

First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
2230 13th Street  
Greeley, CO 80631



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# The Christian Caller

Monthly Publication of  
First Christian Church  
Greeley, Colorado

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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.

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## November 2008

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#### Global Ministries

#### “Our Brothers and Sisters in Christ”

*For just as the body is one and has many members, so it is with Christ... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. (1 Cor. 12:12,21,26)*

This summer, three United Church of Christ Conference Ministers traveled to the Middle East with Peter Makari, Global Ministries Executive for the Office of the Middle East and Europe, where they learned about the situation of Iraqi refugees. This is an excerpt from Jim Antal's trip report:

While the United States has allowed only a few thousand Iraqi refugees to settle in America, Syria is now caring for more than 1.5 million Iraqi refugees. One of the spokespersons raised a haunting question: "Why have the Christian Churches of the world not united with one voice to speak out on behalf of Christian Iraqi refugees, especially when priests have been killed and churches bombed?"

The Greek Orthodox Church in Syria is one of the many churches which have devoted all of their available resources to educating thousands of Iraqi refugee children. The Patriarch of the church reminded us that, "We need each other as incarnate brothers and sisters—not as abstractions. Americans must know there are human beings in the Middle East whose lives are at stake." Moments later, we ascended the steps of their church school. The classrooms were bursting with hundreds of Iraqi children. As we entered one of the classes, we heard a violin playing a familiar hymn, and then the children began singing, in perfect English, "Ode to Joy," with new words that emphasized the need for peace.

As Christians, our responsibility is to pressure our government's leaders to engage the world's diverse faith traditions and political leaders to maximize mutual understanding, affirm interdependency, show a willingness to sacrifice on behalf of justice for others, and always defer violence until we have fully exhausted the possibilities brought by imagination. And we must teach our children the basics of dialog. Only in these ways will peace prevail.

See the full trip report online at <http://globalministries.org/news/mee/ucc-conference-ministers.html>



*...Let us Give Thanks, by which  
we offer to God an Acceptable Worship  
with Reverence and Awe...*

*Hebrews 12:28*



## A MOMENT WITH TIM

**“As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15**

In our September newsletter David Haining shared some thoughts about Church leadership opportunities. It is an article worth reviewing. During these weeks, I am spending a good deal of time participating in Nominating Committee, thinking about our ministry together, and speaking with people about moving into leadership positions in the church.

We are truly a church who practices the ministry of all believers. On one hand this is wonderful news because we encourage all to use their gifts in ministry. Everyone is invited into the decision-making of the church. Unless specifically noted, every member of the church is invited to every meeting we have. Sometimes people attend Board Meetings although they do not have a voting position. On the other hand, this is a great responsibility. Our church counts on the participation of its members. We expect every member to do more than sit in the pews, because we believe God expects more. Please consider prayerfully where you can serve in the ministry of First Christian.

As I was thinking about all this, my son said to me, “We sure spend a lot of time at church.” It really made me think about the scripture from Joshua above. I do not necessarily think I can make the decision for everybody in my household to serve the Lord, but sometimes my decisions to serve God greatly affect my family.

I encourage you to serve God and the church, but I also encourage you to find balance. It is something I strive for each day. Make sure you spend as much time in activities in which you are receiving (worship, fellowship, Bible Study, Sunday school, prayer) as you do in serving (leading worship, teaching, outreach, serving on a Ministry Team, Committee, or Board). Make sure you have time for family and relationships outside of church. Make sure you are spending time serving God and others. Balance in each one is essential.

If we are going to be a faithful church community, we must all serve, all be fed, and rotate our leadership. Churches that keep having the same leaders in the same positions year after year put themselves in a dangerous place. Maybe now is your time to step up and serve; maybe it is your time to step back and receive. Next year you may find yourself in the opposite place. Pray about it and seek to strike a balance.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

*Tim*



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Nov. 16 following our 10:30 worship service, we will have our annual congregational meeting. The agenda will include the 2009 Plan for Mission and Ministry and the election of church officers. Please plan to be present at this important meeting.



