



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

December 1, 2014

**CONTACTING THE
CHURCH STAFF**

Main Church Phone Number:
(970) 667-1318

Pastoral Leadership Team

Michael Stein

Transitional Senior Minister
Extension 30
michael@lovelanddisciples.org
Cellphone: (970) 775-4895

Dora DeVan, Ministry Intern
Extension 23

Rachel Nelson

Minister to Emerging Generations
Extension 22
rachel@lovelanddisciples.org

Pam Hilliard

Minister for Grief and Loss
(970) 215-5969
Hilliardp2@aol.com

Tracy Morgan

Commissioned Minister
(970) 988-3219
tdmorgan@earthlink.net

Mission Support Staff

Kirsten Bayne

Office Administrator
Extension 21
kirsten@lovelanddisciples.org

Max and Marcia Peters

Building Managers
(970) 669-6895

Tammy Swartz

Nursery/Childcare Director
Extension 24
tswartz1784@comcast.net

Gina Schuh-Turner, Choir Dir.

Karen Lee, Organist

Troy Schuh, Pianist



Nov 30: Candle of Hope

Dora DeVan Preaching

Dec 7: Candle of Peace

Dec 14: Candle of Joy

Worship featuring Christmas Cantata

Dec 21: Candle of Love

**Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service**

7:00pm featuring special music

THANKSGIVING FOR OUR STAFF

Among the many joys of my ministry in FCC Loveland is the quality of professional and Volunteer staff assembled here. As the year



closes and another commences, I use my space this month to share with you who they are and some of what they do.

The **mission support** staff work with congregation members and others to carry out our ministries. If you're here for worship Sunday mornings, you are aware of our excellent musicians. Our organist **Karen Lee** is an accomplished music teacher with a background in other aspects of Music. **Gina Schuh-Turner** directs both the chancel choir and handbell choir, as well as organizing and directing the Easter and Christmas Cantatas. Her brother **Troy Schuh** accompanies the choir on piano.

Another important aspect of worship is providing reliable and trustworthy care for children. **Tammy Swartz** recruits and checks the background of our childcare providers so that parents may be confident that their children are safe.

Max and Marcia Peters are our facilities managers. Although cleaning and maintenance is part of their responsibilities, it is a misconception to say they are custodians. Both are heavily involved in planning for and accommodating the needs for events inside and outside our congregation.

The role of **Kirsten Bayne** is also frequently underestimated. As Office Administrator, she has a wide variety of responsibility for independent decision making across the spectrum of all our ministries. Clerical support is a very small portion of what she does on behalf of our church.

All those mentioned above are part-time employees, and all put in more hours and effort than their salaries and job descriptions reflect. In the two years I've been here, none of them have ever said "that's not my job" when asked to do something. In fact, they are more likely to

find additional work and do it without being asked.

Our pastoral leadership team is a dedicated group who contribute much to our congregational life. Other than myself, **Rachel Nelson** is the only paid member of this staff. As Minister to Emerging Generations, her job description includes ministry to youth and young adults, in addition to significant responsibilities for worship planning and other aspects of ministry. Her work expectations and contributions have grown in the past two years, without additional compensation.

Dora DeVan joined us in the fall as Ministry Intern. In addition to her graduate studies at Iliff School of Theology, she also works a full-time job. In addition to preaching and teaching, she is working with other committees and groups in the congregation to help us move forward.

Pam Hilliard is our Minister for Grief and Loss, and is commissioned for ministry by the Central Rocky Mountain Region DOC. She works fulltime for *Group Mission Trips*, and has been instrumental in our mission station project. She leads a weekly grief support group, and frequently preaches pulpit supply for other congregations in addition to ours.

Also serving as a Commissioned Minister is **Tracy Morgan**. Tracy has shifted emphasis over the course of her ministry from the youngest to the oldest generations. She does extensive visitation, leads worship at nursing homes and care facilities, as well as other ministry.

