

Community UCC
2650 Table Mesa Drive
Boulder CO 80305
303-499-9119
<http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/religious/cucc>

Worship and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Pete Terpenning, Minister
An Open and Affirming Congregation

MAY 2004



The ECHO

REFLECTIONS ON IRAQ: VOICES OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, April 26, 2004, 7 pm

The Boulder Interfaith Leaders for Nonviolence
are pleased to sponsor an open community presentation and discussion entitled
"Reflections on Iraq: Voices of the People"

7:00 p.m. on Monday evening at the Boulder Mennonite Church, 1520 Euclid, Boulder.

Christie and Ryan Schmid will share their recent two week delegation trip with Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) to Baghdad, Iraq. They will share pictures, stories and messages from Iraqi individuals and groups representing many of the factions that make up Iraq. Presentation will be multi-media. Refreshments will follow.

For more information, please call Boulder Mennonite Church.

WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING WITH OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS IN VENEZUELA?

A Visit With Laura Cross, UCC Missionary:

Laura Cross, Common Global Ministries, has returned from a missionary term with our Global Partner in Venezuela. She will be reporting on her experiences and the difficult political situation in Venezuela at an informal meeting **June 17, 7 p.m.** at First Congregational Church, 1128 Pine Street, Boulder, CO. Please come and bring a friend to hear her story. Refreshments will be served.

GROCERY COUPONS:

If you have not purchased these coupons in the past, please consider doing so. You pay face value for the coupon (or gift card) and the church gets 2.5% of that face value for our budget. See Carl Love to purchase coupons for most of your favorite area grocery stores, including Safeway, King Soopers, Vitamin Cottage & Wild Oats!

SAVE YOUR STUFF!

Plans are underway for a CUCC garage sale/fundraiser (possibly in conjunction with the schools). Please start collecting good useable items to donate!

CUCC WEBSITE:

If you have not had a chance to do so, please take a moment to check out our newly redesigned website. Cathy Russell has recently taken over the job of webmaster and has put in some time updating it. Many thanks to Cathy and to Tim Brown, the previous webmaster (who got the site started for us).
<http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/religious/cucc>

Pete's Letter: Sustainability

I recently came across a program for college students to spend a semester abroad doing work in various places learning about "sustainability". One place was a farm in northern Scotland that studies sustainable agriculture, northern forests, environmental clean up and simple living. I am ready to go live there! Then, several days ago I picked up newsletter on gardening in Colorado and came across an article about this being a "time for sustainability". This word is popping up all over lately- which is something I applaud! "Sustainability" means the ability to sustain or endure through time. This is, as one article noted, relevant to gardening, farming, economics, foreign policy, trade agreements, water use and automobile and product design. I think it is relevant to the religious community in that all the world's faiths have some concept of stewardship: the human race's responsibility to care for this earth and its creatures. Matthew Fox said, "Sustainability is a contemporary word for 'justice'; it is finding the living balance".

We are definitely at point in our history as a species where we can no longer ignore that there is a crisis in the way we have been caring for this planet. We have been behaving as if there is no tomorrow and that there is a place called "away" where we can throw waste. We are out of balance. Herodotus said in the 5th century BC that "man stalks across the landscape and deserts follow". This is unfortunately a little too true lately.

There are many things that Christians must concern ourselves with as we work for justice and peace and take action upon our faith. The environmental crisis as it affects all life, including human, on earth has to be one of our top priorities for action in the next generation. A new effort in this regard has sprung up at our church. The Earth Action Team (EAT) has been meeting once a month on Saturday mornings at church. Headed by John Putnam, Chair, we are seeking ways for our group and our church to educate ourselves about sustainability and the eco-crisis, and about what specific things we can do. We are discussing all sorts of ideas and have a good time doing it (despite the seriousness of the subject). We are planning, among other things, to "Adopt a Trail" in the open space that we could keep up and keep clean, write letters on eco justice issues for the congregation to sign and send, work to educate our congregation in sustainability, plan an Earth Day celebration at church on May 9th, work to encourage the development of light rail in Colorado, possibly adopt a peak (fourteener in Colorado), start a project of weatherizing homes to save energy, develop community, organic gardens at church, etc... Lots of ideas, so little time (literally).

It feels good to be doing something. This is important work. It seems to me that faith communities need to model responsible ecological behavior, just as we ought to be modeling all sorts of Christian behavior, such as justice action for the poor. As a progressive, Christian church we should be leading the way with a vision of sustainability for our larger community. Remember when JFK challenged the space program to land on the moon? It seemed incredible and undoable, yet in 1969, it happened. In that spirit, I'd like to make a challenge to our church that we make our church building sustainable in the next decade. That would mean getting off the grid of electricity and power, using solar and other sustainable sources of energy, using no pesticides or poisons in our community or gardens, using recycled products at meals and coffee hour, recycled paper in mailings, etc. It will cost us money and be complicated, but it would be an example of sustainability for our families and the larger community.

