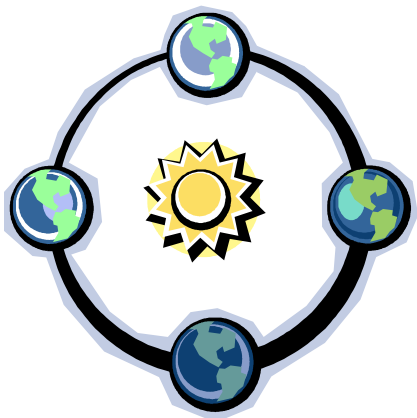
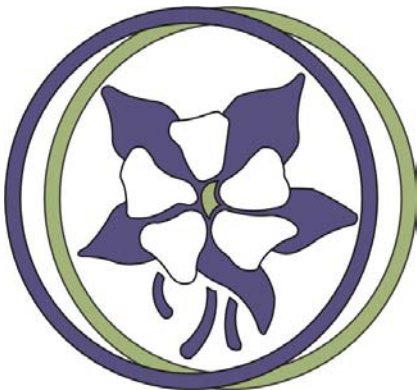


The Columbine Connection

Sunday Programs



The CUUC Theme of the Month is Freedom of Choice

July 4 "Let Freedom Ring"

Reverend Coeyman

Yes, we *will* gather as a church community on this most American of holidays, as we celebrate the meaning of freedom in our abbreviated multi-generational worship service and follow-up outdoor activities for children of all ages. An outdoor picnic lunch follows on the church ground (see the Eblast on June 30 for details about food and other contributions). Come celebrate the 4th at CUUC, and bring along a friend or two as well!

July 11 "The Core of Free Religion: Building Your Own Theology"

Reverend Coeyman and BYOT Class Members

The freedom to follow the spiritual and religious path(s) of our own choosing is core to the liberal faith of Unitarian Universalism. *Building Your Own Theology* is our most tried and true adult religious education curriculum, which guides us on this path of personal choice. Let's put this precious freedom into the historical context of our Unitarian and Universalist ancestors. We will hear personal testimonials and 'Credo' statements from members of our most recent 'BYOT' class. Maybe this class is for you, next time we offer it here at CUUC.

July 18 "Secretariat: Awesome Animal-Athlete"

Kate Tweedy

The 1973 Triple Crown winning racehorse embodied perfection to many and his races awed people the world over. His followers still speak of him in reverential, nearly religious, terms. Kate is the daughter of Secretariat's owner, Penny Chenery and author of *Secretariat's Meadow*, a pictorial history coming in September, 2010, about the horse and the stable that produced him. Come hear her exploration of why horses touch us so deeply — on some level, how they touch us spiritually — and why this one especially still inspires us today.

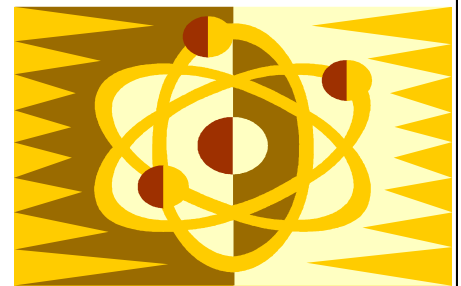
July 25 "A Very Interesting Topic"

Unknown

As the Columbine Connection went to print this month, the editor was not certain on the topic of this Sunday's sermon nor who would be presenting it. Rest assured, the editor does stake whatever is left of his reputation that this sermon will be one of high interest, yielding much conversation during the coffee hour. Don't miss it!

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FROM THE MINISTER

Arizona and Immigration

As I write this column, I am preparing for General Assembly (and its related events), the annual national gathering of Unitarian Universalists, to be held next week in Minneapolis, MN. By the time you read this column, GA most likely will be an event of the past. General Assembly includes many types of activities: workshops, display booths, conversations and connections with old friends and colleagues, and the five plenary business meeting sessions of our Association. An important issue — perhaps one of the most significant social justice issues we have addressed in our fifty years of existence — will be discussed (heatedly, no doubt) during plenary. The issue concerns the recent passage of new laws on immigration in the state of Arizona, and our scheduled location of General Assembly 2012 in Phoenix. Many of you were part of the discussion here at CUUC during the congregational meeting on May 16 concerning CUUC's position on the current proposal from the UUA board, to move the site of GA 2012 from the state of Arizona.