## ADVENT DECORATING PARTY AND CHILI LUNCH

You are invited to an all-church decorating party hosted by the Worship Team on Sunday, Nov. 23rd, right after church. After we decorate, we'll have a chili lunch. There are jobs for men, women and youth. Please come! It's a lot less work, plus a lot of fun, when we *all* work

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### STEWARDSHIP IS AN ONGOING MINISTRY

Many people are probably thinking stewardship is over now that we had our commitment Sunday. But, stewardship is an ongoing, never-ending, year-round way of life (Matt. 6:19-24). Messages during the past several months have been directed toward first fruit giving and giving based on each person's measure of faith. The success of the FCC ministries depends on the generosity of the membership. We obviously cannot grow our ministries if we merely give to meet a budget. If we accept a maintenance budget, there is no room for growth in our ministry. Nonetheless, a budget is needed to guide our spending.

The 2009 commitment process starts with each person or family making a financial pledge to support the ministries. By the time you read this message, most members will have made a commitment. The next step is for the Stewardship Committee and the Board to prepare a final budget for 2009. The level of our outreach ministry growth is directly proportional to the level of the membership contributions.

The final budget will be presented at the congregation's annual meeting on November 16, 2008.

Prayerfully ask for guidance in your year-round stewardship.

Bill Kehl  
Stewardship Chair



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP



Wednesday Night Fellowship continues through November 5. We gather at 5:30 for a meal, spend time worshipping together, and participate in different break-out groups. Come fellowship with us!

## BEREAVEMENT



*Our sympathy is with the family of Scott Mackey, who passed away Sept. 28.*

## NEW MEMBER



Carolyn Schroeder became a member of our fellowship on Sunday, October 12th. Welcome!



## NEW GRANDBABIES!



**Frank and Susan Cribelli** have a new grandson, **Ilai Levine Cribelli**, born Sept. 26 to Daniel Levine and Teresa Cribelli in Baltimore. Ilai (pronounced “Eli”) weighed 8 lbs. at birth.

**Ray and Nita White** also have a new grandson. His parents are Karey and John Urbanski of Oakland, California. **Shane Everett** was 7 lbs., 20 ½ inches long, and joined brother Lucas on Sept. 27.

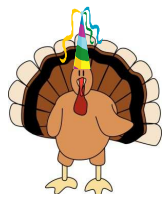


## FCC PRESCHOOL NEWS

The preschool children have enjoyed the fall season thus far and all that it has to offer. They have been busy making fall-type artwork, which is often proudly on display outside the classrooms. They recently took a trip to the pumpkin patch and had a great time.

The children have explored the insides of a pumpkin, counted the seeds, and enjoyed pumpkin pie! They also discussed community helpers this month—how they help others and work together to make our city a better place to live. We had a visit from a doctor who talked with the children about ways to stay healthy and showed them some of the tools he uses to take care of others. The children also enjoyed a visit from a policeman and learned ways to keep safe, as well as seeing the neat features of a real police car!

The preschool staff feels blessed to have such a great group of children to work with.



# November Birthdays



1 Jim Prichard	6 Pyper Evans	10 Kayla Meisner	18 Chuck Walker
1 Greg Samuelson	6 Lacy Lowry	11 Jack Taylor	19 Corbett Brashear
2 Rylee Scheid	8 Darron Berg	13 Tim Bobbitt	24 Gary Ikenouye
3 Bob Gibson	8 fester Coffee-Prose	14 Caitlin Berg	24 Shari Wolfrum
4 Bessie Bishop	8 Bev Gray	15 Bonnie Eldred	26 Judy Samuelson
4 Ren Herbst	8 Mark Weiler	15 Rachel Moore	26 Cindy Tjardes
5 Elgetta Hummel	9 Roger Harbert	18 John Galindo	29 John Perry

## NOVEMBER L.A.F.F. ACTIVITY

The Life After Fifty-Five Group plans to travel to Vern's Toffee Factory in Fort Collins in November. See the sign-up sheet in the main hall. Please be at the church at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, November 17, to carpool or travel by bus.

## NOVEMBER G.I.F.T. ACTIVITY

The Generally In-between Fifty and Twenty Group will meet at the Hainings' home on Nov. 8th at 6:30 for a Bunco party. Please bring appetizers or a dessert. Babysitting will be provided at the church beginning at 6:00. See the sign-up sheet in the main hall.

## THANKSGIVING OFFERING

The Thanksgiving Offering supports our Disciples Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses. It goes toward the training of our church's emerging leaders—an investment in our church's future.

