



December, 2011

Volume 16, Issue 12



THE CARILLON

Celebrate Christingle! CrossWalk Alternative Worship December 4th, 10:45 am Chapel

The Christingle Service is a child-friendly advent experience of lights. Christingle has its origins in Eastern Europe, where years ago people gathered in the streets, sang carols and collected gifts to help the less fortunate in the community. Today the Christingle is a common children's worship experience throughout England using candle, music, and bible readings. The Christingle is symbolic: an orange represents the world; a red band placed around the orange to symbolize Christ's love for his people; toothpicks decorated with candy represent the goodness of God and a candle in the center of the orange when lighted represents the light of Christ to the world. We will be accepting food donations for the area food bank at the service. Please come & worship with us!

Please contact Rebecca McFee if you have a child who would like to participate in this service through readings, music, or hosting.



Advent Workshop 2011 Is Coming!

Mark your calendars and plan on attending this annual family event. Advent workshop will be held Sunday, December 4 from 3-6pm. Lots of crafts, car-

riage rides, games and music - a great time for the whole family. Please bring one dozen cookies to share and enjoy getting into the Christmas spirit. If

you are interested in hosting a table, please contact Julie Metcalf at 970-282-9744.



Anonymous

By Charles Schuster

“The most important sphere of giving is not that of material things, but lies in the specifically human realm. What does one person give to another? They give of themselves. Of the most precious they have, they give of their life.” Erich Fromm

It is a time in the church when there has been a degree of giving that exceeds any other time of year. Every year the difference between ending with a deficit or a surplus depends upon what our congregation does in November and December. The level of generosity seems to be greatly increased this time of year. We have ended every year for the past four with a surplus.

One aspect of our church members giving that isn't reported, cannot be reported, because I have been asked not to report it. It would be a breach of confidentiality for me to say much more than what I am about to write and, even at that, I am letting out information that borders on too much.

This is what I have seen giving to the church anonymously:

- There is a couple who donated \$40,000 so we could purchase a new church van. The van arrived at the end of November. I am not to reveal their names.
- There is a couple the last two years have brought in a check for \$5,000 to be given to people who are having financial difficulties to help them with Christmas. I was sworn to secrecy.
- There is a woman who gave money for a



scholarship to help a church member who is studying for the ministry. This woman repeatedly gives to some program or ministry in the church this time of year. Her name was not to be disclosed.

- There is a woman who gave money several years ago to purchase candles for the Christmas Eve Services in a year when we weren't sure we could afford to buy candles. No one ever knew her name.
- There was a man who donated over \$125,000 the past four years for a variety of projects including the church library, the adult faith to faith program, Putnam School, The Good Friday Requiem, Crossroads Safehouse, the Steppin' Out program for foster children, and a variety of other programs and outreach ministries. The check usually appeared in December and I was requested to not reveal the donor.
- There is a couple who has donated money for the Wesley Foundation campus ministry and they did not want credit nor to be identified as the ones who contributed.

If it is true that the best gifts are not material but the giving of ourselves. We can see that happening in the generosity of our members who have given anonymously. It reminds us of the gift of the Christ Child whose birth was so little noticed that there remains confusion about where it was and when it was. We think it was in Bethlehem. We believe he was born to a peasant couple. We believe, as Christians, that the greatest gift to the world was ANONYMOUS.



Membership Memos

Deaths:

- † Billie George
- † Delores Turman
- † Janet Lyon
- † Victoria Mahan

New Members:

David and Betty White are retired and recently moved here from Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Advent Devotional Booklets

Our annual FUMC Devotional booklets are ready for pick-up on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall. Advent started on November 27th, 2011.



A special thank you to Cindi Ross-Bell for her hard work in compiling and editing this years booklet.

Wesley Foundation News

Mark your Calendar...Friday, February 10th The Wesley Foundation campus ministry will be hosting a Senior Social with dancing in Fellowship Hall and games and talking

in the Parlor. Our students will provide live "big band" music.

Whose it for? Anyone who is

"If we pause to think, we have cause to thank."

eligible for AAPR is a "senior" in our book, and anyone younger still won't be turned away! This is a fundraiser for the College Guatemala Trip, so we are hoping for a large and

fun crowd!

We would like to thank two

anonymous donors who have contributed money to help pay a portion of the trip costs for participants for our Spring break trip to Guatemala! This is very meaningful to our students!

\$100.00 A Day for Expanding Our Ministries

November 3

Honoring our children: Bob, Patricia, Rex and Cindy on our 64th anniversary, given by Paul & Dee Gilbert



Be ClimateWise

By Rich Fisher

Our church is a Silver Partner in the city ClimateWise program. We've earned this distinction through several of our initiatives over the last couple of years. Our triple-stream separator (compostables/recyclables/landfill) in the Fellowship Hall has facilitated awareness and streamlined disposal. Our composting program continues to reduce hundreds of pounds of material from entering the landfill. We have eliminated the use of Styrofoam and reduced our use of plastic ware. The Trustees have taken many steps to enhance efficiency and reduce energy use in our facility by modernizing lighting, heating and cooling. And we are now installing new bicycle racks that we hope will encourage more people to pedal to church and other functions.

