



THE MESSENGER

A Publication of Niwot United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2008

We are called to have open minds, open hearts and open doors

NUMC Scores Music Director By Janet Smith

In September, the Niwot United Methodist Choir will come under the direction of Dale Heidebrecht. Dale holds a Bachelors in Music Education (vocal) from Wichita State University and was a music educator in Wichita, KS. In addition, he served as Director for the music department at Lake View Presbyterian Church in Chicago, IL and has performed in operas, musicals and plays and has directed musicals and plays. Dale has recorded with several vocal ensembles, most recently The Grandma Project.

Earlier this year, Dale was privileged to present his vocal pedagogical research at the regional American Choral Directors Association convention in Kansas City, MO. Currently, Dale is pursuing his Master's Degree in Choral Conducting at CU, Boulder, where he is the Assistant Director of the CU Men's Chorus and The University Choir. Dale also serves as the Director for Con Passione, a student chamber choir. He sits on the musical selection reading committee with Longmont Theatre Company. This summer, he began singing with St. Martin's Chamber Choir in Denver.

Niwot United Methodist Church is thrilled to welcome Dale as music director.

If you are interested in singing with the choir, the first rehearsal of the season is Wed., August 27 at 7:00 pm at the church (7405 Look-out Road). Thereafter, rehearsals are Thursdays at 7 pm. Dale says, "I have some great music planned through the Fall, including three spirituals, a few African songs, a tune by Arthur Sullivan (of Gilbert and Sullivan fame), as well as some of my favorites from my own library, all within the first month."

September is arriving and fall will soon be here. Like many people, I love the fall. The beginning of school, the changing of the leaves, the start of new routines, the crispness of the cool air--all of these things happen together, seemingly all at once, to signal yet another change in our planet's life.

One reason I think that fall has such a fond place in my heart is that it is a time of high expectancy. New things are happening which cannot be missed; the eye is treated to new colors, the nose to new scents, the brain to new thoughts--and perhaps the heart to new possibilities. I like to think of the outward seasons reflecting inward journeys of the spirit, giving us a glimpse of our common experiences of the soul.

I hope that this fall gives to you a sense of the new possibilities. God continues to work in our midst, and I pray that you may remain open to the inner changes that always accompany--or even precede the outer changes.

Grace and Peace,

Merlene



Helping God's Family

- Attend Feast of Beginnings Sept. 7th
- Attend UMW Sept. 11th
- Attend Sunday School starting Sept. 14th
- Serve the Homeless, dates to be announced
- Attend one of the MANY workshops listed inside
- Buy King Soopers coupons, they're good for gas too!

Lectionary Readings September 2008

Sunday, September 7th

Exodus 12:1-14
Psalm 148 (UMH 861) or 149
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

Sunday, September 14th

Exodus 14:19-31
Exodus 15:1b-11,
20-21 (UMH 135)
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

Sunday, September 21st

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 (UMH 828)
Or Psalm 78 (UMH 799)
Phillipians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16

Sunday, September 28th

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16 (UMH 799)
Phillipians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

FEAST of BEGINNINGS Sunday, September 7th

Please join us for a morning of music, fun, food and fellowship. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary for the potluck and the musical contributions. Please try to attend even if you're not performing -- to get our Sunday School year off to an enthusiastic start!!

Sunday School Starting September 14th

Please mark your calendar and plan on joining us from 10:45 to 11:45 each Sunday.

Children – we are continuing to use the one-room version of the Live B.I.G. Sunday school program that we have used the last two years. It is open to all children ages 3 years through fifth grade. We will be adding an outreach/mission project this year, yet to be determined.

Middle School – we are starting a **NEW** Sunday school class for those in the sixth through eighth grades this September. If you are a middle school student this year, we are hoping that you will try us out! We are using a variety of materials, each lasting two to seven weeks per topic and you will get to help select the topics. The class will select one or more outreach/mission projects for the year also, so plan to come September 14th and find out what is happening!

High School – there will not be a separate class for the high school at this time. Students are welcome to join the adult class. If there is interest in a group meeting some time other than Sunday morning, talk to Diana Neff.

Your Church Family Mike & Gayle Weiss

Mike and Gayle have been attending NUMC since November 1987, when they moved back to Boulder. Before that they attended Cedar Grove UMC in Damascus, MD for 3 1/2 years and before that, the Nederland Community Presbyterian Church for 4 years.

Before they got married in 1978, Gayle hadn't attended church in 20 years and Mike only seldom. They have both been married before and Gayle has 3 children (Bradley, Tracy and David) from her first marriage. Mike and Gayle share a daughter, Erin, whom many of you watched grow up in this church. Gayle can probably tell you more about these four than you care to hear about - and now about the five (soon to be six) grandchildren (a 4 year old and 4 almost 2 year olds so far)!

