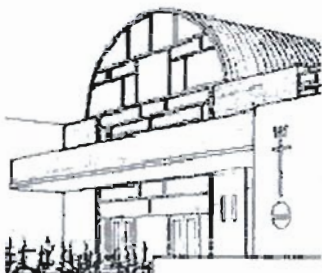


Volume 35

May 2011



VISTA GRANDE COMMUNITY CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# The Vista Views

## Field of Dreams *by Pastor Kim*

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Do you remember the movie *Field of Dreams* with the famous quote, "If you build it, they will come?"<sup>1</sup> Something about that theme captures our imagination and creates excitement. Vista Grande's Growth and Vitality Team (GVT) has caught that imagination and excitement.

What we want to build is the program for our children and youth. When all of our kids show up on the same Sunday, we are maxed out. In order to make room for new families we need to expand our Sunday program for the kids.

At the same time, much like Ray Kinsella from the movie, we have limited resources. So we have a transition plan. Starting in the fall, we would like to have two people lead the children's program on Sunday. They would trade off Sundays so each covers about half. Then when we have lots of kids or any guest kids, they could work together so the program can run smoothly. As more families attend VGCC regularly, the frequency of needing both teachers would increase until we need a third person helping so that all teachers get some Sundays to spend in worship.

This plan will lay the groundwork for our field of dreams. We are hoping to run a high quality Vacation Bible School (VBS) during the summer of 2012. The VBS would culminate with worship on Sunday so that the families would get a chance to meet us. We'd also like to have a workshop about a month after the VBS on raising spiritually aware children (or something similar) as a follow up. This would allow us to get to know these families better. It is through making personal connections that we spread the good news.

Obviously, this idea will take hard work. We believe it is doable for us. We are planning way ahead so that we can spread the workload over time and over many hands. Please pray for the GVT and ask God how you are called to support this area of outreach. With God's help "if we build it, they will come."

Shalom,  
Pastor Kim

<sup>1</sup>Yes, I know I'm misquoting. It's actually, "If you build it, he will come."

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### Special points of interest:

- Adult education 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Children's Sunday experience 10:00 a.m.



A special thank to the worship team for putting together the praise service March 27, especially to Curly Solomon-Klebba for leading the service.



### Here are the themes and scriptures for May:

May 1	Road to Emmaus	Luke 24:13-35
May 8	Mother Earth Day	assorted
May 15	Vines and Branches	John 15:1-8
May 22	The Way	John 14:1-14
May 29	We are God's children	Acts 17:22-31
June 6	Where'd He go?	Acts 1:1-11, Luke 24:44-53

### Outdoor Worship and Picnic

Sunday, August 21

Palmer Park Pavilion "Meadows"

Entrance - Maizeland near  
Academy Blvd.

(Note – we are staying within the city limits at one of our city parks this year. We do have a pavilion so rain or shine, we'll be there)

Vista Grande Community UCC is an Open and Affirming Church.

"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 – 10 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.

The 2011 Steering Committee consists of

Moderator – Marcie Wegner; Assistant Moderator – Brenda Griffin-Collins; Treasurer – Vacant; Financial Secretary – Jimmy Collins; Secretary – Donna Bristow; Members-at-Large – Carolyn Gunning, Kevin Gardner

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.

### Inside/Out Youth Services

I didn't go to my high school prom nor any dances. No one knew who I really liked. For that matter, no one knew who I really was. I didn't date or have open crushes on anyone. I didn't come out as a lesbian until my second year of college. If there had been an organization like Inside Out Youth Services in my hometown when I was in high school, things may have been different. I might have felt the support I needed to come out earlier. I may have attended my high school prom with a girlfriend, or if not, I might have attended a Gay Prom like the one Inside/Out just had. If I hadn't felt comfortable dating, I might have at least had someone to share with, someone to confide in. I might not have come out until college, but I would have felt a camaraderie with peers who were like minded.

