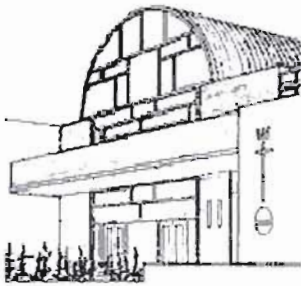


Volume 34

July 2010



VISTA GRANDE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# The Vista Views

## Bloom Where You Are Planted! *By Pastor Kim*

Summer is well and truly here. This is a season of growth and flowers in the garden. However, sometimes in the church we treat summer as a season to take a vacation from the work of ministry. It is good and healing to take a vacation and get some rest and relaxation. I encourage everyone to find ways to recharge. I also encourage each of you to take the slower pace of summer as an opportunity for spiritual growth and blossoming.

God calls to us where we are in our lives. Whether you are so busy, you feel you can't catch your breath or have hours of empty time on your hands, God calls to you. Perhaps your growth for the summer is simply to be more aware of God's presence amidst the business. Perhaps your growth for the summer is to spend time in deep meditation seeking God's call. Perhaps this is a time of action and service for you. Any of these can lead you to bloom, right where you are.

If you are uncertain what your path for growth is then I welcome you to set up an appointment to talk to me. The fancy name for these conversations is "spiritual direction." Think of it as a chance to have someone listen to your doubts, fears, joys, and beliefs about God. I'll reflect back what I hear you saying and ask some questions to help you focus and gain clarity. Call to set up an appointment 719.433.4248.

When we take a step closer to God, when we are intentional about pursuing a spiritual path, we then endeavor to follow Jesus, we grow and blossom. Our lives can become like flowers, bright splashes of color spreading joy to those around us. I have a sign over my patio door that reads, "God laughs in flowers." How will you let God's laughter be heard through your life this summer? Wherever you are and wherever you go this summer you can bloom and people will feel God's joy and laughter.

Happy blooming!  
Pastor Kim

## Our 2nd Annual Green Fling

Saturday, August 21 at Vista Grande

Neighborhood Welcome/Education on Being Green/Yard Sale/More

Carolyn Gunning is the coordinator. **She needs lots of helpers.** Check the sign-up poster in Fellowship Hall to volunteer to coordinate one sub-event. We need everyone's help to get the word out.

### Inside this issue:

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### Special points of interest:

- Adult education 8:15 a.m.
- Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Children's Sunday experience 10:00 a.m.

"We, the congregation of Vista Grande Community Church United Church of Christ in Colorado Springs, CO declare ourselves to be Open and Affirming. We strive to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender and its expression, marital status, family make-up, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural identity or background, and educational and socio-economic status. We welcome all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation's life in Christ. "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

### Pastor's Hours

At the church ... drop by to chat

Tuesday – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Thursday – 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Monday and Wednesday –  
Pastor Kim works from home or  
out in the community

### Worship in July at Vista Grande

**July 4** – Independence Day and  
Communion Sunday  
Pastor Kim preaching

**July 11** -  
Pastor Kim preaching

**July 18** – Pulpit Exchange with  
First Congregational Church  
Rev. Benjamin Broadbent will be preaching

**July 25** -  
Pastor Kim preaching  
Inquirers' Class following worship (read below)



**Pride celebration:** On July 18 as part of the Gay Pride celebration, we will have a pulpit exchange with First Congregational Church (FCC) United Church of Christ. Pastor Kim will be preaching at FCC and Benjamin Broadbent will be preaching at VGCC. Rev. Broadbent is working on his Doctorate of Ministry in preaching so this should be a real treat. After the worship service, everyone who wants can head to the intersection of Cache La Poudre and Tejon to march in the pride parade. We will be marching with First Congregational with our own sign. We will also be making Vista Grande T-shirts for everyone who marches plus anyone else who wants a pride t-shirt. Look for a signup sheet with the cost in the fellowship hall.

**Inquirers' Session:** On July 25, we will hold an inquirers' session after worship. We have two types of membership at Vista Grande Community Church (VGCC): full membership and associate membership. Associate membership is perfect for someone who wishes to retain his or her membership in another church but who also wishes to be connected to VGCC. At the inquirers' session, Pastor Kim and a few lay people will talk about VGCC and the United Church of Christ, explain membership here, and answer questions.

