

We Ask of the Church: A Witness

By Harvey H. Potthoff

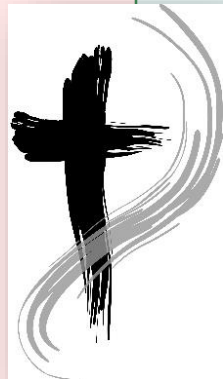
Above all else, the church in this time is asked to be an authentic witness to the greatness of its vision and the greatness of its hope. In the current confusions of the world there are many witnesses to the irrational, destructive, and immature dimensions of human nature. The church serves the world exceedingly well when it bears witness to the God who makes for wholeness, and to human beings as creatures who are born for wholeness. The church serves in bearing witness to the dignity and strengths and possibilities of human beings.

A part of the church's witness must be in its own internal life However, the most significant changes now to be observed in the church do not have to do with its internal life alone. They have to do with the church's relationship with the secular order. The church which has long declared that God's *supreme language is that of being present with human beings* is now demonstrating a new determination to implement that teaching in the realities of the world.

The church cannot do everything. Much of the humanitarian work of the world must be done through individuals and various agencies. And yet, it is not enough for the church to speak in words alone. Its most eloquent language is in the caring which seeks out the lost and lone and estranged, in action speaking its word of acceptance and of hope. At the heart of the Christian faith is the affirmation of a divine grace that goes forth at personal cost to save and heal and restore and make whole. The church is asked to give witness in deed to this gospel at crucial points within the world, where life is struggling for justice, understanding, integrity, and meaning On a fundamental level, the church is now called to bear witness to its own gospel, that God calls *all* persons to wholeness, and that humanity itself is often the mediator of God's grace.

Can contemporary human beings speak meaningfully of the reality of God? The answer to this question cannot come in words alone. It must come in the decision for meaning and purposefulness which we bring to our own existence. It must come in the trust and devotion we reveal in our daily living. It must come in the celebration of life in its wholeness, which is the worship of God. For many persons the answer will be profoundly influenced by the church's witness to the gospel with which it has been entrusted. It is the enduring function of the church to make God real to human beings.

— from *God and the Celebration of Life*, 1969



September offerings and attendance

09/01/2019	31	\$ 1047.00
09/08/2019	40	\$ 834.00
09/15/2019	52	\$ 4849.00
09/22/2019	35	\$ 1710.00
09/29/2019	48	\$ 1322.50

Total \$9762.50

Average Attendance: 41
(Last year 40)

The church needs about \$10,000 a month to cover expenses.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

We missed a few birthdays in September so we are including them in this issue.

Lee Meyer	1-Sep	Birthday
Bonnie and Curt Daly	1-Sep	Anniversary
Claudia Schmitt and David Conner	2-Sep	Anniversary
Kevin Meyer	9-Sep	Birthday
Matt Brozovich	9-Sep	Birthday
Lee Rains Thomas	13-Sep	Birthday
Joanne Dyer	15-Sep	Birthday
Marilyn Olson	15-Sep	Birthday
Chuck Parson	15-Sep	Birthday
Rod Gustafson	18-Sep	Birthday
Levi Meyer	18-Sep	Birthday
Christine Bland	29-Sep	Birthday
Owen Stocking	4-Oct	Birthday
Pam Cokins	17-Oct	Birthday
Fred Correll	19-Oct	Birthday
Antares Jeffares-Whitehead	20-Oct	Birthday

Per Capita Dues Are Payable Now

We are now collecting per capita dues. They are **\$13.50 per member**. If you can't remember whether or not you have paid, please check with Karen Parkinson, Financial Secretary.

Calendar of events

- Oct. 12: Deacons and Trustees meet. There will be no **Yoga**.
- Oct. 12: Explore & Discover work day
- Oct. 13: **BBQ Sunday**. Bring a side dish & a donation to help pay for meat. You may BYOB
- Oct. 26: Women's Homelessness Initiative at 6th Avenue UCC. Activity begins at 4:00 pm.
- Oct. 26 (Saturday): E&D Halloween Party, 10—noon. WRCC children & adults are invited!
- Oct. 29: E&D CLOSED for parent-teacher conferences.
- Nov 10: Our congregation's Annual Meeting. Committee heads and officers please submit your reports.

Regular weekly and monthly activities

- ❖ Our Meditation group meets every Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., except for the first Wednesday.
- ❖ The Adult Study Hour (ASH) meets every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
- ❖ Sunday worship begins at 10:00.
- ❖ Our choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Yoga meets most Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ A 12-Step group meets in our Boulevard room every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- ❖ Explore and Discover Advisory Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in our fellowship hall

Mouse Morsels

Happy October, everyone! Thank you to many people who have been working on our landscape. **Fred Rollenhagen** trimmed the Juniper bushes. This is hard work! Congrats to **Becky Anderson**, who has recently accepted new and more demanding responsibilities in the CFO's office at the Anschutz Corporation. Big thanks to **Melissa Borneman** for returning to her old position as our church's nursery supervisor—an important job! **Anne Cain**, a long-time member of our congregation, has now moved permanently to Hendersonville, NC. We miss you very much, Anne!