As I said, this may be one of the most important issues Unitarian Universalists have become involved in because this issue engages fundamental principles of personal freedom. As UUA President, the Reverend Peter Morales recently wrote: "We are in a struggle for the future direction of American society. How we treat immigrants, especially those from Mexico and Central America, is today's equivalent of the Civil Rights Movement. This is a struggle for America's soul. The real issue is how we are going to live in an America in which Anglo-Americans are in the minority.... The prospects frighten many people." You can probably guess that UUs around the country have already voiced many viewpoints, and there has already been much email and voice discussion. I urge all of us to become engaged in this conversation because it is a topic that will likely continue to be discussed long into the future, and it will influence *each and everyone of us in this congregation*. Again, quoting Reverend Morales: "Ultimately this issue will affect each of us, no matter whether we live in Arizona or Vermont or Oregon or Iowa. The question is whether we can embrace the changes that are coming, whether we can thrive in this new America." I want to take this column to review the basic issues and summarize where discussion at the denominational level stands.

Recently the state of Arizona passed Immigration Bill SB1070. This bill is designed to identify, prosecute, and deport undocumented immigrants. It criminalizes the failure to carry documentation and empowers police to demand documentation at will. It will surely encourage racial profiling and invite harassment, especially against Latinos regardless of their citizenship status. Also, Arizona recently enacted Ethnic Studies legislation. There is proposed legislation that children born in the USA of undocumented parents would not be accepted as citizens. Yes, this is the Civil Rights issue of the early 21st century.

Unitarian Universalists would be responding to this legislation in any case, regardless of GA 2012. Our Seven Principles unite us in agreeing that one of our highest values is the inherent worth and dignity of all people. Thus, we speak out and take action in the face of policies and laws that degrade or oppress certain categories of people, indeed of all life. The UUA has a long and active history of supporting immigration reform. Since 1963 we have passed eight resolutions supporting immigration justice, the most recent in 2007. There is no doubt of the justice position our liberal theology calls us to take in response to SB 1070.

The question at hand, for debate next week and beyond, is not ideological but tactical. The question is, how can we UUs make the greatest difference on this issue. The UUA board has recommended a boycott of Arizona in 2012. Denying our presence, and thus our tourist dollars, will speak loudly to Arizona's leaders. Unfortunately, the UUA would lose over \$600,000 in deposits on hotels and other accommodations. Other UUs advocate staying in Phoenix, and proudly engaging in the staunchest and loudest public witness we can, to Stand on the Side of Love. Big picture, these are the two main options on the table. Those advocating boycott recall our 1988 boycott of the same setting — Phoenix — when Arizona refused to recognize Martin Luther King Day as a legal holiday (the state finally accepted it in 1990). Boycott advocates do not want to experience GA in a setting of fear, especially for UUs of color. Advocates for remaining in Phoenix and engaging in public witness are freshly energized by the rally in that city on May 29 that attracted 30,000 people 500 of which were UUs, including 50 ministers. Also, advocates for staying argue that in the long run it will be just those people we are taking a stand for — those in service area jobs as in hotels — who would probably be most hurt by our withdrawing tourist dollars. Various UU organizations and congregations have taken official positions, on both sides of the debate.

However, there is a third option, recently expressed by President Morales in a letter to the Association (see

(Continued on Page 4)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am preparing to step into my new role as President of the Board at CUUC. The first of July seemed very far away late last winter when I got the call from the Leadership Search Committee. But now, here we are, about to get to know each other in a new way. It's an exciting time. I am grateful for the trust you have put in me, and for your support of all of our elected officers and committee members. I look forward to this opportunity to work with the congregation, our professional staff, and all of our committees as we jointly live into our mission through service at CUUC.

