

*First Christian Church
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THE CALL

August/September

GREAT GAZEBO FESTIVAL AND CELEBRATION!

Plan now to attend the **Great Gazebo Festival and Celebration** on Back to Church Sunday, September 9, 2012, between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Refreshments will be served under the Gazebo to the background of "**Live Music**" provided by Betty Walts and Bob Meloy, and we hope to have **Line Dancing** in Fellowship Hall. There will be games for youngsters outside, along with displays of crafts and hobbies of our congregation!

Contact anyone on the Membership Commission if you would like to participate! Display your photos, your veggies you have grown this summer, your knitting, whatever it is you do for FUN! We'll have plenty of chairs outside for everyone, and hope to SEE YOU THERE!

**COME CELEBRATE BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY
WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY!**

Thanks so much to **Josh Black** and **all of his helpers** for building this wonderful gazebo for our church!

Church Staff: Rev. Cynthia McBride Lead Pastor
Lois Koch Business Manager, Kathy Winders, Church Secretary,
Cyndi Trimmer Nursery Care, Jenny Black Preschool Director,
Amber French Director of Music, Betty Walts Organist, Roger Koch Custodian



Sacred Stories

An essential role for any preacher is that of “story-teller.” As a minister of Christ’s Gospel, I am called to tell and re-tell the sacred stories of scripture week in and week out. In part, that means doing Biblical exegesis (delving into the historical roots and ancient context of a text, as well as studying the words of scripture in Greek and Hebrew to better understand the English translations we read). Sharing the “sacred Story” is also building bridges of meaning to help holy hearers connect past and present and realize the relevance of God’s Word in our daily lives.

The gift of “sacred story” is not just found between Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21. God’s Living Word is also discovered in our very lives. Part of my role as sacred-story-keeper includes listening, being fully present to hear stories of God at work in the world. I have been blessed in recent weeks to share the sacred story of God’s love in unique ways.... Sitting at a supper table with children during Vacation Bible School and watching them grow to “trust God”... chatting with a parishioner on the sidelines during a softball game, hearing about the challenges of raising a family when it seems the days don’t have enough hours... journeying with members through the diagnosis and treatment of illness, bearing witness to both their fears and the presence of God in times of trial... sitting in a folding chair under the pine trees on Casper Mountain in a circle of sacred story sharing... laughing with young adults as we watch children play during a backyard barbeque and pondering together the pressures of modern life and our need to find balance.

When this issue of The Call goes to press, I will have returned from Ring Lake. My husband Charles knows how much my soul is renewed by time in that sacred wilderness, but when I told him what I would be studying he asked with a puzzled expression, “What on earth is midrash?” “Midrash” is a Jewish rabbinical practice of interpretive commentary on Biblical text. It also refers, more generally, to a faith community interpreting God’s truth, found in scripture and through the living context of shared sacred story. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of speaking about God’s Word every week in worship - and for entrusting me with your own personal, sacred stories.

~Pastor Cynthia

WELCOME BACK FCC PRESCHOOL

You add Color to our church and we miss you during the summer.

As a hands-on way of supporting our FCC preschool, members are invited to bring bottles of **Elmer’s glue, glue sticks, or washable Crayola markers** to supplement the supplies parents provide for their children enrolled in our program. There will be a basket in the church fellowship hall and at the Gazebo Festival. -- Thank you from Christian Education Commission.

CROP Walk Coming Soon

Every year “CROP Walks” are held in communities across our country to raise support and awareness of the work of Church World Service. The Casper Walk this year will be on Sunday afternoon, Sept. 23rd. Are you interested in getting involved? We could use a congregational coordinator to distribute materials and recruit our walking team.

Regional News

The CRMR (Central Rocky Mountain Region) annual planning event “APE” will be held on Sept. 29th at FCC in Colorado Springs. ANY member of ANY Disciples of Christ congregation in the region is invited to attend to share ideas and help in planning for upcoming regional ministry events.

NOTE FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY

A recommended read by the E-team is the book *Sticky Church* by Larry Osborne. One copy is now cataloged in the library for checkout. There will be more copies coming soon.

GOOD BYE AND THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Dave and I moved to Casper in the Fall of 1963 and in 1967 we joined Casper First Christian Church/DOC on Palm Sunday. Church has been a large part of our lives and we want to thank each and everyone of you for touching our lives and for the wonderful memories of our time spent at church. On August 27, we move on to Cheyenne, WY to start a new chapter in our lives. We want to say we will miss the church and it’s members and wish all of you a life full of God’s blessings. May you continue to grow and glow through God’s love.

