

# Highlands Highlights

Summer was fun, but now that everyone's back in town and back to school, it's time to gather and kick off our fall programming at HUMC! Whether you've been traveling or just enjoying a stay-cation, let's try to get the whole congregation together in the same place at the same time on Sunday, September 12. Our theme will be "All Who Have Ears to Hear," and Pastor Betty, Pastor Kerry, and our new Student Pastor John will share some thoughts on our vision for the coming year. The HUMC Worship Band will play, and don't forget to stay for the Ice Cream Social hosted by the Missions Committee after worship!



September- October  
2010

## RALLY SUNDAY ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Please join us for the first, Rally Sunday Ice Cream Social to be held after church services on September 12, 2010. A variety of ice cream flavors with a delightful array of toppings will be available. You can also quench your thirst with an old fashioned root beer float after rocking to the 50's tunes.

The Missions Committee will be hosting this event to provide awareness and support for UMCOR's School Kit. In some countries, children don't have books or supplies. Many have no schoolrooms and some classes are held in inadequate buildings, tents, or even the open air. School kits may be these children's only educational resources.

The RALLY SUNDAY ICE CREAM SOCIAL is free with a donation of any or all of the school kit items!

### School Kit Items Value: \$11 per kit

- 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2" x 11" ruled paper
- 1 30-centimeter ruler
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 eraser, 2 1/2"
- 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)

Members of June's mission team to Tree of Life Ministry on the Rosebud Reservation will also be present to share photos and stories from their trip.

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## A few words from Pastor Betty

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Three months have gone by and as I write this letter, I am preparing to return to work. More importantly, I am preparing to return to ministry. There was much to learn during my renewal leave. One important learning is that my commitment to Christ's Church still calls to me. I may be getting up there in age and retirement does have its appeal, but I continue to miss Christ's people and the sacred work we do together. I will share some of my insights from my renewal leave with you over the next few months.

I look forward to seeing you all in church!

Blessings,



### **Charge Conference**

Save the date now for our annual church meeting: **Sunday December 5**. We will gather at **1 pm at Trinity UMC** downtown as part of a cluster with other churches to conduct our holy business.

### **Nominating Committee**

In preparation for Charge Conference (see above), the Nominating Committee will gather once again in preparation for inviting members of our congregation to serve God through Highlands UMC. Please prayerfully consider how your gifts might best fit in the following committee ministries of our church: Staff-Parish Relations, Trustees, Finance, Hospitality, Missions. Some of these committees require official church membership, but many do not. Of course, there are many ways to serve beyond committee participation, such as being an usher or greeter, Communion stewards, singing in the choir, hosting coffee hour, helping in the garden, and more.

Please contact one of the following members of the Nominating Committee to discuss your interests if you would like to serve in a new way: Pastor Betty (Chair), Pastor Kerry, Sonya Hamilton, Liz Moore, Sara Pines, Bill Sexton, and Missy Snyder.

## A few words from Pastor Kerry

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

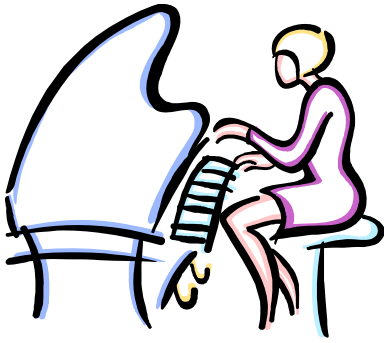
As most of you know, in addition to being your lead pastor for the summer, I have been planning my wedding over the past few months. Recently, a few friends threw me a bridal shower on the theme of “Time.” We reflected together on how time is both linear and cyclical: on the one hand, once this moment passes, it will never come again; on the other hand, it will be the same time again tomorrow, and the same day again next week, and the same season this time next year. In the same way, although some things may change in a person’s life – like marital status, employment, or stage of education – there are also many things that remain constant, or repeat in a predictable and familiar way.

Church life is like that, too. Some things change – people move away or have a new baby, ministers change roles, we try new ways of living out our faith in the world – while others, like the cycle of the liturgical calendar or much-loved hymns or the Lord’s Prayer, are constant. While I am a person who loves familiarity, routine, and ritual, I have to admit I also enjoy a change from time to time, a chance to shake things up a bit. This summer has been a good opportunity for me to take on some tasks and roles that are usually part of Pastor Betty’s work, and I hope it has also been a chance for all of us to take a step back and think about what we have been taking for granted in our church, what we need to remain constant, and where we are ready for the Spirit to show us a new way of being the Body of Christ.

