

Summer, 2009



THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, DENVER, CO

Parish Post

The Parish Post — First Issue



The church newsletter is back! The Communication Committee is happy to present you with our new newsletter. We hope you enjoy our Summer 2009 edition. Please contact us with information and suggestions for upcoming newsletters. Contact any Communications Committee member with News You Can Use!

The Parish Post will be sent out as a PDF document on a quarterly basis via e-mail. If you wish to receive a print copy, look for a sign-up sheet or contact the church office.

Have a Great Summer!

Communications Committee
Molly Martin, Chair
David Neal
Lucia Cowperthwaite
Roz Dudden
Betsy Wahlberg

Message from Father Tom

Dear Friends in Christ,

“THE PEACE OF THE LORD BE WITH YOU”. I wonder if that phrase actually means something to you or is it simply something you recite from time to time? It seems, in my experience that the “peace of Christ” is often a difficult thing to come by. I think that for too many the “peace of Christ” is a nice concept but not something experienced personally. As you read this, take a moment and reflect on when you have known “the peace of Christ” and what is necessary for YOU to be in that place.

During these economically stressful times, to have God’s peace to rest in and be comforted by is a precious thing. Similarly, these times spiritually tend to be trying for some and to have God’s deep, reassuring and abiding peace can be such a calming presence. The one thing that I have discovered, and this is true of many things that God has to offer us, is that you can never know what you are missing till you have found it. In this case you can find “the peace of Christ” when you quiet the chatter in your mind, close down all the conversations with your fear and anxiety and sit quietly and listen to the silence (that sounds like a contradiction). It is in the stillness of your heart that you will hear the voice of God.

“The peace of Christ” can also be found in the reassuring voice of one who knows the Lord and can offer to you the trust and faith that you yourself might be struggling to hold on to. There are few things that can be more helpful than the calming voice of one who knows personally the “peace of Christ”.

To seek out the “peace of Christ” through worship and the sacraments can be such a sacred meeting of presence: Father loves you, Christ with you, Spirit guiding you, “peace” because you will know that you are not alone, abiding presence, holding, surrounding and sustaining. With this you will be able to let go and trust and then you will know “peace”.

“Peace” in your heart and soul, “peace” through a fellow traveler, “peace” through worship. God offers it to us and I hope you will find it and know it.

Peace be with you,

Fr. Tom+

Youth News — South Dakota Mission Trip

From Cary Mathis, Youth Director

The youth mission trip to the Rosebud Brule Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, June 6 – 13, was incredible to say the least! The participants included Nick Holcomb, Angie Neslin, Charlie Shannon, Lindsay Parker, Stacey Tabb, Cassie Neslin, Mason Woodside, Laura Mathis, and Cary Mathis. We had the opportunity to serve at a children's Vacation Bible School, at an abused children shelter, and at a community meal. In addition, we had the opportunity visit a nursing home meet wonderful people, including Shane, a young man who is a paraplegic shared a moving story about the dangers of drugs and alcohol.

Certainly one of the highlights of the trip was meeting and sharing ministry with a group of 39 youth and adults from the Diocese of Nebraska. They had come to also do a Vacation Bible School in the morning, while ours was in the evening. They were well prepared but could not get any children to attend.



The Nebraska and Colorado Groups



Nick Holcomb and his class at Vacation Bible School

On the other hand, Ascension's Vacation Bible School was swamped with 30 kids who were wild beyond compare. One successful thing we did was drive around the town inviting children to attend. One mother said, "Fine, this is a great idea. Here are his diapers." The Nebraska group joined us on two days of the Vacation Bible School and friendships flourished.

This is the sort of trip that changes lives, and world views, as it did for all of us. We would each be happy to share more with you about this unbelievable trip. Thank you for the opportunity to go!

Congratulations, Graduates!

Ascension is proud to have two college graduates this year.

Alexander Price, son of Hazel Stevens-Price and Doug Price, graduated from Claremont McKenna College in Claremont, California on May 10.

Mary Ruth and Buzz Schaumberg's son, Ned, graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington in May. Ned was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Congratulations to Alexander and Ned!



Let's Hear about the Organ

From Greg Larsen, Music Director,

Construction of the new Patrick J. Murphy & Associates pipe organ for Church of the Ascension is well underway at their shops in Stowe, PA. All of the mechanism—including the wind chests which hold the pipes and linkage to the console—is now complete. The elegant console, (pictured below right) has also been finished and features an oak shell matching the existing woodwork of the church along with interior appointments in cherry. The majority of the instrument's 1,759 pipes have been assembled, pre-voiced, and packed for shipment to Denver. A gallery of photos which detail the construction of our new pipe organ may be found on the corridor wall outside the Church/Rector's Office and is update regularly.



