

The Vista Views

“But Wait, There’s More, And More, And More!”

By Clare Twomey

Last month I filled you all in on the wonderful happenings we are experiencing in this place we call home. The focus was around the Vision Group and its responsibilities and accomplishments. And this month, we get to reflect back on a couple of fun and exciting opportunities in which many of you participated: Pot Luck with the members of High Plains in which 35 of our congregation attended; our congregational conversation in June regarding our future plans; and our joint worship and Pride Day March, also with some of the folks from High Plains. These were wonderful opportunities to meet new folks and form new relationships with another community of faith. And there will no doubt be more chances in our immediate future.

However, as promised, we still need to focus on who we are as a community of faith and as members of the United Church of Christ. Our identity remains paramount in all our future endeavors and as such, we need to continue to structure our community with regard to our call and our mission. In the past 6 weeks you have heard a shout out, asking you to become active participants in the life of our church by signing up for Task Force groups. The purpose of these groups is multifaceted. Participating in these groups firms up our commitment to the life of our congregation with the hope of long term sustainability. In other words, the success and life expectancy of this or any congregation is determined by the involvement of its members. We are in this, our future, together!

I am excited to share that currently we have 20 members of our congregation who serve on one of the Task Forces, our Steering Committee, and our Vision Group. Eight of these folks participate in more than one group. While 20 is certainly a large number, we have more than 20 who are not involved.

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Outdoor Worship and Picnic – Sunday August 28

Sunday, August 28 at 10:30 a.m. at Fox Run Park—Pavilion 3.

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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



The Rocky Mountain Conference United Church of Christ,
together with the Metropolitan Denver Association UCC
and in celebration with
Intermountain, Platte Valley, Southeastern and Western Associations
cordially invite you to

A Service of Worship, Celebration and Installation for
Reverend Susan Emerson Artt

as she begins her ministry as Conference Minister
of the Rocky Mountain Conference United Church of Christ.
Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 2:00 pm

We will gather just beyond the porch on the meadow side of Ponderosa Lodge La Foret
Conference and Retreat Center **6145 Shoup Road, Black Forest, Colorado**

*UCC General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, and others representing
the wider church, will join us for this celebration.*

A Reception will follow!

Wear bright colors!

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.

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.

Our Staff

Pastor—Rev Clare Twomey

Music Director—Vacant

Office Administrator—Donna Bristow

Nursery Attendant—Dani Diaz

As we prepare to go forward, our Vision Group will continue to function as an active liaison between both churches, keeping you all up to date on the goings on, etc. I will be participating in a Leadership Workshop in August in Atlanta so as to better assist us on this journey, as well as training our Task Forces and attending monthly and bi-monthly meetings. Our grant writers are finishing up a proposal to the UCC for financial assistance in our going forward as a Renewal Church. The Steering Committee will continue to function as your representatives in terms of making immediate decisions regarding the life of this church. And our newly formed Task Forces will be trained to function as proactive groups contributing to the structure and function of congregation. My question to you is this: how will you continue to participate in the life of our congregation so that we can be successful in living into our identity as a faith-filled and just representation of God’s work on earth??



Women’s Retreat – Saturday September 10

Women’s Wisdom

A Women’s Retreat

This year’s women’s retreat will focus on women’s wisdom. It will be held on September 10th between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm. Our facilitator will be our own Rev. Clare Twomey. This will give all of us a chance to know each other better in a more in depth and personal way. It will be held at the Garden of the Gods Conference Center which is located at 324 Beckers Lane, Manitou, CO on the

lower level of the Garden of the Gods Trading Post. We will order our lunch off the café’s menu and this will allow for meeting individual preferences and needs. There will be a sign-up sheet for lunch ahead of time to allow us to decide early, and this will help the kitchen staff to have things ready for us on our schedule. This is included in the \$35.00 registration fee.

