



Community of Christ

The Communicator

FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

November 2008



Is Scriptural Literacy Important?

It has been a joy to begin facilitating the class, *Introduction to Understanding Scripture*. **Nine people enrolled by our first evening class**, and everyone showed a genuine interest in becoming more scripturally literate! When we discussed why folks decided to take the class, several had fond memories of Bible School from childhood; others recalled learning important scriptures via well-loved hymns or listening to or singing in the Messiah. And of course, some had very little background at all. There was, however, a playful but sincere humility expressed from those who remembered there had been times when scripture was used to “show the superiority of our particular denomination”. Sometimes this was at the expense of deepening our personal relationship with a compassionate and living God!

We also recognized that within Community of Christ today, we draw upon the *Common Lectionary* to enhance our worship life as do many other Christians around the world.

In class we always affirm the attitude that “there are no dumb questions!” We talked about the term, “lectionary”, for instance, and recognized that it had been foreign to many of us until recent years. “Why do we use it, and when did we start?” asked one person. That question led to a discussion of how following a three year cycle of scriptural focus allows us to discover inspiration that can be found in all of the Bible, not just favorite passages. It does cause all of us to wrestle with interpretation of scripture, a skill that class members hope to strengthen. Studying scripture in this way also examines historical and cultural contexts from which we can also appreciate the wisdom found in the Doctrine of Covenants and the Book of Mormon. Being a church that has never believed in “inerrancy” of scripture, it is important to ponder the guidance given the church by President Stephen M. Veazey in March of 2007. Section 163:7a-c states:

Scripture is an indispensable witness to the Eternal Source of light and truth, which cannot be fully contained in any finite vessel or language.

Scripture has been written and shaped by human authors through experiences of revelation and ongoing

inspiration of the Holy Spirit in the midst of time and culture.

Scripture is not to be worshiped or idolized. Only God, the Eternal One of whom scripture testifies, is worthy of worship. God’s nature, as revealed in Jesus Christ and affirmed by the Holy Spirit, provides the ultimate standard by which any portion of scripture should be interpreted and applied.

It is not pleasing to God when any passage of scripture is used to diminish or oppress races, genders, or classes of human beings. Much physical and emotional violence has been done to some of God’s beloved children through the misuse of scripture. The church is called to confess and repent of such attitudes and practices.

After the conclusion of this class on November 10th, Dave Simons will facilitate the class, **An Introduction to Caring Ministries**. I can assure you, the right person is guiding this class! It begins November 17th and concludes December 1st! Contact Dave at (970)282-0969 to let him know if more textbooks need to be ordered.

Best wishes to everyone as we enter the Thanksgiving and Advent Season! May we share generously the joy, hope, love and peace in our hearts!

Your friend and pastor, Sharon



NOVEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

2nd	Planner:	Tom Beck
	Speaker:	Dave Simons
	Organ:	Tom Beck
9th	Planner:	Marilyn Garner
	Speaker:	Sharon Harrison
	Organ:	Tom Beck
16th	Service in Activity Center with High Priest and Evangelist Gathering. Special guest speaker from the World Church	
23th	Planner:	Pam Webb
	Speaker:	Testimonies
	Organ:	Jean Newman
30th	Planner:	December Team
	Speaker:	Debbie Jones
	Organ:	Robin Higgins

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

Makenna Jackson	11/01
Joyce Jordeth	11/02
Sharon P. Troyer	11/02
Shauna Clark	11/02
Shirley V. Remmenga	11/04
Emmaline Garner	11/07
Jon Ytell	11/07
Nancy Zmyslony	11/08
Brandon Burkey	11/11
Brett Bridwell	11/11
Sawyer Jones	11/12
Vivian Ray	11/14
Zachary Fronapfel	11/15
Alec Fronapfel	11/15
Debbie Jones	11/17
Gary Alton	11/19
Vergean Wood	11/20
Dawn Gaffield	11/21
Ann Mauk (Ann will be 102 years young!!!)	11/28



WCN Group



The WCN Group (*Welcoming Community Network*) has been busy the last several weeks drafting a resolution to present at the November Mission Center Conference. The need for a positive resolution was prompted by a proposed resolution that was seeking to remove "Links" from the Mission Center webpage to GALA and WCN.

