



The Communicator

Yearning for God

A Pastoral Message

By Sharon Troyer

Many years ago I became acquainted with the *Center for Action and Contemplation* (CAC) in Albuquerque, N.M. It was founded by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest. He observed that for people who work for peace and justice, there is a need to see the world through “contemplative eyes.” This last year I’ve subscribed to CAC’s daily devotional thoughts, found at www.cacradicalgrace.org. Rohr emphasizes principles that are enduring, with valuable tools to become more intentionally loving in how we look at life. Rohr says he’s worked with people committed to peace and justice who eventually “burn out” because their lives weren’t grounded in prayer or meditation. Practicing the presence of God as a form of prayer without words can deepen one’s spiritual life and provide a better balance for being engaged in the work of social justice.

Recently, Community of Christ created a wonderful resource titled *Yearning for God: Discernment and Spiritual Practice*. It begins by saying, “Discernment is about discovering God’s yearning for us and our yearning for God.” This beautiful eight-page document is available on the world church Web site, www.CofChrist.org (listed under Tools for Ministry/online resources). There is a section, written by Carolyn Brock, with the subtitle, *Spiritual Practices for the Discerning Disciple*.

Carolyn describes Jesus spending time in solitude with God and offers **brief descriptions of various practices** that foster in us “openness to God’s vision and vulnerability to God’s love.”

One such practice is **Centering Prayer**, now being referred to in our own *Daily Bread 2010*. This silent practice “**invites us to be still and rest in God.**” This prayer form is being used by many people who find interior silence allows them to better discern God’s will for their lives.

And last I want to call your attention to the information on page 2 about a workshop being offered on Saturday, April 24. It is sponsored by *12 Step Outreach* and *Contemplative Outreach of Fort Collins* and will be **held at Community of Christ**. Some people in recovery from addictions, relying on the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, now embrace Centering Prayer as a helpful method for working the 11th Step. For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board in our church foyer. Feel free to share this with anyone you think might be interested. This is one way our minds, as well as our building, can become “sanctuaries of peace.”





Introduction to Centering Prayer:

A Method for an 11th Step Practice

Saturday April 24, 8:30 a.m.–noon

At Community of Christ

220 E Oak St, Fort Collins, CO 80524

(NW Corner of Mathews and Oak streets)

In our recovery, we sometimes find ourselves searching for the experience of our Higher Power that we felt sometime in the past, or maybe have never experienced. This workshop will build on the basic guidelines for centering prayer in opening us to "silence and listening." We will learn about prayer as a relationship, the method of centering prayer as a meditation practice for the 11th step, thoughts during centering prayer, and deepening contemplation. You will also experience two periods of meditation during this introductory workshop. Six follow-up sessions will be provided for further opportunity to experience the prayer and deepen your understanding of the practice.

The weekly follow-up sessions begin on Tuesday, April 27th from 7:00–8:30 p.m.

For questions or RSVP for planning purposes:
Dave D.: (970) 484-1106 ddierig@gmail.com
Rosemary K:

manateefrn@hotmail.com or codyjoyce@aol.com

Bryan S.: (970)691-4128

Bryan_sutherland@comcast.com

April Birthdays



Tonia Watts	04/01
Ryder Jackson	04/06
Dee Cable	04/09
Angela Alton	04/13
Gary Gordier	04/14
Dave Simons	04/19
Jon Higgins	04/21
Peggy Gordier	04/22
Cinnamon Garner	04/23
Kay Bunch	04/25
Avery Dickie	04/25
Bettie Miller	04/30

Second Sunday Socials



By Marilyn Garner

There has been a **change in the schedule** of events. Volleyball and potluck scheduled for April 11 has moved to June 13. Cakewalk and Karaoke has moved to April 11 from June 13. Pizza and salad will be provided for the cake walk.

If you see an activity you would like to help with, feel free to call and reserve your place on the committee (publicity, food, entertainment, set-up, cleanup). The coordinators will be calling YOU if you haven't made the first move.

April 11—Cakewalk and Karaoke
Coordinator, Marilyn Garner. Pizza and salad will be provided.

May 8 (Saturday)—Mother's Day Brunch prepared by "sons." Coordinator, Steve Thomas

June 13—Volleyball and Potluck Coordinator, Bonnie Thomas

July 11—Annual Picnic
Coordinators, Sharon Fulton and Pat Miner

August 8—Line Dance and Potato Bar
Coordinators, Voni Simons and Nancy Miller

September 12—Bowling Party followed by food at the church. Coordinator, Pat Miner

October 10—Annual Harvest Party
Coordinator, Nancy Miller

November 14—Service Project Night
Coordinator, Marilyn Garner

December 12—Holiday Dinner
Coordinators: Marilyn, Pat, Nancy, Bonnie

Fifth Sunday Forum & Pancake Breakfast



Our next 5th Sunday occurs again on May 30. We are looking for suggestions for a topic and asking you to share those with the pastor. Topics could include a report on World Conference from our two delegates or a debriefing about the winter day shelter; however, we are looking for your input. Let us hear from you.

Directory Updates

Les and Ets Cunningham
805 Compassion Drive #513
Windsor, CO 80550
New home phone: (970) 674-7977
Cell phone is same: (970) 980-9012

Laurie Stone: 484-1547

Susanna Garner's new address is:
612 Heather Court, Fort Collins, CO 80525.
No land line, just her cell: 970-581-7776.

