



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
October 15, 2008



150 Years and Going Strong



*No matter who you are
or where you are
on life's journey,
you'll find a home here!*

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It's a Halloween Party!



The Sunday School staff is planning a festive Halloween Party on **Sunday, October 26, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** The party will include:

- Costume contest with prizes by age category
- Halloween movie
- Halloween games

Meet the goal of stuffing the pumpkin bank with coins
for **Feed My Starving Children**
Snacks

Come for the fun! Bring your friends!

Adopt-a-Highway Clean-Up

Our congregation has made a commitment to keeping our community and environment clean by picking up trash and recyclables along the two-mile stretch of 70th Street between Hwy 19 (Keats Ave) and Hwy 95 (Manning Ave) each year. The Mission and Outreach Team invite everyone to come and assist in the CGUCC Adopt-A-Highway clean-up on **Saturday, October 25, 2008, from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.** Many hands will make the work light, so sign up today to offer your support and services. **Also, come early for a time of fellowship and enjoy a sweet roll and refreshments before hitting the clean-up trail!!!**



To R.S.V.P. to help with this community service project, please contact *Ruby Stratton* or place your name on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room.

Rev. Bryan Olson Transitional Pastor

Office Hours
Monday—Thursday
Beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Office Phone:
(651) 459-1501
Rev. Olson's e-mail:
olsonbw@hotmail.com



PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Daniel Bies, GeorgAnn Biscoe and her family on the death of GeorgAnn's niece's baby Austin Griemann, Bill & Isabel Board, Bill Bothun, Beth Davies, Bob Fox, Ron & Joyce Fries, Don Hanson, Ruby Hanson, Delores Janke, Emily and baby Joel Spicer, families facing unemployment issues, Rev. Bryan Olson & our church during this time of transition.

Jim Auers (Karen Banaszewski's friend); Jason Biscoe (Joyce & Jerry Biscoe's son); Alma Buechler (former pastor's wife); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Patricia Clark (Doreen Barta's mother); Alan Gausman (Russ Gausman's brother); Trygg Hemstad (3-yr-old relative of Russ Gausman); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Molly Livingston (grandmother of Eboné Koerselman); David Rowe (Doreen Barta's uncle); Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Agnes Thyren (Gary Thyren's mother); Elaine Torseth; Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world.



In these tough economic times it is difficult to hear messages about stewardship in the church because it seems like we are receiving just another "pitch" for where to spend our financial resources. Unfortunately, in our Christian lexicon, stewardship has been tied, almost exclusively, to the pledging of money to the church. In reality, stewardship is a much greater calling.

Stewardship is about caretaking and management. When something is left in our care we are asked to look after and maintain it, to tend to its needs and direct its actions. As Christians and people of faith, the entire creation has been left in our care by God. We learn in Genesis that as human beings we have been given the role of steward in God's creation (Gen 1:26-30). Taking care of God's creation is a significant undertaking that involves not only caring for ourselves but also for other people, creatures, the environment, and the church.

God is the "Great Giver." God is constantly imbuing the creation with wonderful gifts. As stewards of creation, we are called to be careful and wise managers of the gifts and resources God has given us – both today and always. As David M. Ponting says in his book, *From Scarcity to Abundance: A Complete Guide to Parish Stewardship*, "Since everything comes from God and everything belongs to God, we are called to be faithful stewards of God's gifts in this age and to pass these gifts on to the church that follows in our footsteps." Ponting adds that when we pass our spiritual gifts on to the church, it is empowered to be Christ in the world. In addition, when we pass on our monetary gifts to the church, it empowers the ministry of the faith community now, and leaves a solid foundation of financial resources for the communion of saints that will someday follow us.

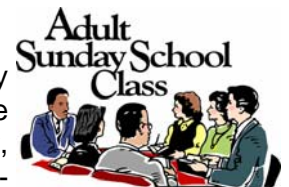
Over the next few months, Cottage Grove U.C.C. will be introducing its own opportunities for stewardship of the church that will challenge each of us to discern how we will empower the ministry of this congregation with our God-given resources of time, talent, and treasure. How will we manage the resources we have been given and how will we put them to use to further Christ's work in Old Cottage Grove, South Washington County, and throughout the world? It is up to us. We cannot expect other people, outside the congregation, to supply the gifts or money we will use to grow this local church. We have each been given many gifts by God and it is our task as stewards to decide how those gifts will be managed and utilized in the church.

God has blessed us at Cottage Grove U.C.C. with a wonderful church filled with many gifts. As stewards, we now have the honor and opportunity to manage those gifts for God and to use our own God-given gifts to enliven and empower the ministries of this church, both for ourselves today and our future community of faith. That is stewardship. That is good news! See you in church.

