

First United Methodist Church

1005 Stover Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524-3849

Phone: 970-842-2436
Fax: 970-221-5833
E-mail: staff@fcumc.net



DATED MATERIAL

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**Give
the gift
of yourself,
be a
Stephen Minister**

A new class will begin in January, call Sam Mack 214-5714 for details.

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fort Collins, CO
Permit No. 44



THE CARILLON

First United Methodist Church

Volume 12, Issue 12

December 2006

ABUNDANT LIVING--GENEROUS GIVING



A Report

Your response to the Stewardship Campaign this Fall has been very encouraging. To date, with 310 pledge commitments made, we have a total of nearly \$615,000 pledged to underwrite the ministries of the church for 2007. There are many who have not yet responded, so we believe the final total will be considerably higher. That may even make it possible to expand our ministry. Thank you to everyone who responded so quickly and so generously.

Indeed, we have experienced "Generous Giving." Approximately half of those who have pledged to date have increased their giving for 2007, some quite substantially. There are others who, because of circumstances in their lives, have needed to reduce or maintain the same level of giving. That is what is so great about the Church of Jesus Christ. We are family, and when one can do more, we do more, and when another cannot, we are there for them as well. Thank you. Now let us see what God will do with us in this new year.

Of course, if you have not as yet returned your pledge card, please do so right away. We would like to complete this process quickly.

Thanks also to the many people who worked on this campaign. Poster makers, video producers, letter writers and stuffers, Carillon article writers, overall planners, prayer vigil participants, phone callers, the wonderful church office staff, the support of pastors, and the help of custodians and to you who give generously, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you" (Paul's words but appropriate now).

Ray Miller

For the Stewardship Committee

Christmas Worship Services-Dec. 24th

Sunday morning worship services are at:

- ☆ 8:00 am
- ☆ 9:15 am

With Rev. Joel Kershaw preaching. There will be no children or Youth Sunday Schools.

Christmas Eve Services:

- ☆ 3:00 pm
- ☆ 5:00 pm
- ☆ 7:00 pm
- ☆ 11:00 pm

No tickets are necessary. Ringing of Bells at all services, everyone is encouraged to

bring bells and join in the ringing. Holy Communion will be offered at the 11:00 pm service only.





Hope You Have an Orange Christmas

By Charles Schuster

The following is a story told to James Moore and he put it in his book, The Miracle of Christmas. I thought it was worth passing on.

“The story happened during the time of the Great Depression, in the 1930’s. Eleven little boys were living in an orphanage. They were so poor. The highlight of their lives came each year on Christmas Eve. After their dinner in the orphanage cafeteria, they would have a Christmas party. They would sing some carols, and then each of the eleven boys would receive an orange. That’s all they would get for Christmas—no toys, no clothes, no candy – just a single orange. But the little boys were so grateful. Each one would peel his orange carefully and eat one slice a day to make it last longer.

But one year on Christmas Eve, one little boy named Tommy broke one of the orphanage rules. The orphanage director said to him, “Tommy, you have broken one of our rules, and you must be disciplined. I hate to do it, but you have to learn, so your punishment is that you can’t come to the Christmas

party this year, and you won’t get an orange. Go to your room immediately, and stay there until morning.”

Tommy was crushed. He was so disappointed, but he obeyed. He went to his room alone. He could hear the sounds of the Christmas party. He could hear the singing; he could hear his friends cheer as the oranges were passed around. Tommy was absolutely heartsick. This was the lowest, darkest, worst moment of his life. He had trouble going to sleep at first, but finally sleep came.

When Tommy woke up the next morning, he sat on the edge of his bed rubbing his eyes and thinking, *This is going to be the most horrible Christmas ever.* But then he saw it. There it was, on the bedside table: a makeshift orange; an orange with no peel; ten individual slices of orange put together to make an orange for him. There was a note underneath it that read, “Merry Christmas, Tommy,” and it was signed by all ten of his friends. It took a moment for it all to sink in, but finally Tommy figured it out. Each one of his little buddies had donated one slice of their

orange to make an orange for him, and what had started out to be Tommy’s worst Christmas suddenly became his best Christmas ever! Sacrificial love turned it around for Tommy, and that’s what Christmas is all about.”