Our Mission of the Month for May is Inside/Out Youth Services. Their tagline on their home-page ([www.insideoutys.org](http://www.insideoutys.org)) is "safety, respect, understanding, equality." What I wouldn't have given to have those things when I was in high school. Inside/Out provides a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning youth from the ages of 13 to 22. They provide support and discussion groups, a drop-in recreation center, a food pantry and clothing closet, and lots of activities, programs and education. They recently hosted a Gay Prom, and they even have service events so the youth can have opportunities to give back to their community. They keep the youth informed about recent news events such as the anti-bullying bill and the civil rights bill up in the legislature. During the 5 services in May, we hope to have some of the representatives from Inside/Out Youth Services in attendance to discuss the Mission of the Month as well as be available after service to answer any questions you have. Let's welcome our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning youth into our church and into our ONA community.

By Curly Solomon-Klebba

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### Serving the Rocky Mountain Conference

Have you thought of serving the wider church by serving on a team in our Rocky Mountain Conference? Nominations are being taken for the following teams:

1. Clergy Nominee for Clergy-Parish Ministry
2. Global Partners Team
3. Justice and Peace Ministry
4. Finance Committee
5. Personnel Committee
6. Nominating Committee
7. Mission Team



Contact Donna at 599-3057 to learn more about "what's involved" or to volunteer. All nominations need to be completed by May 15.

### Living Creatively: Playing and Living Joyfully

In today's world people of all ages need to give themselves permission to play. We believe God seeks to awaken a playful spirit among us. We invite God into this process as we seek recreation and re-creation. While it can lead us into other things, play is inherently its own reward; the experience of playing and living joyfully is – in its essence – pure hope, delight, celebration and song. Playing and living joyfully moves beyond prescribed forms and places. It includes ways of doing justice and moves us outside ourselves into sharing one with another. Joy is contagious; come and play!

Kids' Circle

#### Living and Playing Joyfully

- May 1 Learning through Discipleship
- May 8 Rev. Kevin Beck has a special lesson planned.
- May 15 Learning through Scripture
- May 22 Learning through Art
- May 29 Learning through Discovery



Thanks to Brenda for offering to be with the children on May 29.

**We still need an adult to take the children for Kids' Circle on June 12 and July 3.**

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#### Youth—6th—12th grade

#### Youth—Grades 6th—12th

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday following the worship service  
Youth Group – once a month as announced

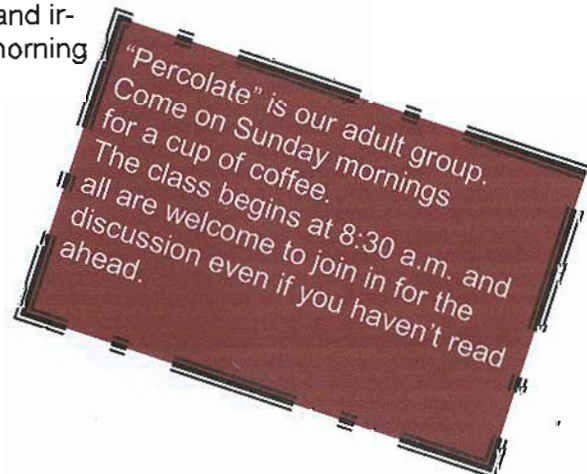
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#### Adult CE

Adult Learners are tackling *Living More With Less*

More should be said to intrigue you and me with *Living More With Less* since, unlike 30 years ago, each of us knows that he or she is living with less. But are we living more? An honest self-appraisal will bring a lively conversation among the regulars and irregulars of Percolate, the “give and take” Sunday morning class at 8:30 a.m., the early birds at Vista Grande.

Percolate meets over coffee Sundays at 8:30 a.m.  
We love to have visitors anytime.



## May Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays

3	Rhys Trousdale
14	Randy Wright
18	Evelyn Smith
19	Kelli Peck
21	Kevin Gardner
22	Carol Wisely
23	June Bartyzel
27	Justin Hollins
30	Dick Burbank



### Anniversaries

May 6	Jan Kolm and Marcie Wegner
May 21	Jason and Vicki Trousdale
May 22	Max and Maurine Hale
May 29	Dave and Donna Bristow

### Congratulations



Johnathan Schwartz is graduating from Doherty High School on May 25. He will be attending University Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) in the Fall.

### Save the date –

#### All Church Cleanup Day

Saturday, June 4 at 8:30 a.m.  
There will be inside and outside chores.  
Something for everyone!

