



# CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ  
Published Semi-Monthly  
November 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!*

### *Bryan Sirchio in Concert at CGUCC*



*Sunday, November 23, 2008*

*7 p.m. (note change in time)*

U.C.C. singer/songwriter, Bryan Sirchio, will play a live concert at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ. The concert is **FREE and OPEN TO ALL!** A goodwill donation will be taken the night of the concert to support Bryan's ministry. Bring your family and friends to CGUCC on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, for an evening of faith-filled music, fellowship, and fun with Bryan Sirchio! To RSVP for the concert, please contact Rev. Bryan or sign the sheet in the Gathering Room at church.

#### Inside this Issue:

- Bryan Sirchio Concert ..... 1*
- Good News..... 2*
- Annual Meeting..... 3*
- Congregational News..... 4*

### **CGUCC to Host Blood Drive**



**Wednesday, November 19, 2008**

**2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Cottage Grove U.C.C. will be teaming up with the American Red Cross to host a fall blood drive in South Washington County on Wednesday, November 19. If you would like to reserve a donation time between 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., please contact Bob Dickie at 651-436-5566. Your offering will be the gift of life for a neighbor in need, so please prayerfully consider giving blood this holiday season.

#### **Cottage Grove United Church of Christ**

7008 Lamar Avenue South  
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397  
Tel: 651-459-1501  
Web: [www.cgucc.org](http://www.cgucc.org)  
Email: [cgucc@usfamily.net](mailto:cgucc@usfamily.net)

If you are interested in volunteering your services on that day, please contact either Doreen Barta or Bev Gross. If you would like to bring goodies to donate to the refreshment area, please place your name on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room. All baked goods should be dropped off at the church before 12 noon on November 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

## 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!

Karen Banaszewski; Sue Brown and family; Daniel Bies; GeorgAnn Biscoe and family; Bill and Isabel Board; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Bob Fox; Ron and Joyce Fries; Russ Gausman; Don Hanson; Delores Janke; Sandy Rabe; Emily, Chris, and Joel Spicer; families facing unemployment issues; the Search Team, Rev. Bryan Olson, and our church during this time of transition.

Family of Jim Auers who died recently (Karen Banaszewski's friend); Tom Avenriep (GeorgAnn & Steve Biscoe's friend); Alma Buechler (former pastor's wife); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Alex (Dorothy Crampton's grandson, who is also Deb Tilson's son); Dorothy Brown (Ashley & Luke Longmuir's great-aunt); Alan Gausman (Russ Gausman's brother); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Steve and Eboné Koerselman family; Molly Livingston (Eboné Koerselman's grandmother); Margie Mattison (Farmers' Market vendor); Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Ann Schmitt (Sue Brown's cousin) and her 5 small children, Ann's husband Troy Schmitt died recently; Agnes Thyren (Gary Thyren's mother); Beth Vinge (Bill & Arlene Kropelnicki's daughter); Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world; farmers in Minnesota and Wisconsin.



I am writing this column on Veteran's Day when the thoughts of our country turn to the brave men and women of our Armed Forces who have put themselves in harm's way to defend our freedoms. This is a day of thanksgiving. It is a day for us to honor our servicemen and women by expressing our

appreciation for their sacrifice and service on behalf of our country. It is also a day to give thanks to God for placing these courageous protectors in the path of all those who would seek to do us harm.

As I learned from my grandmother at an early age, however, giving thanks is more than just saying the words. That means that if we truly want to offer thanks on this day, or any day, our actions need to follow our words. So if we see a man or woman in military uniform or know of a veteran in our families and communities, let's take the time to shake their hand and thank them personally for their service. We can also send notes and care packages to our soldiers serving overseas to let them know we are thinking about them. More importantly, however, we can best embody our thanks by continually keeping our soldiers and veterans in our prayers. For lifting them up into the presence of God each day is the best gift we can offer them during this time of war and unrest.

I want to take this opportunity to personally express my thanks to God for all the veterans in our congregation who have served their country with dignity. My prayer is that we continue to honor their service, and that of all veterans, by caring for them and their families and providing them with the resources they need to live good and healthy lives.

I also want to thank God for all those who are currently serving in our Armed Forces both at home and abroad. My prayer for these brave men and women is that God protect them and bring them back to their families safe and sound.

I hope that you will join me in praying for our soldiers and veterans during this holiday season and let us pray together that one day soon peace will reign and war will no longer be a reality for our children and grandchildren. Have a blessed and peace-filled Thanksgiving. See you in worship!

Peace and blessings,  
Rev. Bryan

### Sermons on Line

Rev. Bryan Olson's series of sermons on the Ten Commandments are now on-line through a link on the church web page. They are media files and require a media reader to be able to download them. Check it out on the home page—click on "Rev. Olson's Sermons."

### 10 Commandments Sermon Series



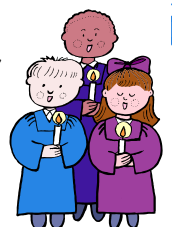
### Pastor Out of Town

Rev. Bryan and Emily Olson will be on vacation through November 20. If you need a pastor during Bryan's absence, please call Rev. Ruth or Robert Beck of St. Peter's UCC in Stillwater, (651) 439-2160, or Ruth's cell phone at (651)303-3239.



