

September 2005

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



## COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



### *Want a Life Changing-Soul Shifting Experience? How About A Short Term Mission Trip to Venezuela?*

#### Special points of interest:

- CUCC Online—including get your Echo by email!
- CROP WALK
- GLEANING AGAIN!
- CUCC All Church Retreat!
- Photo directory
- AUCTION OCTOBER 1st!

Global Partners is looking for intergenerational volunteers to participate in a spring construction trip to Venezuela **April 23-30, 2006**. This is your opportunity to work side by side with our Venezuelan partners on a project of their choosing. While the trip will be centered around a project, the process of relationship building is more important than what we do. The emphasis will be on cultural exchanges between

brothers and sisters in Christ. Therefore, you do not need specific skills for this trip and speaking Spanish is helpful but not a requirement.

Costs vary with each trip and are dependent upon airline fares. Usually they run between \$1200 and \$1400 per participant. Sponsoring congregations are encouraged to assist their participant in fund raising to cover the costs. Participants are encouraged to share their

experiences with their congregations upon return.

For further information contact the trip leader: Merv Bangert at 303-444-0350 or Email to: [bangert@infionline.net](mailto:bangert@infionline.net) Registration deadline is **November 1, 2005**.



## COMMUNITY UCC ONLINE

We have two online newsgroups for members and friends of the Community United Church of Christ in Boulder, CO. We are a community of spiritual seekers who believe there are many paths to God and a fellowship of diverse, thoughtful individuals seeking to follow Christ on the path of compassion, wisdom and joy. These groups are designed to give our members and friends a forum in which to discuss issues, concerns, ask for prayers, ask for help, and discuss issues related to progressive Christianity.

The newsgroups are:

[CUCCBoulder@yahoo.com](mailto:CUCCBoulder@yahoo.com) and  
[CUCCDiscuss@yahoo.com](mailto:CUCCDiscuss@yahoo.com)

Anyone interested can check them out online at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UCCBoulder/> or

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CUCCDiscuss/>.

The CUCCBoulder list is for announcements of church activities, personal requests, notices about members who need help or caring, and other CUCC general concerns.

The second list, CUCCDiscuss, is for those who wish to share announcements of outside events that would interest members, or for extended discussion. Topics might include social justice issues, discussions of books, community issues, political announcements, articles of interest, etc.



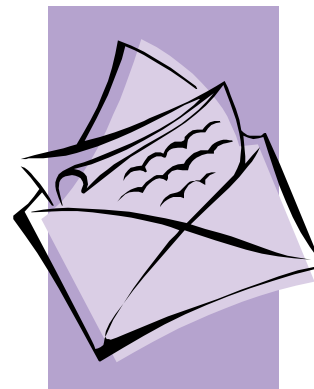
## PETE'S LETTER:

### The UCC is Growing

It seems all we hear about these days is the gradual loss of mainline churches and membership. The Stillspeaking Initiative of the United Church of Christ and our support for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender persons and the recent action by the General Synod to affirm same gender marriage has caused a few more small, conservative churches to leave the UCC. We have already lost many of our more conservative churches over the ordination of GLBT folks. However, there is another trend developing which I thought you'd like to know about. The main growth in the UCC now is in churches that are Open and Affirming. And at least among Open and Affirming churches, the UCC is no longer registering a net loss. Another interesting development is that some non-UCC churches who agree with the Open and Affirming stance of the UCC are opting to affiliate their churches with the UCC.

In the past two General Synods, 160 new churches have been recognized and celebrated. Some of these churches are "new start" churches where like minded, progressive folks around the country have come together to form new congregations and then voted to join the UCC denomination. But some of the churches are well established independent or non-UCC

churches who are opting to change their denominational status. One such church, Victory UCC in Stone Mountain, Georgia, joined our denomination four years ago and now has 5,500 members. This predominately African American church joined the UCC because of its social justice commitments, not in spite of them. Three more large churches, in three different regions with three distinct constituencies are currently negotiating to join the UCC. These three churches would bring a total of 12,000 new members to the denomination.



