

Connecting
Us with God and
one another

September 1, 2015

**CONTACTING THE
CHURCH STAFF**

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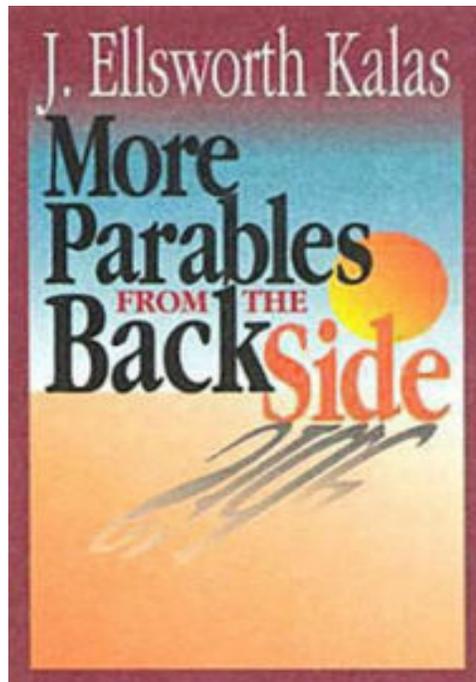
Tammy Swartz

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Gina Schuh-Turner, Choir Dir.

Karen Lee, Organist

Troy Schuh, Pianist



The Parables in the Park has been an unqualified success if we are to judge by the attendance of mid-twenties to 43 one evening. Further, the faithfulness of those in attendance, and the good leadership also attest to the value of these meetings.

Consequently, it has been decided to continue a study of more of the parables of Jesus on Wednesdays late afternoon -- 6 - 7. We will meet in the Gallery around the tables. Bring your supper, a Bible, and be willing to share your insight and experience with this part of the scriptures.

Attached is the schedule, text, and leader for the evening.

Thanks for accepting this challenge for the leadership of this next series on the parables.

PARTNERSHIPS EXTEND OUR RESOURCES & MINISTRY

If you pay attention to the news or even talk with friends who are members of other



congregations, it's no secret that the influence of religious faith and houses of worship is rapidly declining. Shrinking budgets, aging congregations, and

diminished participation are a reality to be faced in nearly all our churches.

Some choose the path of denial, hoping this is some temporary trend that will reverse itself given time. They continue to do what they've always done, expending resources and cutting budgets until very little remains that looks like a viable ministry. Keeping the doors open becomes a mission statement.

In similar fashion, some carry on expecting a miraculous intervention from God. Still others believe it's even the will of God – part of the impending “end times” – that the church shrinks to just a handful of the faithful.

At the other end of the spectrum are those who desperately grasp for some all-encompassing solution that will restore the church to former glory. They hope against hope that a new preacher, praise band, small group ministry or program will turn the tide.

None of these reactions are grounded in the Gospel call for the church to be the body of Christ in the world. Instead, they are grounded in the fear that we are dying.

When we set aside the fear and refocus on the Gospel Mission, our creativity and spirit of cooperation is unleashed. We no longer see other Christians and other churches as competition, but rather as partners in the ongoing work of God's healing and redemption of the world.

This spirit is reflected in the way we do ministry in our own congregation. In nearly every program, ministry, and endeavor we are asking from the start, “Who else can we involve in this work?” Not only churches, but other religious and secular partners as well. In doing so, we exercise good stewardship and faithful following of Christ's example.

Some of these partnerships are longstanding. Our church was among the founding members of *House of Neighborly Service*, with whom we continue to cooperate in provide services in our community.

This tradition of cooperation has served us well as we've established multiple partnerships through our *Northern Colorado Mission Station*. Currently the dedicated staff and volunteers of *Brethren Disaster Ministries* are working with us to continue recovery from the 2013 floods.

They and other partners have not only contributed financially, but have also worked to maintain and improve our building and grounds.

Beginning this month, we undertake a new project in cooperation with Fort Collins *Heart of the Rockies* and Greeley *First Christian Churches*, as well Disciples *Hope Partnership*. Together we will work over the next 18 months to develop a “future story” for each of our congregations.

More than a strategic plan, the future story invites us to imagine and to dream of what our church might look like 5 years in the future – and then helps us to map out the steps so that we might make the dream a reality.

