



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

September 1, 2012

Office Manager:

Kirsten Bayne (ext 21)

Christian Education Minister:

Tracy Morgan, Director (ext 24)

Custodians:

Max & Marcia Peters

Music Ministers:

Troy Schuh, Pianist

Nursery Coordinator:

Tammy Swartz (ext 24)

Wedding Coordinator:

Kathy Vaughn

Youth Minister:

Rachel Nelson (ext 22)

Licensed Ministers:

Pam Hilliard

Tracy Morgan

Dennis Miller

LifeCare Email:

fcclifecare@comcast.net

Sunday Morning Services:

8:30 Traditional Service

9:50 Sunday School for all ages

10:45 Contemporary Service

**If you have information for our
Link, please e-mail that
information to:**

kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org

By the 15th of each month.

During World War II, a US marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades.

Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed.

As he waited, he prayed, "Lord, if it be your will, please protect me. Whatever your will though, I love you and trust you. Amen."

After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, "Well, I guess the Lord isn't going to help me out of this one." Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave.

As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave. "Hah, he thought. "What I need is a brick wall and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. God does have a sense of humor."

As the enemy drew closer he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while. "Lord, forgive me," prayed the young man. "I had forgotten that in you a spider's web is stronger than a brick wall."

We all face times of great trouble. When we do, it is so easy to forget the victories that God would work in our lives, sometimes in the most surprising ways. As the great leader, Nehemiah, reminded the people of Israel when they faced the task of rebuilding Jerusalem, "In God we will have success!" [Nehemiah 2:20]

Remember: Whatever is happening in your life, with God, a mere spider's web can become a brick wall of protection. Believe He is with you always.

Just speak His name through Jesus, His Son, and you will see His great power and love for you.

Rachel's Remarks

Living Our Mission

Many of you were present in worship on August 5 and heard our youth mission participants sharing stories of their summer mission experiences. It was a blessing to be able to share our stories with so many of you, and I am quite proud of our youth, some of whom had never spoken that much in front of a large group of people!

In late June and early July, high schoolers Andy, Lizzy, Lindsey, River, and Miranda traveled with Ben Nelson and myself to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeastern Montana. We participated in a Group Workcamp, themed "Made", based upon the scripture excerpt from Revelation 21:5, "Look, I am making all things new". Along with roughly 240 other youth and sponsors, we worshipped our Savior, contemplated scripture, and served many people of the reservation by repairing and renewing their damaged homes. Our group specifically worked on the weatherization and exterior painting of the home of a woman named Lois. Our servant minded and hard working youth endured record temperatures without complaint, were disappointed when a power outage and wildfire created need for an unscheduled day off mid-week, and pulled together to successfully finish their assigned projects on time (and with care to provide quality work) despite the day off. As Lois saw her home renewed, and heard of our interest in learning about her heritage, she shared more and more of her life, gratitude, and spirituality with us. We left with a new appreciation for the value of a coat of paint and the dignity it restores to its owner, for a culture who holds their spirituality and heritage sacred, and for each other and the many ways we see the Holy Spirit working in and through us.

These trips are an extension of the heart of our church, our youth representing our congregation and our Creator as they journey into unfamiliar settings with openness to the Holy Spirit and a desire to live into Jesus' call to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt. 5). These experiences encompass every part of our youth ministry mission statement, and are both formative and transformative in the lives and faith of our youth. Thank you for your support!

With hope and gratitude,
Rachel

Weekly Youth Meetings

for youth in grades 6 – 12

Sundays: Rush Hour

Our Youth class is taking a break for the summer; we will start back up September 9 in the NW corner youth room

Wednesdays: Xone 77

Regular Xone meetings for grades 6-12 will begin August 29, 6-8pm at the church.

Upcoming Youth Events

Xone 77 Kick Off

August 29, 6-8pm

Our youth group for grades 6-12 will be kicking off the school year with a warm welcome night. This is a great night to meet everyone and set the tone for the coming year!

Rush Hour Kick Off

September 9 after worship

Our middle and high school class will be exploring our faith, learning and growing through watching and discussing the Nooma video series

CRMR Youth Service Day

October 6

This will be a day of service at the food bank in the Denver area with other youth groups from around the region. Stay tuned for more information as plans are solidified!

Want more info? Email

Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org if you'd like to join the youth e-news list, and/or "like" us on Facebook! – just search for "Xone 77 Youth" to find our page.