Ladies, please bring something that represents a piece of wisdom that was passed on to you by a woman in your life that you feel comfortable sharing with the group. For example, a poem, words of wisdom, a quote, a story, etc.

This year’s retreat will allow us to experience a time of personal re-creation, fellowship and fun. All women of our church and community are welcome. Please join us and feel free to bring a friend.

Vista Grande’s Vision Statement developed by The Vision Team.

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.

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

September – Nancy and Bob Hollins

October – Jennifer Strombeck

November

December

Lesson 18: Nothing Fancy—What is Success?

Lesson 19: Nineteen Dangerous Trips—Willpower

Lesson 20 : Courageous Corrie—Courage

Lesson 21: Wild Mountain John—Filling Our Minds with Goodness

Lesson 22: Monica's Complicated Quit—Opening our Hearts in Prayer



Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation

(Summer Through Early Fall)

In light of Vista Grande's commitment to peace and justice, Percolate is studying Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow - Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. The book is very well researched and details how our system of criminal justice perpetuates discrimination of the poor and is responsible for the continuation of a racial caste system in the United States. Truly "the Greatest Sin is Indifference" and this book opens our eyes and is for us a call to action. As always, the coffee's brewing by about 8:30 on Sunday morning. All are welcome!



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 August and September

August Mission of the Month is Cheyenne Village

Cheyenne Village is a non-profit organization in Colorado Springs that serves the adult mentally challenged people of the Colorado Springs community. These people are often completely invisible to society as a whole. Their needs are overlooked, their existence may even be denied. Services for these people and organizations is often the first place that financial cuts are made. Many need a great deal of help and supervision to live full lives.

Cheyenne Village offers hope to the individuals living under their guidance and care and to the families that love these individuals. It offers a wide variety of housing options, supervision and support to the mentally challenged people that do exist in the Colorado Springs community. Guidance, job training, shopping, money management, medication administration, meal preparation, activities, and the list goes on.

Our gifts will help support this under-appreciated community organization and in many cases unknown service that exists in our community.

MISSIONS

...at home and around the world

One of our 5 for 5 missions! Mission of the Month for September

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

Most UCC congregations will receive the NIN offering on **October 2, 2016** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance.

Membership

August Birthdays

- 1 Carol Burbank
- 3 Deona Quarles
- 5 Trish Knig
- 7 Kathryn Romberg
- 20 Judy Gibson
- 20 Gabriel Martin
- 23 Phil Puterbaugh
- 24 Grayson Barnes
- 25 Mary Ellen Kohlhagen
- 27 Sebastian Bongirno
- 27 Clare Twomey
- 28 Jimmy Collins
- 30 Jacque Bechthold-Blueitt

August Anniversaries

- 2 Crystal and Joel Karr
- 17 Kathy Romberg
- 19 Brenda and Jimmy Collins
- 24 Eduardo Martin & Melissa Webster
- 29 Mel and Judy Druelinger

Esmée Hope Bristow was born on July 23, 2016 in Houston, TX.

Proud parents are Chris Bristow and Céline Poirier and the proud grandparents are Donna and Dave Bristow.



September Birthdays

- 1 Roberta Povelite
- 3 Crystal Karr
- 9 Aniya Quarles
- 13 Ron Forth
- 17 Jackie Moore
- 18 Melissa Webster
- 22 Max Hale
- 26 Tammie Davis



Cleaning Schedule

Aug 6 and 13 – Jackie and Jerry Moore

Aug 20 and 27 – Carolyn and Lyn Gunning

Sep 3 and Sep 10 – Carol and Richard Burbank

Sep 17 and 24 – Carol and Phil Puterbaugh

Oct 1 and Oct 8 – Donna and Dave Bristow



September Anniversaries

- Sept 1 John and Deborah Tinsley
- Sept. 3 Lyn and Carolyn Gunning
- Sept. 20 Charlie and Jan Morgan
- Sept. 23 Cindy and Curly Solomon-Klebba
- Sept 23 Justin and Kelsie Hollins

Conference on the Psycho/Social/Spiritual Dimensions of Aging: Caring for the Invisible Majority

Sponsored by the Southeastern Association-UCC

September 17, 2016 ~8:30 am-3 pm at Broadmoor Community Church, 315 Lake Ave.

