



Community of Christ

# The Communicator

## Identify Theft?

One week in July, in *Upper Room Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotion*, the weekly topic was "The Blessings of Identity". On July 17, Robert Roth, wrote about "identify theft". Though I've never had a credit card stolen or been harmed by a hacker misusing electronic data, I was intrigued by the analogy that we can all experience damaging forms of identify theft. It happens when we are robbed of our connection to God, the Source of BEING, that we begin to rely instead on the "false self" or our ego's identification with the work we do, or any of the many roles we play in life. I once heard a story of a four year old who supposedly crept quietly along side the crib of his new baby sister, and said, "Tell me where you came from; I'm beginning to forget!".

You've heard the term, "identity crisis", when someone goes through a period of change where a specific identify is called into question. It is sometimes only then that we recognize that we had grown "attached" to a certain identity, and without it, we may feel lost or empty. Sometimes called a "dark night of the soul", that kind of emptiness can be a path to greater wholeness, if we can avoid the temptation to fill it up immediately with something else. The same thing can happen to churches that happens to individuals. Change, rather than being something to fear or avoid, can be something that brings opportunities for compassion and a time to recognizing our strengths as well as our shortcomings. We can then allow time for God to reveal new purposes in life and to realize they often are found in surprising places.

Scripture tells us that before Jesus was "sent by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted", he was first assured of his true identity as a "Beloved Son of God." In being invited to practice God's presence as Jesus did, I like to think we can discover our own Divine DNA. When asked, "Who are you", how many of us rather routinely identify ourselves by something we do? Though this is perfectly legitimate and may describe meaningful roles we play in life, like parent, partner, teacher, or pastor, we can also *over-identify* with those roles and, without them, not know who we are!

It is only in the core of our very being (most often found through either prayer or suffering) that we can KNOW our union with God. Remember, it is in the life and ministry of Jesus that we see a model of balance between taking time to "go apart" to "rest in God"....and returning to engagement with a world where "all things are sacred" and we can respond with compassion to those who seek satisfaction where it cannot be found. It helps me to remember the last verse of a new hymn by Daniel Charles Damon that reminds us to share the "good news" about our true identity. It helps me feel "found" rather than "lost".

### "I Have Called You By Your Name"

(By Request: *Songs for the Community of Christ*, R-10)

I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole,  
Go and tell my precious people they are mine.

Sharon Troyer, Pastor



## August Calendar

**August 2nd** First Sunday Giving  
**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Children's Ed Meeting 6:30 pm  
**August 5<sup>th</sup>** Worship Planning Meeting 7 p.m.  
**August 9th** 2 cents a meal  
**August 9<sup>th</sup>** Second Sunday Social 5 p.m.  
**August 12<sup>th</sup>** Prayer Shawl Group  
**August 14-16:** NewWestFest  
**August 20th** Leadership Meeting 7 p.m.  
**August 21st** Friday Morning Breakfast Club 9 a.m. at the Egg & I  
**August 23rd** Communicator Items are due  
**August 30<sup>th</sup>** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Pancake Breakfast and Forum 9 a.m.

### CHILDREN'S S.S. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

All who are interested in the Sunday School program for our children are invited to an organizational meeting Monday evening, August 3, 6:30, at the church. Parents, grandparents, past teachers, aspiring teachers, other volunteers, and anyone else who loves children and are interested in the Children's Christian Ed. Dept. are encouraged to attend. Bill and Pat Miner and Kay and Rick Bunch have already volunteered to plan the the Fourth Sunday Activity for each month, but we will be discussing an appropriate configuration of ages for classes as well as program content. Please come with your ideas and observations.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF

Sunday School classes for all children will get off to a great start on Sunday morning, September 13 at 10:00 a.m.! Our congregation is blessed to include a good number of bright, energetic children who love to get together, and we are looking forward to a fantastic Sunday School year. Children are strongly encouraged to bring friends and neighbors to participate with us.



## We saw it in the Paper!!

### Today in History

On June 27, 1844, Mormon leader Joseph Smith and his brother, Hyrum, were killed by a mob in Carthage, Illinois.

The artwork of Jim Fronapfel was on display in July at the Colorado Coalition of Artists Studio.

Did you see the picture in the July Herald of the group from Greenwood Village who makes quilts and donates them to community organizations and individuals in need?

### Our Contributions

#### May WORLD CHURCH

World Ministries	\$1,330.00
Oblation	\$207.00
World Hunger	\$135.00

#### May LOCAL

Congregation	\$3,118.00
Building Fund	\$18.00
(\$3.00 from gift shop)	
2 cents a meal	\$110.25
Family Assistance	\$50.00

#### June WORLD CHURCH

World Ministries	\$1,351.00
Oblation	\$383.00
World Hunger	\$220.00

#### June LOCAL

Congregation	\$4,094.03
Building Fund	\$29.50
(\$14.50 from gift shop)	
2 cents a meal	\$00.00
(overlooked in June)	
Family Assistance	\$60.00



## August Birthdays

Alana Watkins	08/01
Man Oberoi	08/04
Keenan Fronapfel	08/19
John Garner	08/20
Gary Clark	08/21
Allister Garner	08/26
Ken Jones	08/26
Sierra Bridwell	08/26
Simon Jones	08/28
Erin Alton	08/29



## The Communicator BE GREEN!!!!

The full color version of the communicator is available online. Please consider receiving your communicator

by email to cut down printing cost and save trees.

## Adoption News

Steve Thomas was able to complete the adoption of Shelton and Cash.



## Second Sunday Social

### Pot Luck & Movie

Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>

At 5 p.m.

Fire Proof: On the verge of divorce, a fireman takes his born-

again father's suggestion and attempts a forty-day "love dare" to save his marriage. There will also be a children's movie. Please bring a main dish and a salad or side to share before the movie.

## Welcoming Covenant Statement

One of the requirements for a congregation to become a member of the Welcoming Community Network (WCN) is to create and adopt a *welcoming covenant statement*. The Fort Collins WCN Group met with the Leadership Team in July and recommended the following statement be adopted by the Fort Collins congregation at a future business meeting.

**We welcome ALL to our congregation and uphold the dignity and worth of all persons. We extend the love of Jesus Christ to everyone, including those who are marginalized for any reason such as; age, race, gender, education, marital status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, political viewpoint, immigration status, gender identity, disability, national origin and religious belief.**

The Leadership Team agreed to bring this before the congregation during the November business meeting. Since April 2008 the WCN Group has been working to inform the congregation of what it means to be a WCN congregation. We realize there may still be unanswered questions or concerns about this process. At the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Forum on August 30<sup>th</sup> there will be another opportunity for dialogue on this subject. A 30 minute documentary about faith communities, and those who want to be included in them, will be shared to promote discussion and dialogue. Members of the WCN Group also welcome individual conversations to discuss questions and concerns.

## The Fort Collins WCN Group

Tom Beck & Max Coopwood, Kathy Bridwell & Brian Cole, Rick & Kay Bunch, Lee Cook, Dick & Julie Foster, Bob & Sharon Fulton, Peggy Gordier, Betty Jones, Jon & Nancy Mendenhall, Shirley Remmenga, Dave & Voni Simons, Steve & Bonnie Thomas, Sharon Troyer