Thanksgiving Special Offering envelopes are included with this newsletter.

**2008 Thanksgiving Special Offering  
November 16 and November 23**

## BAZAAR APPRECIATION

It is a joy to thank the congregation for its participation in the Holiday Happenings Bazaar. We are indebted to the many folks who created "something from nothing." They were the backbone of our bazaar. We are grateful to the donors who helped supply us. And we are so grateful for the advertisers, cooks, storers, set-up and clean-up crews, department chairs, sellers, cashiers, and purchasers of fine goods!

And now comes the best part: What church improvement do we want to tackle? We made approx. \$4,000—so look around the church & think of physical improvements you would like to see come to life. Place your suggestion in the Wish List Jar, which is floating around the church; maybe your idea will be chosen! Thanks so much!

~ Nancy Kurtz & Verna Recor

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSE THANKSGIVING DINNER

On Tuesday the 25th of November we will be hosting a Thanksgiving Dinner for the Transitional House in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to volunteer to help serve the dinner, please speak with Dwaine Kurtz or Pastor Tim. There will be some set-up during the afternoon and the dinner will be served from 5 to 7 p.m.

## Servers for the Month of November

	November 2	November 9	November 16	November 23	November 30
<b>8:15 Chapel Service</b>					
Elder	Carol Smith	Carol Smith	Shannon King	Jodi Hartmann	Carol Smith
Deacon	Bob Gibson	Diane Doyle	Bob Gibson	Diane Doyle	Bob Gibson
Worship Leader	Jim Richardson	Sandy Beiser	Colleen Heitman	f. Coffee-Prose	Hazel Gibson
Song Leader	C. R. Haining	Tessa Johnson	G. Howland	Tessa Johnson	G. Howland
Pianist	Nita White	G. Howland	Nancy Kurtz	Chris Coon	Jodi Hartmann
<b>10:30 Sanctuary Service</b>					
Elder: North	Shannon King	Gary Ikenouye	Jodi Hartmann	Carol Smith	Gary Ikenouye
Elder: South	Gary Ikenouye	Jodi Hartmann	Gary Ikenouye	Shannon King	Shannon King
Deacons					
	Vicki Sears	Myrna Armes ■	Vicki Sears ▲	Myrna Armes ▲	Vicki Sears ☼
	D. Thompson	Jayne Hays	D. Thompson ▲	Jayne Hays ☼	D. Thompson
	C. Shetler ☼	George Hypes	C. Shetler ■	George Hypes ☼	C. Shetler
	Ron Shetler ☼	C. Ikenouye ☼	Ron Shetler ■	C. Ikenouye	R. Shetler
	Gerre Tjardes ▲	Nancy Kurtz ▲	Gerre Tjardes	Nancy Kurtz ■	G. Tjardes ■
	Bruce Waldo ■	Dwaine Kurtz ▲	Bruce Waldo ☼	Dwaine Kurtz ■	B. Waldo ▲
	Katelyn Waldo ■	Kris King ☼	Katelyn Waldo ☼	Kris King	K. Waldo ▲
	Lynne Waldo ▲	Todd Loschen ■	Lynne Waldo	Todd Loschen ▲	L. Waldo ■
Worship Leader	Von Prichard	CR Haining	Bessie Bishop	Robert Boyce	Lauryn Waldo
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes	G. Howland
Sound Operator	Caitlin Berg	Janice Billings	C.R. Haining	Gary Ikenouye	Jim Prichard
Van Driver	Bill Moser	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes	Harold Lesser
Greeters	J./S. Luecht	Evelyn Kehl	R./J. Billings	H./M. Lesser	D./D. Berg
	R./C. Shetler	Helen Stolte	Norma Basey	Kathleen Davis	L. Rogakis
	C./C.England	M./B.Crawford	Marie Caster	Betty Jensen	Jim Prichard
Coffee Hour	Bobbitts/Hoskins	TBA	Heitmans	Jensen/Nealy	TBA
Acolytes	Andrew Bishop	Josh Bobbitt	Scott Haining	Cambrie Bishop	Josh Bobbitt
	Kane Shirley	Austin Bechler	Daniel Recor	Lauryn Waldo	Kelli Hays
Children's Moment	fester 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	E. 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.*

## CRMR VISIONING TEAM RETREAT

The Visioning Team of the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) wants you to come and give us your thoughts and dreams for transforming the CRMR. The Visioning Team, commissioned by the Regional Board, has come together to re-define what regional ministry is in the Central Rocky Mountain Region and to develop a plan consistent with that vision. The team will be addressing many concerns about our lack of congregational and regional connectedness, our regional finances, our regional structure and our regional communications in the weeks and months ahead. We need your help in doing that.