Naturally, it is tragic when every small or large, conservative church opts to leave our denomination, as St. Paul UCC in our conference is currently considering. Every loss diminishes the UCC. However, quite frankly, the number of new progressive people, churches and transferring churches joining the UCC are beginning to outnumber our losses. So take heart -this bodes well, for the UCC, but also for progressive Christianity in general.

Yours in Peace, Pete

### ACCESSIBLE CONGREGATIONS CAMPAIGN:

The National Organization on Disability has a campaign to encourage churches to be more welcoming and accessible to people with disabilities. The Spiritual Life & Fellowship is currently discussing this. More information on the campaign and things we can do is available at [www.nod.org/religion](http://www.nod.org/religion)



### Church Rental

#### RENT OUR CHURCH!

Our beautiful building is available for rentals to community groups or individuals at reasonable rates. We currently have open slots on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings and most Saturdays. Call the office for details, 303-499-9119.

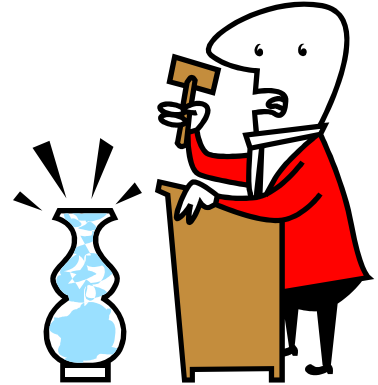
### SEMINARY INTERN AT CUCC NEXT YEAR:

We are very happy to announce Lynda Freund, a student at Iliff, will be serving our church as Student Assistant Pastor next year. Lynda is a nurse at the Inpatient Hospice in Louisville and joined our church recently. She and her husband Jim and children Darci and McLean have been attending over a year (Jim is a teacher at Horizon school and incidentally sings in our church choir!). Lynda will be assisting Pete in Pastoral duties in general: preaching, teaching classes, visiting homes and hospitals, attending meetings and helping with Sunday School and church events. She has a particular interest in helping the Spiritual Life Commission redevelop and re-energize their Caring Ministry and with planning Confirmation with Karen and Pete. We welcome Lynda, who will be beginning her work this summer and serve in this capacity until next year at this time!

**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 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!

## ***SILENT AUCTION OCTOBER 1st!***

If you've got a talent or a treasure you can share, consider donating it to our biannual Silent Auction, scheduled for **October 1 from 6:30-9 pm**. At the 2003 auction, items up for bid included services, such as a wildflower walk or horse-back riding, and items of value, such as original art prints and antiques. Talk to Beth Cole about donating or helping with preparations, 303-494-0378.




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### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:**

Though most of the children start public school this week, here at CUCC we give them a little longer to linger in the summer sunshine. August 28<sup>th</sup> will be our last summer session and then we will be in full swing!

September 4<sup>th</sup> will start our regular program. Preschoolers through fifth graders will begin a rotation on Isaac and Rebekah and their twin sons, Esau and Jacob. If you think your family gets into a bit of a twist sometimes, check out this one! Human people make very human families.

This year, rather than moving the children to different workshops, we are going to move the workshops to the children. Each age group will have their own space and the workshop leaders will come to them. We hope this will help children feel safe and comfortable in knowing where they will be each week.

New this year, starting the same week, is the sixth/seventh grade class. They, too, have their own space and will be learning based on the curriculum "Jesus and His Kingdom of Equal" which should be lots of fun. I still need adults to help lead this! It's good material, well laid out, I've gone over it all, so can add suggestions. Please talk with me if you are able to spend some time with this wonderful group of middle school kids.

Also new is our Middle School Youth Group! We will be starting on **September 23** for a once a month Friday evening (**6:30-8:30**) get together. Right now Pete, Karen, and parents of middle schoolers are planning and implementing. We are still formulating, so please let us know if this time works for you and if you want to join in the fun!

