



# *The Communicator*

## **“Retreat Reflections”**

—Sharon Troyer, Pastor

“We were richly blessed to assist your congregation,” said Bob Walker enthusiastically after our congregational retreat. “Sure, we were tired afterwards, but it wasn’t a chore at all,” he commented cheerfully! From the bottom of our hearts, the Fort Collins Community of Christ thanks the volunteers from Brighton for a weekend of delicious food, patient and creative ministry to our younger children, and their willingness to “step in” where needed.

Volunteers from Brighton included:

*Bob and Melinda Walker, Kathy and Scott Olson, Linda and John McKenna, Peggy Faith, and Dave Van Gundy in the kitchen, Tara Powers baked and sent banana bread, and Amy and Amber Smith, Bob Cruickshank, and Nancy Wallace provided child and youth ministry.*

Beyond the help from Brighton, we also thank Rick and Kay Bunch for their creative gathering activities Friday evening, which prepared us for the sessions on Saturday facilitated by Carrie Newman and Shandra Newcom. It was their ministry that resulted in a list of dreams for our congregation. Those dreams were distributed in printed form at the final

worship service. Shandra Newcom invited us to pray diligently about how these dreams can be further shaped by the Spirit on our journey to discover God’s mission inside and outside the walls of our church building.

Lest you think our weekend was all serious with no time to play, just go online and see pictures that include line-dancing led by Voni Simons. She and Dave (who ran the sound system) created an evening that allowed everyone (especially Nancy Miller, Mary Kohlman, Sharon Fulton, Shandra Newcom, Walter Lamia, and Dave Schaal) to have a lot of fun! Even the beginners loved it! Saturday evening concluded with a great campfire led by Shandra, with amazing harmonies around a blazing fire. Two newcomers to Community of Christ said they’d never heard a group sing like that!

Sunday morning we shared food, songs, and testimonies in a creative Emmaus meal guided by Rick Bunch. As that concluded, we were joined by several folks from our own and other congregations, including a group of high school students from First United Methodist Church. As part of their confirmation class, they came to worship with us at Community of Christ. It reminded us of how important it is to always expect newcomers in our midst! On Monday after the retreat, Bob Walker shared thoughts he and others had about

the Sunday morning ministry. He said, “Dave Schaal’s Sunday morning message, though prepared in response to Ft. Collins’ needs and expressed desires, was a message very applicable to our own congregation.” We discussed briefly the five main points of Dave’s challenge to us. Nothing could have said it better than Dave’s concluding invitation to “center ourselves in Jesus Christ at the heart of our identity and movement as a congregation!”

If you did not receive a list of “dreams” on Sunday morning, and would like a copy, please contact Rich Kohlman. The following is a list of the major themes that arose from our dreams:

- ✚ Personal involvement of members—outside of our walls, in the community.
- ✚ Community involvement (broader vision within the Fort Collins area)
- ✚ A desire for overall health of the congregation
- ✚ Ministry to children and young people and inviting ministry from them
- ✚ Recognition of diversity of generations
- ✚ Sustaining and growing into being a welcoming congregation
- ✚ A desire that our building be used in new, creative ways
- ✚ Creative worship/celebrations
- ✚ Willingness to listen and be reflective—without giving up the gain of knowledge in other ways
- ✚ Willingness and desire to nurture ourselves and also move beyond ourselves

Additional information will be forthcoming as the retreat committee and the leadership council review the results of the retreat. Thanks to all of you who were able to attend.

## Neighbor to Remodel!



At a recent meeting of the City Zoning Board of Appeals, attended by Gary Gordier and Dave Simons, approval was given for the new owner of the apartment house to the north of our property to remodel and construct an addition to the building. It will become a duplex with an addition on the back and a detached garage/carport. Construction will begin soon.

This will greatly enhance the neighboring property and eliminate the unsightly condition that has existed. The front of the duplex, facing Mathews St., will be restored to its original brick exterior with a front porch. The new owner, Mr. Rayno Seaser, is a well-respected businessman and long-time resident in town and expressed appreciation for our support to the proposal. He also spoke in affirmation of our church’s efforts in assisting the homeless in our community.

A copy of the floor plan, with views of the front and back of the building, is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer.

—Dave Simons



## Homeless Gear Volunteers Needed

### Product Sorting

**Tuesday, March 8**

Every month Homeless Gear is blessed with a large quantity of donations that are delivered to the Murphy Center. Each month we have a sorting event to organize all of these donations.

If you are interested in helping with our sorting, please send me an e-mail and put **TUESDAY SORT** in the subject line.

### Family Distribution

**Saturday, March 12**

This event runs from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Since we serve as many as 400+ homeless and near homeless children and their families at this event, we need volunteers to sign up for "shifts." This will enable us to plan appropriately and also make the volunteer experience as meaningful as possible for you.

First Shift: 8:30–10:00 a.m.

Second Shift: 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Clean Up: 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Of course you can work multiple shifts if you would like.

