

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
2230 13th Street
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First Christian Church
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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.

January 2009

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Global Ministries

Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Luke 1:38

Christianity first came to the islands of Japan during the 16th century, and the first Christmas celebration was reportedly held in 1565 by Father Frois. Christianity was forbidden during the 17th century, and it wasn't until 1858 that foreign missions were again allowed to come to Japan. This year the United Church of Christ in Japan celebrates 150 years of Christianity in Japan.

Today, Christians represent less than 1% of the population, although Christmas (pronounced *kurisumasu*) or *seitansai* (literally, "holy birth festival") celebrations have been embraced by many people in the wider culture. As in the United States, a commercial atmosphere has developed around the holiday. The message of Christian love has also led Christmas to become established as a festive event for couples, somewhat similar to Valentine's Day. Many families celebrate on Christmas Eve with a special Christmas cake. Churches celebrate with candlelight services, church concerts, and nativity pageants. In some churches a unique tradition has arisen. After the service on the Sunday before Christmas, Santa visits the children and gives them presents. In return, the children give Santa gifts of rice, so that they learn that it is important not only to receive gifts, but to give them as well. The rice is shared with children in need. In these ways, Christ's messages of loving one another and helping those who are in need are powerfully represented to the children.

The United Church of Christ in Japan is a partner of Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Christmas in Japan



A MOMENT WITH TIM

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10b

The dawning of a new year encourages us to set goals. Sometimes our personal goals or resolutions fall by the wayside quickly, but occasionally they mark a new path for our lives. Our congregation is also setting goals and priorities. In 2009 we will make it a priority to live the second half of our vision statement: "Share hope and life in community."

This phrase, "Share hope and life in community," will be lived out in worship. During the second, third and fourth Sundays of January we will envision what this means for us through the message. It will be lived out by our General Board and Elders. On January 10th we will gather for a retreat where we will envision more precisely what this means for us as a congregation in 2009.

"Sharing hope and life in community" will be lived out in our Wednesday Night Fellowship. In February we will begin our Wednesday Nights with a little twist. Rather than following our meals with different break-out groups, we will have a congregational conversation. We will form family groups with people of different ages and pray and learn together. We will concentrate on deepening our own spirituality and ask, "How do we share this life and hope with others?" Our conversations will be based on the book "Unbinding the Gospel" by Martha Grace Reese.

"Sharing hope and life in community" will be lived out in Outreach and Church Growth as we seek to share with those beyond our church walls. We will be involved in more "hands on" mission and will discuss non-threatening ways to share our faith. It will be lived out in Education and Youth Group, in our Preschool, and indeed in all that we do.

What might you expect in 2009? Look for mission trips both far and near. Look for a block party. Look for ways to enhance our community of faith and the community around us. If you can't tell, I am excited about this year. It is a new time in living out our Spiritual, Strategic Journey. With God's leading and Christ's transformation we will share hope and life in community.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Jim



Thank You from the Staff

We would like to say "thank you" to the First Christian Church family for the generous Christmas gifts. We are blessed to be able to do ministry with you. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Tim, fester, Susan, Bev, Jeremy, Sandy,
Sue, Courtney, Michelle & Laurie

CRMR DISCIPLE LINK



The first edition of the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Newsletter was published a few weeks ago. The publication's editor is our own Connie Harbert. Connie has volunteered her time to gather and edit information for the newsletter.



VENEZUELA MISSION TRIPS IN 2009

Global Partners is a partnership between the Rocky Mountain Conference United Church of Christ, the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Disciples of Christ and the Evangelical United Pentecostal Church of Venezuela.

Plans are underway for three trips to Venezuela in 2009. **Construction Trip:** April 19-27 (applications due by January 15); **Youth Trip:** July 15-22 (tentative date); **Medical Trip:** October 10-19.

The approximate cost of each trip is \$1300, which includes airfare, ground transportation and most meals. If you are interested, speak with Pastor Tim.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

January seems to be the time when we all say we will make changes in our habits or make changes as to how we live. Many people will establish New Year's resolutions because they know there is a change that is needed in their life...I will stop smoking, I will eat less, I will exercise more, I will attend church more often, I will read the Bible more, etc.

