

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

2010 Annual Report

“Our Cup Runneth Over”



Annual Meeting of the Congregation
Sunday January 30, 2011

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**Hillcrest Congregational Church, Inc.
United Church of Christ**

**ANNUAL MEETING
January 30, 2011**

Agenda

Opening Prayer	Pat Riddell
Financial Report	Kim Floyde
Hillcrest Church Budget for 2011	Kim Floyde
Ministry & Committee Reports	
Caring Ministry	
Equipping Ministry	
Faith Ministry	
Outreach Ministry	
Others	
Nominations and Vote of 2011 Church Council	Mary Loncar
Proposed By-Law Amendment	Pat Riddell
Pastor's Reflections	Rev. Karen Winkel
Other items and updates from the Congregation	
Closing Prayer	Rev. Karen Winkel
Adjournment	Pat Riddell

Building and Grounds Report

Pat Riddell

During 2010 there was no Building and Grounds "Committee". Oversight for this activity fell to the Church Council and ultimately the generous volunteers who stepped forward during the year. In addition, Pete Loncar graciously volunteered and was available for a variety of small projects around the church during the year; all we had to do was pick up the phone (and we did)!

We are thankful for the following accomplishments:

- The "Fun Zone" – remodeling of the nursery and toddler rooms was made possible with the vision of Mary Loncar and Jill Vincent. Significant donations of materials and time by nearly a dozen people made this project possible. Special thanks to Pete Loncar, Donald Vincent and Mark Smiles for tackling tiling the floor.
- Rog Coman and a friend of his put up shelving for Pastor Karen. Rog also created a beautiful stand for Pastor Karen's many stoles.
- Work Days in the spring, summer and fall tackled improvements to Keaney Park, other landscaping maintenance, the sprinkler system, cleaning the Sanctuary, etc. Dozens of church members turned out for one or more of these workdays.
- Special thanks to Pete Loncar and Donald Vincent; each spending countless hours working on our sprinkler system and the fencing.
- We enjoy a re-organized housekeeper's closet and a remodeled narthex closet thanks to Steve Nannestad.
- Painting of Von Hagan Hall, the stairwell and halls upstairs. We had volunteer help from the Boys & Girls Club staff but special thanks go to Pete Loncar and Steve Nannestad for organizing this project and seeing it through.
- Dominick LaJoy took time to relocate and rewire our A/V equipment in the Sanctuary to make it more accessible.
- Give Steve Nannestad a paint brush and transformed space happens before your eyes. Steve quietly took on the painting of the large and small CE rooms upstairs. We are so appreciative of his gifts.
- The long awaited new church sign made its debut early in the spring – thanks to donations from the Women's Union and earmarked Vanguard funds and the manual labor of Pete Loncar, Donald Vincent and Mark Smiles.
- Last but not least, thanks to all of the monthly volunteer housekeepers!

As we seek to be good stewards of the church property we have a "wish list" for 2011 including:

- At least a couple of folks willing to co-Chair Building and Grounds
- Re-designing and re-landscaping of the Memorial Garden
- Finding a permanent solution to our "Fence" problem (the current fencing does not withstand winds)
- Replacing the flooring in the 2 upstairs CE Rooms
- Completing Keaney Park (outdoor area on the north side of church) so that it becomes usable space

Caring Ministry Report

Trisha Buchanan

It is important that we celebrate and 'care' for one another and that we offer each other a hug of friendship. Our church is important in all of our lives and that we can 'care' for each other is of great value.

We celebrated our members' birthdays each month by having a special dessert for everyone.

We are in the process of finalizing our photo directory for all of our members and non members. This was arranged with Olan Mills Studio. Courtesy photos were taken and many ordered additional pictures for their families and friends. This created a pictorial history of our members.

Caring Ministry has held progressive dinners at members homes and special holiday brunches at Camp Robber Café to provide a time to get together, visit and get to know one another.

We have done holiday craft projects with our younger members, to visit with them and form a congenial group. Our craft items were delivered on different holiday occasions to our shut-in and nursing home members.

We have gone bowling with the younger members and many families and had a blast doing so.

