

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2230 13th Street  
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# The Christian Caller

Monthly Publication of  
First Christian Church  
Greeley, Colorado

970/352-1292

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Rev. Tim Bobbitt, Senior Minister

Rev. C. fester Coffee-Prose, Associate Minister

Our Vision: First Christian Church - called  
by Christ's transforming grace and love to  
share hope and life in community.

## December 2008

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#### Global Ministries

##### *Lectionary Text and Prayers for Argentina: Matthew 25:31-46*

God, we thank you for your call to serve the "least of these" as we serve you. We pray today for the ministries of our partners in Argentina as they seek to reach out to the "least of these" in their context.

We pray particularly for the work of the Disciples of Christ in the "La Tablada" as they touch the lives of children at risk in that neighborhood. We pray also for the Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo as they continue their search for the children that were taken away from their parents during the "dirty war" of the late 1970's. We pray also for the collaboration that is taking place between the Disciples in Argentina and Paraguay with the possibility of including the Congregational churches in Argentina. Bless these churches as they seek new ways to work together and serve the "least of these" in their communities. Teach us also how to recognize the face of Christ in the brothers and sisters with whom we are in partnership around the globe. Amen.

Prayer by Bob Shebeck

The photo above shows the church Pastor Tim served from 1997-2003. Jodi Bobbitt worked in the "La Tablada" community center (cited in the article).

#### Pray for Argentina



## A MOMENT WITH TIM

**“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” John 1:5**

It's been called the most wonderful time of the year. Decorations are going up all around us. With the snap of a finger the political ads and flyers have been transformed into ads letting us know what toys and electronics we can't live without this Christmas. The church is now decorated for this time of Advent and Christmas.

There are wonderful parts of this time of year. The lighting of the Advent wreath and the special music hold great meaning. Many people seem a little more open to the light of God in their lives. Finding that something special to give our loved ones can be exciting (or frustrating, or worrisome).

Some aspects of this time of year are not so wonderful. With the economic concerns of these days, gift giving has become a concern to many. In reality, every Christmas produces this concern for millions in our country. For others, having heat in their house or walls and a roof that protect them from the cold are major concerns. For many, feeling loved rather than lonely in this time is of great concern.

Advent is about the coming of Christ. It is about the celebration of the past, of a baby being born in a manger in Bethlehem. It is about the powerful presence of the living Christ among us. It is about the future Kingdom of God and the invitation to enter wholly into that future story.

In this time of Advent we will light candles of hope, the way, joy, and peace. On Christmas Eve we will light the Christ candle of love. The decorations are beautiful, and the gift giving can be fun. During this time of Advent and into Christmas, however, I invite you to concentrate on the flame of the Advent wreath. Concentrate on the light of Christ in our world.

Find concrete ways to share the love of God. We do this by inviting others to join us at church as we celebrate. We do this by inviting others who may feel lonely to join us for a meal or a special time in our homes. We do this by sharing what we have with those who face this time in need of food, clothing, or shelter. May the light of Christ shine through each of us in Advent and always.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Jim



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



On Nov. 16 we gathered for our Congregational Meeting. We approved the 2009 Plan for Mission and Ministry and elected church officers. Our officers of the General Board for the 2009 year are: David Haining, chair; Debbie Berg, vice chair; Verna Recor, secretary; Carol Hypes, church clerk; Gretchen Howland, financial secretary; LaVonne Rogakis, assistant financial secretary; Jim Prichard, financial overseer; and Kelly Jensen, preschool administrative team representative. We also elected new members for our trustees, elders, and diaconate. We give thanks for the wonderful leadership of our congregation. Our 2008 leadership has been wonderful, and we look forward to this new year.

Please keep the leaders of our congregation in your prayers.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### TOTAL STEWARDSHIP

We are challenged by God to be good stewards of our time, talent and financial resources. During the past few months the emphasis has been on the financial needs of FCC to carry out the planned ministries.

We need to have a balanced stewardship that includes spreading the Good News about how Christ is a life preserver everyone needs. However, there are many people who have not made that recognition.

