

35 YEARS OF TENDING "THE FLAME"

A collage of religious symbols including the Om symbol, a cross, a Star of David, a crescent and star, a wheel, and a star, set against a background of bare tree branches. The text "MAY 2014" is visible in the upper right.

CONTENTS

Pages 1-2

Foreword by Rich Thompson

Pages 3-5

Introduction by Gordon Hadlow

Pages 6-7

35 Year Timeline

Pages 8-9

History of Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council
35 YEARS OF TENDING "THE FLAME"

Pages 10-27

Index and History Summaries of IFC Member Faith Communities

Pages 28-52

Photo Gallery and Miscellany

Pages 53-62

IFC Agency Members

Page 63

Good Signs

Pages 64-66

All photos by Caryl Beaty, Anita Hildebrand and other IFC members unless noted otherwise.



Executive Team Retreat, Nov. 16, 2013, at Geller Center:
(from left) Carol Smith, Sandra Brown, Alex Statham-Lardner,
Gordon Hadlow, Rich Thompson, Katie Huffman,
Cindy Worayeth, Kay Bunch, Anita Hildebrand, Shannon Ash,
Rick Bunch, Tim Dolan.



Thank you to
1st Bank for its
generous donation
toward the
publication of this
history and its
support of Fort
Collins Area
Interfaith Council.

May 2014



FOREWORD

Krista Tippett in her book, *Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters and How to Talk About It*, entitles one of the chapters, "Remembering Forward." So it is that the following history of the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council (IFC), and religious life in the community otherwise, comes with the future as well as the past in mind. For when readers reflect upon what has gone before, they will gain vital perspective going forward.

Certainly the observance of IFC's 35th Anniversary in 2014 provides the occasion to share its story with a wider audience. Moreover, as it happens, the City of Fort Collins will be celebrating its Sesquicentennial in that year as well. Therefore, the three-and-a-half decades of this one organization may best be understood in the context of the 150 years of its host municipality. Moreover, the narrative which is to follow can be instructively compared to earlier histories of the area, in order to discern the depth and speed of change in this part of Northern Colorado, as indeed this is the case throughout the nation.

No history of the area should commence without acknowledging those Native Americans who long preceded the arrival of latter-day Americans. As it happens, the discovery in 1934 of the Lindenmeier archaeological site north of Fort Collins pushes human habitation back 10,000 years, to the end of the last Ice Age. Dr. Elizabeth Morris, of the University of Nebraska State Museum in a 1980 visit to the site, speculated that the religion of these Folsom peoples dealt with weather prediction, hunting conditions, and fertility. The stone rings of the surrounding Soapstone Prairie are associated with rituals.

The post-1700 movement of Plains Indians brought the spiritual practices of medicine men, the Sun Dance and the Sweat Lodge. In 1878 all remaining Indians were required to move to reservations, including spouses of whites. Antoine Janis moved to the Pine Ridge reservation with his Sioux wife.

Between the first of the local histories, Ansel Watrous' *History of Larimer County, 1911*, and the latter day account of *The History of Larimer County, Colorado 1860s-1987*, chapters are devoted to "Churches." Both cite the frontier origins of the oldest congregations, such as the Circuit Riders who in 1867 were the precursors of those who built of what became the First United Methodist Church in 1876 at LaPorte and Mason. Likewise, the noted Superintendent of Territorial Missions, Sheldon Jackson, led in the organizing of the Presbyterian Church at Linden and Walnut, also in 1876.

The Rev. Charles Taylor, the organizing pastor of Timnath Presbyterian Church in 1883, who also served as the first postmaster, was even the one to give the name to the neighboring town, after a city cited in the book of Judges.

Each of the other traditional denominations had been established by the turn of the century: the First Baptist Church in 1879, the Episcopal Church in 1882, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1898, St. Joseph's Catholic Church in 1901, the Unity (Unitarian) Church in 1904, the German-Russian Congregational Church in 1905, and the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1914.

Evadene Burris Swanson, in her 1975 Centennial book, *Fort Collins Yesterdays*, noted that at the turn of the 20th Century it was said that Fort Collins was "a town of nine churches and no saloons" (except outside city limits!). These and the other early congregations were mostly located on what was called "Church Row," on College and Remington, between Mountain and Mulberry. And that remained the pattern for the most part until the mid-century, when the population had grown only to 14,937.

Since then the growth became exponential, with 25,027 people counted in 1960, 44,000 in 1970, and 64,236 in 1980, the year after the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council was founded. With so much of the city's growth occurring to the south, a number of congregations previously in the downtown area moved in that direction, as the account of several IFC member faith communities in this history will delineate. However, with that population growth came an increase in diversity which was reflected in the founding of IFC. To be sure, there was some reference to diversity in the 1987 *History of Larimer County*, as the founding of Holy Family Catholic Church in 1924 for Spanish-speaking congregants was described. Also included was an account of how the increase in the number of Jewish families in the area led to the dedication of the only synagogue between Greeley and Cheyenne – Congregation Har Shalom in 1981.

But the 1987 History did not mention the founding and development of the Islamic Center which originated in the early 1960s. Nor did it acknowledge the development of the Theologian in Residence program, inspired by Vatican II and led by Dr. Joachim Viens, professor at Colorado State University. Nor did it recount the beginnings of the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council itself, an event which served as a harbinger of change which the community continues to undergo. For it was founded as a local expression of a nation-wide interfaith movement, which did not find its way in earlier religious histories, but certainly will in the years to come.

In the meantime, those founders who were instrumental in its growth and development of IFC epitomized a range of social activism which was new to Fort Collins. Among them was Rev. Bob Geller, the long-time Campus Minister at Colorado State University. Arriving in the city in 1962, Geller discovered that the Hispanic community in the northern part of the city was without paved streets and running water. He not only led student groups in meeting the needs of residents of that area, but successfully lobbied civic and business leaders to end other discriminatory practices. Moreover, it was in the basement of the Geller Center, located at 629 Howes St., that such social services as the Food Bank of Larimer County originated.

When Sister Mary Alice Murphy moved to Fort Collins in 1977, she brought organizing skills which over a period of thirty-years resulted in the development of a series of social agencies which have particularly addressed the issues of poverty and homeless persons. She brought together teams of activists which led to the building of the Mission, to the founding of CARE Housing in 1992, of the Homelessness Prevention Initiative (HPI) in 2002, and the Sister Mary Murphy Center for Hope in 2008.

It was in 2003 that Holmes Ralston, the University Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Colorado State University, received the Templeton Prize in Religion, as awarded by Prince Phillip in Buckingham Palace. In addition to his "Genes, Genesis and God," presented for the noted Gifford Lectures, he has recently authored *A New Environmental Ethics: The Next Millennium for Life on Earth*.

The most recent project of IFC - Faith Family Hospitality – has brought a national model to the locality, whereby faith communities provide overnight accommodations to up to four homeless families for a week at a time on a rotating basis. Currently there are eleven host faith communities and ten support faith communities. Several of these groups are members of the Fort Collins Church Network which was founded in the 1990s.

The trajectory of population growth of the local population – from 87,758 in 1990 to 118,652 in 2000, to 143,986 in 2010 suggests ever increasing diversity and social need. Just two examples of the latter is to be found among the 40,000 residents living below the poverty line in Larimer County (enough to fill Hughes Stadium!) and in the number of children currently living in poverty which has grown 94.6 percent since 2000. Hence the opportunity for service is also growing.

In tracing how the religious life of Fort Collins has reflected that demographic growth, Sarah Jane Kyle, reporter for the Fort Collins Coloradoan, wrote a feature story which was published in the June 13, 2013, edition. At this point, 10.8 percent of the religious community is Catholic; 17.3 percent belong to the Church of Christ of Latter-Day Saints; 71.9 percent attend other Christian churches, nearly half of whom attend congregations of 1000 or more. More than a quarter of this last number belong to Timberline Church, making it a “mega-church” - a term which has become current in recent decades signifying membership of over 2000. Timberline Church originated from the First Assembly of God Church, founded in Fort Collins in 1921. By 1986 the congregation had 90 members, when the current Senior Pastor, Dary Northrup, was called. Today Timberline’s membership is listed as 5000.

The three other congregations which average a weekly attendance of more than a 1000 include the Faith Evangelical Free Church, founded in Fort Collins in 1962; the Vineyard Church of the Rockies, founded in 1982; and Redeemer Lutheran Church, chartered in 1987.

Timberline Church’s SERVE 6.8, a non-profit affiliate of Timberline Church, has become owner and operator of the Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope. Its facility includes the site for the American Red Cross’ Evacuation Center for the survivors of the 2012 High Park Fire and the September 2013 Floods. IFC’s commitment to those with unmet needs continues unabated, as it remains a catalyst and network for services.

Finally, towards the end of this “Remembering Forward,” special thanks goes to Gordon Hadlow, Chair of the History Team, and to all those serving on it. They thereby are offering this history as a gift to the community on behalf of the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council in celebrating its 35th Anniversary.



Richard Thompson, President
Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council

Introduction

The year 2014 will mark the 35th Anniversary of the Fort Collins Interfaith Council (IFC), and the history presented in this document will take us from the establishment of the IFC in 1979, then called the Fort Collins Interfaith Concerns and Action Committee, to the present. It is a most fascinating story that began with an interest in the interfaith movement, emphasizing the fact that our faith communities “have more in common than we have differences.” This developed into a concern for many of the unmet needs in the Fort Collins Area, resulting in a partnership today of Faith Communities with the Agencies and Non-Profit Organizations that helps address those needs.

Specifically, the Interfaith Council:

- Serves as a bridge from the faith communities to provide grants and support to service agencies.
- Identifies needs not presently being met in the community, seeks means to meet those needs and supports already existing efforts.
- Continues to serve as a catalyst for new outreach in the community, having provided leadership in the establishment of such notable services as the Food Bank for Larimer County, CARE Housing, Homelessness Prevention Initiative, and, currently, Faith Family Hospitality, which provides overnight accommodations for homeless families among rotating congregations.
- Offers a voice of moral concern in the community.

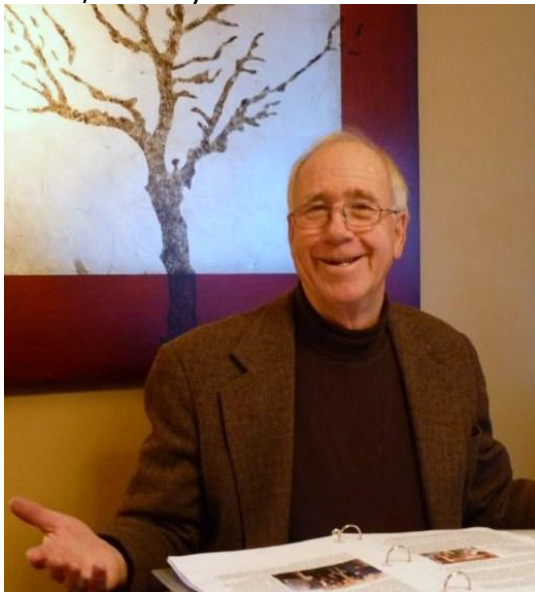
Today there are more than 20 faith communities in the organization, representing a cross section of the Fort Collins faith communities, and includes faith communities from most of the religious traditions that exist today. These faith communities are joined by approximately 25 non-profit affiliates that cover a wide spectrum of service to the residents of Fort Collins. And the door is always open to other faith communities and service agencies who would like to join with likeminded groups who know that in numbers the organization can multiply its efforts within the Fort Collins Community. We expect the Fort Collins Interfaith Council to remain a dynamic force in the community well into the future. The Interfaith Council of Fort Collins has prepared this history to document these efforts during this 35 year period and offers it as a gift to the City of Fort Collins and its residents.

The inspiration for this important endeavor began with the current President of the Interfaith Council, Mr. Richard Thompson. Rich nurtured this idea over the last few years, and was the catalyst behind the effort. He worked intently with the Council’s executive team to develop the concept, and then used his recruiting skills to assemble a group of interested individuals who would form the History Team, and then shepherded this team throughout the effort. That this endeavor came to fruition can directly be attributed to his managerial and people skills. In addition, we were fortunate to have the guidance of Lesley Drayton and the staff of the Fort Collins Archives, located at the new Fort Collins Museum of Discovery.

These professionals met with us early in the process, and were able to get the team started in the right direction to conduct thorough research that resulted in this document. The staff was always available to us with their professional expertise.

We owe a great deal of thanks to the American Baptist Church of Fort Collins. This faith community provided us not only a place to meet on a regular basis, but also acted as a repository of all the collected records. In particular, we owe a debt of gratitude to several members of the American Baptist Church, including Mrs. Betty Moseley, a member of the original Interfaith Council, who supervised all of the meetings and the records, as well as their former pastor, the Reverend Don Lambert, one of the five original pastors of the Interfaith Council, who made the time to work with us as well as providing us written documents and valuable insight on the early days of the Council. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of all those participants who spent so much of their time working directly on this project as part of the History Team. This includes Caryl Beaty of Plymouth Congregational Church, Keith Black of Heart of the Rockies Christian Church, John McGee of Crossroads Safehouse, Betty Moseley of American Baptist Church, Claire Cafaro of Religious Society of Friends, Tim Dolan of Trinity Lutheran Church, and Cindy Worayeth of the Islamic Center. In particular, I would like to thank Anita Hildebrand of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and Caryl Beaty, who acted as the co-editors for the history team in the preparation of the document. The project would never have been completed without the team's work and dedication.

Gordon Hadlow
Chair, History Team









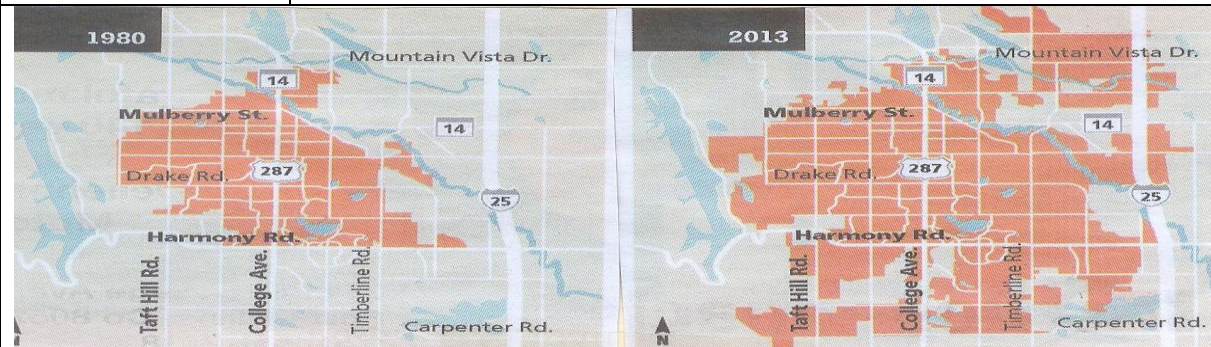
Gordon Hadlow reviews a draft of the IFC history.



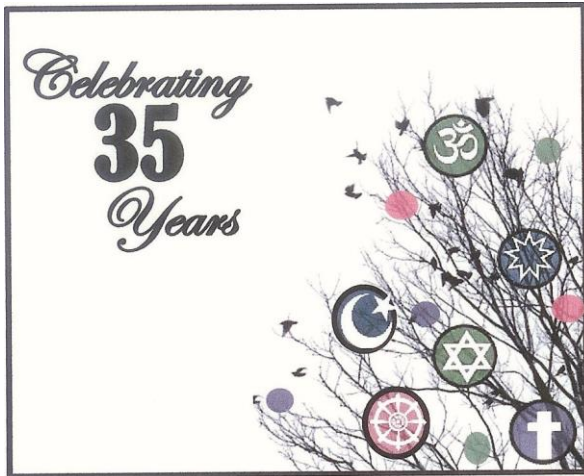
Betty Moseley and the Rev. Don Lambert work on the IFC history.