A great time was had on the 4th of July at Holly Park, when we met and enjoyed a fried chicken dinner along with games for all ages, and watching the fireworks. A very special evening that has become an annual event.

At Christmas time the kids and adults made wreaths for our shut-in and nursing home members and delivered them while caroling to their homes and nursing homes. A truly wonderful time was had by all.

Christmas cards were sent to each of our college age members and for our first year college members a box of goodies was sent with hot cocoa and other yummy edibles.

All the above events represent a special time among all our church members with love and caring for everyone.

Church Clerk's Report

*Rev. Karen Winkel
On Behalf of Buck Buchanan*

Weddings

Marge McCarty and Don Dupree were married at Hillcrest Church on April 3, 2010; Rev. Winkel officiated. In addition, Rev. Winkel officiated at two off-site weddings: that of Barbara Petiot and Ken Pewitt on July 31, 2010 (in their home in Montrose), and that of Haley Jackson and Steve Blair on August 14, 2010 (at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ouray).

Memorial Services

Rev. Winkel officiated at two graveside services. The first service was for Ellen L. Blackmore, held on June 27, 2010, at the Dallas Divide Cemetery. The second was for Sam L. Farmer, held at Sunset Mesa, on September 29, 2010. Rev. Winkel also officiated at the memorial service for Dale D. Reed, held at Sunset Mesa Funeral Home on December 4, 2010. Rev. Richard Engdahl and Rev. Kathy Graff from United Church of the San Juans were the officiants for the service for Robert Wood held at Hillcrest UCC on November 1, 2010.

Loss to Death

Josephine S. "Jo" Sims passed away May 21, 2010. Patrick "Pat" Merrick died November 10, 2010.

Changes in Membership

Joyfully received into membership on September 12, 2010, were the following: John and Carol Overholser, Janet and Bob Schmitt, Rev. Deb Smith, and Rev. Karen Winkel.

David Segal requested a transfer of membership to All Saints Anglican Church on January 6, 2011.

Church Council & Moderators Report*Pat Riddell***“In the Ordinary Times... Our Cup Runneth Over”**

As I was thinking back to the year just ended and preparing to write my contribution to the Annual Report my first instinct was to acknowledge the special events of which there were several. But a recent guest sermon by member Deb Smith made me realize that what I really wanted to do is celebrate the “ordinary times” in our life together this past year. It was in the ordinary times during 2010 that the extra-ordinary happened.

- ❖ Over a thousand pounds of food and household items were collected and donated to Sharing Ministries.
- ❖ Students between the ages of 6 and 17 had a safe place after school and during the summer thanks to the Boys & Girls Club and space provided by the Church.
- ❖ During a year with huge economic challenges, an anonymous church member challenged the rest of us to raise the money to pay off the roof repairs that had been made... the challenge was not just met but exceeded.
- ❖ Church members listened for God’s leading and began to explore what it would mean to lease unused church land for a permanent home for the Boys & Girls Club.
- ❖ Joys & concerns were spoken faithfully every week and communally prayed for.
- ❖ Wonderful new members and visitors continued to grace our community.
- ❖ A new youth group began and the word spread beyond our doors.
- ❖ The Community Garden yielded hundreds of pounds of food for hard working gardeners.
- ❖ Hundreds of hours of volunteer time were donated to meetings, potlucks, ministry events, teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir, work days, cleaning the church, Bible and book studies.
- ❖ No matter who you were or where you were on life’s journey you were welcome at Hillcrest Church.

Our cup truly “runneth over” and I am profoundly grateful.

Equipping Report*Cindy LaJoy*

Our Equipping Ministry has been essentially leaderless this year, but thankfully we have held strong. We are very grateful for those who have contributed to our success, and are looking forward to a more active year in 2011! Here is a list of the various things Equipping has been involved in during the past year:

- Sunday School helped meet the needs of approximately 9 children on a weekly basis, providing them with a rich learning experience as they explored the faith stories that helped create a base knowledge.
- Four children attended La Foret this past summer.
- A new youth club was created which has been an outreach to young children inside and outside our church, and currently serves approximately 17 children.
- One adult completed Theological Education Institute
- Book Club has continued and has explored several interesting works

For 2011 we anticipate an increase in activity for the Equipping Ministry. A reinvigorated Equipping team will work together to shore up our already bustling ministry. Adult educational opportunities will be supported, and current ministries will continue to thrive and grow. There is the potential of double the number of children attending La Foret. Unique learning experiences will be had in our new Explorers youth club. The exploration of faith will be encouraged in a variety of ways.

