

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

“Peace, Reconciliation and Reunification”

"In the name of Christ Jesus, our peace, in whom we are made one, who has broken down the wall of hostility, creating in himself one new people, reconciling all people to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end...."

Ephesians 2:13-16

One hundred and thirty-seven church leaders from across the world recently recommitted to the goal of peace, reconciliation and reunification of the Korean Peninsula. The consultation included presentations from the churches of North and South Korea, an overview of developments over the past 25 years, input from political analysts, and a joint celebration of the Eucharist led by North and South Korean church leaders. There have been many positive developments in the past twenty five years, including opportunities for visits by Christian leaders to North Korea and for North Korean Christian leaders to visit other countries, especially the opportunity for North and South Korean church leaders to meet and to gain in understanding and trust of each other; and the sharing of growing understanding and trust between North and South Korea. However, in recent years hostility towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the part of other countries has challenged the process, and the change of government in South Korea has brought a sharp change in outlook and policies towards North Korea.

The consultation created a statement calling for numerous actions and encouraging the international community to allow space and time for direct negotiations between North and South Korea to lessen tensions between them. They also called for support of the World Council of Churches' initiatives and encouraged the Christians of North and South Korea to celebrate a turning point in their endeavors for peace and reunification in 2013.

The statement concludes: "It is the fervent hope and prayer of all participants at the Tsuen Wan Consultation that the divided people of Korea will be reunited soon. We long for the day when the people of the Korean peninsula, together with the rest of the world, can join together in thanksgiving and joy to celebrate that they are again one people and one nation."

Let us share in this prayer for reconciliation through peaceful means.

Global Ministries partners with the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK).

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

February 2010

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A MOMENT WITH TIM

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” Romans 12:12

I know that the date on the front of this newsletter is February, but I'm not quite there yet. As I started to look toward January 2010 and its possibilities, I feel like my life was put on hold for a while. Several events, including the death of my Father-In-Law and then the death of my Grandmother, changed our family plans. Jodi, the boys, and I give thanks for all the cards, notes, and encouragement we have received in this time and also for your understanding.

I give thanks that we were able to spend some time with Jodi's family and then my family. I give thanks for the wonderful lives we were able to honor. In this same time as a congregation we have had to say goodbye to some wonderful people including Emma Lubbers, Nancy Turner, and fester. Slowly I am being drawn into this new year, but I feel like I am a few weeks behind. As I make the move, I am finding the words of Tom Rehling, Conference Minister of the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Church of Christ to be helpful. They are words which honor the way those I have lost have lived.

“The beginning of a New Year is a great time to remember that we are free to choose. We are not puppets on a string controlled by God. Rather we are created in the image of God. We are free to choose and responsible for our choices. So what kind of year will you choose for 2010? It is sometimes easiest to look at a situation and lament that we are just too small, insignificant and powerless to change it. Then all we have to do is sigh, shake our heads, and expect that everything will remain about the same. Choosing to do nothing is certainly one of our options.

On the other hand, I believe that the creative spirit of God beckons us to choose to make things better. We may not have the power to change the world, but we can change our behavior, which will change any situation with which we interact. Our attitude impacts the people with whom we live, work, and play. Our actions can change the way others react to us or particular situations. Hope inspires optimism while fear encourages panic. We have the freedom to choose and our choices influence everyone and everything around us.”

Bendiciones (Blessings),

Tim



Worship and Wisdom on Wednesday

www will begin with our **Ash Wednesday Service** on February 17th. We will gather at 5:30 p.m. for a Broth and Bread Supper (service at 6:30 p.m.). Every family is asked to bring a salad or dessert and contribute \$1 per person for the soup and bread. Wisdom groups will start the following Wednesday and will be based on the book of Luke. Watch the bulletin board for more information and sign-up sheets. There will be groups for children; infant childcare will be provided.

Excerpt of a letter from **The Greeley Transitional House**

Thank you very much for the two checks we received in December: \$125, which I assume was our fourth quarter donation from Outreach, and \$525, which was a complete surprise and quite welcome. Both donations were very much appreciated, and the funds were put to use immediately helping us provide emergency shelter and supportive services to homeless Greeley families. As you can probably imagine, we are seeing more needs with fewer resources in recent months, and each donation is important to our work.

I also want to extend a belated thank you for the church hosting GTH for preparing and serving our annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the families on November 24. We served almost 100 people that night and it was so helpful to use the church for this event. The warmth and openness of our church welcoming these families for this meal was a tremendous outreach and hopefully planted some seeds for them to return at some point.

