



the Belltowner

May
2013

"To grow as disciples in Christ, prayerfully opening our hearts and minds to joy and service."

PRACTICE

Jesus gave them this charge: "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life... Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20, The Message

"We must move from a belief-based religion to a practice-based religion, or little will change. We will merely continue to argue about what we are supposed to believe and who the unbelievers are." Richard Rohr

My dear Christ Church family,

We just finished our Lenten Study classes (since we missed two Fridays during Lent, we did two "makeup sessions" in Easter). We studied the book *In Your Holy Spirit: Shaping the Parish through Spiritual Practice* by Robert Gallagher. Fr. Gallagher summarizes his main thesis this way: "My belief is that focusing on spiritual practice is the most efficient way to form people in the Christian life, initially incorporate new members, and build a healthy parish culture." (p. 145)

I find this resonating with a theme that Richard Rohr has been repeatedly teaching the past several years (see the quote above). Rohr speaks of "the 'Franciscan alternative orthodoxy,' which says that lifestyle and practice are much more important than mere verbal orthodoxy... practices and lifestyles that, if you do them (not think about them, but do them), end up changing your consciousness..."

My friends, I have spent most of my ministry "arguing about what we are supposed to believe", and I have finally come to the realization that Rohr, Gallagher, John Shea and so many others are right when they say that "belief-based religion" only leads to division and judgment. I am ready to promote, encourage, and teach a more practice-based Christianity.

One of the great gifts of our Anglican tradition is that our unity has always been centered in a practice (common worship) rather than a doctrine or set of beliefs. Practice-based religion is not a new idea for us! Of course, once-a-week religious practice for 75 minutes on a Sunday morning is not enough to keep our lives conformed to Christ. Fortunately, there are other practices we can engage in throughout the week. One of those practices which has always been a strong part of the Anglican tradition is the daily prayers of the church known as the Daily Offices (Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, Compline, etc.) These comprise a greater portion of our Prayer Book than does the Holy Eucharist, and yet they have fallen into disuse. We continue to pray Evening Prayer in our Chapel at 5:30pm Mondays-Thursdays. If you can't join us in the Chapel, you can say one or more of the Daily Offices at home. (Easy to do – use your Prayer Book or visit <http://www.missionstclare.com/english/>)

So we have the weekly Prayer of the Church (Sunday morning Eucharist) and the Daily Prayer of the Church (the Daily Offices); but equally as important are our own personal prayer practices. Given the openness of the Episcopal Church to use whatever practice will conform us to the mind of Christ, our choices for personal prayer are numerous! Many of you are already part of our Intercessory Prayer Team, committing to praying daily for those on our Prayer List (now printed in each Sunday bulletin). Some of you women are Daughters of the King, having committed to their practices. Several of us attend the Centering Prayer Group which meets twice a month (either at our building or at St. Michael's Catholic Church). There, we have learned the contemplative practices of Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina. Those of you who have read Richard Rohr know that he strongly believes that some form of contemplative practice is essential if we are to get out of our ego-minds and have the mind of Christ. pb Walsh has offered to teach contemplative prayer to anyone who asks her!

Fr. Rohr says, "Mature and contemplative religion has always known that we need a whole new operating system, which Paul called 'the mind of Christ' (1 Corinthians 2:16) or a 'spiritual revolution of the mind' (Ephesians 4:23)." Microsoft has decided it is going to change operating systems more often than in the past. Perhaps it is time for us to change our own operating system?

In Christ's love and service,

Mark

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THE REV. MARK D. MEYER, RECTOR † THE REV. MERLE HARRISON, DEACON † ALL MEMBERS OF CHRIST CHURCH, MINISTERS

Rector: The Rev. Mark D. Meyer
 Deacon: The Rev. Merle Harrison
 Senior Warden: Barbara Smith
 Junior Warden: Bill Price
 Treasurer: Walter Roche
 Vestry

