



### Help Crop Stop Hunger

Join us for the annual CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk on Saturday, September 26, at 9:00 a.m. hosted by Church World Service. You can participate by getting a sponsor form from Pastor Tim or the front office and asking others to sponsor you. We will start our walk from Immanuel Lutheran Church. You can walk around Glenmere Park one time or numerous times. If you are unable to participate in this fun and important event, please consider sponsoring one of our walkers.



### Golf Tournament & Shiprock Mission Trip

FCC Greeley's Patti Endres and Tessa Johnson, together with friends Angie Manuello and Nyla Bristow, earned the title of Top Women's Team at the annual Navajo Golf Tournament on August 15th. Their team score of one over par won them a bounty of prizes; each of them received a Bronco sweatshirt, insulated lunch bag, and four sleeves of golf balls. In addition, Angie was awarded a new driver, hat, and more golf balls for sinking the longest putt.

This event, sponsored by the Christian Churches of Northern Colorado at Cattail Creek Golf Course in Loveland, benefits the mission trip to the Navajo Reservation near Shiprock, New Mexico. This year's trip is scheduled for September 23-27. FCC members and friends will join others from around Colorado to renovate the homes of the Navajo, to learn about Navajo culture and the challenges they face, and to fellowship through hard work and sweat. We have had a few people from our congregation participate in the last few years. This year, we hope to have more. Contact the Harberts, Tim Bobbitt, or the front office for more information.

Monthly Publication of  
First Christian Church  
Greeley, Colorado

# The Christian Caller

970/352-1292

www.fccgreeley.com

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.

## September 2009

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

### “Let Justice Roll”

*“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” Amos 5:24*

The Manila, Philippines news recently reported that yet another church worker, who is also the son of a pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), has been reported missing by his family after he was arrested by police and later turned over to the military. The 35-year-old lay worker was arrested by a police team in Tangub City.

Tension and violence intensifies in parts of the southern Philippines. Violations to the rights and dignity of persons under the presidency of Mrs. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo continue with impunity. These violations are evident in the widespread poverty, unabated corruption, and extrajudicial killings and abductions. Many of these abuses have targeted church leaders, workers, and members, particularly those from the Protestant denominations.

Global Ministries asks you to join in calling for action by our government to call a halt to these atrocities. The UCC and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have written letters, signed on to the letters of other denominations, and passed resolutions to this effect.

Filipino pastors ask that we pray that the government of the Philippines will be humane enough to stop the rampant human rights violations and extra-judicial killings.

*Xiaoling Zhu is executive of the East Asia and Pacific office of Global Ministries.  
For more information call 866-822-8224 ext. 3226, or e-mail zhux@ucc.org.*



## A MOMENT WITH TIM

**Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you. Romans 15:7**

September is the month of renewed beginnings in the church. As the school year gets into full swing, the church calendar blossoms with activity. We have some exciting events coming up in the next few months.

We return to two Sunday morning services (8:15 and 10:30) and Sunday school returns in full force on Sunday, September 13. The Preschool year begins, and Youth Group is already meeting. The choir is once again singing, and Wednesday Night Fellowship will begin in October. We are planning a movie night, and the fellowship groups are planning fun activities.

It is a wonderful time to invite people to join us. It is a wonderful time to live out our vision statement: "Called by Christ's transforming grace and love to share hope and life in community." This year we have a special occasion to mark our time of new beginnings.

On Saturday, September 12th, from 11:00a-2:00p we will hold our first annual Block Party at the church. We will have food, fun, and information booths about church activities and community organizations. In order to make this a successful event, we need the whole congregation to participate.

You can participate by helping us get the word out. Invite your family, your friends, your neighbors, and your neighbor's friends. You can participate by welcoming guests at one of the booths. Some of the groups who will be sharing information include the choir, the LAFF Group, the GIFT Group, our Ministry Teams, CWF, CMF, Elders, and Youth Group. You can participate by being present, friendly, and helpful.

It is a great time to invite people for this special event on September 12th, and it is a great time to invite people to join in the many activities of the church. As we invite people, let us also work to be a welcoming church. Smile; engage people you don't know in conversation; invite those you meet to the variety of activities of the church; share hope and life in community.

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Jim



### Fall Worship Schedule

Beginning Sunday, September 13th, we will resume our regular worship schedule.

8:15 a.m. - Chapel Service

9:30 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Sanctuary Service

### Wednesday Prayer Gatherings

Wednesday Prayer Gatherings are scheduled on the first and third Wednesday of the month. This month they will take place on September 2nd and 16th. Come and deepen your relationships with God and one another.

