



Connecting  
Us with God and  
one another

February 1, 2014

**Interim Senior Pastor:**

Michael Stein (ext 30)

**Office Manager:**

Kirsten Bayne (ext 21)

**Custodians:**

Max & Marcia Peters

**Music Ministers:**

Troy Schuh, Pianist

Karen Lee, Organist

Gina Schuh-Turner,

Choir Director

**Nursery Coordinator:**

Tammy Swartz (ext 24)

**Wedding Coordinator:**

Kathy Vaughn

**Minister to Emerging**

**Generations:**

Rachel Nelson (ext 22)

**Commissioned Ministers:**

Pam Hilliard

Tracy Morgan

**LifeCare Email:**

[fcclifecare@comcast.net](mailto:fcclifecare@comcast.net)

**Sunday Morning Services:**

9:00 Worship Service

10:10 Sunday School for all ages

10:50 Interactive Worship

If you have information for our

Link, please e-mail that

information to:

[kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org](mailto:kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org)

By the 15th of each month.



financial  
ministry

## 2013 Year End Summary

Don Stoppel, Treasurer

### General Fund

For 2013 the congregation approved a budget of \$254,850 to carry out the ministries of the church. We finished the year with total expenses of \$251,079, with thanks to our church staff and volunteers for savings in the cost of insurance, office expenses and building maintenance.

Through the generous giving of the congregation and greater than anticipated building use, our general fund income for 2013 exceeded projections by about \$5,000.

### HVAC Renovation Project

As reported last month by the Trustees, the final figure for the HVAC loan was about \$110,000, to with principal and interest to be paid over 15 years. Designated gifts received since completion have been applied to principal and reduced anticipated repayment period to less than 14 years, which also results in less interest paid over the life of the loan.

The congregation began paying back the loan to the Trustee managed funds in autumn of 2013, and continues to make budgeted monthly payments of \$760 in principal and interest.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship in support of our congregation ministries.

## TOWARD SPIRITUAL MATURITY

*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways.*



This past weekend I officiated in another wedding ceremony in which the couple had chosen 1 Corinthians 13 as the scripture to be shared with those in attendance. The exposition from Paul on the qualities of love is probably the most popular such reading for weddings – even though he is not addressing it to romantic lovers, but to the church and to all Christians.

Most often for these occasions, the verse above is cut out; it doesn't fit so well for the occasion and (as is frequently the case with Paul's writings) seems to interrupt a train of thought. However, these few words go to the heart of the point Paul is trying to make. He writes to a congregation who have demonstrated spiritual immaturity through their thoughts and their behavior. He is basically telling them to "grow up". Where Jesus invited followers to have a child-like faith, Paul tells Christians to grow beyond being child-ish. There is a difference.

Where do we see childish behavior and words in the church? Here are few examples:

***"I'll just take my toys and go home"***. These are words heard from children who are playing together and not getting their own way. Although Jesus prayed and gave his life for the unity of his church, spiritually immature Christians continue to pack up and leave at the first sign of disagreement. They may run off to join another congregation, or even form a new one when seemingly none of the other dozens of churches in a community can exactly fit their viewpoint or the way they think things should be run.

***"Hey! Hey! Look at me!"*** When we are children, we are reassured when we're the center of attention. If we mature as we get older, we learn to share the spotlight and not be resentful when it moves away from us. In a similar fashion, spiritually immature Christians see the church as a theater to act out and involve others in their own personal drama. Even when the congregation rallies around a member in moments of joy or times of sorrow, the spiritual children will seek a way to redirect attention and make it about *them*.

***"Is not! Is So!"*** It is not Paul's position that Christians will never disagree. What he does say is that love should rule even in contention, and that mature Christians will work toward resolution, reconciliation, and unity. This is difficult in our current culture, where even the act of listening to another viewpoint is seen as weakness and compromise as treason.

***"They'll be sorry when I'm gone!"*** When a child feels hurt or upset, a common fantasy is to be able to disappear and yet observe how those around commiserate over the absence. Likewise, the immature Christian may be tempted to withdraw their presence or their financial support from the life of the congregation, in the hopes that someone will see the error of their ways and ask them to come back.

The walk to spiritual maturity is ***a lifelong journey***. None of us – young or old, clergy or laity, longtime Christian or new believer – is immune to moments of childish thought or behavior. In the times when we feel we've been injured, ignored, or insufficiently appreciated, it's natural for us revert to our childhood. When the winds of change are swirling around us, the familiar and the comfortable are desirable above all else.

The Old Testament scriptures give us many examples of heroes of the faith moving in and out of maturity. They do great things and show great faith in one moment, only to turn and act childishly in another. In the Gospels, Jesus' disciples bicker like children about who is the greatest, and sometimes sound like they're on a playground.

Even Jesus, in moments of anger and confrontation, resorts to name-calling and sarcastic remarks. Clearly this human instinct is so strong that even one who is also divine struggles to overcome.