On behalf of the residents of Greeley Transitional House—thank you!!
Jodi Hartmann, Executive Director

[The complete letter is posted in the main hall.]

Cold Winter, Warm Hearts

Thanks for sharing your love and concern by giving boxes of gloves, hats, and scarves to help those who need them in Greeley. Those gifts have been carried to such places as the Transitional House, Colorado Christian Home, and other organizations in Greeley. For many it has been a tough year financially, and yet your giving shows a generous spirit.

Outreach Committee of FCC



Thank You

Thank you to all our church family for the phone calls, food, cards, and prayer. The help with trips to doctor appointments was really appreciated. It is so comforting to have your support in times of need.

~ Bereavement ~



Our deepest sympathy is with Dean Turner and his family in the passing of Dr. Nancy Turner on Monday, December 28, 2009.

February G.I.F.T. Activity



The Generally In-between Fifty and Twenty Group will meet at the Recor home on February 20th for Crazy Cards. Please see the sign-up sheet for details. Join us!

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

What: Valentine Breakfast
Where: Johnson's Corner
When: Monday, February 15
Meet at the church at 8:50 in order to leave at 9:00 a.m. We will carpool to the restaurant. Please call Von if you have questions—339-9767.



FCC Softball Team???

It is hard to believe with snow on the ground, but registration is coming up soon for summer softball. Several folks from FCC have expressed interest in forming a leisure, co-ed league team, so we want to see if there is enough interest to form a team for this summer. Team registration begins March 1. Games begin April 25 and will likely go for 10 weeks (there are 12 & 20 week leagues as well). Cost to play will depend on the number of people on the team, but will probably be around \$25 per person. If cost is an issue, we will try to work around those issues. The goal of the team will be to have fun & fellowship, and get some outdoor air. If you are interested, let David Haining (353-7613 or the-hainings@comcast.net) or Tim Bobbitt (352-1292 or fccrevtim@comcast.net) know asap.



Week of Compassion

When I was in the Congo this past November, I preached in a church-on-stilts in a fishing village. Folks set up a camp of sorts along the Congo River where they could fish and make some semblance of a living. Fishing means surviving for most of the members of this community.

After I preached my sermon, translated into the local language of Lingala, I sat back down in my seat and proceeded to watch the members of the church dance forward their offerings. I was overcome by their joy in doing so. I'm serious when I say that they *danced* their offerings forward. They were thrilled-delighted-overjoyed that they had something to give! This was the highlight of the worship experience! Praise be to God for the opportunity to give what we have!

And just when I thought it was over, the marvelous African beat continued and they kept dancing. They were invited to give another offering--*another offering?* I thought. This time they brought forward their gifts for me, the preacher. *What? Me? An offering for me??* I could hardly believe it. Their tradition to offer gifts of gratitude for the one who shared the word of God was overwhelming to me. Never has this happened to me in all my travels and visits to preach the Gospel!

So I graciously--despite my incredulousness--accepted the three fish, the long branch of plaintains, the oranges, the money. I felt strange about accepting it, I'll admit. But I know that to honor the giver you honor the gift. This is what Week of Compassion is all about.

Honoring the giver and the gift--this is also the best way to honor the receiver.

Friends, I honor you this Epiphany. I honor you for the gifts you bring. I honor you for the offerings you bring to Week of Compassion. I honor you for offering what you have. Most of all, I honor you for giving the best gift of all: yourselves.

You are your best offering.

Happy 2010!

-Amy Gopp (Excerpted)

Week of Compassion Special Offering

Special Offering envelopes are included with this newsletter. Your gift will provide shelter, food, water, education and medical supplies to disaster survivors and impoverished communities. The offering will be collected February 21st and 28th.



FCC Preschool News

We finally got back into our morning preschool schedules. It was a long, cold holiday break. But we are happy to be back. The Pre-K class is full steam ahead, preparing for either another year of preschool or Kindergarten.

In January we will continue to learn our Zoo Phonic letters, lower and upper case. We will continue to learn more about God and we have started learning the 10 Commandments. Since we are now in the winter season, we have been talking about winter weather clothing, cold weather animals and making pretend snow. January is also Pizza Month. So we will have a day that we will make little pizzas.

February is just around the corner. Of course, we will learn all about Valentines Day. But most important, we will learn the greatest Bible verse ever: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son..." We will also learn about the groundhog, shadows, our senses and our teeth. Lots to do and lots to learn.