During the holidays we often socialize with people seen only once a year. During the past year we have talked about stewardship as a way of life. A life in which we share and care for the people around us and far away. Good stewardship is more than the financial contributions we make. Remember, as Disciples of Christ we are to take the message of Christ to everyone.

Here is a challenge for all of us for 2009: each of us to bring at least one person or family to a Sunday morning worship or Bible class. We need to invite them to continue to worship with us each Sunday. Then, as we see these new people, to greet them in the name of Christ. Good stewardship includes effective use of all our talents, resources and relationships.

Bill Kehl

Stewardship Chair



FCC PRESCHOOL NEWS

The preschool has had a busy month! The Pre-K classes recently took a fieldtrip to the Festival of Trees. They enjoyed viewing all of the beautifully decorated trees and voted on their favorite one. The children have been busy making snowmen and snowflakes, angels and Christmas trees. They have also enjoyed playing in the snow, and their joy in doing this reminds us why this is such a special time of year.

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you to my church family for the cards, prayers and visits during my stay after surgery. The words of concern were appreciated by both of us. Also, thank you to Von Prichard for the meal she brought to us after I got home.

We're looking forward to joining you at Sunday service.



Janice and Rick Billings 

Dear First Christian Church Family,

This letter is to thank the church for hosting our annual Thanksgiving dinner for the Greeley Transitional House families, and to the volunteers who helped make the event very successful. We served over 100 people and they were all very appreciative of the good, food, warm welcome, and friendliness of everyone who helped.

You demonstrated your Christian love and compassion to our families in a real and practical way. You planted a seed that may help them understand God's love as never before.

Our church has been so very supportive and helpful to the Greeley Transitional House in many ways and I am very grateful.

On behalf of the families and staff, thank you for making our Thanksgiving special!

Warm regards,

Jodi Hartmann, Executive Director

Rev. Warren Hile Has Passed Away

Rev. Warren M. Hile, 82, passed away on Dec. 3, 2008. Rev. Hile served FCC of Colo. Spgs. for 28 years, retiring in 1986. His wife Louise survives him.



NEW MEMBERS

Miguel G., and M. Patricia Ramirez and their children, Dalia D. Vasquez & Michelle S. Ramirez, joined the church on November 30. Miguel's mother, R. Maria Alvarado, also joined. Welcome!





CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWF will not be holding a general meeting in January. The next general meeting will be held on February 5 at noon with a catered luncheon.

The groups will meet in January on their regular days and times. The CWF Board will meet on January 8 at 9:30 a.m.

Happy New Year!



CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The FCC Christian Men's Fellowship will hold its regular meeting on January 10 from 7:30-8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All men of any age are invited to join us for breakfast, fellowship, and a program. January's program will focus on the Habitat for Humanity organization. Make sure to invite a friend!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP Beginning in February

You are invited to a family group and a conversation on faith and sharing. We will base our conversation on the book, "Unbinding the Gospel," by Martha Grace Reese. Look for the sign-up sheet.

Tennyson Center Needs for January:

Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Peppermint Lifesavers Shampoo, 1-oz. Dixie Cups, Hair Accessories Sm. Liquid Hand Soap, Toothpaste & Deodorant

How are We Doing?

Income 2008

Planned Year to Date = \$220,000.00
Actual as of 11/30/08 = \$222,325.28

Expenses 2008

Planned Year to Date = \$265,833.38
Actual as of 11/30/08 = \$252,579.81

Thanksgiving Offering = \$518.50

ELDERS' MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

Now that the holidays are over, we can get back to the business of ordinary, everyday life. Only, come to think of it, after the birth of Jesus, there is nothing ordinary about life. Because Jesus is the symbol of hope and new life, we can start our new year with the promise of new beginnings.

There are so many ways we can start a new life in this church. There are Sunday fellowship snack days to sign up for, babysitting, joining the choir, leadership opportunities with our youth, helping with one event or for Vacation Bible School this summer (it's never too early to start planning for it if you need to ask for vacation time at work), outreach with the middle school or a mission trip this fall. Maybe this is the year you'd like to consider serving as a deacon or even as an elder. We'll be starting another Wed. Night Fellowship series this spring that looks to be very interesting and enlightening.