So, what lies ahead for us? Your new board is meeting with the Committee on Ministry and Leadership Search Committee (all the elected positions) for a dinner on July 9th to collaborate, strategize, and set some plans for the year. We'll be using that time to get to know each other and develop some shared expectations about how we will work together during the upcoming year. The following day, July 10th, the board, along with our minister, will meet to establish our expectations, make some assignments of duties, and continue getting to know one another. We will enter into these meetings after the benefit of several briefings from the prior board and executive committee, so we expect a smooth transition – if we're lucky, you might not even notice!

We will continue to build on the vision set by prior boards and our Long Range Plan. To that end, we will be taking a close look at how different aspects of our church work and look for ways to regularize practices so our expectations and communications are even more clear, simple to understand, and welcoming. For example, the Membership Committee is already selecting the dates for Pathways classes for the upcoming year. (If you're thinking of joining – do we have a class for you!) At the Council (see related Council article on page 4) we will offer support and organizational tools to committee chairs so that committees can enjoy the benefits of some structure and spend more of their time doing the work they care about. In short, we will be working to strengthen the communications and infrastructure of the church so more of our time is spent in ways that are meaningful to us as congregants.

There are, of course, opportunities ahead that are unimaginable today. I'll be keeping you up-to-date in these newsletter articles, but I'm available by phone, email, and in person, so don't be shy about getting in touch.

In Service,

Amy

Amy Rowland, President of the Board of Trustees



Making a Difference

by *Frances Blizzard*



It's Time to Become a Sponsor!!! Last month we received information sheets on poor children whose parents cannot afford to buy them what they will need to start school on the right foot. This is a project created by Inter-Faith Community Services, and our church has supported it for 14 years. Information sheets are provided for each child and sponsors can choose one or more. Perhaps you can choose to sponsor a child the same as your own. Parents often take their own children shopping for the sponsored child so they can learn that others are not as fortunate as they are.

A sponsor is asked to buy a new outfit, including shoes, plus a backpack and all the school supplies. It is difficult to keep the cost under \$100, and often two or more people go in together to sponsor a child.

Because it is so important to the children to feel that they fit in, the children need to start school on a positive note. It is better the children do not worry about what they don't have. A successful school year can make all the difference in how a child's education will turn out.

In the past, our church has sponsored about 25 children per year. Because there is so much unemployment now, the need is greater than ever. If you can't be a sponsor, a donation of any amount will be welcomed; school supplies of any kind will also be valued.

Please help this important project if you can. See me for any questions or contact me at bobbizzard@msn.com.

As important as education is food. Children who are used to eating breakfast and lunch at school are now eating at home, and that costs a lot. If it wasn't for the Inter-Faith Food Bank many families would go hungry. Nourishing canned food of any kind is desperately needed. The Community Basket awaits your donations.

(Continued from Page 2)

www.uua.org for copies of several letters). He calls us to partner with those most directly affected by this legislation and lead the faith community in a General Assembly there in Phoenix the likes of which we have never experienced, a GA that helps us learn how to cross borders in many new ways, to go beyond the walls of the Convention Center and "experience the reality of life for immigrants." As of now, the UUA has received invitations from Puente Arizona and the National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON) to partner in acts of civic engagement and civic disobedience, starting with a rally this coming July 29, the day that the legislation is due to go into effect. We are called to participate in this 'convergence for human rights.' President Morales calls us to a Phoenix GA "where we reflect theologically upon what it means to be a faith that can cross the borders of race, class, and culture.....how we make connections with marginalized people in each and every community, in each and every congregation.....a GA that begins a long overdue transformation of our movement."

Where do you personally stand on this debate? If (and when) immigration legislation comes to Colorado, how will you respond? If you were a delegate to GA this year, how would you exercise your voting voice (and perhaps you can be a delegate to future GAs: think about it). What is your view on the best means of affecting change: stay present and witness, or avoid entering the offending space and taking your patronage elsewhere?

Taking a stand for the rights of every person to be treated with inherent worth and dignity: this is what we are called to do as persons of free faith. How will you witness on this issue?

I look forward to seeing you at church.

