



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

October 1, 2013

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

Youth Minister:

Rachel Nelson (ext 22)

Licensed Ministers:

Pam Hilliard

Tracy Morgan

Dennis Miller

LifeCare Email:

fcclifecare@comcast.net

Sunday Morning Services:

9:00 Worship Service

10:30 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.

OPEN HOUSE FOR THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WING:

Everyone is invited to take a walk down the Christian Education Wing and to check out the new remodel that has been taking place over these last few months. We as the Body of Christ have replaced our HVAC system, taken out accordion dividers, painted rooms, shuffled classrooms and storage areas, and most of all just gave it a new fresh look. Some people say I have been 'Monkeying' around back in the Christian Education Wing, others saying I have just been fishing for Gods direction and most just think I have been sleeping at the church. While some of this may be true I can honestly say that I have been very happy doing God's work in our building and I have been blessed with the volunteers who have helped with this project. It has been a God sighting with every 8-hour work day. Come take a stroll down our Christian Education Wing hall way and see what all the fuss is about. While you're on your way stop in and see what the new boiler looks like too.

Your Humble Servant

Tammy Swartz

Christian Education Director

FROM RETREAT TO ADVANCE

On the last Sunday in August we gathered at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch for our annual congregation retreat. Those who were able to attend



celebrated worship, and then dug down into the work of looking forward to the future of our church. It was a beautiful day in the mountain foothills, as we shared stories and ate

together near the mouth of the Big Thompson Canyon.

Three weeks later, the site of our retreat was under water and much of the canyon had been washed downstream. Lives and property were lost, and whole communities were devastated. The task of responding and rebuilding is years ahead of us.

In conversation with many of you in the days after the flood, the notion emerged that perhaps God had sent us an answer to the main question we were asking at Sylvan Dale: “How is God calling us to be church in this time?” I should be clear that no one is suggesting God sent the flood to give us – or anyone else – a message. As I preached in my sermon that Sunday, God does not send disaster (although God most assuredly is with us in the flood waters and the devastation).

What we are saying is that God has placed us here and equipped us to heal this and other injuries – spiritual and physical – and to refashion the community envisioned in creation. In Christian tradition and language, we call that vision *the reign (some say kingdom) of God*. In this tradition, one role of the church was to be a model to follow in building this ideal community.

Make no mistake; the flooding and devastation we have experienced is an injury in itself, to which we are called to respond with healing words and actions. But in another sense, this disaster is a symbol for the hurts and injuries that were present before and remain after. For days following the initial rains, the river divided our city of Loveland and made it virtually impossible to move from north to south. This is not unlike the way our public discourse, our politics, and even our views of the faith have polarized and divided us so that we cannot agree on solutions to pressing problems and hurts.

One of the suggestions raised by the conversation at Sylvan Dale was that we revisit our mission statement and our mission in general. Another was that we have drifted off course from the historic mission of our congregation. Our anxiety over declining worship attendance and decreasing budgets had us asking, “how do we get people into the church”; what we are supposed to be asking is, “how do we get the church out to the people?”

When the 1976 Big Thompson flood brought similar death and destruction, this congregation responded by opening our hearts and our doors to healing the injury and rebuilding our community. In those same years, the church grew in numbers and in resources. In less than a decade, the congregation was adding space to accommodate more worshippers.

Today – literally as I write this piece – we are receiving inquiries from people and organizations all around the country who want to help. They have seen the pain and devastation, and they want to give of their time, abilities, and financial resources to help. Some are driven by compassion, others by religious direction. They are exemplary of the new generations of spiritual seekers who want to be “hands on”; who find their connection with God and neighbor digging in the mud more than sitting in the pews.

What I am hearing from many of you is that we need to pivot from a “retreat” to an “advance”; that we follow our valuable conversations last month into valid actions into the future. For instance, what if the space soon to be vacated by our longtime partnership with *Stepping Stones Adult Day Care* would now become a “mission outpost” for groups that want to come join with us to heal and restore our community?