Here are some thoughts for us to ponder:

- ✓ Something this world needs almost as much as the air we breathe is a sense of caring and forgiveness.
- ✓ Something this world needs to come in our day is peace on earth and good will toward all people.
- ✓ Something we each will want to have is the idea that there is abundance in life and we have the privilege of sharing with others.

May your Advent Season and your Christmas Celebration uncover an unexpected orange that is put there by the people who care about you.

When God measures a person, he puts the tape around the heart, not the head.

you love the contradictions and live into the paradox?

As Rainer Maria Rilke said, “Don't search for the answers, which could not be given to you now, because you would not be able to live them. And the point is to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday far in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.

If you want to open yourself to new questions, new ideas and new ways of thinking, FUMC offers a wide variety of Adult Christian Education classes on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. All classes welcome visitors and new members, so you’re invited to be part of the learning community here.

Special Young Couples Event!

On Thursday, December 21st we will hold an open session with Rev. Charles Schuster on the subject, "In-Laws and Other Holiday Problems."



All are welcome to attend; childcare is available. The Young Couple's Fellowship is comprised of young couples and they meet every Thursday starting at

6:30 p.m. for a meal. Bring your own brown bag and join us. For more information please contact Sarah Putman (970) 225-1268 or putmanfcss@yahoo.com

Successful Country Village Bazaar

Karen Waldron, Business Manager @ FUMC has given the latest figure on the bazaar — \$20,000.00! Thanks to all who put in many hours of service, talent, and gift. WE DID IT TOGETHER!

Meet Our Sponsors

AMERICAN DREAM TRAVEL

Jim Chudd

970-224-5384

Packages or Custom planning for Australia/New Zealand, Mexico, Europe, Cruises

HARMONY EYECARE, P.C.

Dr. David Kisling, O.D.

970-226-0959

Full Service Vision Center Exam, glasses, contacts, visions therapy and eye emergencies

Peter Stackhouse & Mary Ann Michels

Mortgage Consultants with American Home Mortgage

(970) 310-8022

www.PeterandMaryAnn.com

STILL LEARNING FOR LIFE

After more than half a century, I find myself enrolled in not one, not two, but *three* Christian Education classes. It may have something to do with agreeing to serve as Adult Education coordinator, I don't know, but here I am. And I'm finding myself challenged in ways I didn't imagine – not only my thinking, but also my way of being in the world.

In Christian Believer class, we are studying the doctrines that form the central teachings of Christian faith, using Scripture, selected readings, and videotape segments. So far we've studied Believing and Understanding, Revelation, Scripture, and God as Creator. Coming up are 4 more weeks devoted to deepening awareness of other dimensions of God: names for God, God's action in human history, God as covenant-maker, and humans as created in God's image.

In the Open Hearts class on Sundays at 10:45, we've been reading "God is not", a collection of essays that aim to deepen our understanding of God by using Thomas Aquinas's process of negation. That is, not stating what God is, but rather what God is not. T. Brent Laytham, the editor, claims that our understanding of God is distorted by powerful influences such as the state, the market, race, class and gender. Since these distortions are sometimes very difficult for us to see, explicitly critiquing them helps us to know more truly who God is.

As I read and study and reflect during the week in preparation for these classes, I'm challenged by the many concepts we have of God. Of course I am familiar with these ideas, but my tendency has been to avoid conceptualizing about God, and rather to allow myself to be enfolded in the living presence of God. Like all of us, it's easy for me to identify with my thoughts and ideas, and to believe that they are somehow right. So I've sidestepped the whole issue by not thinking much about it.

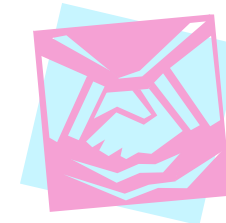
Now I realize however that I've been guilty of *either-or* thinking or, as Parker Palmer says in The Courage to Teach, "thinking the world apart". Since *either-or* thinking or binary logic is not applicable to realms of life that are beyond logic, I chose to approach the question of who God is primarily with my heart, not with my head.