Lynda Freund, our student intern for the year, is coordinating the eighth and ninth grade confirmation class. She is developing curriculum and a team of great people to be with these young people.

And on September 4<sup>th</sup>, after worship, CE is sponsoring the first of our monthly all church potlucks! We encourage you to think simple when it comes to food to share. What we would like to accomplish with these potlucks is a time of slowing down, sharing of food, acknowledgment of the Sabbath, and celebration of community. Whether you bring a casserole to warm up in the oven, a piece of cheese and a box of crackers, or, as Pete so wonderfully does, choose a pie of the month from King Soopers, your gift to share with others is valuable. We are all very busy. Think about taking a deep breath after worship or Sunday School (we're working on calling our kids' program "Spirit Quest") and break bread with your church family.

Karen SternerHowe

**Youth Schedule.** The CUCC youth will begin regular **Sunday meetings from 6:30-8 pm**. All high school students are invited! There will be no meeting on Labor Day weekend, but a two-day retreat to Manitou Springs **Sept. 10-11**. They will leave the church at 2 pm Sept. 10 (Saturday) and return by 6 pm Sunday.

**Middle School Youth Group!** Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will soon have their own group, too! The first meeting will be **Friday, September 23 from 6:30 to 8:30** at the church. Come for food, fun, and friends. Have ideas? Bring 'em! Have questions? Ask Karen.

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refreshments! Erika Webb will gladly schedule you for either. Or you can use the sign up sheet.

\*\*\*\* **Chair set-up...** With Carl away for the summer, chair set-up is a great way to serve the church—especially Pete, who often ends up doing it. Because the chairs are heavy, strong arms and backs are greatly appreciated. Please contact Pete or David Carson to offer your muscles.

\* **Bird Feeder...** we would love to have a bird feeder outside the sanctuary where we can place seed and the remnants of the Communion Bread. If you have one or want to dedicate one, please see Pete, Anne Carson or Sue Thoele.

## ALL CHURCH RETREAT AT ESTES PARK YMCA OCTOBER 14-16

This will make our second annual Fall retreat up at the YMCA of the Rockies. Last year was such a success that we decided to make it an annual event. Hiking, fishing horseback stables and outdoor activities are great (the Rocky Mountain National Park is within hiking distance) and the YMCA also provided a bunch of other activities: the craft house, great swimming pool, roller skating, basketball, miniature golf, etc...

On Saturday, this year, there will be a morning meeting for setting future plans and directions for the church from 10-noon, but the emphasis of the retreat is fellowship and fun. There will be a morning watch service on Saturday and a church service at the outdoor chapel on Sunday morning, a campfire on Saturday night. We are renting two large cabins, both with kitchens. We will be bringing food to cook, but there is also an excellent cafeteria for anyone who would prefer to eat there. The cost per person is \$45 dollars, covering the cabin rental and fees. See Frank Ciscovsky or the Church office to sign up -or with questions.

*Fishing at the Rocky Mountain State Park.*

If anyone is interested - Pete Terpenning is organizing Fly Fishermen (and women) to go up early that weekend on Friday, Oct. 14th to fish that Friday before the retreat. We will meet for breakfast in Estes Park and then fish in the park, and head over to the retreat for dinner. We could also stay and fish on Sunday afternoon at the end of the retreat! See Pete for details.

### PLEDGE/BUDGET REMINDER:

Please remember to keep paying on the pledges made in November. While a pledge is simply that, an indication of your intention to give, if your life circumstances have changed dramatically and you no longer intend to give at the level you indicated, please let John Graham, our Financial Secretary know. We base our budget on the pledges and on an expected increase in members, however we are dropping dangerously below budget as of the end of June. If the trend continues, the Coordinating Council will have to consider where and how to cut back on spending during the last part of the year. So please, consider bringing your pledge up to date, if you haven't and, if you have an intention to give regularly through the end of the year, but did not sign a pledge card, please do so.