As the television crews and helicopters leave, we who remain – and have the benefit of experience and long term thinking – know that there are years of work ahead all around us. Is it possible that God has positioned us and given resources in our building, our experience with mission trips, and our heart for the Gospel to lead in healing and rebuilding?

*Love, Grace and Peace,
Michael*

Ministry to Emerging Generations...

As many of you may have heard, I have a new title, and with it, expanded responsibilities. I am now the Minister to Emerging Generations, and my responsibilities include ministry to young adults as well as youth, and involvement in our new worship gathering, the "Sunday Interactive" service. Wondering what this all means? Keep reading!

Youth Ministry: As in past years, our youth ministry is running strong. Though many high schoolers have graduated out of our group in recent years, we have a whole new set of middle schoolers coming in. Youth groups have moved to a new night and time to achieve less scheduling conflicts with their extracurricular and community involvements, and we kicked it off this month with excitement! We are focusing right now on formation of our new group's identity, getting to know each other and visioning for the rest of our year together. It's a great time to try it out, so please invite all the youth you know! In addition, I will soon be having an informational meeting for those curious about youth sponsorship. If you would like to volunteer with our youth in any capacity, please let me know!

Young Adult Ministry: It has been a painful reality that while we have youth graduate into young adulthood each year, we have not offered a young adult ministry to target the spiritual needs, joys, and challenges faced by those in the transformative later years of adolescence and early adulthood. Well, my friends, the time has come! This ministry will be developed over the coming months in incremental steps. The first step is the beginning of a group for our college aged young adults. I have put together a leadership team, we had our first visioning and planning meeting, and we are looking forward to our first meeting with the full group. All college aged (approx. 18-23ish) young adults will be welcome regardless of whether they are enrolled in classes. The group will have opportunities to learn together, serve together, and build relationships that will support them through the unique challenges and joys of late adolescence as they learn to navigate adult life. If you are interested in helping grow this ministry, please let me know - our most immediate needs are for nutritious, homemade meals to be served at our gatherings, so if you like to cook we would love to have your help!

Sunday Interactive: Information on this new worship opportunity is circulating. If you long for an opportunity to worship in a less formal setting where questions and discussion are welcome, this may be for you! Join us on Sunday at 10:50 in Minnerly Hall.

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!

Joint Gathering with HRCC and FCCG

October 6, 4:30-6:30

This will be a special shared youth group with our friends and partners from Ft Collins and Greeley, and we are hosting this one here at FCCL!

CRMR CYF Fall Retreat Nov 1-3 in Denver **Forms due Oct. 13**

This retreat for youth in grades 9-12 from all around the region has a service theme, "From Stranger to Neighbor". See Rachel for forms and more information.

Find us on Facebook!

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! – Please email Rachel@lovelanddisciples.org to receive updates in case of meeting changes, etc.



OWLS Outing (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)

The OWLS (Older Wiser Lively Seniors) will gather on Friday October 11, 2013 at 10:15 AM in the south parking lot of the church. We will enjoy some of the new sculptures as well as the previous ones at the Benson sculpture garden. Lunch out before we return to the church. Please use the sign up sheet near the kitchen. For more info see Ann M. or Bonnie R.

Trunk R' Treat

Trunk R' Treat will take place this year on Saturday October 26th starting at 1:00 p.m. for decorating your trunks, the kids will start to arrive at 2:00 p.m. for an afternoon full of fellowship, and goodies we will finish up our day at 4:00 p.m. If you would like to help out with this event please contact Tammy Swartz 970-962-9612

Thank You

How comforting it was to have many Christian friends praying for me during my recent surgery. I know that helped to make the procedure to be successful. I do thank you very much.

