



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

July 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

Sunday Morning Services:

9:00 Worship Service

10:10 Sunday School for all ages

If you have information for our

Link, please e-mail that

information to:

kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org

By the 15th of each month.

SPECIAL WORSHIP JULY 13!

Our worship service at 9am July 13 will feature recognition and promotion of the final Shiprock Mission Trip and fundraising golf tournament. After 20 years of building homes and rebuilding lives, this journey comes to end as we refocus on other missions.

In the spirit of celebration, the service will include a hymn sing, with the congregation choosing songs from old and newer favorites.



To aid the worship planning team and musicians in preparation, a station will be posted in the gallery in the weeks prior to the service. You are invited to suggest your favorite songs so that we may sing them together. If they're not in our hymnal, we'll do our best to find music and lyrics.

Bring your voice and enthusiasm as we share in the celebration!

~1st Sunday Food for July is Peanut Butter & Jelly~~

HOUSE NEEDS NEW ANGELS

One of our most consistent and successful ministries over the past decade has been *Angel House*, a cooperative program that provides



nighttime shelter for homeless families. Along with our partner churches, we have provided a place to have dinner and breakfast along with a safe place to spend the night.

The ministry began years ago as the *Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN)*. Recently the program was merged locally with the *House of Neighborly Service* and became Angel House. Along with the name and organizational changes, the mission became more focused on providing transitional assistance for families seeking to emerge from poverty and homelessness.

Many volunteers from our congregation have helped with the ministry over that time. Various groups have prepared and served meals, stayed overnight to ensure safety, and helped to clean up afterwards. Your help has been appreciated by the many families who have come through our doors.

The next Angel House rotation for our church is the week of June 29th-July 6th. AmeriCorps Earth Team 1, our mission station guests, will assist us by preparing some meals and also overnight supervision. This not only helps give our regular volunteers some reprieve, but also offers them an opportunity to get in required service hours.

It is that first point that inspires my mention of this ministry through this article. Like many of our programs, the same people tend to be involved year after year. They provide leadership, labor and resources from their faith and from the heart. They see the importance and the real progress such programs afford, at it is important to them that it continue.

But a decade is a long time to be involved in such ministry programs. All of us find the need to be refreshed by seeking new challenges and opportunities. In the same way, an infusion of “fresh blood” helps bring in new ideas and innovation to make the ministry programs efficient and effective.

For the past several years, organization and administration of our participation in Angel House/IHN has been the ministry of Connie Blocker

and Lanny Helzer. The couple has posted the sign-up boards, recruited volunteers, and worked tirelessly to figure out the logistical challenges associated with our hospitality to the homeless.

Recently, they have announced they will give up the reins at the end of this year. Unless someone steps up from the congregation to take over leadership and organizational responsibilities, our participation in the Angel House/IHN partnership will discontinue as well. We will enter 2015 as the first year in many that we are not providing this ministry in our community.

As always, we should be eyeing all of our ministry programs with a focus on what we are hoping to accomplish and whether the way we've done it is worthy of our financial and time resources. It's easy to get in the habit of doing things because we always have, without examining whether they're doing any good. This is certainly an opportune time to examine our participation in Angel House in this way.

This is precisely the same reason our church is not offering a Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. In past years it has been increasingly difficult to find organizers and workers; at the same time it became less and less clear what we were hoping to accomplish in a program replicated by dozens of other churches in the community. Parents have come to see church VBS programs more as free childcare rather than faith instruction.

Conversely, our partners at *House of Neighborly Service* assure us that Angel House accomplishes much in transitioning families out of homelessness. An added benefit is that ecumenical/interfaith programs are a witness to churches working together – as opposed to our public image of divisiveness and competition.

If you are one who feels our participation in Angel House is important, and you believe you may have the skills and heart to take the reins of leadership, please call or visit with me to find out what the job entails. There are still two sessions in our building this year, with ample time to learn what all is involved. In the meantime, may all our prayers with those who need our help and those looking for the confidence to lead in service.

Love, Grace and Peace,
Michael

Adults on Youth Mission Trips

Last month, I wrote all about the different roles of adults at youth summer camps. Similarly, adults play a vital role in leading youth mission trips.

Like summer camp counselors, mission trip leaders are with the youth 24 hours a day, every day, looking out for their health and wellbeing. They sleep in the same rooms as the youth (usually on air mattresses on the floor), play games with them, enforce boundaries and safety rules, engage them in discussions to process the sights and sounds they are experiencing during travel, work, and fun days, worship with them, and challenge them to open their eyes to a bigger world and understanding of God, peace, love, faith, and justice. Adult leaders are role models and mentors, guiding the work done by the youth while also working hard alongside them, never asking a youth to take a risk or face a challenge that they themselves are unwilling to take or face. They are listeners and story sharers as the youth open up about the joys and concerns they are experiencing in their life (sometimes long van rides become wonderful opportunities for deep conversations). They are supporters, encouragers, and counsel givers.

