



the Belltower

Oct
2012

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

Generosity in Difficult Times

Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have... Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later, they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it. In this way, things will be equal. 2 Corinthians 8:12, 14 (NLT)

My dear Christ Church family,

I recently read this on a prayer request web site:

"I don't even know where to begin [asking for prayer]. I just know that in these difficult economic times, it is a struggle for so many families. We are definitely one of them. I really don't know how we will be able to fulfill our financial obligations. We just keep getting set back. I have so many future financial obligations and just don't know how to pay for them all. My husband only works part-time. I can't find a job and I have 2 children.

"I pray for my family, as well as many other families, that their financial burdens will definitely be lightened. I just don't want to wake up each day and keep carrying the burden and stress of worrying about our financial problems. I would love to really enjoy the beauty of each day."

Unfortunately, it is an all-too-common story. This morning's Daily Record had this front-page article: "Loaves & Fishes struggling to meet demands". The article states that, with the loss of a \$26,000 grant, "Loaves and Fishes needs \$20,000 to catch up." Other organizations who offer financial and food help here in Canon City are similarly struggling. I have had a flood of calls these past few weeks from folk who need help with rent, or food, or other needs – and the cold weather hasn't set in yet. They've already been to Loaves and Fishes and other places and have been told "we have no money left". Our parish is not immune from the financial struggles of the times, either; giving is off, and I, our Treasurer, Sr. Warden, Finance Committee, and Vestry are prayerfully deliberating how to handle the shortfall.

These are challenging times, and they call for us both to deepen our faith and trust AND to take whatever actions we can to meet the challenges. Perhaps you can bring a can of food for our food pantry; perhaps you can give to Loaves and Fishes; perhaps you can put something extra in the offering plate. Perhaps you are that person that St. Paul is talking about: *"Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need."* The need is certainly great.

Yours in Christ's love and service,
Mark

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

Rachel Alexander
Robert Barnhill
Bryan Fredrickson
Bud Gentry
Linda Keim
Jim Maxon
Mary Olson
Bill Price
Stephanie Ropp

Acolyte Director: Marnie Chapman
Bulletin: Christopher Rock
Centering Prayer: pb Walsh, Nancy Kovalcik

Child Care Attendant: Michelle Cook
Christian Education: Shirleen Sabatino
Coffee Hour: Bob & Earline Barnhill
Columbarium: Vestry
Daughters of the King: Shirleen Sabatino
Episcopal Church Women: Ann Roche
ECW Thrift House: Lois Kitchell
Eucharistic Visitors: Christopher Rock
Hospitality: Sally Merriam
Lectors: Mary Olson
Library: pb Walsh
New Child Montessori School: Michelle Cook

Operation Christmas Child: Ann Roche
Organist: Barbara Kohl
Parish Administrator: Becky Jamison
Prayer Center: John Rohde
Prayer Chain: Donna Cooper
Public Affairs: Rachel Alexander
Risk Management: John Merriam
Sangre de Cristo Region Rep:
Lois Kitchell

Sexton: Larry Jamison
St. Gabriel's Guild: Jocie Rohde
Stewardship: Vestry
SWEEPS Council: Mary Olson
United Thank Offering: Audrey DeBekker
Ushers: John Merriam
Vintage Years: Linda Keim
Worship: Fr. Mark Meyer

Our Senior Warden says....



Our Ministry Fair was a wonderful

success with members of our church family pledging our time and talent to members of our church family and the community. Because everything we have comes from God, we should be willing to share—our possessions, money, time and talents—in order to help others who are in need (And it's important to remember that we're all needy in one way or another).

I am amazed to note 40 ministries are noted from which to choose in the church and the community. Christ Church has a rich culture of pledging our time and talent to help others.

From the writings of our Mormon Friends: “Church members have many opportunities to serve. We can do small acts of kindness for our neighbors, take part in community service, fulfill responsibilities within our local congregations or contribute to the Church's large-scale humanitarian efforts. These actions, whether great or small remind us that God often allows us to be the answer to someone else's prayers.” “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35).