Palmer advocates "thinking the world together" or *both-and* thinking, which takes us out of a fragmented view of reality and into embracing opposites. Palmer quotes Neils Bohr, the Nobel-prize winning physicist: "The opposite of a true statement is a false statement, but the opposite of a profound truth can be another profound truth." We encounter profound truths, the elements of paradox, every day. God is immanent and transcendent. Teaching and learning occur simultaneously in one person. So do giving and receiving. When we use both our heads and our hearts, we see a world in which opposites are joined – a world that is more complex and more life-giving than the simple world of *either-or* thinking.

Where are you using either-or thinking? Are you a realist ... or a romantic ... or both? Do you see the world as the synthesis of opposites, as a whole? Can your thoughts of who God is co-exist with the experience of being enfolded in the living presence of God? Can



Membership Memos



Receptions

In Joyous Celebration! We rejoice and celebrate in welcoming our newest church members.

♥ **Steve & Susan King** of Fort Collins, transfer from FUMC in Keller, TX

Urgent Request From the Nursery

Nursery care givers are needed!!

We need people for Sundays and weeknights on a regular basis. We are also needing

help for the upcoming Christmas Eve services. There is a great demand for childcare during our service. Please consider volunteering for at least one service. Under 14 years of age

may volunteer, as well. Call Nancy Gorges, 204-9041, if you are interested in a great job or can volunteer.



\$100.00 a Day for Expanding Our Ministries

- ♥ November 3rd – Given in gratitude to God for our 59th wedding anniversary, by Paul and Dee Gilbert.
- ♥ November 12th – Given by Shirley Sundstedt in memory of a loving father and husband, Jim Sundstedt.
- ♥ November 26rd – Given by Wilda and Burdette Woodward in honor of the Senior Council.

Advent Class

**Wednesday, December 6
@ 7:00 p.m.**

What are the various emotions that lead up to Christmas in the season of Advent? How will we prepare ourselves for Christmas as we take the time to read the birth stories and as we sort out myth from meaning?

This advent class will explore the stories of Christmas, the

traditions of Christmas, and the way in which we prepare ourselves for Christmas.

Joyce and Charles will help the members of the class take some time, before the time becomes so rushed, to reflect upon the seasons in the past, to work through the hard Christmas seasons we've come through, and to celebrate what it means to look at Christmas from the perspective of faith

knowing we live in a world of commercialism and consumerism.

- ☆ **Expressing Through Advent**—Rev. Joyce Curtis & Rev. Charles Schuster
- ☆ **Getting Ready for Christmas**—Bev Halperin
- ☆ **Holiday Special: The Shaping of an American Christmas**—Rev. Joel Kershaw

Youth Newz



Come enjoy a night of good food and holiday cheer presented by the Youth of FUMC. Celebrate this magical time of year with friends in faith while experiencing the best in food and entertainment to be had. This event features the culinary, musical and theatrical talents of your youth, and proceeds benefit our Youth Program here at FUMC. Mark your calendars! Information and tickets available at the Youth table in Fellowship Hall (\$18 for adults and \$12 for Kids 12 and under) or contact Rev. Kershaw. Come experience the holidays as never before!

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY 2006



This is the Youth Group annual sale of poinsettias to decorate the chancel at Christmas time, or to brighten your home. If you would like to honor, remember a loved one, or if you would like to buy a poinsettia for your home during the holidays, please submit your order to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 17. All poinsettias are 6" pots and cost \$12.50 each. Please choose from the different colors below.

Your name _____ Day Phone _____
(as you want it to appear on the published list)

In Honor of OR In Memory of: _____
(This poinsettia will be placed in the Sanctuary and may be picked up after December 25)

Number of Poinsettias: Red ____ X \$12.50 = \$ _____ White ____ X \$12.50 = \$ _____

For our home: (This purchase will not appear on the published list.)
Number of Poinsettias: Red ____ X \$12.50 = \$ _____ White ____ X \$12.50 = \$ _____

Attached is my: check cash for. TOTAL \$ _____

Make check payable to First United Methodist Church; designate "poinsettia" in the memo portion of your check.

