



Celebration exists to create a life-giving, life-changing, missional, mentoring community for people in need of grace.

CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

STAFF:

Pastor: Steve Garcia

Associate Pastor: Jill Jones

Youth & Worship Pastor: Wes Scheu

Children's Director: Kathy Swigle

Pastoral Assistant: Vince Crespin

ELDERS:

Acts 1:8: Ryan Harrison & Mark Semmler

Children: Jenah Johnson & Kathy Swigle

Communications: Gerda Visser Wijnveen

Discipleship: Jill Jones & Wilfred Visser

Hospitality: Kaye Mathews

Stewardship: Brad Cornish

The Party Team: Marcia Bickel & Vince Crespin

TLC: Teresa Hood & Jill Jones

Worship: Matt Callis & Wes Scheu

Youth: Whitney Barrett and Wes Scheu

CORE PURPOSES

VALUES & COMMITMENTS

CORE PURPOSES:

WORSHIP

FELLOWSHIP

DISCIPLESHIP

SERVICE

OUTREACH

VALUES & COMMITMENTS:

Love & Informality

Honesty & Humility

Urban & Global Heart

Diversity & Ethnicity

Reflection & Depth

Justice & Mercy

Humor & Courage

Fun & Serious

EST. 1998
Celebration Community Church

October 20, 2013

Minding the Gap

Year XV

IN TRAIN STATIONS IN LONDON, ubiquitous signs warn passengers to "Mind the gap." Watch that step between the station platform and the train door or a small misstep may result in a big fall.



There are lots of gaps to watch out for all around us. You can see them in our city, around the world, and in our own communities. We can see them in our families and even in our church community.

In Scripture, gaps abound. Hannah's story illustrates how missteps in family or religious life can lead to heartache (1 Samuel 1). Even in the New Testament, racial, cultural, and economic gaps caused problems for the Apostles and the church in Acts 6.

And in the days of prophets, the gaps were even more glaring and menacing. The Sovereign LORD said: "Extortion is rife, robbery is epidemic, the poor and needy are abused, outsiders are kicked around at will, with no access to justice. I looked for someone to stand up for me against all this, to repair the defenses of the city, to take a stand for me and *stand in the gap* to protect this land so I wouldn't have to destroy it. I couldn't find anyone. Not one (Ezekiel 22:30, The Message, emphasis ours)."

This year, we urge you to "Mind the Gap."

In our day, the gap is the divide between where we are and where we want to be, between what is and what ought to be. Whether glaring and menacing or subtle and seemingly inconsequential, stand up for people who are easily overlooked and so often kicked around.

Here are three kinds of people and one defining issue which is on our heart as 2014 is upon us:



(continued)



OUTSIDERS - By this, we mean folks who are on the margins of our society, specifically new-arrivals and non-English speaking people. In the Denver Public School system, for example, nearly 36,000 of 84,000 students are English learners. This represents a huge challenge and opportunity in our communities. There is often a mix of discouragement and desire among non-English speaking children and their parents, who may easily be treated like and feel like outsiders. But many of us possess or desire to learn a foreign language as well. Our prayer (there is no plan at the moment) is for a way to return to our roots, to a time when language learning took place at Celebration.

NEWCOMERS - 2014 may be known as the year of the Newcomer. We have done a better and better job of welcome, hospitality, and invitation to newcomers at Celebration, but we feel led to do more. We are aware that finding a church to call home, and finding one's way into friendship and community at Celebration can be a Challenge. We are looking for people to help us bridge the gap between someone seeing herself as a Visitor and calling Celebration "home."

YOUNG ADULTS - There has always been a generational gap at Celebration. It's the gap between when kids graduate from youth group and when they become working, responsible adults. This diverse demographic group may be variously described as college students, emerging adults, young adults, or young professionals — but they are an easily overlooked people group at Celebration. Don't overlook them! Embrace and include young adults into the warmth of your families, into relationships of mentoring, and into leadership development.