Above and beyond their other responsibilities, the pastoral leadership team meets on a regular basis to plan the "nuts and bolts" of worship services.

I ask you this month and throughout the year to express your gratitude to these servants – unpaid and underpaid – and to pray for them regularly. Although I am often the public face of our church in worship and elsewhere, they are truly deserving of the credit for what we have been able to accomplish in the past two years.

*Love, Grace and Peace,
Michael*

Small Actions, Big Impact

The last full weekend in October, there was quite a bit of activity in our Mission Station, as we hosted the Central Rocky Mountain Region's CYF (high school) youth Fall Retreat. Youth and adult sponsors from Denver, Evergreen, Conifer, Loveland, Fort Collins, Greeley, Colorado Springs, Casper (WY), and Farmington (NM) gathered for a weekend of fellowship, service, and worship.

The theme for the weekend was "Small Actions, Big Impact". The region's Executive Council of Youth (ECOY), a team of high school youth from around the region, chose this theme to convey the message that oftentimes our actions of service may be quite small in comparison to the large problems our communities face (locally, nationally, and globally), but many small actions on the part of many people can nonetheless have a very big impact. Sometimes it's even a single person's single small action that can have a big impact on another person.

This theme was explored in practice in two ways. First, the group spent the better part of Saturday working on four homes in Lyons that had been badly damaged in last fall's flood. We worked alongside the homeowners and long term volunteers to do landscaping, foundation painting, salvaging of wood from a wrecked foundation, digging to expose and extract a water line, etc.. It was hard work, but we found it moving to hear the homeowners' stories and quite meaningful to be empowered to help in the recovery efforts. Though our work seemed small in comparison to the scope of the projects that needed to be completed for these homeowners, we estimated hundreds of dollars of labor that we donated, as well as the emotional benefits of reminding those we served that they still aren't alone. We were moved by the impact that can be made by even one day of work.

Then, the group spent the main part of Sunday morning at one of our local assisted living homes, visiting with the residents, giving them gifts they'd hand painted the night before, and decorating pumpkins together. Again, the visit was a relatively small action, but the impact on residents and youth alike in their sharing meaningful time together was much greater. We left the retreat tired out from our labors, but uplifted by the time spent with one another centered on God and God's work. On behalf of the region's ministry to youth, thank you again for sharing our building with these young disciples, and to Kathy and Susan for helping make sure we were well fed!

In early January, our college aged young adults will have a similar opportunity to engage together in service projects that may seem small individually, but that will impact communities in need, through a short, service oriented mission trip to Denver. Adults aged 18-23ish are invited to sign up for minimal cost, and will stay at a church in Denver while serving various community organizations, reflecting and relaxing together in the evenings. If you are a member of this age group and are interested in joining us, please contact me right away at rachel@lovelanddisciples.org!

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, serving others, and of course having fun! *We will have our Christmas party with small gift exchange at youth group on Dec. 21, and it will be our final meeting of 2014. Youth group will not meet on Dec. 28.*

Hands to Heaven

(sign language set to music)
If you are interested in being a part of this traditional offering in Christmas Eve worship, please let Rachel know by Dec. 7.
Rehearsals will be held the 7th, 14th, and 21st before normal youth group meetings.

FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

College Aged YA Gathering

This fellowship group for anyone ages 18-23ish meets twice a month for dinner, conversation, and camaraderie
Email Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org for more information.

OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)

The OWLS will meet Friday December 12, 2014 at 9:30 am for brunch and fellowship at the home of Harvey and Bonnie Ruegsegger, 2457 Nyssa Drive, Loveland. Please use the sign up sheet on the OWLS bulletin board near the kitchen to let us know that you are planning to join us. Also, please indicate the item you will bring to contribute to the brunch.



MISSION STATION UPDATE

November 1 – December 16: An AmeriCorps team of up to 12 young adults will be housed here while working on flood recovery in the Town of Lyons and surrounding area.