United Methodist Women

CHRISTMAS TEA: "THE LAMMP"
This month we will be celebrating our annual Christmas Tea for the unit meeting on Thursday, Dec. 14th at 10:30 a.m. in the parlor. The gathering will start with a scrumptious tea menu served by the Mission Team. Our new and returning officers will be installed for the coming year. JoAnn Hopkins will present the devotion "Let there be Peace on Earth," and speak about "The Larimer Association for Methodist Ministries Partners" (L.A.M.M.P.) LAMMP currently has mission trips planned to Warren Village in Denver, Buckhorn Camp, Guatemala, and Haiti. All women of the church are welcome! Come and hear from JoAn how you too can get involved in this group and

have fun serving others.

The Executive Board will meet before the unit meeting at 9:00 a.m.

SPECIAL INVITATION FROM CHRIST United Methodist Church!

Our unit has been invited to be guests of the ladies of Christ UMC on Sunday, Dec. 10, at 2 p.m. for a Christmas Gathering "A Gift from the Heart." The pro-

gram will include music by the Children's Centennial Choir and light refreshments. Please RSVP to Mildred Gilbert 221-9577, promptly.

Interested in joining a circle for friendship, mission, study and spiritual support? Call Lori Ailor, 490-1194, or Chris Weber, 225-6597, for information on each circle. They'll help you find a match!

Circle	Date	Time	Location
Abigail	TBA	TBA	Call Margaret 223-8539
Hannah	Weds: 13 th	6:30 p.m.	Cara Rudolph's- Christmas Party
Kezia	Thurs: 7 th	9:30 a.m.	Dee Gilbert's-Christmas Party
Lois	Thurs: 7 th	9:30 a.m.	Parlor
Mary	Thurs: 7 th	9:30 a.m.	Kay Walter's-Christmas Party
Rebekah	Thurs: 7 th	12 Noon	Parlor
Sarah	Weds: 6 th	9:30 a.m.	Parlor-Christmas Party Date & Place TBA
Vashti	Tues: 5 th	12 Noon	Parlor
Talitha (College)	Call Dee Skelton 482-1984 or Dea Carroll 223-6530		
T.U.F. (Teen)	Call Dea Carroll 223-6530 or Bev Winsett 484-8447		

2007 Men's Retreat - Feb 16-18, 2007

The Men's Retreat will be held at The Abbey of St. Walburga at Virginia Dale this year. David Reid will lead our group in a weekend of exploring Methodist theology and how it relates to the men of our church. A short book will be provided with your registration (William H. Willimon: *Shaped by the Bible*).

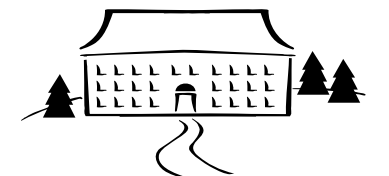
The Abbey is well known for providing a spiritual location for retreats and its convenience to Fort Collins. Space is limited to

approximately 20 people so please get your reservation in early. We are planning a new format this year where those who cannot stay for the weekend or who register too late to reserve accommodations can still take part in an all day Saturday session.

The cost will be \$130 per person for the full weekend and \$50 per person for the Saturday session (including lunch). Full payments or a deposit of

\$50 will be collected beginning November 12th.

Confidential scholarships are available if necessary; please contact Rev. Schuster for more information. For reservations please contact Rob Bean (226-0252, webupdate@fcfumc.net) or Michael Paddack (461-3470, mpaddack@aol.com).





Holy Boldness

Commemorating Fifty Years of Ordaining Women in the United Methodist Church

Part 8: Victory? or Victory!

They laughed! Women attending the General Conference of 1952 seethed at the laughter that filled the room during the closing moments of the conference when another attempt to secure full clergy rights for women came to the delegates for approval and failed. It was no laughing matter! Inspired energized women went to work.

Two thousand petitions on the subject, obtained by action of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, flooded the General Conference of 1956. Hours of debate ensued. Eventually a majority report recommended that only single women and widows be allowed to apply for full clergy rights and that women who had previously received full clergy rights would lose them if they chose to marry. "Administrative problems" for the district superin-

tendents who were required to guarantee an appointment to every woman elected to conference membership fired the discussion. In other words, district superintendents would be faced with appointing women to churches who did not want women pastors.

