



## Changing Steps in Charity Ministries

Revs Jim Price and Clare Twomey co-led a 6-week book study, *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How to Reverse It)* authored by Robert D. Lupton.

Vista Grande Community Church has promoted mission giving every month for almost two decades. We have thoughtfully selected mission opportunities serving the local community as well as national and global agencies. Sometimes, we would collect money and send it off. Other times, we would collect 'in kind' goods to assist in a specific appeal. And occasionally, we participated in hands on ministry.

This book, brought a new insight to mission activity. We discussed questions such as, "Who is benefitting from our activity?" "Are we creating a welfare economy that deprives people of pride?" "Why doesn't top down charity work?" "What does Mercy and Justice look like?"

After some meaningful discussion, we sought how we could maximize the effectiveness of our missions while building relationships with our mission partners. This is a long term endeavor.

*We need to examine, evaluate, research, strategize, explore, and identify the following steps to Charity Ministries, and be ready to share our discoveries with the Mission Team this fall.*

### Course Changing Steps to Charity Ministries

1. Examine how to support/strengthen ministry to the poor.
2. Evaluate and identify strengths and weaknesses of current programs.
3. Research how other ministries have increased their effectiveness.
4. Strategize ways to be personal and relational.
5. Explore options, new paradigms to expand current ministries.
6. Identify new leadership within our church.
7. Open the door to change.

Faithfully submitted by Donna Bristow

#### Inside this issue:

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| General Information       | 2    |
| Membership                | 3    |
| Faith Formation           | 4    |
| Mission                   | 5-6  |
| Miscellaneous             | 6    |
| La Foret - Festival Month | 7    |
| Missions of the Month     | back |

#### Special points of interest:

- Adult education 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Children's Faith Formation 10:00 a.m.

## 2016 Annual Meeting



**The 2016 Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City** The theme is Blooming in the Desert. All clergy, lay-leaders, delegates, RMC UCC members, and their families are invited to Annual Meeting 2016! The meeting will take place **June 9-12** at the University of Utah in beautiful Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting will be hosted by our be-loved **Intermountain Association**. We developed the new Vision and Frame-work in 2014; in 2015, we planted Mission Seed groups to begin our important work for the future. In 2016, we are eager to radically connect with one another and continue our work in the name of the Spirit. Most importantly, we want to emphasize that Annual Meeting isn't just for delegates; it's for anyone and everyone interested in the good work and well-being of the Rocky Mountain Conference. We can't wait to see what the future holds, but we can't be at our best without the input, wisdom, and presence of our people. Our people decide the mission of the Conference, not the other way around!

Registration is open until May 20. Visit the website at [www.rmucc.org](http://www.rmucc.org).

Vista Grande Community UCC is an Open and Affirming Church.

"We, the congregation of Vista Grande Community Church United Church of Christ in Colorado Springs, CO declare ourselves to be Open and Affirming. We strive to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender and its expression, marital status, family make-up, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural identity or background, and educational and socio-economic status. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation's life in Christ.

**"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."**

### Pastor's Hours

Pastor Clare is in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The hours are flexible.

If you'd like to meet with Clare, please call her at **719-351-0168**.

### Our Staff

Pastor—Rev Clare Twomey

Music Director—Dixie Shipp-Napier

Office Administrator—Donna Bristow

Nursery Attendant—Dena Morris

### 2016 Steering Committee consists of

Moderator – Erin Elkaim; Assistant Moderator – Jacque Bechthold-Blueitt; Treasurer – Nancy Morlock-Hollins; Financial Secretary – Jeannie Harrington; Clerk – Dawn Bechthold-Blueitt; Members-at-Large – Phil Puterbaugh and Deborah Tinsley

If you are interested in what gets discussed or planned at these meetings, read the minutes which are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Minutes are posted monthly. Also, you'll find the Income/Expense report, too.

## Membership

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### Sandra Gates

Sandra has two children. Her son and his wife live in Denver and her daughter lives with her. She spent over 20 years working as a nurse before she returned to school and became a counselor. She has spent the last five years working at Springs Ranch Elementary as a school counselor. Sandra enjoys line dancing, hiking, and spending time with family and friends. She joined Vista Grande so she could belong to a caring group of people and connect with people in service and fellowship. She resides at 5340 Topaz Dr (719-237-3149)

### Kathryn Romberg

Kathryn teaches art in District #11. Her daughter studies engineering at CU Boulder. Her husband works in the service department at Voelker research. Kathryn's major art area is photography and she also plays violin. She joined the church because her values matched the congregation's. She looks forward to a long and meaningful relationship with Vista Grande. She resides at 5286 Balsam St. (719-268-0764)

### Congratulations to the following graduates:

Hannah Poffenberger-Twomey, Rev Clare's daughter, graduates from Manitou Springs High School on May 22. She will be attending the University of Hawaii in East Asian studies.

Rachel Poffenberger-Twomey, Rev Clare's daughter, graduates from Home School Studies. She is exploring local educational opportunities in art.