Mission leaders also share additional roles, dispersed to fit their gifts as best as possible. They are providers of care and first aid when youth work or play a little *too* hard. They are T-shirt designers, devotional writers, song leaders, and worship planners. They are kitchen team leaders, planning and leading rotating teams of youth in planning, preparation, and service of meals.

Being an adult leader on a youth mission trip is utterly exhausting, and yet it is also rich in rewards, as each trip is an intense experience of faithful learning and action while immersed in close-knit Christian community. Not only do the adults mentor the youth in their care, they also learn from them and are blessed by the ways that they share their lives. Our congregation is fortunate to have youth interested in giving up a week of their summer freedom to be challenged, get dirty, work hard, and experience discomfort all in order to serve others and grow in their faith. Our youth are blessed to have adult leaders and a generous congregation who support them in these endeavors. Our high schoolers will be serving in Albuquerque, New Mexico July 5-12, and our middle schoolers in Alamosa, Colorado July 27-August 2. Please keep us in your prayers, and we look forward to sharing our stories when we return!

With hope and gratitude,
Rachel

IMPORTANT INFO **AND UPCOMING** **DATES**

FOR YOUTH:

including grades 6 - 12

Youth Group

Regular youth group meetings have been paused for the summer, but we will still be getting together every so often to keep up connections in between adventures. If your family would like to host a summer gathering (pool party, BBQ, game night, etc.), please let Rachel know! New participants are always welcome.

CYF Mission Teambuilding Meeting

July 2, 6-8pm

CYF Mission Trip

July 5-12

Chi Rho Mission Teambuilding Meeting

July 23, 6-8pm

Chi Rho Mission Trip

July 27-Aug.2

Mission Trip Sharing

August 17 (tentative)

Youth Group Kick Off Party

September 7

Find us on Facebook!

facebook.com/FCCLovelandYouth

FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

College Aged YA Gathering

Our leadership team is working on plans for a few college age young adult gatherings in the summer, so keep in touch if you'd like to join in! Email Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org for more information.

MAINTAINING GROUNDS A CHALLENGE



Our congregation is both blessed and challenged by the building and grounds God has entrusted to our care and use. Together with members of the property

team, your Trustees work to maintain the long-term value and care of our physical assets.



As spring arrived and the grass began growing anew, the challenge was even more difficult as our aged lawn tractor finally “gave up the ghost”. The Trustees explored several options for continuing lawn care, including purchase of new equipment or contracting a commercial service to maintain the large expanses of grass. Cost projects for either option were very expensive, and the grass was still growing. Something had to be done soon.

Opportunity, diligence, and generosity converged to provide a solution. A congregation member stepped up to provide a large gift, which was matched by an outside contribution. We were not only able to buy a commercial mower, but also to support our community by purchasing one locally sold and manufactured.

Among those persons grateful for the new unit is Nick Bakovich (see photo), an employee of Allnut Funeral Home. Allnut has been a good neighbor to us for many years and generously provided the mowing service to us without cost – on the condition that we provide and maintain the equipment. With a large deck and zero turn radius, it now takes Nick less time to mow.

The value of this gift is enormous; estimates for a commercial mowing service ran to several thousand dollars a season!

Equally valued is the volunteer labor from members of our congregation. It is not unusual to see volunteers like Marion Sparks, Kendra McAlear, Duane Bentley, Dennis and Sharon Swartz and others out trimming, pulling weeds, and generally helping to maintain our grounds. The beautiful roses and other flowers at the entrance and in the courtyard are testament to their gifts of hard work.

As we look forward into our future, one challenge for the Trustees is to revise our site plan to accommodate a new vision for ministry in our congregation. High priority will be placed on landscaping that uses less water and is less costly to maintain. Parking lots are in need of maintenance, and there is much open land not being put to use. We need to find ways of stewardship that make the facility both attractive and practical, exercising faithful stewardship of the resources God has placed in our care.

In the meantime, **we welcome more happy and helpful hands** in maintaining our building and grounds. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Dennis Swartz or the church office.

BY THE NUMBERS

A financial snapshot in rounded figures

May Income: \$16,100 (\$4,400 **under** budget)
Expenses: \$19,600 (\$1,300 **over** budget)

Comparisons:

May 2013 Income: \$21,000
Expenses: \$23,000

Average May Worship Attendance: 128

HELP MINIMIZE SEASONAL IMPACT:

Giving for the offering tends to diminish during the summer months as people are away on vacation or busy with other activities. You can make it easier for yourself (and for me) by setting up automatic withdrawal of your offering, directly from your bank account. Call Kirsten in the church office for details.