FCC Youth Ministry Mission Statement

Our Youth Ministry exists to **EXPOSE** teenagers to God's love, to **CONNECT** them with other Christians and help them **GROW** in their faith, challenging them to **SEEK** God's presence and to **SERVE** others for Christ.

Tracy's TidBits

Have you ever said something that you believed was honest and true to the way you believed God was leading you but then have to end up doing something that seems totally opposite to what you said. I find myself in that situation right now. Last month in this very newsletter I wrote about sticking with the church and remaining involved and not running away. I truly believe that was inspired by God and from what I've heard some of you were inspired by my words. What I have to do next though makes me seem like a hypocrite. I am quitting my position on the church staff. My last day will be August 31, 2012. I have been extremely blessed in my ministry here but am feeling called to other ministries right now that are not part of my paid staff position and to spend more time with my family.



I will continue to send out a monthly newsletter (ParentLink) to families we've been blessed to serve. I will also volunteer in various capacities including teaching children, youth, and adults (I would like to start a Disciple 1 class in January); preaching when called upon to do so; leading children's moments; leading pastoral prayers and communion meditations; I will continue to be involved in the region's camp ministry; and, if needed I will write an article for the *Link*. I also am currently on the board for the Central Rocky Mountain Region and am serving on the Committee on Standing also for the region and will voluntarily serve in these rolls for the region. I am very involved in my service in senior living facilities as I am visiting Sterling House 2 days a week for prayer groups and lead a worship service for them once a month. I plan on expanding my ministry in this area to include other facilities and / or adding Bible studies. I find that mostly the need is for companionship in this group and enjoy visiting.

I have been greatly blessed by my ministry in Christian Education and hope that I have been a blessing in this area but am feeling that I can no longer serve as a staff person. Thank you for allowing me to serve God's children in this area for the past ten years.



I've thought about this a lot since I did not want to be the hypocrite this may make me seem when you first read it or hear it and I've concluded that this is the best way for me to not be a hypocrite. I could not be devoted to this church if I had to continue in a ministry I no longer felt called to. I believe that is a sure path to burn out where people do end up leaving the church. I also believe that maybe some of you have been called to some of the things that I'd been doing for so long that it was autopilot and that you may have new ideas and interests that will be refreshing to the ministry and to the church. I know

that some of you will consider this simply justification for hypocrisy and that's okay. I'd love to talk to you about it after worship or a class. Watch for me and I'll be around.

Tracy Morgan

Commissioned Minister
First Christian Church of Loveland



Church in the World

Global Ministries has provided us with a year of missionaries that we can pray for each week. Each month I will give you the featured people that we can be praying for. Feel free to visit the Global Ministries web page to find a Weekly Prayer. www.globalministries.org

September 2nd. Xuyen Dangers Laos
September 9th Carmelo Alvarez Venezuela
September 16th Aaron Wiggins Fiji
September 23rd Jeanette Salley Haiti
September 30th Michael Joseph Colombia

First Sunday Food

First Sunday food collections are going great, thank you to all who are making this Ministry so valuable to our local community. You will find below what we as the Body of Christ have collected in August, along with what food items are for the rest of the year. Thank you for being the Hands and Feet of Christ! If you have any questions regarding this ministry please contact Tammy Swartz.



August- FCC collected 95 standard boxes of Mac & Cheese, 3 deluxe boxes, 5 family boxes, 9 microwaveable, 4-Hamburger Helper, Ketchup, Ranch, 9-cans of Tuna, 1-Enfamil Formula, 4-lg Peanut Butter. 4-Lg Grape Jelly, 1-small peanut butter, 3-Ensures, Pancake mix, Splenda, 1-box of cereal. All of this totaled 103.8lbs and an approx. value of \$163.00

September-Canned Meat

October-Canned Vegetables

November-Dry Mixes (muffin mix, cake mix, stuffing, seasonings, flour, sugar)

December-Canned Meat

Habitat for Humanity "Build-a-thon"

The week of September 10 is the time for this project to begin building four houses on 27th Street, just west of Conrad Ball Middle School on Monroe.

On Tuesday evening there will be a dedication of the lots. Construction will be on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Habitat is asking that we provide crews of 5 or 2 crews of 5 each to work on ONE of the three days. These will not be long days. They are also asking that we donate \$100 for each member of the crew to help with some of the expense of the project.

