

Community UCC
2650 Table Mesa Drive
Boulder CO 80305
303-499-9119
www.cuccboulder.org

Worship and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Pete Terpenning, Minister
An Open and Affirming Congregation

NOVEMBER 2004



The ECHO

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE: Our church has been asked to provide a crew of 10 to help sort food for CFS's Fall Food Drive. We need your help on **Friday, November 19**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Individuals, youth, and families are encouraged to participate. Children must be at least 10 years old to work in the warehouse. Families with younger children should call for other volunteer opportunities. Please call or email Jessie Inglefield, 303-651-2609, jfingle@peakpeak.com to reserve your spot.

FOOD DRIVE GREETERS: Community Food Share needs individuals or families to be greeters at the entrances of grocery stores in Boulder, Louisville, Lafayette, Broomfield or Gunbarrel to hand out flyers/bags to encourage donations of food. Greeters are needed anytime during the food drive, **Monday, November 15 through Wednesday, November 24**. When greeters are present, people donate 3 to 4 times more food. If interested call Sue Erickson at CFS (303-652-3663) for more information.

DOCUMENTARY:

Showing of "A Family Undertaking," a documentary which profiles families who direct their own funerals will be shown **Saturday, November 13** at 7pm at the Boulder Public Library. The showing is sponsored by a new non-profit home funeral support group, Natural Transitions Funeral Guidance. This provocative video ventures into the funeral industry's factories and our national conventions, shedding light on some of its marketing strategies. For more information contact Karen @ 303-443-3418 or info@naturaltransitions.org.

SERRV SHOP COMING:

SERRV has reorganized and renamed its catalog sales program "A Greater Gift." SERRV, which stands for Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation and Vocations, was started after World War II to assist refugees. Throughout the years, it has developed into "an integrated alternative trade and development organization that offers artisans, farmers and their organizations an opportunity to generate needed income." So with that new purpose they have renamed the organization "A Greater Gift: hope and justice with every purchase."

Beyond the name, our sales will be much like last year. We will take orders in October and have things here for our Alternative Gift Market in November. Because we choose the option where we cannot return items, we get a price cut and are able to produce a small profit, which will go to our youth group for their summer work trip.

Laura Terpenning will have catalogs at church for people to look at and place orders. You may also check out the catalog at www.agreatergift.org. There is a wide range of items from organic food items to toys to many handcrafted items. This is a simple way to do Christmas shopping and support a great cause.

Pete's Letter:

Dear Friends,

I just listened to former President Jimmy Carter in an interview on National Public Radio's program, "Fresh Air". It was an excellent interview, and I continue to be impressed with President Carter's intelligence and compassion. He is part of an election commission that monitors elections around the world for fairness and honesty using guidelines developed by a non-partisan commission headed by him and former President Ford. It is interesting and sad that, using the guidelines of this commission, Carter noted that the US elections could not be considered fair. But the thing that stood out in my mind from the interview were his comments on the separation of church and state. He said that the intention of the laws separating church and state were intended to protect the church from interference from the government as was common in 17th century England and to protect the government from being dictated to by the church. A complete separation protects both. He noted that there has been little intermixing of government and church in this country until just in the last 20 years when conservative Christians formed an intimate connection to the Republican Party.

This connection, particularly apparent in the current Presidential campaign has raised the issue of separation of church and state in my mind. How does my faith affect my politics. How much should I, as a pastor, say about parties and candidates? How much should the church say. This election is certainly the most divided and contentious campaign in my lifetime and perhaps one of the most in our nation's history. One of our members was even kicked out of a private campground in western Colorado for having a Kerry bumper sticker on his car. Tempers are running hot. So what is the role of religion in this year's election? Should it just stay out?

My answer is, "Yes and no". Yes, I must stay out in my role as a pastor and our joint role as a church when it comes to endorsing a certain party or candidate. I will not, and should not refuse communion from anyone who does not vote "Pro-Choice" despite what some Roman Catholic colleagues are doing. The Church Council decided at our last meeting that we should not allow partisan political signs in the church yard; partly because they may not represent a consensus of the congregation, and partly because we are not allowed under the separation of church and state. I agree with this decision.

However, I do believe that our faith must play a part in how we vote. Mohandas Gandhi wrote, "My uniform experience has taught me there is no other God than truth. To see the universal and all pervading spirit of truth face to face one must be able to love the meanest of creation as oneself. And a person who aspires after that can not afford to keep out of any field of life. That is why my devotion to truth has drawn me into the field of politics. And I can say...in all humility, that those who say that religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion means." A brief glance at the life of Jesus illustrates that Jesus was just as political as Gandhi. Jesus cleaned out the temple of money changers, made statements about offering hope for the poor and liberating the oppressed, ate with prostitutes and tax collectors and was executed as a political prisoner, a treat to the nation. A colleague of mine in Maine, William Bigelow, wrote recently that he hardly recognizes "the Christianity that is presented publicly these days by many of our nation's leaders. Pro-rich, Pro-war, Pro-America? A 'prosperity gospel'?" These are not the teachings of Jesus that I have learned over the last 50 years. Jim Wallis of The Sojourners community writes that Christians must reclaim a faith that has been hijacked for purposes that are not faithful to the gospel of Jesus." Bill Moyers says "Christianity has been co-opted in the United States to manipulate public opinion and serve the goals of domination of an imperial state."

