



The Communicator

“C Is for Christ, Christmas, and a Culture That Crawls”

—Kay Bunch, Outreach Ministries Pastor

Recently Rick and I attended our 50th-year class reunion at Graceland University, then traveled to Columbia, Missouri, to spend a few days with my college roommate and her husband. While we were there, Judy and Ron introduced us to Mel West and the amazing story of the “culture that crawls.”

Worldwide, the conservative estimate is that some 21,000,000 people in the third world must crawl on the ground or be carried about because of disabilities. If all these people were to be put into one line, it would form a line of crawling persons 28,000 miles long.

In 1995, Mel and Barbara West were asked by missionary friends in war-torn Zaire to develop a “three-wheeled, hand-cranked, sturdily built wheelchair with hauling capacity, capable of traveling the rough roads and trails of the third world.”

Such vehicles were badly needed by millions of persons in Africa who were leg-handicapped because of land mines, polio, birth defects, leprosy, diabetes, work, war injuries, and other causes.

The Wests went home, contacted Earl Miner, a friend who is a product designer who, with his

son Roger, designed the PET, (Personal Energy Transportation). Earl designed the PET as a tangible symbol of God’s love and for his children, and for the people who care about them; so they can sponsor a PET and become a friend to those who receive it. I designed it for the people who do not now care about them, in the hope that they will come to realize that their final relationship with God may depend upon their relationship with “his other children.”

By 2011, 24,000 PETs had been sent around the world. Recipients of the PET always ask, “Why



would someone half a world away, who I can never see or thank, want to do this for me?” Judy, Rick, and I were able to drive a PET around in the warehouse. They are amazing! All three models are built in

Columbia: one child-size, one adult-size, and one for light hauling.

Thoughts of Mel, PETs, cultures who crawl on the ground, and individual stories of recipients of PETs keep swimming around in my mind. My awareness has been raised concerning life situations of a huge cadre of our sisters and brothers who live “beneath the radar” in a world of misery, pain, indignity, poverty, and marginalization—a situation that most of us cannot even imagine existing, much less imagine enduring. Our Community of Christ congregation has a “welcoming statement” that includes cultures such as this.

Christ taught us to love, to get involved, to lift up others, to see with his eyes. This Christmas season may we give the gift of hope and love. May we look around us, expand our vision, and touch the lives of those around us in new ways. Reach out, reach up. Be the hands of God this year in a tangible way. Give the gift of hope and love this Christmas season. Let someone know you care. May your heart be broken, cracked, and may you heal the heart of others—known and unknown personally by you. Robert Pearce, former director of World Vision, wrote these words, “I pray that my heart may be broken by that which breaks the heart of God.”

Mel West is a living, walking, thinking, acting example of a growing group of dedicated people who “walk their talk.” To me, he is a grown-up baby Jesus “living a Christ-like life.” During this Christmas season and always, may we, the Fort Collins Community of Christ, join a growing group of persons who “walk their talk” in ways that fit them.

Matthew 25:40—“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”



Sacrament of Administration

Brian Entwistle is now our coordinator for the sacrament of administration. Please contact him at (970) 310-0665 or entwistlebrian@gmail.com if you have need for administration or to schedule it for someone else.



Communion Emblems Brought to You

If you are unable to attend a Communion service on the first Sunday of the month, and would like the sacrament brought to you, please contact either Bob Fulton, 484-6943, or Dave Simons, 282-0969. Every effort will be

made to provide this ministry. Also, if you know of any member who would like the sacrament brought to them, let Bob or Dave know in advance, and one of them will get in touch with that individual so arrangements can be made.

December Birthdays



Marilyn Garner	12/2
Dick Foster	12/3
Pat Miner	12/16
Carnie Fulton	12/16
Michael Davis	12/16
Gordon Woelfle	12/17
Juliette Garner	12/17
Kathy Bridwell	12/20
Maria Swall-Yarrington	12/21
Bill Miner	12/22
Hawkins Garner	12/22
Carrie Newman	/23
Melanie Fronapfel	12/28
Nona Woelfle	12/29

Financial Report



October Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$1,390.00
Invite People to Christ	10.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	214.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	20.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	10.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	10.00
Total	\$1,654.00

Local

Local Offering	\$2,622.00
Building Fund	75.00
2 Cents a Meal	77.00
Family Assistance	65.00
Pancake Breakfast	28.00
Camp Paradise	17.00
RMMC Conference	50.00
Total	\$2,934.00

—Betty Jones, CFO

Speakers, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery



Speakers

- ❖ December 2: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ December 9: Nancy Miller
- ❖ December 16: Hymn Sing
- ❖ December 23: Brian Entwistle
- ❖ December 30: Testimonies

Keyboard

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

Greeters

- ❖ December: Pagat Family

Nursery

- ❖ December 2: Marilyn Garner
- ❖ December 9: Bettie Miller
- ❖ December 16: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ December 23: Voni Simons
- ❖ December 30: Rose Julch



Getting to Know You!