### Baby Bottle Campaign Thanks



The Weld Food Bank wishes to convey sincere thanks to FCC for our generosity during the Baby Bottle Fundraiser. Resource Development Director Michael Brown called FCC's contribution "awesome."

[FCC's contribution was \$1116.79]

### Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all the cards, prayers, calls, and other kind attentions during stressful times, including illnesses and most notably the death of our two lovely granddaughters, Faith and Caitlin Kadlub.

So much kindness as we have received is almost overwhelming, and we are grateful.

Marj and Dr. Ed. Kadlub



### ~ Thank You ~

We want to thank all the church members who took time out of their busy lives and came to get our yard cleaned and weeded. We appreciate your time and all the hard work you did.

The Evans Family



### New Church Directory

The Membership Ministries Team is working with Lifetouch to create a new and updated church directory. Portrait dates will be October 12th-17th. Please mark your calendars!!

The scheduling and times will be forthcoming. For more information, contact Charlotte Shetler.



### Thank You Note

We would like to say thank you to Gary and Carla Ikenouye and Norma Basey for their recent donations of a computer and a CD duplicator. With these donations we are fully equipped to record all of our services to CD, which has also given us the ability to put our services online. Thank you for your generosity in making this project possible.

### ~ Thank You ~

A big thank you to everyone in our church family who stood by us, prayed for us, and supported us during the last year and a half with the adoption process for Taylor and Isaiah Gray. We are proud to announce that adoptions were finalized on August 3rd. Praise the Lord for these precious babies!

Tom and Michelle Gray



### Hello, I Am a Guest

You cannot know the reason I am here this morning. It may be as simple as a move to your community or as complicated as a personal crisis that leads me to seek strength from God. In either case, please smile at me as I walk in the door. **You** are my **first impression** of the **church** during the first moments I am in your building, and this first impression will probably stay with me for a long time.

**Help me** find my place in the service. I will not find your help an intrusion. In fact, I will remember your kindness.

**Speak to me** at the time of greeting. I know that you want to see friends, but I may find it hard to believe you truly care for each other unless I also see that you care for "the stranger in your midst."

**Tell me** good things about your church. I hope I have come to a place where people love each other and where they believe that they are doing something exciting and important for the Lord.

**Notice me**, even if I am not a family. I don't want to feel invisible just because I am unmarried, a single parent, a teenager, or an older person.

**Invite me** to become part of some church group or organization. I need more than worship each Sunday. I need to know I am accepted and welcomed by a group of people within the church who know me by my first name and care about me as an individual.

Anonymous

Excerpts from

# CRMR DISCIPLE LINK

## Strangers in a Strange Land—Part 2

By Sandra Hergenreder

**“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.”** Matthew 10:40

In February, I attended “Hospitality: What to Do When a Guest Arrives,” a workshop sponsored by the Parish Resource Center and presented by Robb Lapp (Park Hill UCC) and Teresa Campbell (PRC). Evidently I wasn’t the only Disciple who was interested because there were representatives from about seven (7) DOC churches in the CRMR! Hospitality is a key ministry for any congregation that wants to be a warm, welcoming community that intentionally enables and encourages the stranger to join them on “The Journey” in authentic relationship.

Healthy churches are the ones that want their congregation to grow spirituality – not to grab someone new to sing in the choir or serve on a committee. When strangers enter your doors for the first time, they are looking for something. You have 30 seconds to make a good second impression. (The first impression was made before they even reached the parking lot.) Do you greet them with a welcoming smile? Shake hands? Introduce yourself? Make sure they know where the sanctuary is? “Chat them up” a bit with non-invasive questions? Strangers know when they are being genuinely welcomed. I’ve visited a number of churches and know when it doesn’t happen: no one says “hello” unless I say it first; I have to ask where the sanctuary is; or during the passing of the peace, I extend my hand when I see someone with a big smile and his/her hand extended only to have him/her walk right past me to greet a friend. Many times the church believes it’s a

friendly, welcoming church, when in actuality it’s friendly and welcoming only to “its own.”

Robb referred to strangers as “guests,” not “visitors.” “Visit” has some strangely negative usages: being visited with plagues; visited the sins of the fathers upon the children... It also means: to go to see in order to comfort or help (strangers are coming to the church to be the comforter?); or to pay a call on as an act of friendship or courtesy (strangers are reaching out to the church as an act of friendship? Perhaps in a parallel universe.) A “guest,” on the other hand, is a person to whom hospitality is extended... as Abraham did to the three strangers and as the writer of Hebrews 13:1 admonishes his readers. When was the last time you entertained angels unaware?