These needs and opportunities are in addition to everyone and everything we already do. Kids. Youth. Adult Ministries. Missions. Everything important to us remains so.

And one more thing. Anything worth doing will cost **MONEY**.

Be prayerful, intentional, and entrepreneurial about church finances. Pray for God's provision so that children's, youth, adult and other ministries can be fully-funded and our outreach can grow. We need to teach and talk about giving in ways that teach our young (and old) the way of the kingdom, the gospel of Jesus. And we need to have fun with money — getting creative and taking risks to raise funds to make God-sized dreams and visions possible.

Thank you for your faithful participation at Celebration. Minding the gap as a community will impact lives, spread the good news, and keep people God loves from falling through the cracks.



1 ONE BOOK, ONE CHURCH

This year, we will begin our first-ever, One Book-One Church book club, where, together as a church community, we will read, discuss, and engage a book together. In small groups, over coffee, throughout sermons, we will explore the challenges and implications of this book together.

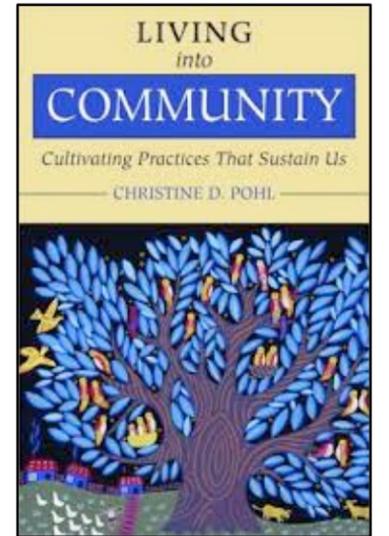
Drawing from the importance of community to Celebration--it's our middle name, it's our mission, and it's an integral part of our vision for 2014, we have chosen a book about community. Our book this year is Living Into Community, Cultivating Practices that Sustain Us, by Christine D. Pohl.

Here's a brief summary of the book:

Every church, every organization, has experienced them: betrayal, deception, grumbling, envy, exclusion. They make life together difficult and prevent congregations from developing the skills, virtues, and practices they need to nurture sturdy and life-giving communities.

In Living into Community, Christine Pohl looks at four specific Christian practices — gratitude, promise-keeping, truth-telling, and hospitality — that can counteract these destructive forces and help churches and individuals build and sustain vibrant communities. Drawing on concrete congregational experiences and interacting with the biblical, historical, and moral traditions, Pohl thoughtfully discusses each practice, including its possible complications and deformations, and points to how these essential practices can be better cultivated within congregations and families.

We will have limited copies available for purchase, and they are also available on Amazon.com. So, pick up a copy of the book, invite someone to coffee, get together with other Celebrationistas and join the conversation!





CELEBRATION MINISTRY TEAMS

fun and serious volunteers needed

YOUTHTEAM - The Youth ministry exists to reach high school and middle school students with the love of Jesus, connect them with other believers, and walk alongside them as they learn to honor God with their lives and sacrifice their time, talents, and treasures for the benefit of His Kingdom and others. We do this through timeless teaching, creating memorable experiences and developing meaningful relationships.

Get involved as a driver for our various events during the year, provide snacks, or hang out and mentor young people during our youth groups each week. Maybe you have a fun place we can get serious about God, like a movie room or a pool. Please see Wes Scheu or Whitney Barrett if you have an interest.

WORSHIP TEAM - The worship team helps create an environment for worship and an awareness of our call as God's people who "declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into this wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9)." We do this through the use of music, song, scripture, prayer, the arts, and our attitudes.

We couldn't do it without our volunteers on the sound board or computer. If you're interested in joining the team, we'll train you in everything you need to know! If you're a worship leader or can sing or play instruments, let us know! We'd love to find someone who can play the cello or the violin—is that you? Please see Wes Scheu or Matt Callis if you are interested in being part of this diverse team.