-- In Christian love, Dave and Verla Jerde.

New Address:

Steve & Cindy Huckfeldt - 7323 W. Mesquite Ln. Casper WY 82604

Hi Everyone! Was in town Aug. 2-5th and if I missed seeing you, know that I'm thinking of you from Missouri now as before. Love to hear from you!
Kristen (Cioc) (Zerizef) Hay
- 17240 Laurence 2047 Miller, MO 65707

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	Jacque 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, 19??



WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Jessie Taylor and Jayme Suhr were united in marriage at Washington Park on August 4, 2012. Jessie is the daughter of Larry and Regina Taylor. Jessie and Jayme have known each other since 7th grade. They will make their home at 332 Tanager St., Casper. Phone 307-258-9361. Jayme works for Modern Electric. Congratulations and God's blessing on the newlyweds.

THANK YOU'S...

Dear FCC, There really aren't adequate words to convey what the support, prayers, and visits have meant to our family. The flowers brightened my room, the prayer cards lifted my spirits. A special thank you to Cynthia for her repeated visits and praying with me. The hospital is a frightening place. Her calm voice and caring words helped to make a personally scary situation for me more manageable. It means the world to me to be a part of the FCC family, and to know in this time that Jenn and the boys had the support they needed to get through this. -- Scott Hawley

Thank you for all the cards, prayer cards and visits while I was in the hospital. Also thank you for the lovely pink carnation. All these prayers and well wishes go a long way in my recovery. Elaine Gross

Many thanks to our 1st Christian Church family for all your cards, calls, thoughts and prayers. Your out pouring of love uplifted our spirits. We are truly blessed to have such a loving church! Peace to all. -- Laura & Bob Glasspoole

Please accept my deepest gratitude for the generosity of the First Christian Church in providing accommodations for the Bike and Build volunteer crew that served at Habitat for Humanity, The Heart of Wyoming this past weekend. The volunteer crew of 31 college students offered our community a tremendous service and our capacity to accommodate the group was made possible by the generosity of First Christian Church. Thank you for your partnership and support. -- Sincerely, Heidi M. Dickerson, Habitat for Humanity.

Thank you Jerdes! Verla Jerde has been our church librarian and has put in hours bringing our library into a current and relevant study area. We will miss her greatly and wish her the best in her new home in Cheyenne. -- Sarah Brown and Jennifer Grooms AND Thank you Dave Jerde for serving as Stewardship Chairman this year. Your expertise will be greatly missed. -- FCC Board



UPCOMING SPECIAL YOUTH EVENTS

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Game Day in Laramie October 27th. Brian and Jenny Black have offered to drive and chaperone for this event. A big THANK YOU for doing that for our youth.

Midwinter Retreat for high school students is scheduled November 2-4th. Please check with Jennifer Grooms or Sarah Brown if you have any questions.

Christian Education General Meeting on August 19th Recap

Thank you to parents, youth and church members who participated in a discussion about our youth programming for this year. The meeting was held at the McBride's home with 21 attending. Thank you also to members who called & emailed input regarding this important discussion. Our lengthy and thoughtful discussion led to the following youth programming changes.

* Youth Group for **grades 6 - 12** will meet at the church, Sunday afternoons, for faith discussions, snacks, and fellowship starting at 4:00 PM and concluding by 6:00 PM. (There will be no organized Sunday morning class for high school youth.)

* Youth in **grades 4-8** will participate in Food, Fellowship and Service on Sunday mornings, 9:30 - 10:30 AM. They will use the time to snack, chat, and participate in service activities for our church and community.

* **Grades K-3** will start the year off at "The Royal Ball." Students will take a royal tour and meet some of the most famous kings and queens of the Bible by exploring the lives of Saul, Solomon, David, Jehoshaphat, Esther and more. (Sunday mornings, 9:30 - 10:30 AM) Please note: Nursery care is provided for children pre K and younger. Because we have programming available for children in grades Kindergarten and up during Sunday school and church, we kindly request that children older than pre-K participate in those activities to allow our nursery staff to focus on our youngest members. Thank you.

* "**Worship and Wonder**" our children's church will continue to meet during our 10:45 AM church service.

* A smaller committee composed of youth, parents, and commission members will meet to polish off details for our Sunday afternoon youth meetings. Meeting date and time TBD.

