



The Communicator

Pastor's musings. . . How can we be a Sanctuary of Christ's Peace?

The worship theme for Community of Christ through the upcoming Advent season and throughout 2009 is "Be a Sanctuary of Christ's Peace". So I ask myself, "How can I be a sanctuary"? What can it mean to our congregation? .

Then I remembered the morning of November 5th, when our Activity Center changed from being a spacious conference center and occasional volleyball court... to become a site for a winter shelter for homeless men, women and children. Catholic Charities Northern, who sponsors this program, is doing an excellent job of providing services, and they are appreciative of folks from our congregation who have become volunteers. I am told that clients are so appreciative of the comfortable space that they take pride in helping keep it clean; each afternoon they help get it ready for another group who might use it that evening or over the weekend.

But I know there is more to this story. As we begin the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and waiting, we are encouraged to go beyond remembering the birth of a baby in Bethlehem, but to have our eyes and hearts open to finding Christ in unexpected places in our lives today. This week I saw Christ in the twinkling eyes of a volunteer who brought large bins of winter gear so people at the day shelter could select what they needed. When I came into the Activity Center I saw Christ in the eyes of a grateful client who left the shelter with new boots, and eagerly stopped me to show his new belongings! I witnessed in that moment a new understanding of how to BE a sanctuary. Can that spirit of generosity ignite in us avenues to further empower others?

As I leave to visit family for Thanksgiving, I have so much for which to be grateful. Looking at our own congregation this morning, I rejoiced at the growing number of children, especially the little

ones joyfully running down the aisle when it's time for a focus moment! I am grateful for the talented people who donate time and energy to develop quality programs for our children, and I am enriched by those who participate in all phases of worship. But equally important is my gratitude for the "hands on" dedication of those that preserve our building and grounds, serve meals to the seniors, and those who insightfully prepare budgets to enable us to move forward with a mission of service.

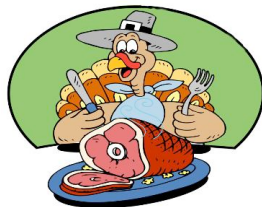
May we let all of life's blessings equip us to be "a generous and compassionate presence" with those around us. It is the best gift we can give each other! Let this Christmas be a season of simplicity even as we enjoy the delights of decorating trees and appreciating a nativity scene with sheep and a baby Jesus. Let it guide us to new ways to become a sanctuary of Christ's peace!

----Sharon Troyer

Annual Holiday Dinner

Second Sunday

Social on December 14 will be our Annual Holiday Dinner. We will eat at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



If you would like to help on one of the committees, please call Marilyn Garner at 493-4137. We have openings for set-up, cooking, & clean-up.

Please RSVP as soon as possible to Debbie Jones 490-5993.

The menu will be Ham, Vegetarian entree (note in your RSVP if you want this), Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Salad, and Pumpkin Dessert.

Congregational Business Meeting:

December 14 following the Worship

Budget approval and other items on the agenda

Advent Worship

November 30 Speaker -- Debbie Jones
December 7 Speaker -- Nancy Miller
December 14 Speaker -- Sharon Troyer
December 21 Children's Program

SEE THE CALENDARS ON PAGES 2&3 FOR
DETAILS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES



DECEMBER 2008

.....Sunday.....Monday.....Tuesday.....Wednesday.....Thursday.....Friday.....Saturday

	1 6 pm Temple School Class	2	3 Noon-Meal Site 7 p.m. Worship Coordinators Team	4 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 Noon-Meal Site	6
7 10 am Sunday School 11 am Communion First Sunday Giving	8 6 pm Temple School Class	9	10 Noon-Meal Site	11 7 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 Noon-Meal Site	13
14 10 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 12 pm Biz Meeting2 cents a meal 5 pm Annual Holiday Dinner	15	16	17 Noon-Meal Site	18 6 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Leadership Meeting	19 9 am Friday Morning Breakfast Club Noon-Meal Site	20
21 10 am Sunday School 11 am Children's Christmas Worship Communicator Items due	22	23 Tentative 6:30 Christmas Caroling & Hot Chocolate	24	25 Christmas	26 Noon-Meal Site	27
28 10 am Adult Sunday School-No Children's Classes 11 am Worship	29	30	31			

“Strive to be first: first to nod, first to smile, first to compliment and first to forgive.”
—Anonymous

CHURCH PERMIT PARKING ONLY

For the last several years, now and then the neighborhood employees and/or apartment dwellers have used our parking lot, sometimes causing no space available for church members. With the parking lot finally completed, the leadership team wanted to get a step ahead of this problem as we moved forward.

New signage has been ordered to install around the lot indicating “permit only” parking as a church parking lot. Bright colored Church Permits have been issued according to the leases of the church building. The real estate company leasing the front of the courtyard building, the Homeless Program for the Winter

in the Activities Center and the Meal Site volunteers each get 4 permits while one has been issued to the Church Pastor. Almost all of the time, extra spaces will be available for church members, whose cars we normally know therefore don't requiring permits.

It is hoped that this will solve the parking problems before it gets out of hand again. While the newly remodeled building across the back alley takes on new businesses, it was thought that something had to be done in a timely way. We will do “watchful waiting” for the next few months to see how this works out.

