verla Jerde, Sarah Brown, Emily Dundas, and Jennifer Grooms helped set up for Bible School on the Sunday afternoon prior to VBS. Several people donated kitchen gadgets to use for decorations.

In addition to singing praise, learning about Festivals in the Bible, snacking, playing, experimenting, and crafting, students prepared approximately 100 "Manna" bags for the mission. The bags contained a bottle of water, soap, lotion, and snacks. The bags were warmly received at the mission.



September Birthdays

Chuck Stewart	Sept. 1	Betty Walts	Sept. 16
Michael Braley	Sept. 2	Jack Walts	Sept. 17
Rachel Cazier	Sept. 4	Tina Beall	Sept. 18
Laurie Anderson	Sept. 6	Jereca Lutz	Sept. 19
Joan Kingsolver	Sept. 6	Joshua Black	Sept. 20
Lynn Klockslem	Sept. 6	Jessica Schmidt	Sept. 20
Laura Glasspoole	Sept. 7	Jacquie Cook	Sept. 22
Katy Havasi	Sept. 7	Jackie Greenlee	Sept. 23
Floyd Field	Sept. 8	Roy Buck	Sept. 24
Debbie Mestas	Sept. 8	Jack Elsea	Sept. 25
Emily Street	Sept. 8	Jennifer Hawley	Sept. 25
Roger Miller	Sept. 10	Lois Scott	Sept. 25
William Rissler	Sept. 10	Katy Hallock	Sept. 27
Kevin Budak	Sept. 12	Bernice Riley	Sept. 28
Tom Dowler	Sept. 13	Gloria Monroe	Sept. 29
Jacque Meeks	Sept. 14	Tina Raines	Sept. 29
Virginia Yohn	Sept. 15		

September Wedding Anniversary Dates

Floyd & Janet Field	Sept. 2, 1977
Abel & Kylie Stewart	Sept. 5, 2009
Kent & Jamie Ames	Sept. 6, 1996
Tom & Melanie Dowler	Sept. 6, 1969
George & Lois Scott	Sept. 12, 1947
Mark & Lynda Williams	Sept. 14, 1991
Jeffrey & Kristen Atkinson	Sept. 16, 2000
Jerod & Melanie Roumell	Sept. 16, 2006
John & Sandy Bentley	Sept. 20, 1975
Dwayne & Betty Axworthy	Sept. 25, 1954
Ed & Carrie Grube	Sept. 29, XXXX



"Angels Among Us"

Many thanks go to the "special angels" who created the Commitment Tree and took an afternoon of their time to cut out leaves and flowers to adorn it. It will be a joy to watch the leaves and flowers grow during the summer months.



"Whose footprints are these?"

Guess who had a Christian ministry he shared through his music, who worshiped God through his music, and who shared this with every person he met?

Guess who has special memories of riotous trips in the church van to attend retreats in Estes Park, and a special memory of rolling across the country with Kathy Badger at the driver's wheel to Quadrennial in Purdue, Indiana, and was lovingly cajoled into quilting on this trip by Peg Jackson?

Guess who was baptized along with two of his grandchildren on the same Sunday at FCC?

Guess who feels that she has so many FCC friends that if she tried to name them all, she would surely leave someone out! Therefore, she wants us all to know that we have touched her life in some way since she joined and that she will cherish us forever!

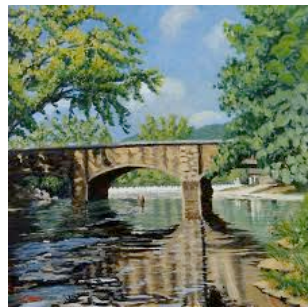
Guess who joined First Christian Church because Hester asked them to and continued to be with them on their "Christian Journey."



What will your STORY tell us about you? TELL IT in your own unique way and be a part of the celebration of your church family, in the soon- to- be famous publication of FOOTPRINTS! Coming to your church in October, just in time for Heritage Sunday!

"Big acrylic painting sale of those done by Dr. Badger, will conclude Sun., Aug. 21. They are on display in Fellowship Hall. The large ones sell for \$250; the small ones for \$175. 50% of all sales will be contributed to FCC's Scholarship Fund. After Aug. 21, all pictures of or by Dr. Badger will be removed from the building. Thank you for your contributions!"