Rachel Alexander
 Robert Barnhill
 Kay Bevens
 Bryan Fredrickson
 Bud Gentry
 Connie Liptrap
 Jim Maxon
 Bill Price
 Christopher Rock
 Stephanie Ropp
 Acolyte Director:
 Marmie Chapman
 Bulletin: Christopher Rock
 Centering Prayer: pb Walsh,
 Nancy Kovalcik
 Child Care Attendant:
 Michelle Cook
 Coffee Hour: Bob & Earline
 Barnhill
 Episcopal Church Women:
 Ann Roche
 ECW Thrift House:
 Lois Kitchell
 Eucharistic Visitors:
 Christopher Rock
 Hospitality: Shirley Squier
 Lectors: Mary Olson
 Library: pb Walsh
 New Child Montessori
 School: Michelle
 Cook
 Operation Christmas Child:
 Ann Roche
 Organist: Barbara Kohl
 Parish Administrator:
 Becky Jamison
 Pastoral Care: Ann Roche
 Prayer Chain: Donna
 Cooper
 Risk Management:
 John Merriam
 Sangre de Cristo Region Rep:
 Lois Kitchell
 Sexton: Larry Jamison
 St. Gabriel's Guild:
 Jocie Rohde
 Stewardship: Vestry
 Sunday School:
 Shirleen Sabatino
 SWEEPS Council:
 Mary Olson
 United Thank Offering:
 Audrey DeBekker
 Ushers: John Merriam
 Worship: Fr. Mark Meyer



The Spotlight is on.....

MARIE E. CARPENTER



Marie was born in Colorado Springs on an Easter Sunday morning and lived in the Hanover District the first four years of her life. With the early passing of her father, her mother and siblings moved to Higginsville, Missouri, to be near family. While young, she attended the Evangelical Reform Church (now United Church of Christ) and became an Episcopalian in 1952. Marie married Bryce Carpenter at St. Christopher's Mission to the Navajos in Bluff, Utah. She then earned an Associate's degree from Mesa College and obtained a Bachelor's degree in vocal performance from CU Boulder in 1971. The couple moved to Canon City in 1973 where Marie worked for the Social Security office until she retired in 1984.

Marie has a long list of local community participations; to name a few: serving as president of Friends of the Canon City Library, being involved in the creation of the Fremont Center for the Arts and presenting a poetry reading at the Center and the Canon City Music Club each year. She also was the News Editor for the Belltower for many years and spotlighted a member of the Christ Church family in each publication. Marie performed with the Pueblo Symphony Chorale, traveling and singing in the U.S. and Europe. She continued her world travels by selecting new and interesting destinations every year.

Early this year Marie moved from her home in Canon City to the Florence Care Home in Florence, Colorado. It is difficult for her to attend services, but she remains in touch with the activities of the Church family and has close friends who visit her regularly. Marie is a real delight and loves to have visitors. For a memorable conversation, Marie comes highly recommended. But call first as she still keeps a somewhat busy schedule. We salute you, Marie, for all you have done for Christ Church and the community.



Summer Camp for youth ages 8-14 will be held at Cathedral Ridge July 7-13. If you are interested in

more information, please contact Fr. Mark.

In Memoriam



Helen M. Jeske

July 21, 1922
 March 21, 2013

New Member
Sunday
May 12,
2013



Please join us for a reception in our parish hall

after our 10:00 am worship service.

Our Senior Warden says....

Alleluia! Christ is risen!



Our Lenten Journey reached our goal of \$800! Both Loaves and Fishes of Fremont County and Mercy Today Ministries were given a \$400 check to help their efforts to feed the hungry. Episcopalians have traditionally been in the forefront of struggles against oppression and hunger and members of Christ Church once again reached out to our community. Please continue to help feed our neighbors as there is a continuing need. When we presented the checks to both charities, we received an invitation to join the folks having lunch at Mercy Today. It gives us an opportunity to learn the wonderful things that the ministry is accomplishing and the

ability to talk with the recipients of lunch. Understanding both Mercy Today and the folks who have lunch is invaluable. Call Mercy Today early and make a reservation for lunch at noon on any Tuesday. (I'm told to come a bit early to get to know the people as the coffee pot is on.) 276-9242

Our men, under the direction of our Junior Warden Bill Price, have been very productive in their efforts to clean the basement and yard of Christ Church. Thank you! And, Christopher Rock was our hero when he climbed up to the Bell Tower to untangle the ropes. Bill Price and Jim Maxon landscaped around our sign. I, too, played with the bricks and dirt.