### SAY CHEESE! Photo Directory!!

It is that time again when we are considering preparing a new directory for the Church. We have many new members and friends and a pictorial directory is a great way to learn names and attach them to faces. The Olan Mills company take pictures and create the directory for churches at no charge. However, it does require some work on the part of the Church. We would need a volunteer to help organize the schedule, sign people in for the pictures and generally coordinate the event. Susan Carter-Ruskell can tell you what generally is involved in the effort. We would also need a volunteer willing to put together a collage of pictures from Church activities that could be used in the directory. This is a great opportunity to volunteer time to the Church that is more time limited. See Pete or Sue Levy if you are interested. If we cannot find a volunteer to coordinate this effort, we will have to limp along with our existing directory and periodic updates from the Office.

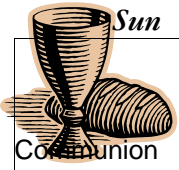


## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### GOD IS STILL SPEAKING CAMPAIGN:

We would like to participate in the national UCC media effort around the "God is Still Speaking" campaign. It is a wonderful statement of inclusiveness and is the lone progressive Christian voice out there it seems. We would like to purchase a banner that could be displayed outdoors that would identify our church with that campaign, however, with the budget looking the way it is right now, would prefer that a member step forward and pay \$120 for the banner. Would anyone like to sponsor the God is Still Speaking banner? Please see Pete or Sue Levy if you are interested. If you would like to learn more about the campaign see: [www.stillspeaking.com](http://www.stillspeaking.com)

# September/October 2005



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>4</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>8:30 meditation</p> <p>10 a.m. worship</p> <p><b>Potluck after worship</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>Labor Day</b></p>	<p>6</p> <p>7-9 pm Eco</p> <p>Justice Adult Ed</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Youth Retreat in Manitou Springs</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8:30 meditation</p> <p>10 a.m. worship</p> <p><b>Youth Retreat in Manitou Springs</b></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7-9 pm Eco</p> <p>Justice Adult Ed</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:30 am E.A.T. mtg @ Walnut Cafe</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7-9:30 am Gleaning for CFS</p> 
<p>18</p> <p>8:30 meditation</p> <p>10 a.m. worship</p> <p><b>6:30-8:30 High School Youth Group</b></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7-9 pm Biblical Studies Adult Ed</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10 am Biblical Studies Adult Ed</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30-8:30 Middle School Youth Group</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p><b>Echo Deadline</b></p> <p>8:30 meditation</p> <p>10 a.m. worship</p> <p><b>6:30-8:30 High School Youth Group</b></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7-9 pm Biblical Studies Adult Ed</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10 am Biblical Studies Adult Ed</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Oct. 1</p> <p>6:30-9pm CUCC Silent Auction Fundraiser</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>8:30 meditation</p> <p>10 a.m. worship</p> <p><b>Potluck after worship</b></p> <p>6:30-8:30 High School Youth Group</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7-9 pm Biblical Studies Adult Ed</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 am Biblical Studies Adult Ed</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>8:30 meditation</p> <p>10 a.m. worship</p> <p><b>CROP Walk</b></p> <p>6:30-8:30 High School Youth Group</p>	<p>10</p> <p><b>Columbus Day</b></p>	<p>11</p> <p>7-9 pm Biblical Studies Adult Ed</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 am Biblical Studies Adult Ed</p>	<p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>CUCC Retreat at YMCA of the Rockies Oct. 14-16</p>	<p>15</p>

## COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## EARTH ACTION TEAM NEWS

A regular meeting will be at **7:30 am on the third Thursday** of each month at Southside Walnut Café in the back part of Table Mesa Shopping Center. Join them for discussions of how we can be better stewards of our earth, locally and globally.

*Eco Products and Eco Justice* After the Church Council resolved that we would work toward making the Church more sustainable ( a Green Church) one of the changes we have made is to use Eco-Products around the building. We are making an effort to replace light bulbs with energy efficient florescent bulbs, using recycled paper products for all church mailings and dinners and replacing plastic cups at coffee hour with compostable corn based cups (they really work). We welcome any ideas anyone has on how we can improve on this effort. We are negotiating with the United Church Press that produces our bulletins to use recycled paper.

