

VOLUME 68 • ISSUE 9

November 2010

PROGRESSIVE MINDS, OPEN HEARTS, CHANGING LIVES



Montview Messenger

Inside

- From the Co-Pastors 2
- Children 4
- Youth 5
- Adult Education 7-8
- Nifty Ninety
Ruth Cousins Denny . . 9-10
- Calendar 11
- Reflections on Ethiopia . 12

MONTVIEW

TODAY & TOMORROW

"We are resolved to build something greater than ourselves: a vital, giving, community of faith whose work and spirit will endure beyond any of us. We are also resolved that every Montview member, each of you, will find work and fellowship and opportunities at Montview that will transform you from within."

FOUNDATIONS FOR FAITH ADULT EDUCATION

NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 5 AT 9:30 AM

THE ART OF PARENTING

Fellowship Hall

Topics include: What does being a parent really mean to you?; Basic Needs, Developmental Stages and Temperament; Power Struggles: Win, Lose or Draw?; Identifying and Using Your Strengths; Reinforcement Strategies and Techniques

AWAKENING THE HEART:

THE WISDOM WAY OF KNOWING

Study Group Room

In this class, we will read and discuss *The Wisdom Way of Knowing*, as well as practice the spiritual disciplines she recommends. The class will be led by Erika Walker, Montview member, who serves on the Center for Spiritual Life advisory board.

MORE INFORMATION ON PAGE 7

www.montview.org



**MONTVIEW BOULEVARD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1980 Dahlia Street
Denver, Colorado 80220-1239
303-355-1651 - www.montview.org

MONTVIEW STAFF

Co-Pastors

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Cearley
The Rev. Ian Gregory Cummins

Minister of Music

John Kuzma

Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

The Rev. Sheri Fry

Minister of Children and Families

Sandy Prouty

Church Life Administrator

Rhonda Williamson

Parish Associates

The Rev. Amelie Buchanan
The Rev. Laurene Lafontaine

Organist and Music Administrator

Barbara Hulac

Director of Finances

Dan Gasser

Director of Communications

Larry Strauss

Administrative Assistants

Diane Cooper
Danean Burke

Membership Assistant

Mary Beth Doubet

Sextons

Tony Johnson
Randy Trotter
Ken Brown
Debra Johnson
Ben Pruner

Mission Interpreters

Susan Stewart & Court Walters, Myanmar

Colleagues in Mission

Linda Marrs, Montview Preschool
Pat Harper, Montview Manor
Susan Shamos, CENTUS Counselor
Carolyn Ajie, CENTUS Counselor
The Rev. Bob LaFollette, Manor Chaplain

Colleagues in Mission in Nepal

Penny Strong, Sajani Amatyia

MONTVIEW MESSENGER

(USPS 361-820)

Published Monthly

Periodical Postage Paid

at Denver, Colorado

Postmaster

Send Address Changes to

Montview Boulevard

Presbyterian Church

1980 Dahlia Street

Denver, Colorado 80220-1239

FROM THE CO-PASTORS

*D*ear Friends,

The cool mornings and turning leaves of Fall always prompt an internal shift for me. My thoughts become more reflective, I suppose. My body wants to take stock. There is a poem by Ranier Maria Rilke which includes the lines:

*Already the ripening barberries are red,
And the old asters hardly breathe in their beds.
The man (or woman) who is not rich now, as summer goes
will wait and wait and never be himself.*

It is a powerful reminder that there are times in our lives when we must harvest what has ripened or watch it wither on the vine. It may be an overdue conversation, or a shift in career, or a personal dream that has lay dormant for too long. There are things that take seed in us, grow in the warm sun (sometimes for years) and then sit expectantly, hoping we will twist and tug them from the vine, like a tomato, so they can nourish us. And if we fail to notice them, that particular harvest will pass. We will have other harvests, of course, but not in quite the same way. That particular opportunity will be gone. From my porch I survey the plants in our backyard turning yellow and brittle and am reminded that nothing lasts forever. This difficult truth can be paralyzing, or it can wake me from my lethargy and help me to not take my life for granted. Is this a time to harvest something in your life? Is there some fruit that has been growing in you that is ready to be claimed? Have you been taking the time to notice? Having a regular practice of prayer, walking the labyrinth, speaking your heart to a friend, and coming to church are all ways to stay attuned to the fruit God is nurturing in us...and sensing when it is ripe.