How much do you know about Bettie and Ben Miller?

Did you know that Bettie takes her responsibility as a deacon very seriously? Have you noticed her sitting at the back looking after the complex, computer-operated PA system? Did you know that Ben has taken a leadership role in youth activities? Have you visited with them at some of the socials? Did you know that Windsor High School football team has an excellent record this year—Northern Colorado Conference 4A Champs? Did you know that Ben is in the “key club” and serves on the student council?

Long-time members of the Fort Collins Congregation

Bettie’s move to live with her father in Windsor in 1969 (just before her 11th birthday) was necessitated by a fire in the apartment she shared with her mother in El Monte, California. She suffered a loss of her voice for three months as a result of her screaming from the panic and the smoke. Her father had been in the military so she has lived in ten different cities, nine different states, and two other countries. She was actually born in Germany.

Bettie received a secretarial degree at Aims Community College where she was particularly interested in the filing part of the studies. She found the Dewey Decimal System fascinating as early as grade school. Following graduation, she began applying her skills in office jobs, but she found that she was too “free thinking” for the office politics. She was very happy at HP which was taken over by Flextronics and then closed. She has been at Woodward in Longmont for nearly nine years where she builds very large control systems. Woodward treats its employees well, and the fringe benefits are most attractive (even after suffering from the economy’s downturn). Her dependability and industrious attitude has been noted by her managers.

Travel Usually Involves Family

When selecting places to travel, the decisions often involve family. There was a Disney cruise to the Bahamas with the family as well as another trip to the Bahamas with a girl friend to enjoy the beaches. Bettie and her husband, Jim, took a Caribbean cruise, but he wasn’t that impressed. The family has gone camping as far south as Florida, as far east as Missouri (if you don’t count the states they camped in on their way to Florida), as far north as Wyoming, and as far west as the west side of Colorado. They often visit family in Missouri (where Bettie’s mother lives in Chillicothe) and Iowa.

Ben had the opportunity to travel in Germany last summer. (Mom was actively involved in the fund raising for the trip.) He has studied two

years of German, and his father has a German/Russian heritage.

What do their children do?

(Henry) James Miller is 10 years older than Ben. He wasn't that interested in his high school subjects but excelled when he studied at Denver Automotive and Diesel as well as Universal Technical—where he graduated “summa cum laude” and got all A's. He now has his own business—Miller Auto Works on Link Lane.

There would have been another brother between the two, but he was stillborn.

Ben is finishing his senior year at Windsor High, and he had been applying to several schools, including Graceland University, for next year. He hopes to play team sports.

What do they like to do?

Since Bettie has come from a large family that likes to play games and likes family gatherings (large and small), usually she ends up sharing in togetherness at the game table. Bettie has two full brothers, two full sisters, one half-brother, one half-sister, three stepsisters, and 1 stepbrother. This doesn't count numerous aunts and uncles as well as her mother and Ben—all enjoying playing together.

Bettie has a large collection of wind chimes gracing her home, and she loves to read.

The big excitement at the Miller household recently has been the project of constructing a new “dream house” on the property behind their mobile home. They will be going from a 16' by 80' space to 4000 sq. ft. It has become quite a process—waiting for the perk test, so they can install a septic system, then pouring the basement where the module home will sit. Once the house is in place, there might be some negotiation needed on the color selection for the inside walls, since Bettie says she and Jim have differing opinions on the choices.

—Beverly Doig, reporter

December Calendar



Check the website

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

- Dec. 1: Decorating the church for Christmas, 9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 2: Communion
First-Sunday Giving
Potluck
- Dec. 3: Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 5: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
Pastors Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Worship Coordinators, 2:45 p.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- Dec. 9: Two-Cents-a-Meal offering
Business Meeting following morning worship
Congregation Holiday dinner, 5:00 p.m.
- Dec. 10: Choir practice, 7:00 p.m.
PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 12: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- Dec. 15: Christmas program dress rehearsal, 9:00 a.m.
- Dec. 16: Christmas program, 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 19: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- Dec. 23: *Communicator* items due
No youth Sunday School
- Dec. 25: Christmas Day
- Dec. 26: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- Dec. 30: No youth Sunday School



Youth Report from the Peace Colloquy

This year at the Peace Colloquy, there were youth from all over the midwestern United States. We participated in team building activities, visited the Temple, and played sports. We made new friends from the start, and everyone was excited to be there. The nominee

for the Peace Prize this year was elected for proposing abolition of nuclear weapons. Our youth group also had the opportunity to speak with and to listen to a survivor of the hiroshima bombing. All in all, this year's Peace Colloquy was a great experience.