The first step of this project is a **leadership retreat September 26-27**. Current and future leaders of all three congregations are invited to participate. The cost for each person will be less than \$75, and we have **funds available for those who need financial assistance**. Please contact me or congregation VP Cheryl McAnally if you're interested in being there.

As we look to our future, a centerpiece of all our efforts will be the spirit of cooperation I've described. From our earliest days when Disciples founder Barton Stone called us to “let Christian unity be our polar star”, we continue to work in confounding the popular image of Christians as being only capable of conflict and division.

Love, Grace and Peace;
Michael

Mission Update

It is a great joy to be able to share that another summer of youth mission trips has ended with success! Our high school group traveled to Portland, Oregon for a beautiful array of opportunities to study and interact with the environment in a lush ecosystem where we marveled



at the greenery all around us (and the banana slugs beneath us). The first day had us removing invasive ivy that was crowding out the indigenous tree and plant species of the state forest, then helping build a trail through another section of the forest for people to safely explore and enjoy God's creation for years to come. The second day was spent cleaning and landscaping a city park alongside neighborhood volunteers. The third day saw us traveling to the



Oregon coastline, where we hiked two miles (with 1000 ft. elevation gain) up a trail (see picture on left) to a prairie where we pulled invasive weeds (see picture below). Our fourth and final day in Oregon was spent in Seaside,

where we filled bags of trash collected along the beach and beachside dunes, then spent some time relaxing along the beachfront. Of course, we could not leave Portland without taking a picture in front of the



"Keep Portland Weird" sign...

We look forward to sharing more stories and pictures in worship soon, but in the meantime we thank you all for your support of this mission experience that taught

our youth more about the environment our lives depend upon and how (and why) we are called to its caretakers.

With hope and gratitude,
Rachel

IMPORTANT INFO AND UPCOMING DATES

FOR YOUTH:

including grades 6 – 12

Youth Group

Our youth group will return to its school year schedule of weekly meetings on Sunday, September 13. We meet in the youth room to enjoy time together playing games, having conversations about God and faith, sharing our lives, and building lasting friendships. New youth are always welcome!

Youth Group Kick-Off

Sept 13

It's time for weekly youth meetings to resume! We will meet in the youth room from 4:30-6:30 on Sunday afternoons.

Congrats, ECOY Members!

This school year we are pleased to have two of our youth representing us on the region's Executive Council of Youth. Congratulations, Brooke Sprague and Kate Seaver! We look forward to seeing and hearing how you learn and grow as leaders. ach!

FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

College Aged YA Gathering

This fellowship group for anyone aged 18-23ish meets a couple of times a month for dinner, conversation, fun, and spiritual growth - Email

Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org for more information.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Children's Education has a brand new look and format for this upcoming year. We will be doing a combination class for K-5th grade. This age group will have some amazing volunteer's that will lead this fearless group of young disciples. Our fearless leaders are our very own John Zakavec and Matt Swartz. These two servants will be co-teaching this class of young disciples. Miranda Swartz and Nursery staff will assist in our preschool class along with aiding in the K-5th grade class. We are very fortunate to add Brandon Schlauder as a teacher's assistant to our program this year. Each of our children's classrooms has a new look, stop in and see how we have transformed our spaces. The K-5th grade classroom has a theme of sports, I am personally glad that I am on God's Team! How about you? GO YOUNG DISCIPLES! GO TEAM!

The preschool room is decorated for the great outdoors. I know that we all love to be outdoors in God's Country. Last but not least our hall way will transport you to a place far beyond. If you know of a youngster that would like to come and check us out on a Sunday morning we will begin right after our morning worship service at 10:30 a.m. and go until 11:15 a.m. Our first lesson will begin September 13th. Each Sunday we have a great lesson along with a fun interactive snack. For more information please contact:

Tammy Swartz at 970-962-9612 or tswartz1784@comcast.net.

Bible 101

Well, the summer vacation time is ending, and it's time to go back to school, Sunday school that is. We are looking forward to the Bible study that our friend Dora led us in so well for some time. Knowing her "work plate" to be quite full at this time, we extended an invitation to Richard DeVan to lead our study and he has graciously accepted. Our study of the Bible is a discussion style study, and we offer an invitation to any to join in the discussion. We are starting on Sunday, September 13th at 10:30-ish. See you then.