*Bicycle and Bus to Church* In light of our efforts at sustainability, the Earth Action Team is proposing a Bike and Bus to work Sunday sometime this Fall, when it is cooler but not too cold (October?) We'll keep you posted.

**A Greener CUCC.** To help us be better stewards of the earth, we have moved toward using more ecologically friendly products. There is a local company, Eco-Products, that will begin supplying our paper products, office and kitchen supplies with alternative items that are recycled, compostable and/or remanufactured. Because we are signing up with them, they will offer a 15% discount for our members! So, if you are interested in some of the products, check the website at [www.ecoproducts.com](http://www.ecoproducts.com) or call Jim at 303-449-1876.

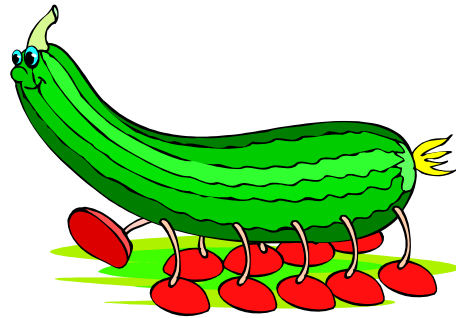


### ECHO DEADLINE:

The deadline for the September edition of the CUCC newsletter, *The Echo*, is **Sunday, September 25th**. Please get articles to Susan Carter Ruskell ([ruskell@pobox.com](mailto:ruskell@pobox.com)) no later than **3 p.m.** that day. Early submissions are appreciated.

### DON'T PICK THE SQUASH

Meadowlark Preschool has a garden on the playground with squash and pumpkins planted so the children can see how plants grow. If someone picks them, they don't see that.



### HELP!!!!

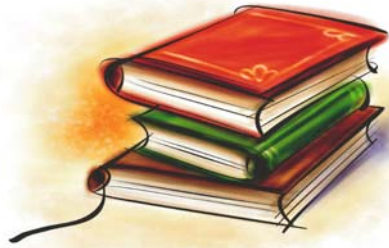
Your time and talents are critical to keep all of our activities going. Here are the current needs:

- \***Christian Education.** We rely on the adults to volunteer to lead a program for the kids one Sunday. Lead them on a nature hike, bring a craft or a game, read a story, teach them a favorite hobby or whatever. Sign up with Karen Sterner-Howe.
- \* **Refreshments, cleanup, musical meditation, etc.** The signup sheets are posted next to the kitchen have a lot of open spaces.
- \* **Community Table.** A signup sheet is also available for our monthly outreach to the homeless. We prepare and serve a meal from 4:30-6:30 pm at First Christian Church on the fourth Thursday.
- \* **Gardening.** Cathy Russell has devised a new signup sheet for the various gardens and growing spaces of our site. If you can give a few minutes each week to do a gardening chore, please sign up.

## STUFF RAISING IN SEPTEMBER!

It's time for our second annual "Stuff Raising" campaign by the Outreach Commission. Instead of asking for money for fundraising, we get a wish list for a local charity and have people pick what wish they'd like to fulfill.

(Financial contributions will not be shunned.) This year we are helping Voices for Children, which works with Court Appointed Special Advocates to help young victims of abuse. So, pick up a request, buy the stuff and bring it back to church through September. At the end of the month, we'll have a worship service to dedicate the stuff, then send it to Voices for Children. Last year's Stuff Raising was incredible--let's make this year even better!



### WISH LIST

- Table Captains for the Sept. 13 Light of Hope Luncheon  
Invite seven friends or colleagues to attend this free event and learn more about the VFC CASA program while enjoying lunch at the Millennium. There is no charge; guests will be asked to make a multi-year pledge to VFC but are under no obligation to do so. Call Marsha if interested at 303-440-7059.

