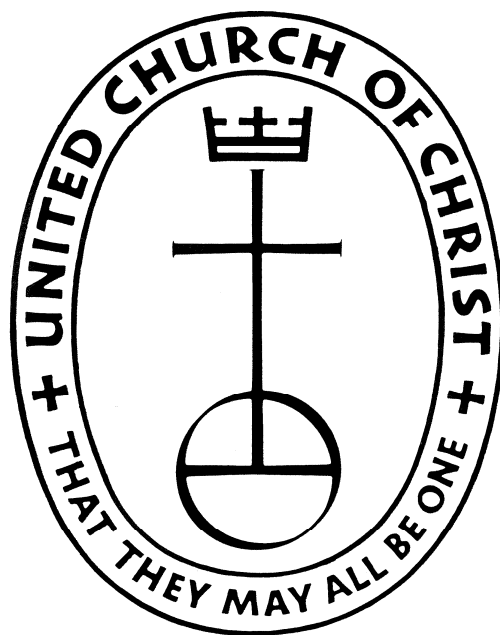


**Hillcrest Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
Montrose, Colorado**



**Annual Report  
2009**

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation  
Held on Sunday, January 24, 2010**

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Hillcrest Congregational  
United Church Of Christ  
Building and Grounds Report for 2009

When you look around our church you'll see several changes to our facilities. Earlier this year many were involved with the installation of the new playground equipment using Keeney funds. It looks absolutely fabulous, and has been a real hit with all the children that get the chance to use it. Not long after, a set of swings was installed adjacent to the playground. These have been much loved too and have stood as a great welcome to the kids of the church and community. More is on the way with Keeney Park, with the initial installation of the sprinkler controls, addition of topsoil and preliminary grading already completed. Plans include installation of the remainder of the sprinkler system this spring and seeding, so that the park can be used by summer, and the system will be automated.

There are a number of projects that still need to be completed and are important to our church. It is desirable to connect to the City sewer line, but quotes to accomplish this have come in quite high. It appears that we have a route to access the sewer, but lack the tens of thousands to do so. Another project awaiting completion is the lighted sign for our corner. A committee has formed to work on this project, and it appears that funds may be adequate for completion.

The final touches to the replacement of the roof over the Sanctuary were completed early in the year, and it appears that all went well. Fundraisers and weekly giving have brought in roughly half of the funds to replace monies used to complete this project. This will continue until we eventually have raised the funds in full.

The Building and Grounds Committee has tried various formats for meetings and completion of projects. There were two 'cleanup days' this year that weren't well attended. It has been difficult to find good meeting times for the Committee due to busy schedules. We even tried meeting at Applebee's, but this was tricky too. The signup on our 'Time and Talent' forms during our Stewardship Drive was effective in finding many people who have offered to be involved with Building and Grounds projects, and this helps improve the outlook for 2010.

In closing, we'd like to thank everyone who helped with our projects this year. We hesitate to mention any names, as there are so many that we're sure to miss someone. However, this group includes members of our church as well as many from the community. Local business owners donated their time or completed work at substantially less than the going rates. Thanks to all of you for your assistance.

Todd Schroedel for the  
Building and Grounds Committee

# Caring Ministry

Communion Sunday – Potluck Dinners (once per month)

Caring Ministry Meetings (once per month)

Activities:

- Dinner at Camp Robber` – 01/24/09
- Family Game Night – 02/21/09
- Progressive Dinner – 03/28/09
- Ridgway Camping Trip – 06/19-21/09
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration & Potluck – 07/04/09
- Thanksgiving Luncheon (11/22/09)
- 15 “Goodie Bags” packed for college & high school kids during December finals
- Christmas Luncheon w/Arts & Crafts Activity – took table decorations to Senior Center (12/06/09)

Participation in Western Association Annual Meeting held October 2009

Men’s Brunch – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month

Women’s Brunch – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month – only held 2-3 brunches this year

\* \* \* \* \*

## Report from the Church Clerk

William Roth died on February 15, 2009. The Rev. Donald G. Vincent officiated his memorial service as part of the Sunday worship service on March 1, 2009.