Happy harvesting,



LECTIONARY PASSAGES

ALL SAINTS DAY

November 1, 2010

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18, Psalm 149, Ephesians 1:11-23, Luke 6:20-31

32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 7, 2010

Haggai 1:15b-2:9, Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21, Job 19:23-27a, Luke 20:27-38

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 14, 2010

Isaiah 65:17-25, Isaiah 12, 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13, Luke 21:5-19

CHRIST THE KING

November 21, 2010

Jeremiah 23:1-6, Luke 1:68-79, Psalm 46, Luke 23:33-43

THANKSGIVING DAY

November 25, 2010

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 100, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 28, 2010

Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 5, 2010

Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19,

Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2010

Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 2010

Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 24 & 25, 2010

Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-14, (15-20), Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:(1-7), 8-20

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

December 26, 2010

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

NEW YEAR'S DAY

January 1, 2011

Ecclesiastes :1-13, Psalm 8, Revelation 21:1-6a, Matthew 25:31-46

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

January 2, 2011

Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9), 10-18

PRAYER TREE

Mark Hedges (son-in-law of Jackie Summers), Marjorie Klein (daughter-in-law of Jane Klein), Dana Curtis (daughter of Doug Easton), Jen Heth, Penny Strong, Steve Pearlman, Sam Newman (brother of Mary Peratt), Hill Harris (brother of Jen Gallaher, brother in law of Seth Gallaher and son of John and Pam Harris), Dana

Wilbanks, Bunny
Thomas, Betsy
Bedient, Joanne
Tazelaar, Carole Glenn and family (sister of Cindy Wilkinson),
Shirli Sensenbrenner,
Jody Coates, Pat Kennedy (mother of Steve Kennedy),
Harry Doyle, Barbara McCollum, Jennifer Phelps (granddaughter of Herschel Phelps)

DEATHS

10/21 Mary Fern Gregory
10/05 Galen Lingenfelter, father of Paul Lingenfelter
9/17 Stan Sterling, husband of Kathleen Sterling

MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

SSG Alex Jakubowski (brother of Lara Jakubowski)

MONTVIEW PUBLICATION DEADLINES

ISSUE: DECEMBER 2010
Deadline: November 15
Mail: November 29
ISSUE: JANUARY 2011
Deadline: DECEMBER 7
Mail: Decembre 13

Email submissions to strauss@montview.org by end of day on the deadline date. Submissions received after the posted deadline may not appear in the Messenger. Digital submissions (email or on disk) are preferred. Unless previously approved, submissions must be 200 words or less.

MONTVIEW WORSHIP BULLETIN DEADLINES

*Information to appear in the Sunday worship bulletin must be submitted the **TUESDAY PRIOR** to the Sunday in which the information is to first appear.*

STAFF EMAIL & PHONE 303-355-1651

Cindy Cearley . . . ext. 101 cearley@montview.org	Larry Strauss ext.113 strauss@montview.org
Ian Greg Cumminsext. 103 cummins@montview.org	Danean Burke . . . ext. 109 burke@montview.org
John Kuzma ext. 104 kuzma@montview.org	Diane Cooper . . . ext. 106 cooper@montview.org
Sheri Fry ext. 111 fry@montview.org	Mary Beth Doubet . . ext. 102 membership@montview.org
Sandy Prouty . . . ext. 110 prouty@montview.org	Barbara Hulac . . . ext. 105 hulac@montview.org
Rhonda Williamson . ext108 williamson@montview.org	Sextons ext. 118 sexton@montview.org
Dan Gasser ext. 112 gasser@montview.org	



MONTVIEW OFFICERS

John Howell, President
Bob Longway, Vice President
Martha Fitzpatrick,
Clerk of the Session
Chris Metscher, *Treasurer*

BOARD OF DEACONS

CLASS OF 2010	Susan Parker
Darcy Allshouse	Betsy Trumble
Susan Arnold	Pete Ziverts
Kay Boteler	
Sharon Craft	CLASS OF 2012
Judy Endean	Brooke Durland
Barbara Harris	Sarah & Eric Hilty
Doris Hughes	Tom Holland
	Janice Krumme
CLASS OF 2011	Barb Lesnoski
Erin and Jeff Chain	Matt Mcconville
Sean Elder	Aimee Sanders
Teresa Elder	Marleen Stene-
Mary Hanson	Trout
Birgit Kieft	



A FAITHFUL STORY

Parents often ask me if there are particular books I would recommend for furthering discussions of God and faith with their children. My answer is that most of children's literature deals with themes that can easily prompt these discussions. Sometimes the most unexpected lessons come from the most unexpected titles.

One such book is entitled *Knuffle Bunny Free* by Mo Willems. This is a picture book with photos and cartoons. It is the story of a little girl, Trixie, traveling with her parents and her favorite stuffed animal, Knuffle Bunny, to visit grandparents in Holland. She loses, finds and then gives this bunny away in the course of the story. Hers is an experience of loss and gain. She loses her favorite toy on the plane and must go through the hard emotions of that loss. She is inconsolably sad at first and her parents are beside themselves. They try every reasonable and some unreasonable and heroic ways to retrieve Knuffle Bunny. But as time wears on, acceptance slips into this story. Trixie gradually accepts that they won't find her toy because the airline lost and found department does not have him and the plane went on to China. Trixie then moves beyond acceptance to a rather remarkable perspective. She imagines her toy freely flying from country to country bringing joy to other children. She pictures him in diverse cultures around the world where there are many, many differences and where much, like the love of children, is completely the same.

