



Inland Stream

Inland West USA Mission Center News



Joy and hope are burning bright

John Chatburn, Mission Center President and Financial Officer

Sometimes stories like the Christmas story become so familiar that we fail to see beyond the broad contours the narrative and realize what is happening beneath its surface. Our new hymnal includes a new Christmas hymn written by former Presiding Evangelist Danny Belrose entitled "When the Present Holds No Promise" (CCS #430). Here is the first verse:

*When the present holds no promise and the path is sown with strife
And bleak darkness swirls around you and deep thunder crowds your life,
Have no fear of murky shadows; give no thought to failing light.
In a stable wrapped in starlight, joy and hope are burning bright.*

Christ came into a broken world in a very unexpected way. Most people were looking for a Messiah who would come and set things right with force and power. They were not expecting the Messiah to be born in a feeding trough and to become a carpenter's son. The story of Christmas holds power for me because God chooses to send light into the darkness. Not only does God do this once, God does it over and over again and refuses to even let death get in the way of the work of healing and redeeming a broken world.

The Christmas message is that the light of Christ doesn't fear what Danny Belrose refers to as "bleak darkness and murky shadows." Christ embraces the dark places in our lives and transforms them.

Winter is a time in our part of the world where things are literally dark for very long periods of time. Sometimes this can wear on folks when they start to run short on vitamin D. It often takes a lot of energy to simply exist during a winter. In some of the church communities I grew up in, snow was very rare. I remember a couple of Sundays that it snowed, and instead of having church, we had a snow day. This wasn't a day where we played hooky from church; rather it was a time where we played in the snow together as a wonderful expression of Sabbath. Those that were not able to play in the snow gathered in cozy homes and shared meals and stories. Perhaps this winter rather than lamenting winter weather and focusing on what you aren't able to do, your congregation should consider having a snow day as a way greet the cold challenges of winter with the blessings of warm community.

As the stable was wrapped in starlight on Christmas Eve, I hope that in the places where you gather for Christmas that joy and hope are burning bright. Merry Christmas!

-John



Celebrating peace, justice, song

Sandy Decker, Mission Center Bookkeeper

Energy and excitement filled the air as I walked into the Temple Sanctuary the first morning of the Peace Colloquy in Independence, Missouri on Oct.18. This year's Colloquy not only served to award the Community of Christ International Peace Award to Reverend John Bell of the Iona Community but to also launch our new hymnal, *Community of Christ Sings*.

I had not previously attended a Peace Colloquy; in fact I had not been to Independence prior to this event. The idea of the hymnal launch was such a powerful draw to me that I could not stay away.

The hymnal launch service was full of scripture, reflection, prayer, song, and poetry. As it was my first time in the sanctuary and hearing the magnificent pipe organ, it was a thrill to be there and to sing with the congregation. It filled my heart and soul. This was a wonderful way to launch a hymnal that will enhance our worship for years to come.



The opening service was the beginning of a weekend filled with workshops, plenary sessions, worship services, singing, drumming, dancing and praise. John Bell shared throughout the weekend the importance of music in a congregation and that everyone can and should sing.

Key chains like this, showing creative ways to recycle the old hymnal pages were shared at the Peace Colloquy.



More ideas at
<http://www.cofchrist.org/earthsteward/recycle-hymnals.asp>

During the weekend we were challenged to sing the new songs, study the text, and use the songs in the hymnal during our personal worship time. There are hymns that will challenge us, inspire us, comfort us and allow us to sing praises to God who has so richly blessed us.

Each participant of the Peace Colloquy received a USB Drive with the resources for a worship service to launch the hymnals back in their home congregations. We did just that at the Spokane Valley Congregation in November. With just a few minor modifications we used the service provided and experienced a joyful, uplifting launch of the new hymnal.

I've shared with my home congregation how excited I am about the new hymnal. The more I hear the hymns and study the text the more excited I get. I hope that each congregation will have an opportunity to celebrate this wonderful new resource as they worship and praise God.

A conversation with Tamryn Parker Carver

on her contributions to the new hymnal, having her name in print, and why she can't choose a favorite.

Tamryn, how did you become involved in helping with the introduction of the new hymnal, "Community of Christ Sings"?