I'll begin a new series of paintings of religious themes, especially from the Holy Lands. -- Bryant



To the Church Family of First Christian Church: Thank you for helping Dad & Cecelia during his hospital stays recently. I know many of you did so much behind the scenes, but particularly, I appreciate the help from Floyd & Janet Field, Suzy Stewart & Deb King.

Kristi Hendly (Roger Miller's daughter)



Thank you!

Because of people like you, our 2011 General Assembly was a success! Your time, talent & dedication to the church is so appreciated. Your stole contribution was a blessing to our 2011 General Assembly participants. We hope & pray that you will continue to support our church for future Assemblies. Suzie McKay General Assembly Team

The family of Carol Schroefel wishes to say a heartfelt thank you for your loving support & prayers during Carol's illness & death. The Schroefel & Wallace family

Dear Cynthia, Bryant, Shirley & Brian, We would like to thank you all for helping us pull together Keith & Lindsay's beautiful wedding. The service and music were absolutely perfect, and without Shirley's help and advice, things would not have run nearly as smoothly.

Sincerely, Shannon

Lunsford

Dear Cynthia & FCC people,

It was very comforting to know we had so many of you praying for us and we felt them. Thank you for your visits and reassuring prayers, Cynthia. Thank you for the pretty yellow carnation (it lasted a week) and for the phone calls, cards, & visits. We feel fortunate to be a part of such a caring congregation - especially at a time like this. May God bless you all.

High School Exchange Students



Our congregation has been blessed over the past year by the chance to get to know two wonderful exchange students: Patrick (from Germany, who lived with the Budacks) and William (from Sweden, who lived with the McBrides). Did you know that our Preschool's Music Teacher, Mrs. Henry, was also a host parent last year? She and her husband sponsored Max from Germany. Each year, numerous exchange students from around the world apply for the opportunity to spend a year in America, studying, honing their English, and learning about our country through the first-hand experience of living with an American family. Potential host families have the chance to review the applications of numerous students so that they can select someone who will be a "good fit" for their family.

Exchange students like Leon and Alina have requested to spend the next school year in America in the Rocky Mountains. Leon loves to ski, plays basketball and the drums. Alina does gymnastics, cooks, rides unicycles and goes horseback riding. Students speak English, have their own spending money and insurance. Host families provide a safe, loving environment. The expense for host families is to provide the student's "room and board" (meaning meals and a bedroom in your own home). Please contact EF Coordinator Suzanne Sandoval for more information at 307-259-2221.

From the Business Office:

Balance on hand, June 30, 2011	\$3,118.19
Income from Pledges and Gifts	\$ 19,469.78
Invested Funds drawn during May	\$ 0.00
Total Income	\$ 22,587.97
June Expenses	\$ 21,522.60
Balance on hand as of July 30, 2011	\$ 1,065.37

Our Commitment Tree

Unlike a "real" tree that sheds its leaves in the fall, our colorful Commitment Tree will continue to "leaf out" through the end of September to allow those who have been gone during the summer to contribute. The Property Commission has offered to match the amount Membership designates toward the purchase of a real tree. The remainder of the funds will go into our Endowment Fund.

This tree will be planted in the fall, in honor of FCC's 90th birthday. On Heritage Sunday, October 23rd, we hope to take a picture of the congregation by the tree.

I am reminded of Joyce Kilmer's poem, *Trees*, which is probably close to 90 years old, as she was born in 1886 and died in 1918.

"I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree;
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the sweet earth's flowing
breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree."

Thank you for your commitment to God and to First Christian



Opportunities to Serve

Primary Sunday School Teacher and Children's Church Director Needed for this Fall Contact Jennifer Grooms or Sarah Brown if you can help with these programs. The pay is not great but the rewards are heavenly!

CRMR Women's Renewal Sept. 16-18

Even though Fall is a long ways off, it's important for women in our church to register NOW for the wonderful annual retreat known as "Renewal." It will be held this year at the Glen Eyrie Conference Center in Colorado Springs. Our Transitional Regional Minister, Jose Morales, will provide inspiring keynotes as our theme leads women from around the region to spiritually travel together around the world. Great workshops, fellowship, relaxation and renewal await in a lovely setting.



