



The Communicator

Start Where You Are



By Tim Ashburn
Rocky Mountain Mission Center president

“You already have everything you need.” Two phrases that bring hope to me, release me, empower me, and, at the same time, challenge me. As we survey our circumstances as a Christian denomination with unique interpretations about God, Jesus, and a hope for the world, set in the western culture of the 21st century, I can’t help but be impacted by such simple yet powerful phrases and ideas. What if we, in the Rocky Mountain Mission Center, took these two phrases and began to ponder them, pray about them, and live them? What if we believed that we truly can start where we are as sacred communities filled with the hope of the gospel of Jesus and what we need to move forward is already with us, in us, and among us? Sometimes, it seems that we can be overcome with how we might begin to respond to God’s call to us. We can be overcome by notions of “the way” something needs to be done or by “the way” we must be as congregations in Community of Christ.

Starting where we are, opens the door to God’s possibilities right now! Accepting the notion that we have everything we need, acknowledges God’s sacred presence with us, around us, and through us. How unleashing,

how empowering can these simple acknowledgements be! Please don’t misunderstand my excitement about these phrases. They do not signal that there is no need to learn or grow in our Christian discipleship, nor do they disavow our turning toward God for guidance and discernment about what God is calling us to do and be and to the awareness of what God is already doing in the world. What these ideas open up before us is the acknowledgement of a generous God, ready to provide all that is needed to bring the reign of God into our lives, families, and communities.

What if? What if we truly believed that we can “start where we are” and that “we have everything we need?” What difference would it make in our discipleship? What difference would it make in our communities? What difference would it make in our world?

Beck and Coopwood Attend 2010 GALA Retreat

Max and I gathered with others in the church’s GLBT community for the 2010 GALA International Retreat at Samish Island, Washington, over the Labor Day weekend. Friends, families, and advocates from the United States and Canada met to share life stories, fellowship, and worship for another “mountain-top” experience on the bay.

The weekend’s theme “Living in the Light” was beautifully orchestrated by frequent

references to local native lore and symbolized throughout our time together. Our guest ministers were Apostle James Slauter, president of the Council of Twelve and Kathy Slater, president of the Greater Northwest Mission Center.

Time was spent on ways to get the welcoming conversation started in congregations who have not yet joined WCN. Max and I were pleased to be able to share Fort Collins' journey; others, too, shared their struggles and successes in becoming welcoming congregations. Additional sessions included a discussion of the church's new Sexual Ethics Statement, which is soon to be published in the *Herald* and the procedures and preparations being done by World Church leaders for the upcoming 2012 USA Conference.

Not all of our time was spent in class or worship, but in crazy frolic with our GALA Olympics and the ever-popular Talent Show. Our guest ministers always seem to be amazed at how much fun we all have and how easy it is to lighten up and be joyful. One evening a special feast was prepared by our chefs that included fresh caught king salmon and blackberry cobbler, truly a traditional taste of the Pacific Northwest.

Our final worship service on our last day was unique to us and focused on the scripture from Doctrine and Covenants 164:9d–e. It was a sacred celebration of our call to illuminate the world. The service included a combination of two sacraments: the laying on of hands and Communion. For us, it was indeed a highlight and a spiritual uplift, and a most memorable culmination to send us forth.

Sanctuaries of Peace

First Presidency and Council of Twelve Statement

The First Presidency and the Council of Twelve Apostles want to be clear that while there may be disagreements over some issues

related to sexual orientation, Community of Christ members and leaders should act firmly against any forms of violence, harassment, bullying, blaming, slurs, or jokes that dehumanize or degrade any human beings. The 1992 World Conference passed a resolution on *Human Diversity* (WCR 1226) that states: "...we accept responsibility to resist fear and hate in all forms and to strive continuously to eliminate expressions of prejudice and discrimination."

The growing fear, intolerance, and violence throughout the world alarm the Presidency and the Council of Twelve. Recently, young people of homosexual orientation have been harassed to the point of suicide. In some areas of the world homosexuals are beaten, jailed, or killed. Also, some churches recently have increased the volume and frequency of their condemnations of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) people.

The church has not always provided clear assurance that our faith community and congregations should be safe places and sanctuaries of peace, where people need not fear embarrassment, harassment, or blame because of their sexual orientation. Our mission is to *Proclaim Jesus Christ and Promote Communities of Joy, Hope, Love, and Peace*. Therefore, it is vital that we engage in words and actions that "uphold the worth and giftedness of all people and that protect the most vulnerable" (Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a). We must work to ensure safe and peaceful congregations and communities for all of God's children, including our GLBT members and friends and their families.

We may not agree on all questions related to human sexuality and sexual orientation. However, we are earnestly seeking more insight and understanding. We invite all members and friends of Community of Christ to join us on this journey.

—22 October 2010

SINGERS, ONE AND ALL!



