

When Will We Get a New Pastor?

This is the question many people are asking these days. At the Annual Meeting on February 11, the final report of the Transition Team was accepted. One of the report's recommendations was to call a pastor on a part-time (50%) basis due to budget restrictions. Calling a pastor is a lengthy process in the best circumstances and calling a half time pastor presents additional challenges.

An amendment to the Constitution to reduce the number of members of a Call Committee from eight to five was adopted at the Annual Meeting. After the committee is appointed by the Council, the first step is to complete an extensive document that describes Messiah and what kind of leader would best serve here. An important consideration is to define what to expect from a pastor working half time. The perfect candidate might need to have another job. Will Messiah offer health and pension benefits at 50% or 100%? Do you prefer a newly ordained pastor or a seasoned pastor? One who is a fine preacher/teacher or one dedicated to social ministry or one whose strength is visitation and one on one ministry or something else?

When this document is completed, it will be submitted to the Bishop's office and qualified candidates will be presented to the call committee for consideration. Interviews follow and the discernment processes of both call committee and candidate continue until an agreed upon match is found. Unlike some other denominations, the ELCA does not publish want ads for ministers. The whole process is committed to the Holy Spirit's guidance both for the congregation and those who are considering a new call.

For some of you, this interim time seems to have taken too long. Let me remind you that the Transition Team has worked diligently, often meeting every week, for more than a year. They held several congregational update meetings, met one-on-one with members, attended a weekend workshop on community involvement, reviewed area demographics and thoughtfully and prayerfully offered what they believe to be the best next steps for Messiah. You are encouraged to express your gratitude to them and receive their recommendations with thankfulness for their dedication to the future of Messiah Community Church.



Remember and Renew Your Baptism – Looking Toward Lent

Throughout the ages, Lent has been a time to prepare converts to Christianity to be baptized at the Vigil of Easter, symbolically joining in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today, when no adults are preparing for baptism in our community, Lent is a period of baptismal renewal, that is, a time to remember what it means to be a child of God and a disciple of Christ. For the six weeks of Lent, you are invited into an intentional time of reflection on what it means to you to be a baptized child of God?

Take some time this month to gather information about your baptism. Find your baptism certificate. Do you have pictures of that day? Who are/were your Godparents or sponsors? Where were you baptized? Why did your parents bring you for baptism or did you choose to be baptized as an older child or adult?

Also think about this: who are the people who have helped form your faith? Parents? Grandparents? A special Sunday School teacher? A mentor or friend? What events have impacted your faith by making it stronger or raising doubt? Have there been times when you walked away or stomped away from church or God? What brought you back?

Shake loose some of those old experiences and memories. They may hold treasures as yet untouched as you reflect on your journey of faith during the weeks of Lent. May God bless your searching and your remembering.

Pastor Bev

Messiah Monthly Income Statement

	February-18	YTD-18
Income	\$8,239.78	\$30,800.22
Expenses	\$17,154.57	\$38,127.82
Net	(\$8,914.79)	(\$7,327.60)

Birthdays For the Month of March

Jim Bonham	March 3
Clark McClain	March 7
Mike Gill	March 9
Lyndsy Gordon	March 11
Matthew Amerson	March 13
Elizabeth Piester	March 13
Rebecca Wainess	March 23
Donald L. Berridge	March 24
Perrin Cook	March 25

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, AND CHOCOLATES

Thanks to all of our loyal customers and donors! We appreciate your purchases and donations. Because you have supported the sales, and made generous donations (both in the big cup on the shelf and at the table or cart), we are able to benefit small farmer co-ops, strengthen equitable trade systems, and provide Fair Trade Coffee after church services every Sunday.

SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES Thank you for all of the donations!

As the cold winter is upon us we need to remember our friends that we serve through **Senior Support Services**. Cooking and serving a meal monthly is important. In addition, they have more needs that perhaps we can address. In their appeal for donations they also printed their **Winter Wish List**. This is it: coats, sweatshirts, gloves, scarves, new underwear, heavy socks, blankets, sleeping bags, hand lotion, chapstick, and hand and foot warmers. You can drop these items off at the center(846 E 18th Av) between 7 am and 7 pm, M-F. Or bring them with you to church and we will make sure they get there. The blue bin will be in the parlor.



Volunteer!

Sunday morning closers are needed. There are a few regulars but more are needed. This will take about 30 minutes after coffee hour and can begin before the building is empty. Sign up in the Parlor or contact Leah for training and scheduling.

Looking Ahead!

Earth Day falls on Sunday this year. The worship team is putting together a special service and will be asking for your input. Don't be shy! Share your experience, thoughts, reflections about how nature inspires you.

The Colfax Marathon is May 19/20. Messiah will worship on Saturday evening, May 19. Time and details TBD.