As Christians, all our decisions must be affected by our faith. What we eat, whether we recycle, where we spend our money and our other decisions are directly related to our faith; including the decisions about voting. "How would Jesus vote?" is a legitimate question that must be answered in the best way we can before we go to the polls. Granted, the answer is sometimes very hard to come to. However, our faith leads us into the field of politics for it is here that justice is done and the direction of our nation is decided.

Separation of church and state is essential to the protection of both the government and the church. However, on a personal level, faith leads us deeply into politics and calls us to take action for justice. At the very least, it calls us to take part in the political process and to vote.

Yours in Peace,
Pete

BULLETIN INFORMATION:

Please get bulletin announcements to Kathy Leftwich, our Administrative Assistant. E-mail is preferred ucochrist3@qwest.net or call the church office (please have announcements written out before calling) 303-499-9119.

ECHO INFORMATION:

The deadline for the December 2004/January 2005 Echo will be **Sunday, November 21**. Please get articles to Susan Carter Ruskell (ruskell@pobox.com) by 3 p.m. that day.

COMMUNITY UCC:

Minister: Rev. Pete Terpenning
Administrative Assistant: Kathy Leftwich
C.E. Coordinator: Karen Sterner-Howe
Youth Group Leader: Jamie Paul
Moderator: Sue Levy
Narrator: Cathy Russell
Scribe: Kathy Leftwich
Treasurer: Kathy Rudge
Financial Secretary: Kamilla Macar
Nominations: Vicky Graham

Upcoming Plans

The Earth Action Team ("EAT") is planning its activities for the upcoming months and looks forward to working with the Congregation to explore our relationship with the Earth. We wanted to share with you some of our current plans. We look forward to working with the Congregation on many of these plans and on ideas from you.

EAT's plans for the upcoming months are divided into three categories:

- Exploring religious issues related to the environment, including its overlap with social justice;
- Examining the environmental choices we make as a Congregation, as families and as individuals, looking for opportunities to improve; and
- Reaching out to affect issues beyond our Church community.

In the first category, we are identifying a study program to explore some of the Biblical issues associated with the Earth and our role in it. We hope to be able to start the program during the first part of next year and address questions such as what the Bible says about our place in the environment and relationship to it. For example, did God give us dominion over the Earth? What does this mean? How does our relationship with the Earth and its creatures relate to our obligation to our fellow humans? In addition to a study program, we hope to be able to work with Pete to provide additional content for services such as the Mother Earth Day from the spring.

Second, we want to take time to examine our own actions and the operations of the Church to determine how well we are doing by these standards. In particular, we hope to spend some time this fall looking at waste, recycling and energy use at the Church to determine if there are prudent ways that we can reduce our waste stream and energy use. This could include identifying opportunities for use of more recycled paper (including the providers of the bulletins for Sundays), composting and other steps. We hope to coordinate any ideas we develop with the folks working on the Church's facilities and landscaping. We may seek available grants from the County and others to assist in this effort. In addition, we hope to be able to present information and ideas for home energy savings and "green" steps to allow people to further act on their beliefs (and possibly save money during this period of high utility costs).

Third, we plan to identify one issue per month regarding which we will send a letter, comments or other support from EAT and other members of the Congregation. For example, for the next couple of months, we hope to send comments regarding (1) the Bush Administration's proposed relaxation of the Road less Rule that protects areas of our National Forests from development and (2) on-going indiscriminate and inadequately mitigated gas drilling on habitat and other lands in the West. We are hoping to be able to get speakers (including Bob Castellano, who has been taking moving photos about the costs of unmitigated drilling) to provide slide shows and talks about these and other critical issues. It is hard to keep up with the many causes that are worthy of support and we want to help filter some to let the Congregation know about a good sample of some of the most pressing issues.

We welcome any feedback, ideas and fellowship on these activities and welcome any of you who wish to help. In particular, we welcome youth involvement, because they have the greatest stake in these issues insofar as they will live with the consequences of our decisions the longest. EAT is a great way for youth to get involved with the Church and the community and should involve a number of learning opportunities.

Thoughts for the Month

Wherever you are is home
And the earth is paradise
Wherever you set your feet is holy land . . .
You don't live off it like a parasite.
You live in it, and it in you,
Or you don't survive.
And that is the only worship of God there is.
- Wilfred Pelletier and Ted Poole

CROP WALK 2004 a SUPER CUCC SUCCESS!