* Jane Wallace volunteered to serve as our local **camp registrar** for youth retreats and camps.

The **Becoming a Contagious Christian** course is over, & I was blessed with the opportunity to present it. Do you want a thumbnail description of the course? Well, here it is in two bible verses: Matthew 28:19-20, Go & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, & of the Son, & of the Holy Spirit...Surely I am with you always... and 1 Peter 3:15, Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have.

To all who attended the "Becoming a Contagious Christian" course, Thank You! We hope you found it helpful & that it has taken some of the trepidation out of evangelism. To those who did not attend, or who attended only a few sessions, the course has something for ALL of our congregation of Christians. Here are a few things that came from the course.

Benefits to us: Adventure, Purpose, fulfillment, spiritual growth, confidence, and having the honor of being God's agent. You must get out of your circle of comfort. Be authentic, live like you mean it, make contact with those who may be far from God, get to know people, be patient, listen for the Holy Spirit, Use your own style(s) tell your story, be clear and concise, don't ramble. Prayer is very important.

Characteristics of a Contagious Church -- Evangelism is basic; lost people are prioritized; outreach is part of an overall strategy; the seeking process is respected and facilitated; seekers' questions are valued and answered; leaders model the reaching of Lost People; members are equipped to spread the faith; relationships with unchurched people are maximized; varied evangelistic approaches are celebrated; every position in the church viewed as outreach; individual efforts are supplemented by larger outreach events; innovation is valued and employed; relevancy of the Bible is emphasized; the gospel is never compromised and there is a tangible sense of the supernatural.

There are plans to repeat this course after the first of the year. We invite all, even those who now attend only the Sunday service. Perhaps *any one of us* can "plant a seed". Please plan to attend. There is much to learn--and it will take a lot of the trepidation out of "Spreading the Word" (aka "Evangelism".)

Blessings to all, Chuck Stewart

"The Doors of Opportunity" lead to small groups

Our "E-Team" has spent much of this year discussing evangelism. We give thanks for past efforts of so many members of the congregation. (Such as Janet Field & Peg Jackson who faithfully delivered welcome packets & cookies to visitors. THANK YOU!) Along with wanting to develop a coordinated evangelism effort and hosting special events to "throw wide open the spiritual front doors of FCC"... The elders are supporting an effort to "close the back doors" - to help members connect with one another in deep, meaningful ways. In September, we will launch a pilot program of sermon-based small groups. Pastor Cynthia will lead a four-week training session for small group leaders. Then each of those leaders will meet for 6-weeks with small groups. If this goes well, we hope to offer even more "community groups" to members of the congregation. This supports our vision to be: a "faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian Spirituality and a passion for justice." Please pray for the small group leaders.

Upcoming Adult Studies

We will celebrate "Kick Off Sunday" on September 9 with our two worship-services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. and a "Gazebo Festival" between services. The **adult Sunday school classes** will resume on September 16. The Homebuilders Class will again meet in the Inner Room and the discussions will focus on topics generated by the class related to our faith and daily lives. The T.H.E. class will focus on Biblical studies and NEW adult classes will also begin that day in their regular rooms. Coffee for Christ will feature short unit studies of 4-6 weeks based on Biblical studies and personal growth themes.

The Saturday Morning **Men's Bible Study** (7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m.) will begin a new video series on "The Dead Sea Scrolls" taught by Professor Gary A. Rendsburg of Rutgers University. All men are invited; women too. Coffee provided. We look forward to your attending- Bryant, Lee, Al, Chuck & Al.

Later this fall, Dr. Badger will teach an evening weekly class on the book he has written about **Hebrews**. The schedule is still being set so stay tuned for further information.

Special Presentation: During worship on August 19th, FCC Casper was recognized by the Central Rocky Mountain Region as being the top giving church in the region to the Disciples Mission Fund during 2011. Regional Minister, Jose Morales presented the church a hand-blown chalice and patten

September Greeters:

Call Roger Cook (234-2525) to volunteer as a greeter.

To volunteer as a scripture reader - sign up on the bulletin board.

