

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE - OCT. 23, 2011

Reflections

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

'WE WERE THE MISSION SITE!'

BY REV. JEAN WADE

Bountiful Community Church is a small congregation with a big heart. Over the years, the congregation has dedicated itself to serving others through mission. With an oversized building, they have opened the doors to a variety of organizations serving Bountiful for weekly meetings, such as Alanon, AA, Boy Scouts, ADHD Support Groups, and many other community groups. The local Food Pantry was started by congregation members within the church walls. When it grew too large for the church, they provided land for the Pantry to build a new facility which now sits on the church parking lot. They participate on a regular basis in "Family Promise", a Salt Lake area homeless program. Like other churches, they have committed to "Mission 1" and countless mission projects and offerings.

This past month Pam Sessions, the BCC Chair of Grounds, and Jean Wade, the pastor, were approached by a representative of the Mueller Park Ward 5, a local Mormon Ward, with a request. This time, however, the request was for BCC itself to be a mission site. This Ward had heard about the wonderful gardens of Community Church and seen that the plantings and trees had become overgrown. They also knew that the congregation was small and aging.

Aware that BCC had given so much to the community, they asked if they might come and give back to BCC by having a yard day to help trim up the property. Needless to say, the offer was accepted with gratitude.

"What an amazing experience it was!" said Wade and Sessions.. "We had anticipated there being 40 or 50 people, but 150 showed up. Even the Bishop was surprised. What joy they shared with us and among themselves. From the youngest, working with little plastic rakes, to the Bishop himself, they worked and laughed and showed what it means to be a giving church. Everyone who pulls up to the church comments on how wonderful things look, and we point out that it was all due to the caring of one Mormon Ward."

Thanks to the generosity of one group dedicated to mission, BCC can gratefully say, "We were the Mission Site." We knew how to be joyful givers, but it was a new experience to be a joyful receiver.



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