If this is a mission you would be willing to help, please let Harvey, Dennis Miller, or Lanny Helzer know of your willingness to be involved. Harvey Ruegsegger

OWLS Outing

The OWLS will be meeting at the church for a Hot Dog Roast on Friday September 14 at 11:30 AM. Please use the sign up sheet on the bulletin board to let us know you are coming. All are welcome. Questions-contact Bonnie Ruegsegger or Ann McSay.

Upcoming Preaching Schedule

Sept. 2 – Rev Pam Hilliard

Sept. 9 – Rev Tracy Morgan

Sept. 16 – Rev Kathryn Sparks

Sept. 23 – Rev Pam Hilliard

Sept. 30 – Rev Pam Hilliard

Oct. 7 – Rev Cheryl Breiner

Report on the New Projector Project

The new projector is installed and working beautifully in the Sanctuary, and while I have several details yet to finish, I want to share part of the story with you.

You see, I did a children's sermon on August 5th about Loaves and Fishes and there are parallels (another word for parables) that I need to share. I spent many weeks researching what kind of projector we needed. The whole universe of what was available has changed so much since we bought the old one 12 years ago. I saw what the City of Ft. Collins uses, but that was well beyond our means. The persons who helped with the decision back then were only able to give us very limited time and useful information.

I felt pretty inadequate at times. Then in a seemingly unrelated issue, Dawn Todd wanted to do some seminars and donate to the Church for the space use, to help us with our budget needs. That involved getting a remote to use for her Power Point slides. The best price for that led me to a vendor I had never heard of offering "open box, like new merchandise". For just under \$100 (which was donated), it was worth a shot, and it turned out great. Good Remote, free shipping, over \$30 saved and it worked perfectly.

It probably took me 2-3 days to think "I wonder if they have projectors". They did, but their guarantees were so good, it was almost scary. Free shipping, Open Box, if I wasn't happy with it, return it at their expense within 45 days for a full refund. One projector in particular caught my eye. I hadn't researched it much because it was definitely out of my price range (Mfgr. sug.

retail near \$6000), so I did some quick research. I was looking for a \$1500 or less projector because I had asked you for a \$2000 budget (\$1500 for projector plus \$500 for installation and other additions needed), and you provided it.

Minimum new internet price was \$2700 - \$3700 and that didn't include a lens. Research on lenses ranged from \$600 - \$1800. They were offering 1 only for \$1335. Almost all of the additions I needed were built in and I thought I could make the \$600 lens work. It took me 2-3 hours to decide "I just can't let this get away". I ordered it. Then it took 5 nervous days to get it shipped to the Church via my credit card approved. (They usually only allow you to hold a purchase for 1 day).

It arrived with the batteries for the remote still in their package and 0 hours on the projector. It was in perfect shape, never even turned on in my estimate, probably returned originally when someone else didn't realize there would be no lens. I ordered the rest of what we needed.

We now have a brand new, \$6000 projector, for just under \$2000. I wouldn't have believed it either, but this story is not about what I did, but what God did, given access to our resources and effort.

Brian and his crew just did that with \$500 to fix what had been quoted to us as almost \$5000 to repair the Sanctuary Air Conditioner.

Which brings me back to Loaves and Fishes, or mustard seeds or any number of Biblical stories. Just what can God do with this Church, given access to our resources and effort? Let's see!

In Christian Love, Bob Tinnen



A Brief History of Sunday School: By Jeri Tanner

For many of us, Sunday school is a deeply rooted tradition, although it is actually a rather modern institution. Have you ever wondered about the origins and history of Sunday school? If so, here are a few facts you may find interesting. The idea of a "Sabbath school" for poor and uneducated children began in England in the late 18th century. Visionary evangelicals like Robert Raikes devised a plan to gather poor, uneducated working children into education classes on Sundays, the children's only day off. Clean clothes and learning materials were provided, and instruction given in reading, writing, hygiene and good citizenship. The churches hoped that this effort would serve the dual purpose of bettering the future of society and curbing the rampant delinquency. Though neither evangelism nor religious training were the expressed goals of the new schools, there was the hope that the morality taught, being based on the truths of Scripture, might bring about a transformation in the hearts of the children. And so the Sabbath or Sunday school was born. By the early 1800's, the goals of the Sunday schools were changing. Young, newly converted Presbyterians saw the Sunday School as an opportunity to teach the gospel and doctrine to children; in fact, many Sunday School leaders began to lobby for free public schools for the needy, so that they could concentrate on religious instruction. The regeneration and conversion of children now became the goal. As this focus grew, Sunday school students were often encouraged to memorize large portions of the Bible, earning prizes and incentives for doing so. This idea was dropped when it was realized that the students were more interested in the prizes than in God's word! In America, the first national Sunday School effort began in 1824; its stated purpose was to organize, evangelize and civilize. The focus was intentionally evangelical, and so within the next 100 years the Sunday School had become the primary outreach arm of the church. The Sunday School organization now expanded to include all ages. Sunday School became a way for unbelievers to be introduced to, and then assimilated into, the life of the church. By the late 1800's, Sunday School was looked to as the main hope for church growth, a view that continued until the mid-twentieth century. Sunday School attendance has seen a slow decline in the last 50 or so years. One factor generally agreed to be a reason for this is the shift away from evangelism and toward discipleship and fellowship over the last half century or so. Studies do indicate that where Sunday Schools are thriving and growing, church membership increases. The idea of Sunday School as a primary opportunity for evangelism may be new to some of us. Is it possible that a return to that model could help revitalize our churches?