Blessings,

Barbara

Reverend Barbara Coeyman

Spotlight on the Council

CUUC's programmatic Council is comprised of committee chairs and members of the board of trustees, and is facilitated by CUUC's vice-president. Meeting every other month, the Council fosters conversation and coordination among all elements of our ministry, brings leadership training, and thus enhances appreciation of disparate approaches to CUUC's mission. The Council focuses on creating CUUC's programming – the "what" our congregation does and "how" we do it as thoughtful, spiritual members of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

The Council grew out of the 2005 annual board retreat when selected committee chairs were invited to participate in the afternoon. The following year all committee chairs were invited. Each introduced their committee's function, goals and concerns. This exchange was so useful that it was agreed to meet more frequently. 2006-07 was also the year we conducted the Pulse of the Congregation Survey and the subsequent development of our current Long Range Plan; the Council was active in creating programs in response to the survey and the LRP.

In 2007-08, the Council met quarterly, drafted a Mission Statement with input from committees, and started our practice of incorporating material and information from the Unitarian Universalist Association and the Mountain Dessert District into council meetings. When Reverend Bloom announced his retirement, the Council was instrumental in helping the congregation understand upcoming changes in the context of our chosen goals and as part of our maturation.

Reverend Barbara came to us in 2008-09 and brought to the Council the concept of shared ministry, that our professional minister and lay leadership are partners in fulfilling our mission and each has specific roles. During the course of the year the Council explored what that partnership meant. This exploration led to a much clearer understanding of our development as a congregation and the next steps we would take. Developing our program committees' procedures and leadership, and measuring our activities against the specific goals enumerated in the Long Range Plan were also instituted.

Most congregants will remember 2009-10 as 'the year of the Covenant' as we spent the fall crafting the essence of how we want to act towards, and with, each other. At the Council, learnings from the covenanting process were transformed into awareness that clear communication, and policies, create transparency and a very desired atmosphere of trust. During the winter, CUUC also crafted a new mission statement reflecting our growing understanding of our Unitarian Universalist heritage and our prophetic role in the secular world. The Council's work culminated in our first true annual report in which every committee (and our professional staff and minister) reflected on its role in support of our mission.

As the facilitator of the Council for 2010-11, I see the Council building on its previous work in providing leadership tools to committee chairs, in growing our understanding of how our faith can be expressed in our committee work, and in transforming our working together into a creative synergy in expression of our mission.

I am delighted and excited to be a part of the ever-developing Council.

Sarah

Sarah Manning, CUUC Council Facilitator



Welcoming Congregation Committee



For those of you who have never attended PrideFest, or Pride Parades, (or even those who have gone to them, actually) there are always some interesting “slogans” on various banners, signs, etc. Enjoy some of the following – guaranteed to elicit smiles, laughter and thought....

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Closets are for Clothes | Family is a Family Value | Fix Marriage Not Gays |
| Gay - It's My Designer's Genes | Homophobia - Now That's a Choice | I Can't Even Think Straight |
| I'm Out Therefore I Am | Love is a Family Value | Out is In |
| Straight But Not Narrow | We the People - that means all of us | |
- If Time and Space are Curved Where Do All the Straight People Come From?
Let Me Get This Straight - Some People Get 2 or 3 Marriages and We Can't Have Even One?



Get the Word Out!!

Public Radio Project Builds Momentum – Help Make it Happen!

We can get more of those great UU messages on the public radio air waves again starting in mid-July, and UUs around the Denver-Boulder area are making it happen! If you haven't yet, please try to make your contribution before the end of June, so we can use it in this campaign. Then you can hear three messages from the Unitarian Universalists of Colorado on the air on four public stations, and so can many others who are looking for what our congregations offer. They tell listeners we welcome “people with different beliefs who stand on the side of love and work for justice,” as well as “spiritual seekers, skeptics and thinkers,” in congregations where “people of different beliefs worship together as one faith.”

Even if you don't listen to public radio yourself, you know that many of the people who do would love to find Unitarian Universalism. If you are a public radio supporter, consider donating through the PRProject and accomplish two goals with the same money. To make a contribution you can simply write out a check to CUUC with “Public Radio” in the memo line, drop it in the collection basket or mail it in to the church office. For more information, contact the PRProject coordinator for CUUC, Kathy Derrick, 720-335-6766, or kthyderrick@yahoo.com.