The 2010 Steering Committee consists of

Moderator – Jan Morgan; Assistant Moderator – Brenda Griffin-Collins; Treasurer – Jerry Moore; Financial Secretary – Jimmy Collins; Secretary – Donna Bristow; Members-at-Large – Carolyn Gunning, Julia Hollins, Kevin Gardner, Curly Solomon-Klebba.

If you are interested in what gets discussed or planned at these meetings, read the minutes which are posted on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Minutes are posted monthly. Also, you'll find the Income/Expense report, too.

## Christian Education

### Kids' Circle

#### July 4 Simple Blessings

To explore how we can be Jesus' disciples today.

#### July 11 Hearing the Real Message

To explore what it means to live in God's way.

#### July 18 Staying Focused

To discover the two kinds of food we need to grow in God's way.

#### July 25 Connected with God

To discover how prayer keeps us connected to God.

#### August 1 God's Family

To explore what kinds of actions bring about peace



**Percolate**, is starting a new book, Shantung Compound: The Story of Men and Women Under Pressure by Langdon Gilkey. This is a great time to try out this class led by Bob Howard. Come by at 8:30 on Sunday morning or speak to Bob for more information.



Our youth are on Summer Break.  
Activities will start up again in September.

## Membership

### July Birthdays

|    |                           |
|----|---------------------------|
| 7  | Bob Hollins               |
| 7  | Marcie Wegner             |
| 7  | Brooke DuPree             |
| 15 | Judy Druelinger           |
| 15 | Jerry Moore               |
| 15 | Margaret Natelli          |
| 21 | Kayla Agnew (Happy 13th!) |
| 25 | Faye Gallegos             |
| 30 | Deborah Tinsley           |
| 31 | Kristine Gauthier         |



### July Anniversaries

|         |                          |
|---------|--------------------------|
| July 2  | Bob and Evelyn Howard    |
| July 14 | Kelley and Michael Agnew |
| July 30 | Alisa and Kevin Beck     |

**Thank you to everyone** who helped make my surgery recovery time, away from Vista Grande, as easy as possible. Six weeks is a long time to be away and many folks pitched in to get the job of Administrative Assistant done. I especially thank Alta for picking up the mail from the PO, Jerry for sorting through the mail to make sure it was handled in a timely fashion, Jackie for doing the Monday morning duties, Maurine and Carolyn for running off the bulletins, Kim for having the bulletins copy ready, Maurine for picking up phone messages and e-mail, and Curly for doing the June newsletter.

Also, I thank Alta, Jackie, Lori, Kevin, Jan, and Brenda for teaching Sunday School in my absence. The children really appreciated having their time downstairs instead of trying to "be seen and not heard" during worship. Our children have a lot to offer and their presence is a gift to us.

Thank you all! Donna



I have always thought that there is nothing more beautiful than a butterfly in flight, but this took on new meaning for me as I approached the day my mother died. On Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> my mother was sent home from the hospital on hospice. She had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's for many years. We were blessed that it did not take its course as rapidly as it could have. Nevertheless, over the years I have watch my mother go from being a feisty, energetic, woman who could fix just about anything, to being a pleasantly confused individual who could not remember how to use the remote control to turn on her TV.

When I was home in December she was walking, when she left the hospital just four months later her right leg was contracted and could not be straightened out without causing her a great deal of pain. My mother was a tall woman who took great pride in her height and often told me that "Tall Girls are Glamour Girls." It grieved my heart to see her this way, yet I did not want her to face her final days alone. I requested a leave from my job so I could be by my mother's side as she prepared for her transition.

The first few days were full of conversations, singing and laughter. She was not eating much, then one night something happened. I am not sure what, but I could tell a change had taken place. Her breathing was not consistent, and she started reaching for something in the sky, that I could not see. The next day she did not eat at all, the day after that she stopped drinking and the day after that she stopped talking. With each change came the ever sobering reality that her life's journey was coming to an end.

