

Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ

Bruce Van Voorhis, one of our Global Ministries Missionaries, visited our congregation in May of this year. He has returned to Asia where he continues to work with Human Rights issues. He shares the following reflection from a recent workshop on organic farming held in Sri Lanka.

Individual Reflection
ICF Organic Farming Workshop in Sri Lanka
September 6-12, 2009
Galaha, Sri Lanka

In this workshop I learned many practical skills to farm organically—composting, the importance of protecting the soil and plant diversity, the interrelationship between plants and animals on a farm, etc. I also came to see the important place of the lowly earthworm in sustaining life naturally.

Through composting, I gained a deeper appreciation for recycling. Moreover, when I see the value of recycling, I realize how wasteful our urban societies are today. On an organic farm, the death and decay of leaves and other organic material yield rich fertilizer that gives life. Theologically, we can literally say that life comes from death or, conversely, that death gives life. It is a natural process whose value to life I've come to understand more deeply as a result of this workshop.

I also gained a great appreciation of the health benefits of organic farming. The Green Revolution that began after World War II with its emphasis on chemicals to enhance agricultural production was viewed as progress at the time. Today, however, the Green Revolution could be renamed the Poison Revolution or the Toxic Revolution. We would have fewer concerns today about health care if we had not gone down this path.

From our visits to organic home gardens around Kandy, we saw how much could be grown on a small piece of land, including on slopes. We also saw that all of the farmers we visited were women, and not young women usually. I really appreciated all of their work and sweat over a long period of time and how they had to creatively plan their garden.

This workshop gave me a deeper understanding and appreciation, as well, of the interrelationships in life, in nature and in organic farming. We learned how important it is to plant crops of different plant families next to each other as a natural way to fight diseases and pests, that this is one way in which we as organic farmers can mimic nature. Through this process, we can see how different plants work together.

If we expand the importance of diversity to life, we see how important it is for each of us to be different, for our differences complement each other and make our societies stronger and healthier. It also underlines the wisdom of God in creating differences among plants and among people. If we were all the same, our societies would lack a lot of skills and wisdom.

Today our diversity is used by some people to divide us. Our human family is composed of people of different races, different ethnicities, different religions. Based on the deeper understanding of diversity that I gained at this workshop, I've learned how important it is to embrace these differences instead of seeking to make the other's identity like mine. Moreover, we can come to understand and appreciate the mystery of God more deeply if we all learn from the insights and gifts of each other's faith. This is something I hope we can do as part of the ICF family.

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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.

November 2009

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*I will send down the showers in their season;
they shall be showers of blessing.
The trees of the field shall yield their fruit,
and the earth shall yield its increase.*



A MOMENT WITH TIM

What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

On Sunday, November 1st, we celebrate Commitment Sunday. Much of our conversation centers on financial giving. Without a doubt financial giving is an important aspect of our spiritual life. It is intimately tied to our relationship with God. It is also rooted in our relationship to one another and the ministry we share together.

When we think about giving, the word tithe gets thrown around a lot. It means to give one tenth of what we have to God. I would encourage you to think about that as you look at your commitment for this coming year. If you have never done it, then it probably seems like a scary idea, especially in the midst of current economic times. If you have, then you can probably speak of the blessings which come from that experience. It is a worthy goal to work toward.

Commitment, however, is not all about financial issues. Commitment is a way of life. An article I read recently speaks of involvement in a congregation. Beyond the financial, the article points to:

1. Attendance in weekly worship a minimum of 39 weeks a year.
2. Participation in a regular group for spiritual formation.
3. Existence of deep friendships with people in the congregation.
4. Service in an elected, appointed, or volunteer role in or through the congregation.

As you look at your commitment for this coming year, don't limit it to a financial conversation. Find a place to serve. Make it a practice to seek relationships with others in the congregation. Make worship a priority each week. Participate in a regular group for spiritual formation.