In the meantime, everyone interested is invited to the Earth Action Team meetings. They are fun meetings and we welcome children, dogs and other rowdy characters. Generally, we meet the **first Saturday of the month at 8:30 am** at church. That would make the next meeting May 1st. See you there!

Yours in Peace,
Pete

ECHO INFORMATION:

The deadline for the **June 2004** Echo is Sunday, **May 23, 2004**. Please email articles to Susan Carter Ruskell no later than 3 p.m. that day.

Please Note: The deadline at the end of June will be for a July/August Newsletter and will be the last one until at least late August.

Help Needed: Please contact Susan Carter Ruskell (ruskell@pobox.com or 303-403-8593) if you would be willing to cover her newsletter editing duties in August and September, while she's on "maternity leave." A template for each month can be provided (in MS Publisher, MS Word, OpenOffice, or StarOffice) for each month. Otherwise the July/August might be the last one until sometime in September or October!

BULLETIN INFORMATION:

Please get bulletin announcements to Tom and Karen Sterner/Howe by **5 p.m. on Wednesdays**. E-mail is preferred (karen5757@earthlink.net) or call (please have announcements written out before calling) 720-890-7217.

COMMUNITY UCC:

Minister: Rev. Pete Terpenning
C.E. Coordinator: Karen Sterner-Howe
Moderator: Sue Levy
Narrator: Cathy Russell
Scribe: Eric Hansford (until June)
Treasurer: Kathy Rudge
Financial Secretary: Kamilla Macar
Nominations: Vicky Graham

SPIRITUAL LIFE AND FELLOWSHIP:

Fellowship Opportunity!

There will be a game night on **Saturday May 1st**.

Bring your favorite game, snack and beverage.

From **6:30 - 9:30** For any further details see Frank Ciskovsky.

Earth Day Celebration at Morning Worship - **May 9th**

At church on May 9 we will be observing Earth Day with various activities including the planting of a tree and worship centered on Sustainability and the Earth.

Planning this service is the Earth Action Team.

MEN'S GROUP REPORT:

CUCC Men's Support Group

The next work day for CUCC men to help members of the church with their Spring fix-up chores will be **Saturday, May 1**.

All willing men are to bring tools and themselves to the Egg and I located in the Basemar Shopping Center at Baseline and Broadway at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, fellowship and assignments.

We'll be working from 9 to noon at the homes visited last month to finish up those chores.

Call Russ MacCachran (303-939-0753) or e-mail russmac@indra.com with any questions.

OUTREACH NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

CUCC has been asked to cosponsor a family from Somalia through the Ecumenical Refugee Service. We would be working jointly with 1st Plymouth Church in Denver. Our support would consist of providing necessities such as clothing, canned food, and furniture. 1st Plymouth has a town home available in which the family will be living. Additional details will follow as we are in dialog with a representative from ERS.

Scott Rudge is planning Habitat for Humanity work days for this year. Information on the projects will follow in future Echo articles.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT:

We have changed the date of the retreat by popular demand to **Friday and Saturday, May 21-22**. This means all confirmands (Uriah's and Pete's class) . Meet at the church at 4:00 pm to drive up to the Y camp in Estes Park.

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE FOR MAY:

Pete's confirmation class will be meeting on **May 9th and May 23rd at 8:30 am** at the church. Those who have missed some classes need to arrange make up sessions with Pete! The date of Confirmation will June 6 in morning worship.

C.E. RECOGNITION:

Sunday, June 6th will be Awards Day for the Sunday School, Confirmation Sunday and Youth Sunday (Uriah Bueller's Confirmation Class will lead worship that day). Awards will be given to participants in Sunday School this year, and the teachers will be honored.

ORDINATION OF MALCOLM HIMSCHOOT - May 16th :

Malcolm, who preached at our church last month and was enthusiastically received, will be ordained into the ministry of the United Church of Christ at the Denver Inner City Parish. Details of location and time to be announced - see Pete for info.

CARING MINISTRY – Sandy MacKay THE GARDEN

Come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses.... For the garden of your daily living.

Plant three rows of Peas:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

No garden is without turnips:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

An Update From Timothy Brown, Commissioned Minister

As your Commissioned Minister, I wanted to let you know about some of the things I have been doing in the United Church of Christ.