Trixie gives voice to rich themes of diversity, uncertainty, compassion, hope and sharing as she moves through this "bunny" experience. With this hard-won, fresh and deeply loving view in mind and heart, Trixie boards the plane home. And, in the

seat pocket right before her eyes, she sees the familiar color of Knuffle Bunny's fur. What was lost is found but this is not the predictable end of the story! This miracle moment is followed quickly by another that Trixie thoughtfully considers. A baby behind her is very upset and wailing loudly when Trixie reaches over the seat to give the baby her precious bunny and instantly all is well for all involved.

Reading this story with a child could lead to many questions and answers about God's place in our lives. This story illustrates a way of being in the world and a huge definition of love. Trixie knows the love of her family and the constant and unstated presence, comfort, and love of God. She is inspired to a selfless, nonjudgmental and caring acceptance that can bring tears to many eyes. She embraces the diversity of this world and the common need for love shared by our neighbors in places we may never visit or in the row of seats behind us. Trixie is following the teachings of Jesus. We just need to name this for our children and discuss this with them.

Simply stated, this book puts a children's story to M. Scott Peck's words - *Life is difficult*. And it puts a children's story to the promise that God is near. It calls us to remember with our children, that this life and all we have is a gift; that our work is to love God, one another and our neighbors; and that living in this context is challenging, beautiful and true.

So, may our reading times be faithful times. May we help our children know that God is a part of each story they will read and write and live. May we help them know that God is near in every time of joy or pain, conflict or resolution, problem or solution, success or failure and that God is only love. Amen.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Dawn, Alex and Christopher Song and Sarah, Eric, Ryan and Rachel Hilty, our Communion Families for October. They walked for each of us offering our gifts and ourselves to God!



Montview Youth

FAITH UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Rev. Sheri Fry, Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry

CHRIST CULTURE

Should Christian youth be separate from the culture we live in? In his famous work, *Christ and Culture*, H. Richard Niebuhr suggested five historical viewpoints of the interaction of faith and the surrounding culture: Christ against culture, Christ of culture, Christ above culture, Christ and culture in paradox, and Christ the transformer of culture.

Do we teach our youth that if they follow the way of Christ the world will be transformed? I hope we strive for this as Christians, but do we expect it to actually happen? Do we expect in our lifetime to see the end of war, starvation, cruelty? Do we at least project some possible distant future when these things are possible? I imagine there are plenty of Christians who would say “No.” Perhaps on a personal level or community level there will be transformation through Christ, but on a global scale the world will keep on much as it always has.

But one wonders how we can be transformative at all if we are not part of the culture itself? If God is ubiquitous, then God is to be found in all aspects of the world, the community, the culture in which we live. Thus, if we engage the culture we are engaging some part of God’s presence. The question is the degree to which we are “in” the culture without being “of” the culture. Do we tell youth it’s okay to go to see a concert at a bar as long as they don’t drink? Do we tell youth it’s okay to be in the military as long as they don’t fire a shot? Do we tell youth it’s okay to have friends that do drugs

or have sex as long as they themselves do not? Is it possible to be immersed in a culture and not be in some way shaped and influenced by it?

In the book, *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony*, it is argued that when the Church ceases to have an identity separate from secular culture, it ceases to be the church. We are part of the culture. Our language, our behavior, our customs, our values

If God is ubiquitous, then God is to be found in all aspects of the world, the community, the culture in which we live. Thus, if we engage the culture we are engaging some part of God’s presence. The question is the degree to which we are “in” the culture without being “of” the culture.

are all shaped by culture from birth. The question is to what degree do we encourage our youth to resist culture, to push against culture to maintain a certain distance from or tension with the surrounding culture and to what degree do we encourage them to work for the transformation of culture, to work for the coming Kingdom of God?

I know. I know. Lots of questions. I’m still working on the answers.

CALENDAR

November 7

- Communion Shadowing - 11:00 service - Third, fourth and fifth grade students will follow our elders to serve Communion!
- Daylight Savings Time ends.

November 14

- Fourth Grade Bible Presentation - 11:00 service
- Children's Committee Meeting will follow the 11:00 service in Room 304A.
- 345 Fellowship will meet from 5:00 to 6:30 beginning in Room 304A.

FROM REMEMBRANCE INTO LOVE UNBOUND

On Wednesday, December 8, at 7:00 p.m., Montview will host an evening of music and storytelling devoted to transforming grief during the holiday season. Love Unbound: A Journey from Grief into Light will feature the music of Rebecca Gale and Steve Pearlman and original essays from Montview members reflecting on their own experiences reclaiming hope, peace, joy, and love by accepting change and loss. Love Unbound has emerged out of the former Service of Remembrance in recognition of the longing in all of us to fully celebrate the Christmas season. More details will be published in the December issue of the Messenger, or contact Rebecca Gale (rebecca@rebeccagale.com) for further information.