Thank you, from your Equipping Ministry Team, for the gift of being allowed to serve!

Faith Ministry Report

Pat Riddell
On behalf of the Faith Ministry Members

God is at work in all that we do and our cup runneth over!

The Faith Ministry focuses on the Worship aspects of our life as a church. Thanks to ministry members Lael Van Riper, George Miller, Clayton Beaudry and Janet Sims. We met once a month, usually at 11am on the 3rd Tuesday. Pastor Karen joined us regularly as well.

Faith Ministry continued to be responsible for ensuring that the behind the scenes details for Sunday worship were attended to including: making childcare available, scheduling greeters, liturgists, acolytes, communion volunteers, substitute musicians (when Janet was away) as well as guest preachers (when Pastor Karen was away from the pulpit).

We are grateful for Pastor Karen's encouraging, challenging and inspiring messages from the pulpit, and for all of the gifts she brings to this faith community.

Music on Sunday mornings ministered to members in wonderful and spirit-filled ways. Heartfelt thanks to Janet and the choir for their creativity and faithfulness.

Special thanks to Judy Work for shepherding the acolytes on Sunday mornings. We are also very grateful for Darlene Schroedel's willingness to oversee the Communion volunteers each month. In addition, thanks to Dominick LaJoy for physically moving the A/V equipment downstairs where it is more accessible. And finally, thanks to Yvonne for ensuring that bulletins magically appeared each Sunday.

Women's Union members hosted coffee hours and provided delicious goodies and Larry Sims was often the one to make sure coffee was perking!

The Faith Ministry continued to assist in planning for our Lenten series, a very special Advent Retreat in November, and the Advent season itself.

As we look to 2011 there are a few issues/ideas that the Faith Ministry would like to explore:

1. Visually enhancing the worship space (banners, liturgical themes, etc)
2. Encouraging more youth participation in the service
3. Improving the lighting in the worship space
4. Using the audio/visual equipment we have available more often and more effectively!

In order to begin to address the issues identified above, we welcome the involvement and creativity of more folks!

P.S. My fear is that I am forgetting someone very important who has contributed in important ways to the Faith Ministry's work. Please know you are appreciated.

Nominating Committee Report

Mary Loncar

We are grateful for each and everyone of you who serve here at Hillcrest Church.

CHURCH COUNCIL 2011

Moderator	Pat Riddell
Vice Moderator	Cindy LaJoy
Secretary	Judy Work
Financial Secretary	Kim Floyde
Treasurer	
Member at Large	Marge Keehfuss
Member at Large	Bill Heckard
Member at Large (Youth)	
Clerk	Mary Loncar

MINISTRY TEAMS**Caring**

Trisha Buchanan
Marge Keehfuss
Chuck Greenacre
Beth Murphy
Marcia Coman
(Karen Winkel)

Equipping

Cindy LaJoy
Jill Vincent
Alissa Loncar
Aljean Greenacre
(Karen Winkel)

Outreach

Mary Loncar, Co-Chair
Francie Smiles, Co-Chair
Kim Floyde
Cindy Heine
Marsha Heckard
(Karen Winkel)

Faith

Pat Riddell
Janet Sims
Lael VanRiper
Clayton Beaudry
(Karen Winkel)

Prayer

Jane Nannestad

Building and Grounds

Pete Loncar, Co-Chair
Dominick LaJoy, Co-Chair

COMMITTEES**Pastoral Relations**

Trisha Buchanan
Marcia Coman
Terri Huntley
Todd Schroedel

Personnel

Clayton Beaudry
Rog Coman
Tricia Dickinson
Bill Heckard

Partnership

Pat Riddell
Mary Loncar
Steve Nannestad
Francie Smiles
(Karen Winkel)