Lexy Hesselberg, Rev. Diane & Nathan Martin's granddaughter, is graduating from Woodland Park High School on May 20. Lexy loves the food service industry and is considering her options for training and certification.

Dena Morris, our nursery provider, is graduating May 31 from Paul Mitchell The School Colorado Springs.

Robin Tsamo graduated from Colorado Technical Institute with a Bachelors in Health Care Management; she is the 'daughter' of John and Deborah Tinsley, at least for the last couple years!

Kevin Gardner graduated April 30<sup>th</sup> from Ft Lewis College with a B.A. Sociology with emphasis on gender studies. We have watched Kevin grow and mature since his birth in 1994.

Trish King graduates from Liberty University with a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies in May 2016.

Dawn Bechthold-Blueitt graduates from the American College of Education with a Master's degree in Curriculum & Instruction w/an emphasis in Digital Learning.



## Faith Formation for Kids and Adults

### Children's Faith Formation

A Joyful Path – a spiritual curriculum for young hearts and minds. Kids' Faith Formation Leaders this season include:..

May—Jennifer Strombeck and August—Faye Gallegos

Lesson 15: Brother Wolf – Being an Instrument for Blessing

Lesson 16: Touching the Moon—Practicing Humility

Lesson 17: The Greedy Gambler—Non-Greed

Lesson 18: Nothing Fancy—What is Success?



The lessons are designed with flexibility. They are drawn from qualities that are important to develop in our own lives as well as to nurture in our children. Therefore, there is no date assigned to any particular lesson. It may take 1 – 3 sessions for any lesson.

### Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation

For the months of May and June, Percolate will be studying Robin Meyers' book Saving the Jesus from the Church - How to Stop Worshiping Christ and Start Following Jesus. Robin Meyers is a UCC Oklahoman pastor whose book challenges us to live out our faith in service to others. He maintains that following Jesus is "much more fulfilling and transformative" than praising and worshiping Christ. And that in taking this road we seek "not to save our souls, but to restore them." As always, all are welcome, as well as all ideas at Percolate. We meet at around 8:30 on Sunday mornings. And the coffee will be on!



### May Birthdays

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 14 | Randy Wright       |
| 19 | Allyra Quarles     |
| 19 | Kelli Peck         |
| 21 | Kevin Gardner      |
| 22 | Carol Wisely       |
| 23 | June Bartyzel      |
| 27 | Justin Hollins     |
| 28 | Jennifer Strombeck |
| 28 | Theo Pope          |
| 30 | Dick Burbank       |

### May Anniversaries

|        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| May 6  | Jan Kolm and Marcie Wegner |
| May 22 | Max and Maurine Hale       |
| May 22 | Joshua and Carrie Barnes   |
| May 29 | Dave and Donna Bristow     |

## Mission of the Month for May

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Mission of the Month for May  
Inside/Out Youth Services

We have a safe and  
accepting space.

### History:

Inside/Out Youth Services is a private 501c3 non-profit organization in Colorado Springs serving the Pikes Peak Region. The mission was established in 1990 as a program of the El Paso County Department of Health and Environment, became a private non-profit in 1997 under the name Community Council for Adolescent Development, and changed its name to Inside/Out Youth Services in 2002.

We serve youth ages 13 to 22 with programs including support and discussion groups, supervised drop-in recreation center, community outings, leadership development opportunities, sexual health education, suicide prevention education, career and financial skills building, counseling referrals, and a food pantry and clothing closet. An offering will be received on Sunday, May 22.

### Who We Are:

Inside/Out Youth Services is the only non-profit organization that serves lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning youth between 13-22 years old in El Paso County. We have been doing this work since 1990. Inside we have a safe and accepting space for our youth to freely express themselves, build their self-reliance, and connect to trusted adults for support and advocacy. Out in the community we advance understanding and equality by providing training to teachers, counselors and even bus drivers on how to make all students safe.

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### Thank you for your generous gifts:

January Mission—Family Promise \$562 plus we provided a meal for the families.

February Mission—Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region \$475 plus treats and toys .

March Mission—One Great Hour of Sharing \$898

April Mission—Los Pobres \$750.25 plus health care gifts for the farm workers.

## Mission of the Month for June

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### Strengthen the Church: Invest in the Vision

This is the vision of the Strengthen the Church offering.... Growing churches of extravagant welcome seeking to transform lives!

Strengthen the Church is one of the “Five for Five” of the United Church of Christ’s mission offerings that Vista Grande Community UCC supports. Your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the Good News that “God is still speaking.”

Your offerings are directed to your church’s Conference, Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry\* for these purposes.

Please take a look at the Mission Bulletin Board in the downstairs gathering room for the Invest in the Vision Poster.

#### \*About Stillspeaking:

Stillspeaking is the shorter form of “God is still speaking,” a campaign by the United Church of Christ to remind us that God still has a lot more to say. Since 2004, Stillspeaking has worked with thousands of UCC churches and individuals across the country to extend an extravagant welcome to all – because no matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here.