Spiritual formation is found in Sunday school. We have two classes for adults each Sunday morning as well as classes for youth and children. Spiritual formation is found in Prayer Gathering and some of our fellowship groups. Spiritual formation has become a primary emphasis of our Worship and Wisdom on Wednesday (WWW), formerly Wednesday Night Fellowship.

As I look at WWW I wonder why we don't have more people participating. I wonder if it is a symptom we need to address. I believe those who are attending find it to be an enriching experience. Whether you have been able to attend WWW or not, please take time to fill out an evaluation form and let us know about your experience or what kept you from participating and suggest some alternatives. If what we are offering isn't meeting your needs, help us shape something that does.

There is nothing we do as a church simply to do it. Our activities are meant to help us grow in relationship with God, with one another, and with the community around us. When I speak of commitment, I'm not asking you to support the programs of the church. Rather, I'm asking you to participate in the ministry of the church; a ministry which changes our lives and the lives of all those involved; a ministry of sharing hope and life in community. I look forward to seeing you in worship and other enriching activities of the church.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Tim



Children's Dedication Sunday will be November 29. Please talk to Pastor Tim for more information.

Advent Decorating Party

Can you believe it? We're planning for Advent. On November 22, following Worship, we will have a soup lunch, after which we will decorate the church. The more people who help, the faster we can do it. Please consider helping. The Worship Ministry will appreciate your efforts!



G.I.F.T. Group Fondue Party

The Generally In-between Fifty-five and Twenty Group will meet for a Fondue Party at the Brems home at 648 52nd Avenue on Saturday, November 14th. Please see the sign-up sheet in the main hall for details.



Tennyson Center Needs for November

Glade Air Fresheners (Spray)
Batteries (A, AA, AAA, C & D)
Holiday Dinner Napkins
Holiday Paper Plates (Dinner Size)
Holiday Table Covers
Cotton Balls
Hair Spray
Hair Gel
Clorox Wipes

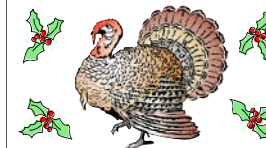


Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Meeting will take place immediately following the 10:30 Sanctuary Service on Sunday, November 15. The agenda will include voting for our 2010 Plan for Mission & Ministry and leadership team. It is important that your vote is counted! Please plan to attend.

Life After Fifty-Five (L.A.F.F.) Group

The November event has been cancelled. **December 11**~Turkey dinner at church followed by Crazy Cards —6:00 p.m. Bring side dishes & desserts. See Veronica & Von.



New Grandbaby



Jim and Deb Richardson welcomed a new granddaughter to the family—Robert Richardson's great-granddaughter—born to Bobby and Jericca Richardson in Salina, Kansas. Tara Elizabeth checked in at 19 1/2" and 7 lbs., 7 oz. on October 9th.

Thank You Note

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your continuing support of Greeley Transitional House through your recent \$125.00 gift. We are so grateful for your on-going support through these quarterly gifts. We are experiencing unprecedented need for our services due to the economy, and gifts such as these are more important than ever.

Thanks for all our church does to help make GTH successful—we appreciate you!

Jodi Hartmann
Executive Director



Facilities Improvement Plan

Based upon feedback from many in the congregation desiring to see many improvements to our church facilities, the General Board solicited consultation from the Disciples Church Extension on how to explore making these types of larger improvements. We have received the report from our first consultation, which suggests that our congregation could possibly support various levels of upgrades.

The General Board has taken action to form a planning group to begin exploring what types of improvements are desired, the priority of the improvements, how to raise the capital to make the improvements, and to develop a plan to help the congregation determine if these improvements should be implemented. Please note that the congregation will be consulted throughout this process. If you have a strong desire to participate as a member of the planning group, please contact David Haining at 353-7613 as soon as possible.