MONTVIEW QUILTERS: BACK AFTER SUMMER VACATION

The Montview Quilters kicked off the 2010-2011 season with a fun class on painting and heating tyvek and sewing it to fabric. The quilters have not been meeting at church for most of the summer, but that does not mean they haven't been busy! They participated in a block exchange inspired by Freddy Moran. The group has supported one another in numerous personal projects, including Judi Creed's grandson's twin bed quilt featuring blocks made of his baby clothes, Mary Mulholland's Freddy Moran Quilt, the first exchange quilt to be finished, and Nadene Graham's beautiful foster child quilts.

In July, after taking inventory of around 10 finished quilts waiting to go to good homes, Colette pulled five beautiful baby quilts which the Quilters decided should go to Buckley Babies, helping that group of quilters support the many families below the poverty line bring home their new babies in comfort with gift baskets including a nice quilt, clothing, and other necessities. In return, the Montview group was surprised to receive several quilts appropriate for foster children-practice projects from a longarm quilter in the Buckley group!

Just for fun, the Quilters met in Judi's Stapleton Sweat Shop to sew "Freddy" trees one day, and they punctuated summer with TWO retreats (May and August) in Granby, at Mary Mulholland's beautiful mountain home. The spring

retreat saw Diane Sullo and Judi create beautiful black, red, and white quilt tops while Pat Smith put finishing touches on a bunch of different projects and Mary Mulholland began AND finished her top for her Freddy Quilt! The fall retreat brought part of the group together in a Mystery Quilt that Colette introduced called Hidden Wells.

Back "home" at church, the quilters are delighting in the newly redecorated Reception Room, where they meet on Mondays. *The first Monday of each month is an evening meeting, beginning at 7 p.m., with all other Mondays being day meetings, beginning at 10 a.m.*

Anyone wanting to learn to quilt, to refresh skills in quilting, or simply to go and do what you love to do, please accept the invitation to join Montview Quilters! Bring a friend! The group invites anyone, whether a member of Montview or not, to participate in the making of quilts for foster children and in all of their fun activities. They are expanding their range of giving and will soon be adding new charities to their outreach. If you wish to donate time and talent from home, call Colette Schneider to see what you can do at 303-337-3684.

You don't have time to sew or quilt? Always in need of supplies, Montview Quilters will gladly accept any donation, which can be sent directly to Dan Gasser in the church.

FOUNDATIONS

for Faith



ENGAGING OUR TRADITION • EXPANDING OUR PERSPECTIVE

NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 5 AT 9:30 AM

THE ART OF PARENTING

Fellowship Hall

Parenting is described as the toughest job you'll ever love, and you know raising the next generation is an amazing task – both challenging and rewarding. The Art of Parenting was developed because we all benefit from having a variety of tools to apply as our family grows and changes. The Art of Parenting workshops take a different approach from the typical parenting class and don't presume to teach you to be a parent; you already are. The workshops offer you information and provide a place to explore alternatives that are appropriate for your family. As parents, you have experience and insight to offer each other and these workshops are designed to allow for time for discussion and some practice. While these are not lectures, you will get plenty of written material and other resources to take home with you.

Art of Parenting workshops are appropriate for parents with children of all ages, but perhaps are most useful for pre-school through elementary ages (2-12). Although it is not necessary to attend all the workshops, there are themes that carry through the series as well as benefits gained from establishing relationships with other participating parents.

Topics include: What does being a parent really mean to you?; Basic Needs, Developmental Stages and Temperament; Power Struggles: Win, Lose or Draw?; Identifying and Using Your Strengths; Reinforcement Strategies and Techniques

The class will be led by Carolyn Ajie, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker whose psychotherapy practice includes individuals, couples and families and adolescents. You can reach Carolyn at 303-587-5432 or carolyn.ajie@comcast.net.

AWAKENING THE HEART: THE WISDOM WAY OF KNOWING

Study Group Room

“In what ways might we deepen the practice of love?” asks Reverend Cynthia Bourgeault. She answers this question in her book, *The Wisdom Way of Knowing*, as she describes the Christian wisdom tradition, a precise lineage of spiritual knowledge which has generally been lost to the modern church. She urges us to reclaim this tradition as a much needed source of meaning in our over-stressed world. In addition to tracing the history of this tradition, Bourgeault offers practical suggestions for spiritual development such as meditation or centering prayer, sacred chanting, and lectio divina.

In this class, we will read and discuss *The Wisdom Way of Knowing*, as well as practice the spiritual disciplines she recommends. The class will be led by Erika Walker, Montview member, who serves on the Center for Spiritual Life advisory board. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the book, please e-mail Erika at ewalker8070@gmail.com.

49 Contemporary Forum

ers an educational forum for all ages • 9:30 AM

NOVEMBER 7TH: GOT GREEN?; JULIE SCHWAB, OP, CO-DIRECTOR, EARTHLINKS

Julie will share with us information on a micro-enterprise program right here in lower downtown Denver where homeless and low income individuals work in an Organic Urban Garden and create crafts and products from the produce of the garden. Participants are paid hourly for their work, while forming a supportive community and working on life changes. Sales of the products created help pay for the earnings of those that create the crafts. Julie will also share tips for us to take small steps towards a sustainable life style through gardening, bee keeping and worm composting.