We are one of a few hundred ClimateWise partners in Fort Collins that have contributed to the citywide reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 6% over the last two years while the GDP grew and the population grew by 7%.

As we look further for ways to reduce/recycle/re-use/re-purpose, we need your ideas. How can our church become more efficient and conservation-minded as a community and as individual members? Leave a suggestion in the church office or send me an email at rich.fisher@comcast.net. Opportunities abound.

Gleaning at Grant's Farm

September 16, 2011

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's gleaning project at Grant's farm to support the Larimer County Food Bank. Around 140 people from several different Churches helped fill

two large trucks with 19,000 pounds of broccoli, beets, cabbage and winter squash.

Boy Scout's Christmas Tree Sale

Boy Scout Troop 83 is selling Christmas Trees beginning after Thanksgiving. The boys receive a portion of the proceeds from tree sales to help them pay for summer camp and

other activities. The tree lot is at the northeast corner of Mulberry and Lemay. Sales will occur on weekdays from 4:30 to 8:30 pm and on weekends from 9:00 am to 9:00

pm. Sales are planned to end at 2 pm on December 18. Thank you for your support!





Senior Wise (Notes from the Senior Council)

The Senior Council has planned a number of activities during December that will usher in that wonderful holiday spirit. That spirit is contagious! So mark your calendars and plan to join us... and you'll be sure to catch that *magical spirit* of the season.

December 9th – The **Double Nickel** luncheon will begin at noon in Fellowship Hall. Although



“figgy pudding” is not on the menu, a delicious holiday meal is sure to delight all who attend. The Sunshine Singers are returning for an encore performance. Their voices in Carol will herald the approach of Christmas, and are sure to re-

kindle that *magical spirit* of the season.

December 11th – We'll gather for the 4th annual **Cruising and Caroling** event on



Sunday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. Our chartered Christmas bus will take us all about town to see the brilliant and varied light displays. We'll return to the church for refreshments, caroling, and fellowship—another recipe for that *magical spirit* of the season.

Early December – Watch for the **Adopt-A-Family** for Christmas bulletin board in Fel-



lowship Hall in early December. Take an envelope, which contains a description of family members (ages and sizes) as well as their Christmas list for Santa. After doing your shopping for your family, follow the instructions in the envelope for delivering your gifts along with wrapping supplies to the Salvation Army's Adopt-A-Family headquarters. Extend a helping hand and you'll be capturing that *magical spirit* of the season.

There will be no **Afternoon at the Movies** in the month of December. Movies will resume every 3rd Tuesday of the month in 2012.

Emergency Contact

FCFUMC is working on an emergency contact list for our members. If you are interested in providing us with this information, please fill out this form and return it to the church office or e-mail the information to joannbelk@fcfumc.net. This information will be kept confidential and only used if necessary.

Your Name(s): _____

Emergency Contact Name(s) _____

Relationship to you: _____

Address of Emergency Contact: _____

_____ City

_____ State

_____ Zip Code

_____ Home Phone

_____ Cell Phone



United Methodist Women



Christmas Tea and Music

This month we will be celebrating Advent with our annual "Christmas Tea" for the unit meeting on Thursday, December 8th at 11:20 a.m. in the parlor. The gathering will start with scrumptious goodies served by the Executive Board followed by a seasonal program in which Christmas music will be featured. We hope to have music students from our neighboring Harris Bilingual Elementary School sing for us. (Check the bulletin board for the most up-to-date information). Also on the agenda is the installation of new and returning officers for the coming year for which our friend, District Vice President, Mary Ann Watson, will return to officiate.

Circle Lois will provide greeters. All women of the church are welcome!

The executive board will not meet until Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.

A Thank You Note from the UMW Christmas Wreath Committee:

We are so grateful for the support of the congregation and the community who have been buying our Christmas products for 53 years. We also want to thank every one of you who helped unload the wreaths and those who delivered wreaths for us. The office staff and the custodians provide tremendous support and we thank them for their patience with us. We also thank those with displays in

Fellowship Hall who had to make way for the Christmas wreaths after Thanksgiving. This major fundraiser seems to involve the whole church by the time we wrap it up!

The wreath project, sales of grocery certificates, and pledges from our members help fund the budget of United Methodist Women. UMW is not part of the church budget but instead helps fund various ministries of the church such as mission trips, a preschool scholarship, the pastors discretionary fund, and educational and spiritual growth programs. We support community ministries, including The Mission - NCC, the Interfaith Council, Church Women United, Wesley Foundation, Martinez Scholarship Fund, Respite Care, the Child Advocacy Center and Crossroads, to name a few, and more widely, Buckhorn Camp, American Leprosy Missions and the Marbeyet School in Honduras. We also send about \$8,000 on to the Rocky Mountain Conference level for distribution through the United Methodist connectional system to support missions across the United States and around the world. See what your purchase becomes a part of!

