



Fort Collins, Colorado

July, 2012

The Communicator

"The Wisdom of the Acorn"

—Sharon Troyer

The Focus Moments during our worship time have been wonderful recently. Many of you remember Shirley Remmenga handing out bean seeds and asking the children (old and young) to take them home and plant them. This invitation allowed families to watch seedlings emerge that could later be transplanted into a garden. The lesson was great "food for thought!"

At Easter, Brian Entwistle gave the children a chrysalis, and Max Coopwood read a story about how a caterpillar creates a cocoon. Inside this dark, confining place a beautiful butterfly could later emerge. In both of these examples, something had to die to its old self before the new form of life could be born.

It seems easier to make sense of these stories when we are talking about plants or insects, but when we begin to talk about people, especially ourselves, the meaning isn't so clear. Parables and the kind of stories that Jesus told were often like that; even his closest disciples didn't seem to understand them. I think it's harder for people to be willing to change than for other creatures. We identify too much with what we "think we should be" and not so much about what we might become. Teachers like Jesus understood how difficult it was for people to embrace change.

In a very small but wise book by Cynthia Bourgeault, *The Wisdom Way of Knowing*, there is a story about a community of acorns, all living at the base of a huge oak tree. A visiting acorn from out of town walks by, then looks up at the magnificent oak

tree. He then looked back at the acorns below and said, "We are that." Not liking this peculiar



"outsider" nor understanding his message at all, they questioned him with a highly critical attitude. The visitor then explained that in order to comprehend this new life, they would need to have their acorn shells crack open. In utter rebellion, they promptly replied, "Why, then we wouldn't be acorns anymore!"

How like us is that? The very thought of having to let go of a long-held form of identity is not easy. But spiritual maturity calls us to be willing to see ourselves differently, to recognize that when we identify with "outer appearances," or the masks of our ego or personality, we miss the joy of discovering our true identity!

Let's all join with the candidates in our congregation who are now looking forward to their baptism. In appreciating the symbolism of dying to our former selves, and being born to the newness of life, we are all called to expand our own understanding of what it means to see ourselves as children of God. We are being shaped, day after day, into more faithful expressions of the body of Christ. Embracing change, rather than resisting it, is part of the courage it takes to listen to the Holy Spirit. Only then can we march to the drum of prophetic voices not always represented by mainstream society.



Summer Schedule

Church school classes for both children and adults have ended for the year. They will resume on September 9.

The **new time** for our worship service began on June 10. Prelude will begin at 9:45 and the service will conclude at 11:00 a.m. We will resume our normal worship schedule on September 9.



Congregation Picnic!

Sunday, July 15, 2012, 6:00 p.m.

City Park Shelter, #7

Hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, and homemade ice cream for dessert is provided. Bring a salad or a side dish to share and any lawn games you might like to play. Entertainment is scheduled, and you might want to include some of the activities in City Park earlier in your day. Don't forget the bug spray and sunscreen.

Be sure to invite your family and friends to join us in the fun!



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.

Financial Report



May Income

World Church

Use where needed most	\$1,475.00
Invite People to Christ	5.00
Abolish Poverty/End Suffering	246.00
Pursue Peace on Earth	5.00
Develop Disciples to Serve	5.00
Experience Congregations in Mission	0.00
Total	\$1,736.00

Local

Local Offering	\$2,758.00
Building Fund	40.00
2 Cents a Meal	17.50
Family Assistance	50.00
Big Spruce Campground	5.00
Total	\$ 2,870.50

—Betty Jones, CFO

Summer Potlucks



The July potluck will be the picnic on July 15. The August potluck will be on August 12, in a location to be determined, during the NewWestFest when access to our building is blocked.