Planned Giving

Kim Floyde
Bob Murphy
Todd Schroedel

Outreach Ministry Report

Kim Floyde

- In January, we launched our “food wheels” project to promote the Sharing Ministries Food *Bank*, not just during the Harvest Altar season, but throughout the entire year. Each month, a member of the Outreach Ministry reminded everyone to bring in the specific food for that month. The results were astonishing... in our first year, we delivered a remarkable 1,164 pounds of food and groceries to the food bank!
- Our OCWM weekend fundraiser consisted of two parts this year: *Gamblin’ for Gawd*, which included a BBQ dinner (provided by all four ministries) and other fun activities. Our *Time & Talent Auction* was a big success again this year, thanks to Dominick LaJoy’s ability to get everyone to “bid high” on all the auction

items. All in all, we were able to exceed our \$1500 pledge and send a whopping \$1619 to the Rocky Mountain Conference.

- We have now made 21 *micro-loans on Kiva.org* since 2008. A total of 14 loans have been paid back in full and the other 7 are in the process of repayment. As these loans are paid back, we are able to re-loan the funds to another entrepreneur in a developing nation, so we are no longer investing any “new money” in this project.
- Outreach has continued to have both fall and spring fall *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 their wonderful hospitality!
- During the Advent season, we were thrilled at the response to our annual *Share the Warmth* project. In 2009, we were proud to deliver 25 stockings, but in 2010, we even exceeded that with a total of 35 Christmas stockings, filled with goodies for children and teenagers who rely on Christ’s Kitchen for their meals and other support.
- In order to raise money for outreach projects, we held a *two-day book sale* in July. We sold hundreds of donated books and CDs for a total of \$781 that we are using to promote our church throughout the community. All of the leftover books were taken to the Montrose Library for their book sale.
- Throughout the entire summer, we had a table on Main Street each Thursday night during *Main in Motion*. We promoted the Sharing Ministries Food bank, handing out food wheels and other information about this important charity. We also collected about \$60 in cash donations that were sent along to the food bank.
- Also during Advent, our first attempt at hosting a *SERRV International Gift Shop* at the church was a big success, bringing in over \$950 in sales to benefit talented artisans from all over the world. Next year, we plan to start earlier and have more of the items that everyone requested, including scarves, Christmas ornaments and more jewelry.
- Once again, we were “5 for 5” in the UCC special offerings. Thanks to everyone who donated!

We are so grateful for the continued support from everyone at Hillcrest. Our primary focus for 2011 is to reaching out to the Montrose community by continuing our food collections and road cleanups while remaining open to other opportunities that enable us to share our gifts with those beyond the church walls.

Pastor’s Report

Rev. Karen Winkel

“*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*” The opening line to this beloved psalm is regularly misunderstood as a commandment against petitioning God for anything. I hear it quite differently and suspect you may, too. Rather than admonishing us against asking God to satisfy our desires or yearnings, the psalmist reminds us that our Shepherding God anticipates our needs and tends us so fully and well that we lack for nothing essential to our well-being.

In 2010, it’s fair to say that Hillcrest did not want for (that is, lack) anything. We experienced more abundance of resources and heart than any of us could have imagined when we met for our annual meeting last January. We boldly adopted a deficit budget and yet ended the year not only having met our financial obligations but also with a tally of extra giving that is nothing short of astounding. Together we gave almost 20% more than our annual budget so that we could support extra projects and efforts. With confidence we can join the psalmist in saying “my cup overflows,” knowing that what we’ve experienced has less to do with the size of our pocketbooks and a more to do with the scope of God’s faithfulness to us.

Even as we celebrate the blessing of material abundance, we must remember that a church is not its budget! First and foremost, we are a people seeking to enter into an ever-deepening relationship with God, servants who strive to advance God’s holy purposes in ways that honor our gifts and abilities and which minister to a hurting world. Hillcrest’s long tradition of generosity of heart had us involved in many efforts last year, too many to name here, but all worthy of praise. No church I know has the passion and commitment that

Hillcrest does, nor the attitude of joy and cooperation that you bring with you to whatever you are doing. Together, you restore my hope in the institution of the church!