This meeting will take place at South Broadway Christian Church on Saturday, November 15, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Lunch will be served at no cost, but donations will be welcomed. Child care for elementary ages and younger will be provided. Other youth are also encouraged to attend and give their input.

Please let Pastor Tim know as soon as possible if you can attend.

## You are invited to another offering in our series of FREE WORKSHOPS ...

Eco-Justice Ministries invites you to join with people from other churches in your community to learn about educational aspects of **"Greening" Your Church**. We'll look at specific curriculum resources, and explore a much wider range of ways in which teaching and learning motivate us in environmental stewardship and love of God's creation. This meeting is suitable for pastors and educators, "green team" members, and anyone in the congregation who has a specific environmental interest.

**Join us in Fort Collins, Monday, Nov. 17  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
301 E. Stuart Street, from 7-9 p.m.**

See our website: [www.eco-justice.org](http://www.eco-justice.org)

## FAITH COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND INTAKE VOLUNTEER

Concerned people are needed to serve as intake volunteers for the Faith Community Services Fund. Volunteers will be requested to serve at least two hours a week on Monday or Tuesday, providing interview services to community members in need of emergency assistance. Volunteers will work at an intake site, meeting people by appointment. Training will be provided.

Interested? Call Dale Dowling at 970-405-2533 or e-mail him at [daledowling@comcast.net](mailto:daledowling@comcast.net).



## DISCIPLES NOTES:



### GMP Issues Pastoral Letter to the Church During This Period of Economic Uncertainty

General Minister and President Sharon E. Watkins has issued a pastoral letter that asks Disciples to remain faithful during the tough economic times facing our country and many parts of the world. Watkins also encourages Disciples to be in a time of prayer for those who are most adversely affected by the downturn in financial markets, and find ways to reach out to our neighbors.

In the letter, Watkins shares comments from the presidents of the Church's three financial ministries: Pension Fund, Christian Church Foundation and Church Extension. She also states that Christians should "refocus on our calling to be stewards of the financial and spiritual gifts God has given to us. It is time to model faithful dependence upon the God of abundance."

**The full letter is on the bulletin board in the main hall.**

## PRESCHOOL CHILI SUPPER/ SILENT AUCTION

Come help support our preschool by joining us for our annual Chili Supper / Silent Auction, which will be held Friday, November 14, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join us for delicious chili and chicken noodle soup and enjoy bidding on items at the silent auction. We appreciate the congregation's continuing generosity!



## BELL CHOIR OPENINGS

Are you interested in playing in the bell choir? Please speak with Judi Ring or come to the first rehearsal on Thursday, October 30, at 6:00 p.m. You don't have to be an accomplished musician, but we are looking for commitment. Come join us. We plan to have a lot of fun!



## HISTORY ITEM

Lynette Wray Biggers died in Oregon on June 6, 2008. Her husband, Ray Biggers, a former minister of our church, preceded her in death by several years. Pastor Ray served here from 1985-1987.

Lynette was a graduate of Northwest Christian College in Eugene, Oregon, class of 1936. She later became a professor at her alma mater and was a retired professor from NCC, beloved by all who knew her throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Carol Hypes had her for a professor at NCC in the early 1950s.

George Hypes,  
First Christian Church Historian

## Letter from the CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF WINDSOR



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Philippians 4 reminds us that all things can be done through Christ. We firmly believe God used you in making this come true for our little congregation in Windsor.

This week we replaced the cross at the top of the bell tower. While this is a small step and there is still work to be done, this makes us feel that we have been made whole again. Our total tornado damage was slightly over \$40,000 and our foundation needed to be stabilized. We would not have been able to complete this work without the loving response made by you and others.

We want to thank you again for your generous gift, which made this possible. With your help we were able to supplement the insurance to finish these projects and continue to operate as a church. We would like you to have this disk of the Windsor Tornado as a token of our gratitude.