## Reflections of the Interim Regional Pastor

By R. Datema

Have you ever noticed that not everyone in the Region has the same opinion on a particular subject? Take the first public edition (FPE) of our future story to be shared August 15, for example. Would it surprise you if the story triggered a variety of responses and opinions? In fact, would you be surprised, if, initially, some people might state opinions that are different from those stated by others, possibly triggering a debate over who is “right” and who is “wrong?”

This debate might engage others who emerge as peacemakers or side takers. The peacemakers will want, foremost, to protect equilibrium and balance. Others might step in and question the value of a future story.

Call these possible responses “tensions” if you will. I believe it is the field of chaos from which all statements emerge. When we use words to identify a particular segment of chaos, we give it form. Jesus could do this in a way that was widely beneficial. **For more thoughts, please refer to the Regional Web page.**

## Youth News



Greetings,

September is such an exciting month, isn't it? By the end of the month summer is officially over, which means that the heat starts to subside. Windows start to open in houses that have been closed off to keep out the heat all summer long. Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. And it is made so much more exciting by fact that it is when everything gets started again. School starts, Sunday school starts, youth groups kick off, and we even go back to two worship services. September is always full of excitement and possibilities for what the coming school year has to offer. It is the month when we get to do all of our dreaming for youth group and church.

While we do not have any set plans yet for this month, we will meet every week other than Labor Day weekend, September 6<sup>th</sup>. I invite you all to join us on the 13<sup>th</sup> when all of our groups will spend some time dreaming and planning as a whole group and in our individual age groups. As a reminder, we meet at 4:30 for games, worship, and group discussion, and we will finish on most weeks at 6:00. This year will be filled with many fun activities, and I hope that all of you will make it a priority to be with us on Sunday nights.

I am very excited and cannot wait to see what will happen this year in youth group.



See you all Sunday,

## Thoughts on Stewardship

Stewardship is a fact of life. We exercise stewardship each time we make a decision about what we will do or not do. What Christians are called to do is to bring a level of intentionality to their stewardship, determining how they will spend the wealth of time, talent, and treasure with which they have been entrusted.

Stewardship isn't based on God's needs, the needs of the church, or the needs of the community. It is based on the longing deep within every heart to give and on the call to mission implanted in our souls at baptism: that God's reign of love and justice might be realized on earth as it is in heaven. Intentional stewardship is a life of consciousness about whose we are, the circumstances of our lives, and the opportunities we have been given—individually and collectively as a community of faith.

From the Logos Productions Inc. newsletter, September 2005.  
Used by permission.

## Crow Valley Evening Worship Service and Dinner

You are invited to an evening worship service and dinner at Crow Valley Campground on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

The service and dinner will be hosted by our Labor Day weekend campers. Please bring a side dish and let Tim Bobbitt or Shirley Miller know if you will be able to attend.

Crow Valley is located just north of Highway 14 on County Road 77 near Briggsdale—only 40 minutes from Greeley.



### Christian Women's Fellowship

The first meeting of CWF for the fall will be at 12:00 pm on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. This lunch will be catered by the Platte Valley High School catering class. The cost is \$4.00 per person. Reservations are needed by August 30<sup>th</sup>. The program will be presented by Mrs. Alycia Carmin of Kersey. She works with the "Quilts of Valor" program, providing lap-sized quilts for the wounded warriors in the transition unit at Fort Carson near Colo. Springs. There are between 400 and 700 wounded warriors in this unit at a time. Students in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Platte Valley Elementary help make quilts. She also receives quilts from people across the U.S. and other countries. In May 2009, 430 quilts were delivered to Fort Carson. Even if you don't usually attend our CWF general meetings, please come and learn about this wonderful service! Be sure to sign up by 8/30.

CWF will be sponsoring a table at the Block Party on September 12<sup>th</sup>. We are planning to display pictures and samples from the various service projects we are involved in. If you have any ideas for the table or can help out on the 12<sup>th</sup>, please speak with Judi Ring. Our Bible Study groups will begin meeting in September. Joy Group will meet on September 8<sup>th</sup>, Peace Group on September 24<sup>th</sup>, and Kindness Group will meet on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Times and locations will be listed in the bulletin.

The new study books can be purchased at the general meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup> for \$12; however, they are not required for joining in the group. If anyone is interested in starting an evening group, please speak with Judi.

Finally, we are looking for anyone (CWF member or not) who would be willing to help serve at bereavement dinners. We are working to put together teams of people to serve on a rotating basis. If you are interested in being a part of this important ministry, please speak with Judi.



