Community UCC
2650 Table Mesa Drive
Boulder CO 80305
303-499-9119
www.cuccboulder.org

Worship and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Pete Terpenning, Minister
An Open and Affirming Congregation

APRIL 2005

The ECHO

HAVE A SAY, WIN A PRIZE:

Please join us for the CUCC Patio Focus Group! We have talked to various folks but we'd like to make sure we gather input from as many members of the congregation as we can.

Erika Webb has run focus groups for such companies as Qwest and is bringing this background to the CUCC congregational polity process. Erika and Cathy Russell have gathered information about patio alternatives and issues and now want YOU to be part of the decision process! On April 3rd we will have a potluck lunch after church followed by a focus group session. Fabulous prizes will be given out as incentives for participation to lucky random winners! This focus group session will be fast paced, very productive and fun. We will be done and out the door by 2 pm. Please come and join the party

SEDER POSTPONED TO APRIL 23RD:

We had to postpone the Seder service that was planned for Holy Week since it coincided with Spring Break and our leaders were unavailbable. But put Saturday evening, **April 23rd** aside as the replacement date. This date coincides with the Jewish Passover weekend and will be a more appropriate time anyway. Karen Pyle and Frank Ciskovsky (with some help from Pete Terpenning and others) are putting together a traditional Seder service for the church. It will include a Potluck Dinner, so plan to bring a dish to pass. This will be a chance for fellowship as well as a chance to learn about the Seder Service. Note that this will be a different Seder service than we usually observe as Uriah Bueller, our fearless leader of Seders for some years now, is taking a much deserved year off. Hope you can join us on the 23rd.

COMMUNITY UCC ONLINE:

We have two online newsgroups for members and friends of the Community United Church of Christ in Boulder, CO. We are a community of spiritual seekers who believe there are many paths to God and a fellowship of diverse, thoughtful individuals seeking to follow Christ on the path of compassion, wisdom and joy. These groups are designed to give our members and friends a forum in which to discuss issues, concerns, ask for prayers, ask for help, and discuss issues related to progressive Christianity.

The newsgroups are:
CUCCBoulder@yahoogroups.com and
CUCCDiscuss@yahoogroups.com .
Anyone interested can check them out online at:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CUCCBoulder/ or
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CUCCDiscuss/.

The CUCCBoulder list is for announcements of church activities, personal requests, notices about members who need help or caring, and other CUCC general concerns.

The second list CUCCDiscuss is for those who wish to share announcements of outside events that would interest members, or for extended discussion. Topics might include social justice issues, discussions of books, community issues, political announcements, articles of interest, etc.

Pete's Letter: (Easter Thoughts)

Stig.ma'ta (n) marks resembling the crucifixion wounds of Jesus, said to have appeared supernaturally on certain persons.

Dear Friends,

There are many stories regarding stigmata, where saints suffered bleeding hands and sides and foreheads, as if nails had been driven through their palms or a spear stabbed in their ribs or a crown of thorns place on their heads. I can't speak to the truth of these, for there are many instances recorded in living memory. However, I did hear of a story Andrew Young told about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. that made me wonder about stigmata.

Andrew Young, before becoming U.S. Representative to the United Nations under Pres. Carter, and Mayor of Atlanta, was the Executive Vice-President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He was a top aid to Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement. He, Dr. King, Jesse Jackson and other leaders of this period were in a lot of danger during this time and were often threatened, beaten or jailed. King had his house bombed several times and all the leaders lived with fear for themselves and their families.

Young told how Dr. King would unbutton his shirt and show them the scars on his chest from an earlier stabbing. The knife had almost killed him. As he lay in the hospital he had an out-of-body experience. He could remember seeing preachers around his bed, praying as if he were already dead. But he recovered, and the surgeons were able to repair the damage. However, the scars left by the would-be assassin's knife and the surgeon's knife left the form of a cross on his chest. The scar was a sort of stigmata.

"You don't know what it's like to be close to death," King would tell his friends, "every time I shave, looking in the mirror, I realize if you don't have a cause worth dying for, then what's the use?"

Jesus said we are to pick up our cross every day and follow Him.

I write this letter on Good Friday, though you won't read it until Easter is over and you are reflecting on the Resurrection and the new life available in Christ. But this life we have can only be fully lived if we confront the reality of our own death. And King's example challenges me to wonder if we can fully live until we have a cause in our lives worth dying for. The life of Jesus Christ shows us one way to live. Jesus showed us the depth of God's love for us and we return that love by loving God and loving our neighbor as our selves. This love calls us to seek justice for all people; to seek peace with justice and wholeness of shalom for all people, to live and act for ecological justice, housing, food, health care and economic justice. These are causes worth dying for and therefore worth living for.