Many hands make light work.



## Stewardship

### Cleaning Schedule

April 23 and 30 –Carolyn and Lyn Gunning  
May 7 and 14 – Brenda and Jimmy Collins  
May 21 and 28 –Donna and Dave Bristow



### Quips from Kids

taken from October/November 2010 Country Women Magazine

“Poppy! It came!” our grandson announced as he ran in with the mail. Proudly, he handed his dad the monthly church newsletter and said, “It’s our letter from God.”

Welcome!

June 9-11, 2011

Salt Lake City, Utah

**“Life is Different Now”**

These days call for us to be most creative in our ministries. Whether advocating social justice issues, building communities, or befriending individuals, these days call for us to work from a strong and spirited center. They call for us to share what we know with each other. They also call for us to meet in the vulnerability of what we don't or can't know by ourselves.

Registration cost is \$130 by May 10. {\$150 after May 10}

Meeting fees inclusive of all meals - breakfast Friday thru lunch Saturday. Dinner Saturday - on your own. Thursday's Clergy Dinner complimentary to Clergy/partner. Housing arrangements please see below.

**HOUSING INFO: TWO OPTIONS**

**Option I:** Campus Dorms - single or double (\$35 per bed/per night)

If choosing Option I please note during registration process, where indicated. Option I housing fees will be added to the event costs and payable at time of registration.

**Option II:** Hotel - Fees/arrangements separate from event costs/process. \$89 per night. Please contact hotel directly if choosing Option II. University Guest House (hotel on campus) 1-888-416-4075 110 South Ft. Douglas Blvd., Salt Lake City, UT 84113

ALL housing/registrations MUST be completed BY May 25, 2011

Complimentary Shuttle: Please contact John Wilkerson 801-463-0412 to make arrangements.

Registration is now online. Registration deadline for the reduced rate is May 10.

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FYI—The Board of Directors of the Rocky Mountain Conference took several important actions at their last meeting. After two and a half years of preliminary work, the Board voted to submit a letter of intent to purchase our current office building.

Continuing our progress toward the purchase of our first permanent home for the Rocky Mountain Conference our Board voted to submit a letter of intent to purchase our current office building. There are some details to work out, but we are very hopeful for a successful outcome.

Here are a few of the reasons we believe this is an excellent opportunity for us:

1. We are in a space that was designed and remodeled for our use.
2. We save the time, money and ministries which would be lost in the relocation process.
3. We will save our current rental cost plus receive rent from our tenant. After paying utilities and basic maintenance this will net a positive cash flow of \$25,000 per year.
4. We are still in a buyers' market and the value of the building will most likely increase.
5. We have adequate parking and easy access from the highways.
6. We have good neighbors and share the neighborhood with three other mission oriented organizations.

In other actions the Board agreed to offer the support of the Conference on two petitions, one supporting the Civil Union legislation and another supporting in state college tuition for undocumented Students.

The RMC Constitution states that the Board of Directors shall act as the Conference between Annual Meetings. Our Board, believing this is consistent with actions taken at previous Annual Meetings, voted to sign on to these letters of support.



2011

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	Sunday Morning Schedule Communion	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	Sunday Morning Schedule	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	Mother Earth Day	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	Sunday Morning Schedule	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	Sunday Morning Schedule	30	31				



Mission of the Month—  
Inside/Out Youth  
Services

Sunday Morning Schedule  
8:30 am Adult Christian Education  
10 am Worship with CE for Kids  
11:15 am Fellowship



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

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Phone: 719-599-3057  
Email: [vgcc.ucc@att.net](mailto:vgcc.ucc@att.net)  
WEB site: [www.vgcc.org](http://www.vgcc.org)

*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: POSSIBLE**

### **Missions of the Month for 2011**

January – La Puente

February – Zawadi Fund International

March – Heifer International

April - One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

**May – Inside/Out Youth Services**

June – Strengthen the Church

July – Northern Churches Care (NCC)

August – InterVarsity (Kenya Global Project)

September – CROP WALK

October – Neighbors in Need (NIN)

November – One Nation Walking Together

Dec – The Christmas Fund

**Read the article on page 3 of this newsletter  
for information on our May Mission,  
Inside/Out Youth Services.**