At the end of the Conference, Par. 313 read, "Women are included in the foregoing provisions, and may apply as candidates for traveling ministry as provided in Chapter III of the *Discipline*."

The Church is a place where one experiences God's grace. It is a place where people show love and compassion, but it is also a place of contradiction and human fallibility. Women clergy experience the same cultural deterrents as their sisters in secular work life with the addition of a few that are exclusively identified with churches. As a result, women leave local church ministry at a faster rate than their male colleagues. **The loss of women clergy**

should be a grief felt by the entire Church.



Holy Boldness Among Us Reverend Joyce Curtis

Reverend Joyce Curtis receives our Holy Boldness honor this month. During our years of privilege while Joyce served as our Associate Pastor, she generously shared her deep faith, compassion, creative, and artistic gifts. Her door was always open to anyone needing counsel, support, and encouragement. Our church is losing a spiritual guide, creative spirit, and a friend. "Thank you" does not measure up to words needed to express our gratitude for Joyce's presence, but "thank you," Joyce. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

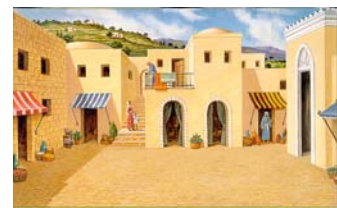
Article submitted by FCFUMC COSROW (Commission on the Status and Role of Women)

Sources: Thompson, Patricia J., *Courageous Past, Bold Future: The Journey Toward Full Clergy Rights for Women in The United Methodist Church*. TUMC, Nashville, 2006.

UM Clergywomen Retention Study. Website: www.bu.edu/sth/shaw/retention/chapter-one/chapter-two.



Thoughts from Bev



If you ask people to reflect on their favorite Christmas memory, they never talk about presents. They talk about people. It's not the gift we cherish, it's the giver. The best Christmas gift you can give to someone is you – your time, your attention, your presence. The simple gift of yourself – your undivided attention – is the best gift you

have to give. What we want most at Christmas is not **presents**, but **presence**. When we think about the biblical story of the Three Kings, one fact is often overlooked. More than giving gold, incense, and myrrh, they gave themselves. They presented themselves as an act of homage. They "bowed down and worshipped him." They didn't send representatives, they came in person.

When you think about it, that's what Christmas is all about in the first place – God giving the

gift of himself. Christmas is all about presence – God with us, and we with each other.

This Christmas, give yourself. Go on a date with your spouse. Take your child to a basketball game. Visit a friend. Take your elderly parent or neighbor out for breakfast. Take a grandchild shopping and out for an ice cream cone.

Remember, your loved ones will cherish your **presence** much more than your **presents!**

3rd Annual Sunday School Teachers' Retreat

January 19 – 20, 2007 at the Abbey of St. Walburga
Mark your calendars NOW!

This is for all teachers – past, present, and future. It is a great opportunity to spend some time with other teachers

and get acquainted with some new people. It's also an excellent opportunity to take some time for yourself – relax and have fun! We will go up Friday af-



ternoon and return Saturday afternoon. For more information or to sign-up, please call Bev Halperin, 482-2436 or bevhalperin@fcfumc.net

White Gifts



Each year our church offers local children from economically disadvantaged families the opportunity to receive at least

one Christmas gift. Our "white gifts" are **new** toys wrapped in white paper, with the gender and age of the child it would be appropriate for written on the white wrapping paper. This year our white gifts will be collected on Sunday December

17. Please help us spread some joy during this Season – bring your white gift to the church by Sunday, December 17th.



Adult Class Name Change

Class Name: **Open Hearts**

Meeting Time: **10:45 am, Sunday mornings**

Location: **Village Commons/Cinema Center**

Study Moderator: **David Reid**

Class Facilitator: **Dean Block**

An adult class with studies of substance and theological grounding. The studies will have a defined starting and ending point. The class will be self taught with study leaders from either inside or outside the class. Projects, activities and social events will be an integral part of the class. We

wish to invite adults of all ages to participate and become long term members of the class.