Paul's answer, straight from Jesus, is that we move to spiritual maturity as we seek to love each other; the love that is patient and kind -- not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love that does not insist on its own way, and is not irritable or resentful; rejoicing not in wrongdoing, but in the truth.

As we move into a new year in faith and fellowship together, can we each "grow up" and show each other and the entire world a "more excellent way"?

*Love, Grace and Peace,  
Michael*

## Sexuality and Spirituality...

It isn't often that you hear about sexuality being discussed at length in church, in fact the general perception out there still seems to be that "church people" regard sexuality as a taboo subject, something to be expressed within the context of marriage and not otherwise discussed (with the exception of the teenage purity campaign and an additional list of "don't"s for all ages). Schools cover some aspects of sexuality, primarily anatomy, reproduction, and sexually transmitted infections, but this form of sex education is still not comprehensive. Many teens end up learning quite a bit from their friends, from exploration, and from the internet (which as many of us know is rampant with unhealthy images and misrepresentation. Though there are a few good sites out there, they aren't necessarily the ones our teens find.) Many teens experience consequences that will impact them deeply, including unplanned pregnancies, infection (some curable, some permanent, some deadly), and the emotional trauma of engaging in acts of intimacy for which they were not ready and/or with a partner who does not value them.

Our response is to embrace sexuality education as a vital part of our youth ministry. We believe wholeheartedly that God intentionally created us as sexual beings and that our sexuality is therefore a gift from God, meant to be developed and cared for with understanding and purpose. We teach a series of courses with specially trained teachers utilizing a comprehensive curriculum thoughtfully researched (including timely updates) and written by Rev. Linda and Richard Goddard of CLER Ministries. This winter we are teaching the "Just Say Know" course for high school students. This 20 hour course addresses all aspects of sexuality from a faith-based perspective while still being scientifically accurate and culturally relevant. We teach not only the science and mechanics of sexuality, but also the emotional impacts and spiritual purpose. We allow teens to ask questions in an anonymous, welcoming environment, and research factual, thoughtful answers that are presented without shame or judgment. We explore relationship and dating issues, providing tools for our teens to identify healthy vs. unhealthy relationships. We also provide tools and information to help our students decide where and how to set boundaries in relationships so that they are equipped to make the healthiest decisions for themselves in regards to their self worth, their human relationships (both current and with their future spouse), and their faithful relationship with God.

This ministry has proven to be invaluable to our teens, and is one of my greatest passions in youth ministry. I welcome your questions, and if you feel inspired to help support the continuation of this ministry I have ideas and welcome conversation.

With hope and gratitude,  
Rachel

## **IMPORTANT INFO AND UPCOMING DATES**

**FOR YOUTH:**  
including grades 6 - 12

### **Youth Group**

Join us on Sundays from 4:30-6:30. Our youth group is a welcoming group of youth who love to spend time together sharing their lives, talking about God, worshipping God, serving others, and of course having fun!

Sweets for the Sweet

Feb. 9 after worship

Please join us for brunch and dessert auction, hosted by the Diaconate and Greeters to raise funds for our 2014 youth mission trips! All are welcome – youth please come prepared to help with the auction!

### **CRMR Mid-Winter Retreat** Feb. 14-17

Please pray for our youth and adults participating in this regional youth retreat. The theme is "Standing for Justice and Truth" and keynote will be Rev. Daphne Gascot Arias.

**Find us on Facebook!**  
[facebook.com/FCCLovelandYouth](https://www.facebook.com/FCCLovelandYouth)

## **FOR YOUNG ADULTS:**

### **College Aged YA Gathering**

First and third Saturday each month, 5:30 pm

Our young adults aged 18-23(ish) from Loveland, Fort Collins, and Greeley will be meeting for fellowship, study, and service. All adults in that age range are welcome regardless of student status!

**Post College YA Gathering**  
Day and time tbd



### **OWLS Outing (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)**

The OWLS will meet at the church at 10:30 am Thursday February 13, 2014. Pastor Michael will host a movie with popcorn and discussion. Fellowship will continue with lunch at Runza (or a group choice of ?).

All are welcome to join the group. An indication of your expected attendance is welcome on the sign up sheet near the kitchen but come even if you don't sign up. Message if you need -- thanks Ann

### **Crop and Craft at First Christian Church in Loveland March 28th-29th**

Friday 5pm-Saturday 7pm: spend the night OR sleep at home!

Cost: \$25 total: \$20 donation to the House of Neighborly Service (food pantry, housing assistance, etc for the needy in Larimer County) and \$5 for cropping tools to use for the retreat.

\*Sleeping arrangements at the church or go home for the night (whichever you prefer), BYO food/potluck.

RSVP to Julie Estrada (970) 396-4695 by March 17th by phone and with payment.

### **First Sunday Food**

- February**-Soups-Canned-Dry
- March**-Mac & Cheese, Ramen
- April**-Canned Fruit
- May**-Pasta & Sauce
- June**-Dry Cereal

### **Christian Ed Announcements**

There will be no Sunday School on February 9th, I would like to encourage all of our families and guest to participate in the "Sweets for Sweets" event right after church.