Keynote Speakers:

The Psycho/Social/Spiritual Dimensions of Aging

Sara Honn Qualls, PhD, Director, Aging and Gerontology Centers, UCCS

Elder Abuse and Mandatory Reporting Requirements

Sheri Gibson, PhD, Director of Behavioral Health Services,
Rocky Mountain Healthcare Services - PACE

Breakout Sessions:

Hard Choices for Loving People: help for those that must decide

Martha Barton, President and CEO, Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care

Creating Health Ministries for Seniors

Panel: *Conducting Forums on Aging Issues and Resources.* Irma Crepps, RN
The Role of the Faith Community Nurse. Lesli Weaver, RN, BSN
Compassionate Care and Volunteer Ministry. Kathy Sparnins, Grief Educator

Caring for Family Caregivers

Kent Mathews, MSW, Family Support Center, PPACG-Area Agency on Aging

Pastoral Roundtable

RoMa Johnson, MA, MDiv, Facilitator

To Register:

Please **RSVP** by **September 2** to Donna Bristow: donnabristow@earthlink.net

Registration fee: \$25 Payable at the door.

Checks payable to the Southeastern Association

For More Information contact RoMa Johnson: romaworks@me.com

Activities to Include on your Calendars


August 20 at 11:30 a.m.—Women's Fellowship Lunch at Patty Jewett Golf Course

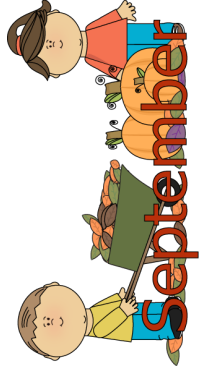
August 20 at 2 p.m. – The Installation of the Rev Sue Artt at La Foret (See page 2.)

August 28 at 10:30 a.m. - Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Fox Run Park
(Pavilion 3) See page 4.

September 10 – Women's Retreat at Garden of the Gods Trading Post
Conference Room (See page 3.)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship with FF for Kids 11:15 am Fellowship 11:45 am Korean Worship Service	<i>1</i> 5 pm Steering Mtg	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 9:30 am Prayer Shawl	<i>4</i> 4:30 pm Facilities Mtg 6:30 pm Choir	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> Sunday Schedule Communion	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 6:30 pm Choir	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> Sunday Schedule Faith Formation for Kids!	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 6:30 pm Choir	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 11:30 am Women's Lunch at Patty Jewett Golf Course
<i>21</i> Sunday Schedule Faith Formation for Kids!	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 6:30 pm Choir	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>28</i>  Outdoor Worship and Picnic at Fox Run Park	<i>29</i> 5 pm Steering Mtg	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 6:30 pm Choir	Mission of the Month Cheyenne Village		



2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Schedule 8:30 am Adult Faith Formation 10 am Worship with FF for Kids 11:15 am Fellowship 11:45 am Korean Worship Service	Mission of the Month Neighbors in Need	1	2	3		
4 Sunday Schedule Communion	5 	6	7 6:30 pm Choir	8	9	10 9 am–4 pm Women's retreat at Garden of the Gods Trading Post
11 Sunday Schedule Faith Formation for Kids!	12	13	14 6:30 pm Choir	15	16	17 Conference on Aging Sponsored by the Southeastern Association at Broadmoor UCC
18 Sunday Schedule Faith Formation for Kids!	19	20	21 9:30 am Prayer Shawl 6:30 pm Choir	22	23	24
25 Sunday Schedule Faith Formation for Kids!	26	27	28 6:30 pm Choir	29	30	



**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.

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**