NOVEMBER 14TH: WHAT THE HEALTH CARE BILL ACTUALLY CONTAINS

Montview members Karen Timmons and Peggy Gonder will describe in detail the good and the “not so good” of the latest health care legislation. What does this mean for Medicare and Medicaid, and is health care insurance mandatory? Join us, and have your questions answered.

NOVEMBER 21ST: ATTORNEY RICK MISHKIN: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THINKING ABOUT LONG TERM CARE PLANNING,

Rick Mishkin, attorney at law, will address this vitally important subject, overlooked by many seniors, and their families. Rick Mishkin has credentials that establish his legal knowledge and experience in this & other important matter of law. A past president of the 1st Judicial District Bar Association, he is the recipient of numerous awards. Join us, and become informed about a little known, but very important matter that includes estate planning, probate, elder asset protection and planning. These are issues that affect the lives of so many seniors. Here is an opportunity, be you “seniors”, or family of seniors, to learn, and to question.

NOVEMBER 28TH: UNA STEVENSON

In 1989 Una became a volunteer for the Center for Responsible Tourism, in San Anselmo, California. She has worked as a volunteer contact for End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT). In 1996 Una Represented Presbyterian Women at The First World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Stockholm, Sweden. While in Sweden Una, along with 12 NGO's, were invited to meet with the 19 member U. S. delegation to discuss what needed to be done. From that meeting they came up with 13 items for action. Most of the suggestions are part of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act signed into law, by President Clinton, in 2000. At the First World Congress, the emphasis of ECPAT was changed to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes. ECPAT has 70+ offices world wide, including ECPAT-USA. In 1997 Una wrote an Overture “*Recognizing and Action on the Problems of Child Prostitution in Community and Other Countries*”, for the Presbytery of Utah. # 97-73. G.A. passed the Overture with changes and in 2004 she wrote two Resolutions for Utah Church Women United, “*Abuse of Immigrant Women and Children*” and “*Sexual Abuse of Children.*” Both were approved at the 2005 CWU Common Council. In 2004 Una was asked to chair the CWU Trafficking and Abuse of Children Action Team. From 2004 -2010 the Action Team has written four Work Plans (educational and action pieces): Work Plan # 1 “Human Trafficking in Developing Countries”; # 2 “Human Trafficking Internationally”; # 3 “Help for the United States Trafficked and Sexually Exploited Children and Youth”; # 4 Child Pornography - The Sexual Exploitation of Children. And in 2008 Una was lead writer for the Overture “On Preventing the Trafficking of Women, Internationally and Nationally”, for the Presbytery of Plains & Peaks, Colorado. # 11-12. Approved on the G.A. Consent Agenda.

DECEMBER 5TH: MAYOR JOHN HICKENLOOPER

Mayor John Hickenlooper has personally asked for an opportunity to address Montview members. But the date of his appearance is subject to change, in part due to determining his status. However, we look forward to meeting him again, be it as “Mayor,” or as “Governor.”

2010 INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Thanksgiving Day, November 25 at 10:00 am

Central Christian Church, 3690 Cherry Creek South Drive

A NIFTY NINETY ~ RUTH COUSINS DENNY

Ruth Cousins Denny is a living link to the long, dark chapter of America's history that many have called its original sin: She knew her grandmother, who had been a slave. Ruth recalls her grandmother describing how she was sold at age 6 to a young man in Louisiana. Her job was to sit on the veranda with his wife and fan her to keep her cool. The reward for a good job was a lump of sugar. Later another relative, "Grandpa Hoffman," served under General Sherman in the Civil War.

A St. Louis native, Ruth was excited to learn in 1951 that she'd be moving to Colorado. Her first husband worked at the Air Force Finance Center in St. Louis, which was relocating to Denver. She looked forward to leaving the racial segregation there: Surely, she thought, they'd find a warm welcome in the West. "When I got to Denver," she said in an interview, "I thought I was going to heaven."

Ruth was pleased when two new friends invited her to to a movie. But when she headed for the theater's main floor, her shocked friends quickly stopped her and explained that black patrons had to sit in the balcony. Later, in restaurants, her group was always ushered to a back table. These were among many experiences that made her realize Denver was no promised land. Eventually she learned that in the 1920s, the Ku Klux Klan of Colorado had the largest following of any state west of the Mississippi. The Klan had elected Governor Clarence Morley, helped elect U.S. Sen. Rice Means, dominated the state House of Representatives, and was a major influence on Mayor Benjamin Stapleton of Denver. This legacy hadn't entirely disappeared in the 1950s.

