

Connecting
Us with God and
one another

November 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
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Pam Hilliard

Minister for Grief and Loss
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Tracy Morgan

Commissioned Minister
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Mission Support Staff

Kirsten Bayne

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Max and Marcia Peters

Building Managers
(970) 669-6895

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Nursery/Childcare Director
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Gina Schuh-Turner, Choir Dir.

Karen Lee, Organist

Troy Schuh, Pianist



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Our annual all-congregation meeting and Thanksgiving brunch will be **Sunday, November 23rd**. We'll begin with *worshipful work* at 9:00am, followed by a potluck brunch.

The agenda for annual meeting includes election of leadership and approving the 2015 budget for ministry.

Please plan on joining us after the Congregational Meeting on Nov 23rd for a potluck brunch. The Congregational Life Committee will supply the ham, coffee and juice. We ask that you bring a brunch type (i.e. egg casserole, fruit salad, coffee cake) dish to share. Watch for the sign-up sheet to be in the Nov. bulletins.

Fall Clean-Up @ FCC Round 2

On Tuesday, November 18th at 10:00am we will be painting and cleaning around the church. We are looking for as many volunteers as we can get. We also need trimmers, leaf blowers, trucks and trailers. Bring your work clothes and paint brushes and let's have some fun! If you have any questions contact Dennis Swartz at 667-1318.



WHAT DID WE LEARN IN RETREAT?

In late August we gathered for our annual all-congregation retreat. Following worship, we participated in short sessions shaped by open-



ended responses gleaned from ballots in the previous week's special congregation meeting. In the intervening months, the information gathered from

participants has been shared with committees and leaders you have elected or appointed to deal specifically with these areas.

Responses from the sessions on worship were shared directly with the worship committee and planning team. Information gleaned about building and property issues were turned over to the Trustees and the property committee.

Since they were more numerous and diverse, input from the sessions on congregation growth and participation were posted verbatim in the gallery for everyone to read and discuss.

What does this input tell us about directing our transition into the future? Here are a few of the most important parts, from my perspective:

WORSHIP: In the sessions facilitated by Pam Hilliard, the responses were about evenly divided. About half expressed a desire for more traditional music, while the other half want contemporary music. Several said they wanted an entirely different worship service at a different time – perhaps even a different day.

The latter point is a critical one for our future. In a society moving at full speed 24/7, churches cannot expect to reach out to a broad variety of people with one worship service per week. We must **make a high priority of designing and launching a second service**, reaching out to those who wish to worship at a different time in a different style.

In the early part of the new year, we will be looking for those in our congregation and others to help study possible elements for a new service. Groundwork has already been laid in identifying funds and other resources that may be devoted to this important task. I challenge

those willing to take up the task to **have a new service in place by next fall.**

BUILDING ISSUES: When I facilitated the retreat sessions on this area, we talked about three competing interests; routine maintenance and care, catching up on deferred maintenance, and renovation of outdated spaces. Each of these is important, but compete with each other for attention and funds.

A critical move in responding to these needs is to **establish a unified building fund**, administered by the Trustees. Rather than identifying a specific need, then raising money to meet it, we need to have an ongoing effort to make funds available before the need arises.

The fund needs to be built from designated regular contributions, as well as special gifts and bequests. It is important that the building fund be additional money – not merely shifted from general fund giving.

Following my call in last month's LINK to focus on vitality for our 150th anniversary, I challenge us to set our sights on **raising 150 thousand dollars for the building fund by 2029.**

CONGREGATION GROWTH &

PARTICIPATION: Tracy Morgan facilitated these sessions, which produced a variety of ideas and responses. Many of these reflected a general anxiety about the need to grow in numbers and especially to attract younger members.

Among the responses was recognized the role a second worship service will play in successfully addressing the need to grow. But most important is to accept that **there are no "magic formulas"** that will increase numbers and participation. The effort will involve everyone and take much work and experimentation.

I challenge us to **stop talking exclusively about "the youth" and identify ways to engage each of the 6 living generations** in our community with the witness of the Living Christ.

*Love, Grace and Peace,
Michael*

BY THE NUMBER\$

A financial snapshot in rounded figures

Sept. Income: \$16,700 (\$4,200 **under** budget)

Expenses: \$24,000 (\$1,300 **over** budget)

As of the end of September:

Income is **\$16,400 less than anticipated**

Expenses are **\$2,000 under budget**

Don Stoppel, Treasurer

Average September Worship Attendance: 117

ANNUAL MEETING & BRUNCH

Your church board has set November 23rd for *Worshipful Work*, our annual congregation meeting and worship session. Our **deliberation**



and decision making will take place during the worship service, beginning at 9:00am. Immediately following will be a Thanksgiving brunch, welcoming everyone.

As required by corporate law and our own bylaws, the congregation meets at least once a year to elect leadership and establish a budget for ministry in the coming year.

The board will meet in a special session November 3 to finalize a proposed budget. This process is challenging, due to the **lower than anticipated giving** we have experienced since spring. Board members are determined to present a budget for the congregation's approval that is both realistic and representative of our commitment to future ministry together.

Decreased giving, increased expense

In addition to reduced financial support from the congregation, the personnel committee and the board are wrestling with appropriate compensation for our pastor. When our church faced severe budget cuts in 2012, we made difficult decisions to eliminate positions and seek an interim minister. To save money, **the salary for that position was set at half that of the previous long-term pastor.**

Fortunately, our Regional search and call team connected us with a candidate who had recently returned to Colorado and was willing to consider interviewing for the position. Reverend

Michael Stein was not searching for an interim ministry, but felt called by the Spirit and was persuaded by Regional Minister Jose Morales to prayerfully consider accepting the challenge.