—Jay Ytell



Rocky Mountain Mission Center

Delegates from Fort Collins for the World Conference in 2013 elected at the Mission Center Conference are:

Tom Beck, Max Coopwood, Vera and Brian Entwistle, Mary and Rich Kohlman, Shirley Remmenga, Dave Simons, and Sharon Troyer.

Delegates and alternates from Fort Collins for the National Conference in 2013 elected at the Mission Center Conference are:

Tom Beck, Mary and Rich Kohlman, Shirley Remmenga, Dave Simons, Sharon Troyer, with Vera and Brian Entwistle and Max Coopwood as alternates.

Fort Collins Congregation Offerings 2012 Disciples' Generous Response

Month	Total World	Total Local	Total Giving
January	1,890.00	3,119.50	5,009.50
February	1,803.50	3,035.00	4,838.50
March	2,278.00	21,746.00	24,024.00
April	2,353.00	3,938.00	6,291.00
May	1,736.00	2,870.50	4,606.50
June	1,809.00	2,385.00	4,194.00
July	1,883.00	2,781.00	4,664.00
August	1,605.00	2,401.00	4,006.00
September	2,083.00	3,220.50	5,303.50
October	1,654.00	2,934.00	4,588.00
November			
December			
TOTALS	\$ 19,094.50	\$ 48,430.50	\$ 67,525.00

Congregation Business Meeting

At our business meeting on **September 16**, the congregation accepted the auditor's report, elected delegates to the RMMC Conference (see below), approved a donation of \$3,300 to the mission center budget, and approved the ordinations of Marilyn Garner to the office of elder and Donna Clark to the office of teacher.

The leadership team was also elected or sustained for the coming year that began October 1. They are as follows:

Pastors:

Vera Entwistle, Vision and Mission
Kay Bunch, Outreach Ministries
Debbie Jones, Worship Ministries
Rich Kohlman, Managerial and
Communications Ministries
Dave Simons, Pastoral Ministries

Coordinators:

Marilyn Garner, Fellowship Ministries
Betty Jones, Stewardship Ministries
Gary Jones, Facilities Ministries
Carrie Newman and Sharon Fulton,
Education Ministries
Sharon Troyer, Spiritual Formation
Ministries
Brian Entwistle, Youth Ministries

Recorder: Jon Mendenhall

Congregational Financial Officer: Betty Jones

Historian: Max Coopwood

Secretary: Shari Smith

Auditor (two-year term): Donna Clark

(Dick Foster has one year remaining.)

Standing Committees:

Building Committee
Facilities, Leasing, and Marketing
WEAVERS

The business meeting on **December 9** will consider the 2013 budget and a resolution to fix our bee problem.