Still, Ruth was an experienced teacher, so she applied to the Denver Public Schools for a position. But every year DPS found a new excuse for not hiring her, she said, "and I wasn't the only one. That's why I got involved" in civil rights. The Denver chapter of the Congress for Racial Equality (CORE) was headed by Jim Reynolds, another St. Louis native, and he asked Ruth to join. (She later became its chairperson.) Among their memorable activities was the picketing and boycott of the Denver Dry Goods Co., a venerable department store on 16th Street. Its president, Frank Johns, was adamant about keeping the sales staff white. "We could clean the bathrooms," Ruth said, "but not be clerks." Many shoppers canceled their charge accounts during the five-week campaign. And the picket line attracted white supporters, including CORE member Dr. Max Raabe



and his wife, Maryjane, dressed properly in her white gloves and hat; Dan Hoffman, later Denver's Manager of Safety and Dean of the University of Denver Law School; and John L. Kane, who founded Colorado's first integrated law firm with Irving Andrews, and later became a Senior U.S. District Court Judge.

Ruth raised money to send two busloads of Denverites to Dr. Martin Luther King's historic March on Washington. The passage of federal civil rights legislation led to the disbanding of CORE, and Ruth looked forward to integration in areas from employment to housing to schools. But progress toward equality was slow, although blacks

in Colorado made dramatic strides in public office. Among them were George Brown, the nation's first black lieutenant governor, and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb. Last year, Colorado ~ whose black population is only 4 percent ~ became the first state in U.S. history to have both chambers of its state legislature headed by blacks: Senate President Peter Groff and Speaker of the House Terrance Carroll.

Eventually DPS hired Ruth to teach, and she spent 13 years at Gilpin Elementary School and 13 years at Asbury Elementary. After she retired, in addition to tutoring children in elementary school, she was often invited to discuss the civil rights movement with students ranging from those in grade school to college classes.

In 1995, she received the Humanitarian Award of the Colorado Martin Luther King Holiday Commission for her leadership in civil rights. Her decades of work seemed worthwhile when Barack Obama was elected President, a milestone that overwhelmed her. "I'll never get over it," she said. "I never thought this would happen in my lifetime. I'm not an emotional person, but I lost it when that happened. Still, there's a deep-seated prejudice that we haven't been able to deal with. Maybe we haven't gone backward, but we aren't going forward. Just look at the TV ~ Glenn Beck, Bill O'Reilly ~ it's OK to say anything! Some (white) people are so afraid they won't be able to keep the position they've always had ~ they're very frightened. It disturbs me the way they treat Obama ~ all the lies, it's so evil. But there's a God in heaven, and He'll take care of them."

Ruth said Denver's NAACP chapter is being reorganized. "It needs new leadership ~ there's

Continued on page 10

too much apathy,” she said. She’s “giving advice from the sidelines. We need to figure out how to get my children’s generation, and my grandchildren’s, involved. The old ways are gone, and it’s time for youthful leadership. ‘They haven’t done anything,’ some people say. Well, who’s ‘they’? Also there are some old folks who don’t want to step aside.”

Although Ruth’s 90th birthday was Nov. 1, the big celebration was last July so that it could be held in her large backyard. Music was provided by legendary bass player Charles Burrell, another “nifty 90” who attends Montview, formerly of the Denver Symphony (later the Colorado Symphony) and also a jazz master ~ “He still hauls that thing (instrument) around,” she observed ~ and pianist Purnell Steen, who’d been on the Denver Dry Goods picket line in 1962.

Ruth met her second husband, Galloway, in Denver and in 1964 they joined Montview. They were present when the church hosted both Dr. King and Duke Ellington. “We got involved in Mariners,” she said, “and Galloway was an Elder and I was a Deaconess.” An Army veteran who served in World War II, he worked for the Colorado Civil Rights Commission and then the U.S. Department of Labor. When he died in 1987, he was buried at Fort Logan National Cemetery.

Ruth has a daughter, Dianne Briscoe, and a son, Michael Briscoe. He has been limited to part-time work since being severely injured in an accident. There are three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Ruth keeps busy working on her memoirs; she gave most of her papers and memorabilia on her civil rights activities to the Blair-Caldwell African American Research Library. In the early 1990s she initiated the production of four videos called “Rebels Remembered: The History of the Civil Rights Movement in Colorado,” which she hopes will educate young people about the struggles of earlier generations. The project began with no money, but completing it will soon become a reality.

When asked about her proudest achievement, Ruth paused and then recalled that she was only three years old when her father died, leaving her mother to support five children on low-paying jobs. She wanted to take music lessons but knew that her mother couldn’t afford the \$2 a week. She also wanted to be a lawyer. “It may sound corny,” she said, “but last summer Dianne was a soloist for some of the Montview services. And she became a lawyer.” In fact Dianne will become Denver County Court Judge Briscoe in January. - *Barbara Haddad Ryan for the Communications Committee*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONION CLUB MEN’S GROUP • NOVEMBER 3 - 7:30 PM

The Men of Montview are invited to the Onion Club, a Montview sponsored men’s group that meets the first Wednesday of the month in the Green Room.