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#### Cleaning Schedule

April 30 and May 7 – Phil and Carol Puterbaugh

May 14 and 21 – Donna and Dave Bristow

May 28 and June 4 – Jackie and Jerry Moore

June 11 and June 18 – Carolyn and Lyn Gunning

June 25 and July 2 – Carol and Richard Burbank



#### Women’s Fellowship

Friday May 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast at Mountain

Shadows Restaurant

## The Wider Church

### May is 'FESTIVAL MONTH!'

May is the month that La Foret hosts an exciting variety of wonderful events that are open to the public. These include **the Spin Summit**, **Beltania** and **MeadowGrass**. La Foret's mission is to *provide sanctuary for all to consider the transcendent issues of life*, and we open our space to these groups and YOU.

So come visit us at La Foret Conference and Retreat Center. You can still get tickets to all of the May festivals. Just follow the links below and plan to join in the festivities with music, dancing, food and fun! Don't miss out!

Wow! This is a weekend sure to impress! With spin workshops and amazing demonstrations, this weekend includes hoopers, poi spinners, juggling, dancing, acrobatics, and music. You'll be dazzled by the talent, and inspired to do more in these amazing hobbies! Be part of the energy as we celebrate the sixth year of the Spin Summit!

**The Spin Summit**  
May 12th - 15th



### **Beltania Pagan Celebration Festival**

May 19th - 22nd



Living Earth's Beltania is a 4-day celebration of May Day, a time to rejoice in *life* with ritual, song, dance, and community events. This family-friendly festival is open to the public, and is best suited for those who hold earth-honoring beliefs, practices and spirituality. This festival will be life-enriching and full of soul-nourishing experiences. Join us at La Foret for the 'merry-making' and spiritual expression!

For the eighth year now, Rocky Mountain Highway celebrates original music and live performance at La Foret. This annual event includes music workshops, outdoor vendors and outstanding performances by national, regional and local artists. This music festival highlights local musicians in the Pikes Peak Region, and MeadowGrass is an annual public event to help the music community thrive. This is one of Colorado's most eclectic music festivals, and voted "Best Music Festival" by the Colorado Springs Independent.

**MeadowGrass Music Festival**  
May 27th - 30th



# MAY 2016

|           | Sun                          | Mon                       | Tue | Wed                                                       | Thu | Fri                                                                                                                       | Sat                                        |
|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  | Sunday Schedule<br>Communion | 2<br>5 pm<br>Steering Mtg | 3   | 4<br>9:30 am Prayer Shawl<br>6:30 pm Choir                | 5   | 6                                                                                                                         | 7                                          |
| <b>8</b>  | Sunday Schedule              | 9                         | 10  | 11<br>6:30 pm Choir                                       | 12  | 13<br>8:30 am<br>Women's<br>Fellowship<br>(off site)                                                                      | 14<br>9 am—1:30 pm<br>Lay Leaders Workshop |
| <b>15</b> | Sunday Schedule<br>Pentecost | 16                        | 17  | 18<br>9:30 am Prayer Shawl<br>6:30 pm Choir               | 19  | 20                                                                                                                        | 21<br>9 am—Noon<br>Healthy Back Seminar    |
| <b>22</b> | Sunday Schedule              | 23                        | 24  | 25<br>6:30 pm Choir                                       | 26  | 27                                                                                                                        | 28                                         |
| <b>29</b> | Sunday Schedule              | 30<br>                    | 31  | <b>Mission of the Month<br/>Inside/Out Youth Services</b> |     | 8:30 am Adult Faith Formation<br>10 am Worship with FF for Kids<br>11:15 am Fellowship<br>11:45 am Korean Worship Service |                                            |



**VISTA GRANDE COMMUNITY  
CHURCH**

United Church of Christ

Location: 5460 N Union Blvd  
Po Box 26030  
Colorado Springs, CO 80936  
719-599-3057  
www.vgcc.org

*Pastor Clare Twomey*

**COME, GROW WITH US**

We are a caring church for thinking people, an inclusive community of faith, united in our common quest to know God, inspired by the spirit of Jesus, and committed to sharing that love in ways that will make a difference in the world.

We are the Open and Affirming (ONA) Church in Northeast Colorado Springs.

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**Annual Mission Plan for 2016**

January – Family Promise; **Donna Bristow**, coordinator

February – Pikes Peak Humane Society; **Deborah Tinsley**, coordinator

March – One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS); **Jerry Moore**, coordinator

April – Los Pobres; **Faye Gallegos**, coordinator

May – Inside Out Youth Services; **Trish King**, coordinator

June – Strengthen the Church; **Deborah Tinsley**, coordinator

July – Mercy's Gate; **Jackie Moore**, coordinator

(Collect school supplies and hygiene products for the health fair.)

August – Cheyenne Village; **Judy Druelinger** coordinator

September – Neighbors in Need (NIN); **Dave Bristow** coordinator

October – Literacy on the Go, **Nancy Morlock-Hollins** coordinator

Nov – One Nation Walking Together; **Judy and Mel Druelinger** coordinators

Dec –The Christmas Fund; **VGCC Clergy**