These are just some of the ways you can begin a new life within the walls of this church. Who knows, you may just be a symbol of hope and new life to someone else. Think about it! We'd be honored to have you.

Patty Endres,
Lead Elder



FUN FACTS FROM CHURCH HISTORY

- ◆ In 1953, the Christian Women's Fellowship canned 81½ quarts of apples for Colorado Christian Home. They also canned 97 quarts of corn, 186 quarts of beans and 77 quarts of tomatoes. As if that was not enough, they froze 196 pounds of corn. This was accomplished in the hot kitchen of old church, located on the northwest corner of 8th Ave. & 13th Street.
- ◆ The logo for Colorado Christian Home was designed in 1976 by Robert W. "Bob" Taylor, who was raised in the First Christian Church in Greeley. Bob frequently visits our church when he comes to see his brother Jack, who is a regular in our 10:30 Sunday morning worship service. Bob also designed the famous logo for Denver International Airport.

Greetings,

I hope that all of you had a good break for Christmas. I know that often it seems like this break is way too short. You have just finished with the fall semester, and you feel like you need at least a month off, but instead you get a couple of weeks and then, back to work. I hope that you were able to take advantage of those few weeks of rest and that you are now ready for the spring semester. Last semester we did a lot in youth group, including fellowship, outreach, lessons and fun. It is no wonder that the semester just flew by. But that was just the beginning, because the spring is here.

This semester look for more outreach, a retreat for our Chi Rho and CYF in February, more fellowship, and gearing up for summer camp, more learning, games, food and fun. Oftentimes, if we just look at the calendar, the spring semester looks long. I know, though, that we will fill it with so much, it will seem like it has just flown by.

At this time we do not have a schedule for January, but as soon as we do I will be mailing it out. For now just plan on being here every Sunday night except January 4th from 4:30-6:00 for the fun. See you all in '09!

fester

Children's Sunday School Teachers Needed

As many of you know, our Children's Sunday school program has continued to change and evolve over the last two and a half years that I have been here. We have recently taken on a new approach, using the rotation model. This model is based on the idea that different people learn things in different ways. Instead of having one teacher who teaches a different lesson every week, but in the same way each time, we stay with the same story for a whole month. Each week our children explore that story in different ways and with different teachers. The Christian Education Team believes that we have really seen our children hold on to what they have been taught in some exciting ways.

To make this happen, though, we need teachers to teach our different rotations. There are many different options, including art, science, storytelling, cooking, games, music, and even computers. As a teacher you are making a commitment for only one semester—until the summer break. On top of that, instead of teaching every week, you are asked only to teach your rotation for two weeks per month and to help with our younger class for one week per rotation. This means you get a week off from Sunday school about once a month (not like the old days, when saying yes meant you taught children's Sunday school for the next 30 years).

If you have any questions or think you might be interested in helping, please see me as soon as possible.

fester



January Birthdays



1 John Hartmann	15 Copie Summerson	24 Tom Texeira
2 Dale Graham	17 Don Howe	25 Ruth Schneider
3 Ed Kadlub	17 Bill Kehl	28 Sue Campbell
4 Geneva Clark	19 Tessa Johnson	28 Illene Sutton
7 Del Stevens	19 Jim Luecht	31 Marilyn Lesser
7 Jacob Veik	20 Lynne Waldo	31 Jessica Scheid
15 Colleen Heitman	22 Don Fine	



G.I.F.T. GROUP 80's PARTY

The **Generally In-between Fifty-five and Twenty** Group will usher in the new year with an 80's Party. Dig around in your closets to find your acid wash jeans, shoulder pads, leg warmers and big hair. Don them all and make plans to "Shake your Groove Thing" with the rest of the G.I.F.T. group. The Waldos and Hartmanns are hosting this hair band extravaganza at the Waldo Casa, located at 2065 39th Avenue in Greeley. It will take place on Saturday night, January 10th, from 6-8:30-ish. Sign up on the board in the south hall to reserve your spot in the fun. **Please bring a snack to share.**



L.A.F.F. Activities

Life After Fifty-Five Group activities for the year are being planned this month. Watch the bulletin announcements or see next month's newsletter for info on February's activity.