I met Jan Kraybill, Principal Organist for Community of Christ Headquarters at Reunion in 2009. We got to know each other well, and I am fortunate to call her a friend. When word on a new hymnal first came out, I contacted her and let her know I'd love to help in some way. So she and Lauren Hall, Hymnal Project Manager, asked me to help with editing starting in early 2010. I, and others, would receive reams of paper in the mail. With each delivery of 500 or so hymns, it was our job to go through and play them to make sure they were correct or suggest edits. Sometimes they might include multiple arrangements of hymns and we would note our opinions of why one should be included over another.



We hear you are in print as an arranger of a hymn?

Yes! When I offered to help, Jan let me help arrange some pieces. I and six or seven others across the country each received several hymns and were challenged with different tasks such as writing the chords above the melody line or to arrange to create a harmony, for example. For "Touch The Earth Lightly", I created a four-part harmony. There was a framework there and I did a lot of coloring in! So you'll see my name on #137.

We have to ask ... Do you have a favorite hymn?

There are too many wonderful ones! I cannot choose. I will tell you that in 2010, one of the hymns I was given to review was "For Everyone Born". I fell in love with it immediately. I was so sad that I wouldn't officially be able to see it again for another three years!

Tamryn is the Music Director for the Spokane Valley Community of Christ, where they are blessed with her music as well as the endearing vocals of her children Joel and Sylvie. Sylvie is pictured above singing her solo of "For Everyone Born" at Mission Center Conference's Sunday service.

Many thanks to Bill and Doddie Williams (Spokane Valley) for the wonderful historical display of our tradition's hymnals through the years on previous page.

Seeing missional leadership with new eyes

Debbie Selzer, Mission Center Executive Assistant

After the first day of my first Leading Congregations in Mission (LCM) workshop, I realized that I would never think of leadership the same way again. Even though I have been in leadership roles in many areas of my life and held management positions in my career, I realized I was just about to learn how to truly be a leader.



Community of Christ's field-based LCM program piloted its first group of sessions in the fall of 2012.

Congregation leaders throughout the US have made the commitment to attend the seven weekend sessions over the course of three years and incorporate the practices into their congregations.

I was asked to join my congregation's Pastor Leadership Team (PLT) at the same time that we were transitioning to a new pastor. I was used to an arrangement where someone volunteered to be pastor, and they would ask a couple of people to be counselors. I had that mindset as I began this development program. By the time I jumped into the van for the

ride back to Spokane from our first workshop at Samish Island, those preconceived ideas were replaced by anticipation of a new, shared leadership with my team. I was especially struck by a sentence in our handbook, "This is about diverse leaders learning to function as a team that shares the joys, burdens, and decisions of leadership together."

Through the workshops and the monthly meetings with my PLT, I'm learning the importance of functioning as a team, sharing in missional practices, and discussing and discerning essential questions. Contrary to everything I'd heard or practiced before in leadership, the key is to "slow down". The goal is not to quickly check off as many things on our to-do list as possible, but to focus on loving God, loving one another, and loving our neighbors first.

As my PLT members and I are becoming accustomed to this new approach, it has been exciting to invite the congregation to share in missional practices, and develop new understanding of what it means to be missional and relational with each other as well as extend invitation, hospitality, and healing to those in our neighborhoods and beyond.

Photo above, Inland West Mission Center LCM participants and Congregational Support Ministers:

Seated from left - Ann Glenn (Boise), Shirley Jester (Boise), Sandy VanDerWalker (supporting Coeur d'Alene), JoAnn Fisher (supporting Boise), Sandy Decker (Spokane Valley). Standing from left - Debbie Selzer (Spokane Valley), Terry Reiff (Supporting Billings), John VanDerWalker (supporting Spokane Valley), Judy Polley (Spokane Valley), Candy Moon (Coeur d'Alene), Pat Moon (Coeur d'Alene), Barbara Horner (Boise), Walt McIntosh (Billings), Gil Martell (Billings) Not pictured - Nancy Sacry (supporting Billings), Dixie Simon (supporting Coeur d'Alene)

To learn more about LCM, contact John Chatburn (see p. 5)

