



Connecting
Us with God and
one another

January 1, 2015

CONTACTING THE CHURCH STAFF

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Pastoral Leadership Team

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Gina Schuh-Turner, Choir Dir.
Karen Lee, Organist
Troy Schuh, Pianist

OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors)

The OWLS (Older Wiser Livelier Seniors) will meet at the church on Friday, January 9, 2015 for a movie (TBA) and lunch. We will begin the movie about 10 A.M. Pizza lunch at the church will follow the movie. All are welcome. Please use the sign up sheet near the kitchen. Contact Ann McSay for questions.

1st Sunday Food for January is Peanut Butter and Jelly

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.

NEW YEAR BRINGS CHALLENGES

As we enter our period of holiday recovery, our church looks ahead to the opportunity and challenge of serving God in our 136th year.



Although **we face a time of increased uncertainty and decreased confidence in religious faith**, our congregation is also blessed with assets and

abilities we are only beginning to put to work for God's purposes.

We start the year with both energy and stability in our leadership, with the membership of the elected board seeing little change. This helps to bring continuity in the course we have set with member input and determination. Among their challenges in 2015 will be to carefully **monitor the budget** and to begin the process of **revamping our governance structure** to match the times and the size of our congregation.

Similarly, the Trustees also begin the new year with an experienced team along with new faces and perspectives. Perhaps their most significant challenge will be the effort to **grow the permanent building fund** so that we may continue address long-term stewardship of our building and grounds.

While these two groups tend to address issues from a "nuts and bolts" perspective, the Fellowship of Elders keep us grounded through their spiritual leadership. In 2015 they will be placing particular emphasis on the **spiritual discipline of individual and collective stewardship**.

The coming year also sees changes in our practice and programs of ministry. For the first time in two decades, there will be **no Shiprock Mission trip** and accompanying fundraising. When a date is set for our "Wintermission" Sunday, we celebrate and give thanks for the successes of this longtime ministry.

Another long time mission program goes on hiatus this year as we **take a break from participation in the Angel House** partnership with House of Neighborly Service. While this is a valuable part of the effort to deal with homelessness in our community, it is also

volunteer intensive. In the past couple of years, it has been increasingly difficult to recruit folks from our congregation to prepare meals and to stay in the church overnight with our guests. The break gives us a chance to rest and regroup, perhaps to begin participation again in future years.

In contrast to these "sunset" ministries, **our Mission Station project is growing and expanding**. In partnership with *Disciples Volunteering, Week of Compassion* and our regional church, we currently have 5 Disciples-related groups coming to Colorado in the spring to help with recovery from the 2013 floods – including a team from overseas. From late May to the end of July, we are also partnering with locally-based *Group Mission Trips* to host their "Week of Hope" groups from many different churches across the USA. We will be challenged in this growth to accommodate our guests alongside our regular building users from the congregation and community.

Another growing ministry project is annual **clothing giveaway**. Last year saw the addition of a prom dress giveaway and backpacks loaded with necessary school supplies. As this expansion continues, the challenge will be to incorporate more volunteers and to keep up the stream of quality donations for sharing.

Among the messages we heard from the congregation retreat and other forums in 2014 was the **need for another alternative in worship**. With work and family obligations, having a single worship service once a week excludes too many from the opportunity to be part of our community. In addition, the presence of six distinctive generations makes necessary a different style of service in which people can worship God.

As we aim for a fall start to this venture, the challenge will be to muster resources and implement the new service while maintaining the quality of our existing service. A related challenge is to **integrate persons who attend each service into the life of the congregation**.

Happy New Year!

Michael

Shopping for Emerging Generations

Like many of our sister churches, we are blessed at FCC to have a portion of our budget dedicated to ministry to those who are in a crucial stage of their identity and faith development: the youth. These funds, drawn from the weekly offerings the church receives, support our youth's participation in formative experiences such as participation in church camp and mission trips, as well as our ability to provide a meaningful weekly youth group. This coming year, we are officially including our ministry to emerging and young adults in that line item as well.

What does this mean? On the surface, it's simply a renaming of a category in the electronic records of our church finances that won't make a big impact on our youth, just as my title last year changed from "Youth Minister" to "Minister to Emerging Generations", but I was the same person to the youth as I had been the year before. The difference is in the intentional inclusion of our youngest adults, those in the age group that is by current research least likely to participate in religious activities, but most likely to be putting substantial time and energy into determining who, and what type of person, they are going to be for the majority of their adult life. Our goal is to begin to direct more support to provision of opportunities for these emerging adults to experience church as part of their identity explorations, to come together with other Christians who are experiencing similar struggles, questions, and possibilities, and are in need of a supportive community in which to explore their faith and its importance to who they want to be and how they want to live.

