



The Communicator

“Responding to the Spirit”

—a pastoral greeting,

Sharon Troyer

On July 8, three years ago, I drove up to our church following a large, yellow Penske truck loaded with my belongings. I will never forget how touched I was that a small group of enthusiastic people were standing there to greet me! There was a spirit of joy and welcome, and I was given a key to the church as part of a simple, symbolic celebration. In now concluding my term as pastor, I recognize that the real key to the enormous blessings we have all received has been the continual demonstrations of love and respect that you have shown to each other as well as to me. My life has been greatly enriched and my heart is filled with gratitude!

As you all know, the last four months have been a time of transition and planning. We have witnessed an amazing process in how you all responded to the Leadership Team's recommendation to create new shared leadership. Beginning with the intentional interviews with the congregation and followed by the creative way small teams envisioned ways to share responsibilities, there developed an emerging certainty that we could and *will* rely on the Holy Spirit to be the essential guide. Look at the colorful graphic illustration on our website's homepage and also included in this

newsletter. Trusting this process has led us to this exciting time.

On July 24, we will have a special congregational gathering, prior to the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We will commission/set apart five pastors, four coordinators, and amazing teams of many of you who will support the important ministries of our congregation, effective August 1. We invite all members and friends to participate in this special occasion! Your voice and actions will be a central part of how we commission/set apart these leaders to use their diverse gifts for sharing God's love in our greater community.

Personally, this process has given me renewed understanding of how important it is for us to look to the life of Jesus; it is one reason I support our continued use of scripture and listening to each other's stories as we pray and worship. In this way we remember how Jesus consistently relied on God's Spirit for every aspect of life. From the moment of his baptism, through the many times when he sought solitude to commune with his Creator, he repeatedly explained to his often perplexed followers that they would *never* be alone. We see in how he lived that his trust was placed where his heart was! As part of the body of Christ, we have just traversed paths of scripture through seasons of Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Let us now walk boldly into what the lectionary calls “ordinary time” where

we, too, rely on what the risen Christ called The Advocate. Only in this way, will we continue to find new life, discern “what matters most,” and share the joys of living the Peaceable Kingdom into greater reality. Let me borrow the joyful word that a friend of mine, Stassi Cramm, always uses to close her letters. ONWARD!

Speakers, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery



Speakers

- ❖ July 3: Gil Pagat
- ❖ July 10: Dave Simons
- ❖ July 17: Richard Thompson
- ❖ July 24: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ July 31: Marilyn Garner

Keyboard

- ❖ July 3: Tom Beck
- ❖ July 10: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ July 17: Kay Bunch
- ❖ July 24: Kay Bunch
- ❖ July 31: Jean Newman

Greeters

- ❖ June: Kathy Bridwell and Betty Jones

Nursery

- ❖ July 3: NA
- ❖ July 10: NA
- ❖ July 17: NA
- ❖ July 24: NA
- ❖ July 31 NA



Congregational Business Meeting

There will be a congregational business meeting and setting apart service on Sunday, July 24 at 9:30–10:30 a.m.

July Birthdays



| | |
|----------------|-------|
| James Miller | 07/01 |
| Betty Axelsen | 07/03 |
| Jay Ytell | 07/04 |
| Joan Green | 07/04 |
| Merly Pagat | 07/05 |
| Josh Birks | 07/06 |
| Eric Bouch | 07/09 |
| Robin Higgins | 07/09 |
| Rich Kohlman | 07/10 |
| Christy Harms | 07/11 |
| Larry Slocum | 07/12 |
| Marilyn Doig | 07/13 |
| Thelma Slocum | 07/17 |
| Betty Jones | 07/17 |
| Evelynn Birks | 07/17 |
| Shelton Thomas | 07/19 |
| Logan Miller | 07/20 |
| Madison Clark | 07/22 |



Remembrances

Avis Varra passed away on June 19, 2011. A graveside service will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 27, at Grandview Cemetery.



The congregation picnic will be held July 10 at the City Park Shelter #7, same as last year, at 5:00 p.m. Mark your calendar now!

