



The Carillon

February 2017 Volume 23 Issue 2

Dollars for Mission Produces Increase in Mission Giving by Pastor Charles



The financial figures in this article are totals of giving through First United Methodist Church from many sources. Donations through the general offerings and the church's budget are included. Additionally, there are other sources.

As one year ends and a new year begins, reports on the ministries of First United Methodist Church are reviewed from my desk. One of the areas I am most interested in seeing is how we are serving and helping others. A fair amount of this comes through our congregation's committee we call Community and World Outreach. In 2016, we gave a total of \$44,006.13 to mission agencies (e.g. Habitat for Humanity, Buckhorn Camp, Larimer County Food Bank, Putnam School and Bookmobile). This does not include gifts from the Ken Makinen Bequest, nor does it include contributions by Sunday School Classes. It does include "Dollars for Mission". This amount is a big increase over the previous year.

Here is how much we have grown in twelve months' time. In 2015, we gave \$21,970.46. Again, this does not include bequests or mission projects sponsored by Sunday School Classes.

This doubling of giving to local charities does not come singularly from "Dollars for Mission". It does come *because* of "Dollars for Mission." With everyone in worship being asked to give one extra dollar and all loose unidentified dollar bills placed in the offering plates being forwarded to other mission agencies, we have publicized the continuing work of missions in the church. Dollars for Mission was in place for 8 months of 2016 and brought in gifts totaling \$5,786.00. Dollars for Mission gave more than dollars. It communicated the need for generosity and giving to serve others.

For 2017, I am setting a goal of \$10,000 for Dollars for Mission. And when we reach year's end, I expect we will have given more than we gave in 2016. Again, the increase will be seen primarily *because* of Dollars for Mission. Have a wonderful new year!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Charles



IN THIS ISSUE OF THE CARILLON ...

1

Dollars for Mission Produces Increase in Mission Giving—Pastor Charles

2

Contents

3

The Future of the Church—Pastor Vivian

4

Changes in Staff—Pastor Vivian / Children's Ministry Corner—Lynette Szantho

5

Congregational Care Ministries—Pastor Cynthia / Ray Miller to Speak—Rosemary Kisling

6

Senior Ministry Calendar—Linn Zink / Preschool Registration

7

Library News—David Reid / Book Sale

8

End of Life Workshop—Kaitlin McMichael / Richard Hagen Lecture Series—David Reid

9

United Methodist Women

10

Community and World Outreach—Janet Krech

11

Music at First Church—David Adkins

12

Sympathy / Faith Family Hospitality

The Future of the Church

by Pastor Vivian, Executive Pastor



In all the talk about numbers – both finances and people – it’s easy to lose track of the “why” of it all. Why does the Church exist – not just First UMC, Fort Collins, but any church? We have a beautiful vision statement, but what does it really mean?

It is our vision to be a community of faith as loving and considerate of persons as Jesus. How do we become a community of faith? If you only worship once a month but never challenge your mind through a class; if you attend a Sunday school faithfully but never worship or attend a children’s program, are you fulfilling the vision? If you are so concerned that someone will be upset that you rarely voice an opposing opinion, are you being loving and considerate? Jesus worshipped often, and immersed himself in studies prior to his ministry. Jesus challenged people, but never walked out on them. Are you willing to do the same?

.. as devoted to justice as the Old Testament prophets. The Old Testament prophets did more than scold people – their strong words about justice invariably called people to authentic, heart-felt worship; to obedience to God’s will as understood through study of the Torah, participation in community, and regular prayer and worship; to a deep practice of kindness grounded in the humility of knowing you can never really know your strongest opponent’s heart; to an understanding that the most vile person you have ever met and who has harmed you is loved passionately by God and will be forgiven without God consulting you.

.. as responsive to truth as science. Science is based on discovering truth, not declaring it. Truth is true whether it is believed or not. And the truth of God is a richly colored, deeply textured fabric to be explored endlessly by the human mind without any possibility of knowing all of it with certainty. Are you willing to be wrong about your most deeply held beliefs?

.. as beautiful as art. Difficult to define, art might be best defined as an expression of authentic inner experience in a manner that is engaging, compelling, difficult to ignore. Is the way you live your outer life an authentic expression of the love and grace you experience through the Christ that dwells within you? Do you seek to match your words to that love? Are your clothes, car, job all means by which you can communicate the deep goodness of the God you know?

The future of our church lies less in finances and volunteer hours doing good works than it does in how we wrestle with and answer these questions, for these questions drive us into God’s presence.