35 YEAR TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
Summer, 1978	Frank Holland calls on area clergy about establishing a local united ecumenical mission to accomplish what no church alone could do in the city.
January 9, 1979	The Fort Collins Area Interfaith Concerns and Action committee (ICAC) holds its organizational meeting to develop purpose, goals, objectives and strategies.
October, 1979	First newsletter of ICAC distributed (see copy in Photo Gallery and Miscellany).
October 13, 1981	ICAC changes its name to Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council (IFC).
May 31, 1983	Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council's Articles of Incorporation as a non-profit corporation filed with Colorado Secretary of State.
March 19, 1984	 <p>Articles of Incorporation as a non-profit corporation filed with Colorado Secretary of State for Food Bank for Larimer County, now known as Food Bank for Larimer County. IFC is instrumental in establishing the Food Bank for Larimer County.</p>
November 17-23, 1987	Justice for All Week Proclaimed by City of Fort Collins through IFC's efforts.
July 28, 1997	After heavy rain, a flash flood flows through central Fort Collins, killing five people living in a mobile home park. IFC serves as a fiscal agent, processing a quarter of a million dollars in donations to help those displaced or otherwise affected by the flood.
April 2002	 <p>Interfaith Council serves as "pass through" agency to funnel funds to Homelessness Prevention Initiative (HPI) for emergency rental assistance. Neighbor to Neighbor provides interview and check writing services to HPI for several years. IFC is instrumental in establishing HPI.</p>
February 22, 2007	<p>Articles of Incorporation as non-profit corporation filed with Colorado Secretary of State for Homelessness Prevention Initiative (HPI). The logo shown is HPI's first logo.</p> 

DATE	EVENT	
February 5, 2009	IFC Bylaws amended at annual meeting; during the year, IFC meetings changed to one meeting a month; Amended Bylaws created new teams: Activities and Programs; Communication and Membership; Grants and Awards.	
July 2012		Forest fires burn in canyons west of Fort Collins, burning 87,250 acres. The High Park fire is the largest in the area's history and second largest in Colorado's history.
July 19, 2013	Articles of Incorporation as non-profit corporation filed with Colorado Secretary of State for Faith Family Hospitality of Fort Collins, Inc (FFI). IFC is instrumental in establishing FFH.	
July 19, 2013		Trade name for Sister Mary Alice Center for Hope filed with Colorado Secretary of State by new owner/operator, Serve 6.8. On December 13, 2007, Housing Services Day Center, Inc. had filed a trade name for the Center.
Beginning September 11, 2013	Wide-spread flooding in Larimer, Weld, Boulder and 17 other counties. Between 12-18 inches of rain fell along the Front Range, especially near Boulder according to the U.S. Drought Monitor website.	
		

Boundaries of the City of Fort Collins in 1980 and 2013 show the growth of the City. The population in 1980 was 64,092; the population in 1997 was 100,000 [est.]; the population in 2013 was 151,330. There are approximately 350 non-profit agencies registered in Larimer County. The *City of Fort Collins Social Sustainability Gaps Analysis* by BBC Research & Consulting, dated November 18, 2013, contains a summary of the religious diversity of Fort Collins among other demographic characteristics of the City.



Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council
P.O. Box 270256
Fort Collins, CO 80527-0256

HISTORY OF FORT COLLINS AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL

THE SPARK



During the summer of 1978, Frank Holland, a former Roman Catholic priest, shown on the left, then representing Catholic Community Services in Northern Colorado, visited clergy from the Fort Collins area about establishing a local united ecumenical mission to accomplish what no church alone could do in the city. Its purpose would be to meet the basic needs of less fortunate people – food, housing, medical assistance and social justice.

The first five respondents to Frank Holland's calls included: Rev. Philip Dunford, Westminster Presbyterian Church; Rev. Donald Lambert, American Baptist Church; Rev. Del Paulson, First United Methodist Church; Rev. Robert Nelson, Trinity Lutheran Church; and Rev. Fred Edmonds, Plymouth Congregational Church.

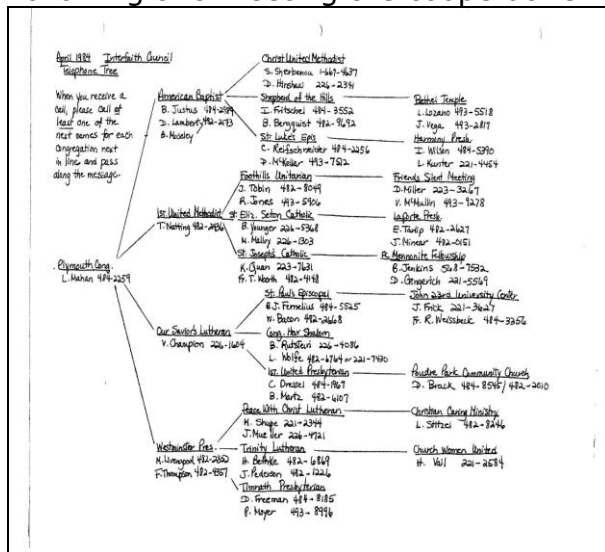
They were soon joined by the following: Rev. John Minear, LaPorte Presbyterian Church; Rev. Robert Geller, United Campus Ministry; Rev. Bill Haig, First Presbyterian Church; and Father Tom McCormick, Blessed John XXIII University Parish.

Rev. Lambert, who continues to live in Fort Collins as of this writing, has identified three stages in this early history. The first stage is what he terms *The Spark*. This period extended through 1978, as a name was chosen – The Fort Collins Area Interfaith Concerns and Action Committee (ICAC). A steering committee began meeting twice monthly. Due to the transient nature of clergy, it was agreed that key laity should be engaged, as they remain longer-term in the community.

It was further decided that an official organizational meeting would be held on January 9, 1979, to develop purpose, goals, objectives and strategies. Minutes were kept. The ICAC's purpose was stated as follows:

- To identify human needs and social concerns in our larger community that are not currently being met, especially with regard to lower income people;
- To develop ways of relating our faith communities institutionally and personally to these needs and concerns;
- To promote communication among existing groups and agencies, bringing them together for more effective work, and reconciling conflicts when possible;
- To act directly, as we can, on specific issues and needs.

Following this meeting the cooperative movement and mission was well on its way.



Starting up a new organization isn't just about a passion and a purpose. Before wide access and use of computers, cell phones, e-mail, web sites and copiers, organizational work had to be done by handwritten reports and by typewriter. To the left is an example of a "telephone tree" dated April 1984 used by the membership to communicate among members. If a notice needed to be sent out, the first person on each branch started the first call to the member below his or her name and so on. The first typed newsletter dated October 1979 is included in the Photo Gallery and Miscellany section.



Many notices, brochures, minutes, newspaper articles, task force reports, etc., produced through the years are stored in archives housed at American Baptist Church at 600 S. Shields Street. Betty Moseley, shown in the picture to the left, has worked diligently to save, organize and compile documentation from the beginnings of IFC.

This history could not have been produced without her passionate interest in preserving IFC's past. In addition, Linda Mahan contributed greatly by

supplying her files and knowledge from the early days, including the artistic telephone tree illustration shown above.

THE IGNITION

Rev. Lambert calls Stage Two *The Ignition*. By the spring of 1979 more than a dozen churches represented in the Fort Collins Ministerial Alliance had become active members of ICAC as listed below.

Plymouth Congregational Church	LaPorte United Presbyterian Church	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
United Campus Ministry	Christ United Methodist Church	Timnath Presbyterian Church
First United Methodist Church	Foothills Unitarian Church	First United Presbyterian Church
Trinity Lutheran Church	Fort Collins Mennonite Community	Harmony Road Presbyterian Church
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church	American Baptist Church	Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Holy Family Roman Catholic Church	St. Luke's Episcopal Church	John XXIII Roman Catholic Church
Bethel Temple, Spanish Assembly of God	Westminster United Presbyterian Church	

There was a particular groundswell of interest among the laity, who saw the need for community volunteers to meet a variety of needs of impoverished families. Government leaders and those from businesses and agencies were interviewed to identify concerns, needs and injustices.

The April 17, 1979, minutes reported major areas that needed to be addressed by task forces: nursing home improvements, Hospice programs, aid for transients, low-income housing, and support for early juvenile offenders.

In the summer of 1979, ICAC endorsed Indo-Chinese resettlement efforts, and churches began to adopt refugee families. Free medical and dental clinics and pharmacies were established on North College Avenue. A Peace Task Force was established.

In these early days, the Interfaith Council was marked by more hands-on labor than later years. Membership dues were only \$25, enough to cover postage and administrative expenses. It worked with the Housing Authority of Fort Collins and Neighbor to Neighbor and Salvation Army to obtain several apartments for migrants and homeless persons. It helped obtain the donation of a house which was moved to Blessed John XXIII property, with members even making curtains so it could be more livable, in what was called Garden Arms Transition House (see picture to the left).



Subsequently, several current affiliate members originated as initiatives of the Interfaith Council, such as the Food Bank for Larimer County. The Interfaith Food Bank Task Force grew out of the needs of the local and migrant people in Fort Collins. Initiated with a freezer and shelf for canned goods in the basement of the United Campus Ministry House, now called the

Geller Center for Spiritual Development, the effort to provide food to all persons in need led to the Interfaith Food Bank housed in the Crisis and Information Center, evolving then into the Larimer County Food Distribution Center (LCFDC). At the end of 1984, the Interfaith Food Bank became a direct provider of food to the LCFDC. IFC was then able to coordinate efforts with LCFDC to supply food to local community agencies. A report by the Task Force stated that in 1986 the LCFDC could provide a meal at 55 cents per meal. In 2013 a meal can be provided for \$1.00.

Other IFC-initiated programs included the Children's Clinic, now located at Poudre Valley Hospital, and IFC provided assistance in the development of Volunteers Clearing House, which is now called the Education and Life Training Center (ELTC). IFC's Day Care Program for Migrant Children accomplished its purpose and Colorado Migrant Council found new facilities—so the Task Force was disbanded in 1983, but its accomplishments continued. IFC has supported CROP Walk yearly, with the most recent walk held on October 6, 2013. CROP Walk held the first "charity walk" in the US during WWII, collecting money to alleviate hunger worldwide, with one-fourth of the donations given to local food banks.



International Peace Poppy

Another of the earliest projects was a Peace Task Force, which held vigils at noon on weekends at the Oak Street Plaza. Activist businessman Joe Stern was long remembered as someone handing out leaflets and, in later years, cartoons on the CSU campus. Peace with Justice Weeks, led by Linda Mahan, brought excellent programs and speakers to Fort Collins.

THE FLAME

Stage 3, during the 1980s, which Rev. Lambert calls *The Flame*, might well be marked when the name of the organization became the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council (hereinafter IFC). This change occurred on October 13, 1981, at the meeting held at St. Joseph's Catholic Church.

The Not-for Profit Articles of Incorporation were signed on May 25, 1983, by the IFC Board of Directors, including Carol Dressler, Linda Mahan, Sr. Mercedes Malloy, David Gingrich, Rev, Larry Kunter and Rev. Walter Royal Jones, Jr. with the address of the registered office of the corporation c/o Christ United Methodist Church at 301 E. Drake.

In a July 27, 1983, article in The Coloradoan entitled "Interfaith Provides Food, Shelter," the author cited how the Interfaith Food Services unified the numerous food bank projects and distributed food through the Crisis and Information Hotline, the Salvation Army, and Mary's Closet at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Through its Transitional Housing Task Force two apartments were rented as an IFC project for

families in need in cooperation with the Fort Collins Housing Authority and Neighbor to Neighbor.

"It's one of the few groups I've been involved with that you came away feeling that you've really gotten something done," said Treasurer Carol Dressler and representative of the Children's Clinic.

"With the cuts in federal funding for human services programs, all agencies need to improve their coordination and the Interfaith Council does a lot of that," said Betty Moseley, American Baptist Church representative to IFC.

Economic and human disparity among persons living in Fort Collins was an IFC concern in 1987. IFC efforts resulted in a Proclamation by Mayor Larry Estrada declaring November 17-23, 1987 as JUSTICE FOR ALL WEEK. The Proclamation reads, in part, "Whereas, by adopting practices which foster just compensation, a safe workplace, equal rights and a healthy environment, the employing community can foster the growth of human potential in the community."

CITY OF FORT COLLINS

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the increase in economic and human disparity among persons living in Fort Collins has led us to the workplace as one source which can promote justice; and

WHEREAS, equitable employment is a key element in eliminating injustice; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fort Collins is strongly committed to fair employment practices; and

WHEREAS, by adopting practices which foster just compensation, a safe workplace, equal rights and a healthy environment, the employing community can foster the growth of human potential in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Larry Estrada, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim the week of November 17-23, 1987 as

JUSTICE FOR ALL WEEK

in the City of Fort Collins.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the City of Fort Collins this 17th day of November, A. D. 1987.

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

300 LaPorte Ave. • P.O. Box 580 • Fort Collins, Colorado 80522 • (303) 221-6501

By 1984, the objectives and scope of IFC had changed as described in the statement on the next page. The projects, past projects and task forces listed show the range of interests and issues in which IFC was involved.

Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council

Objectives and Scope:

(1) To meet regularly to encourage a spirit of unity and dialogue for better communication and cooperation among religious bodies in the Fort Collins area.

(2) To become acquainted with social action ministries presently being performed within local secular and religious communities.

(3) To identify needs not presently being met in the community and to facilitate and/or create ways to meet those needs, and to support and augment existing attempts to meet needs and address social issues.

(4) To establish a relationship of the Interfaith Council to constituent members.

Projects:

Emergency Dental Care Program

Interfaith Food Bank

Resource Center on Religious Movements

Transitional House

Past Projects:

Alcohol Intervention Workshop

Alternative Lifestyle Workshop

Babysitting Clinic

Central Clearinghouse Model

Counseling Service

Family Advocacy/Problem Solving-Community Partnerships

Families and Work Conference

Legislative Breakfast

Medical Care for the Unemployed

Peace with Justice Week

Task Forces:

Emergency Aid

Elderly-Health Impaired

Migrant Needs

Medical Needs of the Indigent

Shelter Housing

Substance Abuse

Parent Education
and Support

P.O. Box 8622 Fort Collins, Colorado 80524

After a few years of trial in attempting to serve the wide variety of community needs, Interfaith Council reorganized with four basic mission objectives: food, housing, health and social concerns. In the 1990s, non-profit and government agencies were invited to join as affiliate members, thereby serving as a bridge between the faith communities and those providing services.

Some of the Non-profits and government agencies which have been with IFC during its 35 years of service		
Neighbor-to-Neighbor	Salvation Army	Elderhaus
Church World Service CROP Walk	United Campus Ministry (now Geller Center for Spiritual Development)	Catholic Community Services Northern (now Catholic Charities-Larimer County)
Education & Life Training Center	Fort Collins Housing Authority	Larimer County Office on Aging

Among the agencies which have been part of IFC over the decades is the Education and Life Training Center (ELTC). Its origin actually preceded that of IFC by thirteen years when it was first named the Volunteers Clearing House (VCH) in 1966. It was, in fact, one of two predecessor organizations of IFC. Frances (Fran) Thompson, a

long-time and very influential director of VCH and her team saw the need for a central agency to coordinate community projects to meet human needs; simultaneously, the pastors of fourteen churches were forming a Ministerial Alliance to promote churches working together on common goals and projects. The Rev. Robert Geller, who had come as Campus Minister at CSU in 1962 and who served as VCH's first president, donated space for the agency and other start-up groups at the Ecumenical Foundation office at 916 St. James Court.

