



**BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CHURCH FRIENDS**

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Sue Rodman
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Rita Harden, Karen Beach
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Joan Bertram
- 5<sup>th</sup>-Katelyn Clinebell, Jackie Nunnally
- 9<sup>th</sup>- Jean Bump
- 11<sup>th</sup>- Bob Olmstead
- 15<sup>th</sup>- Glen Shue
- 28<sup>th</sup>- Drew Giffin
- 30<sup>th</sup>- Nancy Patterson



**THE VISITOR**

**October 2021**



# October 2021

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

|   |    |  |                                |    |  |    |
|---|----|--|--------------------------------|----|--|----|
|   |    |  |                                |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3<br>8:30—<br>Communion<br>Sunday   | 4  | 5<br>10:00am—<br>Van-go trip<br>Fall Foliage | 6                              | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10<br>9:30 am<br>Sunday service<br>&<br>Potluck                           | 11 | 12   | 13<br>10:30 am—<br>Bible Study | 14 | 15<br>6:00pm—Movie<br>night “Guess<br>Who’s Coming to<br>Dinner” | 16 |
| 17<br>9:30 am—<br>Sunday Service<br>Diaconate<br>Meeting After<br>Service | 18 | 19   | 20<br>10:30 am—<br>Bible Study | 21 | 22   | 23 |
| 24  | 25 | 26   | 27<br>10:30 am—<br>Bible Study | 28 | 29<br>6:00pm—Movie<br>night “The Bish-<br>op’s Wife”             | 30 |
| 31<br>9:30 am—<br>Sunday Service  |    |  |                                |    |  |    |

## Word from the Pastor

<sup>40</sup> “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’” (Mt. 25:40, NIV).

Colorado is quickly aging — and changing.

*Of course, the Centennial State is just one hundred years shy of our nation’s birthday.* In fact, on the first day of August in Colorado, the state parks offer free admission to help celebrate our collective progress in that short amount of time. However, the pace of “change” in Colorado seems to have accelerated in the past thirty years, which has resulted in some serious affordability and livability issues for the state.

What it boils down to is that “change” is both an incessant and an important term. The roots of this noun and verb go back to the Middle Ages when it referred to an exchange of money or items that could dramatically alter one’s condition. Perhaps we can look at it through a particularly Colorado lens: as a kid growing up in the 1980s, I watched the Broncos struggle to win the big game as they suffered double-digit losses in the Super Bowl. Then, through an infusion of financial resources, leadership, and a marketing campaign — they finally won the Big One, the Super Bowl, back-to-back in 1998-1999, and then also in 2016.

*What a change!*

Colorado is quickly aging — and changing.

*This is a more difficult condition to quantify.* As reported in the *Loveland Reporter-Herald* last Sunday, Colorado has the fastest-growing population of individuals over 65 — and is the state with the most housing “instability” for the elderly population. Twenty percent of Colorado’s population is now over the age of 60, and over a third of those individuals have reported little to no confidence in making monthly rent payments. (“Instability” means a large gap exists between senior incomes and housing costs and the affordability of an area.)

From the windswept prairies to the snowcapped mountains and, of course, to the fast-growing cities along the I-25 corridor, Colorado has become an expensive place to live — and to grow old. And, as a church, the question that comes to mind is: As we seek to know our community better — and its needs — *how can the church speak to those concerns?*

The issue might seem overwhelming— to think of the “whole” needs of a community. So let’s think of at least one individual who struggles to pay rent or to purchase enough food to stay nourished — or who can no longer drive to routine appointments or to visit others. *In what ways can we speak into that person’s life?*

*Even as faithful Christian stewards,* we can’t change the world on our own. But maybe we can partner with other churches or organizations to help improve the quality of life for others.

- ◆ *I often have heard requests from senior citizens about the following:*
- ◆ I can’t drive any more, and now life has become so difficult to do basic tasks.
- ◆ House cleaning has become a struggle due to physical mobility issues.
- ◆ I don’t have family here, and my friends have passed away. I just wish someone would visit.
- ◆ Obviously, there are more concerns than the ones enumerated here. However, as a new-comer to Loveland and to the neighborhood around our church, I’m curious about the ways in which we might help the senior citizens around us.
- ◆ *Also, as a member of Generation X who’s noticing more gray hairs myself,* I’m beginning to develop a greater appreciation for *aging*. Several years ago, when I first noticed some gray hairs, I used a pair of tweezers to pluck those pirates from my sanctified vessel of a scalp.
- ◆ Today, the tweezers can’t keep up with some of that “change!” But in the wise words of my uncle, “gray hair is earned.”
- ◆ *Yes, Colorado is aging and changing.* And imagine if we could blend the wisdom and maturity of senior individuals with that of our younger generations in church! What a great mission if we could meet the unique needs of those in their golden years — as we also reach out to the particular challenges faced by young families.
- ◆ So, as we move into this season of autumn with the leaves changing to golden hues against the crisp blue Colorado sky, I encourage you to consider how God can use “change” to alter all of our lives together for the better.

◆ Blessings and cheers,

◆ Pastor Brian

◆ **Your offering is important to us! Please consider donating to the church one of three ways:**

◆ 1) through the website at [fbcloveland.org](http://fbcloveland.org) (via the Donate tab);

◆ 2) through automatic deposit; or

◆ 3) with a check sent to:

◆ First Baptist Church

◆ 1003 W. 6th Street

◆ Loveland, CO 80537

◆ Our Treasurer, Helen Parks, picks up mailed checks from the church office early each week.