OWLS(Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)



The OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors) will gather in the south parking lot of the church on Friday, September 11, 2015 at 9:30 am. We will be going for a drive in the mountains with lunch out before we return to the church. All are welcome, please use the sign out sheet near the kitchen.

THANK YOU!

Denny and I can't express enough how wonderful it was to have our Church Family come and enjoy our 50th wedding anniversary with us. We are truly Blessed having all of you. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

Denny and Sharon Swartz

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3



As summer rolls into fall, there is much to be done in maintaining and improving the church building and grounds.

Starting at 9:00am,

come lend your labor and your skills as we tackle projects such as:

- Lawn and landscaping care
- Exterior painting
- Cleaning
- Sorting for storage or disposal
- Minor repairs
- Feeding the workers

All Church Picnic August 30

The Community Garden Project invites everyone to share in a **celebration of the harvest** Sunday, August 30th.



Following the 9:00am worship service, we'll gather for a **potluck picnic** on the church grounds. **Please bring meat, salad, or desert dishes to share with all.** Fresh produce from the garden will also be featured.

Choir Director Gina Schuh-Turner invites you join one or both of these excellent (and fun!) groups for a new season:



Chancel Choir
rehearsals
Thursday
7:00pm

Handbell Choir resumes rehearsal September 10th at 6:00pm.

First Sunday Food Bank

On the first Sunday of each month, we invite our church family to contribute non-



"Help for today... Hope for tomorrow"

perishable food items for the community food bank. **Canned meat** is the suggested food for September,

but any contributions are appreciated.



financial ministry

July Stewardship

Income: \$18,523

\$3,143 **Under** budget

Expenses: \$17,736

\$3,149 **below** budget

*In terms of **cash flow**, our general fund was about even for July (as it is for the year to date). As in June, the financial picture was aided by **reimbursements from the Mission Station project totaling \$2,500.***

This month the church board begins preparations for the 2016 budget, and August income figures will influence greatly how we plan for ministry in the year ahead. If you are behind where you intended your giving for 2015, "catch up" offerings in the weeks ahead will make a huge difference!

Randy Kettenhofen, Treasurer

HVAC Project Update

In 2013 the congregation replaced all the original heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) components, aided by a loan from long-term funds managed by the Trustees. The 15-year loan is repaid through a **monthly remittance of \$760** that includes principal and 3% interest.

As of the end of July, we have repaid \$19,478 in principal, leaving a **balance of \$90,522.** In addition, interest totaling \$5,245 has helped to grow long term funds for future ministry.



Your church board has set **Sunday November 15th** as the date for annual congregation meeting and brunch.

PARABLES – 2015

Wednesdays 6:00 – 7:00

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DATE	TEXT	LEADER
September 16	Matthew 12:43 – 45 “The Danger of being Good & Empty”	Michael Stein
September 23	Matthew 13:45 – 46 “Risky Business”	Harvey R.
September 30	Luke 16:19 – 31 “Miracles Can be Overrated”	Lanny Helzer
October 7	Luke 16:1 – 13 “Second Chance for a Poor Manager”	Pam Hilliard
October 14	Luke 11:5 – 13; 18:1 - 8 “A Laugh and a Prayer”	Matt Swartz
October 21	Matthew 13:24 – 30; 36 – 43 “It happens while we sleep”	Tracy Morgan
October 28	Matthew 22:1 – 14 “The Importance of Being Dressed for the Party”	Kathryn Sparks