July Birthdays



James Miller	07/01
Walter Lamia	07/01
Betty Axelsen	07/03
Joan Green	07/04
Jay Ytell	07/04
Merly Pagat	07/05
Josh Birks	07/06
Rich Kohlman	07/10
Christy Harms	07/11
Larry Slocum	07/12
Marilyn Doig	07/13
Thelma Slocum	07/17
Betty Jones	07/17
Evie Birks	07/17
Shelton Thomas	07/19
Logan Miller	07/20
Madison Clark	07/22

Speakers, Keyboard, Greeters, and Nursery



Speakers

- ❖ July 1: Dick Foster
- ❖ July 8: Gil Pagat
- ❖ July 15: Nancy Miller
- ❖ July 22: Worship with Greeley and Loveland at La Paz
- ❖ July 29: Baptismal Service

Keyboard

- ❖ July 1: Tom Beck
- ❖ July 8: Kay Bunch
- ❖ July 15: Sharon Troyer
- ❖ July 22: NA
- ❖ July 29: Sharon Fulton

Greeters

- ❖ July: Kathy Bridwell and Betty Jones

Nursery

- ❖ July 1: Debbie Jones
- ❖ July 8: Bettie Miller

- ❖ July 15: Marta Remmenga
- ❖ July 22: NA
- ❖ July 29: Rose Julch



Getting to Know You!

Rich and Mary Kohlman are “visible” by their many invisible tasks.

Do you know who retrieves phone messages when you call the church office? Do you know who puts out the *Communicator*? Did you ever think about who makes the weekly church bulletins? Have you caught Rich on the back row of the musical presentations? Both Rich and Mary enjoy participating in our church choirs. Mary assists with children’s classes and helped teach the Preparing for Baptism class.

Interesting Facts about the Kohlmans

Like several couples in the congregation, Rich and Mary met at Graceland College and married in June after their senior year. They are graduates of four-year programs there—Rich in sociology and Mary in physical education, recreation, and health. Their early married life survived Rich’s suffering from the dreadful effects of “systemic lupus erythematosus,” which caused a major slowdown in his activities during most of his 30s and 40s. However, Rich has a wonderful testimony of his healing under the hands of Aleah Koury and receiving a kidney transplant from his oldest sister, Fay. He says that since he missed his 30s and 40s he is

now living them in his 50s and 60s. He has “gone retro,” living what he might have done in his earlier years. Rich and Mary enjoy



biking in a big way as well as hiking and snow shoeing. Rich is experimenting with photography, and Mary would like to get back

to working on art projects (if she can find the time).

An Impressive Church Heritage

Rich can trace his family heritage in the church back four generations on his mother's side, but Mary has a church heritage going back six generations on both sides of her family. Early in their relationship, Rich showed Mary a photo, hanging in Liberty Hall in Lamoni, Iowa, taken at one of the church General Conferences from the 1920s with his grandfather in it. Mary looked closer and pointed out her grandfather who was just behind and one person to the right. They were both seventies. Hmm.

Mary's grandmother Smith died of tuberculosis after her family moved to Arizona. Following her death, her grandfather married her grandmother's sister. To make it even more interesting, her grandfather's brother married another one of her grandmother's sisters. Because of this, her mother had a number of double cousins.

Rich's father served for many years as the bishop of Lamoni Stake; thus, allowing him the privilege of living in Liberty Hall for nine years (ask Rich about the "ghost of Joseph III" that dwells there and the joy of living in a drafty, historic church site). Mary's grandparents "gathered to Zion" from the West Coast and the East Coast, and she enjoyed the excitement of being active in the many Zion's League activities available in the Independence area.

The Life of a Church Appointee Family

Like many church appointees, Rich began working in his chosen field (which was social work) with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, taking time out to get his master's degree from Denver University from 1971-1973. From working in child welfare, he went on to work as a social worker for the Knox-Warren Special Education District. While in Illinois, Mary had opportunity to teach high school health and girls' physical education.

Then, in 1978, Rich began his orientation for appointment with the church.