I wonder what it was like to bear a stigmata like Dr. King's. Not a cross on a beautiful chain like the one I wear that can be taken off at will, but a continual reminder of what love requires of us. Perhaps bearing such a cross would make me a little more courageous in the struggle for justice and peace.

~Pete

ECHO DEADLINE:

The deadline for the May edition of the CUCC newsletter, *The Echo*, is **Sunday, April 17**. Please get articles to Susan Carter Ruskell (ruskell@pobox.com) no later than **3 p.m.** that day. Early submissions are appreciated.

BULLETIN INFORMATION:

Please get bulletin announcements to Kathy Leftwich, our Administrative Assistant. E-mail is preferred ucochrist3@qwest.net or call the church office (please have announcements written out before calling) 303-499-9119.

NOTICE ANYTHING MISSING?

Do you notice gaps in the information available in the newsletter? If so, please send the information to the editor (Susan Carter Ruskell, ruskell@pobox.com). I would rather get the information multiple times and edit for the most complete information than leave out important news about what is going on at CUCC. And don't wait until close to a deadline — early submissions actually make my job easier!

MEN'S SERVICE DAYS:

On the first Saturday of the month, as usual, the men will gather at The Egg and I in Basemar Shopping center for breakfast and fellowship at 7:30 am. Then we will adjourn to church member's homes where we will do odd jobs, repairs and clean up. Any men over age 16 are welcome and younger men when accompanied by an adult! Hope you can join us this month or whenever you have time.

GROCERY COUPONS:

If you have not purchased these coupons in the past, please consider doing so. You pay face value for the coupon (or gift card) and the church gets 5% of that face value for our budget. See Carl Love to purchase coupons for most of your favorite area grocery stores, including Safeway, King Soopers, Vitamin Cottage & Wild Oats!

VOLUNTEER OPORTUNITY:

The Denver Inner City Parish is looking for individual mentors for individual children, for a year-long friendship. The children have parents in prison and are from our community. Adult volunteers are screened, trained, and supported by Metro Denver Partners. Children are age 8-17. Commitment averages to a once-a-week get-together. Please contact Rev. Malcom Himschoot at 303-629-0636 for more information.

COMMUNITY UCC:

Minister: Rev. Pete Terpenning
Administrative Assistant: Kathy Leftwich
C.E. Coordinator: Karen Sterner-Howe
Youth Group Leader: Jamie Paul
Moderator: Sue Levy
Narrator: Cathy Russell
Scribe: Kathy Leftwich
Treasurer: Kathy Rudge
Financial Secretary: John & Vicky Graham
Nominations: John Putnam

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

We have only two more rotations to go until we switch gears for summer. Time goes by so quickly and these kids are growing even more so! They are a pleasure to be with each Sunday, and certainly keep me on my toes.

In April our rotation will be "The Conversion of Saul" with workshops of drama, art, science, and games and puzzles. That will, hopefully, get us through the snowy part of the year, leaving May open for the "Fruit of the Spirit" rotation, which will include art, cooking, gardening, and games. I still need guides and workshop leaders for both of these months, so please come talk to me about what's involved. I try to do most of the prep work, so you can have fun being with the children.

We (CE Commission) have decided to try a modified rotation approach to summer. Because of our wonderful growing number of children attending each week, we believe it's time to have a little bit more structure, while still keeping it casual and relaxed. We intend to run two week sessions, having two people (adults and/or youth) sign up to lead each session, which will be based on Scripture of their choice. For instance, if you love Psalm 23, sign up to lead two weeks of art and a nature hike (as an example) to share this special psalm with the children. Be creative! Or, I have lots of resources from which you may pull a lesson right out of the book. Either way, we can have fun and keep learning.

We would like to evaluate this year's program, so feel free to e-mail, write, or talk to Vicki Tonski, Julie Pickhardt, Julie Leonard, or myself. We want to keep feeding these children in loving, creative ways.

Karen SternerHowe

SPIRITUAL LIFE :

The Spiritual Life and Fellowship commission wants to thank everyone who made the Easter season so special. The sanctuary looked beautiful, the choir was fantastic, the egg hunt was well attended, the early service was meaningful, the adult class was thought provoking, and the Adios lunch provided by Sue Wilson was bitter sweet.

As usual, we are encouraging people to enjoy the fun and connection of being ushers and greeters. If you would like to do this, please let Linda Krumpeck know and/or sign up on the sheets posted near the kitchen. The sign up sheet for refreshments is there also. Now that our choir is no providing its beautiful music during meditation moments, YOU have the opportunity to fill them with music, poetry, or whatever moves your heart. Sign up sheets for meditation moments are also by the kitchen.