Now that our congregation has voted overwhelmingly to transition into a permanent call, we also look toward compensation that is both fair and affordable. While still far below the recommended salary and benefits for a church of our size, **the personnel committee has recommended a package that is more equitable than we currently pay.**

In accepting the committee's recommendation, the board recognizes the effect of increasing our annual budget. At that same time, your leadership believes the congregation must step up to fulfill the commitment we made in agreeing to the transition.

Once established, **both the leadership nominations and the budget outline will be available in worship November 9 and 16.** Immediately following the service, board members will conduct a brief session to answer questions prior to the congregation meeting November 23.

In coming weeks, please be in prayer with your officers and other leaders as they work to faithfully move our church forward into a positive future in Christ's service.

DIRECT DEPOSIT

Simple. Safe. Secure.

- You can set a minimum automatically, and supplement with additional or special offerings when you attend worship. All will be credited to your giving statement.
- An "I gave electronically" giving card is provided in the pews, for inclusion in the offering plate.
- Direct deposit saves the trouble and expense of paper checks, or the hassle of finding your wallet during the worship service.

Call Kirsten in the church office (667-1318) for details.

Youth in Action and Advocacy

On October 12, the youth who participated in our summer 2014 mission trips shared their experiences in worship. If you missed it, here's a brief recap:

- Abbie shared that the theme for both trips was "Being Human", and both groups explored this theme by considering the many ways humankind are created in God's image, and likewise, what the diversity of humankind tells us about the nature of God.
- Brooke and Kate shared about our high school trip to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Service projects included handing out water on the street downtown, sorting food items at a food bank distribution center, weeding community gardens and learning about a program designed to provide healthy alternatives to gang membership, sorting food and cleaning at a food bank, and painting, cleaning and serving meals at a homeless shelter, amongst other odd jobs.
- Tyner and Tadan shared about our middle school trip to Alamosa, Colorado, serving LaPuente Home. Projects included planning, cooking, and serving meals at the shelter, working in the community garden, mentoring preschool age children who have been exposed to violence and/or abuse, and cleaning and painting long term volunteer houses.
- Both groups worked hard and learned about issues of poverty and homelessness. All group members had memorable experiences and lessons learned, and are grateful for the congregation's support that allows these experiences to happen!

Also, on October 4, a few of our youth and adults participated in the Loveland CROP Hunger Walk, raising funds for our local food bank and for Church World Service's global hunger – fighting efforts. We had a great time walking together while supporting an important ministry of caring for our hungry neighbors everywhere.



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!

NoCO Gathering Nov 23

This youth group meeting will be held in partnership with our friends from Fort Collins and Greeley.

There will be **NO youth group on Nov. 30** due to the holiday weekend. We will resume meeting for at least the first half of December!

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. 1.

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.

THANK YOU FROM THE NAVAJO WORK CAMP

I want to thank everyone who has supported the Navajo work camp (Shiprock) the past 20 years. Many of you worked on homes to help the people have a better life. Those that could not go gave great financial help and many other gifts.

The Reservation where we have worked looks so much improved from 20 years ago. You can all pat yourself on the back for helping do this.

Thanks again for all the prayers and help

Joyce Walker

OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)

The OWLS will be visiting the Loveland museum/gallery on Friday, November 14, 2014. We will gather at the south parking lot of the church at 11:00 am to carpool to the museum. We will have a talk with the curator at noon for about 30 minutes regarding the special exhibit which is Ansel Adams/Georgia O'Keefe etc. This is a free day at the museum.

When we are finished at the museum, we will do lunch before returning to the church. All are welcome. Please use the sign-up sheets near the kitchen. Contact Ann McSay for more info.



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 November is Dry mixes.

Thank you from the Kitchen Staff

Many thanks to John Horton for our "snazzy red aprons". We may not cook any better, but we sure keep cleaner! Check us out at the next eating event!



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

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.




Birthdays

SNAVELY, Deanna	11/01
SPRAGUE, Chris	11/03
NICKEL, Pat	11/04
PAYNE, Bev	11/05
PALMER, Jackie	11/06
BURCH, Sandra	11/07
MCANALLY, Cheryl	11/08
PATE, Evelyn	11/08
SWARTZ, Kathleen	11/08
CASON, Harlene	11/09
KAUFFMAN, Louise	11/13
LIDDLE, Jack	11/13
ROBERTS, Ruth	11/13
CAREY, Dorothy	11/14
VAUGHN, Kathy	11/14
COOPER, John	11/15
SHAFFER, Don	11/20
BYERS, Vi	11/21
REEVES, Bev	11/27
STENCEL, Ilene	11/27
KEITH, Lois	11/29
DEPPERSCHMIDT, Nancy	11/30

Anniversaries

PETERS, Max & Marcia	11/02
IMEL, Terry & Linda	11/07
STENCEL, Ben & Ilene	11/10
COMBS, Dennis & Jan	11/19
KAUFFMAN, Ben & Doris	11/24
BETZ, L. Ann & Dennis	11/30
SEATON, Ron & Sylvia	11/30

o v e r m b e r

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9a Worship <i>First Sunday Food— Dry Mixes</i> 4:30p Youth Group	3 6p Women's reunion group	4 6:30p GriefShare	5	6 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	7 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	8
9 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	10 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries	11 6:30p GriefShare 	12 9:30a Trustees	13 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	14 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club 9:30a OWLS	15 Link Deadline
16 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	17 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	18 9a Fall Clean-Up Day 6:30p GriefShare 7p Mary Circle	19	20 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	21 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	22
23 9a Worshipful Work 10:30a Thanksgiving Brunch 4:30p Youth Group	24 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	25 6:30p GriefShare 7p Elders Meeting	26	27 	28 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	29
30 9a Worship 4:30p Youth						



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.

**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

