



The Communicator

Pastor's Thoughts

First of all, I want to say how much I feel the absence of our beloved friend, Earnie Garner. I thank God for knowing him eight short months. I can only imagine how many of you will miss him, after years of knowing him as a devoted member of this church family. Words are always inadequate at a time like this, but suffice it to say, Earnie will never be forgotten. His impact on our greater community will live on...in the hearts of babies blessed, members baptized, young people inspired and taken on trips, buildings and homes created and improved, and in more community activities than can be listed here. We say farewell to a loving man, whose life of service truly made a difference!

Last month I wrote about **spiritual formation**, and its importance in the developing life of our congregation. At the heart of inspired council now included in our Doctrine & Covenants (from Grant McMurray and Stephen M. Veazey) are invitations to deepen our personal relationship with God as we continue to seek ways to create sacred community. I like to think we are invited to practice recognizing God's Presence in many ways, including numerous forms of prayer, being shaped by scripture as **formation** rather than information, and chosen paths of simplicity, to name but a few.

I know that each of you are not drawn to the same kinds of spiritual disciplines or practices. When I say spiritual disciplines, it is important to **not** think of discipline as having anything to do with punishment. Too often we struggle with dualistic thinking that implies that there are right and wrong ways to find or experience God.

In order to be sensitive to the Spirit moving within and amongst us as a congregation, I am creating a Spiritual Formation Team to assist me. This team will gather in retreat soon to help discern direction for us as a community. This is not a substitute for the Leadership Council, the representatives who have accepted responsibility in a structured way in guiding programs and ministry. I want to invite you to pray with me that these

leadership development steps will enrich us all.

And last, but not least, I am excited to announce that on **Friday evening, March 27 and all day Saturday, March 28th**, we will have an **In-Town Retreat** called *The Enneagram: A Path To Authenticity in Sharing Christ's Peace*. We will offer a program for children during times when adults are in session, and guest ministry will assist me so that members and friends of our congregation (and those interested from within the Mission Center) can learn and be nurtured. This will be held here in our own church, using the Activity Center and other spaces. By staying in our own homes (or nearby with friends), we won't need to have lodging expenses. Please put this on your calendar; it is my hope that we will be richly blessed together.

Shalom!
Sharon

February Worship Schedule

February 1	Planner Presider Speaker	Dave Simons Gary Jones Sharon Troyer
February 8	Planners Presider Speaker	R. Bunch J. Ytell/ Marta Jean Newman Shirley R
February 15	Planner Presider Speaker	Nancy Miller Nancy Miller Dave Cook
February 22	Planner Presider Speaker	Jean Newman Jean Newman Bob Walker

A detailed worship schedule is on the congregation webpage and in the church office.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Earnie Garner who passed away on January 14th. A memorial service is planned for January 31st. at 1 p.m. in the Activity Center.
He will be missed!

HONDURAS, HERE I COME!!

On February 22, 2009, I am flying to Tegucigalpa, Honduras with Friends United to continue our assistance in the educational process there. In years past, we each have taken an extra piece of luggage, filled with school supplies, on the plane with us. Now that there is a charge for each piece of luggage checked (the charge for the second piece is more than the first) I am not collecting pencil sharpeners and pencils as I did last year. Rather, this year, if there is anyone who would like to be a part of how Friends United is making a positive difference in Honduras, I am suggesting that a cash donation would be the way to go.

Books can be bought there for our Resource Rooms (we now have them in five different cities) and I can avoid the inconvenience and the expense of taking school supplies. This is not a plea for help nor is it a way of putting pressure on anyone to donate. This is in response to those who have asked me if I want pencil sharpeners, etc. to take with me.

We're all aware of all the projects, organizations, groups, and needs that are asking for donations. I'll be more than happy to receive any donations. However, it is great with me whether you wish to give or not. I am staying in Honduras until the 2nd of April and will return home on the 3rd. I'm hoping to learn some everyday Spanish in my extra weeks there.

Wish me luck!
Sincerely and joyously,
Shirley Remmenga



February Birthdays

Marcia Wood	02/02
Susanna Garner	02/04
Marie Ytell	02/05
Donna Palmer	02/06
Don Worthington	02/10
Brett McKenzie	02/14
Janny Kay McKenzie	02/16
Gene Bridwell	02/17
Jean Newman	02/19
Teri Bridwell	02/20
Marcia Bridwell	02/22
Joyce Worthington	02/24



We saw it in the Paper!!

Did you see picture of the Girl Scouts sorting soap and other toiletries for the homeless at the Community of Christ Church?

The Rocky Mountain Men's Retreat was pictured in the January Herald.

Tyler and Cooper Jones (Betty's Grandsons) are in the list of Graceland leaders.

Thank You Notes

Thank you for the beautiful paper weight presented to me at the holiday dinner; in appreciation for service to the congregation. It has been my pleasure to support the church in whatever way possible.

Joyce Jordeth

Tuba Christmas 2008 was a big success. We had 63 participants and an audience well over 200 people.

The continued success is due in large part because of the perfect rehearsal hall and your kindness.