I had been by her bedside for over a week when I received a call from one of my cousins saying "Brenda, it is time for your mom to take her flight." I ended that conversation thinking... take her flight, I guess that is one way to view leaving this world and going to the next... it is like a flight. But I pondered this as I drove to the airport in Chicago to return the rental car I had been driving since I had arrived 10 days prior. Jimmy (my husband) had arrived the night before, he drove from Colorado. He followed me to the city so I would have a ride back to my mother's in Kankakee. We made a quick pit stop for just a matter of minutes. Which is why I was surprised to see a beautiful butterfly flying around inside of the cab as we started to get back into the truck. I could almost hear my cousin saying "It's time for mother to take her flight." So I scooped up the little butterfly into my hands, stepped out of the truck, lifted my hands to the sky and set my beautiful butterfly free, while thinking "Okay Mother Take Your Flight." It was two days later that my mother made her transition. But before she did one important thing happened. The day before she died, I was helping her nurse reposition her in bed when I notice there was no heat radiating from her leg. For the first time in over a week we were able to straighten out her leg. I told her "mother you are getting ready to walk all over heaven so you are going to need both legs to be straight. Besides you always told me "tall girls are glamour girls." She smiled but bent her knee to its original position. It was early the next morning about a half hour before she took her last breath that I noticed both legs were straight. I told my husband "Look at Jesus, truly now she is ready." The following is the poem I wrote to capture my feelings about this journey.

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## Mother's Flight

Life is a journey that must come to an end;  
But there is a blessing in being surrounded by love ones and friends.  
"No man is an island; no one ever succeeds on their own";  
Like a seed that is planted, needs dirt, sun and rain, before it is grown.  
The experiences of life that transforms us and makes us into the unique people we are;  
Experiences full of joy, pain, laughter, and often some scares.  
No one is exempt; no one gets a pass,  
Yet, in these times we learn that only what we do for Christ will last.  
So today we celebrate, mother taking her flight;  
In her case death did not come like a thief in the night.  
Her take off was a road full of twist and binds and curves;  
And at moments I felt her pain was something she did not deserve.  
But who am I to make that call;  
For in each life some rain must fall.  
Scriptures say all things happen in its time;  
Like the blooming of a flower or the aging of wine.  
Like a worm that weaves it's cocoon preparing for transformation;  
Mother's body was preparing to take flight to a new destination.  
She knew her time had come to leave this old world behind;  
Her cocoon was opening and it was flying time.  
There is nothing more beautiful than a butterfly in flight;  
So were the continents of my mother as she departed this life.  
The weights of the world had been shed away;  
As her spirit rose to meet a new day.  
I have no doubt that she had a wonderful landing;  
For mother's flight was all part of God's planning.  
Yes good bye can be bitter and sweet....  
But the time will come when again we will meet.  
Oh what a joy divine ... Mother has come to her time.  
Fly Butterfly Fly..... Take your flight...  
This isn't good bye; it's just good night.

**Love Brenda Griffin-Collins**

### Provide Back-to-School Supplies for Northern Churches Care Health Fair

Each year Northern Churches care (NCC) hosts a Health Fair, providing school physicals and other health exams as well as a forum for a large number of health and social services organizations to provide information and assistance to the community. Additionally, school supplies are provided to hundreds of students in needy families. This year the goal of NCC is to provide 1500 backpacks filled with supplies, but at this time (mid-June) funds have not been forthcoming to even begin to approach that goal, so every item we can provide will be important. NCC is going to fill backpacks with a standard list of supplies for four different grade levels before the health fair, then issue a backpack filled for the appropriate grade level to each student at the fair. The health fair will be held on Saturday, July 31, and we at VGCC can help by either providing supplies or, if you desire, cash to help in this project.

Lists of supplies for each of the four standard back-packs will follow this article. If you are able to purchase an appropriate sized backpack (or two or three or four) and fill them with the listed supplies, that would be great. If you can just buy a backpack without filling it, that too would be wonderful. Or, if you can just buy some of the supplies and bring them in, that too would be a significant contribution. This is a great mission and whatever you can contribute will help some needy child. We'll be receiving these donations in July and getting together to fill whatever backpacks are contributed with whatever supplies are available. Then we'll turn filled and unfilled backpacks and extra supplies over to NCC to complete the process. We can receive backpacks and school supplies at VGCC until Sunday, July 25. Just bring them in and leave them on the first landing up the stairs.