.. as intimate as the home. Perhaps the Quakers do this best with the questions they ask families to embrace: “Do you make your home a place of affection where God’s presence is felt? Do you practice family prayer? Do you share your deepest beliefs and interests with all in the family? Do you grow together through sharing prosperity and adversity? Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously? Do you establish family standards including the mutual obligations of children and adults?”

... and as indispensable as the air we breathe. Are you participating in the life of this church in a way that makes the love and friendships found here indispensable in your life? Are you participating in a way that offers friendship and love to all who enter the church whether to participate in meetings, classes, events, or worship so that they are drawn by love back to our doors? The future of our church lies less in finances and volunteer hours doing good works than it does in how we wrestle with and answer these questions, for these questions drive us into God’s presence. Only there will we discover the strength and courage to be the Church, eternal and triumphant.

Changes in Staff

by Pastor Vivian, Executive Pastor

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is delighted to announce that two staff members' employment status changed as of January 1, 2017.

David Adkins, our Director of Music Ministries and Director of Communications, is now a full time member of the church staff team. His time is divided between the two areas of responsibility, with the greatest share devoted to our music ministries. In the few months he has been at the church, David's talents and skills have greatly enhanced every area he has touched. We are blessed to have his full attention!



Scott Schroeder, our Bookkeeper, has been promoted to be the Business Manager for the church. Already full time, Scott will be taking on greater responsibilities. Since Scott played a critically important role in straightening out our financial issues, he is well suited to bringing better processes online to address our administrative needs. We are fortunate to have Scott in this new role!

Children's Ministry Corner

by Lynette Szantho



It's already time to begin our spring and summer programming for our children and families here at FUMC. Mark your calendars for:

FUMC Annual Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 15th, 11:00 – 12:00. Join us for this favorite tradition!



Vacation Bible School! Yes, it's time to begin planning our strongest children's outreach event of the year, VBS! Scheduled for the week of June 12th, this will certainly be a week to remember. We are looking for a few people to be part of the planning team, so please email Lynette at (childrensdirector@fcfumc.net). We'd love to have you join us as we plan for the best week of the summer!

Children's Ministries Opportunities:

If you have a passion for working with children and would like to spend more time with our wonderful FUMC kids, please prayerfully consider volunteering in the children's ministry area. A few opportunities include:

- ◆ Club 5.0 leader – this person will help lead our 5th grade Sunday school/youth program.
- ◆ VBS leader or co-leader, or station leader.
- ◆ Preschool and 4th grade Sunday school teacher – be a part of a rotation and lead the workshop once a month.
- ◆ Prefer behind-the-scenes? We could use help with refreshing worship bags and notebooks, and restocking our Sunday school supplies.

Congregational Care Ministries

By Rev. Cynthia Paquette



On 15th January the Congregational Care ministers, all who serve in one or more of the congregational care ministries, were commissioned to go and provide care to others in the name of Jesus Christ. The scripture passage that drives this ministry is Matthew 25:35-36, “I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.” There are 14 ministries under this large umbrella of care ministries.

They are:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Pre-surgery and Hospital Visitation | Telecare |
| Congregational Care Visitation Team | Worship CDs for Shut-Ins |
| Prayer Chain Ministry | Grief Books Ministry |
| Love In Action | Sunday Transportation Team |
| Prayer Shawl Ministry | Support Groups |
| Card Ministry | Emergency Assistance Fund |
| Flowers Delivery Ministry | Care Closet |

There are more than 120 people serving under this umbrella of ministries with a lot of meaningful experiences gained and many more precious relationships formed through serving others. If you want to learn more about these ministries or serve in any of the ministries, please feel free to contact one of the co-chairs of the Congregational Care committee, Jeri Neely (jeri.neely@gmail.com or 970-377-9952) or Karen Waldron (keakw@comcast.net or 970-282-7183).



Former FUMC Associate Minister to Speak on February 26th

by Rosemary Kisling

Former Associate Pastor Ray Miller will be speaking at a noon luncheon at FCFUMC on February 26th. He will also be participating in the worship services that morning. His lecture at the luncheon will focus on his experience within the United Methodist Church and his recent decision to “come out” as a gay man.



This event is being sponsored by the WARM (Welcoming, Affirming and Reconciling Methodists) Committee which is associated with the Church and Society Committee.

