



the Sursum Corda

(July

2010, Ordinary Time)

...from Epiphany Anglican Fellowship-Boulder

Dear Epiphany,

Remember the theme song for the old TV show "Cheers?"

You wanna go where everybody knows your name,

And they're always glad you came.

You wanna be where you can see,

our troubles are all the same

You wanna go where everybody knows your name.

CUP & CHALICE



It seems this song reflects the need we all possess to have a meaningful connection to a community of people; to have people who show they care about us and who hold similar values despite differences.

I got to thinking why, many times, neighbourhood pubs seem to offer more of this connection than churches do, and I was introduced to the thought of social network theory.*

Network theorists discuss two group mentalities and how they affect social dynamics: the **bounded set** vs. the **centered set**. Many churches seem to define themselves in the bounded set. They derive their identity from what separates them from others. The boundary between them and others is thickly drawn and emphasis is placed on the barriers others must cross before they are one of "our tribe." Much attention and energy are given to the boundary and protecting it. (See for example, 1 Cor. 1.11-13: "For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, 'I follow Paul,' or 'I follow Apollos,' or 'I follow Cephas,' or 'I follow Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" ESV). In addition, believers who practice a "churchless spirituality" have established a bounded set of one.

In contrast, the centered set focuses on the center, the principle or person to whom we are moving. The group is then defined in terms of movement toward or away from the central unifier. There is realization that all are in the process of "becoming" or moving close to the center. We can learn from those closer to the center and encourage those farther away. There is much less emphasis on maintaining boundaries. Rather, it is on dynamic movement. For the church, the central figure is Jesus and the movement is Christlikeness. (See for example Gal.3.26-28: "...for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" ESV).

It is my observation and experience that our EAF-Boulder congregation is defined more by the Center than by the boundaries. By God's grace may it continue to be true as we move toward our Lord and invite others, no matter where on their spiritual journey (even if they haven't started it), to join us. May we continue to look to the Center, "to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12.2) and avoid making church "our tribe."

Every blessing in Him,
Dick Miller

By the gracious permission of the Epiphany Leadership Council, I will be taking a week of study leave 19-24 July. I will be involved in a "Liturgical Studies Workshop" at Nashotah House Seminary near Milwaukee. Your prayers are appreciated.

*Thanks to my friend, Scott Youngman, of Wycliff Translators

My Story: Becky Konshak from the article "Christ and Corvettes" by Shelly Miller (reprinted from Summer 2010 edition of AMiA's national magazine, "Wave")



Becky Konshak grips the steering wheel, bracing for a two-minute adrenaline rush of speed. Her electric-yellow Corvette flies around the auto-cross course as fellow members of Top of the Rockies Covette Club cheer on their friend and honorary chaplain.

After Becky and her husband Mike bought their first Corvette in 2005, she joined the club and began to attend some auto cross races as entertainment on weekends. Two years after Becky decided to get behind the wheel as a competitor, she

achieved the 2007 Ladies Regional Champion award.

"It was very scary at first, but once I started racing, I realized it was crazy fun," admits Becky. "My competitive spirit re-emerged, and I entered every race available. I really wanted to do well, and I learned more each time I had the opportunity to race."

As a Spiritual Director and Chaplain for the multi-site congregations of Epiphany Anglican Fellowship in Colorado (of which Boulder is one - ed.), Becky has been commissioned by the Rev Gerry Schnackenberg to reach people for Christ as a missionary chaplain to the autocross world. On Seminary graduation day, fellow members of the Corvette Club named Becky their honorary chaplain, an uncommon distinction.

"This has been a natural fit for me," shares Becky. "People in the club know I am a chaplain which has opened doors for them to share candidly about their struggles and difficulties at seemingly odd times."

Members gather for prayer before races, and Becky leads the invocation at regional events. She is also involved with some National Hot Rod Association events working with Racers for Christ, observing and stepping in where needed.

"I am not an evangelist, but a representative of God," Becky muses. "My presence reminds people that there is a God, and sometimes they simply need to remember that. Then I am an available resource when they do."

Becky is EAF's Chaplain, for whom we are very grateful. She graduated from Denver Seminary in 2009.

(Also check out www.torcavettes.com - ed.)

Which Would You Choose?



"Life Together" Sermon Series Continues

Using the lectionary Epistle readings, our look into the life of the Christian community of faith continues for the summer. Planned topics and dates are:



- July 4- *When Caring Gets Tough* (Gal.6.1-16)
- July 11- *A Pastor's Prayer for the People* (Col. 1. 1-14)
- July 18- *As Good as It Gets!* (Col.1.15-29)
- July 25- *The Church's Greatest Enemy* (Col 2.6-15)
- Aug. 1- *The Amphibious Church* (Col.3.1-11)
- Aug. 8- *Faith Defined by Life* (Heb.11.1-16)
- Aug. 15- *God's Guarantees in Hardship* (Heb. 12.1-15)
- Aug. 22- *Community Purity #1*(Heb.12.18-29)
- Aug. 29- *Community Purity #2* (Heb. 13.1-8)
- Sept. 5- *Obedience When the Chips are Down* (Philemon 1-21)

(Charles Simeon, Anglican vicar, in his pulpit at Holy Trinity, Cambridge, 1790)

The "**Threads of Hope**" homemade craft sale in May netted **\$1611** for the poor woman of Lima, Peru! Thanks to all who participated including the people of Boulder 7th Day Baptist Church. Special thanks to **Kim Roberts** for directing the sales.

Upcoming Events (selections from the Anglican Calendar of Saints appear in *italics*)

- July 4 - EAF service in Lefthand Park 9.30a
- July 6 - *Jan Hus, martyr, 1415*
- July 5, 12, 19, 26 - Men's study/accountability group 5p (Boulder's Eben Fine Park)
- July 10 - Water World Young Men (ages 10-16) mentoring event (tix at \$10 discount)
- July 19-24 - Pastor's study leave in Wisconsin
- July 22 - *St Mary Magdalene*
- July 24 - *Thomas a Kempis*
- July 25 - *St James the Apostle*
- July 30 - *Wm. Wilberforce, Anglican reformer, 1833*
- July 31- Friendship Party (Hosts are still needed, so this date may change)





"You know, churches are like parking places:
all the good ones are taken, and the
only ones left are handicapped."

**6710 Arapahoe Rd. (7th Day Bapt. building)
Boulder, CO 80303
(720)394.0708
Ancient Ways/Future Paths
Worship, Sundays @ 10.15a
(Refreshments follow)**

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