Available for free

Dan and Debi Blackwell and Mark and Marni Chapman have two WILD-BLUE Satellite Dishes that are available free to ANYONE (maybe someone has a friend who would like an item). Please call them at 269-9924.

Genesis

The annual diocesan youth Genesis weekend will be held October 19-21 at Frontier Ranch in Buena Vista. Attending will be: Sarah Liptrap, Tammi Chapman, Stephanie Ropp (sponsor) and Marni Chapman (worker).

Christ Church Legacy Society

Our Legacy Society brochure explains the use and difference between the Memorial Fund and the Legacy Society Fund:

The Memorial Fund is:

- ⇒ NOT an endowment, the principal is spent.
- ⇒ Never used for operating or maintenance purposes.
- ⇒ Used to purchase physical THINGS (alter hangings, Prayer Books, Hymnals, etc.)

The Legacy Society Fund is:

- ⇒ An endowment: the principal is not touched.
- ⇒ Is used for supporting and assisting the operating, maintenance, and program needs of the church, thereby ensuring the future vitality of Christ Church.

Festival Fair



Sat. Nov. 3
Parish Hall

ECW update

Our very active ECW members would like to share their recent financial support endeavors with you. As you know, this organization of women is engaged in numerous outreach ministry support programs by volunteering the wages they earn at the Thrift House to financially support various community and nationwide programs and ministries. Specifically, we have financially supported, through our donations, local organizations such as our branch of C.A.S.A. (Court Appointed Special Advocates for children) designated as the Heart of Colorado C.A.S.A.; Mercy Today Ministries; Loaves & Fishes, Fremont Regional Hospice; Methodist First Saturday Suppers; Good News Prison Ministries; and the Boys & Girls Club. Our national financial support has included Operation Christmas Child and the El Hogar Ministries, just to name a few.

Ladies, you may not know that if you are a member of Christ Church, you are automatically a member of ECW. We are looking to expand our active membership and also looking to add more volunteers for working at the Thrift House in Colorado Springs. Men, you should note, may also volunteer at the Thrift House and we could use you as well. We suggest that you “try us” for three months to see if we are a good fit. What have you got to lose? Have a great time volunteering at the Thrift House, shop for bargains galore, and expand the funds the ECW can utilize to support local and nationwide ministries. The next meeting of the ECW will be Thursday, October 25 at 11:00 am in the parish office. If you have any questions about this ministry or would like to volunteer for the Thrift House call Ann Roche at 275-8788.

Silence

At times we have to step into God’s silence and wait. We have to put out the fleece as Gideon did (Judges 6:37-40), and wait for the descent of the divine dew, or some kind of confirmation from God. That is a good way to keep our own ego drive out of the way.

There are other times when we need to go ahead and act on our own best intuitions and presume that God is guiding us—but even then we must wait for the divine backup. Sometimes that is even the greater act of faith and courage.

When either waiting or moving forward is done out of a spirit of union and surrender, we can trust that God will make good out of it—even if we are mistaken! It is not about being correct; it is about being connected.



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.



For our country

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion us into one united people. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our



Help Sarah go to Washington, DC

Sarah Liptrap, our faithful and dependable Acolyte, has an opportunity to go to Washington DC in June 2013 with a group of students from Canon City Middle School. Sarah needs to earn \$1686.00 by March 19 in order to go. She is available most days after school, or on the weekends, to do chores or any task you need help with on a donation basis. Sarah can be reached at 429-8682 or 275-7204.

United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering

October and November are the months we will be collecting your United Thank Offerings. The mission of the UTO is to encourage daily prayers, offerings and awareness of the abundance of God's blessings. Your prayers and offerings help build churches, Half-way houses, supply kitchen equipment for homeless shelters and dental clinics for the poor and many other ministries of the Episcopal Church. Please take a few minutes each day and put a coin in your UTO Blue Box and say a prayer of thanks and support this wonderful outreach program. Blue boxes are available on the West wall of the Narthex. In all things be thankful!