I personally found this article to very interesting; just think what could happen to our church if our Sunday School program doubled this year. With the information in the above article I challenge all of you to bring a child/grandchild/neighbor with you to church & Sunday School.

Blessings, Tammy Swartz Sunday School Coordinator



Sunday School Kick off will be Sunday September 9, 2012 starting at 10:30 a.m. right after church most classes will be finished up by 11:30 a.m. please ask your fearless leader when your class will be done for the day. Grab a cup of coffee & donut and head to a class for some fellowship along with learning something new this fall. If you know of families that would be interested in attending any of our classes please extend to them the right hand of Christian Fellowship.

The following classes will be featured this fall.

Children classes will be held in Education Wing:

Preschool taught by Miranda Swartz

Kindergarten through 2nd grade taught by Linda Fuches

3rd through 5th grade will get to experience many teachers/leaders from our church. The first set of teachers will be Lee and Kathryn Sparks and Anita Folk for the month of September.

6th through 12th grade will be with our Youth Director Rachel Nelson

Adults:

Bible 101 will be studying in the books of Timothy 1 & 2 this class is located in the Stepping Stones Room down the Educational wing. This class is open to all; if you need more information please contact Lyle Hinkle at 970-662-8902.

Bev Reeves will be starting a class up as well; the topic is yet to be determined due to all the choices. Watch for more info, this class will meet in the Fire Side Parlor by the office.

Harvey Ruegsegger will also begin his video classes in Minerally hall. These classes are always filled with lots of information and great discussion. Be watching for the up and coming title of the first week.

Report from the Mission Field

In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul wrote, “I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.” This is our sentiment as we write these words to you today! It has been seventeen weeks since you commissioned and blessed us for missionary work beyond the walls of First Christian Church. We miss you all very much, but God has blessed our ministries in mighty ways as we glorify him through our labors. I love the words of gold-medal winning gymnast Gabby Douglas as she was interviewed during the recent Olympics. When asked about how it felt to win a gold medal, she said, “I just send the glory up to God, and he sends the blessings down to me!” That has certainly been the case with us, and we thank you for all the support you have given us through your prayers, time, and talents!

Lifetree Café

As you are reading this, we will have done nineteen sessions at the Lifetree Café located in the Comfort Inn on Eisenhower. We’ve discussed such diverse topics as the internet, worry, Mormons, sexual abuse, atheism, self-confidence, aliens (from outer space), crop circles, and the *Bible*. We’ve also had sessions on China’s one-child policy and recovery from genocide in Rwanda. Thanks to the generosity of the friends attending Life Tree Café, we have been able to donate to such causes as eliminating malaria in Mali, supporting baby girls in China, sending prescription glasses abroad to help people see, and helping victims of the High Park fire right here at home. Over 300 friends have attended sessions at Lifetree Café at the Comfort Inn and up till now, we have only had one session per week on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. The response has been so good that we will begin a second session on Wednesdays at 12:00 noon, starting on September 12th! God has blessed this ministry and continues to do so!