PHOTOGRAPHERS OF THE MONTVIEW VISUAL ARTS GUILD EXHIBIT • NOVEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 6

If you are interested in purchasing a photograph, please contact the artist directly. 10% of sales go to the Montview Visual Arts Guild.

FLU SHOT CLINIC • NOVEMBER 7 FROM 8:00 A.M. - 12.30 P.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

The cost for a flu shot is \$25, FluMist is \$35 (*nasal spray option, FDA-approved for ages (2-49)*) and a pneumonia shot \$50. Acceptable forms of payment: cash, checks, MasterCard/Visa, flex-benefits cards. Insurances accepted: Medicare B, Humana, Rocky Mountain HMO, Tricare, Aetna, CHP (Child Health Plans), and Great West. Clients using Great West will need to pay at time of service and will be reimbursed by VNA. Sign up sheets will be in the Commons between services from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.

F3 - BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT • NOVEMBER 13

Shoot for the corner pocket; paddle away at the ping pong table; toss some bean bags at the cornhole; or simply just hang out and remember the good ole days in the youth group game room. Connect with other younger families at Montview at the next F3 (Families for Friendship) gathering.

What: Back to School Night!

Potluck! Bring your favorite food and a beverage (wine/beer) to share.

- Kids will be sharing our potluck until 6:30 (child friendly food will be provided as part of the potluck.) • \$10 per child (\$20 max per family) is requested to pay for childcare providers.
- Wear your alma mater logo and/or colors

When and Where: November 13th from 5:30-8:00 PM at the Church (Youth Room, a.k.a “The Cellar”)! Please RSVP for childcare by 11/6/10 to Aimee Sanders (aplsanders@yahoo.com).

BARBARA REED MEMORIAL BLOOD DRIVE • NOVEMBER 28

Bring a friend and spend an hour catching up during this season of sharing at the Barbara Reed Memorial Blood Drive scheduled for Sunday, November 28th, in the McCollum Room from 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Your donation can help save the lives of 3 people, and it is so easy! Please call Jamie Vernon at 303 394-9901 or email her at jamievernon66@yahoo.com to schedule your appointment.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 2010

1.
Communications 3:00 PM
Montview Quilters..... 7:00 PM

2.
Men of Montview S..... 7:00 AM
South Campus Team... 3:00 PM
TAC Tutoring..... 3:15 PM
Building & Grounds... 6:30 PM

3.
Heritage Committee... 9:00 AM
Wednesday Morning
Women's Group 10:00 AM
Montview Mentors 3:30 PM
Weds Night Book Study... 7:00 PM
Onion Club
Men's Group 7:30 PM

4.
Men of Montview E..... 7:00 AM
Montview Manor
Board Meeting 5:30 PM
Westminster Choir 7:30 PM

5.
Friday AM Bible Study ... 7 AM
MOB Highlands
Presbytery Retreat

6.
MOB Highlands
Presbytery Retreat
New Member's
Class 8:30 AM

7. All Saints Day
Worship Services 8:30 and 11 AM
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Cearley preaching
Flu Shots..... 8:00 AM
Childcare..... 8:15 AM
Sunday School..... 9:30 AM
All Saints Day..... 12:00 PM
Global Mission..... 12:15 PM
Timbrel Choir 4:00 PM
JAM..... 5:00 PM
Jubilate Choir 5:00 PM

14. 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Worship Services 8:30 and 11 AM
The Rev. Sheri Fry preaching
Childcare..... 8:15 AM
Sunday School..... 9:30 AM
JAM Ghost Ranch Retreat... 10:00 AM
Congregational Meeting 10:30 AM
Envision Committee 12:00 PM
Children's Committee 12:00 PM
Rectal Benefiting the
Montview Music Ministry 2:00 PM
Rectal Reception 3:30 PM
Timbrel Choir 4:00 PM
Jubilate Choir 5:00 PM
MOB..... 6:30 PM

21. Christ the King
Worship Services 8:30 and 11 AM
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Cearley preaching
Childcare..... 8:15 AM
Sunday School..... 9:30 AM
New Member Reception..... 9:30 AM
Prayer Shawl Ministry 12:00 PM
Peace and Justice 12:15 PM
Timbrel Choir 4:00 PM
JAM to DENJUM 5:00 PM
Jubilate Choir 5:00 PM
MOB to DENJUM 6:30 PM

28. 1st Sunday of Advent
Worship Services 8:30 and 11 AM
The Rev. Ian Gregory Cummins preaching
Childcare..... 8:15 AM
Blood Drive..... 8:30 AM
Sunday School..... 9:30 AM
POT Meeting 4:00 PM