Come down the preschool hallway and take a look at the pictures of the preschool during our activities in 2009. These pictures are posted on the wall by the water fountain.

The preschool sure could use some more Crayola washable markers (basic colors) and Elmers glue sticks. If you can donate some of these items, please put them by the director's office door. Thank you.

God Bless & Have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

-Miss Tricia, Miss Jennie and FCC Preschool

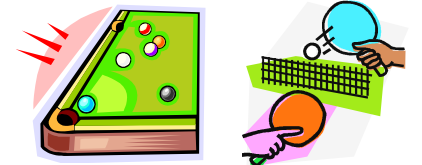
Youth Calendar

Super Bowl Party



Sunday, February 7th

All youth are invited to join in the All-Church Super Bowl Party. The game starts at 5:00 and everyone is asked to bring a snack to share during the game. Come on out and watch the game, watch the commercials, or head downstairs and play some pool, ping-pong, and board games.



Friday, February 12th

4:00 ~ Chi Rho and CYF leave for Midwinter Retreat. You will need to meet at the church at 4:00 with all your retreat gear, as well as money for dinner on the way to camp and lunch on the way home. We should be back on Monday afternoon by 1:00. Dinner on the way down will be fast food, and lunch on the way home will be at Q'doba.

Sunday, February 14

4:30-6:00 ~ Juniors meet at their regular meeting time.

Monday, February 15th

1:00 ~ Chi Rho and CYF return from retreat.

Sunday, February 21st

4:30-6:00 ~ All youth meet for regular meetings.

Sunday, February 28th

4:30-6:00 ~ All youth meet for regular meetings.

We hope to see all of our youth at our meetings during the month of February.



Midwinter Retreat

Spring Antique Fair

Downsizing? Simplifying? Many of us seem to be accumulating items we can't use anymore, from trinkets to pieces of furniture. FCC is planning an antique fair, sometime this spring. If you would like to offer your expertise in helping restore furniture, pricing items, or organizing this fun endeavor, please speak with Jodi Bobbitt or Diane Doyle.

New Address and E-Mail

We wish fester and Kayla Coffee-Prose the very best as they move to Tyler, Texas, to take new positions as associate ministers at the First Christian Church there. Their new address is:

First Christian Church
4202 South Broadway Avenue
Tyler, Texas 75701-8721

fester's new e-mail address is:
fester.coffee-prose@gmail.com





Christian Women's Fellowship

The CWF will meet on February 4 at noon for lunch and a program. The program will be given by Ryan Dougherty, Executive Director for Northern Colorado Youth for Christ. The meal will be catered by the Platte Valley High School catering class and will cost \$4 per person. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet by January 31st.

The Bake/Craft sale will be held after both services on Sunday, February 14th. Please bring any items you will be donating to the church between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Saturday the 13th for pricing. We are also planning to sell soup, and possibly krautburgers. CWF will pay for the supplies for these items; however, we will post a list of items we need if anyone would like to donate them. We have not yet set a date for making the soup and krautburgers, but will update you as soon as we know.

The CWF Board will meet on Thursday, February 11th, at 9:30 am. Devotions will be given by Verna. Joy Group will meet on February 9th at 1:15 pm in the parlor. Kindness will meet on February 25th at 9:30 a.m. in the parlor and Peace will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the parlor on the 25th.



Hypes Photo Exhibit at Library



During the month of February, the Centennial Library on 23rd Avenue will feature a display of framed photographs along both hallway ramps between the children's section and the main library. The gallery will feature a variety of subjects—from undersea to astronomical and from scenic to creative—as well as religious, patriotic, and historical photos. They will be for viewing pleasure only; none are for sale. All of the photographs were taken by George & Carol Hypes.



CWF Bake Sale

The Bake/Craft Sale will be held on Sunday, February 14th, following both services. Proceeds will be divided as follows:

- ♥ 10% to Disciples Mission Fund
- ♥ 50% to those wishing to attend the Women's Quadrennial Assembly
- ♥ 40% to a local women's retreat

Items Needed!

If you would like to help CWF with the Bake/Craft Sale, but do not wish to bake, and you are not a "crafty" person, you can still help! We have a list of the items needed to make krautburgers and soup on the board outside Fellowship Hall if you would prefer to help in that way.