Thanks to our 24 Community UCC CROP Walkers and generous supporters we surpassed our donation goal of \$1700 this year and raised approximately \$2200. The last couple years we raised \$1300 so this is a big jump for us.

These funds are for Community Foodshare (24%), Church World Service (25%) and Bread for the World's lobbying efforts (1%) to alleviate hunger. Our walk started at Mountain View United Methodist church and we were blessed with another perfect walking weather afternoon. Our appreciation goes to 24 participants from our church including: Beth and Raymond Cole, Leslie Harten (thanks to Kate for help collecting donations!), David, Alena, and Emma Heath and Janet Hoaglund, Betsy and Rose Keith and Julie Leonard, Julie Kies, David, Susan, Sammy and Jenna Levy, team of Kayrene Pearson (collection) and Joyce Robertson (walker), Karen Sterner-Howe and her mother JoAnne Howe, Pete and Laura Terpenning, Erika, Jayson, Amelia and Madison Webb!! Thanks also to the people who started a new trend this year of leaving CROP walker envelopes on the table in the fellowship hall so sponsors can support walkers by seeing who needs encouragement. We hope to continue this system and lighten the "asking for money" aspect for walkers. Please watch for updates on how our Boulder CROP walk did in a future publication. Early estimates have our totals at 322 walkers collecting \$30,626 but the total on funds collected will rise as pledges get collected and turned in. Erika Webb shared an encouraging quote from the Bible which I will share in closing:

"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom will be like the noonday sun." Isaiah 58: 10

GROCERY COUPONS:

If you have not purchased these coupons in the past, please consider doing so. You pay face value for the coupon (or gift card) and the church gets 2.5% of that face value for our budget. See Carl Love to purchase coupons for most of your favorite area grocery stores, including Safeway, King Soopers, Vitamin Cottage & Wild Oats!

OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION:

UCC congregations are involved with mission in many ways. In the United Church of Christ, we affirm that, although the congregation is the fundamental unit of mission, mission is not just local. We are connected to one another, across boundaries of neighborhood, class, race, and national border.

Our Church's Wider Mission is the name we use to describe the work we do as the United Church of Christ beyond the local church—through our Conferences, national ministries, and UCC-related institutions. Our Church's Wider Mission is also the name we give to the financial support given by UCC members and congregations that makes this broader mission possible.

Congregations are central to the ability of The United Church of Christ to do mission in local communities, within the United States and internationally. As a congregation works in its own community, it is a representative of the entire denomination and embodies the UCC in that place. And when a congregation determines its giving to Our Church's Wider Mission, there is a direct impact on levels of funding for the Conference and national ministries. Every local congregation has a responsibility to be aware of opportunities for local mission and to be knowledgeable about the work underway by its own Conference and by the national ministries.

-from United Church of Christ website (www.ucc.org/ocwm/)

VENEZUELA MISSION:

"An eye-opening, life-changing, soul-searching experience" is the description one person gave of the Global Partnership mission trip to Venezuela, an outreach program of the Rocky Mountain Conference of UCC described during a mission moment at the October 24 service. Merv and Danni Bangert, members of First Congregational, related their experiences with the Evangelical Pentecostal Union of Venezuela, noting that neither of them speak Spanish but still gave and gained a great deal from the trips.

CUCC members are invited to participate in the program by donating money to support the exchanges, volunteering as a translator, being a delegate on a trip, praying for the church in Venezuela, trip delegates and the work of the conference or meeting the UEPV delegates when they visit.

Three trips are in the works for 2005: an intergenerational construction trip March 28-April 4, a youth trip in mid-July for ages 15–17 and a medical mission trip October 9–17. Individuals do not need any special talents to participate as translators and trained people are provided.

The purpose of the trips, the Bangerts said, is to provide cultural exchanges between sisters and brothers in Christ and to support one another in our spiritual journeys. Each trip is centered on a project, but the process of relationship building is the most important part. To learn more about the program, contact the Bangerts at 303-444-0350 or bangert@infionline.net.

NOTICE ANYTHING MISSING?

Do you notice gaps in the information available in the newsletter? If so, please send the information to the editor (Susan Carter Ruskell, ruskell@pobox.com). I would rather get the information multiple times and edit for the most complete information than leave out important news about what is going on at CUCC. And don't wait until close to a deadline — send it whenever you think of it. Early submissions actually make my job easier!

November 2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>Daylight Savings Ends 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship Youth group haunted house</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nov. 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Election Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship 6:30-8 Youth Group meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Veteran's Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6-9:30 p.m. food sorting at CFS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship Echo Deadline 6:30-8 Youth Group Service meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Thanks- giving!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dec. 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship 6:30-8 Youth Group meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">11</p>