This is where you come in! While we have opportunities for volunteers to dedicate time and talent to the youth and emerging adults (and I welcome an email or call from you if you'd like to get involved), we are also in need of additional financial resources to support our very active ministries, which now include regular meetings and mission trips for emerging adults as well as youth, in addition to extremely valuable but ever more expensive youth camps and retreats. Your donations are always welcome, of course, but the most effective way you can give us financial support without any additional impact on your pocketbook is by using one of our grocery cards. **Albertson's will donate 1% of the amount you spend in their stores, and King Soopers will donate 5%!** All you have to do is pick up the appropriate card and remember to use it when you shop. Albertson's keychain cards are free and are scanned when you check out. King Soopers gift cards are available for purchase (\$20 for a \$20 card), and can then be used over and over by "reloading" them at any King Soopers, then using them to pay for groceries, gas, prescriptions, and more. Both are available from Rachel on Sunday mornings (or special arrangements can be made by phone or email).

Finally, on behalf of our youth, emerging adults, and leaders, **THANK YOU!!! to our current grocery card users**, who earned approximately \$1800 for our ministry in 2014. You make a big difference in our lives, and we greatly appreciate your continued support!

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 spend time together sharing their lives, talking about God, serving others, and of course having fun!

We will not meet on Jan. 4; weekly meetings will resume on Jan. 11.

Midwinter Retreat

Registration due Jan. 11

Retreat Feb. 13-16

The Central Rocky Mountain Region's annual retreat for 6-12th graders at LaForet. This year's theme will be "Living Your Truth", and will be about how to discover your true self and be who God made you to be. Your own Rachel Nelson will be the keynoter for this retreat.

FOR YOUNG ADULTS:

College Aged Mission Trip January 4-7

All college aged young adults from around the region are invited to join us for a mission trip to Denver. The theme of the trip is Diversity, and we will be serving in a variety of ways that reveal and support the diversity of humankind.

Note, this is in addition to our regularly meeting college aged group, who meet a couple of times each month for dinner, conversation, and spiritual growth.

To get connected, email rachel@lovelanddisciples.org.

Birthdays

PERSON, Craig	01/03
RYTERSKI, Amber	01/03
LINDSEY, Randy	01/06
WILLIAMS, Eula	01/06
ESTRADA, Julie	01/09
HILLIARD, Pamela	01/09
HALSEY, Daryl	01/11
WUERTZ, Harold	01/11
HINKLE, Lyle	01/12
FELDHUS, Kyle	01/13
JESKULSKI, Aiden	01/13
GROVES, Pat	01/15
RUEGSEGGER, Nancy	01/15
DILL, Judy	01/18
STENSON, Vance	01/18
CHENEVERT, Sharon	01/20
ZAKAVEC, Tracie	01/20
SWARTZ, Sharon	01/21
MORRISON, Virginia	01/24
MORGAN, Brad	01/25
CLOUD, Justin	01/26
SEATON, Sylvia	01/29
ENGELHARDT, Orville	01/30
BRAY, Susan	01/31

Anniversaries

GROVES, Don & Pat	01/01
BERGSTROM, Robert & Colleen	01/02
LIDDLE, Jack & Bonnie	01/13
SPRAGUE, Bob & Chris	01/13
MAGNUSON, Herman & Cherlene	01/15
MORGAN, Lucy & Bryan	01/18
GALUS, Bernie & Linda	01/20



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day	2 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	3
4 9a Worship <i>First Sunday Food— is Peanut Butter & Jelly</i>	5 6p Women's reunion group	6	7	8 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	9 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club 9:30a OWLS	10
11 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	12 9:30a Rachel Circle 6p Women's reunion group 7p Program Ministries	13	14 9:30a Trustees	15 Link Deadline 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	16 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	17
18 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	19 6p Women's reunion group 7p General Board	20 7p Mary Circle	21	22 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	23 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	24
25 9a Worship 4:30p Youth Group	26 6p Women's reunion group 7p Worship Committee	27 7p Elders Meeting	28	29 6p Bell Choir 7p Chancel Choir	30 7:00a Men's reunion group @ Breakfast Club	31

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