They had moved from Nederland to Damascus to change jobs but missed Colorado so much (also daughter Erin's allergies were much worse there) that they moved back to the area and Mike returned to Ball Aerospace (where they had met in 1976). In Maryland, they felt good about attending the small Methodist church down the street, so upon their return they first tried NUMC just down the street - and they've been here almost 21 years! They were especially attracted by the warm welcome and feeling of family here at NUMC.

That's their favorite part - the congregation is their extended family. Here they can express themselves without feeling like they're being judged. Another very important part of the church to both of them is the choir and more recently Mike being in the band. Gayle has been in Free Thinkers since it was started by Matthias Krier and Katherine Ann Webster back in 2000. Gayle also enjoys the Second Monday of the Month Book Club and UMW. They both enjoy participating in the Litter Pick Up each year, the Church Picnic, Small Dinner Groups, and Soup, Soup and More as well as the various other outreach opportunities

that this church provides (Thanksgiving Baskets, Adopt a Family, various food banks, Homeless Shelter, Wesley Foundation, Fair Trade Coffee, etc.).

Gayle herself is obsessed by genealogy and is willing to help anyone get started on his or her own ancestor search. Mike enjoys recording music and making CD's for the choir performances and maintaining the sound system at the church. Together they take pleasure in walking, hiking in the mountains and visits (both here and there) with their children and grandchildren -- and playing in the Niwot Community Band. They try to spend some special time with Mike's mother, Bea, several times each week at Sunrise Assisted Living or at their house.

Your Church Family Liz & Fred Smith

Fred's job brought them from Ft. Collins to the Boulder area, and they relocated to Gunbarrel. Prior to attending NUMC, Fred and Liz was a member at First UMC in Boulder for 8 years. Then they decided that the neighborhood church made more sense; at that time, their children were young, and NUMC's children's program offered as much at the downtown church. They joined in fall 1980.

Liz likes the small "family" feel of the church and the acceptance of diverse theologies. Liz personally would like to see the church have a more diverse age group, i.e., more young families. Other than her special professional interest in children's communication disorders, she enjoys sewing, hiking, and gardening.

After many years at Ball Aerospace as a sort of "rocket scientist," Fred is finishing up his first year of retirement, and enjoying it quite a lot!

UMW

We will hold our first meeting of the fall on *Thursday, September 11 at 6:00 pm*. This will be a pot-luck dinner. You will be asked to share "what you did for yourself this summer". The program is "Women Need a Little Self in Their Life."

Youth Activities

The Youth gathered with the Louisville Youth at Pirates Park in Louisville on August 17th for Messylympics. There was a chocolate water balloon toss, faces covered in whipped cream for a "Cheetoes" toss, M & M's covered in barbeque sauce, or relish, or chocolate syrup, etc. Louisville provided the grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and we brought chips and dessert. It was a messy and fun afternoon.

Niwot UMYF will be meeting the *second Sunday* of the month during Sunday School time in our youth room. *On the fourth Sunday* of the month we will be meeting in late afternoon or early evening with the Louisville UMYF. So mark your calendars for **Sunday Sept. 14 in the Youth Room and then Sept. 28 here when we host Louisville!**

Do You Know?

You can use your King Sooper gift card at King Sooper gas pumps just like a credit card? Now you can buy groceries and gas and help support NUMC.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHURCH Finance Ministry Team

The Committee on Finance shall be elected annually by the charge conference. It will be composed of the chairperson, the pastor, lay member of the annual conference, chair of church council, representative of SPR, representative of trustees, lay leader, financial secretary, the treasurer, and other members. All financials asking to be included in the annual budget of the church shall be submitted to finance. Finance will submit a budget annually to the church council for adoption. Finance is charged with responsibility for developing and implementing plans that will raise income to meet the budget. It shall administer the funds received according to the instructions from the church council. Finance shall designate 2 persons not of the same immediate family to count the offering. A record of all funds received shall be given to the financial secretary and treasurer. Funds shall be deposited promptly. Chair Ron Kiel, Karen Simpson, Dennis Knowlden, Dick Walker, Mike Weiss. By position--Ted Barna Treasurer, Fred Smith Financial Secretary, Danielle Hinton, Bookkeeper, Alice Haverstock, Lay Leader/AC

OUTREACH UPDATE

Thanks to all who helped with supplies and donations for the successful Crayons To Calculators school supply drive. This year, this particular outreach was organized by one of our middle school youth, Sarah Smith, whose work helped fulfil community service requirements for her IB and Honor Society affiliations.

This Fall, we look forward to monthly opportunities to serve dinner at the Boulder Homeless Shelter. A sign up schedule will be posted when our dates are assigned.