### FCC Preschool News

I would like to introduce myself. I am Tricia Reynolds, and I am your new preschool director and Pre-K teacher. I have an AA degree in Human Services, a BA in Rehabilitation Psychology, and I am also a certified director in Early Childhood Education. I taught preschool children for 4 1/2 years in Missouri at a Methodist church. I moved to Loveland, Colorado, in 1998 and was hired at the First United Methodist Church. I first was a childcare attendant, and then we opened a parent co-op preschool and I was qualified to be the director and teacher.

I live in Loveland with my two sons. One is a senior this year at Loveland High and the other just started 4th grade at Lincoln Elementary.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve here at your church.  
~Miss Tricia

#### Room at the Inn

Still needed:  
twin-sized sheets,  
mattress pads,  
blankets, small  
lamps, alarm clocks.  
Thank you for all  
you have given!

#### Tennyson Center Needs for September

Halloween Candy  
Halloween Accessories  
Bar Soap, Bandages  
Shampoo, Chapstick  
Hairbrushes & Combs  
Accessories, Toothpaste



### Christian Men's Fellowship

The FCC Christian Men's Fellowship will restart their regular meetings beginning Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, starting at 7:30 a.m. We will have breakfast and fellowship. Invite a friend or two and join us!!

### Church Financial Update

#### Income 2009

Actual as of 7/31/09 \$141,750.29\*  
Budgeted Year to Date \$151,963.56\*\*

#### Expenses 2009

Actual as of 7/31/09 \$163,781.32  
Budgeted Year to Date \$173,476.07

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

\*\*Does not include Trustees' \$21,000.

### Church Structure Options

As the General Board prepares to recruit the leadership team for next year, options will be evaluated to make the decision-making and the recruiting process more efficient. First Christian Church has more than 91 formal leadership positions that are either associated with the nomination process or are representatives on the General Board. These positions include 54 Diaconate, 12 Elders, and five Trustees. Not only is the recruitment of this many leaders difficult, but it also stretches many of them as they try to fill many roles in the church. On September 9 the Board will be considering options that will reduce the Diaconate from 54 members to 27 members, with members serving every third month as they do now, but serving every week during the month they are on duty; reducing the total number of Board members from 23 to 20 (staying within the boundaries of having a minimum of 20 Board members as outlined in the Constitution); and replacing six of the Board positions currently filled by some Ministry leadership positions and standing Board Committee Chairs with six congregationally elected representatives. It is hoped that these changes will reduce the burden of recruiting leadership positions, make the Board more efficient, and reduce the burden on the Ministry team leaders who currently are expected to attend the Board and Ministry Cabinet meetings along with their own ministry team meetings. The Board will continue to evaluate other structural changes to provide the best leadership capabilities for our church. It should be noted that while the number of voting Board members will be reduced, congregational members may attend any Board meeting. If you have any comments regarding these potential changes, please contact David Haining at 353-7613, Debbie Berg at 352-3091, Tim Bobbitt at 352-1292, or any of the Board members.

### Blanket Sunday

Blanket Sunday will be September 13<sup>th</sup>! We will collect a special offering to send to Church World Service for the purchase of blankets used during emergencies.



### Family Movie Night



Watch the Weekly Caller for information on the upcoming Family Movie Night, hosted by the Membership Ministries Team on Friday evening, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Please keep this date open and plan to join us!!

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

**Tuesday, September 15**  
(Please note date change.)

#### Trip to Harberts' Mountain Home

The bus will leave the church at 9:30 a.m. We will plan to have lunch with the Harberts around 12:00 or so. They will provide hamburgers and drinks. We need to bring side dishes and desserts. Before coming back home, we will go to Estes Park and/or Rocky Mountain National Park to watch the elk. Watch for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Contact: Von.

#### October through December

**October 16** Lee Maxwell Washing Machine Museum, 35901 WCR Eaton. Time and eating place will be announced later. Travel by bus. Contact: Nancy.

**November 15** Union Colony Dinner Theater Sunday Matinee. Dinner at 12:15 p.m. Show around 2:30. Reservations required. Contact: Von.

**December 11** Turkey dinner at church followed by Crazy Cards—6:00p. Bring side dishes & desserts. Contact: Veronica & Von



# September Birthdays



1 Ernest Kidd	6 Bradford Loschen	12 Steven Meisner	18 Deb Richardson
1 Pamela Warntz	6 Regan Ring	12 Idella Straight	21 Charlotte Shetler
2 Ronelle Caldwell	7 Tom Teixeira	14 Thelma Christiansen	22 Sue Evans
3 Austin Loschen	10 Megan Steele Garcia	15 Ed Johnson	24 Cassie Teixeira
4 John Hammons	10 Ella Heitman	15 Garrett Shirley	27 Libby Weiler
5 Michelle Gray	11 Becky Boyce	15 Deb Thompson	28 Eunice Fine
6 Scott Haining	11 Weston Boyce	17 Evelyn Fletcher	

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



## Elders' Message

According to our church constitution, "The main responsibilities of the Board of Elders shall be to serve communion at the Lord's Table and to discover and employ ways to develop the spiritual life of the Church and its members. In carrying out these obligations, all Elders shall be active church members and cooperate with the work of the functional departments."

