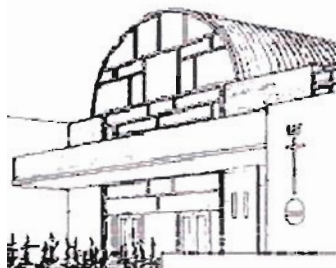


Volume 36

January 2012



VISTA GRANDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Vista Views

Happy New Year

This time of year people often look back over the past year to see how they met their goals and then look ahead to the New Year to set new plans. At Vista Grande Community Church, 2011 was a very good year and 2012 looks to be even better!

Worship attendance is up 7% over last year and we have more kids. With two Sunday school teachers, we are ready to receive more children in our fun and educational program. Attendance at percolate (Sunday morning adult class) is up and the discussions have great depth and breadth. All positions on Steering committee filled. VGCC is growing in vitality and numbers.

We have had another great year of mission giving. The Mission of the Month calendar is set for 2012 with opportunities for financial giving, in kind giving, and volunteer giving. Our number of pledge units is up, as is the pledged amount. With increases in the budget expenses we are short a small amount, but I feel confident that we can make most of that up. The squeaky tight budget is just growing pains, much like the need for new teachers.

There is a plan in place to continue growth with Vacation Bible School this summer. We will need another Sunday school teacher once we have four more kids. And it would be great to have a teacher for our pre-K and Kindergarten kids. We will have a confirmation class for the 2012-2013 school year. I will hold a Bible 101 class this Lent with hopes that we can form an ongoing Bible study group this year.

As we say good-bye to 2011, I see a year of success and growth. As we look ahead to 2012, I see us working together, each in our own small and unique ways, to help God build the kingdom of heaven here and now. What a glorious and sacred task.

Shalom,
Pastor Kim

Congregational Annual Meeting



Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2012 immediately following the worship service. The agenda will include review and acceptance of the 2011 annual report and other business as necessary.

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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.

Worship January 2012



The lectionary for 2012 focuses on the gospel of Mark, so many of our scriptures this year will come from that book of the Bible. We begin the season of epiphany with the baptism of Jesus and renewal of our own baptism. Then on the 15th we learn to listen for God's call. The following week, January 22, our theme is answering that call. We end the month with an intergenerational service with much help from our youth as they use drama to illustrate Jesus' first exorcism in Mark. Their interpretations will have us all thinking about the meaning of this passage.

1/1/12	Maurine Hale preaching	
1/8/12	Renewal of Baptism	Mark 1:4-11 (Acts 19:1-7)
1/15/12	Hearing the Call	1 Sam 3:1-10 (John 1:43-51)
1/22/12	Answering the Call	Mark 1:14-20 (Ps 62:5-12)
1/29/12	Jesus drives out unclean spirit Youth help with drama	Mark 1:21-28 Intergenerational
2/5/12	Jesus heals and prays God renews strength for those who wait upon God	Mark 1:29-39 Is 40:27-31

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

Monday – 8 a.m. – Noon

Wednesday – 8 a.m. – Noon

Tuesday and Thursday –

Pastor Kim works from home or out in the community.

Other times by appointment, we can meet at the church, in your home, or local coffee shop.

Pastor Kim: 719-433-4248.

The 2012 Steering Committee consists of

Moderator – Marcie Wegner; Assistant Moderator – Brenda Griffin-Collins; Treasurer – Elizabeth Vincent; Financial Secretary – Jimmy Collins; Secretary – Tammie Davis; Members-at-Large – Carol Wisely, 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.



Children's Circle

Curriculum – Seasons of the Spirit

We continue with the season of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

In this Season of Epiphany, our focus is on the words of joy and a call to all creation to make a joyful noise to God.

January 1 Called to Gift

Focus: To hear and celebrate the story of the visit of the magi.

January 8 New Beginnings

Focus: To ponder what it means to be God's beloved children.

January 15 Called and Recalled

Focus: To recognize God's call in the story of Samuel and Eli.

January 22 Moving Forward

Focus: To hear the call to follow Jesus in the story of the call of the fishers.

January 29 With Authority

Focus: To recognize Jesus as a powerful teacher and healer who builds community.

Youth

Youth Group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays; Youth CE will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays

Adult CE – a.k.a. Percolate

Percolate will be starting a new book, *The Gift of Years – Growing Older Gracefully* by Joan Chittister.

Joan Chittister, one of our most celebrated spiritual writers, invites us to embrace older age as a natural part of life that is both active and contemplative, productive and reflective, and deeply rewarding. *The Gift of Years* reflects on many aspects of aging, the purposes and concerns, the struggles and surprises, the potential and joys. It is a panoply of central issues that emerge with age to bring us to the fullness of life. And perhaps the most important dimension of older age, Joan Chittister illuminates, is to become aware of its profound purpose.



Come on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to explore how to grow older with grace.

Mark your calendar! Free Lecture, open to the public.

Friday, April 20 at 7 p.m. Shove Chapel at Colorado College.