HOSPITALITY TEAM - Our focus this ministry year is to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere at worship services to get serious about God and to provide avenues for connecting with others in our community of believers. We do this by serving as greeters at the door, coordinating yummy snacks and coffee, and providing welcome gifts to newcomers. We currently have several openings for greeters and can always use volunteer snack providers. If you have an interest in serving in any of these areas on Sundays, please contact Kaye Mathews or Jill Jones.

THE PARTY TEAM - Our team seeks to get things started and organized for Celebration events and put out the "help host the party" call for volunteers! Some of the past events organized by The Party Team include: Easter and Christmas Celebrations, Summer BBQ's, the *Infamous* Progressive Dinner, Super Bowls Parties, and a Dance Party. Our vision is to create a fun community when we come together to get serious about God, which is only possible because lots of volunteers roll up their sleeves and come together to host every party. Please stay tuned for the next "help host the party" call...or feel free to contact Vince Crespin or Marcia Bickel with a party idea or just to tell us how you'd like to help when the next party comes along.

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM - We exist to foster a culture of community and spiritual transformation at Celebration. This year, through our One Book, One Church emphasis, we hope to nurture a culture where community groups, mentoring relationships, and spiritual growth and maturity flourish. We already see this happening in our Women's Ministry, MOPS group, Men's Breakfast, Newcomers' Class, Young Adult ministry, and other small groups, and we hope to see additional opportunities like these emerge this year. Contact Jill Jones.

TLC TEAM - The TLC Team is the care ministry of Celebration and supports the staff in responding to and addressing the care needs within the congregation. The TLC Team also exists to mobilize and equip the Celebration congregation in responding to these care needs. This year, the Team is exploring how to more effectively communicate needs to the congregation, as well as how to provide basic training in providing care ministry (e.g. prayer, hospital visitation). Contact Teresa Hood or Jill Jones for more information.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM - The team is responsible for overseeing the finances and buildings/grounds of the church. Our goal for our finances is to manage our expenses to a sustainable level and find new, innovative ways of providing for new ministry opportunities. After several recent years of major upgrades to our buildings/grounds, we anticipate this being a year of maintenance and tweaks. We always have needs for "handy" folks who can help out with minor maintenance issues. If you fit that bill, please contact Brad Cornish, [720 217 9671](tel:7202179671).

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM - It's Harvest Time! *1 Corinthians 3:7-9*

We envision a spiritual harvest this year with children coming to know Jesus, neighbors becoming connected, families being healed, and a church space that accommodates the felt needs of our community. We want to be ready for His harvest.

Teachers, we love you and want to celebrate your hard work! Nov. 3rd is Sunday school teacher appreciation day. More information to follow!

We are "God's field and building" (1 Cor. 9: b) so come plant and water seeds with us. Contact Kathy Swigle or Jenah Johnson to sign up to teach.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM - The communications team exists to help us tell our story in print and electronically! An important platform for our communication is our website, which is regularly updated with upcoming events and provides easy access to recent sermons. Church Community Builder, or CCB, facilitates internal electronic communication and can be used to update us on changes such as contact details or significant life events or help us contact fellow Celebrationistas. We are always looking to improve our communication to better support our congregation and inform potential visitors. Please contact Beth Killebrew at beth@thepartychurch.com if you would like to get involved.

ACTS 1:8 TEAM - The Acts 1:8 team exists to help Celebration live out what it means to be the Lord's "witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to all the ends of the earth" in our city of Denver. Each year, we give money to local and global ministries who are committed to loving and serving others in the name of Jesus. Opportunities to "partner with our partners" come up frequently and we'll make sure you know about them (serving dinner at Joshua Station, helping JAMLAC move and more). We'll also let you know about opportunities to reach out to your neighbors and encourage you to get involved in community outreach. Interested in joining us or sharing an opportunity we may be interested in? Contact Ryan Harrison and Mark Semmler.