David Haining - Board Chair



Thanksgiving Is Coming

Time to count our blessings — and they are many. Food in the pantry & freezer, shelter, a car that gets good gas mileage, health and family, and a church family that cares.

In these tough economic times, it's harder to share what we have. God asks us to be good stewards of all that we have—off the top! And we will be blessed by doing so.

Jerry and I use cloth napkins and recycle our papers, etc., donate good used clothing, share non-perishable items with the Food Bank, and give dollars to the church. By doing these things (& others), we are being good stewards.

It's budget crunch time and like every family, our church is freezing its budget and looking for ways to maintain the programs that are important. We're asking for your help. What can you give up so your giving unit (family) can increase your giving a dollar a day? My dishwasher quit; I'm not fixing it. A dollar a day and we can stay on budget without using reserves. Please do what you can to help us all.

Stewardship is not an attitude. It's a way of life. Luke 6:38.

Carol Smith, Elder and Stewardship Ministry



FCC Preschool News



We thank the Lions Club of Greeley for coming Oct. 14 and 21 for Vision Screening. This is an awesome service they provide for all preschool children.

October was filled with many different activities. The first week of October was Fire Prevention Week. We learned what to do when there was an emergency: which number to call; stop, drop, cover and roll; crawl to the nearest door when there is smoke in the room; and the importance of smoke detectors. We also learned about Stranger Danger.

We were also preparing for fall. There are in our pumpkin patch, bats hanging in the hallway and the ceilings. We celebrated Oct. 30 with Pumpkin Days. We painted pumpkins, ate pumpkin seeds, and got to see what is inside fat pumpkins. The ooey gooey stuff.

We have learned 3 new Bible Verses. (Miss Tricia and Miss Jennie are very proud of the kids, they know their verses). We also read about "Spookley," The Square Pumpkin. We are created in the image of God. Spookley was not the same shape as the other pumpkins, but he had something important to do. The children in your preschool: brown, green or blue eyes, brown, black, blonde or red hair and light or dark colored skin and created us these ways for a reason. Just like Spookley. So, if you haven't read this book, it is terrific story on how we shouldn't "judge a book, or a pumpkin, by its cover."

Thank you for your help and support.

Miss Tricia, Miss Jennie, the children and families of FCC Preschool

Thanksgiving Offering

Your generosity is providing the way for future leaders.

Your generosity brought someone to faith in Jesus Christ.

Your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering make it possible for students to attend seminary.

Your generosity is training leaders today for the changing face of America.

Your gifts transform lives well beyond the year in which you give them.

For decades now, Disciples like you have been providing resources to further the education of Disciples students at Disciples institutions of higher education.

Please give generously and let us support our Disciples students at our schools!

2009 Thanksgiving Special Offering November 15 & 22



Special Offering envelopes are enclosed with this newsletter.

Youth News

Greetings,

I wanted to take a moment to tell you all about a new regular activity that we will be taking part in with the other Disciples churches of northern Colorado. Four times a year we will meet together for worship and fellowship at what is being called the Gathering. This will be a great time for you to get together with some of your friends from camp more often, but also to worship in new and different ways together. The gathering will change locations every time it happens, and we hope that it will become something you all look forward to.

The first Gathering will be here at FCC Greeley. We will gather here at the church on November 29th for worship and fellowship from 3:00-5:00p. Of course, this means that our youth have to plan the worship and entertainment for the evening. We will take a couple of weeks to make these plans, choose the songs you want to sing, and decide the way you want to lead your fellow youth in worship at our church. To make this a real success, it's important that you are all present not only for the Gathering, but also for all of the planning. I know that the 29th is the Sunday after Thanksgiving and that might make it difficult for all of you to be there, but not every Gathering will take place on a holiday weekend, I promise.

We will also be helping the church with "Room at the Inn," a new ministry that our church is taking part in. A few times a year we will host a few homeless families here in our church building. While here, they will have a safe place to sleep and good food to eat. I feel it is important that our youth help out with the ministries of our church, so we will be helping to set up on November 1st. We will gather after church at 12:00p to start setting up. We will order pizza for the youth helpers, and I hope we will be done by 2:00p. If we have time, we will have a special worship service, too.