When VCH moved to its current location, 401 Linden, its mission concentrated on home-making skills like cooking, sewing and parenting. With its name change to ELTC in 1994, it began to emphasize skills needed for 21st century jobs such as learning English as a second language and gaining computing skills. As recently as the fall of 2013, ELTC donated used HP computers to Faith Family Hospitality, originally an IFC project, for use in the Hospitality Day Center held in the Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship.

It was in 1967 that Rev. Geller started the Viva House, the neighborhood center in Andersonville. Soon thereafter another center was started in Buckingham, thereby, with participation by CSU students, fostering a relationship of mutual trust and cooperation with the Spanish speaking population in that area.



THE 1990s

Several examples of IFC's progress in the last decade of the century present themselves, with its current logo first coming into use in 1990. Among community needs was the Hostel of Hospitality for which Jim Overman, who had served as director since its founding in 1987, reported at an April 9, 1990, IFC meeting that 7,000 nights of shelter had been provided with 150 volunteers serving in the kitchen each month.

The IFC newsletter of February 9, 1991, recounted how Fort Collins resident Tom Sutherland, recently released from nine-year imprisonment as a hostage in Lebanon, spoke at First Presbyterian Church along with notable Benjamin Weir who had also been held captive.



Pansies in October snow.

The Congressional Record of October 11, 1991, showed that Colorado Senator Tim Wirth authored a "Tribute to the Fort Collins Children's Clinic," founded in 1989, providing low cost health care for 2500 needy children and their families.

In an October 26, 1993, Affordable Housing Forum, sponsored by the IFC Housing Committee, on "Confronting the NIMBY Syndrome," Mayor ProTem Gerry Horak was a panelist.

During the period of the Bosnian war waged between 1992 and 1995, Muslim communities were requested to accept and settle Bosnian Muslims. The Fort Collins community's contribution to this was the sponsoring and settling of a single Bosnian family, the Maslos, some of whom continued to reside here, while other members returned to their country after the ending of the war.

In February 1996, the Rev. Phil Koster, who had come to Fort Collins as Chaplain at Poudre Valley Hospital, became IFC's membership chair, with his participation in IFC continuing until his retirement in 2010.

On April 24, 1996, IFC sponsored a forum at St. John's Lutheran Church on "Understanding the Initiative to Impose Property Taxes on Charities."



From 1996 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints began enlisting volunteers from IFC to spend a Humanitarian Canning Day at its Aurora Cannery in order to provide distribution through the Food Bank of Larimer County. Humanitarian canning trips totaled four in 2007 for 233 cases of pizza sauce and 45 cases of pear sauce. In 2008, four trips yielded 55 cases of strawberry jam, 42 cases of pinto beans, 70 cases of cinnamon applesauce, and 111 cases of canned potatoes. Volunteers at the cannery are in the picture to the left.

Early in 1997 an IFC project involved the relocating of Pioneer Park residents, a mobile home park at Harmony and College, which was closing due to development at the intersection. IFC assisted with the relocation of more than 100 residents.

The Housing Continuum was pivotal in combating neighborhood opposition to new affordable housing development. IFC sponsored a "Tour of Affordable Homes," inviting media and local officials as well as neighborhoods opposing Care Housing and other developments at the time. A bus tour was arranged that took participants to observe existing affordable housing developments. The response was positive, the press covered the story, and many of those who had opposed the developments became supporters.

On April 29, 1997, IFC sponsored a Forum at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on the proposal from the Human Relations Commission to the Fort Collins City Council pertaining to revisions of the 1972 ordinance. The proposal was to add non-discrimination protection for ancestry, creed, familial status, political activities or affiliation, and sexual orientation to previous prohibitions based on age, race, religion and sex.



The Spring Creek Flood of July 28, 1997, resulted in many trailer homes being destroyed. Immediately after the flood, IFC served as fiscal agent, processing a quarter of a million dollars in donations to help those displaced or otherwise affected by the flood through "Together in Faith Flood Relief."

IFC joined with the Fort Collins Community Foundation, the Stryker Short Foundation, and the Fort Collins United Way to form the Resource Coordination Committee (RCC), by which an additional \$200,000 was generated. This effort was led by President Nina Rubin, who had been the representative to IFC of Congregation Har Shalom for the previous ten years.

In the IFC May 1999 newsletter, the work of agency member Religious Movement Resource Center was updated. The founding Director since its 1981 inception, Hal Mansfield, formerly of Police Relations at CSU, reported that there were then 3000 extremist groups along the Front Range. Cults, on which the Center collects information, are defined as "those which try to control individuals through violence, deception and mind control."

Interfaith Council has served as a non-profit "pass-through" so that individuals and companies could make tax-exempt contributions to IFC, as a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization. Agencies such as Habitat for Humanity used IFC to accept contributions in its behalf until obtaining its own non-profit status.

THE 21st CENTURY

Soon after the terrorists' attacks on September 11, 2001, IFC members stood in support around the Islamic Center after threats had been made against Muslim worshippers. Today, the Islamic Center, built next to Plymouth Congregational Church (PCC), shares parking spaces with PCC when needed.

In an effort to focus its efforts, IFC reorganized under an umbrella of four basic mission services: food, housing, health and social concerns. Additional social agencies in the community also became active members of IFC. Through the years new faith communities were established in Fort Collins beyond the Christian church community. These bodies were formally welcomed as members of IFC, lending the organization additional strength and ecumenicity to evolve into the successful venture it has become in a new century.

Sister Mary Alice Murphy, who had come to Fort Collins in 1977 as Executive Director of Catholic Charities, and who led in the 1983 building of The Mission, also enlisted IFC's help in founding Care Housing in 1992 and Homelessness Prevention Initiative ten years later.



Homelessness Prevention Initiative (HPI) has an interesting beginning which can be stated in the words of Audrey Faulkner, a key consultant and designer of the study identifying a need for emergency rental assistance. In a transcribed interview, Audrey said:

HPI is a 'grass roots' organization. Sister Mary Alice Murphy (Sister) was the 'instigator.' She was working the Social Justice Desk at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and was overwhelmed with requests for rental assistance so folks would not lose their housing. She also was in close touch with The Mission that was having a lot of families come there for shelter. At the time wages were stagnant; there was quite a bit of job loss. Sister, being a member of the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council (Interfaith) got Interfaith to set up a committee to look at the problem, and she organized the city's traditional church ministers into The Urban Congregations to see what could be done to fund it.

Audrey continued, "The Urban Congregations group came up with the plan to have a church campaign for at least five years, with the idea that this would provide start up money and be able to give service to keep people from losing their homes. In the meantime, the Interfaith Committee realized they needed data; Sister always says if this community knows about a need, they will try to help, often in an individual basis. As Audrey said, 'The economy may go up and down, funders may react to different needs, but the churches are always there when there is no one else'."

The committee did not want the report to sit on the shelf, so Sister and I and others on the Committee created a Transition Team, pulling in Kathy Snell of the County, Gordan Thibedeau from the United Way, a City Rep., church reps., etc., and we wrote grants and made presentations, etc., to keep the funds coming. The church campaign was central. Between \$30,000 and \$40,000 was given by the churches the first year. The city, the county and United Way gave money to us; this enabled us to hire a Director. Gordan Thibedeau was instrumental in our success, as the United Way incubated us, giving us space and administrative money and services, with help from the County and the City initially. The Coloradoan was great about giving publicity. The Bohemian Foundation gave us \$25,000 the first year even though HPI was not yet a 501(3) c organization. Ray Carroway of the Community Foundation steered contributions to HPI when he could.

On the next page is the letter the Urban Pastors sent to faith communities in Fort Collins (Urban Congregations).



Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council

P. O. Box 270256
Fort Collins, CO 80527-0256
970-493-5008

4 April 02

Dear Friends,

Last year a group of urban pastors and lay people met to address the need for increased rental assistance funding. Even before the downturn in the economy and 9/11, many families in Fort Collins had been struggling to stay in their homes and absorb the impact of job losses and health care issues. The result of these conversations was the Homeless Prevention Campaign. Many of you responded with care and hope. Because of your generosity we were able to help over 102 families since November of last year. The average gift per family has been \$227 and without your help these families would have not been able to stay in their homes. As you know, once they become homeless the cost to reenter the housing market and get back on their feet is much greater and more difficult. In other words, this fund has been very cost effective.

It has become apparent that the need for rental assistance is not going away any time soon. The need is growing and we need to respond. The urban pastors along with the Interfaith Housing Committee would like to run the Preventing Homelessness Campaign again this fall beginning in October and ending after Thanksgiving. We are letting you know early so you can work this into your budget or into your long term fund raising plans. If you helped last year, would you help again? If you didn't get a chance to help, would you consider making it part of your outreach this coming year and fall. It really does make a difference.

Some signs of hope: Larimer County is talking about a one time grant of \$40,000 to help people who need more than the one month assistance we now give. United Way has talked about matching funds for this campaign. This would make our contributions even more vital and effective. We also believe that other grant money is available which would enable the Rental Assistance / Prevent Homelessness to eventually stand on its own.

Thanks for your help and leadership. Our faith communities make Fort Collins a healthier, stronger town.

Gratefully,

Woody Carlson, pastor
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church



"This program [HPI] would not have happened without Sister, Interfaith, and the initial Urban Congregations," said Audrey Faulkner. Sister Mary Alice Murphy is pictured here.

It was at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, where Sister Mary Alice was working in 1992, that the idea of providing affordable housing to persons of low income was germinated and where the first office for Care Housing was located. Enlisting the support of property manager, Brian Soukup, and a number of others from the business community, along with that of the City of Fort Collins, the effort to create Care Housing was well underway.

A key to the subsequent success of the program was the use of Federal tax credits, which provided incentive for developers to join in the building process. Over the following two decades, seven clusters of affordable housing have been constructed, providing 320 individual units.

After the turn of the century, Interfaith Council has been noted for developing partnerships. Between 2006 – 2010, IFC was represented on KRFC 88.9 FM on the Interfaith Dialogue radio series. With the Multi-Faith Coalition of Northern Colorado it sponsored annual Thanksgiving Celebrations. Its current initiative is with The Abrahamic Trialogue (TAT) the quarterly meeting of those from the Jewish, Christian and Islamic communities. With TAT it also sponsors Blood Bonds through the blood mobile, thereby witnessing to the conviction that “Blood is meant to be shared, not shed.”

In April 2006 an Affordable Housing Tour of sites primarily on the east side of Fort Collins was sponsored by IFC for its members, who were bused to Neighbor to Neighbor’s Candlelight units, to Care Housing’s Greenbrier, and to the Myrtle Street Single Room Occupancy (SRO) of the Fort Collins Housing Authority.

IFC members gained empathy for those who need to access government and non-profit services often without means of transportation and child care through role playing during United Way’s “Poverty Simulation” program shown in the photo on the right. Bill Moseley, a long-time member of IFC is shown in the bottom left corner.



In 2006 and 2007, IFC attempted to replicate a mentoring program of The Denver Rescue Mission. After much discussion and program preparation, the Mentoring Families team interviewed several single women with families. The team soon found out that setting up a program such as this and implementing it was difficult. However, the Mentoring Families program helped to lease a house in Windsor and paid the deposit and a partial payment of the first month’s rent for two single parent families who lived together. Members of IFC or their contacts provided food, Christmas gifts, furniture, tires, and financial counseling to the families. An ending evaluation of the program by IFC resulted in the discontinuation of the program although those involved gained a new appreciation of the work of non-profit and governmental agencies.

This excerpt from minutes of the Executive Team’s annual planning breakfast on February 8, 2007, state typical ongoing goals of IFC, not limited to the year 2007:

Garth McCann spoke about the long history of IFC and challenged the team to think about ways to make IFC a bigger presence in the Fort Collins area. Discussion ensued about inviting more people to the monthly programs, getting churches to put a link to IFC on their web sites, polling the membership to find out whether they report IFC’s activities to their faith communities or agencies, sending covenant

forms to grant recipients who are not members, building bridges between IFC and other like-minded groups, helping other groups in ways other than granting money grants; and creating more publicity for IFC.

Topics of interest to the Housing Team in 2007 were the Homeless Count in Larimer County held Jan. 29 and 30 and the one-woman dramatization performed by Sharon Halsey-Hoover held at St. Joseph's Catholic Parish called "Conversations with Dorothy Day," who was a tireless advocate for the homeless and poor in the 1930s. The New Yorker magazine article, "Million Dollar Murray," was read and discussed. The concept of the linking of Old Town, the Poudre River and CSU, called "UniverCity" was introduced to the Housing Team and the Council. UniverCity had target areas, one of which was housing. Sister Mary Alice Murphy said housing and homelessness are different and, consequentially, a group broke off to work on homelessness. This morphed into what is now Homeward 2010, the local 10 year plan to end homelessness.

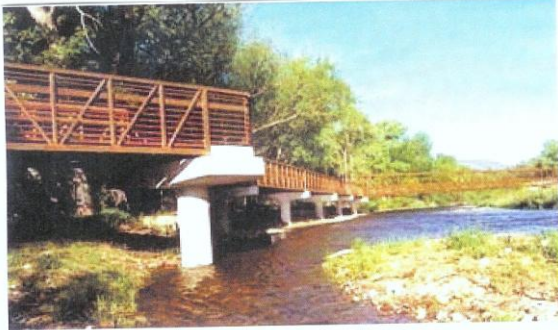


The Housing Team's May 2007 program about the Housing Day Service Center was presented by Kim Iwanski, who revealed that the center is to be called the Sister Mary Alice Center for Hope. In the photo to the left, during the opening, local clergy members toured the Center sometimes called "the Murphy Center" or "the Hope Center." Sister Mary Alice is holding a piece of paper in the photo.

The Housing Team discussed the proposed music venue in the Buckingham/Andersonville neighborhoods as to how it would affect affordable housing. The Team heard reports on Neighbor to Neighbor's and Fort Collins Housing Authority's housing programs and Homelessness Prevention Initiative's pilot program to provide rental assistance and mentoring over a 3-month period. The Team's November program was based on the book, *Bridges Out of Poverty*.



In September 2007, with the leadership of Bob Dana, IFC initiated an environmental stewardship project by adopting Butterfly Woods Natural Area. During 2008, twelve members and spouses and friends collected trash at this Fort Collins City Natural Area near LaPorte for a total of 30 person-hours of effort.



In the picture, Valerie Baker-Easeley, Cheryl Beckett, Helen Somersall and Anita Hildebrand meet to pick up trash at Butterfly Woods Natural Area off Overland Trail. Hikers and bikers alike often called out "thank you" for IFC's efforts to clean the area of trash and debris from current use and past farming and camping activities.

An article by Marty Metzger, published in the February 2014 *North Forty News*, stated that James H. and Margaret M. Hyde sold the Butterfly Woods acres to the City of Fort Collins Natural Resource Department as preserved open space. The 20 acres had been part of a vegetable farm from 1938-1984.

On October 16, 2008, the Housing Team of IFC co-sponsored an affordable housing tour of facilities on the west side of Fort Collins. The "West Side Story" tour either visited or pointed out the Coachlight Apts. (Neighbor to Neighbor); Greenbriar Apts. (Care Housing); Northern Hotel (Funding Partners); The Villages on Plum and Elizabeth (Fort Collins Housing Authority); Mercy Housing/Springfield Ct. Apts. and Volunteers of America's Sanctuary Apartments, an assisted living facility for seniors. The tour began at the Mission, with breakfast served, and ended at the Clubhouse of the Care Housing apartments on West Swallow for a presentation and refreshments. The day for the tour was a beautiful, warm October day and participants remarked about the quality of the sites visited. Thank you notes were sent to those who made the tour a great success.