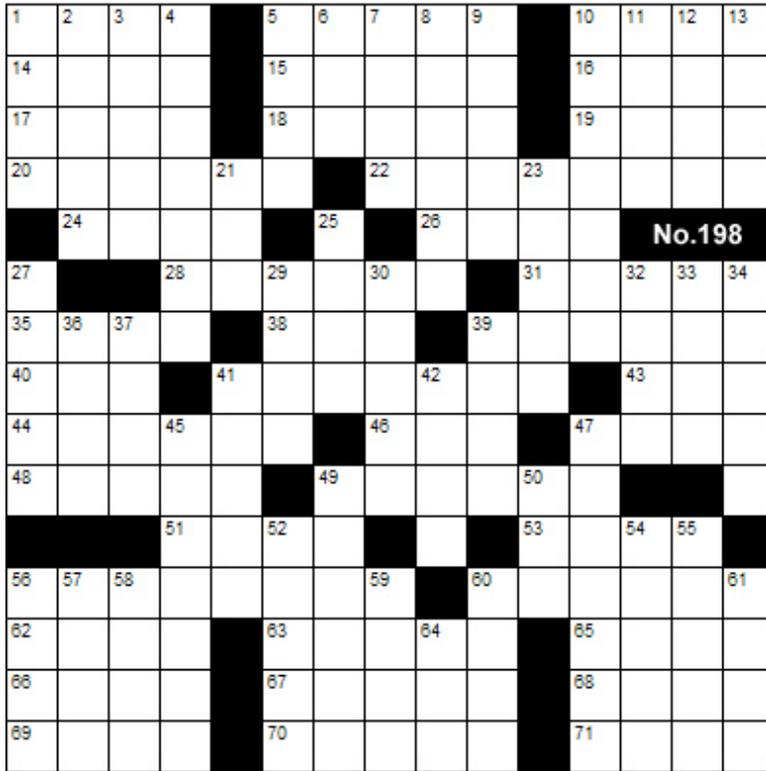
TEXT: “More Parables from the Backside”, by J. Kalas



september



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 7p Choir rehearsal	4	5
6 9a Worship <i>First Sunday Food— Canned Meat</i>	7	8	9 9:30a Trustees	10 6p Bell Choir 7p Choir rehearsal	11 9:30a Owls Outing	12
13 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	14 9:30a Rachel Circle 7p Program Ministries	15 Link Deadline 7p Mary Circle	16 2p Nominating Comm. 6p Parables in the Gallery	17 6p Bell Choir 7p Choir rehearsal	18	19
20 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	21 7p General Board	22 7p Elders Meeting	23 6p Parables in the Gallery	24 6p Bell Choir 7p Choir rehearsal	25	26
27 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	28 6p Worship Committee	29	30 6p Parables in the Gallery			



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ACROSS

- consigning them to labor with ___ and with iron picks (2 Sam 12:31)
- the lizard, and the ___, and the mole (Lev 11:30)
- by him we cry, "___, Father (Rom 8:15)
- send him away by the hand of ___ man (1,3) (Lev 16:21) KJV
- You are under a ___, the whole nation of you (Mal 3:9)
- walking in the garden in the ___ of the day (Gen 3:8)
- wash yourself with ___ and use an abundance of soap (Jer 2:22)
- Absalom had appointed ___ over the army in place of Joab (2 Sam 17:25)
- first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at ___ in Galilee (John 2:11)
- He ordered the furnace heated seven times ___ than usual (Dan 3:19)
- the people ___ against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? (Ex 15:24) KJV
- the wisdom of ___ world is foolishness in God's sight (1 Cor 3:19)
- son of Seth (Gen 4:26) KJV
- you, then, who teach ___, do you not teach yourself? (Rom 2:21)
- had always been on friendly ___ with David (1 Kings 5:1)
- A furnace for drying bricks (Nah 3:14) NKJV
- Eber, Misham, Shemed who built ___ and Lod (1 Chron 8:12)
- Do not run until your feet are bare and your ___ is dry (Jer 2:25)
- ___ not forget your precepts (1,2) (Ps 119:141)
- a basin resting on four supports, cast with ___ on each side (1 Kings 7:30)
- Why make ye this ___, and weep? (Mark 5:39) KJV
- war against Israel and to ___ the kingdom for Rehoboam (2 Chron 1:1)
- Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will ___ God (Matt 5:8)
- to seek an ___: He will cast lots with arrows (Ezek 21:21)

- which shall not ___ of death, till they see (Matt 16:28)
- neither shall it exalt ___ any more above the nations (Ezek 29:15)
- Take heed that ye do not your ___ before men (Matt 6:1) KJV
- Bring my sons from ___ and my daughters (Isa 43:6)
- each man under his ___ with the banners of his family (Num 2:2)
- I would give you ___ wine to drink (Song 8:2)
- to settle down and ___ the bread they eat (II Th 3:12)
- hath eternal life; and I will ___ him up at the last day (John 6:54)
- each with ___ in hand because of his age (Zech 8:4)
- Adam and Eve both ate from the ___ of good and evil (Gen 3:12-13)
- ___, Mahalaleel, Jered (1 Chr 1:2)
- miracles to deceive ___ the elect if that were possible (Matt 24:24)
- My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted ___ and rejoice (Ps 34:2)
- And he ___ and dreamed the second time (Gen 41:5)
- patch from a new garment and ___ it on an old one (Luke 5:36)