Don Stoppel, Treasurer

Clothing Give Away

This year's clothing give away will be on Saturday September 6th. We will begin setting up for the big event on Sunday Aug. 31st and continue through the first week of September. Be in prayer about how you can help out with this great outreach community event. Last year we served 175 families! Wouldn't it be great if we could double that this year? How can you help? Be in prayer for the event, workers, along with those families who need to **see** and **feel** the **Love of God**. Start gathering school supplies for our Back Pack give away. We need all supplies by September 4th, and there is a drop off container in the Gallery. Clothing is needed especially for infants, children, and teens. We will need many hands the week of the big set up, and the day of the event we will need greeters, servants who can carry boxes, sorters, and some who would be willing to donate food for the workers on the day of the give away. Mostly help get the word out to your neighbors, friends, co-workers. For more information please see Tammy Swartz 970-962-9612 or tswartz1784@comcast.net

School Supply Drive

I will be setting up a school supply drive in September to coincide with our Annual Clothing Drive. I am asking for everyone's help as we all rally to supply school supplies to those less fortunate in our community. Here is what we will need:

- Backpacks
- # 2 pencils
- Pens blue and black
- Five 2 pocket folders - red, blue, green, orange and purple
- Crayons- 24 pack
- 6 glue sticks
- Markers 8 pack
- 2 large erasers
- 2 spiral notebooks
- A box of Kleenex

Our goal is to stuff 200 backpacks full of school supplies to ensure God's beautiful children have an amazing school year! Thank you in advance for helping in this mission to help our Loveland families! If you have any questions you can contact me at 970-308-5975.

With love, blessings and thanks,
Lea Delehoy

OWLS (older wiser livelier seniors)

will gather at the church on Friday July 11, 2014 for a cookout. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments will be available for \$1.50 per person (if you prefer another choice of meat, you are welcome to bring it for the grill). We will plan to eat at 6:00pm but will start grilling meat earlier. We ask that you also bring a side dish i.e. chips, salad, desert etc to share. We have invited the AmeriCorps mission team to join us for food and fellowship. Please use the sign-up sheet near the kitchen so that we can purchase adequate hamburgers and hot dogs. Questions see Ann M.

Coupon Ministry Thank You

The following letter was sent to Joy Brownrigg from the
Department of the Air Force, 48th Fighter Wing
(USAFE)

Dear Joy,

On behalf of the RAF Lakenheath family, thank you very much for your continued generosity in sending us coupons for our Coupon Connections program. These coupons make a significant financial difference in the lives of our Airman and their families. Not only do your coupons help alleviate the costs of grocery, pet, baby, and household items, but it is a great morale booster to our families as they see how much their fellow American's think of them while they are away.

There are over twenty thousand airman and family members currently attached to our base and an additional twenty thousand airman and family members stationed 20 minutes down the road from us at RAF Mildenhall. Both communities are benefiting from our Coupon Connections program. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Heather Douglass
Community Readiness Specialist, Wing Volunteer
Coordinator
RAF Lakenheath Airman & Family Readiness
Center
48FSS/FSFR, Unit 5200, Box 105
APO, AE 09464

Birthdays

Anniversaries

KLASSEN, Shirley	07/01
PAYNE, Larry	07/01
WITTLER, Randy	07/01
BREINER, Geraldine	07/02
SCHERER, Alice	07/02
LINDSEY, Janet	07/04
RUEGSEGGER, Bonnie	07/04
BASS, Sandy	07/06
THIELMAN, Esther	07/06
SWARTZ, Dennis	07/08
HARMES, Willis	07/09
BURCH, Terry	07/10
ZAKAVEC, John	07/12
COMBS, Dennis	07/14
GRIMES, Christy	07/16
ODELL, Merna	07/17
RITTER SHAFFER, Joan	07/17
SIMPSON, Donita	07/18
WALL, William	07/18
RYTERSKI, Tyler	07/19
CARTER, Pat	07/21
HAYDEN, Amy	07/23
YOUNG, Ed	07/23
GREELEY, Doyle	07/24
RUCKLE, Mildred	07/25
YOUNG, David	07/25
ESTRADA, Patrick	07/30
WOHLMAN, Alice Jo	07/30
CHENEVERT, Richard	07/31
HAYWARD, Twila	07/31

BROWNRIGG, Dan & Mary Jane (Joy)	07/02
HARMES, Willis & Charlene	07/02
OLDSEN, Christi & Cody	07/05
KLASSEN, Daryle & Shirley	07/06
MASTERSON, Bert & Martha	07/07
KOSCHEL, Gilbert & Doris	07/11
BAYNE, Travis & Kirsten	07/14
TODD, Bob & Ione	07/16
BUROW, Don & Gwen	07/24



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4th of July 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	5
6 9a Worship <i>First Sunday Food—</i>	7 Office Closed	8	9 9:30a Trustees	10	11 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	12
13 9a Worship	14 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries	15 Link Deadline 7p Mary Circle	16	17	18 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	19
20 9a Worship	21 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	22 7p Elders Meeting	23	24	25 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	26
27 9a Worship	28 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	29	30	31		

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

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.

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