Blessings, Rev. Bryan

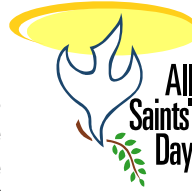
Creating a Vital Congregation

The **Adult Education Seminar** continues each Sunday morning at 9 a.m., as we explore what it takes to create a vital congregation in this day and age. This seminar, led by Rev. Bryan, focuses on developing strong leadership, mission-based outreach, and spirit-filled worship to increase congregational vitality. Classes are held on **Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m.** in the **Fellowship Lounge**. This seminar is open to all youth and adults, including Jr. and Sr. High students. Come and join the group at any time you are able.



All Saints' Observance

On Sunday, November 2, in worship we will observe All Saints' Day, the day when the Christian church remembers all those who have gone before us in the faith. There will be a special time during the Worship Service when you will be invited to bring forward a small item, a poem or a prayer of remembrance to place on the altar to honor the saints in your life.



Search Team Update

The Pastoral Search Team continues to work hard trying to find the next pastor for our church. So far the team has reviewed over 65 ministerial profiles. The majority of these profiles are what we have called "blind profiles," profiles forwarded to us by the Minnesota Conference, who has reviewed the profiles to determine if the candidate might be a match for our congregation. We have made contact with a number of these candidates, however we have found the good ones have usually been placed somewhere already. We have also received a number of profiles where the candidate asked to have their profile sent to us. Just like the blind profiles, there were some good candidates, and some that we know would not be a good fit. We are still receiving profiles periodically from the Conference Office, but what is more important is we have been interviewing, and will continue to interview, along with listening to or reviewing candidates' tapes/DVD's of their sermons. We will continue to update you on our progress, but rest assured the team is working hard to get our next called pastor in place as soon as possible. Please contact any of the Search Team members if you have any questions or concerns.

Bruce Fiedler, Chair, Pastoral Search Team



Church Renewal Event

Is our church ready to be renewed? That is the question Rev. Paul B. Nickerson will address with members of the Minnesota Conference UCC during a half-day event on **Wednesday, November 5, 2008**, at **Mayflower Community Congregational Church UCC** in Minneapolis.

Rev. Nickerson has served local UCC churches in Connecticut and Massachusetts and has spent 14 years consulting with congregations about renewal, vitality, and growth. He is currently the Associate Conference Minister for Evangelism and Church Vitality in the Massachusetts Conference UCC.

Over the next several years Paul will be working with the Minnesota Conference, helping us to build an indigenous Conference system of church vitality and new church starts that becomes the DNA of the Conference, enabling our churches to go deeper in faith and to reach out in creative new ways.

The event is free and open to all. It will begin at 12 p.m. and go until 4 p.m. with beverages and light snacks provided. Rev. Bryan will be attending this event and would enjoy having other representatives from CGUCC attend with him to learn new ways to increase vitality in our local church. If you would like to attend this event with Rev. Bryan, please contact him on or before **October 31, 2008**.



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, October 19

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 9:00 a.m. Adult Education
 10:15 a.m. Worship
 11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
 12:00 p.m. Bible Challenge
 Small Group to Bible Exhibit
 6:00 p.m. Jr/Sr High to Shower of Stoles

Sunday, October 26

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 9:00 a.m. Adult Education
 10:15 a.m. Worship
 11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, November 2

All Saints' Day

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 9:00 a.m. Adult Education
 10:15 a.m. Worship
 11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, November 9

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
 9:00 a.m. Adult Education
 10:15 a.m. Worship
 11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship



Y.A.H.O.O.

(Youth Aspiring to Help Out Others)

Y.A.H.O.O.s is the Youth Ministry program of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ in Cottage Grove, MN.

As Y.A.H.O.O.s, we work to serve Christ by using our spiritual gifts for the benefit of our church, our community, and our world.

All youth grades 7 through 12 are invited to participate.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cquccyouth>

YOUTH Events Calendar

October 17-19, Conference Youth Event

October 19, Shower of Stoles

November 23, Brian Sachio Concert

Jr/Sr High to View Shower of Stoles

The Jr/Sr High Fellowship will be meeting on **Sunday, October 19, 2008**, to view the "Shower of Stoles" exhibit at Community UCC in St. Paul Park. All youth and adults will gather at 5:30 p.m. in the church parking lot to carpool over to the exhibit. The Shower of Stoles is an exhibit that visually depicts how discrimination in the church has negatively impacted thousands of GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bi-Sexual, and Transgender) clergy and their allies. Come to learn more about the exhibit and the impact it is having on the church and its leaders.