--EG, reporting

NOVEMBER 30 through DECEMBER 31, 2008 WORSHIP SCHEDULE"
- FT COLLINS Worship Coordinator, Debbie Jones

	11/30/08	12/17/08	12/14/08	12/21/08	12/28/08
Date:	11/30/08	12/17/08	12/14/08	12/21/08	12/28/08
Theme:	Keep Awake!	The Lord Will Come	Make Straight the Way of the Lord	He Will Be Called the Son of God	God Sent the Son
Advent:	LOVE	PEACE	HOPE	JOY	CHRIST CANDLE
Planner:	December Team	December Team	December Team	December Team	December Team
Presenter:	Les Cunningham	Shirley Remmenga	Rick Bunch	Dave Simons	
Speaker:	Debbie Jones	Nancy Miller	Sharon Troyer	Children's Program	Marilyn Garner
Offertory:	Bob Fulton	Jon Yteall	Bettie Miller	Children	
Invocation:	Tom Beck	Shirley Remmenga	Rick Bunch	Children	
Benediction:	Peggy Gordier	Jean Newman - Max Coopwood	Joyce Jordeth	Debbie Jones	
Welcome - Joys & Concerns:	Marilyn Garner	Sharon Troyer	Debbie Jones	Sharon Troyer	Sharon Troyer
Peace Candle:	Bob Fulton	Jon Yteall	Bettie Miller	Dave Simons	
Organ/Piano:	Robin Higgins	Sharon Fulton	Tom Beck	Kay Bunch	Robin Higgins
Special:	Choir	Quartet	Choir / Bell Choir	Choir	
PA:	Bettie Miller	Gary Jones	Tom Beck/Max Coopwood	Shirley Remmenga	Debbie Jones
Greeter:	Voni Simons/Ken Jones	Nancy Miller/Pam Webb	Nancy Miller/Pam Webb	Nancy Miller/Pam Webb	Nancy Miller/Pam Webb
Nursery:			Peggy Gordier	Lee Cook	Bonnie Thomas
Adult SS Class:					
Emblem Prep		Shirley Remmenga			
Home Communion					
Servers		Rick Bunch / Jean Newman			
Readers	Tom Beck, Peggy Gordier				
Advent Candle	Nancy Miller Family	Jim Miller Family	Rose Julch Family	Eric Fronapfle Family	Jon Yteall Family
Note:					

If you cannot accept your assignment, please find a replacement and/or notify the Planner ASAP



•There was a nice article on the day shelter for homeless at the church under the heading "Day shelter a 'Godsend'".

- Janice June (Sharon Fulton's sister) was pictured in a group who took a tour to Egypt over spring break.
 - Several of our group were listed as donors to Outreach International in their latest publication.
 - The latest copy of the Graceland University Alumni directory has several names listed in Fort Collins that don't appear in our church directory.
- Joyce Jordeth



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bonnie Thomas for her recent induction into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. This recognition goes to students in Community Colleges who exhibit outstanding performance in academics and leadership. Bonnie was inducted at Front Range Community College on November 7 in the company of her family and friends.

HIGH PRIEST AND EVANGELIST WORKSHOP

Over fifty people assembled in Ft. Collins the weekend of November 14-16 to attend a High Priest-Evangelist-Seventy Gathering featuring the ministry of Apostle Dale Luffman, President of the High Priest Quorum Jane Gardner, and Field Missionary Coordinator Robin Linkhart. Presiding Evangelist Dave Brock was unable to attend as scheduled due to illness. Jane Gardner aptly filled in on his behalf.

The weekend opened on Friday evening with a keynote from Apostle Luffman followed by worship. Luffman focused on the theme scripture found in Hebrews 12:1 “...surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...” as well as the gospel of Luke’s call to incarnational witness. Dale challenged the group to reflect on the questions, “How is Jesus’ life of ministry confronting you today? How are you living out of that sense of liberation, and how are you showing it?”

Jane Gardner presented on the offices of high priest and evangelist who, together with seventy, serve as World Church Ministers. Ministers of vision, high priests are called to be servant leaders. They are to stand in the breach between what is and what is yet to be, with humility and gentleness pulling people beyond assumed capabilities. She likened serving as high priest to geese flying in “V” formation, rotating lead

position, spelling each other in support of mission.

Sharing on behalf of Presiding Evangelist Dave Brock, Jane expanded on several key aspects important to being ministers of blessing. An evangelist provides presence and companioning as spiritual companion, apostolic witness, teacher/learner, and pastoral presence. The evangelist is called to be vulnerable to a vulnerable God; to “be” sanctuary for “other.”

Emphasizing priesthood partnering between offices and an integrated holistic approach to ministry, Robin Linkhart presented a review of the office of seventy grounded in Luke 10 and Christ’s call to mission which beckons all to be his witnesses, proclaiming good news to the poor, release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed (Luke 4:18).

On Sunday morning, weekend attendees participated in an early morning commitment service, joining Ft. Collins at the 11:00 hour for a communion worship service. Apostle Luffman brought the message and Tim Ashburn, RMMC President presided. Participants traveled from the Rio Grande and Arizona Mission Centers as well as Rocky Mountain.

--Robin Linkhart, reporting November 24, 2008

Did you notice that nice clean non-chemical smell in our church? We’re going GREEN in our cleaning supplies. Bob Johnson recently made a gift of a Shaklee membership to our congregation. This will enable us to buy our environmentally safe cleaning products at a discount as well as the possibility of making a little money for the budget. If any Congregation members would like to purchase their Shaklee products on the church order, 15% will go to the church. If, instead, you’d like to collect that 15% and save on your products by becoming a Shaklee member yourself, that’s OK, too. Bob left a video of the company policies and product information and a catalog that is available in the Workroom next to Sharon’s office. We plan to put an order together soon, so if you’re interested, contact Marilyn Garner 493-4137.



One of the discernment groups during the weekend

Footnote: Nancy Miller catered the delicious dinner on Saturday evening!