The SLF commission is exploring ways to get better acquainted with each other and build a stronger and more deeply connected community. If you have ideas for us to look at, please let a member know. The members are: Pete Terpenning, Jean Scott, Linda Krumpeck, Kamilla Macar, Deborah Hayes, Jo Eleanor Elliott, Frank Ciskovsky, Doug Allison, Janet Pinkow, Diane Martin, and Sue Thoele.

The Property Commission, chaired by David Carson, will be needing your help in setting up the chairs in the sanctuary when Carl is off in Yellowstone for many moons. Please let David know when you can help.

WOMEN'S GROUP:

Women's group for April will be **April 20** at the home of Karen Kent-Pyle, 1486 Johnson Court in Boulder. Potluck dinner starts at 6:30 pm with program following. Please join us for fellowship and spiritual endeavor.

YOUTH GROUP:

The youth group has moved its meetings to right after church and coffee hour. We meet in the youth room beside Pete's office, and would be glad to have any new high school students join us from about **11:15 - 12:45 every Sunday**. If you would like to help the youth with any of the following activities, please call Jamie at 720-490-3400, or email her at Jamie@dandilion.org.

We are also looking for volunteers to help chaperone and drive the group on our summer work trip to Northern New Mexico and Arizona from **June 12 - 19**. We will be doing service work, camping, and backpacking. If you love road trips, high schoolers, the outdoors and physical labor AND you have access to a min-van, you are just what we are looking for!

The Youth will be raising money for their trip with a pancake breakfast, car-lot car wash, and peanut butter Easter egg sales! Look for these exciting opportunities for fun and fellowship, as well as a chance to support our youth in the coming months! We hope to keep trip costs to an absolute minimum so that all our youth can participate!

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR:

April 3 – regular meeting after church
April 10 – social meeting bowling and pizza after church Back at church by 3 pm, parking lot car wash during church to raise money for work trip
April 17 – Host potluck and games for church family after church
April 24 – service meeting Denver Inner City Parish, details to follow
May 1 – social / service meeting (May Day Basket Breakfast – meet at church at 7 AM, create and deliver may day baskets to older members of the congregation)
May 8 – no regular meeting, Mothers Day, host Mothers' Day refreshments, host Mothers' Day Service
May 15 – host potluck and games for church family after church
May 22 – pancake breakfast before church to raise money for work trip
May 29 – off for Memorial Day weekend
June 12-19- Work trip to northern New Mexico / Arizona for service on the reservations along with Sierra Vista UCC youth, and possibly others (Tentatively the 12 – 18th of June)
June 26 – tubing party and end of year bar -b-que
July 31 – night hike (all other weekends in July we will be on summer vacation)
DAY BEFORE SCHOOL water world day. (Details to follow)
August 20 – 21 – Fall kick-off lock-in at church

CONFIRMATION REPORT:

Pete is once again teaching his final part of the Confirmation process (three years) this spring with 9 young people participating. Classes are Sunday mornings **at 8:30 am -9:30am on first and third Sundays**. There will also be a confirmation retreat to be announced. We will be working toward confirmation Sunday in late May or early June.

ADULT CONFIRMATION (Foundations of Faith) 7:30 a.m. Thursdays

Some parents of this year's confirmands expressed the desire to learn what their kids were learning in confirmation class. So every other week this spring, on the Thursday after the Confirmation class meets on Sunday, I will teach the same material I covered with the kids on Thursday. We will cover biblical interpretation, church history, ethics, theology, non-Christian faiths, spiritual disciplines (yoga, meditation), and other things I can't remember at the moment. The next classes are Thursday, April 7 and 21, May 12 and 26 and perhaps one in June. We are a small group so far, so come join the discussion. No degrees will be awarded at the end, sorry.

April-May 2005

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thur*	*Fri*	*Sat*
3 8:30-9:30 Confir-mation 8:30 meditation Communion 10 a.m. worship Patio Focus Group Youth Group	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7** 7:30 Adult Confimation	**8**	**9**
10 8:30-9:30 Confir-mation 8:30 meditation Communion 10 a.m. worship Youth Group Car Wash	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**
17 Echo Deadline 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship Youth host pot-luck and games	**18**	**19**	**20** Women's Group 6:30 pm	**21** 7:30 Adult Confimation	**22**	**23** Passover Seder
24 8:30-9:30 Confir-mation 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship Youth Group	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**
May 1 7 a.m. Youth May Baskets Communion 10 a.m. worship	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 **Happy Mother's Day!** 8:30-9:30 Confir-mation 8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12** 7:30 Adult Confimation	**13**	**14**