**Thank you for your contribution
To the Affordable Housing Tour**

*May your walls know joy;
May every room
hold laughter
and every window open to great possibility.*

Maryanne Radmacher-Hershey

**Sincerely,
Interfaith Council Housing Team**



The September 12, 2011, edition of *The Coloradoan* contained an article entitled, "Interfaith Council's September 11 Remembrance." Held at Plymouth Congregational Church, it featured Rabbi Ben Newman of Congregation Har Shalom who led in the song "Peace, Salaam, Shalom." Also it was reported that the Rabbi "was able to offer a personal and poignant recollection of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, because he was living only two miles from Ground Zero at the time."

Rabbi Ben Newman of Congregation Har Shalom holds up a copy of a 10-year-old The Village Voice newspaper, which he picked up in New York City after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Newman spoke along with other representatives of various faiths on Sunday during the interfaith service. At right, Muslims, Jews, Protestants, Catholics and others representing various forms of faith hold candles and sing together on Sunday during the service of remembrance for Sept. 11, 2001.



Beginning in 2012, IFC took Faith Family Hospitality (FFH) as a project. This recent cooperative effort has provided overnight accommodations and meals to four homeless families at a time among thirteen rotating host faith communities, with the support of eight other faith communities, a week at a time. Going into its second year in 2014, 39 families had been served - parents and children who otherwise would be sleeping in their cars or exposed to the elements.

IFC President Rich Thompson has stated that the FFH project is the most significant cooperative, ecumenical effort that has ever occurred in Fort Collins.

Among the host faith communities, both within and outside IFC membership, participating in FFH are: Christ United Methodist Church, Council Tree Covenant Church, First United Methodist Church, Foothills Unitarian Church, Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship, Heart of the Rockies Christian Church, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Peak Community Church, Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, Southgate Church, Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Summitview Community Church, and Trinity Lutheran Church.

The new cover page of IFC's Facebook page is the Interfaith Tree design, as created by Administrator Alex Satham-Lardner, IFC representative from Habitat for Humanity. The address is www.facebook.com/fortcollinsinterfaith. The Executive Team has approved its use as well for the materials to be published as we celebrate our 35th Anniversary in 2014. What came to Alex's mind also was the quote from Albert Einstein, "All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree."



IFC's website is www.fortcollinsinterfaithcouncil.org. IFC communicates to its members by an E-Bulletin sent monthly.

An example of IFC members cooperating with agencies is the partnership Our Saviour's Lutheran Church has had for three years with the Salvation Army (SA) to provide Christmas gifts to area children through the SA's "Angels Among Us" program.



Salvation Army gift cards are displayed on a table at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. In 2013, one hundred Christmas gifts were given to the program by members of the church.

The excerpt below from a "Soapbox" article in the Fort Collins Coloradoan newspaper dated March 30, 2002, is entitled "Fort Collins day shelter has wide support." IFC, along with the faith communities listed, supported efforts to provide day shelter for underserved homeless people in the community. Affordable housing and care for the homeless continue to be issues that IFC addresses. In 2014, IFC intends to help to build a house in the Habitat for Humanity building program.

The extent of the ecumenical support for this shelter is far reaching and includes the following faith communities: The Abyssinian Christian Church, Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Parish, Catholic Charities Northern, Community of Christ, Congregation Har Shalom, St. John's Lutheran, John XXIII University Catholic Parish, Foothills Unitarian, First United Methodist, Christ United Methodist, St. Joseph's Catholic Parish, Our Saviour's Lutheran, Westminster Presbyterian, Harmony Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, Heart of the Rockies and The Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council.

We have been and will continue to be actively seeking a long-term solution to the lack of a day shelter in our community. We welcome honest and forthright participation from the city of Fort Collins and Larimer County, from both elected officials and staff, to work toward a comprehensive and permanent day shelter.

Bruce Myers of Fort Collins wrote this Soapbox for The Urban Pastors Group.

In 2014 IFC has been cooperating with the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery in celebrating the Sesquicentennial 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Fort Collins. How fitting for both IFC and the City of Fort Collins to be celebrating their respective origins in the same year!



Fort Collins Museum of Discovery opened in November 2012.

In the writing of this history, the team increased its awareness of how engaged IFC has been in the life of the City of Fort Collins. A pleasant surprise emerged with the return of the faith communities' histories for inclusion in this publication. Much can be learned about the City's religious history and people by reading the summaries. We hope you will.

The inspiration which has guided the Interfaith Council over the decades was anticipated by this poem of Bob Geller's written in his early years of ministry in Fort Collins:

We all seem to be reaching for something.
Yet we have difficulties grasping those things.
If we could grasp one another's hand,
A need could be filled;
Then together we might reach the good.

INDEX OF HISTORY SUMMARIES OF IFC MEMBER FAITH COMMUNITIES 2013-2014

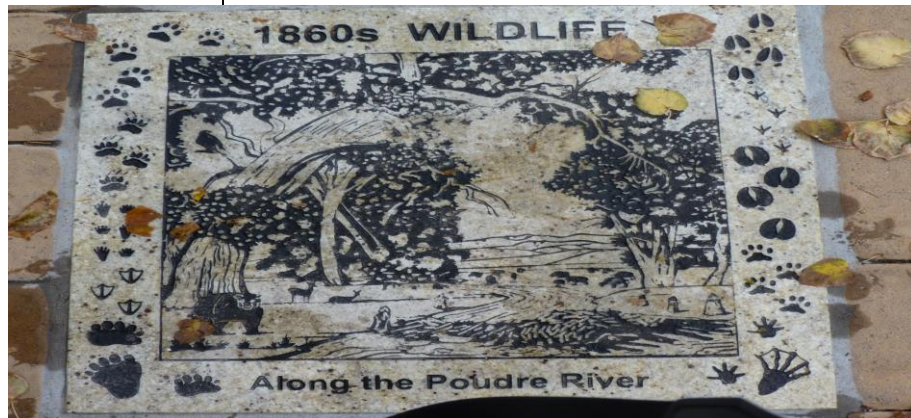
"There is a Presbyterian and Methodist church and one or two other church societies, Sunday schools, a good public school, Lyceum, Masonic and Good Templar lodges, Farmer's Club, a weekly newspaper—the Express—a nursery, two lumber mills, a grist mill, good hotels, and the usual number of stores and practitioners."

The quote above is about Fort Collins' population of 600; from "Handbook of Colorado, 1800s" printed in the FORT COLLINS COLORADOAN'S 140 year history supplement.

The sidewalk tile below can be found in downtown Fort Collins.

Page	Faith Communities
29	American Baptist Church
30	Baha'i Faith
31	Christ United Methodist Church
32	Congregation Har Shalom
33	First Presbyterian Church
34	First United Methodist Church
35	Foothills Unitarian Church
36	Fort Collins Community of Christ
37	Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship
38	Heart of the Rockies Christian Church
39	Holy Family Catholic Church
40	Islamic Center of Fort Collins
41	Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
42	Peak Community Church
43	Plymouth Congregational Church
44	Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
45	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
47	St. Joseph's Catholic Church
48	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
49	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
50	Temple Or Hadash
51	Trinity Lutheran Church
52	Westminster Presbyterian Church

**Pictures of Faith Communities
photographed by Caryl Beaty
except where noted.**





American Baptist Church

The First Baptist Church of Fort Collins, Colorado, was organized in 1879, assisted by the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Loveland. The church was staunchly loyal to the Northern Baptist Convention as well as state and local associations. Baptists have associative churches, independent and freely associating with other such churches. There are no bodies with hierarchical authority.

Locally the First Baptist Church mirrored the national controversy arising between 1940 and 1946 among Baptists on such issues as creeds and Fundamentalism. Its pastors leaned increasingly toward conservatism. In 1948, a congregational vote was taken and the majority voted to leave the Convention

(Northern Baptist Convention, the predecessor of American Baptist Churches – USA). "In essence it meant that those faithful to Baptist traditions (such as non-creedal churches, freedom of thought, priesthood of believers, and the New Testament as the basis of faith and practice) and all who continued denominational support of missionaries ... found themselves with no church home."*

The minority group wished to create a new church and began with missionary support organizations, Bible study and worship, meeting in the offered Balmer-Collins Mortuary. Besides the church members, students at the then Colorado A & M College supported the new group faithfully and generously. Retired pastor Dr. Clarence Kemper from Denver served three years for the new group, encouraging its stability and growth. Property was purchased on Shields St. in the Mantz addition with payments completed in November 1953. As the church grew too big for the mortuary, it held its services at Dunn School. Other churches in the area were gracious and generous, offering space for special events. In 1954 the new American Baptist Church called its first full-time pastor, Dr. R. Fred Chambers. Through the pastorates of ten full-time ministers since, American Baptist Church has been active in the denomination (American Baptist Churches – USA) and in Fort Collins, including financial assistance to student members of minority groups, low-cost housing for senior citizens, refugee housing, assistance during the Big Thompson flood, a sewing class for wives of foreign students at CSU (23 countries were represented, with an enrollment of 59 women and 40 babies!), office space for the new county Hospice program, founding of Elderhaus, and critical involvement in the founding of IFC.

In 1980 the church upgraded the facility and expanded its mission outreach, including Elderhaus mentioned above and other services to persons of various needs in the community. It continues to renovate its building, making it more accessible and convenient for members of all groups that regularly occupy it. Through the years, while affected by the size of membership difficulties seen nationally among mainline protestant churches, American Baptist Church has renewed commitment to its missional programs while continuing its focus on worship and study.

*from "The American Baptist Church, Fort Collins, Colorado: A Comprehensive History 1954 – 1979"

The Bahá'í Faith in Fort Collins

Founded a century and a half ago, the Bahá'í Faith is a world religion whose purpose is to unite all the races and peoples in one universal Cause and one common Faith. With more than five million followers in over 100,000 localities around the world, Baha'is are followers of Baha'u'llah, who they believe is the promised one of all ages. Bahá'u'lláh taught that there is only one God, that there is only one human race, and that all the world's religions represent stages in the revelation of God's will and purpose for humanity.



Locally, members of the Bahá'í Faith have lived in Fort Collins since the 1950s, but for many years their

numbers were few, usually only one or two people at a time, who were already Baha'is at the time they moved here. In the late 1960s, this small local community entered a period of active growth. This period of vigorous expansion continued for many years, often with dozens of people joining the Faith each year. Many of those who became Baha'is during this time moved on to communities throughout the world where no Baha'is resided, which Bahá'ís refer to as "pioneering." Those early years saw many firsts. In 1966 the first child was born to Bahá'í parents in Fort Collins. The first person to enroll locally was in 1967 and in 1969 the first local Bahá'í marriage was performed.

As lay religion the Faith does not have any clergy, and each community is guided by Bahá'í administrative councils elected at both the local and national levels, called "Spiritual Assemblies." Each Assembly has nine members directly elected from among the body of the believers in the community, serving one year terms. These members have no special status in the community outside the meeting of the assembly. The first Spiritual Assembly of Fort Collins was elected in 1969. Members of that first Assembly were Peter and Jolie Haug, Jules Vautrot, Iraj and Mina Pooschi, Steve and Machiko Garrigues, Kay Giffin and Richard Hutchins. Although still small when compared to other faith communities (currently numbering approximately 75 adults, youth and children within the Fort Collins city limits and some 200+ in Larimer County) the community is vibrant and dynamic.

The global scope of the Faith has been mirrored in the composition of the local membership, which over the years has represented a cross-section of humanity, with members from many nations, virtually every racial group, diverse ethnic groups, and from varied cultural, professional and social or economic classes.

Bahá'ís believe that as foretold in all of the world's scriptures, the time has arrived for the uniting of all peoples into a peaceful and integrated global society. As Bahá'u'lláh wrote, "The earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens."

Christ United Methodist Church

The history of the Evangelical United Brethren (EUB) in Fort Collins had its beginnings in the interest of a few loyal EUB families who lived in the Fort Collins area but who attended the Loveland EUB Church, with its pastor, Rev. Keith W. Spahr. In October 1960 Rev. Spahr began investigating church locations in Fort Collins, and on February 20, 1961 a contract was signed for the present building site, approximately three acres on the southern edge of town, at 301 East Drake Road.



The first service for the Fort Collins EUB Church was held on January 8, 1961, at the Empire Grange Hall on West Mulberry with the Rev. Spahr and Rev. W.L. Young, the District Superintendant, directing the service. The parsonage was built first, and was dedicated on October 29, 1961. The basement of the parsonage served as a meeting place until the present structure was constructed on East Drake Road. Work on the present structure was begun on August 1, 1963, and it was first used on Anniversary Sunday, January 12, 1964. The dedication service for the new church building was held on Sunday, February 9, 1964, with Bishop W. Maynard Sparks of Sacramento, California, presiding, along with Rev Keith Spahr.

In 1966, Church union discussions began involving the proposed union of the Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist Churches. On April 23, 1968, at a meeting in Dallas, Texas, the two denominations would unite and become the United Methodist Church. Rev Spahr was a delegate representing the Rocky Mountain EUB Conference. Following the merger, the Fort Collins EUB Church congregation voted to become Christ United Methodist Church (CUMC).

The following years brought continued expansion to CUMC. In 1976, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the East Wing addition, consisting of classrooms and storage areas. It was completed and dedicated on January 8, 1978. An even larger expansion was started in July 1991, and was completed in early 1992. The original cost of this expansion was over \$700,000, and the debt was fully retired in 2004.

Christ United Methodist Church continues today to be a dynamic faith community in the Fort Collins area. Throughout our 50 some years of ministry in Fort Collins, we have sponsored refugee families, participated in the emergency response for the Spring Creek Floods, and supported an eye clinic in Serra Leone. Building on our mission heritage, we currently have over 40 non-profit groups use our building; some daily, some once a year. We participate in Faith Family Hospitality, housing up to four homeless families for a week several times a year. Our congregation has been active in disaster recovery in the High Park Fire and Colorado Floods of 2013. We support a United Methodist Missionary in Cambodia financially as well as sending a medical team to work in the rural villages.



CONGREGATION HAR SHALOM

In 1975, a handful of families from the Fort Collins and Loveland area founded a religious school for Jewish children and became known as the Fort Collins Jewish Community. In 1982, the name was officially changed to Congregation Har Shalom (CHS)—the only center of Jewish life between Greeley, Colorado, and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Meeting many years in the homes of members, CHS found a permanent home in 1982 when the present facility was built and dedicated at 725 West Drake Road in Fort Collins. In 1988, CHS engaged its first full-time rabbi. The mortgage on the original building was retired in 2003.

Today, CHS is an active center of Jewish learning and worship, serving all of Northern Colorado. It is not affiliated with a denomination of Judaism and serves a wide diversity of spiritual paths. The synagogue membership of almost 200 families represents a rainbow spectrum of Jews from varied affiliations and geographical origins. The congregation strives to blend elements of traditional Jewish ritual with a personal and open style of worship.

Shabbat service is held on Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m. with Shabbat morning Torah study at 9:00 a.m. and the Shabbat morning service is at 10:00 a.m. Religious School for kindergarten through 7th grade meets on Sunday mornings; Hebrew School for 4th through 7th graders and Hebrew High School meets on Wednesday evenings. The Har Shalom Preschool and Kindergarten meets during weekdays to serve children 2 1/2 through 6 years old.