I participated in the coordinating council meeting of the Association of United Church Educators (AUCE), which took place in November at Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA. I presented a workshop to the council. AUCE has decided to begin an Open and Affirming study process as a national organization. While in Lancaster for the AUCE meeting, I met with LGBT students at both of the UCC-related campuses there.

My major project for the year has been the creation of a study packet on same gender marriage. This over 40 page resources is available online at the Coalition website, www.uccCoalition.org. Some of the discussion topics include:

- What is marriage, and what are the purposes of marriage?
- What forms of covenant and commitment are there?
- How has marriage been used and misused?
- How have gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender people covenanted with each other in ways other than civil or religious marriage?
- What are the rights and responsibilities of marriage?
- Should everyone have access to these rights and responsibilities? Why or why not?

Erica Bowman's College Application Essay

Erica Bowman, 18, writes about her experience as a member of a United Church of Christ congregation in Fond-du-Lac, Wisconsin

I knew the names of all the regular members and the location of each silverware item in the kitchen. I wore the choir robe labeled number ten. I knew that the soda machine in the closet sometimes gave two sodas and that the cabinets in the nursery made an excellent hiding spot for a five year old. I knew, and will never forget, all of these things; however I never imagined that these memories would be integrated with one of the most painful experiences of my life.

Emotions and thoughts were wrapped around my heart and mind as I sat anxiously on a familiar blue pew cushion inside of my church home. I knew that I would walk out the door with either a profound sense of accomplishment or an indescribable hurt. A flower arrangement and card that read "We are so proud of your openness and courage. Love Mom and Dad" sat beside me. My mom's arm was wrapped around my shoulder and my stomach was in a knot I had never endured before. I watched my pastor read the vote--the vote that ended the process that would have declared our church open and affirming towards homosexuals. Suddenly the place and faces that had nurtured my spirit since birth looked unfamiliar and confusing. As streams of tears poured from my eyes, I walked out of church feeling lost. I wondered if I would ever be able to make sense of what had happened. I was torn between two conflicting beliefs: "Never give up" and "Walk away to protect your heart." [Note: The congregation voted not to become Open and Affirming.]

For someone to think that she belongs somewhere, only to discover that she does not is one of the most painful realizations an individual can face. When I was young, I was told that I had to go to church. Though, as I grew older, attending became a decision left up to me. I went because it gave me a community to which I felt I belonged. However, I felt, that this vote did not represent what I believe in and that this church would never again feel like a home to me. After twenty-two years of active membership, my family and I decided to leave our church.

Although I am an activist, I believe that speaking out is only one element in a successful reform. I worked and spoke out for what I believe in as much as I possibly could; it was exhausting and gratifying. The vote was the result of the congregation's beliefs, and I affirm their right to hold those beliefs. For me, however, I thought that the best action I could take was to grip tightly onto what I believe and humbly walk away. I did not feel like I was giving up, I was simply moving on. It is my hope that the people there who watched me grow up and ultimately watched me walk away will be able to look back and ask questions about their own faith.

I left because the congregation did not share my similar beliefs, but it was the difference of opinions that has also taught me about myself, my faith, and my future. Although I have left my childhood church home, I have not abandoned my commitment to working towards inclusive faith communities. Since leaving, I, along with my mom, have been working on creating a new faith group in my hometown of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. Its foundation is based on a quote from Micah 6 that hangs on our family refrigerator; "Be kind. Do justice. And walk humbly with your God." Not only has this passage shaped and motivated my faith, it has in many ways, defined my character and my purpose.

I am careful about where I look to find that community, and I feel that I have found the right one in Simmons College. To me, Simmons represents a place; a community, that will value my beliefs as well as encourage new thoughts and ideas. Being part of a community is important to me, and that is one of the many reasons I have chosen Simmons College as my top school.

May 2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thur</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>8:30 meditation Confirmation Class 10 a.m. worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">May 1</p> <p>Men's group workday 7:30 (breakfast) 8:30 a.m. Earth Action Team Game Night 6:30-9:30 p.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>8:30 meditation 9 a.m. outreach Communion</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Coordinating Council 7 p.m</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>Mother's Day Confirmation Class 8:30 Earth Day Cele- bration 10 am worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship Malcom Himschoot's ordination</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Community Table 4:30-6:30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>Confirmation Retreat Estes Park Y Camp</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>Echo Deadline 8:30 meditation Confirmation Class 10 a.m. worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>SLF meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>8:30 meditation 10 a.m. worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>Memorial Day</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">June 1</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>Coordinating Council 7 p.m</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Earth Action Team</p>