Cody Landstrom, local magician, will be the entertainment this year.

Hamburgers, hotdogs, condiments, chips, drink, table service, and homemade ice cream will be provided. Please bring a salad or side dish to share.

RSVP by July 5 to Sharon Fulton, 484-6943, or Pat Miner, 674-1848.

Youth in Service



Our youth group ended the year in service.

In the fall of 2010 the youth wrote a letter to Bed, Bath, and Beyond requesting donations to help those in need. On Friday, June 10, the youth met at the church and headed to BBY to pick up the donations and take them to Help International in Loveland for distribution. Help International is the organization United Way uses for distribution from our local area. The youth delivered new sheets, pillowcases, pillows, and comforters donated by Bed, Bath, and

Beyond. They were given a quick tour of the warehouse and told a shipment would be going out the following day to help the victims of the tornado in Joplin, Missouri. Then we headed to Dairy Queen for Blizzards!

The following Sunday, June 12, the youth presented the entire 11:00 a.m. service for the congregation. They shared prayers in English, German, and Spanish, and Kate Ytell presented a slide presentation of her 10-day service visit to Honduras. She then took questions from the congregation.

Our church and our community are richly blessed by these young people who have so much to offer. Their willingness to share their time and talent is a tangible representation of God's love.

—Pat and Bill Miner

Financial Report



May Income

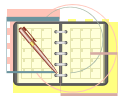
World Church

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| World Ministries | \$1,937.00 |
| Oblation | 274.50 |
| World Hunger | 130.00 |
| Total | \$2,341.50 |

Local

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Local Offering | \$3,613.50 |
| Building Fund | 45.00 |
| Marcia Wood Memorial | 50.00 |
| 2 Cents a Meal | 76.00 |
| Family Assistance | 60.00 |
| CWU Layette Project | 66.90 |
| Herald Magazine | 32.00 |
| Pancake Breakfast | 47.00 |
| Camp Paradise | 5.00 |
| Total | \$ 3,995.40 |

July Calendar



Check the website

<http://cofchstrm.org/FortCollins>

- July 3: Communion
First-Sunday Giving
- July 6: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Worship Team, 10:45 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- July 10: Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering
Congregation Picnic, 5:00 p.m.
- July 11: PFLAG, 6:45 p.m.
- July 13: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- July 17: *Communicator* items due
- July 20: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- July 21: Leadership Council, 7:00 p.m.
- July 24: Congregation Business Meeting and
Setting Apart Service, 9:30 a.m.
Worship, 11:00 a.m.
- July 27: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.



Names in the News

June 2011 *Herald*

Fort Collins Women's Group (Joyce Jordeth, Joy Jones, Vergean Wood, and Betty Jones) are making lap robes for nursing homes in Colorado.

Fort Collins *Coloradoan*, June 10, 2011

Oliver Pijoan (Dottie Cables sone-in-law) is pictured cleaning up a yard after an overnight hail storm in Fort Collins.

Outreach International Annual Report, 2010

Several members of the Fort Collins Congregation were recognized for donating to Outreach International.

Fort Collins *Coloradoan*, May, 2011

Gordon Thibedeau, president and CEO of the Larimer County United Way, recognizes collaboration between Community of Christ and other organizations (Catholic Charities, Red Cross, Homeless Gear, and United Way) to provide a safe place for the homeless this past winter.



Universal Declaration of Human Rights

In a groundbreaking achievement for upholding the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the United Nations Human Rights Council has passed a resolution on human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity (L.9/Rev.1).

The resolution, presented by South Africa along with Brazil and 39 additional co-sponsors from all regions of the world, was passed by a vote of 23 in favor, 19 against, and 3 abstentions. In its presentation to the council, South Africa recalled the UDHR noting that "everyone is entitled to all rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind" and Brazil called on the council to "open the long closed doors of dialogue."

