



The Communicator

What Does It Mean to Be the Church?



Shandra Newcom
Rocky Mountain Mission Center
Community of Christ
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What a good experience I had being with you in June. I reflect on my time with you as a congregation and I'm filled with joy. You all are on an exciting journey. The challenging part is that none of us knows where that journey will take you. Thank you for being open to the movement of the Spirit among you, and thank you for welcoming me into your congregation. Do you remember the question I left you with? It was: What does it mean to be the church? My hope is that you have taken, and will continue to take time each week to pray about this question. This is a process of discernment and I believe that through this process, God's yearning for the Fort Collins congregation can be better understood. Yes, God has a dream for you as a group of disciples, and I believe that it involves both those of you who meet for church in your building and the community of people who surround your building. What that dream looks like and how your congregation will live into that dream are ours to discover. I am honored to be with you in that time of discovery and I hope that you feel, as I do, that God is calling

you to move out in new ways. Sometimes change isn't comfortable, but it can be Spirit-filled and this is what I hope for you. Please pray for the Fort Collins congregation, for congregational leadership, and for its members. We can enter into God's imagination but we are called to do it together. May the journey be blessed, and may you find strength in each other along the way. See you soon!

—Shandra Newcom

Do You Want to Be a Missional Church?



Sharon Troyer, pastor

I've been pondering the question Shandra Newcom left with us at the end of June—"What is the purpose of the church?" To help me better understand, Shandra suggested I read the book—*Introducing the Missional Church*. I discovered the book was *not* another book about church models, and it didn't proscribe another program approach to change. It teaches that being "missional" is not the same as being "attractional." What—I immediately wondered—does attractional mean?

The authors, Alan Roxburgh and Scott Boren, explain that many churches assume that "people outside the church are looking for a church, know they should belong to one, and therefore church leaders should create the most

attractive church possible.” They go on to explain that “if this becomes the primary focus of churches, they miss what the Spirit is up to in the world” (p. 18).

As far as I understand the book (and I’ve read only half so far), the exciting thing it offers is an invitation to understand that **Christ is already in our neighborhood!** In incarnational language, *Emmanuel* means *God with us*. If we take the time and are receptive listeners to the Spirit, we will discover what God is already doing! Could we be like first-century followers of Jesus who were called to move out of their comfort zone to comprehend what Peter eventually learned when he “encountered Gentiles who had heard about Jesus and wanted to learn more”? Do we want to simply “improve our congregation,” like early disciples may have expected to “improve Judaism”? Or are we being called to think outside the box to understand that God’s Spirit might already be working in transformative ways among *our* neighbors? Like Peter and Paul, scripture tells us that the church needed to broaden their idea of who God wanted to welcome!

We often think we must be the “doers.” But the Gospel according to Luke and the book of Acts show us that God is constantly expanding the ways that healing of the Spirit is available. If we don’t look for God’s presence and action within our immediate lives and surroundings, we won’t see it. Could it be that God is asking us to first be “learners,” rather than assuming the “outsider” wants or needs to learn from us? Can learning from our neighbors how the Spirit is working in their lives help us align ourselves with what God has already begun? At first that really stretched my imagination. But at a deeper level, I sensed it as an invitation **to trust that God is leading us**. If we are listening individually and collectively to the in-dwelling Spirit, as well as walking in the neighborhood with “relational eyes” open, we may find God looking for us!

May one aspect of our individual prayer lives be “spending time attuned to God” without any specific agenda. It is easier to seek answers that lead to the comfort of certainty. Along with many in our congregation, however, I have faith that if we remain patient and allow our spiritual disciplines to work within us, we will discover a revival beyond what our imaginations could have mustered. We can become a “missional church.” Will you join me?

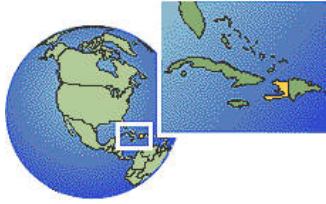
Hunger Challenge 2010

September 24–26



STAND UP to Hunger! September 24–26 is the mission center's second Hunger Challenge hosted at the Fort Collins congregation. Start gathering your pledges for the 24-hour fast, get ready to be creative with your outdoor art demonstrations, put on your dancing shoes for our Saturday night celebration, grab a tent (if you're a high school youth or young adult) to sleep in our tent village, and join us for a pancake breakfast and worship in the park on Sunday. It's going to be an **AMAZING** event! Thanks to Karyn Wingard-Manuel for co-directing this year! Contact DeziRae Astle dastle@CofChrist.org for more info. All funds raised benefit Outreach International: <http://www.outreach-international.org> (All monies raised must be turned in at registration to receive raffle tickets!)