Some of the other expectations of an Elder are: to take communion to shut-ins and members in the hospital; attend worship services regularly; practice good stewardship; attend various functions of the church; and be a leader of a shepherding group assigned to him/her.

Hopefully, you can see these responsibilities and expectations being met by our 12 Elders (listed in the "Weekly Caller" of the worship bulletin). We invite your comments or questions as we strive to serve the Lord through you, the congregation.

Bessie Bishop, Elder

## Save the Date!

October 11 *The King and I* at the Union Colony Dinner Theater  
 October 12-17 Church Directory Photography Room at the Inn  
 November 1-7 Hosted by FCC

## Community Block Party

The number of First Christian Church volunteers ready to help with the Community Block Party is growing. We do hope you plan to come with family, friends and neighbors. This can be a chance to listen to our visitors as well as members to find out what our church and the community can do for them.

Right now we have lots of events and tables committed for Saturday, September 12, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Dedicated leaders of most of our church groups will be hosting tables with free fun, food and fellowship for everyone. We'll have games and information for all ages. The FCC Preschool will be offering tours of our facility, and our organist will be presenting a sacred jazz concert in the sanctuary. To add to the excitement, a fireman will be in our parking lot with his truck, and a policeman will be there to visit with folks.

Come celebrate life at First Christian Church. Learn about some of the service organizations in our church and community. Enjoy being served free food and lemonade. Together we can bring hope to the community.

~Hazel Gibson

## Servers for the Month of September

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
<b>9:30 Chapel Service</b>				
Elder		Bessie Bishop	Chuck Walker	Bessie Bishop
Diaconate		Veronica Thomas	Sandy Beiser	Veronica Thomas
Worship Leader		Jim Thomas	Colleen Heitman	Chris Coon
Song Leader		Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	Tessa Johnson
Pianist		Gretchen Howland	Nancy Kurtz	Nita White
<b>10:30 Sanctuary Service</b>				
Elder: North	Kris King	Chuck Walker	Bessie Bishop	Kris King
Elder: South	Chuck Walker	Tom Rainbolt	Kris King	Tom Rainbolt
Worship Leader	Judi Ring	Lynne Waldo	Jim Prichard	Emilee Wolsey
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes
Sound Operator	Caitlin Berg	Janice Billings	Gary Ikenouye	Bruce Waldo
Van Driver	Miguel Ramirez	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes
Diaconate	Bill Crawford	David Miller ☼	Bill Crawford ■	David Miller ▲
	Marie Caster ■	Chris Hartmann	Marie Caster ☼	Chris Hartmann ☼
Please have communion ready by 10:00 a.m.	Connie Harbert ▲	Erika Hartmann	Connie Harbert	Erika Hartmann ☼
	Roger Harbert ▲	Carol Walker ■	Roger Harbert	Carol Walker
	Margaret Crawford	Carolyn Rainbolt ■	Margaret Crawford ■	Carolyn Rainbolt
	Cambrie Bishop ■	Dana Bechler ▲	Cambrie Bishop ☼	Dana Bechler ■
	Shannon King ☼	Susan Luecht ☼	Shannon King ▲	Susan Luecht ▲
	Kelly Jensen ☼	Jayne Hays ▲	Kelly Jensen ▲	Jayne Hays ■
Greeters	Jim & Susan Luecht	Evelyn Kehl	Rick & Janice Billings	Marilyn Lesser
	Ron & Charlotte Shetler	Helen Stolte	Norma Basey	Kathleen Davis
	Carl & Carolyn England	Darron & Debbie Berg	Marie Caster	Betty Jensen
Coffee Hour Host	TBA	Walker Family	TBA	Hartmanns
Acolytes	Andrew Bishop Kane Shirley	Josh Bobbitt Emilee Wolsey	Scott Haining Daniel Recor	Cambrie Bishop Lauryn Waldo
Children's Church	Michelle Gray, Daniel R.	Jodi Bobbitt, A. Bishop	D. Haining, E. Wolsey	Lynne, Katelyn W.
Children's Moment	fester Coffee-Prose	Kris King	David Haining	Erika Hartmann

**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.*