On April 12, 2009, we welcomed Paul Lenihan and Judy Ann Work as new members of Hillcrest Church. Also on April 12, 2009, Rev. Donald G. Vincent officiated the baptism of his grandson, Zachary Wilson Vincent.

On June 26, 2009, Rev. Donald G. Vincent officiated a wedding for Steven Austin Halow and Shirley Ann Dunham at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in East Hartford, Connecticut.

The Rev. Karen Winkel was called as our permanent pastor and began serving on Sunday, July 17, 2009. On Saturday, October 3, 2009, a Service of Covenant and Celebration was held to install her. In attendance was Tom Rehling, Conference Minister of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ, along with many fellow pastors and lay delegates from the other member churches in the Western Association

Elizabeth Thornburg died on September 24, 2009. The Rev. Karen Winkel officiated her memorial service on September 29, 2009.

In 2009, the following members asked to removed from membership:  
Jim Brockman, Mary Brockman, David Lavender and Val Lavender.

— Respectfully submitted by Mary Loncar, Church Clerk

Hillcrest Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
Church Council Report for 2009

Hillcrest Congregational Church was served by a dynamic and caring Church Council group for 2009. Members included Rog Coman, Cindy LaJoy, Mary Loncar, 'Buck' Buchanan, Donald Vincent Pat Riddell and Todd Schroedel. Additional members included Reverend Don Vincent or Pastor Karen Winkel as well as Financial Secretaries Pat Idsardi, Joe Cordero or Kim Floyde. We did not have a regular youth delegate in attendance at our meetings. Major staffing changes dominated the work of the Council this year. Groups that formed additional 'legs' of the Council were instrumental and extremely effective in dealing with these significant changes.

Major points of focus for 2009 included the following:

- Hosted the Western Association Meeting at Hillcrest
- Thanked Reverend Don Vincent for a year of service as Interim Pastor.
- Planned a New Member Orientation Program.
- Installed our wonderful Reverend Karen Winkel at a beautiful service.
- Continued to work with the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Clubs.
- Dealt with the changing needs of our Church Secretary and Financial Secretary.
- Carefully worked to revise our church Bylaws.
- Planned for fund raisers to pay for the replacement of the roof above the Sanctuary.
- Continued to plan for several desirable Building and Grounds projects.
- Established a Pastoral Relations Committee independent of the Council.
- Reconfigured our Secretary/Financial Secretary position and hired Kim Floyde.
- Continued to support our many ministry teams and special groups within the Church.
- Worked along with our new Pastor in meeting the needs of our church community.

There are so many people that worked along with the Council to make these happenings a reality. We'd like to especially thank the leadership within each of the ministry teams who did a fabulous job of directing their specific roles within the church, and keeping the Council informed. We also extend our thanks to the Search Committee and the Personnel Committee. Both of these groups put in so much extra time in and thoughtful and caring manner as they worked to find our Pastor and Secretary. The Personnel Committee is currently active as they once again work to find a new Church Secretary.

Your Church Council will be working on the following items for 2010:

- Carefully following the budget and funding during this time of financial strain.
- Continue working with Building and Grounds issues such as the sewer and sign.
- Be looking at the goals of our church in relation to our Strategic Planning Document.
- Helping to find people to effectively staff all groups within the church.
- Work to help all within Hillcrest foster their relationship with God and Jesus Christ.

As I conclude my term as Moderator of Hillcrest Church, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for all of your hard work, patience, guidance, and friendship. It's been a pleasure working with you. May God bless you all!

In Christ-

Todd R. Schroedel, Outgoing Church Council Moderator

## **Equipping Ministry Report**

The Equipping Report was not ready in time for publication of the 2009 Annual Report. A report will be filed by Ministry Chairperson Cindy LaJoy later in February.

In the meantime, I am sure we are grateful for all of the work of this Ministry. But, we especially appreciate their commitment to provide the Sunday School Program for our children. This program couldn't be offered without the wonderful volunteers who teach every Sunday!

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Riddell (on behalf of the Equipping Ministry)

## **Hillcrest Prayer Ministry**

The Prayer Ministry has continued to be a meaningful mission of our church family. Starting in 2008, we have sent email Prayer Requests to the Prayer Partners who agreed to pray soon and often for members of our church family who have requested prayer.