A CHURCH FULL OF MINISTERS

As a church, we believe that every member is a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For this reason we have different ministry teams in the church. We are blessed with wonderful leadership for these teams, but we challenge everyone to be involved in ministry because that is the challenge of Jesus Christ. Where can you use your gifts? Our Ministry Teams (with the chairs in parentheses) include; Church Growth (Caren Renee Haining), Education (Geneva Weiler), Membership (Kris King), Outreach (Mark Weiler), Property (Rick Billings), Stewardship (Dwayne Kurtz), Worship (Hazel Gibson), and Youth Ministries (Chuck Walker). We also have a library committee chaired by Norma Hammons, an administrative team for the preschool chaired by Kelly Jensen, a staff relations committee chaired by Robert Boyce, and a gifts and memorials committee chaired by Rich Recor. Talk to the chairs of the ministry teams and committees, Chair of the Board David Haining, Vice-Chair Debbie Berg, Pastor fester, or Pastor Tim if you would like to serve in this way or if you have questions about these groups.

There are also many other ways to serve: as Elders, Trustees, members of the Diaconate, Sunday school teachers, youth leaders, Christian Men's and Women's Fellowship leaders, choir and bell choir members, worship leaders, acolytes, greeters, song leaders, sound operators, musicians, van drivers, helpers in the preschool, cooks and leaders for Wednesday Night Fellowship, coffee hour hosts, calling teams, Children's Church and Children's Moment leaders, nursery workers, and many other ways. We are all in ministry together: called by Christ's transforming grace and love to share hope and life in community. Let us serve the Lord.

Servers for the Month of January

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25
8:15 Chapel Service				
Elder	Tessa Johnson	Connie Davis	Patty Endres	Julie Hoskins
Deacon	Ronell Heitman	Deb Richardson	Ronell Heitman	Deb Richardson
Worship Leader	Carol Smith	Diane Doyle	Colleen Heiman	Mark Weiler
Song Leader	Caren Renee Haining	Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	Tessa Johnson
Pianist	Chris Coon	Gretchen Howland	Nancy Kurtz	Nita White
10:30 Sanctuary Service				
Elder: North	Julie Hoskins	Patty Endres	Connie Davis	Tessa Johnson
Elder: South	Connie Davis	Tessa Johnson	Julie Hoskins	Patty Endres
Deacons	Janean Beaman ▲ Kelly Davis ■ Frank Cribelli ☼ Susan Cribelli ☼ Rick Billings ▲ Shirley Miller Phyllis Hansberry ■ Bob Corliss	Cody Highley ▲ Sheila Takumoto ▲ Beth Warntz ☼ Paul Warntz ☼ Marilyn Lesser ■ Harold Lesser ■ Von Prichard Verna Recor	Janean Beaman ☼ Kelly Davis Frank Cribelli ▲ Susan Cribelli ▲ Rick Billings ☼ Shirley Miller ■ Phyllis Hansberry Bob Corliss ■	Cody Highley ☼ Sheila Takumoto ☼ Beth Warntz ■ Paul Warntz ■ Marilyn Lesser Harold Lesser Von Prichard ▲ Verna Recor ▲
Worship Leader	Verna Recor	Julie Hoskins	Jim Prichard	Lena Morris
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes
Sound Operator	Caitlin Berg	Janice Billings	Gary Ikenouye	Bruce Waldo
Van Driver	Harold Lesser	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes
Greeters	Luechts Shetlers Englands	Evelyn Kehl Helen Stolte Bergs	Billings Norma Basey Marie Caster	Lessers Kathleen Davis Betty Jensen
Coffee Hour	Volunteer Needed	Kings	Luechts	Volunteer Needed
Acolytes	Andrew Bishop Kane Shirley	Josh Bobbit Emilee Wolsey	Scott Haining Daniel Recor	Cambrie Bishop Lauryn Waldo
Children's Moment	fester Coffee-Prose	Kris King	David Haining	Erika Hartmann
Children's Church	Michelle Gray	Jodi Bobbitt	David Haining	Lynne Waldo
Children's Church Helper				

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.

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