



The Vista Views

Wow. I mean, WOW! *By Clare Twomey*

This community is on the move! I mean that both geographically and “ministerially”. I want to take this opportunity to bring everyone up to speed on what all is going on with regard to our move and our mission.

In order to identify who we are and where we are going, I assembled a Vision Team whose job it is to research our options for moving to a new location. Before we can move there are some questions that have to be explored: What are our physical needs? What are our fiscal challenges? What are our goals as an active gospel driven church? How do we want to do missions? And what missions do we want to do? Do we want to be stagnant or innovative? Do we want to fly solo or in collaboration with other churches and/or agencies? And how do we make all of these decisions and still maintain our UCC identity? These questions inform and direct all of our conversations.

We have been meeting twice a month beginning on April 4. Happening almost simultaneously, our realtor sent us some info on a few properties that were on the market. One of these properties is the one currently occupied by High Plains Unitarian Universalist Church. While two of us were checking out this property, I started to talk with the pastor, Dana Lightsley, and we discovered that we have a lot in common in terms of how our congregations would like to be in this world. Additionally, after a few more conversations we discover that both churches would benefit from a collaborative relationship financially, as well as from a values perspective and from a desire to be a positive force in our geographic area. After a few conversations, and presenting the idea of a collaborative relationship to our respective Vision groups, we decided to bring the groups together and discuss what all of this could mean. There was an immediate connection between both groups and an overall excitement as to what we could be together. After our second meeting as a group, all representatives of our churches determined that we would indeed like to pursue this possibility and presented to our respective congregations on June 5.

(continued on page 3.)

Inside this issue:

General Information	2
Pastor’s Article Continued	3
Faith Formation	4
Mission	5
Membership	6
The Wider Church	7
List of Upcoming Activities	7

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 Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Meeting



Blooming in the Desert ... What an amazing Annual Meeting!

The 42nd Annual Meeting was held at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. This year, the entire meeting was called to order on Thursday and adjourned on Sunday. The Design Team framed the entire gathering as worship. Business was interspersed throughout the agenda as *Administry*. (Ad is the prefix meaning toward and ministry is what we do.)

The gathering began on Thursday June 9 with a welcoming reception. On Friday, June 10, 2016, the voting membership of the Rocky Mountain Conference elected the Rev. Sue Artt as its Settled Conference Minister. (Read more on page 7). The National Setting offered us words of wisdom and support.

We sang. We prayed. We covenanted. We voted.
We participated in generative conversations; Conferring Our Future Together by Embracing Our Story, Empowering Our Vision: From the Inside Out, Making Our Conference Ministry Count, and Committing it Real Today and Tomorrow.
We participated in Mission Madness by promoting the Full Communion between the UCC and UC Canada. We renewed friendships. We made new friends. We partied.

We celebrated accomplishments and milestones.
We Bloomed in the Desert!

Plan to continue to empower the vision at the 43rd Annual Meeting on June 8-11, 2017.
Location—TBD

(from your 2016 delegates; Dave and Donna Bristow)

“We have listened to the Spirit, ventured into bold new dreams and visions and connected in faithful and fruitful ways SO THAT we bloom, inspire, challenge and empower one another to change the world in the love of the Holy!!?”
Rebecca Kemper Poos
(outgoing moderator)

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.

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—Vacant

Office Administrator—Donna Bristow

Nursery Attendant—Vacant

Wow. I mean, WOW! (continued from page 1.)

This Vision Group also has other very important roles: to be available to the congregation for questions, listen to ideas and /or concerns, disseminate information; and anything else we can come up with along the way! This is a very exciting and fluid process. As such, we have engaged the services of an executive coach from the Center for Progressive Renewal to help us move through this process. This organization has a very successful relationship with the UCC and our Conference Minister sits on their advisory board.

I have no doubt that this leaves you with more questions than answers. As many of you know, there will be a meeting on June 26th after worship to discuss and answer all questions and concerns that you may have. It is our intention to remain transparent throughout this whole process.

These are exciting times for sure! Please know that we are being diligent in our search for a new home and a well-defined identity. And you can ask anything, at any time, about this adventure! More to come...

On Sunday May 15, the Vision Group was introduced and the following statement and purpose presented.

Vision Statement:

Our vision is to enhance and expand our partnership with the community through our: commitment to effective missions; progressive biblical theology; open and affirming status; and genuine gospel directed action so as to authentically live into our relationship with our Beloved.

Vision Group: Purpose and Responsibilities

The vision group's responsibilities include assisting the Pastor and Steering Committee in the search for an appropriate worship space and church home based on the working vision statement offered above. Each member has committed him/herself to be available to those who wish to offer suggestions, share concerns or ideas or to answer questions members might have. It is the intention of this group to be transparent in this process and to offer information to the congregation as it becomes available.