DOWN

- a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a ___ (Ex 28:4)
- like a broken tooth, and ___ out of joint (1,4) (Prov 25:19)
- its total length will be 25,000 cubits and its ___ 10,000 cubits (Ezek 48:13)
- The Levites are to ___ themselves around the king (2 Chron 23:7)
- it is only a ___ from the boil (Lev 13:23)
- abbr. for the fourth book of the Old Testament
- Bring me a heifer, a goat and ___ (1,3) (Gen 15:9)
- no decree or edict that the king ___ can be changed (Dan 6:15)
- Now ___ this lesson from the fig tree (Matt 24:32)
- Who is my ___? Let him confront me (Isa 50:8)
- The ___ out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast (Ps 80:13)
- A ___ of him shall not be broken (John 19:36)
- I will send ___, saying, Go, find out the arrows (1,3) (1 Sam 20:21) (KJV)
- abbr. for the 17th book of the Old Testament
- something rotten, like a garment eaten by ___ (Job 13:28)
- They left ___ Jaakan and camped at Hor Haggidgad. (Num 33:32)
- David arose, and cut off the ___ of Saul's robe privily (1 Sam 24:4) KJV
- Only when the ram's ___ sounds a long blast may they go up (Exod 19:13)
- The lazy man does not ___ his game (Prov 12:27)
- Distressed and hungry, they will ___ through the land (Isa 8:21)
- When the LORD God ___ the earth and the heavens (Gen 2:4)
- I will take the ___ heart out of their flesh (Ezek 11:19) KJV
- "Is that your own ___," Jesus asked (John 18:34)
- supplied with all the cedar and pine ___ he wanted (1 Kings 5:10)
- Also unto ___, O Lord, belongeth mercy (Ps 62:12) KJV
- As if a rod were to ___ him who lifts it up (Isa 10:15)
- I will ___ them and see whether they will follow (Exodus 16:4)
- Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with ___ named Simon (1,6) (Acts 9:43)
- Jehoiada appointed the ___ of the house of the LORD (2 Chron 23:18) KJV
- the new name given to Jacob (Gen 32:28)
- gathered thereof wild gourds his ___ full (2 King 4:39)
- Unless I see the nail ___ in his hands (John 20:25)
- and stayed in ___ in the rock (1,4) (Judg 15:8)
- they will ___ the ruined cities that have been devastated (Isa 61:4)
- Third son of Adam (Gen 4:25)
- weed (Matt 13:40) (KJV)
- Which ___ shadow of things to come; but the body is (3,1) (Col 2:17)
- a certain Pharisee besought him to ___ with him (Luke 11:37)
- Then Annas ___ him, still bound, to Caiaphas (John 18:24)
- Then the beasts go into ___, and remain (Job 37:8)
- The trees of the LORD are full of ___ (Ps 104:16)

Birthdays

TINNEN, Bob	09/01
BRIGGS, Betty	09/02
HELZER, Lanny	09/03
PRATT, Wanda	09/05
WALKER, Joyce	09/05
OSBORN, Sue	09/06
CAREY, Bill	09/10
WRAY, Mary Lee	09/13
MCSAY, Ann	09/17
TINNEN, Mike	09/17
WOHLMAN, Jerry	09/18
KEELER, Kenneth	09/19
WHITING, Peggy	09/25
STUART, John	09/26
DAVIS, Wilma	09/27
MARSH, Kathy	09/27
SPRAGUE, Brooke	09/27
GREELEY, Carol	09/29
SHARRAR, Fayeane	09/29
SCHLINGMAN, William	09/30
WALLACE, Paul	09/30
WHITE, Jean	09/30

Anniversaries

DEPPERSCHMIDT, Rod & Nancy	09/04
CAREY, Bill & Dorothy	09/11
WHITING, Richard & Peggy	09/16
BASS, Ed & Sandy	09/17
PAYNE, Larry & Bev	09/21
STEIN, Michael & Carla	09/21
WRAY, Hugh & Mary Lee	09/27

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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.

**If you have information for our Link,
please e-mail that
information to:
kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org
By the 15th of each month.**

Sunday Morning Services:
9:00 Worship Service
10:10 Sunday School for all ages