Confirmation

Confirmation students and mentors will gather for their second class session on **Saturday, November 1st** from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The session is entitled, "**What is the UCC?**" – An exploration of the past, present, and future of the United Church of Christ as a denomination, and Cottage Grove U.C.C. as a local congregation.



"Pick me . . . Pick me . . . Pick me!!!"

Service as understood by Shrek's favorite Donkey

Our database is now up and running with all of the information that you have given to me. Thanks for your input and willingness to share. Now remember when you need a list of names of people to contact for this or that, let me know and I'll print out a list of names and telephone numbers for you. For example: Becky may be looking for people to help her out with some extra word processing that needs to be done for a special event coming up within the church. She contacts me and I query the database for those of you that told me you had that skill. Up pops your names and telephone numbers on a list that I can print out and give to Becky. She then in turn makes the phone calls and enlists your help. Or let's say Bruce is looking for a few good souls to count money on Sunday morning after church. He contacts me with the request. I search the database and give to him the list of you that have said you'd be interested in doing just that. He then makes the calls and there you are counting money on Sunday morning.



When you have a request for volunteers, let me know the need and I'll search the database for you and return to you a list of names and numbers to call. You can call me at 651-436-7234 or email me at Dianedavies48@yahoo.com Now that we have the database, let's make it work for us.

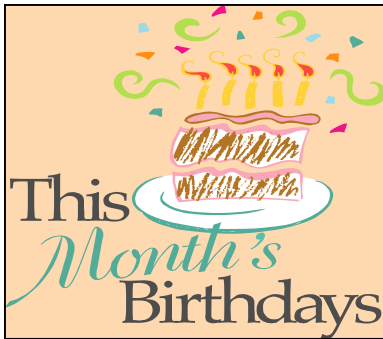
Looking forward to your calls.
Diane Davies, Gifts Coordinator

Bible Challenge Group Earns Reward

To celebrate the achievement of their goal of reading the entire Bible in one year, the CGUCC Bible Challenge group will be enjoying lunch together and visiting the St. John's illuminated Bible exhibit at St. Catherine's University on **Sunday, October 19, 2008**, following worship. Bible Challenge members are encouraged to RSVP for this event with Rev. Bryan ASAP.



Congratulations to the Bible Challenge group on their remarkable accomplishment this year! Enjoy your day of celebration!



If your birthday is in the church records, it will appear here. If yours does not appear, please let Becky in the office know when your birthday is and we will get it in next year. And please call if your birthday is wrong so we can get it right.

OCTOBER

- 1 - Carl Manke
Craig Meyer
Marcus Cherry
- 2 - Benjamin Ratzlaff
Louis Janicek
Marshall Janicek
- 3 - Al Gobel
Doug Nelson
- 5 - Bud Bloomquist
Carma Wilkinson
Bruce Sorensen
- 6 - Bud Kieffer
Chris Miller
Riley Utsch
- 8 - Erik Eshom
- 9 - Butch Pribnow
- 10 - Joyce Biscoe
- 11 - Tammy Brown
- 12 - Ron Bonnevier
- 15 - Don Wellck
- 16 - Tim Bloomquist
- 17 - Karen Schmidt
- 18 - Karin Manning
Don Biscoe
- 21 - Matthew Mohrlant
- 23 - Julie Christianson
- 25 - Stacy Meyer
- 26 - Bob Howard
- 29 - Amy Weiby
- 29 - Colton Rabe
- 30 - Jackie Mohrlant
John Palmer
Jenni Huber
Brenna Fritze
- 31 - Breeanna Marty

September 2008 Financial Summary

Bruce Fiedler, Treasurer

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Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

Financial Snapshot for Month Ended September 30, 2007

For the Month

What we took in for Income	14,810.31
What we needed to cover expenses	12,876.25
Surplus for the month	1,934.06

For the Year

What we took in for Income	131,644.06
What we needed to cover expenses	110,054.28
Surplus for the year	21,589.78

Income for September was \$14,810.31 with expenses of \$12,876.25. \$6,261.50 of the \$14,810.31 was from the Turkey Dinner. Year to date income is \$131,644.06 compared to expenses of \$110,054.28, resulting of net income of \$21,589.78 for the year.

The general Fund balance is currently at \$25,281.47.

Our two Fundraisers have resulted in \$16,476 of income, with expenses of \$3,765 for net profit of \$12,711.

Seeking Volunteer to Assist Older Neighbor

DARTS is a nonprofit organization serving individuals and families with transportation and in-home services.

An older woman living in the Hastings area would appreciate a volunteer to spend time with her and help her with her shopping needs. She also would enjoy going for a walk or visiting over a cup of coffee. She would welcome you any time during the day, evening, or weekends. This is a great family volunteer opportunity!

