

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

35 Years and Still Going Strong: The Little Church that Could

FORT COLLINS, Colorado — August 2, 2010 — The little brick church on the corner of Oak and Matthews is having a birthday. This year marks the 35th anniversary of Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship (FCMF), a small, but mighty presence in the community. To celebrate its anniversary, FCMF is putting on a variety of educational and fun-filled events around the theme: “God’s Work, Our Hands: Peace, Service, and Community.”

The anniversary celebration kicked off in April with a hands-on Service Learning Adventure. Thirty volunteers from FCMF donated a weekend of their time to help local service organizations with a variety of activities: working on a garden for a low-income housing project, preparing soup mixes for busy single mothers striving for self-sufficiency, and spending quality time with Alzheimer’s patients.

The service theme continued with three special Sunday services focused on successful partnerships between FCMF and the community. The May 9 service focused on how FCMF established the fair-trade store, Ten Thousands Villages, in Old Town, to assist artisans around the world. The June 6 service discusses how FCMF provided a severe-weather day shelter for the local homeless population. And the July 4 service will celebrate FCMF’s role in founding Strength Through Peace, a consistently articulate organization devoted to non-violent social change.

But this year’s anniversary celebration is not just about service, it’s also about fun and food! In that spirit, there will be a reunion weekend on August 28 and 29 for past and present members of the congregation (and pastors), as well as friends, neighbors, and any one searching for a faith community committed to peace, service, and community. Saturday, August 28, will feature a music jam and ice cream social from 4 to 7 pm. Sunday, August 29 will feature a special worship service where past FCMF ministers share their stories. A potluck follows in Library Park, across the street from the church. The service and following potluck are open to all.

The anniversary celebration wraps up with a community forum that moves beyond the local fellowship and into the world at large. On Friday evening, October 29, FCMF will host a lively discussion with international and local peace activists on the timely subject of conflict resolution. In addition, don’t miss the eye-opening “bombie” (cluster-bomb) exhibit from the Mennonite Central Committee for some somber reflection about the weapons of war.

For more information, visit the FCMF website at www.fcmennonite.org or email Pam Duncan at: Pamduncan1@msn.com

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Interview Contact: Pamela Duncan

Email: Pamduncan1@msn.com

Phone: 951-205-7554

Fort Collins Mennonite Fellowship

300 East Oak Street

Fort Collins, CO 80524

(970) 224-4106

www.fcmennonite.org

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