Christian Men's Fellowship

The FCC Christian Men's Fellowship will meet Saturday, February 13th, starting at 8:00 a.m. Please note the new starting time. We will have breakfast and fellowship. Invite a friend or two and join us!!

FCC Basketball Schedule

FCC Basketball games are played on Tuesday evenings at the Greeley Recreation Center, 651 10th Avenue.

January 26 at 7 pm		February 16 at 6 pm
February 2 at 6 pm		February 23 at ?
February 9 at 7 pm		Tournament in March

Super Bowl Party

Join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 7, at 4:00. Bring a snack to share, comfortable seating & a canned food item for the Weld Food Bank.

Tennyson Center Needs

- Luster's Pink Lotion (shampoo)
- Let's Jam Shining & Conditioning Gel
- Children's & Junior Strength Tylenol
- Hair Accessories, Chapstick
- Cough Drops, Shampoo
- 4" x 4" Gauze Pads
- Adhesive Tape for Sensitive Skin



FCC 2009 Planned vs. Actuals from Financials

	2009 Plan Thru December	2009 Actuals Thru December
Income		
Pledges	\$241,509	\$234,502
Other Giving	\$19,000	\$15,031
Total Income	\$260,509	\$249,533
Expenses		
Staff/Administration	\$181,696	\$181,673
Office/Expenses	\$13,700	\$10,958
Property Ministry	\$57,310	\$53,872
Outreach Ministry	\$25,000	\$24,407
Membership Ministry	\$700	\$561
Church Growth Ministry	\$3,300	\$3,160
Stewardship Ministry	\$160	\$134
Worship Ministry	\$1,675	\$1,188
Music Ministry	\$2,000	\$1,641
Christian Ed. Ministry	\$4,525	\$2,022
Library	\$150	\$56
Elder's Ministry	\$200	\$152
Youth Ministry	\$5,800	\$4,476
Total Expenses	\$296,216	\$284,299
Difference Income-Expense	-\$35,707	-\$34,766
In order to balance the Plan for 2009, the Board of Trustees was asked to commit \$36,000 as needed. Through December \$32,000 of the \$36,000 has been transferred to the General Fund to meet expenses. That accounts for the \$34,766 deficit indicated above. There was a \$4,000+ carryover to begin 2009.		
Special Offerings Received		
Week of Compassion		\$692
Easter		\$778
Pentecost		\$526
Thanksgiving		\$400
Christmas		\$555
Reconciliation		\$339
Total		\$3,290

Your Money Already at Work in Haiti

Through the largest global alliance of Christian humanitarian agencies—Action by Churches Together (ACT)—Week of Compassion is already on the ground in Haiti. Your generous gifts and offerings are already at work. In the chaos of aid distribution, ACT Alliance members, including Church World Service (CWS), are managing to get food, temporary shelter, water, cleaning materials, and expertise to the Haitian capital.

Proud to be part of one of the largest alliances working on relief in Haiti, Week of Compassion is grateful for our partners in the ACT Alliance. Currently, there are four member church agencies working in-country. FCC is a part of this work.

"In the midst of this horrific tragedy, we can be comforted knowing that we are doing something. We are already there, thanks to our amazing partnerships. We are not helpless. Together, we can do so much. God is there, too. Even in the rubble."

[Notes from Week of Compassion Web site.]

~FCC Outreach Committee

Youth Mission Trip to Venezuela

This July 21-28 Rocky Mountain DOC and UCC youth have an opportunity to travel to Venezuela with our Global Partners program. Join with Venezuelan youth groups at their National Summer Gathering. Registration is due April 1st. See the bulletin board in the main hall for all the details.



February Birthdays



2 Sheila Takumoto	6 Bob Corliss	11 Steve Hummel	16 Geneva Weiler
3 Vicki Brashear	6 Kevin King	11 Shirley Miller	17 Jody Heatherly
4 Rich Davis, Jr.	6 Lena Morris	12 Beverley Martin	21 Hazel Gibson
4 Jerry Smith	7 Robert Boyce	13 Richard Davis, Sr.	21 Von Prichard
4 Nicolaus Wolfrum	10 Darrell Johnson	13 Beth Warntz	23 Helen Stolte
5 Heather Davis	10 Germaine Johnson	14 Marilyn Cash	24 Hunter Evans
5 Tom Gray	10 Judi Ring	15 Shannon King	26 Carol Walker

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

Elder's Message

"God is love." This is one of the first verses we teach our children. We share with them God's commandment to "Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and soul and mind and your neighbor as yourself. We study the parable of the Good Samaritan to help our children understand that our neighbor is anyone in need, anywhere in the world, and that love does no wrong to a neighbor. As adults we struggle with, and try to explain, the idea that we must love our enemies—those who dislike or abuse us. To love only those who love us would be easy, but God's way is not always easy.

