



The Communicator

“Come Now, Nativity of Peace” Pastor’s Greetings

Recently I came across a new hymn written by Danny Belrose. He titles it, “Come Now, Nativity of Peace” (see pg. 5) and suggests singing it to the familiar melody, “While Humble Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” by George Handel. I sat alone at a piano, played the hymn tune, and was “amazed by grace” at the power of **blending new words with the beloved traditional melody**.

I realized this is what I love about the Advent season. It is important that we can **cherish the traditional** Christmas story, images, scriptures, and music...and at the same time be open to **find new meaning** in our lives today. Advent begins November 29. The word “advent” comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning *coming*. We **live in anticipation of what is coming** as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Chris Glaser, in *Reformation of the Heart*, described the experience of Mary being visited by the angel Gabriel. According to scripture, she was told that she would give birth to one who would be the Son of God. Rather than stepping back with inadequacy, Mary accepted that God was doing a new thing within her. Her humble response was, “Let it be...according to your word.” Today we are invited to see how God is also doing a new thing within each of us.

I am grateful that in Community of Christ we do not limit our use of scripture to being God’s inerrant words, but we look at it as a vital source where “we see the **Word as God’s action in the world**.” I believe our

congregation is being invited to discern how we can actively proclaim “good news” by confronting our own fear of change. We, like Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds are given opportunities to hear the divine call to **“Fear not.”** Our vote to become a “welcoming” congregation will open doors for us to let new life grow within us. In January, Shandra Newcom from Rocky Mountain Mission Center will share with us more about this possibility.

In the meantime, let us rejoice in the Christmas season, looking for meaning in how our congregational “birth pangs” lead us to new ways to have God dwell in our neighborhood! Let us be prayerful that we can hear angelic messages to us. And may we then respond, “Let it be according to your word.”

Sharon Troyer-Pastor



December Birthdays

Marilyn Garner	12/02
Dick Foster	12/03
Pat Miner	12/16
Carnie Fulton	12/16
Michael Davis	12/16
Gordon Woelfle	12/17
Juliette Garner	12/17
Kathy Bridwell	12/20
Maria Swall	12/21
Bill Miner	12/22
Carrie Newman	12/23
Melanie Fronapfel	12/28
Nona Woelfle	12/29
Sandra Johnson	12/31

December Calendar

December 2nd 7 p.m. Worship
Planning Meeting

December 6th First Sunday
Giving

December 13th 2 Cents a Meal

December 13th 5 p.m. Holiday Dinner

December 17th 7 p.m. Leadership Meeting

December 18th 8:30 a.m. Friday Morning
Breakfast Club at Perkins

December 19th Children's Christmas Program
Practice

December 20th 6:30 p.m. Children's Christmas
Program

December 20th Communicator Items Due



We Saw It in the Paper!

Gary and Debra Jones Sold a
Property on Columbia Road.



Darin Slocum was one of 73 Group realtors to
earn the Certified Negotiation Expert
designation.

The winter day shelter opened November 2 in
the church activity center.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of
Anna Mauk who passed away on November 1st.

Sympathy is extended to the family of Shirley
Todd who passed away October 22nd. Shirley
was the daughter of William Seaworth and Fern
Brolliar and is mourned by Lee Cook, Kathy
Cole, the Joneses and the Garners among our
congregation.

The Communicator

BE GREEN!

The full-color version of
the communicator is
available online. Please
consider receiving your
communicator by e-mail
to cut down printing cost
and save trees.



Business Meeting Report

The Congregational Business Meeting held
on Sunday, November 22, approved the
2010 Budget and the Resolution on
Covenant of Welcome. Our new Covenant
of Welcome, which passed unanimously,
will soon be prominently displayed in our
facility and on the website. It reads as
follows:

**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 or religious belief.**

Both the budget and the full text of the
resolution can be found on the
congregation website at:
<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins/>

Other business included the
election/sustaining of congregational
officers and a special presentation to Joyce
Jordeth, honoring her many years of
service as the congregation historian.



The Fort Collins Congregation can be very proud of its young people.

In fact, the Congregation can feel very good about itself.

We are entering our second year of 4th Sunday special activities for the children and youth classes. There has always been an underlying theme of doing something special in response to Jesus' invitation to love our neighbor. While the activities have included hikes, excursions, baking cookies and other very enjoyable activities the lessons have consistently been about the difference these things can make in the life of another. A case in point was the visit to Nancy Zmyslony. The ministry to Nancy and the ministry to the youth, in return, was extremely gratifying. A later effort to gather coats for the homeless was also hugely successful.