Christ Church to participate in Church Development Institute

Beginning this month, Fr. Mark, Debi Blackwell, and Linda Keim will be serving Christ Church by participating in our diocese's Church Development Institute (CDI). The diocesan web site explains: "CDI is a program for clergy and lay leaders who desire to make their parishes stronger, healthier, more deeply rooted in our tradition, more responsive to God and more effective in their communities." It is a two-year course of study, including 4 weekend conferences a year at our diocesan camp and conference center, Cathedral Ridge. (The first will be held this month, Oct. 26-27.) Coordinator of the program, and one of the teachers, is the Rev. Canon Lou Blanchard, Canon Missioner of the diocese. Our new regional missioner, Ann Fleming, is also an instructor. Various diocesan grant funds are

Vintage Years September meeting

If you were unable to attend the September meeting of the Vintage Years Women's Group, you really missed a fun morning, and everyone was there but you! With thirty women in attendance, we doubled our numbers over the formative meeting held in May. Our first formal meeting focused on a review of the decisions made in May related to how we will do what we do, an introduction to adult development, dispelling some myths about women and aging, how the media impacts our vision of ourselves, some insightful exercises, and for good measure, good old fashioned fun and laughter.

Speaking of next month, we will be meeting again at Christ Church on Saturday, October 20th from 10:00 – 12:00PM. Our topic then will be Stages of Adult Development—Where Am I? Participants will be given an age specific chapter to read (from the text we are using) which will lead to a greater understanding of where and who we are in contrast to younger and older groups. There will be plenty of time for discussion, sharing, and exercises to help us increase our depth of understanding. And as always, time for laughter and fun will be included.

If you were unable to attend in September but plan to attend in October, please contact Linda Keim (in the church directory) to ensure there will be materials available for you. While our group is co-sponsored by Christ Episcopal, St. Michael's Catholic, and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Churches, participation is not limited to church members. So ask your neighbor or a friend and please plan to join us. Admission is free but donations are always gratefully accepted! See you in October!

Thank you to pb Walsh, Christopher Rock and Mary Olson, Stephanie Erbrecht and all those who cleaned out our library and organized the book sale. With the proceeds from the sale, we are able to purchase some new books.

helping with the cost for Mark, Debi, and Linda to attend. We hope to learn some methods and get some ideas that will grow our church both numerically and spiritually. You will be hearing more as we progress in the course.

BRING-A-FRIEND TO CHURCHⁿ SUN-

Diocesan Convention

The 125th Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Colorado will be held in Colorado Springs Oct. 4-6. Representing Christ Church will be Fr. Mark and Deacon Merle, and delegates Christopher Rock, pb Walsh, Rachel Alexander, and Donna Cooper.

Congratulations

- ◆ To Pat Manzanares, who was received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop O'Neill during his visitation Sept. 30th.
- ◆ To Kylie Cook, for her stellar achievements in gymnastics!
- ◆ To Rachel Alexander, who was installed as Worthy Matron of Eastern Star.
- ◆ Adyn Post, who was baptized Sept. 30

Post-communion reflection: guaranteed intimacy with Christ

When I was growing up, more than a few years ago, one of the liturgical practices was a meditation after communion. When people returned to their places after receiving communion, they usually knelt and, putting their head in their hands, focused on the presence of Christ who had just entered into them. It was a "mini-meditation" because the celebrant usually resumed the final prayer of Mass rather quickly. In those day priests were often clocked to see how fast they could say Mass. But many people stayed on after Mass to continue the interior activity they had begun.

I have no idea what other people did in that post-communion quiet. In fact, I do not remember in any detail what I did. But I do know that for me it was the most meaningful part of Mass. It was guaranteed intimacy with Christ. For a short time during and after the host dissolved, God was immediately accessible to an inward glance. In my growing up years this was incredibly important. In my later years this importance has returned.

John Shea, from *Eating with the Bridegroom*,
Collegetown, MN, Liturgical Press, 2005, p. 207

Blessing of the Animals

October 7, 2012,
2:00 PM



To all our animal lovers, please mark your calendar to bring your four-legged friends to be blessed by Father Mark in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. We will meet on the west lawn at 2:00 pm on Sunday, October 7.