**Niwot United Methodist Church
Heritage Events 1870-1967
By Susie Banks**

In 1870, the Rev. St. Clair Ross was sent to Colorado as a missionary by the Illinois United Brethren Conference. When he rode over the hill just east of here, he looked down into the valley and said, "It looks like the garden of Eden." Hence, the early church was called the "Eden Mission" by Rev. Ross.

Early meetings were in an old schoolhouse on the Henry Burch farm. In 1884, Henry Hornbaker bought the school building for \$100 and presented it to the church group.

On September 21, 1891, a building committee was appointed and plans were drawn up for a new church building. Alva M. Dodd donated the plot of land adjoining the Niwot town plat. The church was built at a cost of \$1,449.29, leaving cash on hand of \$7.37. (Note: the original documents are on hand which note giving and expenditures. They were found in the bank lock box of Alva M. Dodd at the time of his death and are preserved in the church's archives.)

In 1912, the church was moved to Niwot town proper. The building was remodeled to double its original size in 1924-27. The 58th Annual Conference of the Colorado United Brethren was held at the new church in August of 1928. (Note: Eighty years from this month!)

During the 1930's the church experienced income so low that it could not fund a salary for a fulltime pastor. In the absence of a minister, attendance and financial support waned. In 1940, the Reverend William Persons, a student preacher from Longmont, was sent to Niwot. Membership began to grow under his leadership. Debts were repaid and improvements to the church property were made.

On November 16, 1946 the Evangelical Church united with the United Brethren

Church-thus the Evangelical United Brethren Church was born. Mr. Phillip Haass was a delegate to that historic conference.

A fire destroyed the church building on November 1, 1951. The men of the church were able to save the organ console (a recent gift from the Dodd's); the pews, piano and pulpit set were also salvaged. Those are the same pews, pulpit and altar table in use today.

The building was rebuilt and dedicated in 1953. History archives have photographs of the events of that day. The Reverend Frank Wilson was pastor at that time.

**Niwot United Methodist Today
And Tomorrow**

The Preliminary Building Committee will be looking at issues that a new building project might be able to solve. We do want input from everyone who wants to provide it. We will be looking at *our needs as a church community* and not actually designing or planning what needs to be done. We are laying the groundwork for a future building committee.

We will be putting out sheets for you to write down suggestions. Watch for them starting the week after Feast of Beginnings. Ministry team chairs -- you will be receiving letters asking for input from your teams.

Please consider the issues involved, not necessarily the "answer." For example, "we have a need for a clearly identifiable main entrance" rather than "we need a door in the middle of the front of the building". Specific ideas are OK, but there may be multiple ways to resolve an issue if we know what it is in terms of a problem.

NUMC- A Time Apart

We will be going to Sacred Heart Jesuit Retreat House in Sedalia, CO Oct. 31st-Nov. 2nd. The cost per person is \$170 and includes meals and accommodation. Please look for the sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary soon. This is a wonderful time to withdraw to a quiet place for rest, reflection, a meditative walk in the beauty of the grounds, or to quietly share with others.

Membership Updates

NUMC is updating their membership information. Please email your name, birth month/day, anniversary month, children's birth month/day, phone number, email and street addresses to office@niwotumc.org.

There are forms in the back for those who do not use the computer.

Education for Ministry (EFM)

Adult education at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church beginning September. EFM is a 4 year program with weekly 2-hour seminars with trained mentors. See flyers at the back if you are interestd. Penny Landis and Jennifer Hayes are both part of the program and can be a good resource!

Rocky Mountain Conference Welcomes Bishop Stanovsky

At the Western Jurisdiction meeting in July two new bishops were elected and assigned to their Conference Areas. Bishop Elaine J. W. Stanovsky was assigned to the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences. She will begin her tenure as our Episcopal leader September 1st. Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr., served our area for 8 years. He was assigned to the California-Nevada Conference.

Bishop Stanovsky had been serving as the Seattle District Superintendent and Dean of the Cabinet. She has also served as the Director of Connectional Ministries, head of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, and a local church pastor. Bishop Stanovsky is married to Clinton, an environmental consultant, and has 3 sons--Axel, 19, Micah, 21, and Walker, 24.

Living the Sacred September 13th 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Greeley 1st UMC Living the Sacred--let us deepen our understanding of what it means to live in sacred harmony. Studies: I Believe in Jesus--looks at 4 components, the gift of faith in Jesus, the meaning of faith, whose faith counts, and faith in Jesus in a postmodern world.; Israel/Palestine--learn about the history and complexities of relationships between Israel & Palestine. Examine issues of racism, terrorism, occupation, refugees, liberation.; Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival--Learn about the inter-relatedness between the indigenous peoples and their land, identify key issues, learn to appreciate the culture of the Native Americans. Cost \$40 Registration

A Celtic Morning of the Labyrinth
First United Methodist Church
Saturday, September 27th 9-11:00 am

Be inspired by a morning of Celtic spirituality, experience the nearness of God, explore the Scottish Isle of Iona, awaken your senses as you walk the labyrinth.