Congregation Har Shalom looks forward to the coming years with a sense of purpose for its place in Northern Colorado.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On August 25, 1872, The Rev. Sheldon Jackson arrived in Fort Collins with the charge to organize a Presbyterian Church. The petitioning group of thirteen men and women of faith met with him on the bank of the Poudre River, in a grove of cottonwood trees, near what is now the North College Avenue Bridge. Thus was born First Presbyterian Church. In September 1872, just a month after the historic meeting on the banks of the Poudre, the Colorado Presbytery received the Fort Collins church.



The first pastor was the Rev. Joseph Patterson who ministered to the growing congregation from July 27, 1873, to July 4, 1875. The Articles of Incorporation were filed on September 24, 1873. The Church Board received them back on December 11, 1873, making the church a legal entity.

The church first met in the "Old Grout" building, constructed in 1865 on the corner of Jefferson and Linden streets, in the upstairs area of the building. The second church building was constructed in 1887 at a cost of \$7,500. Located on the southwest corner of Remington and Olive, the church seated 400, and served the congregation until 1914-1915. The Presbyterians' third church building, constructed on the northwest corner of College Avenue and Myrtle Street, was completed December 13, 1914, at a cost of \$67,000. On April 20, 1937, the name was officially changed to read, "The First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins."

In the 1970s it was decided that a new church was needed, and would be built on the same site. The design selected for the new building was 'Colorado Modern', and was constructed of moss rock. A key design element in the new sanctuary was the "sculptured" arrangement of the Reuter organ pipes financed by the Katharyn Bauder Fund. The other key element of the sanctuary interior was the magnificent windows crafted by the Willet Glass Studio of Germantown, Pennsylvania. The windows are a combination of faceted glass church sets in epoxy matrix and "Fabrigem", a layering of many sheets of tinted glass.

First Presbyterian Church was one of the founders of the Fort Collins Interfaith Council, and since 1979 has been an active participant in the annual CROP Walk sponsored by Church World Service. In addition, we have many other mission outreach programs. The Church was headed by Senior Pastor Rich McDermott for 23 years, until 2013, when he accepted a call to another church. Our interim Senior Pastor is Rev. Dr. Paul Parsons, who started his ministry here on September 9, 2013.



First United Methodist Church

The First United Methodist Church is one of the oldest faith communities in Fort Collins. The first service for those of the Methodist faith was held in 1864, when 13 individuals attended a meeting with a traveling minister by the name of Rev. William Antes. From this start, the Rev. J.P. Drew began the erection of the first Methodist church building in 1873, located at the corner of LaPorte and Mason streets. With the substantial growth of the Methodist community, the congregation constructed a new church on the corner of Olive and College avenues. This building was expanded and remodeled many times over the next few decades, and would be the focal point of the Methodist Church until the early 1960s.

In 1960 the Trustees and building committee headed by Karl Carson bought the land at the corner of Elizabeth and Stover streets, and a ground breaking ceremony was held in 1962. The Adult Clipper Sunday school class served a BBQ luncheon for its 1100 members. Two years later, the dedication for the new church was held in October of 1964. This is the current location of the First United Methodist Church.

The triangles in the unique roof are part of "triangles all over the place" as described by Bill Brenner, principal of RB+B Architects, the architectural firm that designed the church. The roof style is "folded plate" construction which incorporates the "use of minimum material to span long distances." Lights and wood features in the sanctuary and windows in the building are triangular in shape.

The 100th anniversary of Methodism in Fort Collins was held in 1969, the 5th anniversary of the new church. In attendance were 30 honorees celebrating their 50 year membership. In 1980, Florence Randleman lit the flame to burn the fifteen year mortgage on the church building.

Today the church is very busy with daily activities filling all of the church rooms with its various activities that include mission outreach, Bible study, youth and adult councils, as well as youth groups that include all ages from kindergarten to college students.

FOOTHILLS UNITARIAN CHURCH

The history of Foothills Unitarian Church in Fort Collins began with the founding in 1898 of Unity Church which was affiliated with The Unitarian Association in the United States.

Charles Lory, who served as President of Colorado Agricultural College (now CSU) from 1909 to 1940, and his wife, Carrie, were leaders in the congregation. He served as president of the church from 1908 to 1910. They were influential in promoting and preserving liberal religion in early Fort Collins.

Unity Church merged with the First Congregationalist Church of Fort Collins in 1931, and was known as the Congregational-Unitarian Church of Fort Collins. The Rev. William H. Elfring served the combined congregations and services were held in the stone church at the corner of Mulberry and College until the 1960s when the partnership was amicably terminated.

Foothills Unitarian Church was established in 1968 and affiliated with the newly formed Unitarian Universalist Association. The cornerstone from the old stone church was incorporated into the new church which was built at 1815 Yorktown Avenue. The church has occupied that location since its dedication on October 4, 1970.

Rev. Walter Royal Jones served as parish minister from 1971 to 1989. The Rev. Marc Salkin was called by the congregation in 1991 and has served as Senior Minister since then. Under his leadership the church has grown to a membership of over 550 members and 200 "friends" with a thriving Religious Education Program which has been under the direction of Ms. Eleanor VanDeusen since 2000. In 2012, Rev. Gretchen Haley joined the congregation as Assistant Minister.

The church has a proud history of liberal theology and progressive values. Unitarian Universalism is a religion that celebrates diversity of belief and is guided by seven principles that affirm the worth and dignity of every person. Foothills is a place where its members gather to nurture their spirits and put their faith into action through social justice work.





Fort Collins Community of Christ

In 1916 the "branch" was officially organized under the name of Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (no affiliation with nor to be confused with any other churches of similar names). The early church of approximately 35 members met in the Seventh Day Adventist Church at the corner of Whedbee and Magnolia Streets. By the following year the group had grown to almost 75. In 1918 the Congregation entered into an agreement to rent a small church at the corner of Meldrum and Magnolia. By 1922 the group had grown to something over 100 members. In 1923 the group took up temporary residence in the Grand Army of the Republic Hall on Linden Street. In 1924 further temporary quarters were obtained in a remodeled home at the corner of LaPorte and Sherwood. In 1925 the Congregation was finally in a position to purchase its own building at the corner of Peterson and Edwards. In 1940 that building was sold to the Friends Congregation and lots were purchased at the current location at Oak and Matthews, and services were begun in the new location in 1942.

In 1946 the Congregation opened its lower auditorium to the College Womens Association to conduct a pre-school for children of veterans' wives associated with the college. In 1964 classrooms and a new entry were added. In 1968 a gymnasium was added to the rear of the building. With a new recreation facility in place, by 1969 there were programs for young girls, Boy Scouts, high school youth, college students and senior citizens. From 1984 through 1987 the annex to the west of the church building was donated to the Larimer County Food Distribution Center to house the distribution of foodstuff to needy persons. In 1984 the World Church authorized the ordination of women to priesthood. In 1988 the first women were ordained in Fort Collins to minister to members here.

In 1990 the building was opened for use by United Seniors of Colorado and Church Women United. Currently the Volunteers of America use the building to serve the senior lunch program. Through the years the congregation has been instrumental in the birth of congregations in Loveland, Cheyenne and Laramie. In 2001 the World Church officially changed its name to Community of Christ, in part to avoid further confusion with the similar names of other denominations. More importantly, however, it was done to express its true identity as a denomination dedicated to the pursuit of peace in the world and in response to the Holy Spirit, in the words of Jesus, to pursue the kingdom of God on earth, in the present sense as a true expression of community. With that the Mission Statement of the church is "We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace."

In 2003 the severe snowstorm in Fort Collins collapsed the roof of the gymnasium. By 2004 the building was replaced by a new gymnasium facility now used for a variety of gatherings including weddings, receptions, conferences, etc. The facility was used in conjunction with Catholic Charities during the winters of 2008 and 2009 as a day shelter for homeless persons. In 2010 it was used as an emergency overflow night shelter for homeless persons. The congregation currently consists of approximately 125 members.



Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship

According to Chinese philosopher, Lao-Tzu, "The journey of 1000 miles begins with a single step." In the case of the Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship (FCMF), its spiritual journey began with a single trip, a trip Maurice Shenk and his wife Alice made from Virginia to Fort Collins, in 1972. They fell in love with Colorado and never went back.

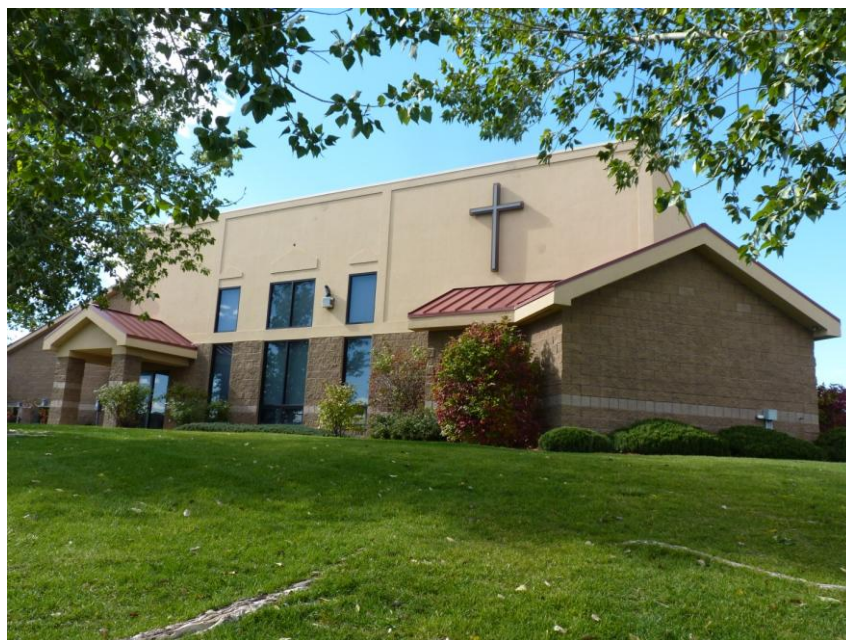
Together, as Mennonite "immigrants" in Fort Collins, Maurice and Alice formed a tiny house church in 1975 that eventually moved into its own building on Whedbee Street, and then grew to a vibrant congregation at its current location at 300 E. Oak Street in Fort Collins (picture from website). The church has always been small in number, averaging about 30 people or so at any one time, but don't let its size fool you. The church has been more than a mighty presence in the community, with a voice far greater than its size, drawing people from Fort Collins, Loveland, Greeley, and even Wyoming.

A firm believer in peace, justice, non-violence, and service, FCMF has accomplished a lot in its 39-year history, earning it the name, "The Little Church that Could":

- Held 10 years of Self-Help sales to benefit artisans around the world and eventually started Ten Thousand Villages, the first fair trade store in Old Town, Fort Collins.
- Offered up its building as a severe weather day shelter for the local homeless population for almost 3 years.
- Founded Strength Through Peace, a consistently articulate organization devoted to non-violent social change.
- After two years, it continues to be a host church for Faith Family Hospitality (FFH), an interfaith program of 21 churches that provides fellowship, overnight housing, meals and support to local families experiencing homelessness.
- Most recently, in 2013, it opened its doors to become the FFH Hospitality Center, a daytime respite for families in the FFH program.

Over the years, FCMF has had three "newbie" ministers straight out of seminary and three "seasoned" ministers, which only goes to show our dedication to balance! Today, Steve Ramer, our current minister, has almost seven years under his belt. Steve, a "cradle Mennonite" (born into the faith) is originally a farm boy from Kansas, but spent two years in the Philippines after college. He moved to the Washington, DC where he remained for 17 years, attended seminary at Howard University School of Divinity, and is a reservist with Christian Peacemaker Teams.

FCMF continues to attract spiritual seekers—both activists and contemplatives alike. We carry on the tradition of an interactive "Reflections and Responses" and "Joys and Concerns" time in each service to create a personal connection between attendees. Those of us who attend FCMF have found a safe place to explore our own spirituality, learn more about the teachings of Jesus, make a difference in the world, and experience a caring, spiritual community with a common belief in peace, non-violence, and service. We look forward to many good years ahead!



Heart of the Rockies Christian Church

Heart of the Rockies Christian Church was established on March 28, 1993, a mission of the Central Rocky Mountain Region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Forty Nine Disciples congregations throughout Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and northern New Mexico provided our eleven-acre site at the northwest corner of Trilby and Lemay, on which we built our current building in 1999.

Our wider church family includes members and friends around the world and ecumenical partners in nearly every nation. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) began on the frontier in the early 1800s as a movement to unify Christians and restore the church along the lines of New Testament authority and practice. Disciples, as we call ourselves, do not claim to be the only Christians, but see ourselves as part of the larger Body of Christ. Along with most Disciples congregations, Heart of the Rockies practices open communion celebrated weekly, baptism by immersion (although other traditions are honored), and the ministry of all. Both ministers and lay people lead in worship, service and spiritual growth.

Our congregation seeks to reach into the community and beyond. Locally, we support several Mission Partners through our gifts of time, energy, and money, including Homeless Prevention Initiative, Faith Volunteers in Poudre Schools, The Mission, Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council, United Campus Ministries at CSU, Habitat for Humanity, and the Colorado Christian Home/Tennyson Center for Children and Families. We created and run a respite program for foster, kin and adoptive families called Kids at Heart.

Each year our youth and adults travel beyond Fort Collins in mission – Alamosa, Oakland, Mexico, Costa Rica, Chicago, Shiprock, New Mexico, and more. Our congregation is served by two pastors: our founding pastor, Jeff Wright, and Melissa St. Clair.



Holy Family Catholic Church

In 1924 Father LeJeunesse of St. Joseph's Parish asked the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese for a priest who would serve the Spanish-speaking parishioners of that congregation. Father J. P. Truedell from Montreal was named the first priest. In that same year the Second Presbyterian Church property at Whitcomb and

Cherry was purchased as a temporary location for "Little St. Joseph's." In 1929 the cornerstone was laid for a new church building at the present location, 326 N. Whitcomb, and subsequently the name was changed to Holy Family Catholic Church.

In 1928 a school was opened in a private house with an enrollment of 85 students. In 1949 the children were moved to a new building next to the Rectory, where it continued until closing in 1969.

Father Truedell served twelve years and was succeeded by Juan R. Fullana, who was remembered for his developing a cooperative grocery store and mop factory and for helping meet the economic needs of his parishioners in other ways. During his pastorate the recreation hall was constructed and renovations were undertaken with volunteer help. Years after Father Fullana was reassigned to a parish in Mexico in 1951, he was honored in Fort Collins as the LaPorte Avenue School was named after him.

In 1969 a fire destroyed the rear quarter of the edifice, including the altar. Under the leadership of Father Bart Quetglass and with the participation of many volunteers, it was remodeled and updated in keeping with the mandates of Vatican II. The badly charred crucifix was restored and returned to its place.

Holy Family is known for its Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe and its Craft and Art Bazaar in December and its Annual Fiesta in the summer. Maria Fuertes, a second generation resident in the neighborhood, has served as Administrative Assistant in the parish for twenty-six years. Through her office a variety of services and referrals are offered to the community.

Currently serving the parish as Pro-Tempore is Rev. Antonio Flores, and Brother Cesar Arras is Director of Religious Education.

The foundation and statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe was constructed in front of the church which symbolizes to this day the faith and dedication of its Spanish-speaking members.



ISLAMIC CENTER OF FORT COLLINS

During the Vietnam war, a great number Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees poured into the United States. Among them were many Muslims, for whom homes were sought by refugee agencies among Muslim communities. The Fort Collins Muslim community responded to this challenge and agreed to assist some victims of this conflict. Finding suitable livelihoods for the Cambodia refugees had now become a priority. Accordingly, with donated funds, a parcel of farmland with a two-story house located at 58th Street, Fort Collins, was purchased. Two Cambodian families were settled there to raise sheep and chickens to meet the community's need for a source of halal meat. However, faced with the need for a larger Islamic center for the ever-growing Muslim population as well as difficulties encountered by the farm project, the farm was sold. With the funds from the sale of the farm plus donations, a piece of vacant land on Lake Street just east of Shields was purchased. It lay vacant for several years until the time when sufficient funds had accumulated for the planning of a new Center.