In leading worship and in our overall ministry at Highlands, Pastor Betty and I aim for a healthy balance of familiarity and newness, change and constancy. I pray that in your own spiritual journeys, you are experiencing God’s constant love even when in the midst of upheaval or transformation.

Grace and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Kerry". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned below the text "Grace and peace,".



## Thank you to Tammy Franklin

for 7 years of music ministry from the Highlands UMC piano bench! We appreciate your sharing of your talents and your time to enhance our worship experience. And thank you to **Sonya Hamilton** and **Jackie Schaffer**, who have helped accompany the choir for the past couple years on a volunteer basis! (Stay tuned for an announcement very soon about our new accompanist!)



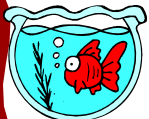
### Chancel Choir

Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 1, and will be every Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. through May. New members are welcome; contact Pastor Kerry to learn more.



### Youth Group

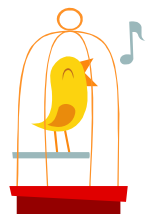
Michael House is returning to lead the youth group this year, with support from Pastor Kerry. Youth in 7th grade or higher are invited to go bowling at Elitch Lanes on Friday, September 3rd at 6 pm. Stay tuned for information coming soon on activities for middle-schoolers!



### Blessing of the Animals



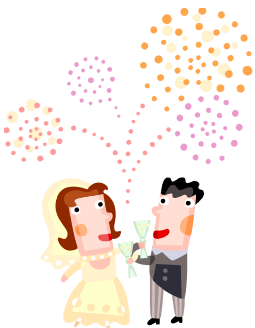
If your family includes a four-legged, winged, or scaled creature, come and join us on **Saturday, September 25 at 10 am** for a service that acknowledges that God blesses us through animals, and we want them to be blessed as well. If your companion animal is well-behaved and easily transportable, feel free to bring them along; otherwise, bring a picture and we will say a prayer of blessing in absentia. We will worship in the HUMC parking lot.



## Children's Church

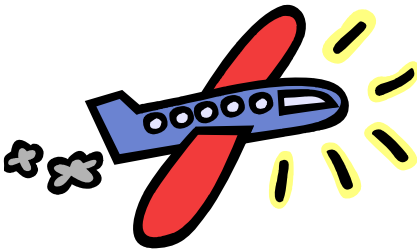
Brandon will be having a quick meeting for all the parents who volunteer to teach children's church on Sunday September 12 right after church. We will meet in the upstairs room on floor 3.

It will be a quick meeting about the fall and to answer any questions.



### Wedding Reception for Pastor Kerry & Dave

Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> during coffee hour, all are invited to share in our joy and wedding photos!



### \*Sunday School Class: \*

Ms. Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite Bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane, so she asked him which story it was meant to represent... "The Flight to Egypt," was his reply. Pointing at each figure, Ms. Terri said, "That must be Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. But who's the fourth person?" "Oh, that's Pontius - the pilot!"

Contributed by Ronnie Thomas

## A Message from John Saint

On behalf of the Saint family I would like to extend my warmest greetings to everyone at Highlands UMC. We are so happy that you have invited us to be a part of this community and we look forward to a busy and exciting year. I would like to thank everyone at Highlands UMC who will serve as my teaching congregation and Pastor Betty for being my mentor throughout the course of this year. Although we have been introduced to many of you at church I wanted to offer an introduction to the wider community.

My wife Alexis and I have been married for sixteen years and we have three children. Our oldest son Ian is twelve years old and is a sixth grader at Stevens elementary. Our son Read is ten years old and is a fifth grader at Stevens. Our daughter Sarah is seven years old and is a second grader at Stevens. We all enjoy sports and outdoor activities and are looking forward to camping in the mountains. The kids enjoy playing soccer and making music. Ian is learning to play the drums, Read is learning to play the electric bass, and Sarah is learning to play the electric guitar.

Alexis is a Licensed Professional Counselor working with Maple Star Colorado providing care for foster families. She earned her M.Ed. from Texas State University and hopes to earn her Ph.D. in the future. Before entering seminary I worked for Dell Computer in sales, consulting, and project management. In 2006 I began working on my seminary degree at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. That year we moved from Austin to Longview, Texas, where I served for three years as pastor of White Oak UMC. I will be serving at Highlands UMC this year as part of my degree requirements for field placement. Additionally, I will be working with the Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network, an organization which assists undocumented immigrants with legal counsel. After graduation I intend to pursue Elders orders in the United Methodist Church, and I hope to someday earn a Ph.D. in theology.

Our experience of Denver has been wonderful. We are grateful for the warm welcome we received at Highlands UMC and for your prayers and support as we relocated here. We look forward to growing many friendships and taking part in ministry and service with you to both the church and the surrounding community.