Proposed 2013 Budget
General Operating Fund – Fort Collins' Congregation

		Budget	
		Proposed	Approved
EXPENSES		2013	2012
<i>Vision and Mission – Pastor Vera Entwistle</i>			
Congregational and/or Leadership Retreat	1-B	2,500	500
Leadership Development & Training	1-C	300	300
<i>Outreach Ministries – Pastor Kay Bunch</i>			
Outreach Ministries	1-D	2,860	2,450
<i>Worship Ministries – Pastor Debbie Jones</i>			
New Hymnals	1-E	0	1,900
Organ & Piano Replacement	1-F	0	7,500
Other Worship Expenses	1-G	1,600	1,650
<i>Managerial, Communications – Pastor Rich Kohlman</i>			
Administrative Assistant	2-H	4,375	4,375
Herald & Communicator	2-I	1,100	1,400
Pastors' Expenses	2-J	650	750
Other Administrative Expenses	2-K	2,325	1,800
<i>Pastoral Ministries – Pastor Dave Simons</i>			
Pastoral Ministries	2-L	700	700
<i>Spiritual Formation Ministries – Coordinator Sharon Troyer</i>			
Spiritual Formation Ministries	4-YY	300	0
<i>Education – Coordinator Carrie Newman</i>			
Christian Education	3-M	1,000	1,000
<i>Stewardship – Coordinator Betty Jones, CSC</i>			
Immediate Community Needs	3-N	200	200
Insurance	3-O	6,400	6,100
Mission Center Support	3-P	3,300	3,000
Utilities	3-Q	8,650	8,600
Other Stewardship Expenses	3-R	560	730
<i>Fellowship – Coordinator Marilyn Garner</i>			
Special Occasion Meals & Activities	3-S	1,250	1,200
Young Adults	3-U	100	100
<i>Youth – Coordinator Brian Entwistle</i>			
Youth Ministries	3-T	2,000	2,300
<i>Facilities – Coordinator Gary Jones</i>			
Equipment – New & Repairs	3-V	1,100	1,000
Janitorial	4-W	3,700	3,500
Lawn Care/Snow Removal/Dumpster	4-X	2,500	2,500
Maintenance & Supplies	4-Y	3,800	3,400
Budget Contingency	4-Z	3,930	1,745
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$55,200	\$58,000
<u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u>			
General Offerings	4-AA	\$33,000	\$36,000
2 Cents a Meal Offerings	4-BB	600	750
Church Building – Net Income	5-GG	7,370	7,415
Courtyard Building – Net Income	5-HH	13,725	13,830
Youth Fund Raisers	4-EE	500	0
Interest Earned & Other	4-FF	5	5
TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS		\$55,200	\$58,000
EXPENSES LESS SOURCES OF FUNDS		\$ 0	\$ 0

Resolution for December 9 Business Meeting

Whereas, we have had a continuing problem with bees nesting in the soffit and or walls of the church building; and

Whereas, we have not been successful in stopping the bees penetration into the building; and

Whereas, Bob Fulton has done extensive research into a solution to the bee problem; therefore be it

Resolved, that the congregation approve an expenditure up to \$5,000 from the Building, Growth, and Expansion Fund, to resolve the bee problem in the spring of 2013 using the company that Bob Fulton believes can best resolve the problem, with the approval of the Leadership Council.



Soccer

Zach Fronapfel, a junior at Fort Collins High School just completed a very successful high school soccer season. He was named co-captain of his team this fall. At the team banquet held recently, it was announced that he had been selected First Team All-Conference and Honorable Mention All-State. He was also chosen "Male Athlete of the Month" at his high school. Congratulations, Zach!

"It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!"... Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!"

—Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

AN INVITATION FOR YOU

to Share in Explorations and Discussions
Regarding Our Ever-Present God

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit of God affects our daily lives; directs, heals and sustains us; and leads us to share love, joy, peace, and hope.

With this belief as our beginning, we are planning a series of discussions and explorations of how and where the Holy Spirit is working with us and others.

Presented by guest speakers, each offering will be coordinated by congregational leaders, such as Vera Entwistle, Sharon Troyer, Dick and Julie Foster, and others.

Even though this series is primarily for elders as opportunities to expand their ministry of spiritual awareness, all the activities are open to everyone who desires to improve their relationship with our ever-present God and are willing to attend with an open, receptive mind.

**Our first opportunity to share will be held on
Sunday, January 27, at the church from
1:30–3:30 p.m.**

**Great possibilities await those who choose
to accept this invitation.**

**If you have questions or wish to offer suggestions for
discussion and exploration,
please contact me – Brian Entwistle.
(entwistlebrianc@gmail.com)**



Women's Group Needs Members

The afternoon Women's Group was formed five years ago and is presently down to four members. We welcome others to join us.

We meet the second Thursday of each month—except for December, June, July, and August—at 1:00 p.m. at Vergean Wood's home, 3402 Seneca, St. Apt. A.

We selected making lap robes for Church Women United to give to nursing homes as our project when we formed. There is no sewing! If you can tie a knot, you're qualified. We also have book reports, exchange books, and do a lot of visiting.

If you want to bring your own projects and fellowship with us, that would be great! We are looking for a devotions chairwomen.

If interested, please call Vergean Wood, 204-1006, so she knows the number to plan for.



Community of Christ Sings

The new hymnal for the church will be released next year. We will be doing a pre-order for the congregation to get the discounted price of \$19.55. If you would like to order a hymnal to have at home, the musician's large-print edition, or the USB digital flash drive of keyboard accompaniment track recording for every song in the hymnal, please notify Rich Kohlman and we will add that to our congregation order. This will give all of us the best price and may also reduce the shipping costs.