



# Estes Park Church of Christ

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## August/September 2017 Newsletter

### Greetings from the Christians at Estes Park Church of Christ.

I apologize for taking so long to report on all the summer's happenings here in 'Paradise'. As always this summer has been full of activities and blessings. Our building and the well-equipped camping area behind it, have had a lot of welcome use. July began with a Texas youth group camping behind our building. They were in tents and during the few nights they were here they



'enjoyed' a thunderstorm that drenched the area. They survived well...although some of the young men slept in the building due to water in their tents...but all

had a good time and will be back.

Shortly after on July 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, our kitchen was a gathering place for a large group having a could have breakfast and sharing followed on July 4<sup>th</sup> by our annual and patriotic devotional. We 'guests' to that fellowship and the followed. This year's attendance



family reunion so they time together. This was wiener roast, karaoke sing, welcomed over eighty fireworks viewing which was larger than usual and a

#### Attendance

July 61  
Aug 36

#### Average Weekly Contribution

July \$1,251.37  
Aug \$1,231.70

#### Prayer List

Debbie Meador  
Ben Oualline  
Karie Kavka  
Joann Jackson  
Barb Toler  
Queeda Walker  
(Cody's mother)  
Hurricane victims

#### Birthdays

Mike Gillespie 9/16  
Cody Walker 9/28

great time was had by all. The weather was good and our whole program could be conducted out-of-doors. We had great karaoke participation led by Travis and Shelvia Golden, our very capable karaoke leaders. They do such a good job resulting in people being more willing to show their singing talents. The entire evening was a joy. Thanks to our women who coordinated our meal and others who participated to make the evening such a success.

Later that week, I headed for Canada to take part in a Gospel meeting / Vacation Bible School for the thirtieth consecutive year. I appreciate this church



supporting me while I help in that ongoing, very productive effort. The Bengough church, although having only about twenty members, conducts this mission effort every year, providing housing and meals for all the workers...two of us from Colorado and fifteen from the Southside Church of Christ in Winnipeg, Manitoba. VBS attendance was over 80 each day, with over 20 in the High School class alone.

Attendance at evening services was around 60, with visitors present each night.

In my absence, Richard George, a recently retired preacher from Texas who has moved to the area, filled the pulpit. It's so great to have Richard and Margaret in our area. The evening service was conducted by a large youth group from Round Rock, Texas. I got glowing reports about all who served that day. Thanks to each.

In addition to these special activities we have been blessed with increased attendance this summer, due to visitors from many places. They've been a great help as we've been working our way through studies from Hebrews and Ephesians. It's been a joy to study these books with our 'family' and those who enjoyed them with us. We are also blessed by the willingness of visiting Christian men to assist

in our services, including preachers who have shared a lesson with us during the evening service.

Along with these spiritual activities exciting things have been happening to our church building situation. Don Osborn heard that the Longmont Church was planning to replace their pews with chairs and alertly contacted the leadership to see if we could get the pews...pews that are far more comfortable and much newer and more attractive than the ones we had. Those pews are now in place and our former pews are in the hands of people and groups that will put them to good use.



Besides installing the pews, it was decided to paint the interior of the auditorium. Don contacted a Sojourner couple, Glen and Anita Carson, who spearheaded the painting of the outside of our building several years ago. They willingly came from Phoenix and prepped and painted the interior of the auditorium this past week. Diane Osborn updated the building decoration and Don did the trim work that makes our building so attractive and more usable. Please come and enjoy our new 'setting' with us. Our thanks to the Longmont Church for the gift of their pews, podium and communion table and to all workers who helped.

All of our ongoing activities continue as usual, despite the millions of visitors who come to Estes Park and Rocky Mountain National Park. We are heavily invested in Hospice with the EPMC hospice team; continue to help facilitate weekly 'Grief Groups'; 'sit at the city gate' through the McDonald's outreach ministry, studying, praying and counseling with as many people as we can; and connecting with hundreds of people each week through the EPNews article. In addition, in July we accepted an invitation to conduct the afternoon 'Vespers' program for the Prospect Park Living Center several Sundays. PPLC residents just love it when we come because we encourage them to sing their favorite hymns and we always have a lot of our own members present to help. The PPLC residents turn out in greater numbers each week that we are there. We also visit various rooms to sing and pray

with individuals who can't get out. 'I was sick, and you visited me', our Lord said. We love doing that.

We continue to thank the Walkers and Sombrero Stables for horseback riding passes they give us to pass out to others, and to Joanne Logan for many complimentary family photos her Real West studio has taken of visiting families. These families do this while serving thousands of visitors to the Estes Park area every summer, willingly shouldering the additional work that it involves to provide these blessings to our visitors. In addition to these special efforts, all of our members are very involved in: teaching, leading in worship, inviting people to services, and generally presenting Jesus to people in our community in every way they can. I would also like to thank Ken Rushing, a non-member friend who provides the hundreds of 3-hour DVDs of the animals and scenes of the area that we give out free to our visitors.

While most of our news is good, we have people who have worshipped with us who have gone through ominous health challenges: Joanne Jackson, Debbie Meador, and others. Others have experienced losses as a result of the hurricanes in the south. Our hearts are with each, being thankful that we have a powerful, loving God in charge.

Well, I must get this wrapped up and out to you. As always, if you have ideas or suggestions for the work here or want to 'partner' with us in any way, please feel free to let those be known. The Lord is doing a good work here and we want it to be as effective and blessing as it can be. Thank you for your ongoing prayers.

For the Estes Park Church of Christ  
Bob Lewis