The Vestry had their yearly retreat, hosted by Debi and Dan Blackwell. We reviewed our goals from last year, set new goals, and discussed ideas pertinent to a fulfilling church family life. Debi presented information from the Church Development Institute. Thank you to Debi and Dan for their hospitality and lunch and to Debi in helping to present a portion of the retreat. Several of the members of the Vestry also attended a diocesan Empowered Leadership Workshop.

New Member Sunday May 12th! We are celebrating many folks for participation in worshiping with us with prayer and cake. Nancy Kovalcik has assumed the responsibility of welcoming visitors with a note of welcome. When you see a new person during a service or know of a potential member, please extend a warm and God directed greeting!

We share in prayers in the repose of the souls of Earl Baird and Helen Jeske. Both members of our church family will be remembered as a very loving and positive influence on all of us and they will be missed!

Best wishes to Steve and Linda Keim as they leave us to engage in their next adventure of moving to Albuquerque. Both were very active members of our church family and contributed many hours of talent to insure a rich church culture.

Prayers of thanksgiving for successful surgery for Sharon Quay and our Sexton, Larry Jamison.

Those in need of Prayer and Care:

Hildebrand Care Center: Al Jeske, Coeta Mann, Al Nichols, Sue Ann Loomis

Skyline Ridge: Irma Fry

Florence Care Center: Marie Carpenter

Progressive Care Center: Maradee Wendt, Flo Burke

Home: Joyce Conley, Roy Cooper, Audrey Debekker, Clydia Gribble, Velva Vaughn, Theda Wheeler

When you are out and about, please stop at one of the care centers and say hello to our members!

While we are in the Easter Season, let us reflect on our Baptism. Baptism is the birth into eternal life, the inward grace is new life, death to sin and rising with Christ.

Barb Smith, Sr. Warden

Update from our Junior Warden

The Vestry has selected a contractor for the roof treatment project, which is a cleaning and protective coating. The project will start early in June after the school term. A grant request for assistance with this project was successfully completed and forwarded to the Historical Society within the appropriate time required. Let's hope they will provide monetary assistance with this very large and costly project.

April 3 was the scheduled date for a grounds and basement cleanup. However weather conditions did not allow outside cleaning, but we did clean the basement. Hopefully we will find a date later in April to complete the outside. Thanks to the Men 4 Him! group for their time and labor with this project.

The corner sign landscape project is almost complete, thanks to the monetary donation and labor of Barb Smith and Jim Maxon. Plants are to follow in the near future.

The bell ropes and rope guides also need repair and Verdin Company will schedule us sometime this summer to complete the needed repairs.

Aside from that there appears to be no known major high cost projects for the year.

Junior Warden

Pastoral Care...a SWEEPS ministry

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22). Christ Church's pastoral care group takes this scripture to heart. We send cards, make friendly visits, prepare food for those who need it, send cards via email, have special pastoral care partners, set up meetings from time to time to address a specific pastoral need and of course, we PRAY for our church community and individuals regularly. Our group is organized with Father Mark receiving the first information about one of our own. He sends out an email to the pastoral care group, and suggests to us what the person needs from us. If it's cards and prayers we can all take care of this request on our own. If there are other needs, Ann Roche coordinates visits and food. Several of our members already have at least one pastoral care partner who visits him/her on a regular basis.

We have about 40 people who have expressed their desire to be a part of pastoral care. However, we welcome anyone else who is interested in this ministry. Please contact Ann if you are interested. God's blessings to all of you who care for others in our church community and beyond. *Ann Roche*



We extend a huge thank you to

- ♥ Carol Ann Gentry for making and embroidering new kitchen towels, buying lots of new dish cloths and organizing the cupboard that houses these items. Take time to read some of the clever sayings, and always remember to bring them back after you wash them.
- ♥ Jim Maxon and Barb Smith, for their work beautifying our sign
- ♥ Theda Wheeler, for the gift of the table, in memory of Stewart Wheeler
- ♥ Dan and Debi Blackwell, for hosting our Vestry Retreat
- ♥ Christopher Rock, for all his work
- ♥ Stephanie Ropp, for being a sponsor for the Quest weekend
- ♥ Men 4 Him! group and to Bill Price, our Junior Warden, for your hard work cleaning up the basement. Bill has worked tirelessly on many repairs and plans for future repairs.