News and Notes

You've heard of Where's Waldo? In the next few weeks and months you may be asking Where's Pastor Bev? Pastor Bev will lead a weekend training workshop called Journey Into Faith, March 2-4 in Arvada. April 8-11 she will attend and present a workshop at Valparaiso University's Institute of Liturgical Studies. The workshop is titled Splashing in the Font – Congregational Formation. The following week she will attend the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Washington DC. This year's theme is God's Power Nurturing Communities of Witness & Dialogue. Rocky Piro is co-coordinator of the event and will remain in DC a few days to lobby for justice.



Building Use Updates

The office space on the lower level of Messiah is now fully rented. The youngest PDO class moved into the former choir room, situating the classes next to each other and leaving the open space downstairs available to rent for meetings, conferences, etc.

The newest tenants are the staff members of The Heights Church. They have two offices on the north end of the building and have supplied the meeting/reception area outside their offices.

The Heights is only two years old and has been holding worship for the last year at Palmer Elementary School. Palmer will be undergoing some construction this summer which caused The Heights to look for other worship space. They saw our front sign that read "Office and Meeting Space for Rent" and called to inquire about holding worship in our sanctuary in July and August. We agreed to try that out and if all goes well, may continue as a permanent building partner. This will mean adjustments for both congregations in worship times and other things but what a great opportunity to support Messiah's ministry not only with added income but with the energy and vitality they will bring. Perhaps they will join in some of our ministries and we may join them. What a fine way to be Church, better together!

A small team from Messiah will work with The Heights on details of shared worship space and other issues. Watch for more information to come.



Thanks to **Roger and Suzanne Miller** for saving furniture from a landfill and outfitting our Parlor with round tables and comfy seating. All the furniture was free through a friend of theirs who salvages office surplus as an act of earth stewardship.

Also thanks to the **Millers** for purchasing and installing the new tile in the entry and adding weather stripping to the doors. Please remember to securely close the doors when entering and exiting.

Thanks to **Craig Fischbach** for multiple jobs he has taken on at Messiah after his retirement. The drinking fountains in the Parlor now work. Rooms have been rekeyed and the key board in the office updated among other things.

And to **Dick Chuvasky** for overseeing repair of the boiler that went belly up in January. **Leah Peden** spent nearly an entire Saturday in the building while work continued on this project. She has also been the point person for the work on the water main outside the building and its connection to our water system.

The new gas stoves have been installed at Messiah Mountain. We are recycling the old stove and putting it in our kitchen here at Messiah. All burners, the oven, and flat top will work! (just in time for Easter!)

Volunteers Make a Difference...

...especially in times of transition. Over the last several weeks, you have been asked to “do a little bit more” to help us in the transition process. Your collective response has been nothing short of amazing; painting, organizing, cleaning, REorganizing, pulling weeds, counting offering, closing on Sundays, keeping records, tending the office, watering the plants, straightening the pews.....the list goes on and on, but so do the needs. If you can give some time on Sunday after church, we can use more members on our Closing Team, and the Altar Guild is also in need of people to setup and cleanup Communion on Sunday mornings. Both of these “opportunities” would be about a 30-minute commitment. If you’d like to be a part of the Sunday morning ministry team we can certainly accommodate you there also. Lector? Greeter? Communion Assistant? Contact Leah if you’d like to help in any way. (leah@messiahdenver.org). THANK YOU MESSIAH FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



Join the procession!
March 25 at 9:30 am



Sing Alleluia! Celebrate!
Worship at 9:30 am
Egg hunt and breakfast to follow.
All are welcome.

The heavens are the heavens of the LORD, But the earth He has given to human beings.

Live an Eco-friendly Life Style:

- Eat less meat
- Use paper less and recycle more
- Use canvas bags instead of plastic
- Start a compost pile
- Purchase the right lightbulbs
- Choose cloth over paper towels for cleaning
- Cut down energy use in your home
- Borrow instead of buying books; movies; go to secondhand stores to recycle or upcycle
- Reduce water waste
- Recycle a vehicle



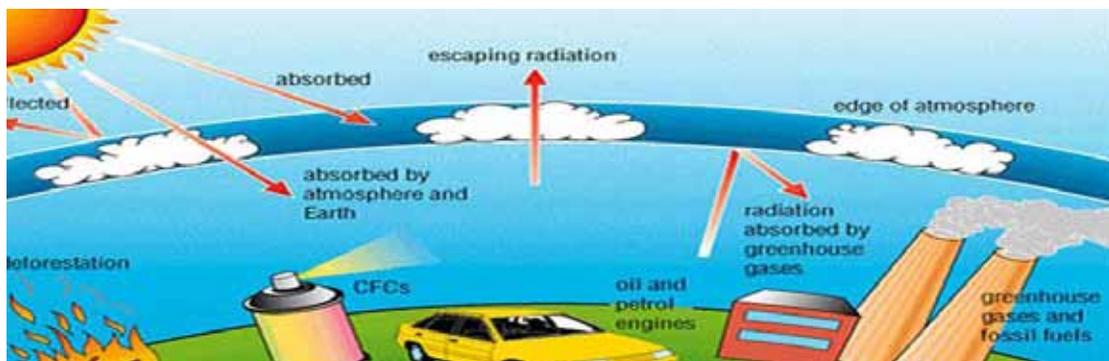
Green Ride:

Slow down – 10 mph over 60 miles per hour is like adding \$.50 to a gallon of gas. Speeding equals more guzzling.