His first assignment was as bishop for the Pacific Southwest Region, living in Fresno, California. Mary found that the Hmong refugees from Vietnam, living there, needed to learn English and adjust to basic life skills in the USA, so she set up a learning center at their Fresno congregation. After seven years of living in California's "paradise," they were assigned to Far West Stake where Rich served as Bishop for ten years. She eventually taught ESL (English as a Second Language) classes for ABE (Adult Basic Education) in St. Joseph and was able to take several courses in grammar to support her work. As Mary taught ESL classes in that area, with quite a mix of students from many cultures; she developed her own simplified means of communication—she calls it "ESLese." Her work was extremely rewarding: she felt that she "made a real difference" in people's lives. She also learned about many diverse cultures.

In 1996 Rich was reassigned as coordinator for staff pastoral services with his office in Human Resource Ministries in the Temple. In that role he was the pastor to the appointee and other staff and headquarters staff. He worked there for 13 years before taking an early retirement. This was a growing time for Mary: she started at Herald House working in marketing and shipping then moved to church headquarters working in the Temple as a proofreader for seven years and later as a copy editor for four years. She also worked teaching ESL and GED classes for ABE in the public schools in Independence.

Fort Collins Friends Make a Difference

Both Rich and Mary enjoy the outdoors; they had often vacationed in Colorado as children and also after they were married. The friendship of Marilyn and Earnie Garner, and the rest of the Jones clan, stems back to the early 70s when Rich attended the University of Denver. It played a large part in encouraging them to move to Colorado after retirement.

Also other retired appointee friends had gathered to Fort Collins, making it an even more attractive area for retirement!

How “People” People Volunteer

Rich and Mary both have a special concern for the homeless. They have helped with the homeless shelter and the meals served at the church, as well as being active with the Faith Family Housing program shared with the Mennonite church. Rich has been a mentor in the Rainbow Peak youth program (LGBT youth). They are both members of PFLAG and support civil rights for LGBT people. They also are close friends with a family who is dealing with transgender changes. Mary had the opportunity of copyediting the new GALA book, *Touched by Grace*, as well. Since they enjoy physical activities, such fund-raising efforts as the Crop Walk and Catholic Charities walk are natural ways for them to serve. But, did you know that Rich has done nine MS150 bike rides and five or six diabetes bike rides and raised at least \$30,000—hitting some fund raising peaks? (And Mary has tagged along for two of the MS150 rides and one diabetes ride.)

Families Are Most Important

Many know that Rich and Mary have traveled to Brazil to visit their grandchildren, Jasmin and Eduardo, on six occasions. That is because their son, Simeon Kohlman Rabbani, is married to a Brazilian, Emilia, a professor in civil engineering, in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil. Simeon has a bachelor’s degree in computer science and a master’s degree in geography. Simeon’s family is currently living in Haifa, Israel, volunteering at the Bahá’í headquarters.

Their other son, Jeremy, lives in Kansas City where he works at Children’s Mercy Hospital as a transport dispatcher. He recently married Talisha, a nurse. She works at St. Luke’s Hospital, in the heart transplant unit. Both boys have made their parents proud of their accomplishments.

Rich and Mary are the younger children in their families, having siblings that are older than they are. Rich is the fourth of five children, and Mary is the third of three. They enjoyed a “Kohlman Kruse” this June to Alaska on the Celebrity Line which included many members of the family—a couple of Rich’s sisters and their husbands, a niece, and best of all, Jeremy and Talisha, for a delayed wedding present from members of Rich’s family.

—Beverly Doig, reporter

July Calendar



Check the website

<http://cofchristrm.org/FortCollins>

- July 1: Communion
First-Sunday Giving
- July 4: Independence Day
- July 8: Two-Cents-A-Meal
- July 9: WEAVERS, 4:00 p.m.
PFLAG, 7:00 p.m.
- July 11: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Worship Coordinators, 10:45 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
- July 15: Congregation Picnic, 6:00 p.m.
- July 18: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Pastors Meeting, 10:45 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.
Leadership Council, 4:00 p.m.
- July 22: *Communicator* items due.
Worship with Greeley and Loveland at La Paz
- July 25: *Upper Room*, 9:30 a.m.
Senior Meal Site, 11:45 a.m.

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			
July			
August			
September			
October			
November			
December			
TOTALS	\$ 10,060.50	\$ 34,709.00	\$ 44,769.50