Christ Episcopal Church is on Facebook. Our parish administrator is keeping the "wall" updated with our news. Go to <http://facebook.com/ChristChurchCanonCity> and click "LIKE".

Church Calendar on web site

Our parish calendar is now on our web site, www.christchurchcanoncity.org. We are trying hard to keep this up-to-date. We think this is a great step forward!



More on Practice

In my 30- some years as a believer I've had a lot of interactions with Christians...some good, some not so good. Many of them were very sure that they had all the right answers, that their theology was superior to anyone else's. If someone threatened or brought any part of that theology into question, it was reason for a defense to be mounted. It might even lead one to discredit their 'opponent' to fortify their own position. This is the result of a belief-based religion. Our beliefs become more important than our actions.

A practice-based religion will always put more emphasis on how others are treated, how one moves in the world, how they reflect Jesus. They understand that actions speak louder than words. They believe that how they act is more important than what their theology may be.

Now – there is no doubt that what we believe informs how we practice our faith. But if our beliefs eclipse our practice, we have our emphasis in the wrong place. Does the term 'Pharisee' ring a bell? They certainly had their doctrine right but totally missed the mark in practice. And Jesus dressed them down for it (and that may be putting it mildly). Yet, some uneducated fishermen and – believe it or not – women, lived out 'right practice' and were seen and acknowledged by Jesus.

Perhaps it may be a good idea to take some time and ask yourself what has been more important to you – right doctrine/theology or right practice.

Deb Turnow, Executive Director, Kavanna House.

Even more on Practice

As the name of our center probably makes clear ([The Center for Action and Contemplation](#)), my daily and primary practice is contemplation. I try in every way, and every day, to see the events, people, and issues in my world through a much wider lens that I hope is "Christ Consciousness." I have to practice letting go of my own agenda, my own anger, fear, and judgments in very concrete ways and through daily practice. In that empty space, it seems God is able to speak and sometimes I am able to hear. In that space, I find joy.

I have worked for most of my life and with the help of my Franciscan tradition and other spiritual teachers to spend a good chunk of every day in silence, solitude, and surrender to what God and the moment are offering. I fail at it far more than I succeed, but grace grants me just enough "wide-lens experience" to know that it is my home base, my deepest seeing, and by far the best gift I can also offer to the world.

Without a daily contemplative stance, I would have given up on the church, America, many people, and surely myself a long time ago. Without a daily contemplative practice, I would likely be a cynical and even negative person by now, but by Somebody's Kindness, I am not. With contemplative eyes, I can live with a certain *non-dual consciousness* that often allows me to be merciful to the moment, patient with human failure, and generous toward the maddening issues of our time. For me, it is the very shape of Christian salvation or any salvation. My sadness is that so few have been taught this older and wiser tradition, although many still come to it by great love and great suffering.

Father Richard Rohr is the founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Vintage Years Women's Group



Plan now to meet with our Vintage Years Women's Group on Saturday, May 18, 2013, in the parish hall between 10:00 am – 12:00 pm for another fascinating program presented by Barbara Lamoreux. Barb's presentation will conclude the sessions scheduled for this year. Following her presentation the group will decide if they want to continue to hold the Vintage Years Women's Group sessions for the next year, and if so, the format, identifying topics, and possible presenters. Don't miss this exciting conclusion to this very popular series and help to determine its direction for the future.

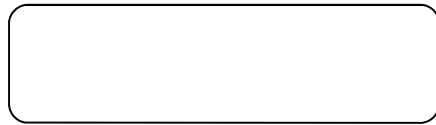
Christ Episcopal Church

"To grow as disciples in Christ, prayerfully opening our hearts and minds to joy and service."


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MEN 4 HIM



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MEN 4 HIM

THREE MEN 4 HIM GROUPS:

 **CHRIST CHURCH**
7:00am Wednesdays

Fishers 
8:00am Tuesdays

 **APOSTLES**
7:00pm Tuesdays

For information, ask Fr. Mark.

Remember our Food Pantry

Please remember to add a few canned or boxed food items to your grocery basket each time you shop and bring your food offering to church each Sunday.