Get pumped – one a month check tire pressure against your car manufacturer's specifications. Adding air can improve mileage about 3%.

Hazardous Waste: What does it mean to you?

When you hear the words Hazardous Waste, what comes to mind? Do you think about huge oil transports splitting apart at sea, with deadly spilled cargo drifting toward shore? Or maybe an overturned ruptured semi-trailer spilling toxic solvents into drains leading to clean water reservoirs. Those are great examples, but maybe we need to be thinking more about dangers that exist closer to home, in our garages and under our sinks.





Hazardous Waste cont'd

Most of us probably have more hazardous material in our homes than we realize. According to Boulder County's Hazardous Materials Management Facility (HMMF), a typical home contains three to eight gallons of hazardous material. When used, stored or disposed of improperly, it poses a threat to families, pets, neighborhoods and the environment.

What causes a product to be considered hazardous? All hazardous products exhibit at least one of the following properties: (1) TOXIC-can cause injury or death when inhaled, eaten, swallowed or absorbed through the skin; (2) FLAMMABLE-ignites easily and burns rapidly; (3) CORROSIVE-can burn skin on contact and can eat away the surface of other materials; (4) EXPLOSIVE-can react with air, water or other substances to produce toxic vapors or explosions.

You might be surprised to learn that many of the things we use in our day-to-day activities are actually hazardous materials. To name a few, how about bleach, furniture polish, glue, fertilizers, floor cleaners or wax, antifreeze, brake fluid, rug and upholstery cleaners, degreasers (solvents), mothballs, pesticides, weed killers, toilet and drain cleaners, and, of course, painting and varnishing materials.

The HMMF urges everyone to pay attention to labeling and to look for warnings to see what products are hazardous, how they should be stored and how they can be disposed of properly.

Check future Green Corner articles and we will try to provide information to assist with storage and disposal of hazardous materials that may be in your home.

In Our Prayers

We pray for: Betty Berridge, John Cain, Pam Farar, Winnie Jergensen, Mira Larson, Eleanor Miller, Ken Peden, Rocky Piro, Susan Porter, Sue Ricci, Karen Rose, Vera Thorne, Jackie West, and Ron White, Sherrill Morris, baby Zoe and family.

Does it really matter if I use my King Soopers gift card?

Yes it does! In 2017, Messiah received over \$2,300 in rebates from the gift cards. This money supports our general fund. Can we make that number double in 2018? Your gift card must be coded for Messiah. Susie Anderson or the Fair Trade table can sell you one for the \$25 that is pre-loaded on the card. If you have a card in your wallet or in a drawer or somewhere you can't recall and it hasn't been used in 3 months, you will need to get a new card because the designation for Messiah will expire if not used for a period of time.

Here's how to use the card. Whenever you shop at King Soopers or King Soopers gas stations pre-load the card before checking out and then use it to pay for your purchase. Five percent of your purchase will be donated by King Soopers to Messiah. There is no additional cost to you. A few extra steps at the checkout and mindfulness

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS AND ACTION!

How often do we say and hear, "Our thoughts and prayers are with you" when someone is sick or when tragedy strikes?! As powerful and as comforting as our prayers may be, are they enough to really help change things without following up?! Many Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence (CFCU) members believe that as heartfelt as "thoughts and prayers" may be, they should be followed up with ACTION. There are over 35 Colorado faith communities who have joined CFCU . These faith communities are Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and non-affiliated congregations.

Some follow-up action to our "thoughts and prayers" is already stirring up across Colorado! Messiah members are part of our Rapid Response Team and they have been receiving and responding to CFCU's action alert emails. These emails identify bills that are related to gun safety. Then, we are asked to contact legislators to express support or opposition. CFCU also has volunteer lobbyists who testify at the Capitol. A bill banning bump stocks will be heard on Monday, March 19. We will definitely be in support of this bill.



Who is my neighbor?