If you haven't heard, several FCC Casper women are serving as the planning committee and we look forward to lots of HELP and SUPPORT from our church friends! It's not too late if you are still "on the fence" just give us a call if you are interested in attending! Here's a peek of what you might want to do....

Morning Yoga with Carol Jo Vlastos, Learning more about the National Disciples Women organization from Pat Donahoo from Indianapolis, Virturally travelling over the seven continents to learn more about your relationship with God and others, Eating wonderful food, Meeting close to 100 women friends from around the region and SO MUCH MORE!
Looking forward to it! Jennifer Hawley and Jenny Black

Sunday School and Children's Church Support Still Needed

We are still in need of volunteers to lead Worship and Wonder, our children's church experience. You are not asked to commit every Sunday, but let us know if you are willing to assist and if possible, what dates you would be available. Carmen Goodman has graciously accepted the responsibility of directing this program. Please contact Carmen, Jennifer Grooms, Sarah Brown, or the church office if you can help. Worship and Wonder will begin Sunday, Sept. 11. Carmen will be organizing training for leaders prior to that first Sunday. We have Sunday School teachers secured for our preK - K (Kathy Winders) and grades 1-2 (Lani McBee) class secured, but we are in need of people who would be willing to substitute for Kathy and Lani when they are unable to attend. Casey Day has agreed to teach two Sundays per month for our Grade 3-5 class, but we are still in need of volunteers to co-teach with Casey. Michelle England has volunteered to work with our middle school, but we need a co-teacher for that group. Brian Black and Scott Hawley have agreed to continue to teach the high school. Volunteers to substitute for middle school and high school are needed. Please let Jennifer, Sarah, or the church office know if you can help.
Jennifer Grooms and Sarah Brown



When you are **traveling this summer**, if you stay in motels, please "rescue" the little shampoos, conditioners, soaps, etc. The Crisis Center can use them. Thank you - Peg Jackson

You may place these personal toiletry items in the VBS donation box to help with our mission project at the "Shake It Up Cafe." If you gather these items after VBS, pass them on to Peg and she will share them with those in need.

Preschool News

We are gearing up for the fall semester of preschool. Currently we have 63 students enrolled. Our open house is scheduled for Sept. 6th and classes begin the next day. Our theme is Year of the Cowboy, so check out our western fun rooms in the preschool. ~Jenny~



Summer Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M. Fridays - Office Closed
 Lisa will work mornings until 1:30 p.m. and Lois will work afternoons.

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	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

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
25	26	27	28	29	30	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

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 August 9 AM Worship 12 PM Choir Retreat @ ...	29	30 7 PM AA Meeting	31 9 AM Quilters 4 PM Staff meeting @ Je... 6 PM New Bible Reading	1 September 10 AM CWF board meeting	2	3 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
4 9 AM Worship	5 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA	6 Preschool Open Ho... 7 PM AA Meeting	7 First Day of Preschool 9 AM Quilters 6 PM New Bible Reading 7 PM Choir	8 10 AM CWF #1 11:30 AM CWF #3	9	10 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 10 AM State Quilters
11 "Kick off Sunday" 8 AM & 10:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 12 PM FCC Birthday potl... 1 PM Youth Kick Off	12 5:45 PM Elders Meeting 6 PM CSA 6:45 PM Prayer in Sanct... 7 PM BSA 7 PM Commissions 8 PM Exec. Board Mtg	13 7 PM AA Meeting	14 9 AM Quilters 12 PM CWF #2 6 PM New Bible Reading 7 PM Choir	15	16 CRMR Women's Renewal	17 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
18 CRMR Women's Re... 8 AM & 10:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School	19 CALL DEADLINE 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA	20 7 PM AA Meeting	21 9 AM Quilters 10 AM Call Folders 6 PM New Bible Reading 7 PM Choir	22	23	24 CRMR Planning in C... 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
25 8 AM & 10:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School	26 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA	27 7 PM AA Meeting	28 9 AM Quilters 6 PM New Bible Reading 7 PM Choir	29 5:30 PM Godly Girlfriends	30	1 October 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 9 AM All church clean-up