Remember Haiti!



This week marked the six-month anniversary of the January earthquake that devastated Haiti. The director of our schools program in Haiti, Augustin, asked us to share this simple but deeply felt message:

“Don’t forget us. Think of us; pray for us. And please don’t forget your brothers and sisters in Haiti.”

Augustin reminds us of the importance of our commitment in Haiti. I’ll be honest: our response to the earthquake has been the biggest, most complex—and most expensive—commitment Outreach International has ever faced in its 30-year history. But we’ve already accomplished a lot, thanks to your compassion and the determined spirit of the Haitian people.

I spoke yesterday with Matt Bolton, emergency coordinator in Haiti, and he told me that there is the feeling that Haiti is dropping off people’s radar. “But it’s still an extremely fragile situation,” Matt said. “Things are improving, but very slowly. It’s going to take a sustained effort over many years just to get back to where we were before the earthquake.”

There is something so terribly tangible about an earthquake. There are seismic reports, graphic photographs, nonstop news reports, and the death counts, to remind us that our help is needed. But there is no Richter scale to help us grasp the scope and gravity of the ongoing struggle in Haiti.

That’s why I am passing along Augustin’s message: “Don’t forget us.”

Today, I’m asking you to:

* Keep up your support for the children and families in Haiti.

<http://support.outreach-international.org/site/R?i=PfBGNTKmzylwfLNwbFwPUQ>

Thank you for your tremendous concern and support.

Sincerely,
Matthew C. Naylor
President of Outreach International

Financial Report



June Income

World Church

World Ministries	\$1,345.75
Oblation	335.25
World Hunger	110.50

Local

Local Offering	\$2,153.50
Building Fund	30.00
2 Cents a Meal	105.35
Family Assistance	40.00

—Betty Jones, CFO

Second Sunday Socials

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

USA National Conference

Wednesday, July 18, 2012–July 22, 2012,
Independence, Missouri, at International
Headquarters. Registration fees and offerings
will cover the expense of the event. The
registration cost will be set by October 2011.

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-Deshner	08/26
Simon Jones	08/28
Erin Alton	08/29

August Glacier-View Reunion

The August Glacier-View Reunion will be
held August 4–8. Shandra Newcom would like
to encourage as many members of the
congregation who can, to attend this reunion.
John Chatburn and David Brown will be guest
ministers. Additional details for this reunion
can be found at the Rocky Mountain Mission
Center Web site, <http://CofChristrm.org>.

Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery Schedules



Keyboard:

- ❖ August 1: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ August 8: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ August 15: New West Fest
- ❖ August 22: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ August 29: Jean Newman

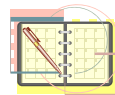
Greeters:

- ❖ August: Joyce Jordeth and Joy Jones

Nursery:

- ❖ TBA

August Calendar



Check the Web site

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

- Aug. 1: Communion and First-Sunday
Giving
- Aug. 4: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Worship Coordinators, 7:00 p.m.
- Aug 8: Two-Cents-a-Meal offering
2nd-Sunday Social: Line Dance and
Potato Bar
- Aug. 11: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
No Prayer Shawl Group this month.
- Aug. 18: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
- Aug. 19: Leadership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Aug. 20: Friday Morning Breakfast Club
meets, 8:30 a.m.
New West Fest set-up.
- Aug. 21–22: New West Fest
- Aug. 22: *Communicator* items due.
- Aug. 25: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
- Aug. 29: Fifth-Sunday Forum and Pancake
Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.
- Sept. 1: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.

Fifth-Sunday Forum and Pancake Breakfast



The Fifth-Sunday Forum for August 29 will be a *Celebration of Our Children*. Please have your children there by 9:00 a.m. We will be taking pictures of the children for use during 2010–2011 church school year. We will also introduce *Season of the Spirit* church school materials to the congregation.

