



Fort Collins, Colorado

May 2010

# The Communicator

## Unity in Diversity

Greetings from Your Pastor

It was a privilege to join Shirley Remmenga, Tom Beck, and Max Coopwood as delegates from Rocky Mountain Mission Center for World Conference! It was a historical eight-day process! Why would it be called historical? Not only were President Steve Veazey's Words of Counsel accepted as Section 164 of our Doctrine and Covenants, but *the spirit* in which difficult decisions were made became an unexpected blessing. A quality of peace and gratitude prevailed after difficult decisions, even though we know there were some who were disappointed. That disappointment did not lead, however, to the strident divisions sometimes experienced in prior Conferences.

Some decisions made will bring significant changes to the church. Because we had several months to pray for discernment in preparation, and due to the well-planned meditation groups and caucus sessions in which all delegates participated, people were committed to keeping open minds and hearts in worship, small groups meditations, and our discussions as delegates.

When guidelines for implementation become available, the authority of baptism from other denominations will be recognized. This will enable those wanting to become members of Community of Christ to participate in the sacrament of confirmation. This decision was influenced by global discussions during the last year, where people diligently engaged in dialogue to understand each other more fully.

That same kind of listening to the Spirit influenced the decision to have national and regional conferences for making decisions that will affect

only specific cultures and geographical areas. The next World Conference will be in April of 2013, but by 2012 there will be national conferences, limited in their purpose, but empowered to make decisions about topics that don't pertain to the global church. As a result, many resolutions about moral behavior will be considered in conferences where decisions made can be implemented in culturally appropriate ways. We heard testimonies about people in Nigeria where it is required that when a man dies, his brother marries his brother's widow (even if he's already married and she has AIDS), in order for the name of the brother to be carried on. It was as difficult for people from Western cultures to understand that cultural norm—as it was for many from Haiti and Africa to imagine ordaining and welcoming homosexuals to serve within the church. Many people wore buttons that said, *Unity in Diversity*, and by the end of the week, we had actually experienced that kind of unity! Despite the diversity with which we thought about things, all deliberations showed dignity and respect for everyone. I witnessed our becoming a church that could find a new kind of unity, not despite our diversity, but because of it!

I believe this same principle will guide our local congregation. On May 16, we will ***begin a missional journey—to more clearly determine how we can offer our gifts to those needing the peace of Christ in sacred community.*** Shandra Newcom will be a companion on this journey. As she speaks that day and each week in the month of June and September, we will engage in an exciting process. Your leadership team and I invite you to join us on this exciting journey!



## Financial Report



### February Income

#### World Church

World Ministries	\$1,139.00
Oblation (for Haiti)	836.25
World Hunger	100.00
World Conference donations	215.00

#### Local

Local offering	\$3,494.42
Bazaar (for building fund)	19.50
2 cents a meal	80.00
Family assistance	55.00

### March Income

#### World Church

World Ministries	\$1,228.25
Oblation	387.00
World Hunger	323.25
World Conference donations	55.00

#### Local

Local offering	\$3,789.00
Bldg Fund	25.00
2 cents a meal	72.00
Family assistance	50.00
Local Hunger Fund	138.00
(sent to local Food Bank)	

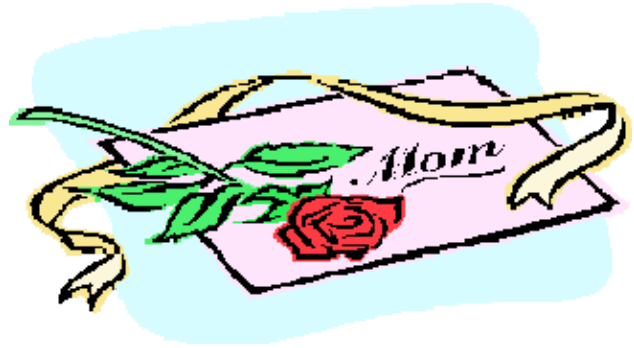
—Betty Jones, CFO

## Directory Update



Steve and Bonnie Thomas  
Phone: (970) 689-1638

## Second Sunday Socials



*You are invited to attend*

*our*

*Mother's Day Brunch*

*on*

**Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010**

**10:00 a.m.**

*at*

*220 East Oak St.*

*Please join us as we celebrate the*

*Mother's in our congregation.*

RSVP (970) 490-5993

**June 13:** Volleyball and Potluck

**July 11:** Annual Picnic

Coordinators, Sharon Fulton and Pat Miner

## Young Adult Retreat!



### Young Adult Dialogue with the First Presidency

They're on a world tour to meet us and catch our vision for the future!

**"Young adults, the church needs you.  
We need you now.  
We need you to help us become  
who we are all yearning to become."**

—President Steve Veazey

Address to the church on April 5, 2009

### The Vision Project

In his address to the church on April 5, 2009, Steve Veazey and the First Presidency committed to visit with young adults everywhere to capture our vision for Community of Christ. The Vision Project is their "world tour" to meet with us.