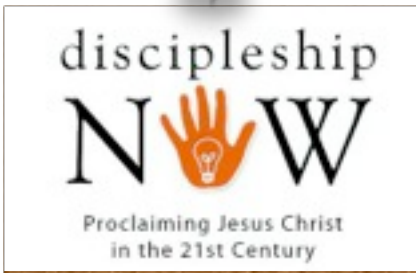


Photo lower - Andrea Silva (Boise), Steve and Lorainne Salzman (Lewis and Clark), Irene Thuesen (Billings), Angela Salzman (Spokane Valley), Sheri Moody St. Clair (Boise), Wayne and Colleen Gunter (Sagle). Upper- Facilitators Renee Fisher and JoAnn Fisher, Richard Waddell (Boise), Dixie Simon (Spokane Valley), Facilitators Robin Linkhart and John VanDerWalker. Not pictured Mikki Taylor

Congrats to our second Discipleship Now group! They completed two years of study and weekend sessions and will complete their practicum in the next year. Our next group is forming now and the first weekend session is in February. We'd like to hear from you if you are interested in making this commitment to classic education with spiritual formation [through worship, fellowship and practical application during 6 intensive weekend gatherings.

Visit our home page at www.cofchrist-iwest.org for more info.

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**Save the dates for
 2014 reunions!**

Samish Island: June 21-28

Echo Valley: June 26- July 2nd

Red Cliffe: July 5th - July 11th

Cascade: July 8th- 13th

Mission Center Conference Snapshots

Oct. 6 & 7, 2013

Spokane Valley Community of Christ



Top - L Apostle Ron Harmon facilitating a Priesthood breakout session. **R** Sandy Decker (Spokane Valley) & Jenn Killpack (Guest Minister)

Middle - L - David & Renee Fisher (Boise) **R** - Karen Evans and Roslyn Bentz (Lewis and Clark) raised Yes Fund dollars with latte and card sales.

Bottom - Robin & Pat Windes (Hagerman) and Shirley Jester (Boise). Pat was presented the President's Award for his commitment as a pastor. **Many thanks to Dick McKee (Boise) for capturing Conference with his camera.**



Debbie Selzer and Angela Salzman (Spokane Valley)



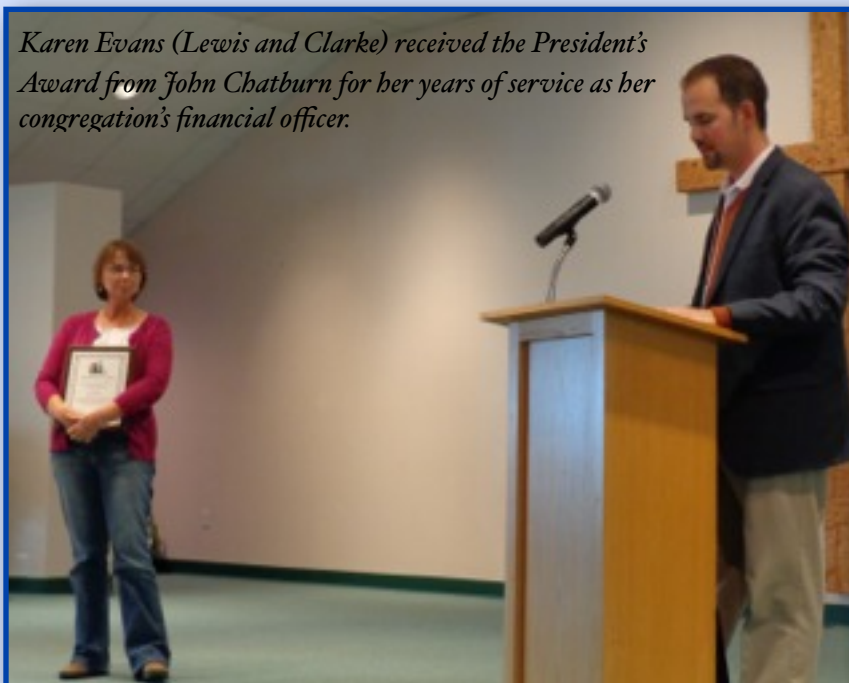
*Colton Masters, Ashley Daugherty (Lewis and Clark)
Marie Chapman, Morgan Heglie (Spokane Valley)*



*Mark Dexheimer Trujullio (Ogden), JoAnn Fisher, Jared Silva
(Boise) at the Saturday morning worship*



*Travis Frost (Lewis and Clark), Tamryn Parker Carver, Mark
Olson (Spokane Valley) at Sunday morning worship*



*Karen Evans (Lewis and Clarke) received the President's
Award from John Chatburn for her years of service as her
congregation's financial officer.*



*Adia Lee (Ogden),
Kirsten Ryerson
(Whitehall)*

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