8.
Montview Quilters 10:00 AM
Deacon Meeting 7:00 PM

9.
Memorials Committee. 7:30 AM
TAC Tutoring..... 3:15 PM
Personel Committee. 7:00 PM
Worship & Music 7:00 PM

10.
Heritage Committee... 9:00 AM
Montview Mentors 3:30 PM
Faith in Action 7:00 PM
Adult Ed Committee.. 7:00 PM

11.
Westminster Choir 7:30 PM

12.
Friday AM Bible Study ... 7 AM
MOM Time 9:30 AM

13.
Families for
Friendship (F3)
5:30 PM
Wayfarers Dinner
6:30 PM

15.
Montview Quilters 10:00 AM
**MESSENGER
DEADLINE**
Late submissions
cannot be accepted.

16.
Men of Montview S..... 7:00 AM
TAC Tutoring 3:15 PM
Session Meeting..... 7:00 PM

17.
Heritage Committee..... 9:00 AM
Wednesday Morning
Women's Group 10:00 AM
Montview Mentors 3:30 PM

18.
Choir Board Dinner 6:00 PM
Westminster Choir 7:30 PM

19.
Friday AM Bible Study 7 AM
Drippers Fellowship
Group..... 6:00 PM

20.
Officer
Training Retreat
8:30 AM

22.
Montview Quilters ... 10:00 AM

23.
TAC Tutoring..... 3:15 PM
Envision Committee .. 7:00 PM

24.
Building Closed

25.
Building Closed

26.
Building Closed

27.

29.
Messenger Monday 9:00 AM
Montview Quilters..... 10:00 AM

30.
TAC Tutoring..... 3:15 PM

DECEMBER 1.
Heritage Committee..... 9:00 AM
Wednesday Morning
Women's Group 10:00 AM
Montview Mentors 3:30 PM
Onion Club
Men's Group 7:30 PM

2.
Men of Montview E..... 7:00 AM
Montview Manor
Board Meeting 5:30 PM
Westminster Choir 7:30 PM

3.
Friday AM Bible Study 7 AM

4.
Orchestra Dress
Rehearsal
8:00 AM

~ STATEMENT OF MISSION ~

We believe that the love of God surrounds us. Our call is to nurture this love in ourselves and each other. Through prayer, worship, education, outreach, and mission, we seek to foster spiritual fulfillment, community, tolerance, peace, non-violence, and social justice. We dedicate ourselves and our church to follow the Spirit of Christ by word and deed.
(Adopted by Session, July 1998)

REFLECTIONS ON ETHIOPIA



Americans live in a culture that fosters reading. Books line the shelves in my classroom and are scattered in numerous piles throughout my home, an endless array of titles is available to me through local and national booksellers. Public libraries

trust me to borrow as many books as my heart desires. Recently, I was reminded of the power of books and realized that in the U.S. it is easy to take literacy, and our access to information, for granted.

This summer, I traveled to Ethiopia with a group of eleven other educators as part of a program funded by a Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant and sponsored by Kansas State University and the non-profit Ethiopia Reads. Our objective was to learn about Ethiopia's vast history and experience its rich culture in order to develop curriculum to use back home in our classrooms and to share with other teachers, both locally and nationally.

One highlight of our trip was visiting a handful of schools and libraries in Addis Ababa and Awassa. Walking into the classrooms of these schools that had little more than chalkboards and rows and rows of desks pot-marked with decades of student carvings and graffiti, I tried to imagine what it would be like to attempt to foster the love of learning the 60 - 80 students that would fill these spaces at the beginning of the school year. The lack of books, teaching aids, and other resources disheartened me. Nevertheless, the directors and educators we met eagerly showed off what they had with huge smiles and optimism. One school proudly displayed the resources its teachers share, all of which fit onto three long tables. The librarian at another school eagerly demonstrated the use of self-made manipulatives to demonstrate scientific concepts. I admired

their ingenuity and wondered if I would be so clever without my healthy classroom budget.

I kept thinking that these Ethiopian teachers would be overwhelmed with the wealth of resources available to my students were they to walk into my classroom back in Denver. A school in Ethiopia is considered lucky if it has enough textbooks, which are often little more than simple paperback manuals, to provide them to students at a 1:5 ration. Rarely do copies of any other types of books exist in the schools. Even more rare is the presence of books in homes.

Walking into an Ethiopia Reads library cast a glimmer of hope on these underfunded, overcrowded, roughly maintained campuses. Bookshelves line the walls, which are slowly filling with books, and freshly polished tables and chairs fill the space. The adults running the libraries are humble yet enthusiastic. They speak about their efforts to get books into the hands of young children and share stories of students who eagerly wait their turn to utilize the libraries, many of which are open before and after school.



At several of these schools, we presented suitcases filled with new books that had been collected and transported from the U.S. At one school, our single suitcase contribution more than doubled what they currently owned. The smiles on the faces of the adults receiving these books as well as the delight in children with whom we had the opportunity to read aloud, made me want to personally deliver a book to every individual I came in contact with in this beautiful country. They are eager to read and eager to learn. It seems so basic yet fundamental to provide them the books that will allow them to do so.*

**Jeanne Boland teaches 7th and 8th grades at the Odyssey School. Montview's Global Mission Committee facilitated her selection as a Fulbright awardee in Ethiopia this past summer.*