Join us this season to provide special choir ministry throughout Advent and Christmas. Reserve Monday evenings for rehearsals, starting November 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Financial Report



September Income

World Church

World Ministries	\$1,251.50
Oblation	309.50
World Hunger	160.50

Local

Local Offering	\$1,840.00
Building Fund	20.00
2 Cents a Meal	45.00
Family Assistance	45.00
Mexico School	150.00

Combining August and September, we donated \$375.00 to the school in Mexico.

—Betty Jones, CFO

The heavens are as deep as our aspirations are high.

—Henry David Thoreau



Did You Forget?

Church offerings to the Operating Fund were down over \$2,000 for the summer months when many of us were out of town. If you forgot to make your offerings during that time, we hope you can make them up in the next two months to help our budget for this year and for our planning for next year. Thank you!



Building Rental Manager

Jon Ytell will be stepping out of his role as building rental manager at the end of this year. If you have interest in this role or helping with another person to co-lead in this area, please contact Sharon Troyer, (970) 672-6388.

Veteran Stand Down



I am requesting volunteers for an event we host in Fort Collins for the Larimer County office of Veteran's Services called the Veteran Stand Down. This is a hosting situation. We are not responsible for running the event or providing volunteers, but I thought it would be a nice gesture to offer all of the folks who volunteer here the first opportunity to sign up. The Veteran's Stand Down is an event designed for Veterans who are homeless, in poverty, or are just returning from service and need to reconnect with the community. County

Veteran's services bring together agencies and services to help in all sorts of ways. This event provides everything from haircuts and free gear, to VA counseling services, paperwork assistance, and legal assistance—all under one roof.

The event is November 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. including a lunch service at 12:00 p.m. We need volunteers to help set up from 7:00–9:00 a.m. (5–10 people), to help guide attendees around the event from 9–11 a.m. (4–6 people), then people to help make and serve lunch and also be guides from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (5–7 people). We will need to briefly train you for the job you'll be doing, but we will not hold any additional training. Please let me know if you are interested or have any questions. Again, we have many people we can ask to help out, but wanted to first provide this opportunity to all of you. Volunteers are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. We will give you priority to volunteer if you are a Veteran yourself.

Thanks, folks!

Keith Colton
Volunteer coordinator
Catholic Charities Larimer Region—The Mission
460 Linden Center Dr.
Fort Collins, Colorado 80524
(970) 484-5010, ext. 217

Second-Sunday Socials



The Harvest Festival was great fun for all who could make it. Many pumpkins were carved and much food eaten. We even avoided most of the ghosts and pirates!



November 21 will be a service project and the Hanging of the Greens. Check the announcements each week or the website for further information.

November Birthdays



Makenna Jackson	11/01
Joyce Jordeth	11/02
Sharon P. Troyer	11/02
Shauna Clark	11/02
Shirley Vallier Remmenga	11/04
Emmaline Garner	11/07
Jon Ytell	11/07
David Birks	11/11
Brett Bridwell	11/11
Sawyer Jones	11/12
Zachary Fronapfel	11/15
Alec Fronapfel	11/15
Debbie Jones	11/17
Gary Alton	11/19
Vergean Wood	11/20
Dawn Gaffield	11/21
Steve Watkins	11/25



“When you pray, move your feet.”

—African Proverb

Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery Schedules



Keyboard:

- ❖ November 7: Kay Bunch
- ❖ November 14: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ November 21: Tom Beck
- ❖ November 28: Jean Newman

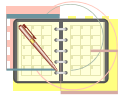
Greeters:

- ❖ November: Jean Newman and Peggy Gordier

Nursery:

- ❖ November 7: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ November 14: Mary Kohlman
- ❖ November 21: Lisa Garner
- ❖ November 28: Rose Julch

November Calendar



Check the website
<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

- Nov. 3: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
Worship Coordinators, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov 5: Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- Nov. 5-7: Rocky Mountain Mission Center
Conference. Estes Park YMCA
Camp.
- Nov. 7: Communion, First-Sunday Giving
Crop Walk, 1:30 p.m.
- Nov.10: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
Prayer Shawl Group, 1:30 p.m.
- Nov. 12: Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- Nov. 14: Two-Cents-a-Meal offering
- Nov. 15: WEAVERS Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- Nov. 17: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- Nov 18: Leadership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 19: Friday Morning Breakfast Club, 8:30
a.m.

Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.

- Nov. 21: *Communicator* items due.
2nd-Sunday Social: Service Project
and Hanging of the Greens, 5:00 p.m.

This is a change of date!

- Nov. 24: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.

Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.

- Nov. 25: Thanksgiving

- Nov. 26: Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.

Congregational Retreat

February 25-27, 2011

Questions to ponder:

1. What would attract you to come to our congregation retreat on February 25-27, 2011?
2. What would you like to see our congregation do in the future?
3. What connects you to our congregation?
4. What else would you like to say?

*What does it mean
to be the church?*



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.



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