#### School Supply Lists by Grade Levels

##### Preschool, Kindergarten

##### 1st Grade

- Backpack (neutral color)
- Scissors
- Box 24 crayons
- Bottle Glue
- A 12 pack of #2 yellow pencils
- Large pink eraser
- 3 two-pocket folders
- 1 wide-ruled spiral book
- Ruler
- Set of watercolor paints

##### 2nd through 5th Grade

- Backpack (neutral color)
- Scissors
- 2 Glue sticks
- A 12 pack of #2 yellow pencils
- Large pink eraser
- 4 two-pocket folders w/brads
- 1 wide-ruled spiral book
- 1 composition book
- 1 pkg wide-ruled loose-leaf paper
- 1 pack colored pencils
- Ruler
- 4 red ballpoint pens

##### 6th through 8th Grade

- Large backpack (neutral color)
- Scissors
- 2 Glue sticks
- 1 pkg #2 yellow pencils
- Large pink eraser
- 4 two-pocket folders w/brads
- 2 college-ruled spiral notebooks
- 1 college-ruled composition book
- 1 pkg college-ruled loose-leaf paper
- 1 pkg colored pencils
- Ruler
- 4 red & 4 black ballpoint pens

##### 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Large backpack (neutral color)
- 1 pkg #2 yellow pencils
- 4 two-pocket folders w/brads
- 2 college-ruled spiral notebooks
- 2 composition books
- 2 pkgs college-ruled loose-leaf paper
- 1 pkg colored pencils
- Ruler
- 4 red & 4 black ballpoint pens

## Pastors for Peace Friendshipment Caravan

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Have you seen the bus on the church lawn? Are you curious?

Q. When is a bus not just a bus?

A. When people of faith send aid and Caravanistas on it to make "friends beyond borders." Then it becomes a greeting card on wheels.

Q. How does that work?

A. Pastors for Peace has been traveling to Cuba for almost 20 years to take aid to our poor but friendly neighbors and to introduce new friends to each other. We travel without the required license to peacefully protest the embargo.

Q. What can I do to help?

A. The most important thing you can do now, is to help us collect powdered milk – one of Cuba's greatest needs and to help us fuel the bus for the trip. Milk and/or \$\$\$ may be brought to church on June 27 or July 4.

**Join in on the Caravan Godspeed on Wednesday, July 14.**

**6 p.m. – Potluck Supper** with Dr. Kathryn Hall Trujillo, Featured Speaker.

Kathryn is the founder and Director of a national Comprehensive Women's Health Care Clinic. She has traveled with several caravans to Cuba and has taken part in an in-depth study of the Cuban health care system. She also actively recruits US students from the African-American, Latino, and Native-American communities to study medicine at Cuba's School of Medicine.

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### Activities – check the sign-up sheets at the church

Wednesday, July 14 at 6 p.m. –  
Friendshipment Caravan Sendoff  
Potluck

Sunday, July 18 at Noon –  
Gay Pride Parade, downtown  
Colorado Springs

Saturday, July 31 at 10 a.m. –  
Northern Churches Care Back to  
School and Health Fair

Saturday, August 21 –  
Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Green Fling

Thank you to everyone who helped with the **All Church Cleanup Day**. 20 folks worked outside and inside to spruce up the building and grounds.

### Fall workshops

At the Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Meeting several workshops were announced: The Exemplary Youth Emphasis (EYE) training at the Inn at Keystone August 20-21, The Web of Care Lay Pastoral Care Program and Training has two workshops in Denver 1) organization and structure (how to form and structure a team that's right for your church) on either September 25 from 9am – 3pm or October 7 from 1pm- 8:30 pm, and 2) pastoral lay care training October 8 and 9 from 8:30am – 6pm, and a church growth and vitality workshop call "Hot Sauce for the Human Soul: a church with Vitality is the Best" at La Foret September 26-28. These are all great opportunities. However, no one can do all of these. If working with the youth is where you belong then think about the EYE workshop. If helping take care of our membership is where your gifts lay then think about the web of care workshops. And if church growth is your thing think about the church vitality workshop. You'll be hearing more about these great workshops in the future!

**Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Meeting Was A Rousing Success**  
(adapted from the RMC website report) To view the full report, visit [www.rmucc.org](http://www.rmucc.org))



La Foret Retreat and Conference Center offered the setting and the memories to create a spirit-filled experience for attendees of the 36th Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference last weekend. Nearly 200 clergy and delegates gathered amid the tall trees, homey cabins and unseen squabbits to discuss issues surrounding the future of the conference.

At the closing worship service on Sunday morning, the "children" of La Foret -- those who first heard a calling to ministry during camp -- summed up the event. "If these walls could talk," Corbin Tobey Davis said, motioning to the adobe of the La Foret Chapel. "I remember so many Sunday mornings here when we would all be sad because we had to leave this magical place and go back to places where people didn't understand.

"No matter where you are, though, remember we are family. We are United in Christ."

"Faith is hard work, but God will give us the strength." Strength will be important, if the nearly 200 people who attended various parts of the conference hope to follow the suggestions offered by the many speakers.

Changing Lives through Our Church's Wider Mission was a major focus of the event, with Rev. Jane Heckles offering insights from her position as minister for OCWM Development in the Office of the Executive Minister, Local Church Ministries.

While mainline church attendance is dropping, UCC churches are growing, she said, attributing that rise to the good news that UCC offers all people. Using video clips from the national UCC website, she noted the three core values of the UCC:

1. Continual Revelation – God is still speaking to each new generation and to the issues and dynamics of that generation
2. Extravagant hospitality – God extends unconditional welcome and love to all
3. Changing Lives – God is at work in our local congregations transforming and changing the lives

Following her Friday session was the premiere of a new DVD on RMC OCWM, showing how your contributions affect people throughout the area. Each church has a copy of the short video to present to their own congregations. You'll see it this fall during our stewardship campaign.

Honored at the Friday evening Awards Banquet were churches that met the 5 for 5 Goal and those showing above-average growth last year. Vista Grande received the 5 for 5 award again this year!

### **Keynoter Tim Wright**

Keynote speaker Tim Wright kicked off Saturday's events with some lessons learned over 25 years of ministry, primarily with a Lutheran "megachurch" in Phoenix. In the "come and see" model practiced there, he said, worship was much like a good movie. "Our focus was to help the person who had never been to church experience the savior without knowing what to do," he said, noting that most churches create worship for the people who are already there, not new people they might want to attract. Responding to a question on social action, he noted that the UCC does that very well and "living under the lordship of Jesus requires people to live as he did." The Phoenix minister then fielded the inevitable question about immigration and how churches should react when the laws are not just. "How do we as people of faith who are American citizens show compassion?" he said. "The issue is not always black and white." He noted that Arizona has raised the issue and made it a public one the entire country needs to deal with.

### **Capital Campaign & Other Business**

Board chair Jan Hepp then introduced an exciting new chapter in RMC history, a capital campaign to create a permanent Conference office

The business session of the meeting included reports and passage of three resolutions and ratification of national UCC Constitutional and Bylaws:

### **Encouraging Church Growth**

Each delegate agrees to take action between now and the 2011 annual meeting to support the Conference's long term goals for growth, including but not limited to inviting friends, family and acquaintances to attend worship with us at our UCC congregation, sharing our personal stories of faith with one another and with friends, family and acquaintances, sharing our spiritual journeys with other persons to inspire them to develop more spiritually fulfilling lives, and to encourage other members of the local congregation to do the same.