A few weeks ago, on a bitterly cold Sunday morning, ushers and others noticed a man, probably a "street person," sitting quietly in the empty chapel area. He must have come in for warmth and quiet. Later, after the offering, he sat comfortably on a couch in the parlor. One of our members stepped into the parlor to ask if he would like some coffee and perhaps a snack? He said that he would like both. Anything in the coffee? Cream and sugar. Our member got him coffee with creamer and an extra bit of sugar to help him be warm. When the coffee was brought to him, a second trip was made to get him a napkin and a cheerful yellow plate with a selection of the snacks for the day. Our member went back for the rest of the service. Afterwards, the man stood near the east entrance of the parlor. "Was there anything else we could do? He gestured toward the stairs, and was followed down. Near the entrance, he was asked again: "Is there anything else we can do?" He held his hands out, palm up, in a dignified and classic gesture of need. Twenty dollars were given to him. After the lightest of congregational hugs, he headed for the east door saying: "You don't just say it; you do it. Honorable...honorable." Then he was gone. We haven't seen him since.

March 4

Assisting Minister: Frances Sitone
Lector: Jim Bonham
Laitly Prayer: Bill Dillon
Greeter(s): Karen Schimke
Communion Server: Frances Sitone
Altar Guild: Katie A. and Sue S.
Closer(s): tbd
Counters: tbd

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March 11

Assisting Minister: Denise Larson
Lector: Marcia Chuvarsky
Laitly Prayer: n/a
Greeter(s): Glenn & Barb Johnson
Communion Server: Tammy Heid
Altar Guild: Leah Peden
Closer(s): tbd
Counters: Dave & Tammy Heid

March 18

Assisting Minister: Teresa Stenwall
Lector: Adreinne Adams
Laitly Prayer: n/a
Greeter(s): Irene Brock
Communion Server: Dick Chuvarsky
Altar Guild: C. Smith & F. Sitone
Closer(s): tbd
Counters: Dave and Sue Edwards

Happy Hour Friday, March 9, at Jett on Colfax
and Elm. Hope you can join us at 6 pm.

March 25

Assisting Minister: Sue Edwards
Lector: Jim Bonham
Laitly Prayer: Sue Bomar
Greeter(s): Shirley Karabotsos
Communion Server: Sharon Lipsey
Altar Guild: T. Heid & F. Sitone
Closer(s): Dave & Tammy Heid
Counters: tbd

Church Staff

Interim Pastor + Rev. Beverly Piro
Director of Music + Eric French
Office Administrator + Suzanne Miller
Volunteer Coordinator + Leah Peden

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After hours pastoral emergency 206-300-1947

**Sunday Worship
and Sunday School**

9:30 A.M.

JustHope and the community of Chacraseca have a common goal to improve health outcomes in the community. Providing appropriate sanitation solutions is essential in reaching that goal. Latrines are consistently identified by community leaders as a priority and emergent need in Chacraseca.

Diseases caused by a lack of basic sanitation are detrimental to sustainable community development. Poor sanitation is a leading cause of preventable diseases, especially in children, such as diarrhea and dysentery.

As a result of community and organizational efforts to construct latrines in Chacraseca, the overall health of the community is improving. One properly constructed latrine impacts an average of six people--often more when they are constructed in one of the many areas where whole neighborhoods share a single latrine. The four latrines constructed with the support of Messiah Church will improve the health for a minimum of twenty-four individuals, and potentially many more!

PARTNERS & BENEFICIARIES:

Messiah Community Church of Denver has partnered with the community of Chacraseca for several years, to make scholarships, microcredit loans, housing, and school support possible. In 2016, the 20 Women of Hope made a donation to build three latrines in lieu of the congregation sending a partner team.

In the early fall of 2016, the community constructed four latrines, two in Boca de Cantaro and two in Mojon Sur 2, some of the most isolated neighborhoods in Chacraseca. Each day a new group of eager builders would trek through the community to reach the latrine sites to partner with the recipient family and local leaders in the construction of the latrines. Every day there were new leaders and new Jefes supporting the project.

The photos show the families who benefited with their finished latrines.



From left to right: Family 1 - Francis Martinez 85 years old, Evarista Gutierrez 75 years old and Juan Bautista Maradiaga 29 years old; Family 2 - Ernesto Inocente Guido 85 years old, Angelica Petrona Arauz 79 years old, Ernesto Rufino Arauz 48 years old, Maria Antonia Arauz 46 years old, Claudia Maryenis Guido 29 years old, Jose David Guido 27 years old, Allan Rene Guido 25 years old; Family 3 - Juana Leon 55 years old, Petrona Munguia 30 years old, Gladys Mejia 20 years old, Onel Munguia 25 years old, Estiven Munguia 10 years old, Kimberly Munguia 4 years old, Genaro Munguia 2 years old; Family 4 - Lesbia Lisett Martinez 37 years old, Alvaro Ramon Martinez 39 years old, Heyling Scarlett Leon 14 years old, Jeyling Marina Leon 8 years old, Omar Exequiel Leon 2 years old.