The deadline for *The Columbine Connection* for the next 12 months is as follows:

July 14, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15, January 19, February 16, March 16, April 13, May 18, June 15

These dates are the Wednesday prior to the second to last Sunday of the month. The *Connection* will be available for members and friends at the last Sunday Service of the month at CUUC. Then it will be mailed to the remainder of the subscribers. The deadline for the next twelve issues will be at midnight on the above dates. Be prepared to have all submissions to the *Connection* by 12:00AM (midnight) on the deadline date. If it is a problem meeting the deadline, please contact the editor to make arrangements for the submission. No guarantees, explicit or implied are made for any submission which become the property of *The Columbine Connection*.

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CUUC Book Club Meets



The Book Club will meet July 28 to discuss "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett.

Twenty-two-year-old Skeeter has just returned home after graduating from Ole Miss. She may have a degree, but it is 1962, Mississippi, and her mother will not be happy till Skeeter has a ring on her finger. Skeeter would normally find solace with her beloved maid Constantine, the woman who raised her, but Constantine has disappeared and no one will tell Skeeter where she has gone.

Stockett creates three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own forever changes a town, and the way women — mothers, daughters, caregivers, friends — view one another. A deeply moving novel filled with poignancy, humor, and hope, "The Help" is a timeless and universal story about the lines we abide by, and the ones we don't.

Those present will choose a book to discuss in September.

The Book Club meets in the church lounge at 7:30 pm the fourth Wednesday of the month. You need not have read the book for discussion to attend and visitors are welcome.

CUUC Involvement with Project Angel Heart

As many of you know, for some time now CUUC has been involved with Project Angel Heart (PAH) by 'adopting' a delivery route that we service each Saturday afternoon. Project Angel Heart is an organization which provides nutritious meals to persons with AIDs, cancer, and other life threatening illnesses. The meals PAH brings to clients' homes are customized so that each client gets the diet they desperately need given the illness that they have, but often would not have the energy or resources to prepare on their own.

We do this as one of our Just ACT programs at CUUC. Our involvement started several years ago, on the first Columbine Acts day. Since then, volunteers sign up on a rotating basis to service our route on a particular Saturday. Since we have about 8 volunteers, any one person only needs to do the route every 6-8 weeks. The route we go on has approximately 6-8 stops and takes about 1 1/2 hours.

This has also become a great way for our kids and youth to become involved in a Just ACT project. Anna Gaiser, Lizzie Garrick, and Ian Cable are among those who have gone on the route along with their parents.

The PAH organization also has a variety of other events including fundraisers during the year. Some of the special events which occur each year include Dining Out for Life, which was on April 20th, where restaurants contribute half of their proceeds to PAH. Other events include Art for Life which will be on August 26th, and A Taste for Life to be held on November 4th. PAH also particulates in other events such as Komen Race for the Cure, Colorado AIDS Walk, and the Denver PrideFest.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us with our CUUC delivery route. If interested, see Jim Hopkins, jahpk@att.net, for more information. Orientation and background check is required for new volunteers.

Singers Wanted!

- For the Columbine UU Church Choir.
- Expand your voice and heart.
- Refresh and Recharge with Song.
- Take part in Sunday services and musical events in the larger Denver community. Enjoy new musical experiences. For more info contact David Burrows at 303-455-2110 or email music@columbineuuchurch.org.



Grocery Scrip & Gift Cards!

- Every time you purchase scrip you are contributing to the financial health of the church. Scrip are redeemable at King Soopers, Starbuck, Barnes and Noble and many other merchants. If you buy \$50.00 per week in scrip, in 10 years you will have contributed \$1,300.00 to CUUC! And it did not cost you anything since you receive one dollars worth of merchandise for every dollar of scrip you buy. It is a great way to support CUUC!!!!

Summer Greetings from CUUC's Committee on Ministry

Church Members elect three members to serve two-year terms on the Committee on Ministry (aka the "CoM"), but Members are often not quite sure what the CoM does... According to Section 6.3 of our Bylaws, we have two main defined functions:

- b) This Committee shall serve as a support group for the Minister and as a communication channel between the Minister and Members of the Congregation. By working with Standing Committees (such as the Religious Education Committee, Caring Committee and the Just Act [Belief in Action Committee]), the Committee on Ministry shall help to oversee the spiritual well being of individual Members and of the Congregation as a whole.
- c) This Committee shall negotiate the Minister's conditions of employment in consultation with the Board, and jointly with the Board shall propose the minister's compensation to the Congregation as prescribed in Section 9.4.