If you are interested in helping this elder, or would like more information about other volunteer opportunities at DARTS, visit www.darts1.org, or contact barb.tiggemann@darts1.org or (651)455-1560.



Silent Auction a Success

Over the week of October 4-12, 2008, in conjunction with the JC Rock concert and the CROP Walk, our congregation hosted a silent auction and raised over \$900 for our capital campaign and the Friends in Need Food Shelf. This could not have been possible without the generosity of our item donors and bidders. Thank you for your support!



In addition, a special thank you goes out to Karen Pribnow, Nancy Hillman, and Doreen Barta for organizing and hosting the auction. They spent numerous hours cataloging the auction items, preparing the bidding slips, and overseeing the auction itself. Thank you for your ministry and service!

Praise to the Band

On behalf of the congregation at CGUCC, I want to offer a special word of thanks to JC Rock for performing a rocking, spirit-filled concert for the entire family at our church on October 4, 2008. They had children of all ages dancing in the aisles of the sanctuary that night! It was a fun night filled with great music and wonderful fellowship. Thank you, JC Rock, for offering your gifts and talents to enliven us all!

Peace and blessings, Rev. Bryan



Holiday Greenery Orders

Orders are now being taken for greenery (wreaths, garland, swags, etc) to decorate your home for the Christmas and holiday season. Proceeds from the greenery sale will be used to help support local families in need during the holidays. All orders must be received by Sunday, November 2nd. You may place your order on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room. For more information regarding the greenery sale, please contact Bruce Fiedler or Midge Youngquist.



You Can Help With a Girl Scout Project

Ali Manning is working on her Girl Scout Silver Award project with her troop. They are making fleece blankets for children in the hospital (mostly long term hospitalizations) for comfort and a touch of color to their day. If you have any extra polar fleece fabric at home that you will not be using, Ali would appreciate the donation, and would put it to good use making blankets for hospitalized children. Pieces need to be at least 1 yard for this project. Thanks so much for your continuing generous support of youth and their projects.



Heartfelt Thank You

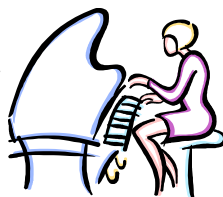
"To live in the hearts that we leave behind is not to die." - Clyde Campbell

Thank you from the
Austin William Kenneth Griemann family



Planning a Holiday Party?

Looking for beautiful holiday music, or delicious food for your family gathering? Contact Emily Olson--she is happy to offer either piano background music or special event catering during November and December. Reasonable rates and professional service--contact Emily at 651-353-3816 or ed-holson@gmail.com. Happy Holidays!



Remember When?

From stories told in 1940 by Lucy (Brown) Spicer and Hilda (Bahls) Lindeman

Remember when Rev. Leo Buechler and Alma were at our church, he was the photographer that took all the pictures for the 100th Anniversary? Alma was a great sewer, and was always showing us the clothes she made for her grandchildren. Leo loved music and turned the phonograph on full blast when Alma was gone.



Cross Connection

A Periodical Newsletter of
**Cottage Grove United
Church of Christ**
Published on the 1st and 15th
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Edited by Becky Graff

**Back issues available on
our Church web site at
www.cgucc.org**

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November 10	November 15

Submit articles via e-mail at
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them off at the office.

Becky Graff, Editor

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STOP!!
If you would rather not receive this news
letter, please call or send an e-mail, and we
will take you off our mailing list. Thanks!

Sermon Series Continues

Our extensive study of the Ten Commandments during worship continues through Sunday, November 9th. Last Sunday (October 12), Rev. Bryan examined the first two commandments (No Other Gods, No Idols) in his sermon, "American Idols."

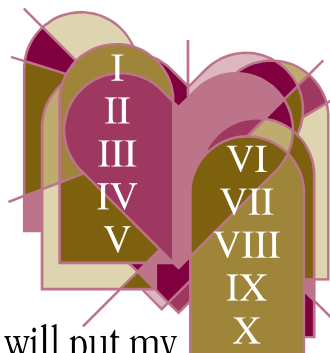
Upcoming sermon titles and topics will include:

October 19 – "Gossip: The Anti-Gospel"

(Commandments: Do not misuse God's name, Do not bear false witness)

October 26 – "Who has time for Sabbath?"

(Commandment: Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy)



I will put my
law in their minds &
write it on their hearts.

Jeremiah 31:33

November 2 – "Learning from Cain's Collapse"

(Commandments: Honor your parents, No murder)

November 9 – "Human Hearts Can Be Broken"

(Commandments: No stealing, No adultery, No coveting)