With Loving Fellowship in Christ,  
Pastor Jim

## NEW TREES

Have you noticed the beautiful new trees beside the patio? They are Blaze Autumn Maples, and they were given in memory of Harold Basey.



## FREE COMPUTER

Do you need a computer to do word processing with? Please see Roger or Connie Harbert. It comes with everything you need, including Windows 98 software.





## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWF will meet on Thursday, November 6, at noon for a catered luncheon and program. Lunch will be provided by Shari Wolfrum's catering class and the program will be given by Kathy Sandoval on the Right to Read program. The devotion will be given by Von Prichard, with Delilah Group as hostess.

CWF continues to make pillows for Transitional House. There is a box for pillows or material in the south hallway. Also, we continue to collect the bar code from all Campbell products; there is a container by the south door for these.

The CWF Board will meet on Thursday, November 13, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.

Kindness: November 20, 9:30 a.m.--Parlor

Peace: November 20, 1:15 p.m.--Parlor

Delilah: November 19, 6:30 p.m.--Parlor

Joy: November 11th, 1:15 p.m.--Parlor

Happy Thanksgiving!



Don't forget to "fall back"  
Saturday Night, November 1st.



### Tennyson Center for Children

	Bar Soap	Glade Spray Air
Needs	Hair Spray	Fresheners
for	Hair Gel	Holiday Dinner Napkins
Nov.	Clorox Wipes	Holiday Paper Dinner
	Batteries, all sizes	Plates & Table Covers

### How are We Doing?

#### Income 2008

Planned Year to Date = \$180,000.00

Actual as of 9/30/08 = \$184,401.47

#### Expenses 2008

Planned Year to Date = \$217,500.14

Actual as of 9/30/08 = \$210,342.64

Reconciliation Offering = \$342.00

## ELDERS' MESSAGE

*O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms.*

*Psalm 95: 1-2*

Mary Fairchild says about Thanksgiving traditions that, "Oddly enough, most devoutly religious pilgrims observed a day of thanksgiving with prayer and fasting, not feasting. Yet even though this harvest feast was never called Thanksgiving by the pilgrims of 1621, it has become the model for the traditional Thanksgiving celebrations in the United States."

So although the day evokes memories and anticipation of turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie, it embodies the grateful heart that so easily transitions into prayers of thankfulness. With the end of the year in sight, take a look at each month of your 2008 calendar. With the events you've recorded on it, give thanks for something from each month. Now, we may not always have had wonderful things happen each month, but with each challenge, we have had an opportunity to enrich our relationship with God and others.

When Thanksgiving Day arrives, before you plunge into your delectable edible delights, take time for a prayer that is very personal and one that comes from your family's grateful heart. Don't forget to sing praises, like the psalm says, by making a joyful noise- laughing, singing, smiling and immersing yourself in what makes your family yours. Now THAT'S a real Thanksgiving.

Patty Endres, Elder



## CHRISTIAN MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The FCC Christian Men's Fellowship will hold its regular meeting on November 8 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. Our program will be Ken Whitney on religion and our founding fathers. Make sure to invite a friend!



Youth News,

October has been a great month. I really feel like we are getting into the swing of our regular youth meetings. As I write this article, I am still excited about the great turnout we had for the corn maze yesterday. It is always exciting to bring four vehicles including the church bus to one event. We have also met for lessons and other fellowship opportunities. And we are ending this month and starting November with our CYF retreat. I hope that all of you are just as excited about what is going on in our youth program as I am.

November is sure to be just as exciting as we continue to meet each week for games, worship, fellowship, education, and service. As the weather turns colder, we might have to spend more of our time inside, but I am sure that at least once we might find ourselves playing a little frozen knock out. "Who is up for a game?"

Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

No CYF due to retreat

XP and juniors meet 4:30-6:00



Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

All youth meet 4:30-6:00

Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

All youth meet 4:30-6:00

Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>

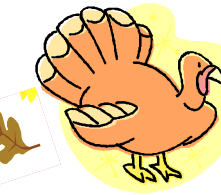
After church all youth are invited to stay after church to help decorate the church for Advent. After decorating, chili will be served.

All youth will meet for their normal meetings from 4:30-6:00

Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>

No Youth Group for the Thanksgiving weekend.

See you all on Sunday,



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