Circle Meetings in December

<u>Circle</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Abigail	Tues: 13 th	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Event: Call Ellen 484-8231
Hannah	Christmas Party	TBA	Call Julie: 226-5925
Kezia	Thurs: 1 st	10:30 a.m.	Rigden Farm Sky Lounge
Lois	Thurs: 1 st	9:30 a.m.	Egg & I on College
Mary	Thurs: 1 st	10:00 a.m.	Phyllis Hay's Home
Sarah	Weds: 7 th Christmas Party TBA	9:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Parlor Jennie Seefeld's Home
Vashti	Tues: 6 th	Potluck 12 Noon	Parlor
T.U.F. (Teen)	Sun: 11 th	12 Noon	Christmas Party at The Olive Garden



Have You Considered Becoming a Stephen Minister



By Duane Sanders

As you give consideration to this question,

let's continue describing the job of Stephen Ministers.

Sharing distinctively Christian caring resources. We may share a prayer, a Bible verse or story, or other caring gestures that the care receiver welcomes.

Remaining process-oriented. We do not try to fix the care receiver or his or her problems; we focus on the process of caregiving and rely on God to achieve results. Remember the expression "we care while God cures."

Relating assertively. We respect both the needs of the

care receiver and our own needs as well.

Maintaining boundaries. We set appropriate boundaries in the caring relationship, helping the care receiver remain as independent as possible while we remain there for the care receiver as needed.

Recommending professional care when necessary. We are not trained to care for those who are suicidal, severely depressed, abusive, or homicidal, or who are abusing drugs or alcohol. When we recognize that our care receiver's needs exceeds the care we are able to provide, we see that the care receiver is provided access to professional care.

Maintain confidentiality

We, as Stephen Ministers, understand that confidentiality is

crucial in any caring relationship. The care receiver needs to know that what he or she says to the Stephen Minister will remain in confidence. Stephen Ministers, each of us, maintain confidentiality.

As we enter the Christmas season, we in Stephen Ministry wish you the holy joy of remembering and celebrating the arrival of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The family celebrations, sharing with neighbors and friends, sharing with those less fortunate or suffering loss or sorrow are all a part of this season. Celebrate with us in Stephen Ministry. To call for information, you may contact Leanne Jones at 970-631-8906 or Duane Sanders at 970-493-9851/970-490-6072

Christmas Eve Lunch



If you are not spending the holidays with anyone this year, why not join us at the church for a traditional holiday meal?

Please contact the church office by December 20th if you or your fam-

ily would like to attend, or if you wish to host or donate food. Thanks for the Hancock family for bringing us this welcomed tradition last year.

First United Methodist Church

1005 Stover Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524-3849

Phone: 970-482-2436

Fax: 970-221-5833

E-mail: staff@fcfumc.net

Website: www.fcfumc.net

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Spread the Love

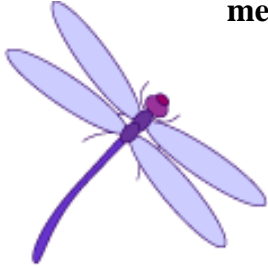
On the first Sunday of each month, Spread the Love reaches out with sandwiches to people who are hungry in Fort Collins. We, the Wesley Foundation, have partnered with the Fort Collins Food COOP to collect donations of peanut but-

ter, jelly and other items that can be given out. Thanks to Alyce Kaehler and the Board of Trustees for making our kitchen ready for service!



Learning for Life from: Adult Faith Formation

Renowned photographer John Fielder will present “**Mountains to Plains: Documenting 20 Years of Preservation**”, offering visual testimony to the accomplishments by **Great Outdoors Colorado and its partners to protect Colorado’s natural heritage**. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 4th at 7:00 pm**. John’s books will be for sale starting at 6:30 and continuing after the program.



Theatre and Theology: In *Almost, Maine*, the Northern Lights hover in the star-filled sky in this compelling story of love in a small Maine town. Almost’s residents find themselves falling in love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. We will see *Almost, Maine*, on **Sunday, December 4 at the Bas Bleu Theatre, 401 Pine Street. Curtain time is 2:30 pm**. Tickets are \$22, seniors \$17. **Reserve your tickets by November 27** at the Adult Faith Formation table in Fellowship Hall.

Coming in 2012 ...

2012 Women’s Meditation & Healing Retreat. FUMC is honored to sponsor the 16th annual Women’s Meditation and Healing Retreat. Women in FUMC and in the community are invited to come and enjoy the fellowship of other women, as well as some meditation time to find your balance and your center. Group sessions will include meditation, spiritual energy healing, and discussions to help mend tired and aching souls. It will be held at **Saint Malo’s Retreat Center in Estes Park, from 6:30 on Friday, February 3rd, 2012 through noon on Sunday, February 5th, 2012. The cost is \$160 for a double room, \$200 for a single room** (includes 2 nights lodging, five (5) meals, and retreat programs). For more information please contact Cindi Ross-Bell (FUMC) at 226-3143 or Heather Bean (Christ UMC) at 206-1572.