In September the youth invited the entire congregation to join with them in collecting towels and personal hygiene items to share with our homeless friends. There were almost 100 towels given along with numerous other items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc. (This effort also resulted in an arrangement with Miramont Health Club to donate their used towels to the Homeless Shelter.) In addition there were three gift certificates and some cash included in the mix. On November 1, fifteen youth and seven adults formed three groups and journeyed to Wal-Mart, Target, and Bed Bath and Beyond, to purchase additional hygiene items, sheets and towels. The shopping spree amassed an amazing number of goods that will provide items for more than 100 needy persons. Fantastic! Plus it was a good lesson in bargain shopping and math. Now wait 'til you see what Advent holds in store during the next two months. We have some budding artists in our midst.

Thanks young people for your efforts and participation, adults who have assisted us and thanks parents for sharing your family with us. We are all blessed!

Bill and Pat Miner and Rick and Kay Bunch

Coloring Corner



WORSHIP, PLAIN AND SIMPLY

Worship is the most common element of our church life. It is the focal point of the church program. Yet we take it for granted more than any other activity in that church life. “I will go to church. There will be worship. I am here, God. Do something *to* me (or more often do something *for* me). I’ll sing a few songs; say a few prayers; listen to a sermon and go home. There! My duty is done for this week. I’m a good person. God loves me. I feel good.”

But what is my responsibility in all of this? Do I have any stake in the action? Is anything expected of ME?

Worship is a *verb*. It does not happen unless action is prompted. It speaks; it LISTENS. It sings the aria of the soul in response to the Spirit’s presence. It demands a response. It goes somewhere. It ACTS. It seeks a commitment. It may have many forms including sacraments, drama, ritual, prayer, fellowship, private devotion, communion. But those are activities. Involvement in each of those requires some effort on our part and each form speaks to each person in differing ways. The purpose is to lift that which is human into intersection with the touch of the Divine.

In the final analysis worship is very much an individual matter. We are each responsible for our own worship. To say another did or did not minister to us or the Spirit was not present is to deny our own responsibility as stewards in response to an ever-present Spirit. The fact is we do not all worship in the same way and even at the same time. In our corporate worship there is intention; there is purpose. But there is also expectation. The results of our participation in worship are a different matter if we come with an air of expectancy. That also suggests that worship, or at least the preparation for worship, begins much before the time one enters the sanctuary. We approach

each worship experience with the expectancy that we will encounter the Spirit regardless of the program, who’s in charge and who is speaking. God will not fail us if we truly expect to recognize that presence in our experience.

Each of us has divergent reasons for engaging in worship. Seeking comfort, desire for fellowship, devotion and adoration of the Almighty, a healing touch, celebration of Divine love, the need for an uplifting presence, discovery, inspiration, challenge and education, are but a few. If we truly seek we find. It is there in some form. If God seems far away, who moved?

Having said that it behooves each of us to prepare for that encounter. Even if it is nothing more than the utterance of a simple, “God I look forward to meeting you in this place,” it recognizes our place and our purpose. In spite of the fact I may disagree with what is said or the quality of the presentation it gets me involved in what’s happening. I expect to sense God’s presence. With that frame of mind we can’t miss.

Now think how much our experience can be enhanced with a bit *more* effort. The scriptures for the coming week are listed each week in the bulletin. **Preparation.** Then there are resources such as The Daily Bread or Upper Room. **Preparation.** And how about an inviting prayer, “Lord, speak, your servant is listening.” **Preparation.** Now I can hardly wait to enter God’s house because I know God is there to greet me. My heart will sing. My voice will shout my amen. My hands will be a blessing. My spirit will soar and my whole being will be blessed because I AM HERE, LORD and I AM READY!

Rick Bunch





Upcoming Holiday Events

Annual holiday dinner,
Sunday December 13th 5:00 p.m. Please feel welcome to invite

your family and friends to share in holiday cheer.

The Children's Department will be presenting their Christmas program on **Sunday evening, Dec. 20, 6:30 pm**, at the church. Please feel welcome to invite your families and friends. Cookies and punch will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the program.



“Come Now, Nativity of Peace!”

Tune HS 236

Come now, Nativity of Peace!
Be born in us we pray
And from your starlit stable birth
Transform death's night to day
On earth, O God, on earth.

Come now, Nativity of Peace!
Our world awaits Christ's birth
Of right relationships restored,
Affirming each soul's worth-
On earth, O God, on earth.

Come now, Nativity of Peace!
Alive in ev'ry nation-
An active peace that will not dwell
In splendid isolation
On earth, O God, on earth.

Come now, Nativity of Peace!
Where gender bears no blessing,
Where names for God do not divide
Our Many truths confessing
On earth, O God, on earth.

Come now, Nativity of Peace!
Not resident in the heav'n
But buried within the here and now
To make of earth a heav'n
On earth, O God, on earth.