Ginger Howl will discuss Celtic Christianity in the present day. She will then lead a labyrinth walk using Celtic chants and images. There will be a short service of morning prayer as it is experienced every morning in the Abbey on Iona. Questions? Contact Rosalee Blake at rtblake@hughes.net or 303-258-3360.

Just Faith

You are invited to an intensive program for people interested in learning how to live a more compassionate life in today's world. Involves 30 weekly sessions, 2 retreats, and 4 immersion experiences. Begins Sept. 4th and ends the first week in May 2009. Classes are held at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church. The approximate cost is \$125. Please see the flyer at the back of the church for more information.

Reading the Bible With Jewish Eyes

Longmont area United Methodist churches invite everyone to join us on **Sept. 7, 8, and 9** to learn from Rev. Rebekah Simon-Peter as she presents "Reading the Bible With Jewish Eyes" at Longs Peak United Methodist Church. While this is a three-night Bible study, each evening's topic is entirely self contained, so if attending all three evenings isn't possible, please come once or twice as schedules allow. **Sunday begins at 4:30 PM with a pot-luck dinner.** Class runs from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. **On Monday and Tuesday, class is from 6 to 8 PM.** Child care will be provided on all three nights. This learning opportunity is presented by First UMC, Longmont and Long's Peak UMC thanks in part to a networking ministry grant from the Conference Board of Discipleship. If you are curious about the Jewish roots of Christianity, their meanings, and where they can be clearly seen in the New Testament, do not miss this opportunity! Long's Peak UMC is located at 1421 Elmhurst Dr., Longmont, CO 80503. Phone is (303) 776-0399.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

There are many students who have left for college and others who will be leaving in the next few weeks, please hold them in prayer as they begin a new phase in their journey. Wesley Fellowship at CU Boulder would like to invite our students to their activities. And there is a new Wesley group forming at Colorado State University. Please submit names and addresses of our students to our office so we can submit that information to those groups.

Niwot Nostalgia Day

NUMC will again host a booth at Niwot Nostalgia Day on *Saturday, Sept. 6th*. Setup on Second Avenue in Niwot is at 9:30 and the parade starts at 10 a.m. Two people are needed to staff the booth in each shift: 9:30-11, 11-12:30 and 12:30-2. We still need volunteers to sign up! If anyone is interested in putting a float together, please contact Biff Warren at 303-652-2433.

NUMC Book Club Monday, September 8th @ 6:30 P.M.

Our fiction selection for Sept. is *Water For Elephants* by Sara Gruen. If you want to get a head start for October 13th, our non fiction selection is *The Color of Water* by James McBride. Bring along other ideas for selections for the remainder of the year.

Lifeline Screening 9:00 a.m. Monday, September 15th

An important health screening event that will provide preventive ultrasound to help detect conditions leading to stroke and/or heart attack. We have 2 complimentary certificates. Please contact the office if you are interested in receiving one free test. Reservations are required. Call 1-800-324-1851 to register.

Thanks For All You Do

- ♥ Thank you Diana for the outstanding lesson on the Biblical Spice Cabinet!
- ♥ Thank you Gayle Weiss and Ruth Whitehead for the beautiful Indian flute music in worship.
- ♥ Thanks to Pete Byrne for Special Music. Awesome song.
- ♥ Thanks to On Fire for leading singing.
- ♥ Thanks to Pete & Mary Byrne and Mike & Gayle Weiss for their gift of music in worship.
- ♥ Thank you Bonny Schuman for playing for worship while Pat Koh was away.
- ♥ Thank you Biff Warren for organizing the NUMC Night at the Rockies. This was a great night of fellowship.
- ♥ Thanks to all who helped with Fellowship Time this summer while Hospitality had a "vacation".
- ♥ Thanks to Mark Weiss who sees that the burnt out light bulbs get changed, so we are not "a people who sit in darkness".

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

5	Bob Zoller	
9	Dana Ford	
14	Joseph Epperson	
15	Julia Ford	
17	Rebecca McNeal Danielle Hinton Sharon Hinton	
22	John Kemp, Cadi Epperson	
25	Mark Weiss	
26	Cindy Ford, Kathy Ford	
29	Ralph Butler, Ilse Meiler	
9	Kristen & Tom Green Suzanne & Todd Givler	
11	Lois & Bob Zoller Barb & Gary Bridgestock	
18	Rick & Kay Clark	
28	Jolene & Dann Radostis	