Patrick J. Murphy just finished installing a "sister" organ in Old St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church in New Orleans. Full attention is now being directed to the completion of our organ. We have been informed that the new organ will be delivered to Church of the Ascension on Monday, July 27. Erection of the organ and rough tuning/voicing should take about three weeks time. The organ will then be left alone to acclimate to the climate of the building (and Colorado) for a week and then voicing specialists return to Denver to complete tonal finishing of the instrument which should take one to one and a half weeks. We're pretty certain that the organ will make it's "debut" during services on Program Sunday, September 13.

Our organ is generating considerable interest in the church music community of Colorado and this will culminate in exciting dedication activities during May 2010



Parishioner Profile—Eric and Diane Hammerberg

Eric and Diane Hammerberg will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in December. Diane attributes this longevity to the fact that Eric gets up and makes the coffee every day before the two mile walk they share. They also share three children and four grandchildren: Mark, an orthopedic surgeon, lives in Boulder with his wife Xenia and their children Tatum, 4 and Anders, 3. Molly and Meredith (Mimi) both live in New York City. Molly is an assistant district attorney in Manhattan, is married to Ivan and has two children, Matthew, 2 and Sabrina, 1. Mimi will marry Ben Garcia in New York City in August. She teaches middle school history, and coaches lacrosse and tennis at the Dwight Englewood School in New Jersey.

Eric has practiced neurology for thirty-four years. Diane, a psychologist, enjoys practicing on her children, husband, friends, as well as her clients. She wrote her dissertation on the relationship between childhood obesity, television viewing and video games. She was indebted to Eric who personally weighed over 100 kids so she could say that they were weighed by a doctor (this also involved lugging a huge weight scale to many different schools). Eric enjoys reading, skiing, sailing, and is involved in many church activities: The Praise Team, Men's Bible Study, Counters and brewing coffee.



Eric also enjoys reading philosophy in a group that meets to discuss different books. Eric (Kuno) was named after a Swedish lover "Kuno" who fell to his death trying to get a rose for his love, Elaine. This has not interfered with Eric's love of roses and other flowers which he cultivates every summer. Eric loves to dance, and stole the show at Molly's wedding with his rendition of dancing with her to James Taylor's "You've got a friend". He is equally anticipating dancing with Mimi at her wedding. Although he does a mean Argentine Tango, Diane reports that unfortunately he has never been able to master "The Twist."

Where in the World is Father James?

Father James, Eli, and Hannah are on their sabbatical until September. Funded by a grant from the Lily Foundation, the trip includes Father James following the footsteps of Paul through Israel, Turkey and Greece. Eli and Hannah met him in Rome The first week in June. After travels in Italy, they will be staying in Paris in July and August.

Father James has a travel blog which contains great pictures and narrative of all the places he visited as he followed in the footsteps of Paul. You can link to it on the front page of the church website < <http://www.ascensiondenver.org> >. Leave him a comment and say hello!

Below is a recent entry from Rome!

Rome—June 9

One of the most amazing things about Rome is gelato. I don't understand why there is such amazing-tasting ice cream here, and it's impossible to find something comparable back home. Eli, Hannah, and I have listened carefully to locals and tourists alike about where they believe one can find the best gelato. We have found our favorite place, and we go there pretty much every day. It's called Giolitti, and it's been around longer than a lot of the other well-known gelaterii. Certainly many people would not agree with us that it is the best. Others have different favorites.



Does that mean that we're wrong or they're right? No. Almost every person we've talked to finds gelato amazing and wonderful, even if their particular favorites differ.

I couldn't help but make a silly connection (I know, that's what I do, right) between gelato and church. Lots of Christian people share their love of God in Christ but don't go to the same church. And even people who go to the same church, are drawn or called by different aspects of its life.

We always try each other's choices

What I find discouraging is how easily we celebrate the different flavors and tastes of gelato and become gripped with fear and loathing about the different tastes in the Christian church.

St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican, where we spent the day, have every surface covered with art of some sort. To me, it's completely overwhelming. But I would be loath to say that that approach to adorning a church is wrong.

So I've found it a wonderful discipline to simply celebrate — delight in others' devotional predispositions and to give God thanks for my own. It makes me miss profoundly the elegant simplicity, the rich music, the warm friendliness of Ascension in Denver. I'll be glad to be back there.

But just like sampling all the gelato flavors, I'll have enjoyed celebrating all the expressions of Christian faith I've encountered here, especially those I've shared with Eli and Hannah.



St Paul Outside the Walls, Rome

Golfers, Take Note!