Here is what is going on this month:

Sunday, November 1st

12:00-2:00p All youth gather to set up for Room at the Inn and pizza.

Friday, November 6th

4:30p CYF meets at the church to leave for our Fall Retreat. Bring money for dinner on the way and lunch on the way home.

Sunday, November 8th

1:00p CYF returns from retreat. From 4:30p-6:00p all youth meet for games, worship and group meeting. Chi Rho and CYF will start planning the Gathering.

Sunday, November 15th

4:30-6:00p All youth meet for games, worship and group meeting. Chi Rho and CYF will continue planning the Gathering.

Sunday, November 22nd

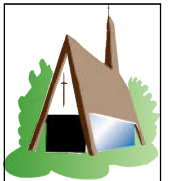
4:30-6:00p All youth meet for games, worship and group meeting. Chi Rho and CYF will finish planning the Gathering, if needed.

Sunday November 29th

2:00 All youth meet to set up for the Gathering. 3:00-5:00p Gathering. 5:00-5:30p clean up.

We have a busy month. I hope you all can make it for the fun.

festo





November Birthdays



1 Jim Prichard	5 Elgetta Hummel	10 Kayla Meisner	19 Corbett Brashear
1 Greg Samuelson	6 Pyper Evans	11 Jack Taylor	24 Gary Ikenouye
2 Jack Ring	8 Darron Berg	13 Tim Bobbitt	24 Shari Wolfrum
2 Rylee Scheid	8 fester Coffee-Prose	14 Caitlin Berg	26 Cindy Tjardes
3 Bob Gibson	8 Bev Gray	15 Bonnie Eldred	26 Judy Samuelson
4 Bessie Bishop	8 Mark Weiler	18 John Galindo	
4 Ren Herbst	9 Roger Harbert	18 Chuck Walker	

If your birthday is this month and you are not listed here, please notify the church office.



Christian Women's Fellowship

Christian Women's Fellowship will meet on November 5th at noon for a catered lunch and program. Rick Cramer from the Weld County food bank will share a program entitled "Food Solicitor." Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank. Phyllis Hansberry will give the devotion. Lunch will be provided by the Platte Valley catering class and will cost \$4 per person. Please RSVP for the lunch by November 1st. Joy group will be the hostess.

Carol Smith has agreed to be our new Worship and Study representative, so Carol Hypes will be our new treasurer. Thank you to both ladies for taking on these responsibilities.

The CWF board will meet on the 12th at 9:30 a.m. Joy—Tuesday, November 10th, at 1:15 p.m.

Due to Thanksgiving, Peace and Kindness groups will meet one week early:

Kindness—Thursday, November 19th, at 9:30 a.m.

Peace—Thursday, November 19th, at 1:30 p.m.

Christian Men's Fellowship

The FCC Christian Men's Fellowship will meet Saturday, November 14th, starting at 8:00 a.m. Please note the new starting time! We'll have breakfast and fellowship. Invite a friend or two and join us!!

FCC Food Supply: Before making purchases please check the fridge for condiments and drinks. We have 3 huge bottles of catsup, 2 large bottles of mustard, barbecue sauce and lots of margarine. Please take your leftovers home or label the items you leave. Food without tags is donated to agencies.

Pictorial Directory



It's not too late to participate in our directory. LifeTouch is taking photos at Journey Christian Church (the old Cooper Twin Theater) on November 6th and 7th. You can have your photo taken there and still be included in our directory. Your other option is to submit an existing photo. Contact Carla Ikenouye at 356-2121 to schedule an appointment or to submit a photo.

Please call the church office if you would like to include a second phone number in your listing.