Rev. Miller served First United Methodist in Fort Collins as an Associate Pastor for five years. Throughout his years in ministry he has sought to reflect and proclaim the love of God for all people regardless of the barriers humankind has erected to divide us. He believes that the Christian faith calls us to reach beyond the walls of our own daily lives and discover the richness of diversity that God has give us: religions, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, and economic status.

Senior Ministry February Calendar

Thursdays, 2 & 16 – *Okay Chorale*, open singing group from 3 to 4 in the Village Commons – newcomers of all ages welcome – especially those with memory issues!

Friday, 3 – Outing to International Snow Sculptures in Breckenridge (pending weather conditions) *details TBA*

Friday, 10 – Double Nickel Senior Lunch – 12:00 noon to 1:30 in Fellowship Hall, \$4
Jud Harper presents: *Genetically Modified Foods—Saviors or Scary?*
All are welcome and no reservations required!

Monday, 20 – Movie from 1 to 3, *Zootopia*, Cinema Room – free and all ages welcome!

Thursday, 16 – Seniors volunteer at Larimer Food Bank, 9:00 to 11:00

Thursdays, 16 - 3rd Thursday Lunch at Canino's, S. College, begins at 11:30

For more information or to sign up for any of these activities, or the senior ministry email list, contact Linn Zink, Senior Council member, [lczink@gmail](mailto:lczink@gmail.com) or 970-689-3047.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR FUMC CO-OP PRESCHOOL 2017-18 BEGINS February 13TH FOR FUMC CHURCH MEMBERS

Class Offerings

Primary (Must be 3 years old by September 15)

2 day/week:

Mon & Wed Morning 9-12
Tues & Thurs Morning 9-12

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri Morning 9-12

Pre-K (Must be 4 years old by September 15)

3 day/week:

Mon, Wed & Fri Morning (2 classes) 9-12

4 day/week:

Mon – Thursday Morning (1 class) 9-12



FUMC members not currently enrolled in preschool will be able to register February 13th at 9:00 am.

Open registration for the public will be February 19th. Members may register after their designated day, but they will lose their priority status. Registration involves filing out a registration form and paying the \$50 non-refundable registration fee.

Our Annual Open House is February 8th 9:30-11:30 we invite you to come visit If you have any questions



The Northern Colorado Faith Library has three significant new resources:

- **Audio Books:** The library has cataloged its first audio books! Plans call for growing this collection quickly in 2017, thanks to a gift from Avis Fisher. In addition, memorial gifts to honor Betty Fischer, a longtime former chair of the library board, and her husband, Charles Fischer, have been designated for audio books. Initial purchases will be in CD format. Look for signs in the library for the audio book section.
- **Luther's Works:** The monumental translation project that resulted in the 55-volume collection of Martin Luther's writings are now part of the reference section in the library's study room. This addition arrives just in time for the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, which Luther ignited in 1517. As publisher Fortress Press notes, Luther was both praised and vilified for what he preached and wrote. Gayle Abrahamson, chief cataloger for the NCFL, managed this project. The collection was donated by the Rev. Dr. Byron Swanson, former Lutheran clergyman and retired professor from Midland Lutheran College and California Lutheran University and his wife, Kathryn, a retired educator and former director of Women's Programs at California Lutheran.
- **Bible Cart:** Some 26 copies of the *Common English Bible* (copyright 2011) are available for checkout by any group that wants to use them at FUMC. There's a single bar code for the entire cart, which is stored in the library's study room. The Bibles and other *CEB*-specific reference works were designated for the library by the Memorials Committee from gifts given to honor the Rev. Jim Cowell. The beautiful blue cart was purchased with library reserve funds. Keith Metcalf, a volunteer cataloger, managed this project.



The winter used book sale is scheduled for Feb. 24-26 in the Northern Colorado Faith Library and Parlor. Hours are 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Feb. 24, 9 a.m. - noon on Feb. 25 and 8 a.m. - noon on Feb. 26. Most items on sale will not be priced and patrons are asked to pay what they feel their purchases are worth. Proceeds will be used to acquire new materials and cover other library expenses.

Donations of used books, puzzles and DVDs may be dropped off in the library until the day before the sale. To schedule a pickup, call David Reid at 581-2707. Popular fiction, mysteries, westerns and cookbooks are among the best sellers. No encyclopedias, textbooks or magazines, please.

Let's Talk About Dying Well

by Chaplain Kaitlin McMichael

Some 90% of Americans say that having the conversation about end of life wishes is important but only 27% of Americans have had these conversations with their families and loved ones. Have you had the conversation but don't have the legal paperwork done? Do you want to have the conversation with your older parents or your adult children but don't know where or how to start? The conversation about living well at the end of life is for everyone.