In 2005, Tulu Toros, a Turkish architect, then residing in Fort Collins, and conversant with Turkish mosque architecture, designed a facsimile Ottoman mosque with a dome and minaret to occupy the then empty land on Lake Street. However, for a few more years the funds in hand remained insufficient even to break ground. The years that followed saw heroic fund-raising efforts within the Fort Collins Muslim community, in neighboring cities and other states, as well as overseas. When a sufficient sum had been collected, work began on the Lake Street site, proceeding in stages, amid attempts to raise more funds to complete the project. As Ramadan 2013 approached, the new mosque, built in traditional Ottoman Turkish style, was completed. The prayers of 'Eid al-Fitr', marking the completion of the fasting month, initiated its first use as a house of prayer.

From the earliest beginning, cordial relations had been built with Plymouth Congregational Church just to the east of the mosque. The two congregations have agreed upon sharing their respective parking areas as needed. As the outlines of the mosque began to rise on the land, many well-wishers offered their congratulations and good wishes, which were tremendously appreciated, assuring the Muslim community of a welcome and accepted place in the religious spectrum of this kind city. We're so glad to be here!

In 1964, the first Muslim Friday congregational prayer in Fort Collins was held at Lory Student Center with three worshippers: Egyptian professor Abdul-Baqi, Professor Moin Siddiqui who had just moved to Fort Collins from Boulder, and an Indian graduate student, Khalil Siddiqui. At that time, there were only about 6,000 students enrolled in CSU and the population of Fort Collins was 50,000. In addition to holding Friday prayer in the Student Center, the community gathered on Friday evenings in a small rented place on Walnut Street for Qur'an study. A new chapter in the Muslim community's life opened in 1980, with the purchase of the old Salvation Army Church at 900 Peterson Street. The building was renovated and, although very small, made to accommodate the current needs of the community.



Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church (OSLC) began as a mission church of the Lutheran Church in America, now the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). On May 9, 1965, the official organizational Sunday, fifty-five adults and thirty children signed the church roll. On May 11, 1965, OSLC was admitted to the Rocky Mountain Synod. After worshiping at O'Dea Elementary School and participating in a building fund drive, members were excited to move into a new church building at 2000 Lemay Ave. in November of 1967.

Lutheranism is a faith tradition that is open to all, regardless of background. The ELCA alone is almost five million members strong, with nearly 10,500 congregations across the U.S., Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Today, Lutherans still hold to the basic principles of Martin Luther's theological teachings, such as "Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Scripture Alone." These comprise the very essence of Lutheranism: We are saved by the grace of God alone -- not by anything we do; Our salvation is through faith alone -- a confident trust in God, who in Christ promises us forgiveness, life and salvation; and The Bible is the norm for faith and life -- the true standard by which teachings and doctrines are to be judged.

Lutherans are part of a reforming movement within the whole Christian church; as a part of practicing their faith, the ELCA and its predecessors have engaged in ecumenical dialogue with other church bodies for decades. In fact, the ELCA has entered into cooperative "full communion" agreements (sharing common convictions about theology, mission and worship) with several other Protestant denominations.

OSLC shares its building with many groups for meetings, including a Boy Scout troop, Aspen Club activities, Alcoholics, Narcotics and Over-eaters Anonymous, near-by homeowners associations, Project Linus, Centennial Children's Chorus and PEO and Toastmasters chapters. Community support includes fixing meals at The Mission, holding an annual food drive for the Food Bank, donating money and/or supplies to Homelessness Prevention Initiative and the Poudre School District, providing Eco-week scholarships for students at Putnam Elementary School, collecting clothing for Pine Ridge Reservation residents in South Dakota, being a host church for Faith Family Hospitality and donating to the ELCA's world hunger, malaria relief and disaster relief funds.

The columbarium and garden shown in the picture were installed in 2004.

OSLC's Mission Statement is "Our Saviour's Lutheran Church welcomes all to the love of Christ through Worshipping, Learning and Serving." Pastors Michael Stadtmueller and Leta Behrens currently serve OSLC.



PEAK Community Church

PEAK Community Church has its roots in “cottage prayer” services at the home of James and Irene Thompson at 614 Stover St. In 1950, the Thompsons invited Dale Hency, a student in Grand Junction, to transfer to Colorado A & M College and lead services. Several college students responded to the Spirit’s new work in Fort Collins, and a year later the budding congregation bought a 20’ by 40’ church building vacated by St. John’s Lutheran Church on the corner of Canyon and Mulberry.

Thanks to great generosity -- a donation from John Still, a price reduction from St. John’s, and a loan from the Board of Church Extension -- the small community held worship for the first time in its new building in June of 1951. A vacuum sweeper connection to a small reed (pump) organ provided “cathedral” music. A hand-dug basement provided space for two Sunday school classrooms. Two years later the building was sold, and funds were used to build a new structure at 516 Crestmore Place (now home to Abyssinian Christian Church), where the congregation renamed itself Crestmore Church of God. Some of the earliest members remain part of the congregation today, including Hanna Schoeler, Ron Kechter, Emma Miller, Joyce Bloch, Stanley Fluck, and Smokey and Stella Adkins.

In May 1974, the congregation purchased yet another property formerly occupied by Lutherans -- the Trinity Lutheran Church building on the corner of Mulberry and Mathews, along with the house adjacent on Mulberry. “The Mulberry House” was used by the Fort Collins Area Council on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse for meetings, counseling, and rehabilitation. The church building was renovated into a home for the newly named First Church of God. Also in 1974, First Church of God invited the Fort Collins community to its first “Living Nativity” -- a creative reenactment of the Christian nativity.

Besides a name change in 1993 to PEAK Community Church, the community at 500 Mathews has maintained a steady trajectory of faithfulness, devoting itself to corporate worship, education, mutual care, and community witness. The Living Nativity continues on. The PEAK congregation takes great joy in serving families, whether through programs like Faith Family Hospitality and Angel Tree, or simply as needs arise in the neighborhood.



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) has been a part of Fort Collins since its founding in 1903. The congregation was formed as an outreach by the Congregationalist's Board of Homeland Missions to Volgadeutsche immigrants, who appreciated the autonomy offered by the Congregational Church, a predecessor denomination of the United Church of Christ.

Plymouth's first home was at the corner of Oak and Whedbee Streets. The original name of the church was the German Congregational Protestant Church (Deutsche Evangelische Congregational Kirche) and worship services were originally held in the Low German dialect of the Volgadeutsche. In June 1904, Fort Collins' architect, Montezuma Fuller, accepted the bid for the construction of the German Evangelical Church to be built at 201 Whedbee Street.

The foundation was built of red sandstone and the walls of local pressed brick with redstone trim. A bowled auditorium with circular seating tiers and a fifty foot high tower completed the building. Dedication of the building took place on June 18, 1905.

With the advent of World War II in 1941, the members changed the name of the church to harken back to the Congregationalists' Pilgrim forebears, calling it Plymouth Congregational Church.

In 1957, the Congregational and Christian churches merged with the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the United Church of Christ, and Plymouth is a part of this denomination. In 1959, the congregation moved to its current location at 916 West Prospect Road.

During the postwar years, Plymouth became less an ethnic church and more of a mainstream university congregation. Known for its work with social justice, homelessness prevention, and inclusion of LGBT persons, Plymouth today is a growing congregation of 700 members. Sunday morning services are at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. and a new alternative service is offered at 6:00 p.m., also on Sunday.



Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

(Picture from website)

The current un-programmed (silent worship, with no order of service) Meeting of Friends in Fort Collins traces its origins to the mid-1960s. Initially, evening Meetings for Worship were held in Friends' homes on Sunday (which Quakers traditionally call: *First Day*).

Some Friends also participated in other local denominations' activities; some of our members still maintain close relationships with those congregations.

At these evening meetings, our children sometimes had a separate room where they could read or talk among themselves. Sometimes they participated in the hour of silent worship, in which members occasionally give what we call *vocal ministry*. We do not have paid or appointed ministers - out of our hour of prayerful silence, any person may be moved to speak, but only with urging from deep within and due consideration of whether the silence should be broken. All our leadership positions are volunteer and rotate as members feel called to serve.

In the mid-1970s, we began to hold meetings in the morning on First Day. We frequently used the United Campus Ministries house (as it was called then) at CSU. Attendance varied - sometimes there were ten of us and sometimes only two, but always enough to close worship with a handshake. We maintain close contact with other Friends' groups in this area, especially Boulder Meeting, which originally sponsored our group as a newly developing cluster of Friends. We were considered to be "under the care of" the Boulder Meeting until we were ready to establish a Meeting of our own.

During the early 1980s we felt prepared to assume the responsibilities of a full Monthly Meeting (the basic unit of Quaker practice). In December 1985, we requested this form of recognition, and in 1986, Boulder Monthly Meeting recommended to Colorado Regional and Intermountain Yearly Meeting (5-states' worth of un-programmed Meetings) that our group be accepted as a monthly Meeting. This status became official on April 20, 1986. As a result, we selected a member to serve as Clerk, established various standing committees, and undertook management of a budget. Our membership grew as we were joined by people new to Quakerism and by those who transferred their memberships from other meetings nationwide upon moving to our area. Our worship is open to all.

In 1994, we purchased a permanent home in a remodeled farmhouse at 2222 W. Vine Dr. in Fort Collins (80521). In subsequent years, we converted two old garage structures to become our First Day School (for religious education of our young Friends) and kitchen, and a library/teen room. We have around 50 members at this time, and at least half again as many attenders who worship with us on a regular basis, at 10 a.m. on First Days.

We respond actively to local Quaker concerns, such as working with a local elementary school and students from CSU, providing a Community Garden space with a home for a chicken coop cooperative, providing homeless gear, demonstrating for peace, working with foreign students, and supporting the food bank. We also support national and international Friends' initiatives, through fundraising for American Friends Service Committee and Right Sharing of World Resources, for example.



Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

The history of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church is an interesting story. When the Germans from Russia who worked the sugar beets came to Fort Collins around 1900, they gathered in homes to worship together. In 1904 they organized the first Lutheran church in town, the German Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem Church, and met in a small schoolhouse where all the services were held in German. Eventually in 1914, they built their own church building at the corner of Olive and Whedbee and changed the name to Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church.

As the years went by, a conflict developed between those who wanted to conduct services in English and those who wanted to stay with the German. Eventually the members who preferred English split off and formed the American Lutheran Church (now Trinity Lutheran Church). Bethlehem Lutheran continued its German services, but as Fort Collins grew, the church found it harder and harder to serve the more culturally diverse city. Finally, it reached a point where they had to change or die. In 1960, they decided to leave their building downtown and become a mission church of the American Lutheran Church on the expanding west side of Fort Collins. The congregation met for several months at Moore School, until the new sanctuary was dedicated on December 11, 1960. In January 1964, Bethlehem Lutheran Church adopted the current name, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.

During the 1960s and 1970s, as the congregation grew, various additions were made to the original building, including an extension of the sanctuary and a new education wing.

In the late 1980s with the merger of three North American Lutheran church bodies—The American Lutheran Church, The Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and The Lutheran Church in America—Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church became associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and is now one of four ELCA churches in Fort Collins.

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the existing sanctuary took place in March 1995 and the building was dedicated on November 26 of that year.

In 2004, the congregation celebrated 100 years of ministry in Fort Collins, and in 2010, we rededicated our building to commemorate 50 years of service at the current location.

Just as those people in 1960 adapted their mission to serve God in a growing and changing city, we strive to continue that mission in today's world.



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church began in the 1980s, as the growing city of Fort Collins saw rapid growth towards the southeast. It was determined that the town needed another parish to meet the needs of the Catholic faithful. A Mass was held on Thanksgiving Day, 1980, at the Lake Sherwood clubhouse, to introduce Father Kenneth Koehler to Catholics who lived south of Drake Road. Shortly thereafter, Archbishop James Casey of Denver appointed Rev. Koehler to be the founding pastor of the new parish, which would be established in the area of Lemay Avenue and Harmony Road, effective January 15, 1981. The parish would have as its patron St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American born citizen to be canonized a saint on September 14, 1975.

The first official Masses for the parish were held on Palm Sunday, April 5, 1981, in the former Fort Collins High School on South Remington, and continued to be held there until 1985. During this interim period, services were also held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on Lemay Avenue, and St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Stover Street. A search for a property to build the new church began, and a 13 acre parcel was purchased at 5450 South Lemay Avenue. At the time of purchase, Lemay Avenue was still a dirt road south of Harmony Road. The ground breaking ceremony was held on September 23, 1984, and the new church building was completed and dedicated on September 22, 1985. The new building was a multi-purpose facility that incorporated worship, fellowship, religious education, and youth activities.

Father Bert Chilson became pastor in 1992, and planning for the expansion of the building began. In 1998, building of the vestibule, offices and a conference room was completed, and in 2003, the new pastor, Father Larry Christensen, presided over the dedication of Seton Hall and the Religious Education Center. The next project on the horizon will be the updating of the worship area.

The current pastor is Father Grzegorz Cioch, and the assistant pastor is Father John Green. They are assisted by two deacons, Bill Trewartha and Don Weiss. Today, the congregation consists of over 2300 families, who participate in worship, fellowship, and religious education, to meet our parish mission "...to encourage one another to grow in a faith relationship with Jesus Christ, responding through prayer with love and service to our neighbor."

St. Joseph Catholic Church

As the pioneers of the military's Camp Collins worked to create what would become the City of Fort Collins, Saint Joseph Catholic Parish ministered to their needs.

Fr. Joseph Projectus Machebeuf, later the first bishop of Denver, celebrated the community's first Mass in 1866 in the little school of Mrs. Stratton, niece of famous Fort Collins pioneer, Aunty Stone. In his 30 years in Colorado, Fr. Machebeuf would travel 100,000 miles, serving his people on the prairie, on local farms, and in far-flung mountain mining camps, all with the long-term vision of building the Kingdom of God.

In 1878, with the population numbering a mere 1,200, Saint Joseph parishioners carried on Fr. Machebeuf's dauntless spirit and bought Fort Collins' first Catholic church, an old school house at 511 Riverside Ave.



By 1899, the need for a new space converged with the vision of then pastor Fr. G. Joseph LaJeunesse, who imagined "a Church building which would be at once a joy to the Catholics and a credit to the city." With the help of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Gardener, an elderly, childless couple who kept their savings stored in a trunk, Fr. LaJeunesse acquired the current property at the corner of Howes St. and Mountain Ave.

Mr. and Mrs. Gardener's savings sparked more generosity, much of it from working-class families and non-Catholics. One parishioner, Mr. Eugene Patrick Lamb, donated one hundred tons of stone, while others gave money, time and talent to a project that totaled \$12,000. Their dreams came true when the cornerstone of the church building was laid in 1900.

In 1908 the parish added a rectory, "the finest in the diocese", according to Fr. LaJeunesse, and in 1926 of great joy to all, Saint Joseph Catholic School was built. The beloved Sisters of Loretto taught at the school, and the cornerstone of their convent, our current parish offices, was laid in 1952.

Numerous projects followed, including a 1960 church renovation that doubled its size, and a 1965 school wing addition. In 1968, Saint Joseph parish took on the ministry of providing weekend Mass for vacationers and seasonal residents at Our Lady of the Lakes in Red Feather, Colorado. A new rectory went up in 1979, and another school wing addition in 1999. Under the gifted leadership of our current pastor, Fr. Steven Voss, our church hall was renovated and rededicated as Meredith Hall in December 2012.