Today's resolution is the first UN resolution ever to bring specific focus to human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and follows a joint statement on these issues delivered at the March session of the council. It affirms the universality of human rights, and notes concern about acts of violence and

discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This commitment of the Human Rights Council sends an important signal of support to human rights defenders working on these issues, and recognizes the legitimacy of their work.

“The South African government has now offered progressive leadership, after years of troubling and inconsistent positions on the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity. Simultaneously, the government has set a standard for themselves in international spaces. We look forward to contributing to and supporting sustained progressive leadership by this government and seeing the end of the violations we face daily.” (Dawn Cavanagh, Coalition of African Lesbians)

The resolution requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a study on violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, and calls for a panel discussion to be held at the Human Rights Council to discuss the findings of the study in a constructive and transparent manner, and to consider appropriate follow-up.

“That we are celebrating the passage of a UN resolution about human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation is remarkable, however the fact that gender identity is explicitly named truly makes this pivotal moment one to rejoice in,” added Justus Eisfeld, Co-Director of GATE. “The Human Rights Council has taken a step forward in history by acknowledging that both sexual and gender non-conformity make lesbian, gay, trans, and bi people among those most vulnerable and indicated decisively that states have an obligation to protect us from violence.”

“As treaty bodies, UN special procedures, and national courts have repeatedly recognized, international human rights law prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.” (Alli Jernow, International Commission of Jurists)

The resolution is consistent with other regional and national jurisprudence, and just this week, the 2011 United Nations Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS recognized the need to address the human rights of men who have sex with men, and the Organization of American States adopted by consensus a resolution condemning violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

Earlier in this 17th session of the Human Rights Council, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Rashida Manjoo, reported to the council that: “Contributory factors for risk of violence include individual aspects of women’s bodily attributes such as race, skin color, intellectual and physical abilities, age, language skills and fluency, ethnic identity, and sexual orientation.”

The report also detailed a number of violations committed against lesbian, bisexual, and trans women, including cases of rape, attacks, and murders. It is, therefore, regrettable that a reference to “women who face sexuality-related violence” was removed from the final version of another resolution focused on the elimination of violence against women during the same session.

“Much of the violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity has been done in the name of faith. The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office has been a leader in the progressive

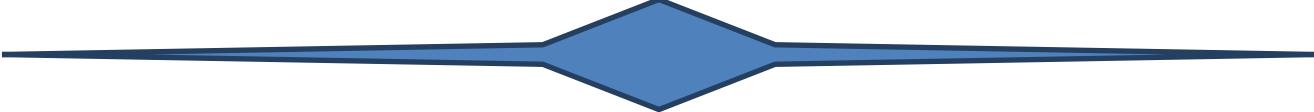
faith-based movement to eliminate hate, violence, and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. This resolution is the result of years of struggle by many organizations and individual human rights defenders, many of whom have given their lives so that others may enjoy a safe and dignified life." (Bruce Knotts, Unitarian Universalist UN Office)

"Despite this inconsistency, we trust the UN resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity will facilitate the integration of the full range of sexual rights throughout the work of the UN." (Meghan Doherty, Sexual Rights Initiative)

A powerful civil society statement was delivered at the end of the session,

welcoming the resolution and affirming civil society's commitment to continuing to engage with the United Nations with a view to ensuring that all persons are treated as free and equal in dignity and rights, including on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity.

"Now, our work is just beginning", said Kim Vance of ARC International. "We look forward to the High Commissioner's report and the plenary panel next March, as well as to further dialogue with, and support from, those states which did not yet feel able to support the resolution, but which share the concern of the international community at these systemic human rights abuses."



"I want to keep my soul fertile for changes, so things keep getting born in me, so things keep dying when it's time for them to die. I want to keep walking away from the person I was a moment ago, because a mind was made to figure things out, not read the same page recurrently."

—Donald Miller, from his book, *Through Painted Deserts*



Invite People to Christ



Pursue Peace on Earth Experience Congregations in Mission



Blessings of Community

Continuing Revelation

Pursuit of Peace

Responsible Choices

All are Called

Sacredness of Creation

Develop Disciples to Serve

Abolish Poverty, End Suffering