Sincerely,
Jim Schafer



February Calendar

- Feb. 1st First Sunday Giving
- Feb. 4th 7 p.m. Worship Planning Meeting
- Feb. 8th Two Cents a Meal
- Feb. 8th 5 p.m. Second Sunday Social
- Feb. 12th 1 p.m. Afternoon Women's Group
- Feb. 15th Communicator Items Due
- Feb. 19th 7 p.m. Leadership Meeting
- Feb. 20th 9 a.m. Breakfast Club - Columbine
- Feb 27th-Mar. 1st RMMC Hunger Challenge

Go Green: Save the church postage, paper and labor. Get your Communicator online. Each month it is posted on the congregation webpage and you will be notified by E-mail. Contact Jon Mendenhall at 229-1947 or jon@jonnanco.net to **Go Green**.

WCN GROUP PLANS

Having offered several opportunities for dialogue, education and exposure to GLBT (gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgender) issues the Fort Collins WCN Group is ready to propose a Welcoming Statement for the congregation. When consensus is achieved the congregation would apply for recognition as an official WCN Congregation.

The Welcoming Statement, while not finalized, would be something similar to the following:

In harmony with the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth, all are welcome into the community regardless of age, race, gender, education, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, political viewpoint, gender identity, disability, national origin, or religious belief.

In order for the congregation membership to be fully informed as to what it means to be a part of the Welcoming Community Network, a panel of people who have experience in this area will be presented in the near future. Panel members will share their experiences. Opportunities for questions, viewpoints, concerns, etc. will also be provided at that time. Don't miss the opportunity to learn more about this process.

Questions or concerns can also be addressed individually as well as in group settings like the panel presentation. If you prefer to visit privately, feel free to contact any member of the WCN Group or the pastor.

More information about what it means to be a WCN congregation can also be found on the WCN website:

<http://www.welcomingcommunitynetwork.org/>

The WCN Group: *Tom Beck, Kathy Bridwell, Kay Bunch, Rick Bunch, Max Coopwood, Dick Foster, Julie Foster, Bob Fulton, Sharon Fulton, Betty Jones, Jon Mendenhall, Nancy Mendenhall, Shirley Remmenga, Dave Simons, Voní Simons, Bonnie Thomas, & Steve Thomas*

A Letter From The Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council

Dear Pastor Troyer and the Congregation of Community of Christ Church,

The Housing team of the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council has followed the various efforts to provide a winter day shelter for the homeless in Fort Collins for years. Therefore, it is with knowledge of the promise and the problems of a winter day shelter that we want to commend and thank you and your congregation for opening your community room to the Winter Day Shelter this year.

Interfaith Council has been fortunate to have hosted several receptions and meetings in your community room through the years, and we thank you for that use of the room. Now, we are so grateful to you for allowing its use to be put to such a good purpose this winter.

We value your tangible contribution to sheltering those individuals and families who have no home and nowhere else to seek relief from the cold.

Sincerely,
Anita J. Hildebrand
Co-Chair, Housing Team



Sunday Social

February 8th at 5 pm

Valentines Day Dinner

Watch future announcements for details or call the church office.

Community Events:

Introduction to Centering Prayer

Sponsored by
Contemplative Outreach Northern Colorado

Christine Travers-O'Brien, Facilitator

**February 21, Sat, 8 am-12pm, at Trinity Lutheran,
301 E. Stuart, Fort Collins**

(With four follow ups on Mondays, starting Feb 23, 6:30-8 pm)

Plymouth United Church of Christ, 916 W. Prospect.

Donation: \$40 (includes book)

(less \$16 if you already own *Open Mind Open Heart*, by Father Thomas Keating)

**Sharon Troyer suggests centering prayer is
best learned in a small group, and describes it as:**

***“A contemplative form of prayer whereby we consent to practicing God's presence
in silent listening to the inspiration of the Spirit.”***

If you have not attended an Introductory Workshop like this,
this is an excellent opportunity!

For more information, see

<http://www.contemplativeoutreach-co.org/FortCollins.html>

To reserve space, contact Christine Travers-O'Brien, at (970) 412-4433

Worship in the style of Taize

We are invited to join Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC) for their monthly Taize service (each third Sunday evening) which combines music, silence, scripture and simple modern chants. It is another way to experience God's presence among us. Come experience this distinctive style of worship which nourishes the soul!

February 15th – 6 p.m.

916 W. Prospect Rd. – Fort Collins

If you want to stay for a simple supper of soup & salad,

RSVP Fran Milde or Irene Wherit,(970) 689-3101 or 481-6660!

2009 Directory: The new directory was printed January 10. If you have not picked one up yet, you can do so at the church. If you need one mailed to your home, please call the church office to request one by mail. Updates/corrections since publication are listed below:

Chris & Lena Higgins - new address: 1403 Harden Dr, Barberton OH 44203 <i>No Change to phone number.</i>	Jon Higgins phone number and e-mail: (970) 672-6507 jhiggins.11@hotmail.com <i>No change in address</i>
Add: Steve Watkins: (970) 420-1440 326-1/2 E Pitkin St, Ft. Collins, CO 80524	Add Sharon Troyer to the Priesthood list as an Elder after Shirley Remmenga.

Community of Christ
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