So on behalf of Alexis, Ian, Read, and Sarah I pray that God will bless you all as you have been a blessing to us.

Grace and peace,

John

**WELCOME TO HIGHLANDS - WE'RE BLESSED TO HAVE YOU**

# Hospitality

Hello Friends,

As Highlands grows in numbers and friends Pastor Betty, Pastor Kerry with the Hospitality Committee have agreed to create a new Greeters and Ushers Program to ensure that our growing congregation has a warm introduction to the Highlands community.

For that reason we are asking you to give us a hand to start a system that would include the entire congregation.

Our plan is to divide the congregation into small Greeters/Ushers teams that would be greeting and directing people on a monthly basis.

Basically, everybody in the congregation would greet 3 or 4 times in a row every 2-3 months. We are hoping to have a big pool of ushers so each team will be serving a couple of times or less per year.

We are planning on having teams of 4 people for ushering and teams of 4 for greeting.

Now, greeters and ushers would have different responsibilities. Greeters will be in charge of welcoming and shaking hands while Ushers will be located at each of the 4 doors in the sanctuary handing out bulletins and answering questions regarding bathrooms, childcare availability, cry rooms etc. Needless to say the ushers will have a quick and easy training to make sure everybody feels confident ushering.

We would love to have you as part of the Ushers' team!!

We believe new people should be encouraged to greet as an easy introduction to Highlands.

The Hospitality Committee has already started the process to switch to this new system throughout the summer. We are hoping to formally implement it the first Sunday of September.

We are really excited to start this year offering an even warmer welcome to our growing congregation at Highlands.

Hopefully this will be beneficial for all of us.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email or call Cristina House:  
cristinasoliscr@gmail.com / home: (303) 600.8295

Thank you for your time and everything you do for Highlands.

Cristina & Hospitality Committee

# Finance

As Summer fades and Fall begins the Finance Committee will once be busy planning a Stewardship Campaign and preparing a budget for the 2011 year. Finances remain tight for the church. The Finance Committee made some decisions earlier in the year to help ease the financial strain. One of the most difficult decisions was to reduce our Wider Missions (Apportionment) payments to the Conference.

Apportionments or Wider Missions is paid by each local church through a tithe of 10% plus 3% of their income to the Rocky Mountain Conference. This giving helps pay conference salaries, administration and helps support conference mission projects. For many years Highlands was not financially able to pay Wider Missions but for the past two years Highlands has paid 100% of our financial obligation to the conference. In light of our current financial strain, the Finance Committee decided to limit our financial contribution to the conference to \$500 per month for June, July and August. The money for these payments came from the Wider Missions account that is funded through Easter and Christmas offerings. By limiting our payment to the conference for these three months the church saved over \$3,000. The committee hopes to be able to return to full payments in September.

A second decision made was to “float” expenses through to the next month. The expenses carried over do not have any late fees or interest associated with them and the church does not incur a penalty to pay late. It is our goal to be able to pay all bills within the month accrued but until income permits that, we will continue to carry bills over from one month to the next.

As is tradition, the Stewardship Campaign will be held in late October and early November. At that time, it will be asked of each member of the congregation to prayerfully consider pledging financial support to the church for the coming year. With a dwindling savings account it becomes more important to know that the church has the financial support of the congregation to continue its ministry. Once the Finance Committee has a clear picture of projected income, we will be hard at work putting together a 2011 budget that makes sense and uses the churches financial resources to the best of its ability.

As always, if you have any questions regarding financial policy or decisions made by the committee please come and speak to a member of Finance. See you all September 12<sup>th</sup> for the kick-off.

Denise Moore

Finance Chairperson

# September 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 6:00 Youth bowling Elitch Lanes	4
5 10 am Worship	6	7	8 7:00 Choir	9	10	11
12 10 am Worship  Rally Sunday Ice Cream Social	13 7:00 Purls of Wisdom	14	15 7:00 Choir	16	17	18
19 10 am Worship	20	21	22 7:00 Choir	23	24	25 10:00 Blessing of the animals
26 10 am Worship	27	28	29 7:00 Choir	30		

# October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10 am Worship	4	5	6 7:00 Choir	7	8	9
10 10 am Worship	11 7:00 PurIs of Wisdom	12	13 7:00 Choir	14	15	16
17 10 am Worship	18	19	20 7:00 Choir	21	22	23
24/31 10 am Worship	25	26	27 7:00 Choir	28	29	30

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ITEMS  
TO JEANNIE BY OCTOBER 22ND SEND TO  
J.LOSH@YAHOO.COM OR LEAVE IN HER BOX  
IN THE OFFICE**

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Contributed by Esther Campbell

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