Besides providing support to and facilitating communication and dialog 1) **with** the Minister and the Congregation Members and Friends and 2) **between** the Minister and the Congregation Members and Friends, we have a role in dispute resolution when Members need assistance in relations within our church community. In addition, we often take on assignments at the request of the Church Board. In 2009-2010 we led the Covenant and Mission crafting work and are currently continuing the discussion on the Future of Professional Ministry as CUUC goes forward. We have held some informal discussions on the topic and led an all-congregation forum June 6th during which we presented information and discussed the differences between different types of UU Ministers – Interim, Consulting, and Settled/Called. We plan to have additional discussions/forums on this topic in coming months.

We do have a Suggestion box on the sign-up counter that you are invited to use, but we hope in the coming year to spend time communicating with all of you personally, and in various forums, on what we all want our church to be and where we want it to go both as a personal community and free religious community in southwest Denver.

Your 2010 – 2011 COM Members:

Karen Cody-Hopkins (year 2) Bob Pinkham (year 2) Susan Stein

Summer Music Volunteers Wanted!

Would you like to share your music with CUUC on Sundays? Volunteers are needed to help provide music during the Sunday services this summer. Well prepared pieces at any level are welcome. Please contact Sheila Hamaker for details: 303-791-1922 or shamaker@yahoo.com.

It is the editorial policy of this newsletter to print whatever is sent to us for inclusion, unless we think the item will be offensive or hurtful. It occurred to us that it would be interesting reading to hear how others came to call themselves Unitarian Universalists. This, then, is an invitation to share that part of your faith's journey with our readership. All other topics are open for submission also. Members of CUUC will be given preferential treatment where publishing is concerned. Thank you for understanding.



The Columbine Connection

This monthly newsletter of the Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church is for the benefit of its members and pledging friends. Visitors receive the newsletter for six months, after which time, if they have not made a pledge to the church, they may subscribe for \$12.00 a year by calling (303)972-1716. To contribute an article to the newsletter, send email to: **oldehippy@ymail.com**

Or call (303) 882-1896

Darrell Dodge Web Coordinator **Carmelo J. Corica** Editor

CUUC Website: [Http://www.columbineuuchurch.org](http://www.columbineuuchurch.org)

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CUUC's Mission Statement

Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church provides a religious home where we can follow our own spiritual paths together. We seek to transform ourselves and the larger community by living lives of integrity, service and love.

Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church Staff

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Music Corner

I'll be traveling both to General Assembly, as well as the UU Musician's Network event this summer. Hopefully I will come back with new ideas, new music and the like. In the Fall, on October 24th, the Harmony Chorale will join with CUUC Choir to present a service on GLBT themes in conjunction with the CUUC Welcoming Congregation Committee. Prior to that the CUUC Choir is having their near-annual retreat on Saturday, August 21st, up in the mountains above Evergreen. If you have a yen to join the choir this coming fall, I'd love to have you. Please write or call me for more information. My summer will be spent tending a garden, working and traveling. See you in the Fall!

In harmony,

David

David Burrows, Choir Director

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COLUMBINE CONNECTION*

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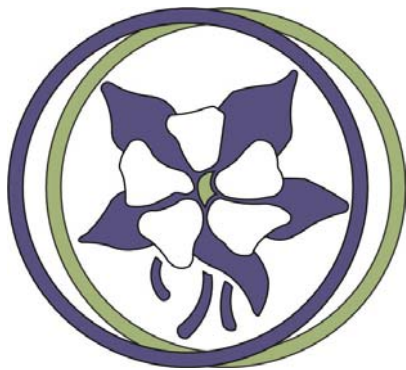


Sunday Morning Worship Begins at 10:30am
Coffee & Conversation Served After Service



www.columbineuuchurch.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



The Columbine Connection

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