This ministry is a two-way blessing. Those who have received care or support have expressed much gratitude for answered prayers. And those of you who have prayed for others, prepared and delivered a meal, sent a postcard to youth at camp, given a gift at the LaJoy Family Celebration, or other caring deeds have known the blessing of serving in Christ's name.

New Prayer Partners are always needed. Please contact Pastor Karen or Jane Nannestad if you have a Prayer Request or wish to become a Prayer Partner.

Submitted by Jane Nannestad  
On behalf of the Prayer Ministry

## **Faith Ministry Report for 2009**

It's been quite a year. We completed our time with Interim Pastor Don Vincent and welcomed our new pastor, Karen Winkel. Our Chairman resigned, but continues on the committee, as an active participant. We gained two new members, Pat Riddell and Lael Van Riper. We said goodbye to long-time member Mary Alice Hansen, who has served on this ministry faithfully for so many years. We miss her very much! Pat Idsardi and Lois Latimer have decided to step down from the ministry and we thank them for their important contributions. Pat Riddell has agreed to chair the ministry during 2010 and we stand ready to support the ministry of our new pastor and serve the needs of our Church.

Our Interim pastor led us in several innovative services such as using interpretive dance and clowning, as well as a re-enactment of a Puritan worship service, complete with powdered wig and a deacon who prodded inattentive worshipers! Popular events like Jazz Sunday and Sunday in the Park went well. Unfortunately, the all-church retreat had to be cancelled.

We saw several students leave for college this year. We miss seeing them in worship. On the other hand, we now have several young children who have been trained to be our acolytes. The children are excited to participate in this special way and their presence in worship is always appreciated. Thanks to Judy Work for being our "acolyte shepherd"; and to Cindy Heine, Marge Keehfus, and Jane Nannestad for making the acolyte stoles to match the liturgical colors.

Our music ministry has grown with a choir of 16 members. Their dedication and their commitment have been exemplary. Under the leadership of Janet Sims, Hillcrest enjoys a music ministry of exceptional merit. If you don't mind my saying so, I think it is unmatched in Montrose and possibly the whole Western Slope. We owe special thanks to Janet for training us so ably. Thanks too, to each of the singers. We are blessed.

As we begin a new year, Pat Riddell will chair the ministry. Janet serves as a resource for worship planning. George Miller is responsible for seeing that we have accompanists when Janet is gone as well as recruiting special music when the choir is not singing. He will also be in charge of scheduling liturgists and greeters. Mary Alice Hansen arranged for volunteers to prepare communion for all of 2010. Lael Van Riper has agreed to contribute to the newsletter on behalf of the Faith Ministry.

Perhaps our most effective Faith Ministry volunteers in worship are our church attendees. Your loyalty and openness to the leadership of our Pastor ensure that Hillcrest will always honor God and the spirit of Christ in our midst. Ours is an open house of worship where we want everyone to feel welcome and find their spirits fed at our table.