David W. and Carol L. Birks
216 Jagerhorn Court
Glacier View Meadows, CO 80536
Home: (970) 484-1764
Cell: (303) 525-2702

They are moving to this address on April 22 from Denver.

April Calendar

Check the Web site

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

Keyboard and Greeters Schedule

Keyboard:

- ❖ April 4: Tom Beck
- ❖ April 11: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ April 18: Kay Bunch
- ❖ April 25: Jean Newman

Greeters:

- ❖ April: Newman and Ytell families

Kudos



Zach Fronapfel traveled with his U14 Arsenal Gold soccer team to the Nomads Soccer Tournament in San Diego, CA, March 13–15. He plays defense on the team, so his main job is to stop goals attempted by the opposing team. His team turned in a 0–3, 2–2, and 2–0 record which qualified them for semifinals. Unfortunately, they were beaten 2–0 by a very fine team from California. The boys really enjoyed being part of a competition featuring so many fine teams and were also able to sneak in a little trip to the beach. Eric "got" to go along as a chaperone and van driver. Don't know how much sleep he got!

Kudos continued:



Bob Fulton recently competed in the World Indoor Track and Field Championships in Kamloops, British Columbia, March 1–6. He competed over a period of 5 days in the discus, pentathlon (5 events in one day), long jump, hurdles, pole vault, and high jump. He won a gold medal in the pole vault and a bronze medal in the discus.

There were between 2,000 and 3,000 competitors at the meet from 61 countries including Eastern and Western Europe, Mexico, Canada, Australia, Japan, and South America. The opening ceremonies were awesome, and it was a thrill to hear the national anthem being played as he stood on the podium. Bob says this experience was certainly a highlight of his athletic career.

The Groves



Providing healthcare services in the rapidly changing environment of the 21st century places great demands on organizations. Community of Christ has been the long-time owner of The Groves senior living community in Independence, Missouri. Over the last several years, the church has experienced a growing burden, missionally and financially, as it has sought to live up to its vision for community and care for The Groves' residents and staff.

With a single desire to maintain The Groves' ministry and quality services, Community of Christ leadership has been carefully reviewing its options for owning and operating this organization. This has been challenging, but necessary.

Based on this review, Community of Christ leadership, with unanimous support from The Groves Board, decided to seek a new owner to operate The Groves. The primary reasons are:

- Healthcare services in the 21st century need to be delivered by organizations with extensive experience and adequate size to provide these services effectively and efficiently. We believe owning and operating only one facility limits The Groves' ability to maintain its quality of care and to recruit and retain competent and caring staff.
- Current and future financial requirements of The Groves will compete for church resources and limit our ability to support mission around the world.

Community of Christ and The Groves have executed an Asset Purchase Agreement with Elstar Enterprises LLC, a respected organization in senior services, and expect to close the sale on March 23, 2010. We have made site visits and selected this organization because of their quality and alignment with The Groves' mission. Elstar has the depth and breadth of skills and resources to provide this level of care and to retain and recruit dedicated, caring staff needed to carry out this vision of quality senior services for the future. See the attachment for more details about the Elstar organization.

Community of Christ will continue its ministry to The Groves by financially supporting The Groves' Spirituality and Aging Ministry and Chaplain Services. The Groves Congregation will also continue to serve the residents. Gary White, current CEO, will continue to manage The Groves and lead the staff through this transition.

In Christ's peace,

Steve Jones
Presiding Bishop, For the Corporate Body

Easter Activities



Please check the church's Web site for information about Easter activities. The schedule was not available at the time of the printing of *The Communicator*.

All Are Called

By Robin Linkhart

"I want to be part of what you are doing here, but all I have to offer are these," the woman says softly as she holds out two empty hands.

"A wish to serve is all it takes. Follow me," the other replies. And off they go to introduce the newcomer and find out what comes next.

I've heard words like these many times during my association with the Interfaith Quilters of Longmont, an organization that opposes poverty and domestic violence.

People of many faiths sit side by side. They transform scraps of donated materials into beautiful quilts, displayed and sold in hopes of creating a better world.

Young and old, frail and strong, male and female, quilter or not, these sojourners spend hundreds of hours with people they otherwise might never know. They do it to make a difference in their community. No skill goes unused. No gift is too small. The table has a seat for anyone who wishes to share.

—Excerpted from the World Church home page, www.CofChrist.org.

Meditation



You must wait and listen for the sound of the genuine that is within you. When you hear it, that will be your voice and the Voice of God.

—**Howard Thurman**, American author, civil rights leader, and theologian (1899-1981)

Homeless Gear—Ken John

Thanks for helping at the March 10 distribution. It was another great day of being able to help some of our friends in need and at the same time bring everyone together to spend a bit of time together as well (chaotic as it was).

We are blessed to have so many people that are compassionate to help. I truly appreciate what you do to help us with our mission. It's also great to have so much help and support from those that we are serving as well. Everyone just pitched in and did what it took to make this all happen.

Thanks again to everyone at Community of Christ for providing the space for the day shelter and allowing us to hold our distribution event there. It did feel like coming home again! Thanks also to everyone at Catholic Charities for everything you have done to support this effort.

Sincerely,
Ken John, www.HomelessGear.com

Community of Christ



220 East Oak Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

First Class
Stamp Here

Mailing Label Here