Vision Team:

Jim Price, Jeannie Harrington, Kathy Romberg, Lyn Gunning, Carol Burbank, Deborah Tinsley, Erin Elkaim (liaison with Steering Committee)

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.

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:..

August—Jan Morgan and October—Jennifer Strombeck

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!



PLAN AHEAD!



Outdoor Worship and Picnic – Sunday August 28

Sunday, August 28 at 10:30 a.m. at Fox Run Park—Pavilion 3. (when you enter the park you veer to the right for pavilions 1, 2, 3)

For the picnic lunch ... bring your own meat to grill; a dish to pass; outdoor games; and extra picnic chairs.

This gathering will take the place of worship at Vista Grande. If you can't attend, we'll see you the next week at Vista Grande.

Mission of the Month for June and July

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.

Following the book study, *Toxic Charity* by Robert D. Lupton, Vista Grande is forming a new task force to establish how we do mission. This will be formed over the next several months so that we are in gear for the 2017 mission year. As our scheduled July mission has had some transitional changes, Vista Grande has decided to experience the path the Spirit will lead us.

Thank you for your generous gifts:

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

May Mission—Inside/Out
\$530.90 plus in kind gifts

WORSHIP

June 19 – Rev Clare preaching

June 26 – Rev Clare preaching

July 27 – Rev Clare preaching

July 3 – Rev Clare preaching

July 10 – Joint worship with HPCUU
at High Plains

July 17 – Crystal Karr preaching

July 24 - Crystal Karr preaching

July 31 - Rev Clare preaching



Membership

June Birthdays

- 4 Joanie King
- 8 Zelda Pope
- 10 Lauren Chisman
- 19 Lyn Gunning
- 23 Julia Hollins
- 25 Cindy Solomon-Klebba
- 29 Curly Solomon-Klebba



Kamryn Hollins was born on June 2, 2016 in Las Vegas, NV.

Proud parents are Justin and Kelsie Hollins and Grandparents are Nancy and Bob.



July Birthdays

- 7 Bob Hollins
- 7 Marcie Wegner
- 7 Shawn Jones
- 15 Judy Druelinger
- 15 Jerry Moore
- 15 Margaret Natelli
- 25 Faye Gallegos
- 30 Deborah Tinsley

June and July Anniversaries

- June 3 Richard and Joanie King
- June 11 Bob and Nancy Hollins
- June 16 Clare Twomey and Liz Bliss
- June 19 Jerry and Jackie Moore
- June 26 Russ and Cara Iverson

- July 3 Maggie and Ron Forth
- July 18 Jim and Bev Price
- July 26 Tammie Davis
and Ruth Eastwood
- July 28 Chase and Melissa Bongirno

Cleaning Schedule

June 25 and July 2 – Carol and Richard Burbank

July 9 and 16 – Carol and Phil Puterbaugh

July 23 and 30 – Donna and Dave Bristow

Aug 6 and 13 – Jackie and Jerry Moore



The Wider Church

Rev. Sue Artt Voted as Conference Minister

On Friday, June 10, 2016, the voting membership of the Rocky Mountain Conference elected the Rev. Sue Artt as their Settled Conference Minister. The vote took place at our Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. After the vote, Rev. Dr. Gayle Engel of the National Setting led us in a laying of hands on our newly elected Conference Minister.

In her time with the Conference, Sue has shown inspirational leadership, crisis management, and utmost care for local churches and Associations. She has overseen a successful and smooth staff transition, pushed for innovation, and energized fellow Conference leadership. In doing so, she has worked tirelessly and passionately to bring our Vision Framework to life.

Together, we as a Conference are extraordinarily excited about our future, and recognize that we are living in a time of great transformation in the church and in the world. In this time of re-alized discernment, we pray that the Spirit will shepherd us as we build the church of the future together. Amen.

*The Board of Directors and Search Committee cordially invite you to attend
The Installation of The Reverend Sue Artt
as Conference Minister of the Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC.*

*The Installation will take place **Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 2 p.m.**
at the Foot of Ponderosa Lodge at La Foret in Black Forest, CO.*

Reception to Follow!

Activities to Include on your Calendars

June 26, immediately following the worship service, a conversational meeting

July 3 – Fellowship BBQ lunch with High Plains UU at its location.

July 10 – Joint worship with High Plains Unitarian Church and Pride Parade at 1825 Dominion Way

August 20 at 2 p.m. – The Installation of the Rev Sue Artt at La Foret

August 28 at 10:30 a.m. - Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Fox Run Park (Pavilion 3)

September 10 – Women’s Retreat at Garden of the Gods Trading Post Conference Room





**VISTA GRANDE COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

United Church of Christ

Location: 5460 N Union Blvd
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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.

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; **Back to School Fair—Cancelled**
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**