Respectfully submitted,

George Miller  
Member, Faith Ministry

**HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**2009 Financial Report 2010 Proposed Budget**

Account	2009 YTD Actual	2009 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	2010 Budget
<b>Revenue</b>				
Current Pledges	83,989.00	89,505.00	(5,516.00)	76,465.00
Unpledged Plate	8,595.13	8,000.00	595.13	9,000.00
New Faith Promises	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rent	8,000.00	3,500.00	4,500.00	6,000.00
Building Use	115.00	0.00	115.00	0.00
Other Income				
Ministry Offerings	400.00	1,000.00	(600.00)	1,000.00
Postpaid Pledges	2,165.00	0.00	2,165.00	0.00
Prepaid Pledges	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$103,264.13</b>	<b>\$102,005.00</b>	<b>\$1,259.13</b>	<b>\$92,465.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>				
Building & Grounds	1,679.65	2,000.00	(320.35)	2,000.00
Insurance-Property & Liability	2,643.50	2,612.00	31.50	2,708.00
Maintenance	1,995.52	2,250.00	(254.48)	2,200.00
Supplies	97.98	200.00	(102.02)	300.00
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$6,416.65</b>	<b>\$7,062.00</b>	<b>(\$645.35)</b>	<b>\$7,208.00</b>
<b>Utilities</b>				
Electricity	1,867.00	1,700.00	167.00	1,900.00
Natural Gas	3,451.00	3,744.00	(293.00)	3,700.00
Telephone/Internet	1,156.31	1,080.00	76.31	1,300.00
Water/Refuse	575.39	550.00	25.39	630.00
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>\$7,049.70</b>	<b>\$7,074.00</b>	<b>(\$24.30)</b>	<b>\$7,530.00</b>
<b>Ministries</b>				
Caring	404.00	700.00	(296.00)	400.00
Equipping	719.94	700.00	19.94	750.00
Faith (including music and worship)	331.91	700.00	(368.09)	350.00
Outreach	318.56	700.00	(381.44)	300.00
<b>Total Ministries</b>	<b>\$1,774.41</b>	<b>\$2,800.00</b>	<b>(\$1,025.59)</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>
<b>Office Administration</b>				
Copier Maintenance	1,451.41	1,630.00	(178.59)	1,600.00
Furniture & Fixtures	336.90	500.00	(163.10)	0.00
Legal Fees	63.00	100.00	(37.00)	100.00
Postage	820.80	600.00	220.80	600.00
Supplies	860.13	270.00	590.13	300.00

based on actual pledges received  
based on last year's success  
pledges received after Stewardship Campaign  
assumes full year at \$500

\* special offerings planned to cover this  
2008 pledge payments received in 2009  
2010 pledge payments paid in 2009

lawn care, snow removal  
coverage provided by UCC  
\* repairs, septic pumping, boiler inspection  
kitchen and cleaning supplies

\* contingent on ministry offerings

\*  
Includes miscellaneous office expenses

**HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**2009 Financial Report 2010 Proposed Budget**

Account	2009 YTD Actual	2009 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	2010 Budget	
41 Travel & Mileage Reimbursement	1,058.81	1,500.00	(441.19)	0.00	* Moved to Pastor Benefits in 2010
42 <b>Total Office Administration</b>	<b>\$4,591.05</b>	<b>\$4,600.00</b>	<b>(\$8.95)</b>	<b>\$2,600.00</b>	
43					
44 <b>Association Memberships</b>					
45 Association of Montrose Churches	50.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	Flat amount
46 Rocky Mountain Conference	1,060.00	1,100.00	(40.00)	1,050.00	\$10 per member
47 Western Association	73.75	220.00	(146.25)	210.00	\$2 per member
48 <b>Total Association Memberships</b>	<b>\$1,183.75</b>	<b>\$1,370.00</b>	<b>(\$186.25)</b>	<b>\$1,310.00</b>	
49					
50 <b>Pastor Compensation &amp; Benefits</b>					
51 Cash Salary	41,246.88	28,000.00	13,246.88	32,000.00	all figures based on call agreement
52 Housing/Utilities Allowances	6,875.00	18,630.00	(11,755.00)	15,000.00	increase effective 7/01/10 per UCC guidelines
53 <b>Total Base Salary</b>	<b>48,121.88</b>	<b>46,630.00</b>	<b>1,491.88</b>	<b>47,000.00</b>	
54					
55 Social Security Allowance	3,681.39	0.00	3,681.39	3,595.50	
56 <b>Adjusted Base Salary</b>	<b>51,803.27</b>	<b>46,630.00</b>	<b>6,665.15</b>	<b>50,595.50</b>	
57					
58 Combined Interim Pastor Benefits	8,533.00	18,195.00	(9,662.00)	0.00	not needed this year
59 UCC Annuity Program	4,532.36	0.00	4,532.36	6,580.00	14% of total base salary (line 53)
60 Health Insurance Plan	4,194.75	0.00	4,194.75	6,519.00	
61 Insurance Deductible Cash Account	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	
62 Dental Insurance	306.00	0.00	306.00	459.00	
63 Life & Disability Insurance	456.46	0.00	456.46	470.00	1% of total base salary (line 53)
64 Travel & Mileage Reimbursement	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	includes in-town mileage at 50¢/mile (IRS rate)
65 Conference & Meeting Registrations	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	
66 Books & Periodicals	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00	
67 Continuing Education	56.49	0.00	56.49	400.00	
68 <b>Total Pastor Compensation &amp; Benefits</b>	<b>\$69,882.33</b>	<b>\$64,825.00</b>	<b>\$5,057.33</b>	<b>\$67,923.50</b>	
69					
70 <b>Regular Staff Expenses</b>					
71 Financial Secretary	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,875.00	
72 Housekeeper	939.12	950.00	(10.88)	0.00	*
73 Organist/Choir Director	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00	7,635.00	
74 Secretarial	7,523.04	7,762.00	(238.96)	5,615.00	
75 Substitute musicians/speaker	780.00	1,500.00	(720.00)	800.00	*
76 Workers Compensation	827.00	1,000.00	(173.00)	1,000.00	
77 Payroll Tax Expense	1,244.80	1,400.00	(155.20)	1,400.00	
78 <b>Total Regular Staff Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,813.96</b>	<b>\$20,112.00</b>	<b>(\$1,298.04)</b>	<b>\$18,325.00</b>	
79					
80 <b>Other Expenses</b>					

**HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**2009 Financial Report 2010 Proposed Budget**

Account	2009 YTD Actual	2009 Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	2010 Budget
81 Search for Permanent Pastor	2,214.32	1,000.00	1,214.32	0.00
82 <b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,214.32</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,214.32</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
83				
84 <b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$111,926.17</b>	<b>\$108,843.00</b>	<b>\$3,083.17</b>	<b>\$106,696.50</b>
85				
86 <b>Total Net Income</b>	<b>(\$8,662.04)</b>	<b>(\$6,838.00)</b>	<b>(\$1,824.04)</b>	<b>(\$14,231.50)</b>

not needed this year

87  
88  
89  
90  
91  
92  
93  
94  
95  
96

<b>Capital Campaign :: Roof</b>	
Expenses incurred in 2008	<b>3,720.00</b>
Expenses incurred in 2009	<b>4,566.56</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,286.56</b>
Contributions received in 2009	<b>(3,642.41)</b>
Contributions received in 2010	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Outstanding Unpaid Expenses</b>	<b>4,644.15</b>

2009 Pledging Units 47  
 Lost from 2009 -16 (pledged in 2009, not in 2010)  
 New from 2009 12 (4 children)  
 2010 Pledging Units **43** (31 pledged last year)

**HILLCREST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, INC.**  
**December 31, 2009**

1	<b>Cash on Hand</b>	
2	Wells Fargo Checking	2,177.59
3	Wells Fargo Savings	7,993.86
4	Vanguard Prime Money Market Fund	53,632.13
5	<b>Total Cash on Hand</b>	<b>\$ 63,803.58</b>
6		
7		
8	<b>Current Reserves</b>	
9	Keeney A/V (Vanguard)	102.42
10	Other A/V (Vanguard)	1,214.00
11	Undesignated Memorials (Vanguard)	720.00
12	Keeney Handicap (Vanguard)	1,500.00
13	Keeney Park (Vanguard)	1,507.81
14	Keeney Reserve (Vanguard)	30,000.00
15	Keeney Sewer (Vanguard)	10,000.00
16	Keeney Signage (Vanguard)	2,000.00
17	Other signage (Vanguard)	2,000.00
18	Memorial Funds	505.00
19	Withhold-FICA & Medicare	322.02
20	Withhold-Federal Income Tax	203.52
21	Withhold-State Income Tax	99.72
22	Camperships	560.00
23	Community Garden Rent	347.96
24	Playground Equipment	804.11
25	Youth Fundraisers	489.37
26	AMC Rent/Utility Assistance	20.00
27	<b>Total in Reserves</b>	<b>\$ 52,395.93</b>

# 2010 Nominating Committee Report

There are many wonderful volunteers here at Hillcrest Church; whether they show up for a cleanup day, tackle one project, sit on the Council, sing in the Choir, participate in a Ministry, or work with the Women's Union to name a few opportunities. We are grateful for each and every one.