- Case(s) of 8 ½ x 11 bright white copy paper @ approx. \$34
- #82 and #83 ink cartridges for Lexmark printer @ approx. \$33-\$40
- Books for the CASA resource library:

*Ghosts From the Nursery* by Robin Karr-Morse and Meredith S. Wiley (2 copies)

*Save the Family, Save the Child* by Vincent J. Fontana, M.D.

*A Fine Young Man* by Michael Gurian, Ph.D

*Get Out of My Life – But First Can You Drive Me and Cheryl to the Mall* by Anthony Wolf

*Too Much, Too Early, Too Little, Too Late* by Cassie Bevan

*Magical Child* by Joseph Pearce Quinton (or Clinton)

*How Long Does It Hurt* by Cynthia L. Mather, Kristina E. Debye

*Driven to Distraction* by Edward M. Hallowell, John J. Ratey

*How to Talk so Your Kids Will Listen and Listen So Your Kids Will*

*talk* by Adele Faber, Elaine Mazlish

*The Lost Children of Wilder* by Nina Bernstein

*Families in Perpetual Crisis* by Richard Kagan and Shirley Schlosberg

*Sibling Abuse* by Vernon Wiehe

*Juvenile Sex Offending* by Gail Ryan and Sandy Lam

*Real Boys* by William Pollack

*Raising Cain* by Richard Delaney

*Living With A Parent Who Drinks Too Much* by Judith Saxas

*Nine Candles* by Maria Testas

*Children of Incarcerated Parents* by Katherine Gabel and Denise Johnston

*Yes, Your Teen is Crazy* by Michael Bradley

*Parenting Your Out of Control Teenager* by Scott Sells

*Like Family: Growing Up in Other People's Houses* by Paula McClain

*The Bipolar Disorder Survival Guide* by David Miklowitz

*Special Siblings* by Mary McCue

- Video for the CASA Resource Library "*Lo Hago por Su Bien*" (*I'm Only Doing This for Your Own Good*) - \$84.95 - order at [www.nurturingparenting.com](http://www.nurturingparenting.com)

- One issue of newsletter:

Bulk mail prep @ \$350

Printing @ approx \$1,200

Postage @ approx \$550

- Gift cards from Costco, King Soopers, Whole Foods, Wild Oats which can be used to buy food for CASA meetings and training.

- External USB 2.0 hard drive 200 Gigabyte or larger (\$150-200)

- DVD burner for a PC (internal or USB external)

- DVD R- disks

- Box(es) of 9 x 12 white catalog envelopes for Growing Your Child @ \$22

- Five pack of Polaroid film, used by CASAs to photograph kids for the judge and GAL @ \$40

- Serving pieces to use during training and special events: large spoons; spatulas; tongs

- Large ice bucket or tub

- Paring knives, bread knives

- New car seats (for all ages) and booster seats, with instructions @ approx. \$60

- Provide CASA services to one child victim for one year @ \$1,185

- Provide training for one CASA volunteer @ \$564

## INNER CITY PARISH YOUTH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM:

The Inner City Parish, an ecumenical ministry on the West Side of Denver is looking for adults who would be willing to become partners to children and youth. Partners are sort of like big brothers or sisters who hang out with the young people for fun and adventure. Partners connect with young people for support, attention, a listening ear. Adults who have about 3 hours a week to spend with a young person will be matched by the parish with one of the kids on the waiting list. See Pete for information.

## CROP WALK 2005:

Crop walk this year is on **Sunday, October 9th** in the afternoon. CROP is an annual walk-a thon for world hunger that raises money for Church World Service and for our local Community Food Share. Walkers get pledgers to sponsor their walk (either 6.2 -10k or 2 miles courses). Our church won the Golden Tennis Shoe award last year for the most consecutive years of participation by a small church. Janet Hoaglund has been our church recruiter for quite a few years now and she would welcome an co-recruiter to work with her this year in organizing the walkers from our church. The first recruiter meeting is **Thursday, Sept. 8th**.