



Fort Collins, Colorado

March 2010

The Communicator

Living Out Our Covenant

A Pastoral Message

By Sharon Troyer

President Veazey, in his address to our global church, thanked those who participated in dialogue about *Conditions of Membership*. Many of you remember we had a Fifth Sunday Forum where we shared in small groups our thoughts, attitudes, and beliefs about how already baptized Christians could become members of Community of Christ. We had those same Listening Circles at Glacier View Family Camp and RMMC Fall Conference. What was most meaningful to me was the **deep listening** we experienced. Many of us listened to opinions that differed completely from our own, but the emphasis was not about “being right,” but on being fully present in loving listening with one another. I was struck by the openness of mind that prevailed in “holy listening,” and since that time I’ve wondered if this is what Paul meant when he described “putting on the mind of Christ.” I am grateful that Community of Christ challenges us to be known as a **prophetic people**, rather than as a people with a prophet. In being invited to ponder healthy change and to consider new perspectives, we as members and friends of the church are treated with a kind of dignity and respect not always found when decisions were made from a more top-down hierarchical process.

Prior to World Conference, April 11–17, we are again asked to study and pray for discernment about the content of the **Words of Counsel** brought by President Veazey,

printed in the February *Herald*. One of the unique things about our denomination is our willingness to grapple together to discern the will of God for *this time and place*. This counsel addresses issues that will influence how we make future decisions within a global church, as well as how we look at a very broad spectrum of relationships. I urge you to read it prayerfully, paying special attention to the “principles of Christ-like love” described in paragraph 6a. On March 21 at 5:30 p.m. Tim Ashburn, RMMC president, invites us to join him here in Ft. Collins to discuss this document in more depth. This is *not* to explore Conference resolutions, but to focus on a deeper understanding of the document that will be presented at World Conference.

And last, but certainly not least, as a congregation, we have officially been offered an opportunity to walk together in a year-long process of spiritual discernment to align ourselves with the will of God for our own congregation. Shandra Newcom is willing to spend time with us in a focused way that has not been available before. On January 24, in her Sunday morning message, as well as at our Simple Soup Supper evening, February 16, Shandra challenged us to discover our specific giftedness and sense of call as we seek to live out the Covenant of Welcome we have adopted. As your pastor, I witness a longing among you to more consciously become a “sanctuary of peace” in Fort Collins. As we prepare for Easter, let us walk courageously toward sharing new life and hope as a Community of Christ.

Puppet Ministry Inquiry Results

It has been decided, at least for the present, not to pursue the Puppet Ministry potential. From the 50 mailings made, preceded by the February Communicator article, nine adults replied as interested and one youth. We greatly appreciate the replies made and will keep the names of these interested persons on file just in case interest should change in the future.

— Joyce and Don Worthington



Thank You!

I will long be thankful for the good people at Community of Christ for hosting a day shelter, via their gym. And also much thanks to Catholic Charities Northern who is coordinating this effort, and is also the provider of very wholesome lunches five days a week at the day shelter.

What can I say for this blessing except that I am truly thankful for the services that are rendered for the homeless. I can't say enough for the volunteers that come to the day shelter at various times and schedules, serving unselfishly and with fortitude. The names are too numerous to mention here, but grateful thanks to them all, and respect. I wish, if possible, to collectively give them a big warm hug. I hope everything goes well in their lives.

The day shelter to me, in short, is a very good place to come to get out of the winter weather days, to warm up, and have a bit of solace, a physical place to come and call your own, if even for awhile.

Now, in closing, I would like to just say a heartfelt thanks to the community for this unmerited favor through Community of Christ.

—Mark, a homeless person

Homeless Gear



Homeless Gear is “coming home” to the Community of Christ for our March Gear/Clothing/Hygiene distribution! As you might know, there will be a census taken of our Fort Collins Homeless population on March 10. As a part of that “event,” Homeless Gear has been asked to change the date and location of our monthly distribution for March to help draw as many folks into the Winter Day Shelter on that day as possible to be counted. So, we are holding our distribution directly after lunch at 1:00 p.m.

I would like to extend a special invitation to all members of the Community of Christ Church to come and help us during the distribution. I welcome anyone from the congregation, that would like to help, to be there so they can see the special mission that the church has undertaken the past two years. Your support to Homeless Gear and to the homeless in our community has been invaluable and very much appreciated. Volunteers should plan to be there at 12:45 p.m. to help set up.

If anyone would like more information, please have them contact me by e-mail: Ken@homelessgear.com or phone: (970)581-4921.

Thanks for everything you have done to help these folks in need!

—Ken John
www.HomelessGear.com

Sacrifice Dinner - March 7



“Seek, Thirst, and Listen” is the theme for March 7, 2010. Dave Simons will be our speaker for this Communion Sunday with an emphasis on World Hunger. Instead of spending money dining at a restaurant, join us for a simple menu Sacrifice Dinner immediately following the service and donate the money towards feeding the hungry.