The Elders have been reading a book titled “Unbinding the Gospel.” One of the facts mentioned was that many people have not been part of a worship community like FCC and do not know where or how to seek help in their lives when life seems a struggle. Another fact is each of us needs to be aware of friends, relatives, and neighbors, etc., who are not active in a church and invite them to worship with us at FCC. This can be a very informal invitation. Just keep your eyes and ears open to those around you who may be in need of a spiritual, uplifting experience. Never miss an opportunity to share your faith with others.

IT'S OUR JOB!!!!

Bill Kehl

Stewardship Chair

*Gifts in Memory of Irma Ward or Angie Fry  
may be given to First Christian Church.  
Please put "Memorial Gift" on the  
memo line of your check.*

**Dear Rev. Bobbitt & all of your wonderful people,**  
So many times in the 6 1/2 years Mom (Irma Ward) was at Fairacres I would go into her room and read the notes and cards your people from the First Christian Church had left. Please know your kindness is greatly appreciated. Rev. Tim, your words of comfort are appreciated more than you know. Thank you. **Don and Beverly Schell and Family**

## BEREAVEMENT



*Our sympathy is with the families of Irma Ward,  
who passed away November 5, and Angie Fry,  
who passed away November 20.*

## NEW MEMBERS



Jason Garcia and Megan Steele  
joined FCC Greeley on Nov. 9.  
Welcome, Jason and Megan!



## TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY

We wish to thank all of you for the many ways  
you expressed your concerns for us  
during our recent ill-being.

In Christian Love,  
Jack and Bernie Holland



## FCC PRESCHOOL NEWS

We recently held a Chili Supper/  
Silent Auction, and with the help of the  
church and the community we raised over  
\$2400 to benefit the preschool. Thank  
you to all who joined us for the meal and  
bid on the auction items! Without your  
generosity the event would not have been a  
success. Special thanks to church members  
Bill Kehl, Rick Billings, Kelly Jensen, and  
Gerre Tjardes for preparing the chili and  
chicken noodle soup, to Bob and Hazel Gibson  
for making the cornbread, and to those of  
you who brought in the delicious desserts, it  
was much appreciated!

In other news, the preschool has plans to hold a  
**Christmas Program on December 18**  
at 6:30p in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars!



# December Birthdays



1 Nathan Bobbitt	10 Alicia Loschen	19 Michael Meisner
1 Anabelle Loschen	11 Carolyn Rainbolt	21 Ray White
1 Nita White	12 Frank Stewart	22 Harold Lesser
4 Myrna Armes	15 Jennifer Galindo	25 Lynn Teixeira
5 Jim Townsend	15 Carol Hypes	28 JoAnn Nealy
8 Jim Thomas	18 Merv Martin	30 Bill Crawford

## L.A.F.F. CHRISTMAS DINNER

Life After Fifty-Five Group members are invited to a Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 6, at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Please bring side dishes and desserts, as well as stocking stuffers for Colorado Christian Home. Turkey will be provided. Please see the sign-up sheet in the main hall.



## DECEMBER G.I.F.T. ACTIVITY

The GIFT (Generally In-between Fifty-five and Twenty) group will be celebrating with a gift exchange and progressive dinner on December 13<sup>th</sup>. We will begin at 5:30 with appetizers at the Weilers' home. Childcare will be available at the church at 5:00. Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for more information.




### FCC Family Holiday Breakfast

Saturday, December 13  
9:00 a.m.  
Sponsored by  
Christian Women's Fellowship and the  
Christian Men's Fellowship Chefs

Cheryl Miller will present a light history of "The Night Before Christmas."  
Donations of \$3.00 per person or \$10.00 per family are requested.

## CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING SUPPORTS REGIONAL MINISTRIES

With your Christmas Offering, you fund the ministries offered by the region that serves our church, the Central Rocky Mountain Region. These ministries include: pastoral care; conflict management; leadership workshops; calling, licensing and ordaining ministers; camps and conferences; youth and adult ministries; outreach; eradicating racism; missions projects; ecumenical partnerships; and much more.