September Diaconate

Sept. 2 - Jeff & Trent Hover, Sandy Bentley, Jane Wallace

2 service schedules resume on Sept. 9th

Steve Huckfeldt, Michelle Elser, Carmen Goodman, Amanda Dowler, Mark, Lynda & Val Williams & Nylia Cazier

8:00 AM Communion Prep - Carol Sage
10:45 AM Communion Prep - Wanda Leeling



From the Business Office:

Balance on hand, July 1, 2012	\$(1,814.87)
July Income from Pledges and Gifts	\$ 24,371.72
Invested Funds	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 24,371.72
July Expenses	<u>- \$ 21,869.10</u>
Balance on hand as of August 1, 2012	\$ 687.75

Special Offerings:

Vacation Bible School \$172.72
Enough to purchase mosquito netting to prevent malaria for 57 children in Mali

Habitat for Humanity \$ 111.15
Given in honor of the "Bike-n-Build team that stayed at FCC.

Dress a Child Program - The young residents of the Disciples-related Tennyson Center for Children (CO Christian Home) recently had a special treat. Each school-age child was given a \$20 budget and taken by a volunteer to shop at Target for "back to school" clothes. For many of the kids, this was the first time they'd ever experienced this opportunity. They learned about budgeting - and that they are loved! FCC Casper supported "Dress a Child" last year at Christmas, but you can make a donation any time. Read more online at www.childabuse.org or call Toll Free 877 224-8223 for more information.

Office Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 A.M to 2:30 P.M. Fridays - 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	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

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	6	7	8	9	10

September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 August 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	27	28 7 PM AA Meeting	29 9 AM Quilters	30 5:30 PM Godly Girlfriends	31	1 September 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
2 9 AM Worship 10:30 AM Sunday School	3 OFFICE CLOSED 2 PM Circle of Caring 7 PM Elder's meeting	4 Preschool Open Ho... 7 PM AA Meeting	5 9 AM 1st Day of Preschool 9 AM Quilters 7 PM Choir	6 10 AM CWF board meeting	7	8 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study 10 AM State Quilters
9 8 AM & 10:45 Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School	10 6 PM CSA 6:45 PM Worship Comm... 7 PM BSA 7 PM Commissions-8:00... <i>More...</i>	11 7 PM AA Meeting	12 9 AM Quilters 12 PM CWF #2 7 PM Choir	13 10 AM CWF #1 11:30 AM CWF #3	14	15 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
16 8 AM & 10:45 Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School	17 CALL DEADLINE 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA	18 7 PM AA Meeting	19 9 AM Quilters 10 AM Call Folders 7 PM Choir	20	21	22 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
23 Group #7 - Johnso... 8 AM & 10:45 Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 3 PM CROP Walk	24 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA	25 7 PM AA Meeting	26 9 AM Quilters 7 PM Choir	27 5:30 PM Godly Girlfriends	28 6:30 PM CRMR Bd Mtg-...	29 CRMR APE-CO Spgs 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study
30 8 AM & 10:45 Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School	1 October 2 PM Circle of Caring 6 PM CSA 7 PM BSA 7 PM Elder's meeting	2 7 PM AA Meeting	3 9 AM Quilters 7 PM Choir	4 10 AM CWF board meeting	5	6 7:30 AM Men's Bible Study

The Elders of FCC express their gratitude for the faithful 25 years of service of our former pastor, Dr. Bryant D. Badger.

Dear FCC members and Friends,

I want to thank you all for the thoughts and prayers that you have extended to Kathy and me over the past months. They have certainly meant a lot and we are forever grateful. I am enjoying my retirement and getting the opportunity to fish and work on projects that I had put off in the past due to my other commitments.

I want to remind the congregation that I am retired and with that I no longer officiate at funerals, weddings, or other life events for the church in Casper. I am so enjoying having the opportunity to visit with you on Sunday morning in the pews and look forward to continuing our Christian fellowship.

I plan to teach my last adult class this fall on the book I wrote on Hebrews. I look forward to seeing you all there to share in these teachings and hearing your input.

Thanks again for all of your thoughts and prayers and if you want to go fishing, give me a call.

God Bless, *Bryant*



General Assembly

Dates: Saturday, July 13 through Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Location: Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida

Theme: "Lord, Teach Us To Pray"

- **Scriptural Basis:** Luke 11:1-4

"He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When

you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'" (NRSV)

Registration Opening Date: July 13, 2012

Early Registration Discounts Deadline: April 1, 2013

The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) happens every other year in the summer (to make it easier for youth and families to attend). Our next church-wide "family reunion" will be in the summer of 2013. Do you want to go? It would be great fun to have a multi-age group from Casper attend! (Just think, you could include a few days before or after to visit Disney World or walk on the beach.) Why not plan now to experience the broader church at this special gathering. Information online at: www.disciples.org or talk with Pastor Cynthia for more details.