## Church Council – 2010

Moderator	Pat Riddell
Vice Moderator	Mary Loncar
Secretary	Cindy LaJoy
Financial Secretary	Kim Floyde
Treasurer	Rog Coman
Church Clerk	Buck Buchanan
Member-at-large	Bill Heckard
Member-at-large	Marge Keehfuss
Youth Representative	Rotating

### Caring Ministry

Trisha Buchanan, Chair  
Chuck Greenacre  
Marge Keehfuss  
Jane Nannestad

### Equipping Ministry

Marcia Coman  
Aljean Greenacre  
Cindy LaJoy  
Darlene Schroedel

### Faith Ministry

George Miller  
Pat Riddell, Chair  
Janet Sims  
Lael Van Riper

### Outreach

Kim Floyde  
Mary Loncar, Co-Chair  
David Segal  
Francie Smiles  
Jill Vincent, Co-Chair  
Jack Heine (honorary member)

### Prayer Ministry

Jane Nannestad, Coordinator  
Rog Coman  
Cindy Heine  
Terri Huntley  
Pat Idsardi  
Marge Keehfuss  
Cindy LaJoy

Paul & Laura Lenihan  
George Miller  
Pat Riddell  
David Segal  
Todd Schroedel  
Heather Scott  
Jill Vincent  
Karen Winkel

### Building & Grounds

Buck Buchanan  
Dominick LaJoy  
Francie Smiles  
Donald Vincent

### Memorial Garden Committee (Seasonal)

Darlene Schroedel, Coordinator

### Church Sign Committee

Mary Loncar, Coordinator

By-Laws Committee

Buck Buchanan  
Rog Coman  
Cindy LaJoy  
Todd Schroedel

Toddler Room Renovation Committee

Mary Loncar, Coordinator

Pastoral Relations Committee

Trisha Buchanan  
Marcia Coman  
Terri Huntley  
Todd Schroedel

Personnel Committee

Clayton Beaudry  
Rog Coman  
Tricia Dickinson  
Bill Heckard

Hillcrest Newsletter Team

Marcia Coman  
Renate Lockwood  
David Segal

Planned Giving / Memorials Committee

Bob Murphy  
Todd Schroedel

Nominating Committee

Vice Moderator  
Todd Schroedel

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Stewardship Committee

Treasurer

---

---

Liaison with Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club

Pat Riddell

Women's Union - Officers

Acting President	Hostess of each meeting
Vice President	Betty-Ann McCluskey
Secretary	Mary Brockman
Treasurer	Joan Elliott
Cookies	Lois Latimer
Courtesy	Audrey Lowther
Church Liaison	Wilma Eisaguirre

Hillcrest Church 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee

Cindy Heine	Betty-Ann McCluskey (representing Women's Union)
Janet Sims	_____
Francie Smiles	_____

The Church Council is encouraging each ministry and committee to appoint a chairperson for one year terms. The job of appointing a chairperson is not the job of the Council. Each of the above committees and ministries is invited to confirm their chair during their first meeting following the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Riddell, Nominating Committee

# OUTREACH MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

## 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- As in 2008 we made several \$25 microloans on Kiva.org. We have had wonderful success as many loans have been partially paid back or paid in full. This has allowed us to re-loan it to another entrepreneur in a developing nation.
- We had yet another very successful Time & Talent Auction in May. Our goal for the year was to raise \$1500 for Our Church's Wider Mission; we raised \$1640 at the auction.
- Outreach has continued to have both fall and spring road cleanups. We had great crews turn out for each day, and it really is amazing how much less trash we pick up then when we first started. Special thanks to the Loncar families for hosting us and for the wonderful refreshments.
- The Share the Warmth project we did in 2008 was so successful that we repeated it for 2009. We delivered 25 stockings to MADA filled by the congregation for children and young adults.
- We love to build on projects. In 2008, we raised money to buy sewing machines and supplies for a woman in Kyrgyzstan. In 2009, we raised money for the necessary supplies needed for her to make mattresses for institutions. We raised enough money for Aigula to make 30 mattresses – that's 30 elderly people not sleeping on the concrete.
- Our big project for 2009 was the introduction of "Heart and Soul Cinema". We have hosted monthly movie nights featuring spiritual, uplifting, and informative movies. This has been a wonderful outreach into the community and has had several movies with numerous new faces.
- Once again we were "5 for 5" in the UCC special offerings.
- We made a "Welcome" basket for guests which have a small sack of M&M's, some of which have our signature red comma, and also a small card with some of our information.