The 2008 Christmas Special Offering will be collected December 14 and December 21.

## Servers for the Month of December

	December 7	December 14	December 21	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 28
<b>8:15 Chapel Service</b>					
Elder	Carol Smith	Bill Kehl	Bessie Bishop		Tom Rainbolt
Deacon	Sandy Beiser	Hazel Gibson	Sandy Beiser		Hazel Gibson
Worship Leader	Bob Gibson	Patty Endres	Ronell Heitman		G. Howland
Song Leader	C. R. Haining	Tessa Johnson	G. Howland		Tessa Johnson
Pianist	Nita White	G. Howland	Nancy Kurtz		Chris Coon
<b>10:30 Sanctuary Service</b>					
Elder: North	Tom Rainbolt	Bessie Bishop	Carol Reynolds	Tom Rainbolt	Bill Kehl
Elder: South	Bessie Bishop	Carol Reynolds	Bill Kehl	Carol Reynolds	Bessie Bishop
	Bessie Bishop				
Deacons	Caitlin Berg ☼ Tessa Rainbolt ▲ Darron Berg ■ Debbie Berg ■ Lynde Reed ☼ Michelle Gray ▲ Kelly Davis Rich Davis	David Miller ■ Chris Hartmann ▲ Erika Hartmann ▲ Carol Walker ☼ Chuck Walker ☼ Dana Bechler Porschia Gray ■ Dylan Bechler	Caitlin Berg Tessa Rainbolt ■ Darron Berg ▲ Debbie Berg ▲ Lynde Reed Michelle Gray ■ Kelly Davis ☼ Rich Davis ☼	Janean Beaman ▲ Marie Caster Frank Cribelli ☼ Susan Cribelli ☼ Kathleen Davis ■ Carl England ■ Phyllis Hansberry J. Hartmann ▲	David Miller C. Hartmann ■ E. Hartmann ■ Carol Walker ▲ Chuck Walker ▲ Dana Bechler ☼ Porschia Gray Dylan Bechler ☼
Worship Leader	Rick Billings	Bill Sinnwell	Sam McMichael		Gary Ikenouye
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis		Gerre Tjardes
Sound Operator	Gary Ikenouye	Bruce Waldo	Janice Billings	Bruce Waldo	
Caitlin Berg					
Van Driver	Bill Moser	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz		Fred Tjardes
Greeters	J./S. Luecht R./C. Shetler C./C. England	Evelyn Kehl Helen Stolte M./B. Crawford	R./J. Billings Norma Basey Helen Stolte		H./M. Lesser K. Davis Betty Jensen
Coffee Hour	Walkers	Rainbolts	TBA		TBA
Acolytes	Andrew Bishop Kane Shirley	Josh Bobbitt Austin Bechler	Scott Haining Daniel Recor		C. Bishop L. Waldo
Children's Moment		Kris King	David Haining		E. Hartmann
Children's Church		Jodi Bobbitt E. Wolsey	David Haining Lauryn Waldo		Lynne Waldo Daniel Recor

KEY: PREPARATION=☼ CLEAN UP SANCTUARY=▲ CLEAN UP COMMUNION=■

If you are unable to serve on your designated Sunday, please make arrangements for a replacement. Please notify your team leader and the church of any changes.

## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

An **\*Alternative Tour to Palestine & Israel**  
April 17-27, 2009

*\*Seeking to transform curious tourists into informed pilgrims*

In addition to exploring the holy stones – the historic places and sites that have defined our faith – participants will engage the Living Stones: Jews, Muslims and Christians who live in the land.

Participants will: explore the holy sites of Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Hebron and more; visit Qumran, the wall of Jericho, Massada, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan River and more; learn from Global Ministries mission partners; meet and discuss current realities with Muslim, Christian and Jewish leaders.

Tour leaders Jeff & Janet Wright have served as Disciples of Christ/UCC Global Ministries short-term missionaries to Israel/Palestine, having traveled there many times. Janet, a mental health therapist, has just returned from her most recent service in October, 2008. Jeff is lead pastor of Heart of the Rockies Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Fort Collins, Colo.