Joan Chittister will deliver the annual James W. White Lecture.

Mission

On Sunday, December 18, we held a focus group to choose our missions for 2012. Here they are!
Each month, these missions will come alive during Mission Moment.

Missions of the Month for 2012

January – Prayer Shawl Ministry (see back cover)

February – Zawadi Fund International

March – One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

April – Los Pobres

May – Strengthen the Church

June – Inside/Out Youth Services

July – Northern Churches Care (NCC)

August – Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

September – Youth Mission

October – Neighbors in Need (NIN)

November – One Nation Walking Together

Dec – The Christmas Fund



Living Our Spiritual Values...

LOVE grounded in FAITH and HOPE;
ACCEPTANCE which includes RESPECT and WELCOMING;
and
CARING RELATIONSHIPS - FAMILY,
CHILDREN, COMMUNITY, FRIENDSHIP.

Our 2011 Warmth Tree

Here's the list of the items that were delivered to Northern Churches Care on Dec. 20.

- 18 Hat and Scarf Sets
- 8 Hat and Mitts Sets
- 17 Pairs of Mittens or Gloves
- 75 Hats
- 5 Scarves
- 1 Purse
- 1 Stuffed Animal
- 2 Dolls and 2 Trucks

Thanks to all who donated "warmth" items. The folks who received these felt blessed.

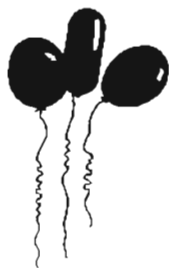
Our ongoing missions included:

Northern Churches Care—our local neighborhood has a food pantry. VGCC's food baskets are in the first alcove as you approach the sanctuary. As you see "food specials," remember our less fortunate in the community and buy an extra can or box. Every little bit helps. Alta takes the food to the local pantry a couple of times a month. In 2011, we supplied approx. \$2,000 in food items.

Interfaith Hospitality Network—in 2011, on two occasions, VGCC prepared a meal as a support church to Central United Methodist Church. In 2012, we will provide a meal three times; Mar 19, July 23, and Oct 8.

Pennies for Peace—Over \$130, that's 13,000 pennies, were sent to support this mission.

January Birthdays



5	Elizabeth Vincent
11	Mareta Ielu
14	John Tinsley
18	David Bristow
21	Jan Kolm
29	Christina Ielu

Women's Fellowship –

Saturday, January 21 at 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon at Cheddar's Casual Café
at 1140 Interquest Pkwy

Look for the signup sheet at the church.



Rocky Mountain Conference (RMC) and Southeastern Association (SEA) per capita dues

Our church is on a tight budget again this year. One small way to improve our financial situation is to help cover the membership dues we are expected to pay to the RMC and SEA each year. The per capita dues amount to \$10 per member for the RMC and \$1 for the SEA. If you feel that you could invest an extra \$11 (\$22 per couple), it would certainly be most appreciated and would help our financial situation. On your check, just note "per capita dues" and mail it to the church or deposit it in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Thanks for your consideration.

Mailing address is:
VGCC
PO Box 26030, Colorado Springs, CO 80936-6030

Stewardship

Cleaning Schedule

Dec. 31 and Jan. 07 – Alta, Shirley, and Carol W
Jan. 14 and Jan. 21 – Brenda and Jimmy Collins



Stewardship of Time

Check out the signup sheets for ushers and greeters. Sign up for a Sunday that fits your schedule.

Pledges for 2012

Number of pledges submitted: 22

Amount pledged: \$68,494



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

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Colorado Springs, CO

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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.

JANUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Vision: to combine the care and love of knitting (and crocheting) into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace.

The Mission: to create a group to meet to knit prayer shawls, pray for those in the church family in need, pray and support each other.

Background: Shawls have been made for centuries and provide warmth and comfort to the wearer. The Prayer Shawl Ministry was created in 1998 by Janet Bristow and Vicky Gallo, after they attended a program in applied spirituality at The Women's Leadership Institute in Hartford, CT. Saying healing prayers while creating the shawl, has resulted in a new ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort. Shawls have been given to those during illness, recovery, and at times of loss or in times of joy.



Our prayer shawl ministry began in 2005. Since then, we have made well over 180 shawls. We are in need of yarn to replenish our resources or money for the ministry to purchase yarn and sacred pins.

Each shawl takes 3 skeins of yarn. We use **Lion Brand Homespun Yarn**. This yarn can be purchased at Hobby Lobby or Michael's. The yarn will be collected and blessed during the worship service on January 29.



January 2012

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1							
Sunday Morning Schedule							
HAPPY NEW YEAR							
8							
Sunday Morning Schedule Youth CE							
15							
Sunday Morning Schedule Youth Group							
22							
Sunday Morning Schedule Youth CE							
29							
Sunday Morning Schedule Intergenerational Service Annual Congregational Mtg							
	2	3	4	5	6	7	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	
	30	31					



Mission of the Month
Prayer Shawl Ministry

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