### **Solidarity on Immigration**

The resolution states, in part, "we stand in solidarity with the Southwest Conference (SWC) of the UCC and our immigrant sisters and brothers in Arizona and call upon members and congregations in the RMC to consider signing the pledge of non-compliance with SB 1070 ; and that the RMC support the SWC call for an economic boycott of Arizona until SB 1070 is repealed; calling on RMC members to consider using their influence with businesses, professional organizations and other organizations to relocate any and all meetings or conferences to be held in Arizona and to not make any purchase or contract with firms who are headquartered in Arizona; and ...call its members to consider prayer, study, protest, and other possible actions for immigrant rights, and that the RMC will mobilize our congregations for just and fair Federal Comprehensive Immigration Reform; and call upon the Justice and Peace Ministry Team to develop resources for congregational discernment and examples of action.

### **RMC Endowment Fund Bylaws**

This item essentially involved specifying the Conference as the RMC and the annual meeting as its venue for reports to appease IRS regulations.

**Ratification of national UCC Constitution and Bylaws**, which change how the UCC credentials clergy leadership.

The Utah Association concluded the formal business with an invitation to the 2011 Annual Meeting, including original words to the tune "There's a Long, Long Trail.," Entertainment on Saturday night included the New Choice Band from Fort Morgan, Colo., and a bluegrass band that included a La Foret board member and a DOC pastor from Lafayette.

Members who attended from Vista Grande included: Pastor Kim, Bob Howard, Dave and Donna Bristow, as delegates, and Johnathan Schwartz, youth delegate.

If you have any questions on this report, please speak to one of these folks.



**VISTA GRANDE COMMUNITY  
CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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***Rev. Kim Schwartz, Pastor***

**COME, GROW WITH US**

We are a caring church for thinking people, an inclusive community of faith, united in our common quest to know God, inspired by the spirit of Jesus, and committed to sharing that love in ways that will make a difference in the world.

We are the Open and Affirming (ONA) Church in Northeast Colorado Springs.

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**Mission of the Month for July**

**Provide Back-to-School Supplies for Northern Churches Care Health Fair**

Each year Northern Churches care (NCC) hosts a Health Fair, providing school physicals and other health exams as well as a forum for a large number of health and social services organizations to provide information and assistance to the community. Additionally, school supplies are provided to hundreds of students in needy families. This year the goal of NCC is to provide **1500 backpacks** filled with supplies, but at this time (mid-June) funds have not been forthcoming to even begin to approach that goal, so every item we can provide will be important. NCC is going to fill backpacks with a standard list of supplies for four different grade levels before the health fair, then issue a backpack filled for the appropriate grade level to each student at the fair. The health fair will be held on Saturday, July 31, and we at VGCC can help by either providing supplies or, if you desire, cash to help in this project.

Turn to page 6 for the school supply lists.



# July 2010

| Sun   | Mon  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri | Sat   |
|---|--|--|--|-----|---|
| Sunday Morning Schedule<br>8:30 am Adult Christian Education<br>10 am Worship with CE for Kids<br>11:15 a.m. Fellowship     |  | Mission of the Month<br>Northern Churches Care<br>School Backpacks and<br>Supplies | 1<br>6:30 pm Choir<br>6:30 pm Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry | 2   | 3   |
| 4   | 5  | 7  | 8  | 9   | 10  |
| Sunday Morning Schedule<br>Communion<br> |  |  | 6:30 pm Choir<br>6:30 pm Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry      |     |   |
| 11  | 12   | 14   | 15   | 16  | 17  |
| Sunday Morning Schedule<br>Steering Committee   | 6:30 pm<br>Steering<br>Committee                             | 8 am Men's<br>Breakfast<br>6 p.m.<br>Caravan Potluck                               | 6:30 pm Choir<br>6:30 pm Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry      |     |   |
| 18  | 19   | 21   | 22   | 23  | 24  |
| Sunday Morning Schedule<br>Rev. Benjamin Broadbent preaching<br>Gay Pride Parade (downtown)                                 |  |  | 6:30 pm Choir<br>6:30 pm Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry      |     |   |
| 25  | 26   | 28   | 29   | 30  | 31  |
| Sunday Morning Schedule<br>Inquirers' Class   | Interfaith<br>Hospitality<br>Network<br>Dinner<br>(off site) |  | 6:30 pm Choir<br>6:30 pm Prayer Shawl<br>Ministry      |     | Northern Churches<br>Care Back to<br>School Fair (off site) |