Let's Talk About Dying Well is a three-session class scheduled for 7 p.m. Feb. 7, 21 and 28. The instructor is Chaplain Kaitlin McMichael, an FUMC member.

We will discuss what is important to you and your loved ones about end of life choices and how you can begin the conversation at home. We will go through the "5 Wishes" advance directives booklet together which provides information and legal forms for appointing a health care agent and completing a living will among other end of life topics surrounding faith and spirituality, comfort, and special requests. Join us to learn how you can pass down the "prophetic blessing" and gift of offering your loved ones the assurance that they are upholding your wishes at the end of your life. Chaplain McMichael is a hospice chaplain with experience working in trauma, hospital, and hospice settings with patients and families at the end of life.

Adult Faith Formation - Richard Hagen Lecture Series

by David Reid

The first Richard Hagen Lecture will be given at 7 p.m. March 9 by Bryan J. Dik, associate professor and associate chair in the Department of Psychology at Colorado State University.

Dik's lecture is titled, "Callings in Work and Life."

"The idea that work, retirement and other life roles can be a calling is making a major resurgence in contemporary culture," said Dik. "This talk will explore the convergence of new positive psychology research on calling with centuries of Christian teaching on the concept, and emphasize practical steps each of us can take to more effectively live out our callings."

Dik will discuss the concept of calling through all stages of adult life. He recently received a grant from the AARP/Life Reimagined Institute to develop and lead workshops. His TEDxCSU talk, "How to Find and Live Your Calling" is available on YouTube.

Dik is an elder (a lay leadership position) at Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Fort Collins.

The Hagen Lecture is funded by an endowment of the Adult Faith Formation Committee. It honors the late Richard Hagen, a member of FUMC and exemplar of lifelong learning. His family, friends and other individuals and classes at FUMC have raised \$14,000 toward an initial goal of \$20,000. There will be no admission charge but donations to the endowment fund are encouraged. Checks designated for the Hagen Lecture may be sent to the FCFUMC Foundation.



On January 11, 2017, United Methodist Women joined interfaith and secular allies to observe **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**. Our ongoing goal is to teach communities and individuals how to prevent trafficking, to identify and protect persons who are identified as high risk and prosecute those guilty of labor bondage and sexual exploitation.

Please join our United Methodist Women unit meeting on February 9, 2017, at 11:30 a.m. in the parlor for lunch and a program on human trafficking. Human trafficking is the second largest, and fastest growing criminal industry in the world. This problem exists in our country and in our state. Runaways, the homeless and throwaway children are especially at risk.

Days for Girls Sewing Group will meet Tuesdays, February 14th and 28th from 9am to 12 noon. We meet to sew and put together quality kits that are for girls in 3rd world countries. We welcome new members in our group. Just show up at the north end of Fellowship Hall. With these kits they will not miss 5 school days each month. That is 180 days of education as well as health safety and dignity this project will give each girl who receives a kit. If you are interested in a presentation for your class or organization email JoAn Hopkins @ jodhop@hotmail.com



Mission activities here in our own town: Prayer shawls, quilting, volunteering at the Larimer Food Bank or the Mission, helping children at Putnam Elementary School, Habitat for Humanity, Faith, Family Hospitality, collecting lotion, soaps, (laundry and bath), visiting shut ins, collecting groceries, are all local projects for which we need more volunteers. We have so much to give and it is so appreciated. If you have are not currently participating and have even a few hours each week to give back to those that need it most, please ask a UMW member or someone in the Mission Outreach Corner in fellowship hall on Sundays how you can volunteer to help make someone's life just a bit brighter. Our church has many programs and desperately needs more volunteers. Get involved and know that your time, gifts and generosity are valued by the people who reap the rewards of your volunteer efforts.

The Grief Group meets every Tuesday at 4 pm in the Conference room. The need for support after losing a loved one does not have to be a lonely time. Sharing the stages that are sad but normal is very helpful. Twice a month after the group meeting we have dinner out with others that have experienced the same feelings we are having, and have been members of the group in the past. All are welcome. You do not have to be a member of First Methodist Church.