For more information and a copy of the draft itinerary, telephone Jeff & Janet at 970/223-8465 (home) or 970/223-1230 (Jeff's office) or email them at [wright@frii.com](mailto:wright@frii.com).

### General Assembly 2009

Have you started making your summer plans? Have you considered visiting the beautiful city of Indianapolis? From July 29 through August 2 Disciples from around the world will be gathering for the 2009 General Assembly, *"For the Healing of the Nations."* It is an inspirational gathering of worship workshops, fellowship, and dealing with the current issues of the church. If you are interested in going, please speak with Tim or David Haining. It would be wonderful to have delegates from our congregation in addition to our pastors. [www.disciples.org](http://www.disciples.org)



### DISCIPLES NOTES:

## NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR WEEK OF COMPASSION



Amy Gopp

The Rev. Amy Gopp has witnessed the crushing impact of war, poverty and natural disaster on people's lives around the globe. But she also has seen how faith, cooperation and a resilient spirit can instill hope in devastating situations.

Gopp will draw on her experiences as a missionary, preacher, global activist and peacemaker in her newest position as Executive Director of Week of Compassion (WOC). Gopp was called to the position in October after a nation-wide search. She had previously served three years as Associate Director of WOC.

In her new position, Gopp will continue Week of Compassion's long tradition of ministering to those in need across the United States and Canada and around the globe. She will lead the ongoing work of Week of Compassion, which serves as the relief, refugee, and development ministry fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In partnership with more than 3200 congregations across North America, the ministry annually channels more than \$2.5 million for world-wide humanitarian needs.

In announcing her selection, General Minister and President Sharon Watkins noted: "Rev. Gopp brings not only experience in Week of Compassion's well-known disaster relief and development work but she also brings a passion for ministries of justice. I look forward to working with Amy in this important position."



## FCC CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"The Friendly Beasts" will be performed at both worship services on Sunday, December 7th. This program is sure to be a fun and memorable part of your Christmas activities. Bring a friend.



### MITTEN TREE



Each Sunday of Advent we will be collecting items to share with those in need. We will collect mittens, hats, scarves, and socks to hang on the tree at the back of the sanctuary.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Come celebrate at our annual candle-light Christmas Eve service, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on December 24th.



### SANCTUARY POINSETTIAS



Order forms for poinsettias purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones will be included with the bulletin in December. The cost is \$15 per plant. We are ordering white poinsettias this year.

### CHOIR CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Chancel Choir will present the FCC Christmas Program at both services on December 14.

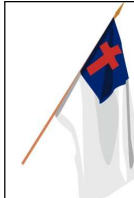


### HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 25 and 26, as well as Thursday, January 1.

Tim will be on vacation from December 25 through Saturday, January 3. Lena Morris will preach on Sunday, December 28.

### THE CHRISTIAN FLAG



It was common practice in the "olden days" to recite the pledge to the Christian flag in our church. For the sake of history and so we do not forget the pledge, we have

included it here.

The Christian flag stands in the front of our sanctuary on the north side.

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag, and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands, one brotherhood, uniting all Christians, in service and in love."

George Hypes, Church Historian

### HISTORY BOOK INDEX OF NAMES

Please give your name to George or Carol Hypes if you would like a list of the 1,684 names that are in the Church History Book.

### WANTED: YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES

Next summer's Vacation Bible School has a "forest" decorating theme. As this Christmas season comes to an end, if you are willing to let us borrow your artificial tree for VBS decorations, please bring it by the church instead of packing it away. If you would like your tree returned after VBS, please be sure to label all parts. Please see Lynne Waldo or fester with any questions. Thank you.



### CRMV VISIONING TEAM

On Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, five people from our congregation joined together with about 100 from other congregations in the Central Rocky Mountain Region to discuss the future of our Regional Church. We are going through a process similar to the one we went through with our congregation. As a Regional Church we are developing a future story and then will seek to live into that story. Kayla Coffee-Prose is a member of the Visioning Team. If you have any ideas, please speak with her and keep the Regional Church and this process in your prayers.



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