2010 World Conference April 10-17, 2010 Theme: We Share

Please register at the World Church Web site:

<http://www.cofchrist.org/wc2010/default.asp>

Haiti



Earthquake in Haiti—Assessment Team Returns Home

As we met with church people there was a universal welcome for us and a real appreciation that we had come to visit with them. They saw this as confirmation that they were indeed part of a larger community. We were able to share with them the concerns of the whole Community of Christ and how these concerns were being shown by generous financial gifts. Your

giving to Oblation has reached more than **half a million dollars** that will aid our brothers and sisters in Haiti directly.

—Bunda Chibwe, David Waring, Steve Graffeo

For slide show go to:

<http://www.cofchrist.org/news/2010/jan/Haiti-updates.asp#23february>

March Birthdays



| | |
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| Bianca Clark-Bennett | 03/01 |
| Chris Higgins | 03/03 |
| Aubrey Hake | 03/08 |
| Taylor Bridwell | 03/15 |
| Sara Rolfe | 03/15 |
| Marta Remmenga | 03/16 |
| Steve Thomas | 03/17 |
| Kelly Jackson | 03/22 |
| Pam Webb | 03/24 |
| Lee Cook | 03/24 |
| Bill Florom | 03/25 |
| Ashley McKenzie | 03/27 |
| Doug Yarrington | 03/28 |
| Stephanie Clark | 03/29 |
| Jared Clark | 03/31 |
| Luella Foster | 03/31 |

Second Sunday Socials



By Marilyn Garner

Second Sunday Socials provide an opportunity to get to know each other better in an informal setting of fun and fellowship. Those who volunteered to serve on the Fellowship committee at the last business meeting met recently and set up a schedule

for the year. The following are the events, dates, and coordinators for each. 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.

March 14-St. Patrick's Day - Coordinator Jean Newman

April 11 - Volleyball and Potluck - Coordinator Bonnie Thomas

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

June 13 - Cake Walk and Karaoke - Coordinator Marilyn Garner

July 11 - Annual Picnic - Coordinators Sharon Fulton and Pat Miner

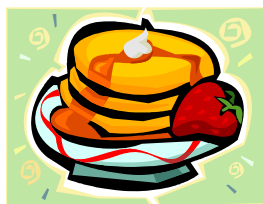
August 8 - Line Dance and Potato Bar - Coordinators Voni Simons and Nancy Miller

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

We started a new tradition of having a pancake breakfast and a 5th Sunday Forum in May last year. This has given us a chance to discuss various topics that might not fit in to a regular worship service or Sunday school class. Some have been intergenerational and some geared more for the adults.

In the past our 5th Sunday Forums have covered the following topics:

- May 31, 2009 - We Share Document
- August 30, 2009 - WCN Movie and Discussion
- November 29, 2009 - Homelessness Prevention
- January 31, 2010 - 2010 World Conference Legislation

Our next 5th Sunday occurs again in May (the 30th). 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.

Offerings



January Financial Report

World Church:

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|------------------|------------|
| World Ministries | \$1,290.00 |
| Oblation | \$739.00 |
| World Hunger | \$155.00 |

Local:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Local Ministries | \$3482.28 |
| Building Fund | \$30.00 |
| Bazaar | \$20.00 |
| 2 Cents a Meal | \$113.00 |
| Family Assistance | \$60.00 |

So far in February
\$741.25 has been donated for Haiti.
\$215.00 has been donated for World Conference.

Directory Updates

KOHLMAN Cell phones:

Rich: 970/980-4356

Mary: 970/980-6364



World Ministries Contribution Update

The church received an estimated \$690,000 in World Ministries Mission Tithes in January, 5% more than the budgeted income for the month. Over the period of October through December, giving declined so significantly that projected tithing income for the year changed from 6% over budget to 3% under budget. With this one month of improved giving, tithing income is now projected to be \$200,000 less than is needed to meet the budget.

We still need contributors to give very generously in order to meet the year's tithing requirement of \$9.8 million. The mission of Jesus Christ is what matters most for the journey ahead, and your financial support helps make that happen—in your local congregation and throughout the world.

Thank you to all who give in support of God's mission.

March Calendar

Check the Web site

<http://cofchrstrm.org/FortCollins/>

Valentine's Program



Thanks to Debbie and Gary Jones, Marilyn Garner, Pat and Bill Miner, Don and Joyce Worthington, and numerous others who helped in the set-up and take-down. Great food, great entertainment by Tim Sundell, good fellowship for our Valentine's program.

Keyboard and Greeters Schedule

Keyboard:

- March 7: Jean Newman
- March 14: Sharon Fulton
- March 21: TBA
- March 28: TBA

Greeters:

- March: Donna Clark and Ken Jones
- April: Newman and Ytell families

Youth Pre-Baptismal Class



A pre-baptismal class started last week and will continue until May 16. There are 6 children participating ages 7-11. Mary Kohlman and Max Coopwood are the teachers.

Community of Christ



220 E. Oak Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Return service requested

First Class
Stamp Here

Mailing Label Here