The Bible tells us, over and over, to love our neighbors—this love being only second to loving our Lord. Ephesians 5 urges us to be imitators of God and walk in love. Our neighbors throughout the world will know that we are disciples of Jesus if we share genuine love. With February being the "Month of Love," let us try to embrace that thought and work to promote love all around.

Jayne Hays, Elder



Room at the Inn

First Christian Church's first time hosting the Room at the Inn last November was very successful. Preparations have been made to host this very important hands-on ministry again during the first week in February. Many of you have already signed up to volunteer in various ways.

Our guests arrive each afternoon around 5:30, spend the night in classrooms set up for them, and leave by 7:00 the next morning. This activity is being operated at no cost to the congregation other than the small additional cost for utilities. Some have made donations for the cost of food for our guests' breakfast and items with which they could pack a lunch.

Thank you to the following people who help coordinate this ministry:

Linens—Nancy Kurtz; Food—Connie Harbert
Set-up and take-down—Sam McMichael
Calling for volunteers when needed—
Milt Hollingshead

Jim Prichard, Overall Coordinator

Servers for the Month of February

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
8:15 Chapel Service				
Elder	Lena Morris	Carl England	Carol Smith	Carol Smith
Deacon	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman	Colleen Heitman
Worship Leader	Patty Endres	Bob Gibson	Colleen Heitman	Gretchen Howland
Song Leader	C. R. Haining	Tessa Johnson	Gretchen Howland	Tessa Johnson
Pianist	Chris Coon	Gretchen Howland	Nancy Kurtz	Nita White
10:30 Sanctuary Service				
Elder: North	Carl England	Gary Ikenouye	Gerre Tjardes	Gerre Tjardes
Elder: South	Gary Ikenouye	Gerre Tjardes	Gary Ikenouye	Carl England
Deacon	A. Loschen ±	A. Loschen ■	A. Loschen ∩	A. Loschen ▲
	C. Ikenouye ±	C. Ikenouye ■	C. Ikenouye ∩	C. Ikenouye ▲
	Lisa Wolsey ▲	Lisa Wolsey ±	Lisa Wolsey ■	Lisa Wolsey ∩
	Katelyn Waldo ▲	Katelyn Waldo ±	Katelyn Waldo ■	Katelyn Waldo ∩
	Judi Ring ∩	Judi Ring ▲	Judi Ring ±	Judi Ring ■
	Von Prichard ∩	Von Prichard ▲	Von Prichard ±	Von Prichard ■
	Beth Warntz ■	Beth Warntz ∩	Beth Warntz ▲	Beth Warntz ±
	Paul Warntz ■	Paul Warntz ∩	Paul Warntz ▲	Paul Warntz ±
Worship Leader	Cambrie Bishop	LaVonne Rogakis	Connie Davis	Kris King David
Song Leader	Rich Recor	Bill Kehl	Connie Davis	Gerre Tjardes
Sound Operator	Caitlin Berg	C.R. Haining	Jim Prichard	Gary Ikenouye
Van Driver	TBA	Gary Ikenouye	Paul Warntz	Fred Tjardes
Greeters	J./S. Luecht	Evelyn Kehl	Marilyn Lesser	Marilyn Lesser
	R./C. Shetler	Helen Stolte	Norma Basey	Kathleen Davis
	C./C. England	D.&. D. Berg	Marie Caster	Betty Jensen
Coffee Hour	Fanberg/Stolte	Need Volunteer	Heitman	Lueking
Acolytes	Andrew Bishop	Weston Boyce	Daniel Recor	Pyper Evans
	Emilee Ploegstra	Scott Haining	Becky Boyce	Ian Ploegstra
Children's Moment	TBA	Kris King	David Haining	Erika Hartmann
Children's Church	Michelle Gray	Jodi Bobbitt	David Haining	Lynne Waldo
	M. Duffield	Katelyn Waldo	Lauryn Waldo	Daniel Recor

KEY: Preparation=± Clean Up Sanctuary=▲ No Extra Duties=∩ 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.

Please note: Beginning in 2010, Giving Statements will *not* reflect holiday plant donations.