Homeless Shelter

I am writing today to inform you that day services at the Murphy's Center will be up and running by August 1, and we need a couple of volunteers to help us pilot out this volunteer opportunity before we invite everyone to join us in our efforts to assist our clients in this manner. If you are interested in being a day services volunteer, and would like to assist us, please write me back and let me know.

Also, we are in need of Emergency Assistance Program volunteers. All of our volunteers in this program are absolutely wonderful, but they are very busy people this summer and we are in need of a couple of extra folks who might be interested in doing this program as well. Again, please let me know.

So, we need one or two people to help us pilot the day services at the Murphy's Center, and one or two to assist us in providing emergency services to our clients. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks so much! Volunteers indeed light the world.

Keith Colton
Volunteer Coordinator
Catholic Charities Northern—The Mission

460 Linden Center Dr.
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524
(970) 484-5010, ext. 217

Fort Collins-Loveland Climbs to Fourth in the Nation for Volunteerism

(Many Saints volunteering have helped to make this possible.)

A New Report Released

A new study shows that Fort Collins-Loveland has increased its ranking for mid-sized cities from seventh to fourth for volunteerism in a survey of all 50 states, U.S. Regions, and large and mid-sized cities.

“Moving into the ‘Top Five’ for volunteer involvement is a testament to the culture of service that we all benefit from here in northern Colorado,” said Adam Molzer, director, United Way of Larimer County's Volunteer Center.

Volunteering in America produces a detailed, multi-year report on volunteering trends. This year, the report reveals that the Larimer County area is now ranked fourth within the 75 mid-sized cities, making a 40.7 percent volunteer rate.

“What a phenomenal accomplishment,” said Gordan Thibedeau, president and CEO, United Way of Larimer County. “It truly reflects the spirit of our community.”

The Corporation for National and Community Service released the report. The research is based on surveys of thousands of individuals collected by the U.S. Census and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which examines volunteering from many angles: including age, gender, economic status, education level, and geography.

—United Way of Larimer County

Upper Room



The *Upper Room* gathering is a wonderful once-a-week experience. We are diversified in our Bible study backgrounds. We discuss, compare, and encourage one another as we find deeper meaning to the daily scripture messages. There is love and respect as participants share ideas. Each week we leave refreshed, creating the desire to return the next week. Come join us. Can't meet at this time but would like to share in a similar experience? Contact Pastor Sharon Troyer.

—Shari Smith

New West Fest

New West Fest needs volunteers—two people at least for each two-hour time slot.

Friday, August 20—afternoon or evening—
Help set up.

Saturday, August 21 **Sunday, August 22**

10:00 a.m.—New West Fest opens

8:00–10:00 a.m.

10:00–noon

10:00–noon

Noon–2:00 p.m.

Noon–2:00 p.m.

2:00–4:00 p.m.

4:00 –6:00 p.m

Please let Rich Kohlman know which time slot you want: rkohlman@comcast.net



If you are receiving this newsletter by e-mail, Thank You! If you are receiving a printed copy and do have e-mail, please consider receiving it by e-mail instead. Not only will you receive it in beautiful color, but you will be saving the congregation between \$.50 and \$.75 the cost of mailing, ink, paper, and labor. It's good stewardship for the earth and for the congregation. And, if you receive it by e-mail and need it printed, you can always print it on your printer and still save money for the congregation.

Thanks for your consideration.

Contact Rich Kohlman:

rkohlman@comcast.net to change to e-mail delivery.

Thanks to Franklin and Jeanne Graybill, and Kathy Graybill for changing to email delivery from the printed copy!

Radical welcome is the spiritual practice of embracing and being changed by the gifts, presence, voices, and power of The Other: the people systemically cast out of or marginalized within a church, a denomination and/or society. . . Radical welcome is concerned with the transformation and opening of individual hearts, congregations and systems so that The Other might find in your community a warm place and a mutual embrace *and* so that you are finally free to embrace and be transformed by authentic relationship with the margins.

—*Radical Welcome*. Stephanie Spellers, pg. 6.



Community of Christ



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First Class
Stamp Here

Mailing Label Here