Today, with Fort Collins' population at nearly 150,000, Saint Joseph Catholic Church's soaring spire and gothic portals remain a landmark for all. Saint Joseph parishioners – from about 1,700 registered households - continue to do good work through more than 30 community-wide ministries, providing pathways to salvation for all who seek.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The history of our church in Colorado precedes the admission of Colorado as a state. In 1874 Bishop Spalding in Denver had been appointed "Missionary Bishop of Colorado and Wyoming with oversight over Arizona and New Mexico." That year, five business men banded together and became legally appointed as Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Fort Collins.



At first the small church, numbering 35 members, worshipped in a space provided by the "Methodist House of Worship." Ultimately land was bought and, after various temporary structures had been used, the "real" St. Luke's was built on the corner of College and Oak St. The cornerstone was laid in 1882 for a building that was to cost "not less than \$6,000." In 1894 the result was described as "a substantial building of stone. The interior is in keeping and harmony with the exterior. The windows are all of cathedral stained glass. The church is lighted by electricity." It served the congregation for 80 years, undergoing three remodelings.

By 1958 the congregation had outgrown the building, and they decided to move. The cornerstone of the present St. Luke's on Stover was laid in 1963 and the building was dedicated in 1964 on the 90th anniversary of the beginning of St. Luke's. It was described at that time as "one of the loveliest examples of contemporary church construction in this country or in Europe" but was called more familiarly "The Ark" due to its Noah's-ark like shape! The windows and other objects of beauty from the original church were incorporated into the small chapel.

The whole life and purpose of St. Luke's, however, has from the beginning been to do God's work and advance His kingdom: a life of worship, teaching and the care of the needy. The most recent version of our Mission Statement declares "St. Luke's is a Christian community called to vital, ever-deepening relationships with Christ and our neighbors."

St. Luke's has a world-class organ donated by a parishioner and "Music at St. Luke's," a concert and worship series, has long been offered free of charge. The building is a valued performance venue for many groups, including the Scouts and Alcoholics Anonymous.

One recent ministry which St. Luke's has rejoiced in joining is Faith Family Hospitality, hosting homeless mothers, fathers and children for a week at a time in turn with other member churches. For a more detailed look at present-day St. Luke's and its ministries, please go to the website, stlukesfc.org. Priests, parishioners, causes and issues have come and gone, but St. Luke's remains a community dedicated to praying, praising and serving God and the whole area in the Episcopalian tradition.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Started as a mission to students, faculty and staff at the Colorado State University campus in 1959, St. Paul's operated out of a small house near the CSU campus. The Reverend Malcolm Boyd, renowned author of the book, "Are You Running with Me, Jesus?" was the first vicar. Fr. Boyd opened a coffee house, The Golden Grape, there, and could thus offer a place for students to discuss the important issues of their lives as well as a setting for Sunday worship.

The Episcopal Church as a whole tends to welcome many religious perspectives, uniting people with diverse theologies in a common ritual, the celebration of worship. To that end there is a Prayer Book that is used all across the country and that shares elements with Anglican church services around the world. From its inception, St. Paul's was a church where people could speak their minds, sharing varied understandings of God, the scriptures and how to live the Christian life and often agreeing to disagree.

The mission grew quickly, and by 1961 there was the need for much more space. St. Paul's moved to its current location at 1208 W. Elizabeth, and there it began to evolve as a family parish and campus ministry combined. Folk masses and discussions of the Vietnam War and the use of psychedelic drugs marked this period. Openness to a variety of perspectives and people continued to prevail.

St. Paul's continued to grow through the 1970s and 1980s. In 1991 a group of parishioners split off, discontented with the church's openness to the ordination of women, abortion rights, worship language and style, and most importantly the role of gay men and women in the life of the church at large. Father Bacon, the priest at the time, had revealed to his congregation that he was a gay man. For the remainder of parishioners at St. Paul's, the desire to be welcoming and open was solidified and strengthened by this event. This ethic is often expressed by more seasoned members of the parish who say, "We are all family, each one of us, and nobody is expendable."

Open to the questions of faith and willing to live with ambiguity and uncertainty when it comes to their answers, the people of St. Paul's listen to one another's experiences. Parishioners' prayer lives, studies, and ways of being of service to the needs of the community and the world are a rich source of wisdom that can be shared by all.

Under the leadership of its current priest, the Reverend Bonnie Sarah Spencer, the church continues to grow. At present there are three worship services on Sunday mornings, as well as a superb program for children. A Taizé worship service is offered once a month on Saturday evenings.

St. Paul's mission statement is: "Guided by Christ, we welcome, nurture and serve." Trying new expressions of what it means to be the Body of Christ in the 21st Century, the church will grow not only in size but in depth and in diversity of expression in the months and years ahead. Creativity and innovation have a place there. All people have a place there; they will indeed be embraced with open arms.



Temple Or Hadash

Temple Or Hadash is a Reform Jewish congregation in Northern Colorado. It began in 2001 with three families wanting to create a special place to worship and raise their families. They wanted this new congregation to be allied with the Union for Reform Judaism of North America because they believed the Reform movement best expressed their beliefs, principles and outlooks – not just within the Jewish community, but the larger community as a whole.

Since then, Or Hadash has grown from three founding families to 60 member families. We have an outstanding Religious School program and a vibrant and active adult community. In September 2005, Or Hadash welcomed its first rabbi to be its spiritual leader. Ted Stainman had been a military career chaplain, and, after his retirement, Rabbi Ted was convinced to travel to Ft. Collins from Denver to minister to the group. In 2012 Rabbi Ted decided to retire (again!), and after a lengthy search, Or Hadash hired Rabbi Debra Kassoff, who the temple shares with a small congregation in Greenville, MS.

Or Hadash was founded on some simple but fundamental principles. We wanted the temple to be a welcoming place. No one would be turned out the door. Jew and non-Jew, interfaith couples, members of the LGBT community all were greeted with a smile and a handshake. A second founding principle was alliance with the Union for Reform Judaism. Of the three main movements of modern American Judaism—Orthodox, Conservative and Reform—it is the Reform movement that is the largest by far. While Reform Jews remain firmly rooted in the fundamental traditions, we believe that our religion is not frozen in space or time. It is an enabling tradition that encourages innovation while still preserving the great traditions that all Jews hold dear.

We believe in the three basic tenets of Judaism—God, Torah and Israel—even as we acknowledge the diversity of Reform Jewish practices and beliefs. Reform Jews also believe that we were placed on earth by God to complete her work in an imperfect world. This is why 'tikkun olam' is central to our mission. In English, 'tikkun olam' means to repair the world, to make the world a better place—and each individual has his or her own skills to accomplish this mission. We are also proud of our movement's long history in supporting the battles for civil rights, for the rights of minorities and for women to become rabbis and spiritual leaders in this expanding world. As Reform Jews have embraced the countries and customs they found themselves in as Diaspora, so too our current Reform movement will continue to change and adapt. We welcome all—Jew, non-Jew, gay, straight, and interfaith families—allowing them to explore the richness of our people and our tradition without pressure or consequence. 'Ahavat ger', welcoming the stranger, is not only a principle tenet of Judaism—it is a passion at Or Hadash.



Trinity Lutheran Church

To understand Trinity Lutheran Church's history, one has to take a look at its German Russian heritage. Around the turn of the twentieth century, railroad scouts and agents of the developing sugar beet industry lured industrious Germans to the U.S. Many settled in the N.E. Fort Collins "Andersonville" area and "Buckingham." They hastily built tar paper shanties or sod houses near the sugar beet factory (off Vine Street, between Linden and Lemay Ave.). Being deeply religious, the Germans from Russia soon met for worship and prayer in homes on Whedbee and in the Andersonville area until they could build their own churches. Peter Anderson owned the land which is known as Andersonville; in 1904, he deeded this land to the German Evangelical Bethlehem Lutheran Church. A small school building on this lot was used for worship services; German was the primary language spoken by members. In 1913, the congregation voted to relocate and build a new church in a more central location at the corner of Whedbee and Olive St. The old Andersonville church was torn down; much of the lumber was used for the ceiling in the basement and the back entryway of the new church. The cornerstone for this beautiful Gothic church was laid on August 9, 1914.

During the next 23 years at the new location, there was a desire by some younger families to have English worship services; this desire was met with mixed acceptance. On June 24, 1938, forty-six families separated themselves from the parent Bethlehem Lutheran Church to form The American Lutheran Church; their charter was granted November 18, 1938. Without an official home, the new American Lutheran congregation rented the First Congregational Unitarian church building (SW corner of Mulberry & College Ave.) until the new congregation purchased a vacant church building at 500 Mathews St. During the first 16 years at this location, the building was remodeled, then later enlarged and improved. By then, the congregation had grown from the original 46 families in 1938 to 240 families. In 1965, the national Lutheran churches merged and adopted the new name of "The American Lutheran Church." To avoid confusion, the name of our own local American Lutheran Church was officially changed to "Trinity Lutheran Church" on May 24, 1965. Today it is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Due to space and parking constraints, the congregation voted to build a new church at 301 East Stuart Street (Trinity's current location). The first worship service was held on Easter in 1974. The present Fellowship Hall served as our Sanctuary for 15 years until a new Sanctuary was completed in 1989. Our congregation has ministered to a changing community, being instrumental in establishing Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, Neighbor to Neighbor and Education and Life Training Center. Trinity provides space for many 12-step programs, musical performances and support groups. Today, Trinity is a welcoming faith community living together in God's love to share the joy of Jesus Christ.



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Westminster Presbyterian Church was founded under the sponsorship of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Collins (First). A group of interested members of First met as a missionary team on October 22, 1962. Reverend Allan Swan was called as the organizing pastor. On March 3, 1963, Westminster was organized as a congregation within the United Presbyterian Church, USA.

The new congregation of 136 charter members met for three years in the Moore School multipurpose room for Sunday worship. The newly constructed church building was dedicated on March 27, 1966, at the current location on the corner of Skyline Drive and West Elizabeth. We are part of a mixed residential/student-housing neighborhood less than a mile west of the Colorado State University campus. An education wing was added in 1978, with a further expansion in 2005. The building is on a single, handicap-accessible floor.

Four ministers have served Westminster as Senior Pastor since its inception: Rev. Allan Swan, Rev. Philip Dunford, Rev. Roland McDonald, and Rev. Richard Fennig.

With a tradition of willing hands, loving hearts, music, and laughter, we think of ourselves as the "Little Church with the Big Heart". From the beginning, our congregation has been dedicated to generous mission giving and support: Habitat for Humanity, the Food Bank, Homelessness Prevention Initiative, the Center for Hope, Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council, Crossroads Safehouse, Neighbor to Neighbor, Homeless Gear, the Geller Center, Highlands Camp, Crop Walk, and Marion Medical Mission.

Westminster is a friendly, open, and inclusive church family that has made our journey of faith together for 50 years, enriched, supported and encouraged by one another. We continue to grow as God's people in our spiritual life, in our outreach, and in our concern for others.

PHOTO GALLERY and MISCELLANY

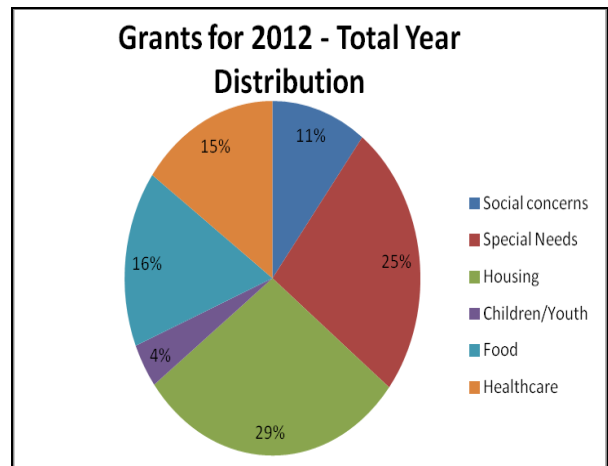


2012 Communications Team: Back: Sue Anderson; Diane Cohn; Cindy Worayeth; Sandra Brown; Kay Bunch; Dale Grit. Front: Mary Garcia.



Above: Folsom Marker, A.D. 1936, on exhibition at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery.

Right: Soapstone Prairie Natural Area, site of the Lindenmeier archaeological Folsom-period cultural complex, one of the most important archaeological sites in the Western Hemisphere. The City will celebrate the 80th anniversary of the discovery in October 2014.



Above: The chart shows the distribution of grant funds from IFC in 2012 by categories.





One of many musical murals painted on the walkway between the Bohemian Foundation Building and building to the west in Old Town.



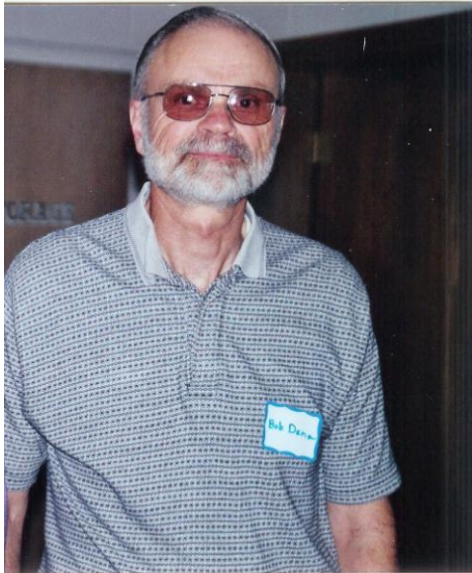
Above: summer hollyhocks in Old Town and a table at the Annual Award and Appreciation Supper, April 18, 2013. The supper was prepared by United Methodist Women, Christ United Methodist Church.



For over 35 years, The Reverend Robert Geller has continued to lead a Friday morning book discussion at the Geller Center.



2012 Executive Team: Kristi Stingley; Carol Smith; Rick Bunch; Diane Cohn; Sandra Brown; Mary Garcia; Rich Thompson and Garth McCann.



Bob Dana, Treasurer during the 1997 flash flood in central Fort Collins, handled the processing of donations and dealt with vast amounts of paperwork that the Internal Revenue Service required.

Below, Sue Peterson, Sue Ferguson and Rich Thompson stand in front of the new trailer for Faith Family Hospitality. The trailer transports beds and other equipment between host sites where homeless families spend a week at a time.



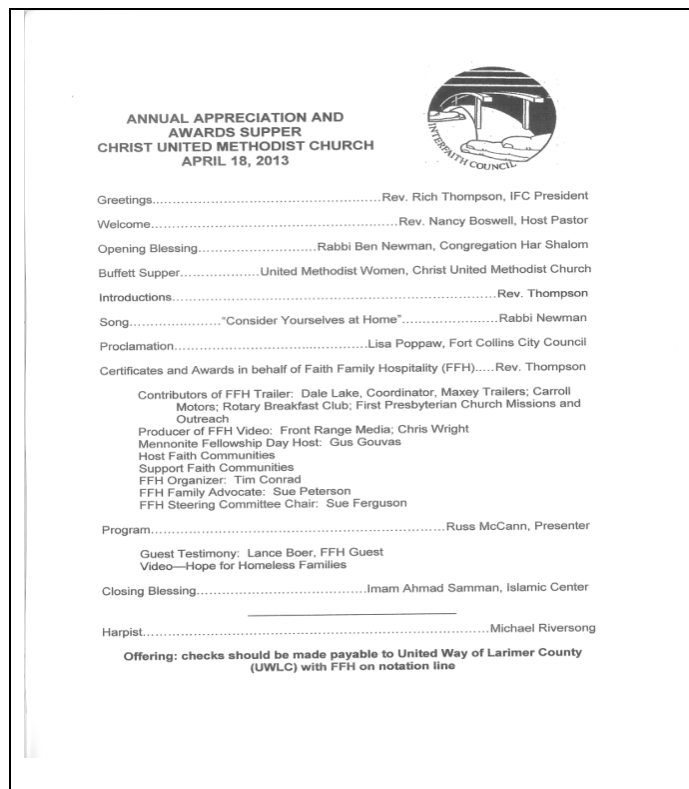
October trees at Mountain Avenue and College Avenue.