### The Reason

Young adults are vital for Community of Christ to offer relevant ministry in today's world. We are sensitive to the realities of our fast-changing globe. We naturally navigate postmodern culture socially, technologically, and spiritually. And we are deeply aware of where the world most needs the healing and peace of Jesus Christ. Community of Christ needs our fresh vision to understand who God is calling us to become next.

Church leadership is deeply aware of this. They want to hear our voice responding to these questions:

- How is the mission and message of Jesus Christ most relevant in our world now?
- Where do we see the greatest need for Community of Christ ministry in the world today?

- What new models or methods will it take to make it happen?
- Where will we step up to take the lead?

**Rockies Young Adult Retreat** — May 28–30  
Estes Park, Colorado, USA, Peaceful Valley Ranch

Guest: President Steve Veazey

Ages: 2010 high school graduates –35

Contact: DeziRae Astle at  
[dastle@cofchrist.org](mailto:dastle@cofchrist.org)

Cost is only \$50 per adult and \$35 per child with children under three free.

For more information see:

<http://www.cofchrist.org/emergence/vision.asp>

## May Birthdays



Frankie Dampier	05/02
Porter Garner	05/03
Voni Simons	05/04
Awtumn Alcoser	05/10
Rose Julch	05/15
Jim Miller	05/15
Lisa Garner	05/25

## 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 four delegates or a debriefing about the Winter Day Shelter; however, we are looking for your input. Let us hear from you.

## Keyboard and Greeters Schedule



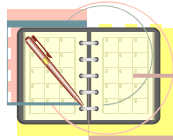
### Keyboard:

- ❖ May 2: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ May 9: Kay Bunch
- ❖ May 16: Jean Newman
- ❖ May 23: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ May 30: Tom Beck

### Greeters:

- ❖ May: The Kohlmans

## May Calendar



Check the Web site

<http://cofchrstrm.org/FortCollins>

- May 5: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Coordinators, 7:00 p.m.
- May 9: Worship Coordinators meet after church with Shandra Newcom
- May 8: Mother's Day Brunch, 11:30 a.m.
- May 12: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Prayer Shawl Group 1:30 p.m.
- May 13: Afternoon Women's Group
- May 19: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
- May 20: Leadership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- May 21: Friday Morning Breakfast Club meets at Perkins. 8:30 a.m.
- May 21–22:  
RMMC Bishop, High Priest,  
Evangelist, Seventy Retreat in Fort Collins
- May 26: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.

## 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

## We Saw It in the Paper



On Friday, April 2, **Joan Green** was a Spellbinder Storyteller at the Poudre River Public Library.

**Robin Linkhart**, West Central USA Mission Field Missionary Coordinator, wrote an article that appeared in the April 2010 *Herald*.

**Rich and Mary Kohlman** and granddaughter **Jasmin** had their picture (taken in Brazil in January) appear in the Xplore section, Snapshots column of the *Coloradoan* on April 18.

## Food Bank



We donated 75 lbs. of food to the Food Bank in March.

## Contemplative Outreach of Fort Collins



### **Retreat in Silence: Deepening Contemplation**

May 14–15, Friday 6:30–8:30 p.m. and  
Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Elizabeth  
Seton Catholic Church, 5450 Lemay Ave, Fort  
Collins. Experience communal silence close to  
home.

Cost: Donation, \$1–30. For planning purposes,  
please register by May 11.

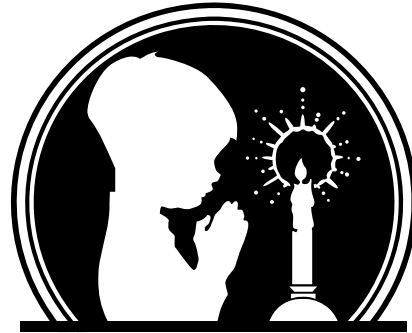
[www.cofortcollins.org](http://www.cofortcollins.org)

## Blessings of Community

- The gospel of Jesus Christ is expressed best in community life where people become vulnerable to God's grace and each other.
- True community includes compassion for and solidarity with the poor, marginalized, and oppressed.
- True community upholds the worth of persons while providing a healthy alternative to self-centeredness, isolation, and conformity.
- Sacred community provides nurture and growth opportunities for all people, especially those who cannot fully care for themselves.
- We value our connections and share a strong sense of trust in and belonging with one another—even if we never have met.
- Some disciples are called and ordained to particular priesthood responsibilities and ministries for the sake of the community, the congregation, and the world.

- We are called to create communities of Christ's peace in our families and congregations and across villages, tribes, nations, and throughout creation.

## Meditation



*All church members are urged to examine the depth of your baptismal commitment. Having been baptized and confirmed, become fully immersed in the servant life of Christ.*

*Live the meaning of your baptism daily as you grow in the skills and qualities of discipleship. Actively and generously support the ministries of the church, which was divinely established to restore Christ's covenant of peace, even the Zion of your hopes.*

*The Eternal Christ invites those who have yet to experience the blessings of baptism to "Follow me in the way of righteousness and peace." Be baptized of water and the Spirit and discover your spiritual home as a fully functioning member of the body.*

—Doctrine and Covenants 164:3

Community of Christ



220 East Oak Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

First Class  
Stamp Here

Mailing Label Here