Lyle Hinkle



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

October 6th Carlos Madrazo-East Timor

October 13th Jeanette Salley- Haiti

October 20th Alma Crawford-Ghana

October 27th Amelia and Pedro Cassillas-Paraguay



First Sunday Food

September: 10- Ravioli, 9- lg cans of chicken, 10- sm cans of chicken, 2-cans of canned ham, 9-Spam, 44-Tuna, 2-snack size of tuna, 2-lg cans of beef stew, 5-vienna sausages, 6-cans of Salmon, 2-pork n beans, 1-black beans, 1-sausage gravy, 1-condensed milk, 4-mac n cheese, 17-jars of peanut butter with a weight

of 99.4lbs along with some toiletries.

- October-Canned Vegetables
- November-Dry Mixes (muffin mix, cake mix, stuffing, seasonings, flour, sugar)
- December-Canned Meat

October Birthdays

PERSON, Bobbie	2-Oct
CARLSON, Barbara	3-Oct
PERRY, Lacy	4-Oct
STUART, Pat	4-Oct
BRADY, Susan	5-Oct
BRADY, James	6-Oct
DAVIS, Frances	6-Oct
YOUNG, Maxine	7-Oct
BENTLEY, Duane	8-Oct
DAHL, Phylis	9-Oct
HAYWARD, Walt	9-Oct
SCHNEIDER, E.J.	10-Oct
ESTRADA, Sterling	11-Oct
YOUNG, Carol	11-Oct
OLSON, Curtis	12-Oct
SUTORIUS, Lindsey	12-Oct
BOWER, Katie	13-Oct
WHITING, Richard	14-Oct
KRINGS, LeRoy	15-Oct
BRADY, Elizabeth	18-Oct
MORGAN, Lucy	19-Oct
MORGAN, Tracy	20-Oct
TODD, Ione	20-Oct
MYERS, Billie	21-Oct
DILL, Chuck	29-Oct
POMRANKA, Don	30-Oct
BENTLEY, Cheryl	31-Oct
DAYHUFF, Drew	31-Oct
KNAUS, Keith	31-Oct

October Anniversaries

SHAFFER, Don & Joan	1-Oct
ROBERTS, Joe & Ruth	8-Oct
BYERS, Jake & Vi	20-Oct
SHARRAR, Ed & Fayeane	20-Oct
YOUNG, David & Carol	21-Oct
HALSEY, Larry & Carol	27-Oct
KEELER, Kenneth & Cherie	29-Oct



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October 6th First Sunday Food— Canned vegetables		1 6:30p LifeCare Meeting 6:30p Grief Share	2 12p Life Tree Café 6:30p Finding the Joy 6:30p Dare to be 7p Financial Peace Unv. 7p Life Tree Café	3 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	4 7:15a Men's reunion group	5
6 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Grade School Youth Group & Xone77	7 6p Women's reunion group	8 6:30p Grief Share	9 9:30a Trustees 12p Life Tree Café 6:30p Finding the Joy 6:30p Dare to be 7p Financial Peace Unv. 7p Life Tree Café	10 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	11 7:15a Men's reunion group	12
13 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Grade School Youth Group & Xone77	14 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group	15 Link Deadline 6:30p Grief Share 7p Mary's Circle	16 12p Life Tree Café 6:30p Finding the Joy 6:30p Dare to be 7p Financial Peace Unv. 7p Life Tree Café	17 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	18 7:15a Men's reunion group	19
20 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Grade School Youth Group & Xone77	21 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	22 6:30p Grief Share 7p Elders Meeting	23 12p Life Tree Café 6:30p Finding the Joy 6:30p Dare to be 7p Financial Peace Unv. 7p Life Tree Café	24 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	25 7:15a Men's reunion group	26 2p Trunk R Treat
27 9a Worship 10:10a Sunday School 10:50 Interactive Worship 4:30p Grade School Youth Group & Xone77	28 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	29 6:30p Grief Share	30 12p Life Tree Café 6:30p Finding the Joy 6:30p Dare to be 7p Financial Peace Unv. 7p Life Tree Café	31 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir		

First Christian Church
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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.

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