The 'Making Choices' poverty simulation was used at Homelessness Prevention Initiative's 3rd Annual Soup Supper Event in 2013. Guests participated in the simulation and discussed the results with those at their tables. "The moral of the simulation is that there are hardworking people right here in our area that have to make tough financial decisions every day. Through HPI, the Interfaith Council, and other organizations, HPI is working to catch these families BEFORE they fall into homelessness and hopelessness." Tegan Hollen, HPI Program Associate.

Making Choices
How will you invest your resources?

If you had a "16-candy budget" to spend every month how would you spend it? What would your priorities be? Place the required number of candies to indicate your spending choices. You have to make a choice for each category (you can't skip any categories). You are married, you both work and have a son, 14 and a daughter, 9.

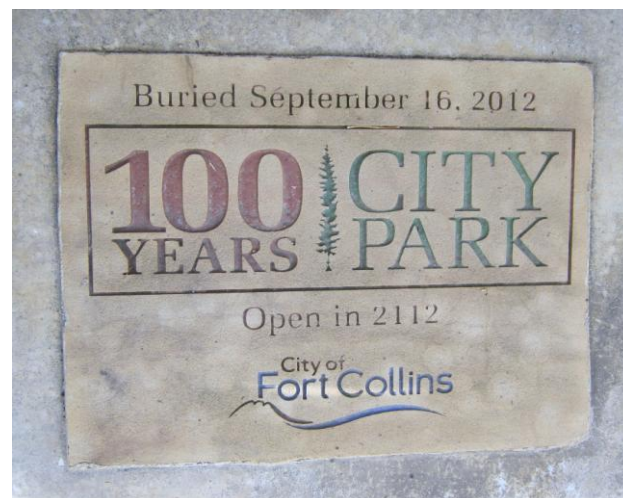
Category	A (1 Candy)	B (2 Candies)	C (3 Candies)
Housing	Studio apartment (1 bedroom, 1 bath, unfurnished, no patio/deck/yard, street parking only (no covered parking space), stove only)	3 bedroom 1 bath apartment, unfurnished, covered patio, covered parking space, stove and refrigerator	2 bedroom 1 1/2 bath house, unfurnished, small fenced yard, 2 car garage, stove, refrigerator and dishwasher
Healthcare	No health insurance, you pay for all health related costs	Health insurance for you through your employer but no health insurance for your family members.	Health insurance for you and your family through your employer.
Food (per person)	1 meal a day	2 meals a day	3 meals a day+ snacks
Transportation	Walk or bike everywhere, no public transit available	Walk, bike or take public transit	Own your own car
Technology access	No computer No cell phone Black & White TV - No cable	No computer No cell phone TV - No cable	Home computer TV with cable Cell phone
Laundry facilities	Laundromat	Shared laundry room in apartment complex	Own washer/dryer, in your home
Shopping	1 grocery store with walking distance, no mall within 20 miles	Grocery store across the street from your home and a mini-mall within a mile	2 grocery stores nearby and a large mall within walking distance
Spending money	After the bills/food are paid no extra money left	\$20 left over each week after all bills are paid	\$50 left over each week after all bills are paid



Members attending a meeting at a Care Housing facility: Rick Bunch; Sarah Alessi, Care Housing host; Mary Garcia; Sandra Brown; Carol Smith; JoAn Hopkins.

Above: Program for Annual Appreciation and Awards Supper held on April 18, 2013.

Right: Stone tile over time capsule marking 100th anniversary of City Park in 2012.



Below Left: History Team members, Anita Hildebrand and Caryl Beaty, are the co-editors of IFC's History.

Below Right: IFC's newest agency, directed by David Reid, is the Northern Colorado Faith Library.





PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council has designated April 18, 2013, as the time to host its annual Awards presentation; and

WHEREAS, Christ United Methodist Church supports the religious diversity of the Fort Collins community and serves as host for the event; and

WHEREAS, the recipient of awards upon this occasion will be those among the twenty faith communities who have led in hosting homeless families during the initial year of Faith Family Hospitality.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Karen Weitkunat, Mayor of the city of Fort Collins, do hereby proclaim April 18, 2013 as the day for the

THE FORT COLLINS AREA INTERFAITH COUNCIL ANNUAL AWARDS

in the city and urge all residents to take note of this celebratory event.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the seal of the City of Fort Collins this 19th day of March, A.D. 2013.

Karen Weitkunat
Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda Nelson
City Clerk



Colorado State University Annual Flower Trial Garden on College Avenue; said to be No.1 tourist destination in the City.



Award Recipients at 2010 annual dinner: Les Cunningham; Junaid Subzuwari and son; Chris Kennison; Sue Beck-Ferkiss.

Aspen tree with sunflowers in City backyard.



Fort Collins is privileged to have miles of nature trails for biking and walking.





Immigration attorney, Kim Medina, and Paige Noon, an English as Second Language volunteer at La Familia/The Family Center, address a meeting of IFC on January 9, 2014, about the current US immigration policy.



In the early 1980's some Mountain Avenue residents protested the restoration of the tracks and trolley, Birney Streetcar No. 21; now it's a city treasure with its own trolley barn.



The trolley runs down the middle of Mountain Avenue in front of the historic Avery House shown above, which was the home of Franklin and Sara Avery built in 1879 with various renovations through the years. The home is owned by the City of Fort Collins and the Poudre Landmarks Foundation oversees the interior and activities held in the house and on the grounds.

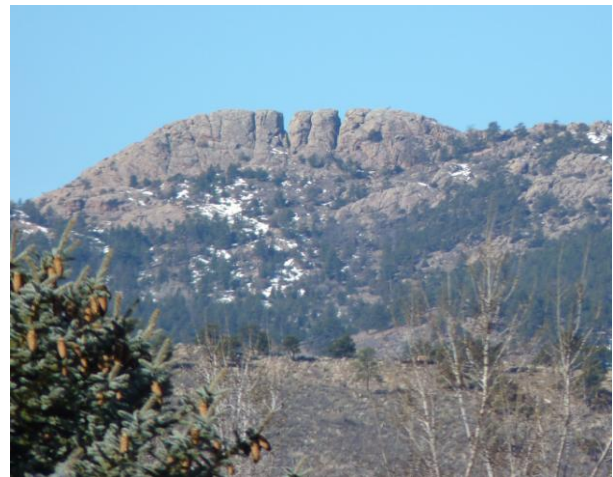


Above: The unique City view from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church shows the City's growth and proximity to the majestic Rocky Mountains.

Right: Tim Dolan checks into an IFC meeting with Cindy Worayeth, 2014 Communications Team Chair.

Below right: Horsetooth Rock west of the City.

Below left: Spokesperson Shakir Muhammad welcomes IFC members to a tour of the Islamic Center on March 6, 2014. A tour for the community was held on Saturday, March 1, 2014.



On March 21, 2014, volunteers get ready to raise the walls of a new Habitat for Humanity house being built by the interfaith community of Fort Collins in the Rigden Farm subdivision.



The buildings shown here at the intersection of Willow and Linden Streets are in an historic part of "Old Town" Fort Collins. The cavalry grounds of the 1866 fort had a "parade," a 300-foot square where the troops gathered, centered in the intersection, with barracks, officers' quarters and messes built in a three-sided rectangle around the parade. This information is taken from an article entitled "Old Town once site of cavalry post, giving city its name" written by Barbara Fleming in the January 6, 2014, edition of the Fort Collins Coloradoan.



IFC History Project Team at work at American Baptist Church: Claire Cafaro; Caryl Beaty; Gordon Hadlow; Cindy Worayeth; Betty Moseley; John McGee; Rich Thompson; Anita Hildebrand. Not pictured: Keith Black and Tim Dolan.



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE RADIO SERIES

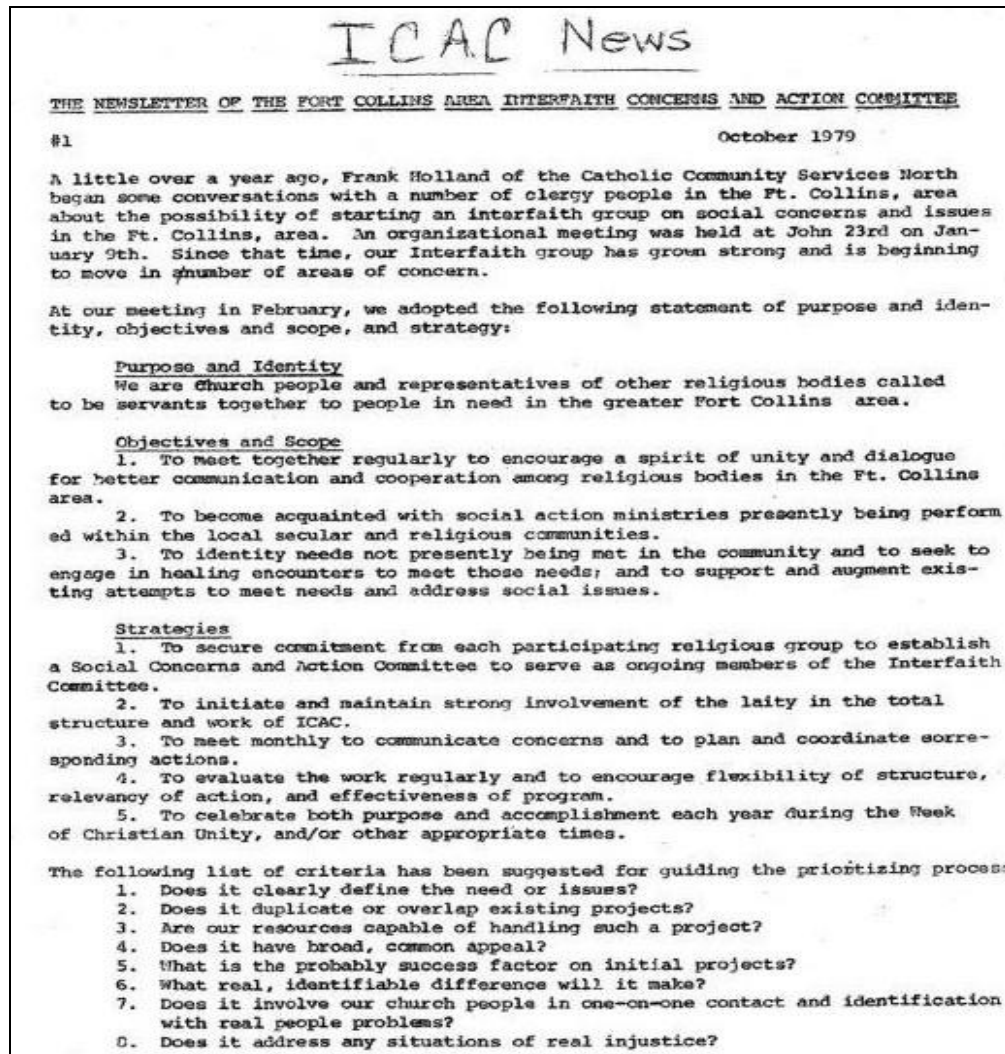
KRFC 88.9 FM 2006-2010
Sponsored by the Fort Collins Area
Interfaith Council
Richard A. Thompson, Host

Left: Garth McCann and Betty Moseley talk with
Rich Thompson during February 4, 2010 broadcast.

Broadcast	Topic	Guests
12.14.06	Hanukkah and Old Town	Rabbi Larry Denmark
1.11.07	Chaplaincy PVHD	Phil Koster
2.1.07	Islamic Center	Moin Siddiqui
3.22.07	Blood Diamonds	Greg Campbell
4.12.07	Zen Buddhism	Viviane Ephraimson-Abt
5.3.07	Project Self-Sufficiency	Mary Carraher
11.8.07	Pilgrim Origins of Thanksgiving	Hal Chorpenning
12.20.07	Ten Thousand Villages	Jane Snyder
1.3.08	Fort Collins Museum	Cheryl Davidson
4.10.08	Muslim-Christian Dialogue	Tawfix Aboellail/Phil Koster
5.29.08	Neighbor to Neighbor	Wendy Robinson
6.5.08	Calling to Public Service	Senator Bob Bacon
6.19.08	Alternative Funerals	Gary Bohlender/Nancy Person
6.26.08	Care Housing	Ashley Monahan
9.4.08	Salvation Army	Michael Halverson/Olga Duvall
9.11.08	Theology of 9/11	David Reid
10.16.08	CSU Historian	Jim Hansen
1.8.09	Robert Burns' Poetry	Tom Sutherland
1.29.09	Jazz and Spirituality	Mark Sloniker/Coleen Crosson
4.9.09	Pathways Hospice	Maria Cox/Kim Mueller
6.4.09	Homelessness Prevention Initiative	Sue Beck-Ferkiss
6.11.09	Phelps Organ at St. Luke's Episcopal	Tamara Schmiede
10.08.09	Northern Colorado Faith Library	Eddy Hopkins
11.05.09	<i>Speaking of Faith</i> Host	Krista Tippet
1.7.10	The Quakers	Rob Werge/Rebecca Morris
2.4.10	Interfaith Council History	Betty Moseley/Garth McCann
2.11.10	Catholic Charities Northern	Glenn Good
2.25.10	Columnist/Chaplain	Norris Burkes
7.1.10	Rocky Mountain Resource Center Update	Hal Mansfield
9.9.10	Theologian in Residence	Orsi Jared
11.11.10	Ecological Ethics	Holmes Rolston
11.18.10	4-Year Review of Interfaith Dialogue	Rich Thompson

Recordings are accessible at the Fort Collins Museum of Discovery Archives

EXCERPT FROM IFC'S FIRST NEWSLETTER



EXCERPT FROM IFC'S AMENDED BYLAWS DATED February 5, 2009

The purpose and objective of Fort Collins Area Interfaith Council shall be:

1. To meet regularly to encourage a spirit of unity and dialogue, to create increased communication and cooperation among faith communities in the Fort Collins area.
2. To facilitate communication between faith communities and social action groups within local, secular and religious communities.
3. To identify needs not presently being met in the community; to facilitate and/or create ways to meet those needs; to support and augment existing attempts to meet needs and to address social issues.
4. To establish by Covenant a relationship of the Interfaith Council to constituent members.
5. To establish our voice in the community.

AGENCY MEMBERS OF INTERFAITH COUNCIL 2013-2014

American Red Cross
Care Housing
Catholic Charities-Larimer County
Colorado Spirit Mountain Outreach Flood Recovery
Crossroads Safehouse
Education and Life Training Center
Elderhaus
Faith Family Hospitality
Food Bank for Larimer County
Fort Collins Housing Authority
Geller Center
Habitat for Humanity
Homeless Gear
Homelessness Prevention Initiative
La Familia/The Family Center
Larimer County Office on Aging
Matthews House
Muslims Against Hunger
Neighbor to Neighbor
Northern Colorado Faith Library
Northern Colorado Health Network (NCAP)
Pathways/Hospice
Project Self-Sufficiency
Salvation Army
Senior Alternatives in Transportation (Saint)
Sexual Assault Victims Advocate (Sava)
Sister Mary Alice Murphy Center for Hope
Theologian in Residence Program CSU
Touchstone Health Partners
United Way of Larimer County
Women's Resource Center

GOOD SIGNS