1st Sunday Food for December is Canned Meat

Staff Christmas Gifts



If you're like me there is nothing you enjoy more than giving the perfect gift, especially

when it is given to someone who's given of themselves. The staff at the church gives of themselves above and beyond expectations and deserves our full gift giving prowess.

The elders invite you to join us in showing appreciation for these fine people. We'll be collecting your donations to contribute to a monetary bonus to our staff.

Look for a special box, labeled for this purpose starting in November or give your contribution to one of the elders: Pam Boudreau, Cheryl McAnally, Vi Byers, Brad Morgan, Tracy Morgan, Ann McSay, Joyce Walker, John Zakavec, Cheryl Engelhardt, Toni Perry, and Lyle Hinkle. **Thank you!**

**Tracy Morgan
Elder Vice-chair**

Fa-la-la-la-la, La-la-la-la Ready for Some Caroling?!



Join us December 20th at 2p.m. to visit our homebound members, sing, and deliver gifts. We'll then meet back at the church

for fellowship and a soup dinner. Please take a moment to sign up for this event in the gallery. Knowing how many will be joining us helps us in the planning. There is nothing like giving the gift of presence in this season of hope, peace, joy, and love! You do not have to have an angelic voice to be the angel our members need!

Save the Date!..... Saturday, April 11th, 2015 from 9:00am - 4:00pm is "Spring Fest" The arts and crafts show not to be missed.

First Christian Church is host to this fun event. Spring Fest will premiere one of a kind and unique arts and crafts from local artisans.

This is an excellent opportunity for our church to welcome the community into our home and show our agape love to them.

With a show of this size there is a need for many helpers. If you feel God calling you to help with this event please contact either Randy or Carol Kettenhoffen. We are forming the committee right now and would love to have you be a part of what is going to be a fun and worthwhile event.

Booth proceeds will be used to help support the school backpack program. This year Tammy's committee passed out 70 packs, the goal for 2015 is 200 packs!!!!

There are several other areas where other ministries can raise funds, such as: Bake sale, craft booths, snack items and lunch.

We are so excited about Spring Fest and cannot wait to hear from you.

Randy and Carol can be reached at (720) 252-3527.



DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6p Women's reunion group	2 6:30p GriefShare	3	4 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	5 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	6
7 9a Worship <i>First Sunday Food—Canned Meat</i> 4:30p Youth Group	8 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group	9 6:30p GriefShare	10 9:30a Trustees	11 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	12 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club 9:30a OWLS	13 4p FCC Board Christmas Party
14 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	15 Link Deadline 6p Women's reunion group	16 6:30p GriefShare 7p Mary Circle	17	18 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	19 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	20 2p FCC Caroling to shut-ins
21 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	22 6p Women's reunion group	23 7p Elders Meeting	24 7p Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25  <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	27
28 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	29 6p Women's reunion group	30	31			

December Birthdays

BREINER, Dick	12/01
HAUGHEY, Kay	12/02
MENZE, Helen	12/04
GROFF, Phyllis	12/05
DUNLAP, Gerry	12/07
SCHOTT, Luella	12/07
KOSCHEL, Doris	12/08
OLDSEN, Christi	12/08
SWARTZ, Tammy	12/11
SPARKS, Lee	12/12
PICKERT, Scott	12/16
STEIN, Carla	12/16
DOESCHER, Jean	12/19
RUEGSEGGER, Dan	12/19
BRADY, Ryan	12/20
MOORE, Peggy	12/24
SWARTZ, Miranda	12/28
DYNOWSKI, Mazzy	12/29
PETERS, Max	12/29
WOHLMAN, Jeremy	12/30
BUROW, Don	12/31

December Anniversaries

WEBB, Gene & Judy	12/18
SCOHY, Richard & Donna	12/22
THOMPSON, Ed & Marsha	12/22
CHENEVERT, Sharon & Richard	12/23
HYATT, Charles & Carolyn	12/25
WALKER, Ron & Joyce	12/27

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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.

**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