### Adult Distribution

**Thursday, March 17**

12:00–2:00 p.m. at the Murphy Center

Please consider helping.

E-mail me and put **ADULT DISTRIBUTION** in the subject line.

**Sincerely,**

Eileen Corbiere

Volunteer Coordinator

Homeless Gear

[eileen@homelessgear.org](mailto:eileen@homelessgear.org)



## Herald-in-Every-Home Program

Our congregation participates in this program. It is paid for out of the congregation Operating Fund. If you would like to support this program and the budget, consider giving \$26.50 beyond your regular offering. Identify it as *Herald in Every Home*. Thank you. *To-date, only two contributors have responded.*

## March Birthdays



|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Bianca Clark-Bennett | 03/01 |
| Carol Birks          | 03/05 |
| Aubrey Hake          | 03/08 |
| Taylor Bridwell      | 03/15 |
| Sara Rolfe           | 03/15 |
| Marta Remmenga       | 03/16 |
| Steve Thomas         | 03/17 |
| Shari Smith          | 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 |
| Luella Foster        | 03/31 |



## Upper Room Study Group

Meets Every Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

This open group invites people to participate in a discussion where thoughts are shared on daily meditations. We use *The Upper Room Disciplines: A Book of Daily Devotions* as our study guide. Participants enjoy an exchange of ideas that vary from quiet, humble thoughts to creative, more expressive ideas! We listen to each other's interpretations, always with respect. Often we share personal experiences inspired by our daily devotional and scripture readings.

There is no requirement for "perfect attendance" every week; participants attend as they are able and according to their own schedules. **We've ordered a few extra 2011 books. Do you want to join us?** How about helping set up an evening group that might work for those without daytime flexibility? Contact Shari Smith, Sharon Troyer, or Rich Kohlman for more information.



## \$10 a Week Transforms Lives

—Linda L. Booth,  
*Southern USA Mission Field apostle,  
director of Communications*

The spirit of generosity is moving throughout the church. It is an active, tangible response to God's generous grace. This spirit inspires and challenges us to continue to grow and become even more generous disciples. It is part of our call as disciples of Jesus

Christ, in our roles as church members, and, for some, as priesthood.

In January and February, priesthood members in the United States are receiving an invitation from President Steve Veazey to consider increasing their giving to World Ministries by \$10 a week or more. With 16,000 priesthood members in the USA, that could mean \$8.3 million more to launch and expand ministries in our communities throughout the world. Imagine what could happen!

For many of us, \$10 might equal two lattes, one movie ticket, or lunch out with friends. That same \$10 in Bolivia, Haiti, Malawi, and even Baltimore, Chattanooga, and Detroit, will transform lives!

Let me take this opportunity to invite each of you as disciples of Jesus Christ to consider giving at least \$10 more a week to World Ministries Mission Tithes to support God's mission throughout the world.

Join your brothers and sisters around the world in building the peaceable kingdom together.



## Food-Bank Donations

In 2010 our congregation donated 620 pounds of food, worth an estimated \$996.80, to the Larimer County Food Bank. Thank you!



## Names in the News

Jenn Birks and her daughter Evelyn appeared in a photo in the *Coloradoan* taken during storybook time at the Gardens on Spring Creek.

*"It is no wonder that just the touch of another human being at a dark time can be enough to save the day."*

- Frederick Buechner, *Beyond Words*

## Speakers, Keyboard, Greeters, and



### Speakers

- ❖ March 6: Rick Bunch
- ❖ March 13: First Sunday of Lent—Contemplative Worship
- ❖ March 20: Gil Pagat
- ❖ March 27: Sue Janetta

### Keyboard

- ❖ March 6: Jean Newman
- ❖ March 13: Tom Beck
- ❖ March 20: Sharon Fulton
- ❖ March 27: Kay Bunch

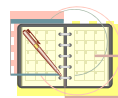
### Greeters

- ❖ March: Donna Clark and Ken Jones

### Nursery

- ❖ March 6: Voni Simons
- ❖ March 13: Mary Kohlman
- ❖ March 20: Rose Julch
- ❖ March 27: Sharon Fulton

## March Calendar



Check the website

<http://cofchrstrm.org/FortCollins>

- Mar. 2: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.  
Worship Coordinators Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 6: Communion  
First-Sunday Giving
- Mar. 9: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.  
Prayer Shawl Group, 1:30 p.m.
- Mar. 10: Afternoon Women's Group, 1:00 p.m.
- Mar. 12: Gary Clark Memorial Service, 3:00 p.m.
- Mar. 13: Two-Cents-a-Meal Offering  
Daylight Savings begins
- Mar. 14: PFLAG meeting, 6:45 p.m.
- Mar. 16: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- Mar. 17: Leadership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 18: Friday Morning Breakfast Club, 8:30 a.m.
- Mar. 20: *Communicator* items due.
- Mar. 23: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.  
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.

*"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference."*

—Elie Wiesel



220 East Oak Street  
Fort Collins, CO 80524

First Class  
Stamp Here

Mailing Label Here