As it has developed, the other resolution may be ruled "out of order" since it attempted to usurp the authority of the Mission Center President and interpret denomination belief or doctrine. It will probably be re-written to address those issues, but the intent to remove "links" to sites they feel are not appropriate will remain.

The resolution the Fort Collins WCN Group has submitted is available for review on the congregation website at: <http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins/2008RMMCResolutionWCN.pdf>

The Fort Collins WCN Group will continue to advocate for full inclusion and recognition of the worth of all persons. If you would like to be a part of the WCN Group, contact any of the members listed below.

Tom Beck, Kathy Bridwell; Max Coopwood; Dick Foster; Julie Foster; Bob Fulton, Sharon Fulton, Betty Jones, Jon Mendenhall, Nancy Mendenhall, & Shirley Remmenga.



The parking lot is finally REPAVED. Thanks to Earnie, Don, Dave Shupe and all who put in so much time to get this project behind us.!

ADDRESS CHANGES...

Carnie Fulton
95 Clay St., Apt. 3L
Brooklyn, NY 11222

Greetings! Just to let you all know we are leaving Oct. 26 for Las Vegas and plan on coming back sometime in April, 2009. My phone number will be my cell phone number: 970-232-6040,. Our address will be 3355 S. Town Center Dr. Bldg. 2, Apartment #1006, Las Vegas, NV 89135. Have a good winter! Peace and Blessings, Dick and Julie

DID YOU KNOW....



Bonnie Thomas is currently a student at Front Range Community College. Recently, she received an invitation to join Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. This honor is reserved for the top 2% of community college students nationwide based on their GPA. Congratulations, Bonnie!

NEWS FROM the KIDS' CLASSES

Our children are blooming! Sunday School has gotten off to a great start. Many thanks to all of you who are providing a second set of hands as well as special expertise during class times. One note about the little kids' class - It is the first door on the left as one enters the education wing of church, so can be attractive as a place to meet, greet and watch the sweet little ones. However, be assured that two adults are there to welcome the children with planned lessons and activities for the entire 45 minute class. Also, know that typically at times a child may have trouble leaving mommy and daddy at the last minute. Therefore, if you are placing a child in class, please give a quick hug and then firmly walk away trusting the teachers to soothe and engage the children immediately. Also, please do not come into the room during class time unless it is absolutely necessary. Every time the door opens, some child will be expecting mom or dad. If there is a time when a child simply cannot be consoled, one of the teachers will come to find you. Thank you for your great support of our children! If you have any questions about the Children's Christian Education program don't hesitate to contact Sharon Fulton, 484-6943.

ATTENTION: KIDS! If you want to be part of the Christmas Program (including the Bell Choir) be sure to be at Sunday School to practice each of the Sundays November 30, December 7 and December 14.



Church Bulletin OOPS!

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hospitality.

DIAGNOSIS: AILING TOOTERS AND WOOFERS
(Submitted by Tom Beck)



World Church
News

You may not have noticed, but our Allen organ hasn't been sounding up to par lately. It has been some time since its last check-up and we discovered several reasons why it was losing its musical luster.

Ken Mervine, the only remaining Allen technician in the region, checked and serviced the console, which was in dire need of maintenance. While visiting with him, I found out he is an accomplished organist himself, an active member of the American Guild of Organists, clinician and adjudicator. I also discovered that he knew John Obetz, our former World Church staff organist in Independence. Ken inspected and thoroughly cleaned all the connectors and electronic assemblies, replaced the scanning lights for the computer card read-out assembly, and checked all the speakers. The repaired scanner will allow organists to use the computer cards, which have been stored in the organ bench all this time, to automatically set up many more new combinations of sounds for the music they want to play.

After looking at our speakers, which are built specifically for the Allen organ, he discovered several cracks in both woofer speakers, the ones responsible for all the low tones. He recommended replacing those as well as the two mid-range horn speakers because of their age and signs of wear. These speakers are responsible for most of the dynamic range of sound and volume levels between the woofers and the tweeters. Altogether, we are looking at replacing the four speakers at around \$1,200 installed. This cost is over and above the service Ken has already done on the console. The total bill would be estimated at \$1,600, which includes his mileage and labor expenses.

With the approval of the Leadership Committee, we can allocate the funds necessary to bring our instrument back to its former good health and functions in time for the holiday season that lies ahead. Tom will be available to inservice the organists on the use of the computer cards when setting up stops for hymns and special music.