Study materials for the next three months:

1. Nov. 12–26: *Living the Question* (DVD)
2. No Class Thanksgiving Weekend
3. Dec. 3–Jan. 17: *The Jesus I Never Knew*, by Philip Yancey
4. No Class Christmas Weekend and New Year's weekend
5. Jan. 14–28: *Evolution from Creation to New Creation: Conflict, Conversation and Convergence*, by Ted Peters and Martinez Hewlett.

“Reading the Bible Through” Program

Important Notice: If you have been participating in the “Reading the Bible Through in a Year” program, we urgently need your help! As was mentioned when this started last January, we want to publicly recognize all participants who have completed the reading. This is planned for Sunday, January 14, 2007.

We want to be sure not to overlook anyone who has completed this wonderful achievement! However, we're not quite certain who all the participants are. Therefore, if you think you will finish the reading, PLEASE CALL JOANNE SCHENDEL at 204-0703 RIGHT AWAY! It is urgent that you call Joanne immediately with the following:

1. Name, with correct spelling
2. Telephone number
3. Address
4. Time you usually attend worship service (8:00, 9:15, or 10:45)

Thank you for your help, this will save a lot of telephoning. And CONGRATULATIONS!

Adopt a Family for Christmas

The Senior Council is sponsoring their annual “Adopt a Family for Christmas” program through the Salvation Army. In the past as many as 25 families have been adopted



through our church! On December 3rd, 10th, and 17th envelopes giving information about each family will be posted on a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please take some time to look over the

families and their needs.

Individuals, families or groups are encouraged to pick a family posted on the board and fill their wish list. This is one of the ways we can help a needy family have a “Merry Christmas!”



Program Notes

What's Going on Around Here?

'Tis the season to be musical! Mark your calendars! Set aside all of your Sunday mornings! Come hear what's happening at First Church. Open the season with **Advent Workshop** on December 3rd. Follow-up with music and entertainment at the **Youth Advent Dinner Theatre** on December 9. **Larimer Chorale** will present its Christmas Concert twice at our church. Trever Bonnema will lead our own **Carillon Handbell Choir**, featured in the Larimer Chorale concert on Saturday and Sunday December 16 and 17th.

Featured music in worship will include the Lonowski family, Mi-

chael Paddack, Karen Lauer-Anderson, Carillon Handbell Choir, Joyful Noise and Sanctuary Choir. You will hear the sounds of Advent in “Picardy,” “Gesù Bambino” and the “Hallelujah Chorus.” Listen for special prelude and postlude music, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus, and as we prepare ourselves to “carry a candle, run to the darkness,” help the loveless and forlorn.

Christmas Eve will include two services in the morning (8:00 and 9:15) with an advent message. At 3:00 PM we will hold our children's worship service. At 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM look for choir, small orchestra and the Marcussen in a joyous celebration, and at 11:00 PM, harp

and instrumental music will culminate in Communion and the tolling of the midnight bells.

From the Carillon Tower to Fellowship Hall, 'tis the season of music. May joyful singing fill the air!

ColleenDonnelly@fcfmc.net

970-482-2436



Larimer Chorale Christmas Concert

Join Conductor Michael T. Krueger & the Voices of the Larimer Chorale for

"Nature Sings"

Saturday Dec 16 7:00 pm
Sunday Dec 17 2:00 pm
Venue: First United Methodist Church
Celebrate the season with glorious surround-sound music & readings from a wealth of sacred & secular holiday traditions & cultures:

Music includes:
Haneirot halalu (a Chanuka song), Quiet Wonder, The Christmas Song, A La Nanita Nana, Before the Marvel of this Night, Little Tree, Go Where I Send Thee! Here We Come A-Caroling, & more!
Organ, brass, & FUMC Handbells.

Pre-concert talk by Conductor Krueger one hour before each performance.

For Tickets:*
Lincoln Center Box Office
970.221.6730
www.lctix.com
Adults: \$18
Groups: \$12 (10 or more)
Students/Seniors: \$15
Children: \$7 (4-12 yrs.)

* *General admission: open seating*
Season ticket holders: reserved seating
Seating is limited, please purchase tickets early!