The Faith Living Youth Group (FLY) will be meeting once a month until the end of the school year. Our next schedule gathering for 1st-5th graders will be February 9th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. with a light dinner being served to all who attend. The following is our schedule for the remainder of the school year; March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th. For more information on this please contact Tammy Swartz 970-962-9612

### **Sweets for the Sweet Brunch and Auction Sunday, February 9**

Everyone is invited to stay following worship for the Sweets for the Sweet Brunch and auction on Sunday, February 9. The Brunch is free, but a free-will offering and auction of sweets will be accepted for the benefit of youth ministries.

The Diaconate and Greeters are hosts for this fellowship event. The entire congregation is invited to contribute "sweets" for the auction especially homemade items from your favorite recipes. Please drop donated items off in the kitchen before worship that day.

This event Raised over \$1300.00 last year to help fund youth ministries - let's top that this year! For details or questions please contact Diaconate Chair Linda Imel at 909-816-9000 or email at [softly2001@yahoo.com](mailto:softly2001@yahoo.com)

## February Birthdays

<b>BOVEE, Mildred</b>	1-Feb
<b>COMBS, Jan</b>	1-Feb
<b>KAUFFMAN, Doris</b>	1-Feb
<b>SPRAGUE, Bob</b>	1-Feb
<b>HARRELL, Kathleen</b>	4-Feb
<b>DAYHUFF, Pat</b>	9-Feb
<b>HALL, Ann</b>	9-Feb
<b>LIESINGER, Frances</b>	9-Feb
<b>VAN METER, Debra</b>	12-Feb
<b>MAGNUSON, Cherylene</b>	14-Feb
<b>YOUNG, Kevyn</b>	15-Feb
<b>GAINES, Jean</b>	16-Feb
<b>HESNAULT-THALKEN, Zoey</b>	16-Feb
<b>DAVIS, Les</b>	17-Feb
<b>PERRY, Hollie</b>	17-Feb
<b>SPARKS, Elijah</b>	20-Feb
<b>TODD, Bob</b>	20-Feb
<b>MITCHELL, Shirley</b>	21-Feb
<b>PARIS, Doris</b>	21-Feb
<b>HAUGHEY, Daniel</b>	22-Feb
<b>KNAUS, Christina</b>	23-Feb
<b>FAIRBANKS, Sharon</b>	25-Feb
<b>WALKER, Ron</b>	25-Feb

## February Anniversaries

<b>WOHLMAN, John &amp; Barbara</b>	8-Feb
<b>STUART, John &amp; Pat</b>	15-Feb
<b>PRATT, John &amp; Wanda</b>	21-Feb
<b>BREINER, Dick &amp; Geraldine</b>	24-Feb



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 5p Young Adults Group
<b>2</b> 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Xone77 <i>First Sunday Food— Canned or Dry Soup</i>	<b>3</b> 6p Women's reunion group	<b>4</b> 6:30p Griefshare	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9a Worship 10:50 Interactive Worship 12p Sweets for the Sweet 4:30p Faith Living Youth Group (FLY) & Xone77	<b>10</b> 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries	<b>11</b> 6:30p Griefshare	<b>12</b> 9:30a Trustees	<b>13</b> 10:30a OWLS movie with Pastor Michael 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>15 Link Deadline</b> 5p Young Adults Group
<b>16</b> 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship	<b>17</b> 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	<b>18</b> 6:30p Griefshare 7p Mary Circle	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Xone77	<b>24</b> 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	<b>25</b> 6:30p Griefshare	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> 7:15a Men's reunion group	

T V V H E I W C Q I T M R T D  
X F C A X J H Z R V Z I A Z E  
Y W R L R E H T S E X R G E Z  
V A X I Q I X T E A Z I A Y X  
S G G L E S M F N B M A H E P  
R E B E C C A A O A A M Q L E  
Z A F D O K L C R T E Z U H D  
D H C F R E Z T R Y V Q I Q C  
V Y T H B Y H A L O E A U L M  
E W P E E A G L L W D Q A X E  
H J Z E R L O F F F J R C U Z  
B E R U T H O T M T C S X O P  
J N C U X S A B E H S H T A B  
C A Y D V I R W T C V H D M L  
P E O T G T P P D E N R I E T

BATHSHEBA DELILAH DORCAS ELIZABETH ESTHER  
EVE HAGAR JEZEBEL MARTHA MARY  
MIRIAM RACHEL REBECCA RUTH SARA

**First Christian Church**  
**www.lovelanddisciples.org**

2000 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Loveland, CO 80538

Phone: 970-667-1318  
Fax: 970-744-7047  
Careline: 970-663-4436  
E-mail: [kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org](mailto:kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

PERMIT NO. 22

U. S. POSTAGE PAID

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## 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.

STATEMENT  
**Our Mission**  
STATEMENT  
STATEMENT  
STATEMENT