Please remember to bring a donation of canned or dry cat or dog food for the animals at the Humane Society.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.

Is GOD in charge?

We might think that God is totally in charge, when in fact God is very seldom in charge. For most of us, God is in charge maybe a few moments each day. God's constant posture toward us is love, which means that God is purposely out of the control mode. If God were in control, the world would not be in the shape it's in. I'm afraid that God's love patiently allows us to control a lot of what's happening in this world.

God waits for us to reach a point of willingness to participate freely in whatever God is doing. When we willingly give our lives to God and ask for guidance, life begins to fill with all kinds of synchronicities, "coincidences," surprises to everyone but you; this is what the saints call divine providence. God is in control only when we give God control, and that is when the really good things begin to happen. In the meantime, it appears that God does everything God can to influence and heal our misguided events.

Ask yourself: In what ways do I reject love and try to be in control? In what ways do I give control back to God?

from On the Threshold of Transformation: Daily Meditations for Men, by Richard Rohr, Chicago: Loyola Press, 2010, p. 75



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Facebook

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updated with our news. Go to <http://facebook.com/ChristChurchCanonCity> and click "LIKE".

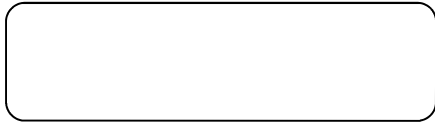
Christ Episcopal Church

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

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We remember in our prayers

People Serving our Country

Spec. James Dean Baird
Christopher G. Abbott
Robert Abbott
Lt. Col. Mark Crossman
Joshua Eck
Lt. Col. Mark Gruber
Andrew Hoffman
Lt. JG Ethan Jayson
Spec. Zach Jayson
SFC Chris Thomas
Travis Tipton
Maj. Brian Weyenberg
Capt. Benjamin Nichols
Spec 2 Jesse Painter
Jared Pollock
Rob & Joel Sears
GSgt. Paul Spaulding
SSgt. Michael Paulding
Spec. Christopher Sainsbury
LCpl Shiloh Wilson
Lt. Col. Andrew Kerkman
Yale Blake King
Maj. Sean Michael MacDermott
Ellen McCormick

Please pray for Christ’s love to engulf our Parish, Diocese and our National Church; Bishop Christ Church family, Deacon Merle, Fr. Mark

- Prisoners: Those in prison and those who care for them; Robert
 - Nursing Home/Assisted Living: Flo, Thelma, Coeta, Glen, Herb, Ernie, Maradee, Irma
- HEALING, COMFORT, PATIENCE & HOPE: Mary Ann, Linda, Ted, Rob, Stacy, Karen, Sallie, Earl, Kristen, Al, Edie Clif, Adelyn Grace, Dee, Danny+, Nancy, Mary, Beth.
 GOD'S PRESENCE IN TIME OF SPECIAL NEED: Linda, the McKinna fam., Leslie, the Skogland fam., Bill, Kathy+, the people of St.Luke's, Marty, Kylee, Robert, Martha.
 WORK IN THE LORD / FINANCIAL STABILITY: Drew, Jennifer, Paul, Eric.
 THANKSGIVING: Chad & Di's marriage, Christ's presence in our lives, Willis, Willy, Thunder, Jazzarae, Summer.

“Contemplation,” or meditation as it is called by some, became more popular in contemporary times through the writings of Thomas Merton. The word most Christians were more familiar with was simply “prayer.”

Unfortunately, in the West prayer became something functional; something you did to achieve a desired effect—which puts you back in charge. As soon as you make prayer a way to get something, you’ re not moving into a new state of consciousness. It's the same old consciousness. “How can I get God to do what I want God to do?” It's the egocentric self still deciding what it needs, but now often trying to manipulate God too.

This is one reason religion is in such desperate straits today. It really isn't transforming people, but leaving them in their separated and egocentric