A new and growing edge for us in 2010 was learning to be more intentional about inviting God into our deliberations and decisions. The Council held a retreat in April in which we asked ourselves what it would look like to help move the church forward by relying more on God and less on ourselves. I have been amazed at how quickly and wholeheartedly the Council has embraced this shift. As the months unfolded, we learned to pause during meetings to listen to the Still-speaking God and then to give faithful expression to what we sensed was God's desire, rather than hold fast to preconceived ideas about what we should or should not do.

The process by which the congregation moved forward in its pursuit of a land-sharing agreement with the Black Canyon Boys and Girls Club mirrored the Council's openness to seeking God's counsel and will. While I believe we must be free to exercise our God-given gifts of reason, I am confident that our growing practice of seeking God's direction will lead to greater joy and bolder faithfulness. I praise all of you for your openness to and growth in this essential dimension of our shared journey.

Just as churches aren't their budgets, neither are they their buildings. Still, our building and grounds matter greatly--they send a message about who we are and to whom we belong. I rejoice in the installation of the sign at the corner of Hillcrest and Miami; it's beautiful and gives us an opportunity to bless and maybe even stretch those who pass by. Last year's improvements and enhancements to our building and grounds are to be celebrated, as are those who helped these come to pass. Still, it would not hurt us to take a loving but clear-eyed look at our property and find creative ways to give ourselves a "facelift." Especially as the Boys and Girls Club begins to plant itself on our unused land, we will want and need to make landscaping improvements so that our property's appearance is as pleasing as theirs will surely be.

Let me now report on my ecclesiastical involvements beyond Hillcrest. In 2010, George Miller and I continued to serve as co-conveners of an ecumenical gathering of progressive clergy; we meet bimonthly at United Church of the San Juans in Ridgway. In October, I was elected to serve as the Western Association Registrar; at that same time, I stepped forward to serve with Rev. Brenda Brown (Gunnison) as a clergy co-dean. At the conference level, I served on the Nominations Committee and the Growth Ministry Team, and participated as a member of the Capital Campaign Task Force soliciting contributions from individuals and congregations. I attended (and provided small-group leadership at) the Conference Annual Meeting in June.

Continuing my education is both a professional responsibility and a joy. I traveled to Nashville in May for a preaching conference and journeyed to New Mexico in October for a week of self-directed study. Additionally, I participated in seven one-hour on-line workshops offered through the Center for Progressive Renewal; topics ranged from stewardship to worship to church growth to leadership.

Eighteen months into my ministry with you, I continue to stand in awe of who you are as a congregation. Your maturity and flexibility astound me and your orientation toward God's horizon inspires me. Not a day goes by that I don't feel proud of who you are and enormously grateful that I am here to join you on this adventure to which God calls us. I appreciate your openness to the gifts I bring and your graciousness when my gifts are lacking. To belong to Hillcrest and to see the many ways in which you say "yes" to God is one of my life's greatest joys and deepest satisfactions. It is an honor and privilege to serve you—my cup overflows!

Women's Union Report

Betty McCluskey

2010 was the 98th year since Women's Union began as a ministry of the United Congregational Church in Montrose. Since 1912, this ministry has been built on the shoulders of many women who've provided faith, friendship and funding for this church, community and global missions. Time and cultural needs have changed, but the commitment of the Women's Union, past and present, to be "God with skin on" to those they know and those who are in need continues.

We had two very successful fundraisers this year, the Spring Rummage Sale in April and the Cookie Walk in December. Both provided funds to meet some needs in this church and community, and the rebuilding of Haiti. Thanks to all of you who not only provided rummage and cookies but also bought back stuff! We enjoy helping the kids attend camp and having a safe and playful environment. We are thankful to be able to help those in need in our community. We are honored to provide sunshine for those who are sick. We are delighted to watch our cookies disappear during Fellowship Hour each week. We are thankful for the opportunity to grow in faith. We are blessed with the friendships we have developed.

As we look forward to celebrating 100 years of service, it is our desire that the shoulders we provide will launch another 100 years of service.