Community and World Outreach by Janet Krech

Good News about Bookmobile and Putnam Elementary School

This summer's bookmobile visited neighborhoods where Putnam Elementary's students in need of reading help reside. We served an average of 76 kids per week, with 5 stops each Tuesday. We loaned out a total of 1511 books over the 10 weeks and gave away 185 books on the last week. We bought a new book trailer with grant money to ease crate-carrying by volunteers. 30 different volunteers, from FUMC and the community, gave a total of 412 hours at bookmobile stops this summer.

This semester FUMC has provided Putnam Elementary help in the following ways: a Scholastic News Subscription for 3rd Grade, Jog-A-Thon supervision, Vision and Hearing Screeners, After School Club Assistance, Good Behavior Prize Store Attendants, Classroom Volunteers at all grade levels, Gardening Day Help, one iPad Donation, Craft Project Donations, and 2 Staff Appreciation Brunches with food and massages.

Your individual donations and adult Sunday School class generous giving will enable us to continue our good work in the above areas. Bookmobile donations will be spent on graphic novels, picture readers, and bilingual books. Mentors are helping kids with science fair projects on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, January 24th - March 30th. Any Putnam donations will be used for project supplies and science fair boards. Last year we had mentors from FUMC, CSU and local high schools. Two of our students won awards at the District Science Fair!



GROW
a worship experience just for kids

{ SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 11:15 IN THE CINEMA CENTRE }
FOLLOWING CHILDREN'S TIME, BEGINNING JANUARY 15

A PLACE FOR KIDS TO WORSHIP
GOD THROUGH SONG, SKITS,
& MORE!



Music at First Church
by David Adkins



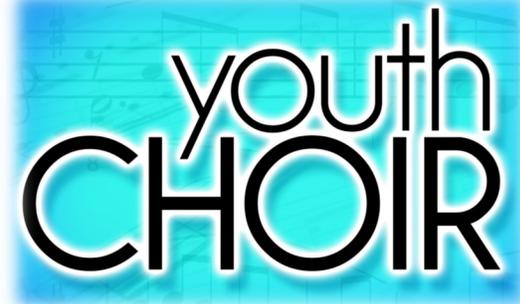
PLEASE SAVE THE DATE ...
Friday, April 14
7:00 PM

The Seven Last Words of Christ
by Théodore Dubois
A Musical Service of Tenebrae
presented by
The Sanctuary Choir with Chamber Orchestra

If you are interested in singing this beautiful and well known major work (in English), you are invited to join our Sanctuary Choir. Everyone is welcome and there is no audition to participate. Rehearsals are each Thursday evening from 7—8 pm and child care is available with advanced notice. If you have any questions, please contact David Adkins, Director of Music Ministries at choidir@fcfumc.net.

Youth Choir/Ensemble
Returns to FUMC!

We will again be offering an opportunity for **all students in grades 6—12 to participate in a small choral group beginning February 12th. We will meet each Sunday afternoon prior to Youth Group at 4:15 PM in the choir room.** We hope to conclude this semester with a special musical presentation on April 30th as part of the morning worship service.



If you are in the 6th—12th grade and enjoy singing, PLEASE JOIN US! The choir members will have input in the music we sing, so it will be YOUR choir.

The choir will be directed by David Adkins with administrative assistance by Debbie Silar. If you have any questions, please contact David Adkins at choidir@fcfumc.net.

Please join us on February 12th and bring a friend. You do not have to be a member of FUMC to participate.

Children's Choir Schedule

Sundays from 10:30—11:00

Cherub Choir—5 years— through 1st grade (Rhythm Road Room)

Joyful Noise—2nd grade through 5th grade (Choir Room)

Both choirs are working on a musical about Noah to be presented on April 26, "A Technicolor Promise"

Wednesdays from 6:00—6:30

God's Kids Chime Choir—5 years and up (Rhythm Road Room)



**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
of FORT COLLINS**

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**WE REMEMBER WITH
SYMPATHY THE FAMILIES OF ...**

December 16 – Joan Looper

December 31 – Carol Rich

December 19 – Evadna Clark

January 5 – Elizabeth Joan Fritz

**Faith Family Hospitality
by Bonnie Thomas**

Faith Family Hospitality—Our Mission at Home

We will be hosting families experiencing homelessness from January 29th to February 5th. We need YOU to show God’s love to them by doing one or more of the following tasks:

- help to prepare the rooms
- host from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- help cook, serve and cleanup a dinner or Saturday morning breakfast
- stay overnight at the church one night.



If you have questions or want to sign up, come to the table in the mission corner on Sunday morning or call Bonny Thomas 970 232-9879 or Elaine and Tom Andersen 970 493-3599.