Gather your friends, family and coworkers, and participate in the first annual Bill Covode Overcoat Classic for a fun day of golf to benefit the St. Francis Center of Denver. Join the group on August 15th for a day of golfing, food and fun to honor long-time Ascension member Bill Covode's work at the St. Francis Center. For details and to register online, use this link: <http://overcoatclassic.golfreg.com>. Besides opportunities for sponsorship, participants are asked to bring a gently-used overcoat, raincoat, fleece or other outer garment to the event. These garments will be donated to the "Clothing Store" at the St. Francis Center. Last year, the St. Francis Center distributed 90,000 pieces of clothing to Denver's homeless.

This is a benefit golf outing that will support the St. Francis Center, a homeless facility in Metro Denver. Earlier this year, Bill Covode passed away suddenly while playing golf at City Park doing what he loved most. Not only was Bill an avid golfer, he was a passionate supporter of the St. Francis Center. He volunteered once a week at the center and served on the board. He was instrumental in moving forward the capital campaign to raise funds for the "Cornerstone Residences", a new 50 unit housing facility designed to move people out of homelessness. The Residences are due to open this October.

As a tribute to Bill, the Covode family decided to launch the "Bill Covode Overcoat Classic". For the past few years, he had organized a friendly golf outing with his golfing buddies calling it the "Overcoat Classic". The family decided to carry on the name thinking "Overcoat" would be an appropriate icon for the sheltering needs of the homeless population. Funds that we raise from this year's event will go towards buying furniture, beds and basic supplies for the new "Cornerstone Residences" at the St. Francis Center.



Fall Church Community Yard Sale Planned



Watch for announcements about the planned Ascension community yard sale. Planned for September 19th in the Church Parking lot. Organizers will be asking for donations from the Church community. Start saving items now!

Questions? Ask any Vestry member.

News You Can Use...

Ascension members have been very active in the University of Denver's Osher Life Long Learning Institute (OLLI) program. **Jim Hautzinger**, bass choir member, recently taught a class titled "The Supreme Court: Politics and Decisions." **Pam Mathews**, former Vestry member and Design Committee head, co-facilitated a course this past winter called "Does the Universe Have a Purpose?" Her husband, **Mo Mathews**, has facilitated classes called "Viva L'Opera" and "Wagner's Ring." **Bill Dorn**, long-time chief usher, Coffee Hour Chairman and Professor Emeritus at DU, taught a class called: "Agatha Christie: A Miss Marple Sampler." He's now working on "An Hercule Poirot Sampler." Sounds enticing for mystery lovers!



Greg and Laurie Larsen ventured to Helena, Montana for a nephew's graduation. In July, they will be returning to Minnesota for a respite from churchly duties. Their son Peter has just taken a position at the Lawrence Berkeley Institute at U.C. Berkeley and will be teaching at the business school there.

Margie and Tim Holcomb have welcomed a new grandson, Brody Kelly born May 18, 2009.

Roz Dudden and Jim Mills just got back from a trip to Hawaii where Roz attended a medical librarian's conference and also went hiking and snorkeling with Jim. The adventure of the trip was a "doors off" helicopter ride over the Na Pali Cliffs in Kauai.

the *A Communion of Faith in the Episcopal Church*
CHURCH of the ASCENSION

**THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION,
 DENVER, CO**

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 Denver, Co. 80218
 Church Services
 Sunday - 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM
 Wednesday - 12:15 PM

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 under Contact Us

*The Church of the Ascension is a
 communion of faith, bound together in
 our worship, fellowship, and ministry;
 uplifted by the Holy Spirit; and committed
 to sharing and growing in Christ's love.*

[ON THE WEB]
<http://www.ascensiondenver.org>

Ascension is Getting Organized! Contact a Committee...

For everyone's information and reference, the following is a list of Ascension's Committee Chairs. Look in the Parish Directory for contact information. If you have any concerns, contact the appropriate person. Or better yet, join a committee! All committees have teams so you can also be a member of a team. Call someone and volunteer to help out!

COMMITTEES -----	CHAIRS
Personnel -----	Eric Hammerberg, Sr. Warden
Finance, Budget, Stewardship -----	John Kundts, Patti Chandler, Liz Arnold
Building and Grounds -----	Mark Hohlen, Jr. Warden
Communications -----	Molly Martin
Worship and Music -----	Priscilla Licht and Greg Larsen
Christian Education -----	Katrina Benes
Pastoral Care -----	Glenda Winker
Outreach -----	Jack Moore
Hospitality -----	Julianna Farrell

All committees are encouraged to submit news to the *Parish Post*. Each future issue will have a "Committee Profile," outlining the mission and plans of the committees and their teams.