Membership Ministry Team would like to thank everyone for helping us create our 2010 directory. It's always nice for church members to be able to match a name to a face!

Church Financial Update

Blankets—Church World Service, as of 10/5 \$428
Income 2009

Budgeted Year to Date \$195,381.72*

Actual as of 9/30/09 \$181,414.38**

Expenses 2009

Budgeted Year to Date \$222,012.09

Actual as of 9/30/09 \$212,083.08

*Does not include Trustees' \$27,000.

**Does not include Trustees' \$20,000.

Servers for the Month of November

	Nov. 1	Nov. 8	Nov. 15	Nov. 22	Nov. 29
8:15 Chapel Service					
Elder	Carol Smith	Carol Smith	Carl England	Jodi Hartmann	Carol Smith
Deacon	Colleen Heitman	Diane Doyle	Colleen Heitman	Diane Doyle	Colleen Heitman
Worship Leader	Jim Richardson	Chris Coon	Ronelle Heitman	Bob Gibson	Nita White
Song Leader	C. R. Haining	Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	Tessa Johnson	TBA
Pianist	Chris Coon	Nancy Kurtz	Judi Ring	Nita White	Gretchen Howland
10:30 Sanctuary Service					
Elder: North	Carl England	Gary Ikenouye	Jodi Hartmann	Carol Smith	Jodi Hartmann
Elder: South	Gary Ikenouye	Jodi Hartmann	Gary Ikenouye	Carl England	Carl England
Deacon	Kathleen Davis	Myrna Armes■	Kathleen Davis▲	Myrna Armes▲	Kathleen Davis☉
	Alicia Loschen	Miguel Ramirez	Alicia Loschen▲	Miguel Ramirez☉	Alicia Loschen☉
	Charlotte Shetler☉	George Hypes	Charlotte Shetler■	George Hypes☉	Charlotte Shetler
	Ron Shetler☉	Carla Ikenouye☉	Ron Shetler■	Carla Ikenouye	Ron Shetler
	Gerre Tjardes▲	Nancy Kurtz▲	Gerre Tjardes	Nancy Kurtz■	Gerre Tjardes■
	Bruce Waldo■	Lisa Wolsey▲	Bruce Waldo☉	Lisa Wolsey■	Bruce Waldo▲
	Katelyn Waldo■	Judi Ring☉	Katelyn Waldo☉	Judi Ring	Katelyn Waldo▲
	Lynne Waldo▲	Todd Loschen■	Lynne Waldo■	Todd Loschen▲	Lynne Waldo■
Worship Leader	Verna Recor	Gerre Tjardes	Lauryn Waldo	Cambrie Bishop	Connie Harbert
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes	TBA
Sound Operator	Caitlin Berg	Jim Prichard	C.R. Haining	Gary Ikenouye	Janice Billings
Van Driver	Miguel Ramirez	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Wartz	Fred Tjardes	Miguel Ramirez
Greeters	J./S. Luecht	Evelyn Kehl	R./J. Billings	Marilyn Lesser	Miguel Ramirez
	R./C. Shetler	Helen Stolte	Norma Basey	Kathleen Davis	L. Rogakis
	C./C. England	D.&. D. Berg	Marie Caster	Betty Jensen	TBA
Coffee Hour	R./C. Davis	Need Volunteer	Tjardes/Doyle	Wolsey	Heitman
Acolytes	Andrew Bishop	Josh Bobbitt	Scott Haining	Cambrie Bishop	Josh Bobbitt
	Kane Shirley	Emilee Wolsey	Daniel Recor	Lauryn Waldo	Kelli Hays
Children's Moment	fester C.-Prose	Kris King	David Haining	Erika Hartmann	Kris King
Children's Church	Michelle Gray	Jodi Bobbitt	David Haining	Lynne Waldo	Jodi Bobbitt
	Katelyn Waldo	Lauryn Waldo	Daniel Recor	Andrew Bishop	Emilee Wolsey

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.