Preaching and Living the Word

The Lord has allowed Dennis to preach his Word at fifteen services since FCC sent us out. We have been welcomed at both Sterling House retirement facilities here in Loveland, Peace Community Church of the Brethren in Windsor, and First Christian Church in Cheyenne. We have attended most of these services as a “team”. In addition, Dennis worked as clergy at the spring Walk to Emmaus in Cheyenne and will service as spiritual director for the fall walk to be held at FCC later this month. Dennis continues to serve the community in his role as a volunteer chaplain for the Loveland Police Department. We both continue to serve our church as elders. Even though we cannot often attend services here, we are visiting our shut-in members regularly. Last, but certainly not least, we both helped again this year with the Shiprock Scramble Golf Tournament to raise money for housing renovations on the Navajo reservation in New Mexico. Dennis served as chairperson/registrar and Barbara worked at the check-in table on August 18th.

We are in prayer often for you and our church in these times of turbulence, transition, and transformation. We appreciate all **your** prayers, positive affirmations, and friendship as we continue our work throughout the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church – Disciples of Christ. We trust that this report will update you on the work we continue to do with God’s support. Please feel free to contact us for more details, or, better yet...come to visit us at Lifetree Café! We are always looking for new folks there, too. If you know of someone who might enjoy an upcoming episode at Lifetree, recommend us! Calendars listing future episodes are posted throughout the church. Thank you, and God bless you all!

Yours in Christ,

Dennis and Barbara Miller

September Birthdays

TINNEN, Bob	1-Sep
BRIGGS, Betty	2-Sep
MILLER, Dennis	2-Sep
HELZER, Lanny	3-Sep
VIGIL, Andria	4-Sep
PRATT, Wanda	5-Sep
WALKER, Joyce	5-Sep
OSBORN, Sue	6-Sep
ZEILER, Shari	8-Sep
CAREY, Bill	10-Sep
BERGSTROM, Robert	11-Sep
WRAY, Mary Lee	13-Sep
CARTER, Ed	14-Sep
ALTAMIRANO, Giovanni	17-Sep
MCSAY, Ann	17-Sep
TINNEN, Mike	17-Sep
HALSEY, Larry	18-Sep
WOHLMAN, Jerry	18-Sep
KEELER, Kenneth	19-Sep
KELLUMS, Megan	19-Sep
RAEL, Job	19-Sep
WALL, Mary	19-Sep
WHITING, Peggy	25-Sep
STUART, John	26-Sep
DAVIS, Wilma	27-Sep
SPRAGUE, Brooke	27-Sep
SHARRAR, FayeAnne	29-Sep
BROWNRIGG, Dan	30-Sep
SCHLINGMAN, William	30-Sep
WALLACE, Paul	30-Sep
WHITE, Jean	30-Sep

September Anniversaries

LEKAN, Mike & Rebecca Heller	2-Sep
ROBERTS, Jim & Mary	2-Sep
DAVIS, Les & DeLois	4-Sep
DEPPERSCHMIDT, Rod & Nancy	4-Sep
CAREY, Bill & Dorothy	11-Sep
FREEMAN, Bob & Marion	11-Sep
FLORES, James & Shelly	13-Sep
WHITING, Richard & Peggy	16-Sep
BASS, Ed & Sandy	17-Sep
PAYNE, Larry & Bev	21-Sep
WRAY, Hugh & Mary Lee	27-Sep

SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9a Worship 10a Classes <i>First Sunday Food— canned meats</i>	3 Labor Day Church Office Closed 6p Women's reunion group	4	5 10:30a Trustees 6p Xone 77 6p Reach 7p FCC Praise Team 7p Life Tree Café	6	7 7:15a Men's reunion group 7p Friday Night Worship	8
9 9a Worship 10a Classes	10 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries Team	11 7p Outreach & Evangelism Team	12 6p Xone77 6p Reach 7p FCC Praise Team 7p Life Tree Café	13	14 7:15a Men's reunion group 7p Friday Night Worship	15 Link Deadline
16 9a Worship 10a Classes	17 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	18 7p Mary's Circle	19 6p Xone77 6p Reach 7p FCC Praise Team 7p Life Tree Café	20	21 7:15a Men's reunion group 7p Friday Night Worship	22
23 9a Worship 10a Classes	24 6p Women's reunion group	25 7p Elders Meeting	26 6p Xone77 6p Reach 7p FCC Praise Team 7p Life Tree Café	27 Women's Walk to Emmaus	28 Women's Walk to Emmaus	29 Women's Walk to Emmaus
30 Women's Walk to Emmaus 9a Worship 10a Classes						

First Christian Church
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Last But Not Least

Vision Statement

Our vision is to be a growing, welcoming, diverse community of faith that worships, shares, and expresses through our service the love of God.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to know, grow, and show the love of God.

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