## 2010 GOALS

Our primary focus is still to be promoting our church and make it more visible in the Montrose community. Some of our ideas for accomplishing this goal include the following:

- Continue with our monthly movie nights. We have selected the films for the next several months which will enable us to post them longer and draw a bigger crowd.
- We plan to hold a book sale to raise funds for other projects.
- In January we introduced our "Food Wheel" to promote year long giving to Sharing Ministries. We will also be talking with other churches to encourage them to take the Food Wheel to their congregations.
- We will be doing more projects for MADA – in the spring we will deliver Easter Baskets and in the fall we plan to do something for "Back to School".
- The devastation in Haiti is a reminder of just how important Our Church's Wider Mission is. We plan on hosting a "Las Vegas Night" to raise funds for our \$1500 pledge, taking a break from the Time and Talent Auction.
- We will work to ensure that again we are "5 for 5" in UCC special offerings.
- We would like to build on our projects in Kyrgyzstan and with Aigula. We plan to work with Cindy LaJoy to see what our next project can be.
- We would love to have some new members join us for these missions; please see one of us if you are interested!! Even if you cannot attend meetings but find one of these goals interesting, please let us know!

2009 was a year of change for our congregation. The highlight of our year was welcoming Rev. Karen. We are so excited for the coming year and feel that we are being led by such a wonderful spirit in Rev. Karen. We have many challenges ahead of us, but are confident that our congregation will do everything they can to make Montrose and the world a better place.

Jill Vincent, Mary Loncar, Kim Floyde, Francie Smiles, Jeannie Loncar, Jack Heine.

## Pastor's Report—2009

In John's gospel, Jesus reminds us "I came that you might have life and have it abundantly." That life is Hillcrest life--this has been more than clear since my arrival in July 2009. Although we are not a church as large as some, although our coffers reflect our modest size, ours is a church with an abundance of love, creativity, and openness to new possibilities.

During my six months as your pastor, I've found God's abundance alive in our midst in countless ways. Here are just some examples of this:

- Our choir director and choir offer us exceptional, worshipful music week after wonderful week.
- Our Ministry Teams (Caring, Equipping, Faith, and Outreach) consistently invest heart, soul, and time to serve, educate, and challenge us.
- Our Church Council is comprised of committed, mature leaders who listen for God's will and wisdom for Hillcrest and then seek to be obedient.
- Our Women's Union continues its long tradition of active involvement and generosity.
- Our Prayer Ministry Team maintains a quiet but essential commitment to lifting up our joys and concerns expressed in worship or privately.
- Our strong sense of covenant with the Western Association, the Rocky Mountain Conference, and the wider United Church of Christ is essential to us and inspiring to others.
- Our generosity as a 5-for-5 congregation is consistent, as is our commitment to support community-based and far-flung efforts with monetary and/or tangible gifts.
- Our sleeves roll up quickly and often, as together we attend to the needs of our building and grounds.
- Our congregation gladly invests in the wider community by making our building available to the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club, our garden plot a place for neighbors to grow healthy food, and our sanctuary a venue for films that educate and challenge the wider community, even as they entertain.
- Our love for God's creation shines as we live more fully into our "green church" identity.
- Our living, loving witness to the unity of spirit that can, with God's help, arise out of diversity of thought.

As I look ahead, my hope is that together we can better reach out to the community around us; many hunger for our kind of abundance. The planned-for sign along Hillcrest is more valuable than we'll ever know; let's see this effort to completion in 2010. I would also like to see us be an active, consistent presence at community gatherings like "Main in Motion" and the Farmers' Market. We have good, even irresistible, news to share with those who have given up on (or have been given up by) the institution of the church.

There's not a day goes by that your beauty as a congregation and your gifts as individuals don't leave me feeling grateful and inspired. Thank you for the gift it is to serve you and for the opportunity to journey alongside you in the coming years. Even more abundance awaits us!

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Karen Winkel



**ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**