NOVEMBER SCHEDULE

- Nov. 9** Second Sunday Social
Two-Cents-A-Meal offering
- Nov. 16** Communicator articles are due
- Nov. 20** Leadership Meeting

Thanksgiving
Blessings to you



The First Presidency is sharing a set of "Church History Principles" to help guide the church's reflections and discussions. The article will help the church continue to explore the personalities, events, and meanings of our church's inspiring story. <http://www.cofchrist.org/OurFaith/history.asp>

Do you want to make peace a reality? Join [Community of Christ Peace Support Network](http://www.peacesupportnetwork.org). This virtual, global network links people and groups with peacemaking ideas, information, resources, models, education, and action opportunities. Many effective, practical, field-tested tools are ready to help you "do" and "be" peace where you live. Membership is free. Don't miss the inaugural edition of the new magazine! Go to www.peacesupportnetwork.org/signup.cfm and sign up now.

Inspire millions with "Create Peace." Community of Christ Peace Support Network is sponsoring a [video contest on YouTube](http://www.peacesupportnetwork.org/videos.cfm) with a \$1,000 grand prize. Create a video yourself, another with your family, and another with your neighbors. Post them all—share your passion for peace! For more information, please see www.peacesupportnetwork.org/videos.cfm.

Help us sing what we believe! You are invited to participate in an open submission process and an online hymnal survey. Visit <http://www.cofchrist.org/hymnal/> for complete details. The online survey will be available through December 31.



Did you see the picture of Ken Jones and cheering squad in the October Herald? The picture was taken in China where Ken participated in the Special Olympics World Summer Games. Shirley Remmenga, Gary and Debbie Jones and Marilyn and Susanna Garner were there to cheer him on.

Tyler and Cooper Jones (Betty's grandsons) are in the picture just below with the Graceland University Students in Free Enterprise team which finished third at the USA National Expo competition.

Trent McFall was first in the 14-15 age group in the Punt, Pass and Kick competition

I keep seeing pictures of winning soccer teams – but they don't give names. Please let me know if they include any of "our" kids.

--Joyce Jordeth

THE STORY OF STONE SOUP

Once upon a time, somewhere in post-war Eastern Europe, there was a great famine in which people jealously hoarded whatever food they could find, hiding it even from their friends and neighbors. One day a wandering soldier came into a village and began asking questions as if he planned to stay for the night.

"There's not a bite to eat in the whole province," he was told. "Better keep moving on."

"Oh, I have everything I need," he said. "In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you." He pulled an iron cauldron from his wagon, filled it with water, and built a fire under it. Then, with great ceremony, he drew an ordinary-looking stone from a velvet bag and dropped it into the water.

By now, hearing the rumor of food, most of the villagers had come to the square or watched from their windows. As the soldier sniffed the "broth" and licked his lips in anticipation, hunger began to overcome their skepticism. "Ahh," the soldier said to himself rather loudly, "I do like a tasty stone soup. Of course, stone soup with *cabbage* -- that's hard to beat."

Soon a villager approached hesitantly, holding a cabbage he'd retrieved from its hiding place, and added it to the pot. "Capital!" cried the soldier. "You know, I once had stone soup with cabbage and a bit of salt beef as well, and it was fit for a king."

The village butcher managed to find some salt beef . . . and so it went, through potatoes, onions, carrots, mushrooms, and so on, until there was indeed a delicious meal for all. The villagers offered the soldier a great deal of money for the magic stone, but he refused to sell and traveled on the next day. The moral is that by working together, with everyone contributing what they can, a greater good is achieved.

Second Sunday Social

November 9, 5pm

STONE SOUP

and Board Games



You will be contacted to bring a carrot, potato, celery, cabbage, etc. to make the soup. The *stone*, beverage and Homemade Bread will be provided. Bring a dessert if you would like. Bring a board game you'd like to play.



The bazaar will be set up November 1 in the old office downstairs (by the lift) and remain until Christmas. Those wishing to contribute should have items priced and put them in place.

Proceeds will go into our Building Fund.

We would like to designate the third Sunday of each month (November 16 and December 21) for those bringing baked goods and fresh food for sale that day. Come and do your shopping for the holidays! For more information, contact Joyce Jordeth: 493-2746.

Next Month's *Second Sunday Social* is our Annual Holiday Dinner. If you would like to help with planning, food, set up or cleanup, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Community of Christ
220 East Oak Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524