Congrats to **Deana Carter** and **Ro Rains**, who are now enjoying a newly remodeled kitchen. What fun! **Pam Cokins** had surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital to remove malignant tumors under her chin; Pam is recovering well and the prognosis is hopeful. We love you, Pam! **Carol Meswarb** continues in hospice care at home; we are thinking of **Carol** and **Norm**. **Keith Daly** also is in hospice care at home; we offer prayers for **Keith** and **Norma**. **Joanne Gustafson** fell on some stairs and suffered bumps and bruises. We are sorry about that but glad that the injuries weren't more serious. **Victor Westfall** continues to live in a special facility for persons with Parkinson's disease; we miss seeing Vic and wish him and **Renate** the best.

Melinda Townsend had to go to Wisconsin for a funeral but is back already. Thanks to Melinda for helping with Communion on October 6! **Grant Kenney** recently earned a black belt in karate and was recognized at a formal ceremony for this very impressive accomplishment. The black-belt requirements are extensive and astonishing. Wow! **Jeri Mitchell** has sent another batch of beautiful prayer shawls from her new home in Alaska. That's very generous! Thank you, Jeri. Pastors **Claudia** and **David** visited Claudia's kids and their families in Washington, DC, and Raleigh, NC, at the end of September. C&D have two new granddaughters, **Daphne** (daughter of Colin and Alyssa Johnson) and **Florence** (daughter of Fauve Johnson and Marjorie Rapp). **Gabrielle** and **Bob Sherry** have been out of town camping. We mice wonder: isn't the weather getting a little chilly for that?



Constance Wise went on a trip last month with her sister from Kansas City, but Constance is home now and we are glad that she is back with us in church. We are happy for **Karen** and **Cynthia Parkinson**, who are celebrating a new grand-niece, **Isadora Loretta Sorbelli (Izzie)**, born 8/26/19 in Italy. Izzie is the granddaughter of Cynthia and Karen's brother, Robin, who grew up in our church but now lives in Kansas City. (Photo at left)

If you have news that you would like to share, *please let us know*. Sometimes we overlook things or don't know about them at all, but we don't want to leave anyone out. — *the Church Mice*

The Church Mouse is published monthly by the Wheat Ridge Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. The deadline for copy is the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Articles may be handwritten or typed, but we prefer plain text sent via email to wheatridgeucc@gmail.com. Articles must indicate the name of the writer and/or sender. Unsigned articles are written by the editor. The church website is: www.wheatridgeucc.org. News and photos for the website should be sent to the same email address listed above. Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. Office hours are 8:30 to 1:00pm daily. Monday is the minister's day off. The pastor may be reached at 303-238-6271 (office), 303-246- 0589 (Claudia's cell), or wheatridgeucc@gmail.com.

Sue Schafer and Shirleen Joha recently attended the Safety in Faith Summit. Here are some of the main points Sue and Shirleen gleaned from the Conference:

The first big threat is the attitude that **“It can’t happen here.”**

We need to ask the question, “How do we protect our buildings, grounds, and people? Communities of faith are “soft targets” for harm along with schools, government buildings and hospitals.

Recommendations:

- 1) We need an EMERGENCY PLAN for fire, candles, medical/disability, tornadoes, and other natural disasters.
- 2) We need a SECURITY PLAN for the exterior grounds, lighting, parking lots, windows, keys, safes, alarm system, mechanical systems. We also need greeters and ushers trained to deal with a strange-looking visitor.

The most common threats in this order are: Fire, falls, thefts, vandalism, arson, and active shooter. It is recommended that we have a plan in place for each of these potential safety issues. The conference provided a reader-friendly Do It Yourself Security Checklist where a group or person could mark Yes, No, or Not Applicable to thirteen potential threats. These threats can be reduced if we take pro-active action. We plan to form a task force to make an assessment of our safety concerns. Our trustees have also approved and purchased security cameras and a smoke alarm system. We hope to get them installed soon.

Ways to Keep your Home Safe from Burglars

- 1.) **Examine** your home’s **main entrance and exit**. You should have a solid hardwood or steel front door, not a lightweight hollow core door. To prevent intruders from kicking your door open, you can buy a heavy-duty four-screw deadbolt strike plate.
- 2) **Use timers** and TVs to fool potential burglars in thinking your home is occupied.
- 3) Be mindful of **windows and sliding glass doors**. If you put a dowel or shower curtain rod in the track, intruders won’t be able to slide the window or door open even if they get past the lock.
- 4.) **Use warning signs:** Because burglars are looking for the easiest target, they don’t want to risk being mauled by a Doberman.
- 5.) **Lighting** is crucial! The outside of your home should be well lit to discourage burglars from targeting your home. Put motion-sensing lights by your entrances and doorways.
- 6.) **Get creative about hiding your valuables.** Convicted burglars have confessed that they “always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.”
- 7.) Put your phone down and look around. **Awareness and mindfulness** of your surroundings is key for keeping yourself and your home safe. Be attentive to new people walking or driving through the area.
- 8.) Before renting, **ask your landlord to make minor security improvements**. Before you move in, take a close look at your new apartment’s entrances, lighting, locks, and fire escapes. Renters should make sure window locks work and get their existing locks re-keyed.

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/75790/security-experts-share-9-ways-make-your-home-safer>