### Kids Sing November 30

The Sunday School Choir will be sharing two songs from their current rotation, "Christmas Around the World," during worship on Sunday, November 30. Please come and support our kids!



## Annual Meeting on December 8, 2008

Church Council has announced that the Annual Meeting of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ will be held on **Monday, December 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** A new slate of officers will be presented for a congregational vote, and the Annual Reports will be reviewed. All church members are urged to attend this annual business meeting of the congregation where each member has a vote.



Please note that all Annual Reports by church officers and ministry teams are due in the church office on Monday, Nov. 24, 2008.

## Adult Advent Study

All adults interested in studying and discussing the Advent scriptures are invited to come to an informal gathering before worship (9 a.m.) each Sunday from November 30 – December 21, 2008. The texts that will be studied each week will coincide with those that will be preached on during the worship service that Sunday. Come and enjoy enlivening and enlightening discussion as we interpret together the meaning of the coming of the Christ child. Lay leaders for this study will include Diane Davies, Gary Thyren, and Ron Bonnevier.



## 2009 Stewardship Campaign

The Finance Team has mailed the materials for the annual fall stewardship campaign. Please prayerfully consider how you will support your church in the coming year, then bring your pledge sheet to worship on November 23, Stewardship Sunday.



## Women's Fellowship Upcoming Events

**November 30**—The Sock and Mitten Tree goes up.

Please help the needy by donating mittens, socks, or hats. All will be most welcome. It will continue through the Christmas season so it is never too late to share.

**December 14**—Christmas Goodie Bake Sale. All baked goods or other treats are most welcome. We will use the money made at this sale for the purchase of a new refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

**December 11**—6:30 p.m.—Women's Fellowship Christmas Party in the Gathering Room. More details to follow.



## Farmers' Market Drawing Winner

Each year at the Farmers' Market there is a raffle drawing for a donated prize. This year Barb Meyer donated a Minnesota Twins blanket and Stacy Meyer donated an autographed picture of Tony Oliva. The prize was won by a very pleased Kelly Murphy of Cottage Grove, whose picture appears here.



## Carol's Cookies

Celebrating 12 years of Holiday Baking for your holiday entertaining or for a special gift. I offer cookies and candies by the dozen, also spritz and fruitcake. I also do special trays of cookies and candies. If you would like to receive my holiday flyer, please call me at (651) 459-1518, or see me in church. Thank you, and a very happy blessed holiday season to all.



Carole Weitzel Biscoe

## Coming Up in Worship

### Sunday, November 16

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

### Sunday, November 23

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:10 a.m. Announcements  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
1:00 p.m. Eagle Scout Ceremony  
7:00 p.m. Bryan Sirchio Concert

### Sunday, November 30

#### First Sunday in Advent

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:10 a.m. Announcements  
10:15 a.m. Worship with Sunday School Choir  
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

## Contact Us

### Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

7008 Lamar Avenue South  
Cottage Grove MN 55016  
(651)459-1501 www.cgucc.org

Rev. Bryan Olson, Pastor  
olsonbw@hotmail.com

Emily Olson, Director of Music

Becky Graff,  
Administrative Assistant  
cgucc@usfamily.net

Deb Hanson, Brenda Herrmann, BobbiJo Janicek,  
Sunday School Team

Sheri Wohlers, Custodian  
sherileewohlers@msn.com

Diane Davies, Gifts Coordinator  
dianedavies48@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Monday-Friday  
9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

**Cottage Grove United Church of Christ**  
7008 Lamar Avenue South  
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397  
Phone: 651-459-1501  
Email: [cgucc@usfamily.net](mailto:cgucc@usfamily.net)

**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!

## Ecumenical Christmas Service

This year's Ecumenical Christmas Service for all women in the area will be held at Newport United Methodist Church, 1596 Eleventh Avenue in Newport. The service is Thursday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. All are invited to attend to celebrate this beautiful season.



*Women's Ecumenical  
Christmas Service*

## Confirmation

Confirmation students and mentors will gather for their third class session on **Saturday, December 6, 2008**, from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The session is entitled, **"Values and the Christian Life"** – An exploration of how we develop our individual value system through the examination of personal, societal, and Christian values.



## Share the Joy

Confirmation students are collecting money to help support the Friends in Need "SHARE THE JOY" drive. We are raising money to assemble as many Thanksgiving dinners as possible. The cost of one dinner is \$40. We have four levels of sponsorship from \$5 to \$40. We have so far collected enough to make 10 meals, with one more Sunday of collecting money. On November 23<sup>rd</sup> we will go to the American Legion in St. Paul Park to drop off our donations and to help them assemble the rest of what the community has donated. Thanks to all who have donated!



## Remember When?

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

Remember when we decided to build a new church? Ben Bahls bought the old one for \$500. He had it moved down to Cottage Grove and attached it to the new Community Hall. Remember when they crashed the old tall steeple down, and it was full of bird nests? They moved the bell from the old church to the new church with Gerlach's Wrecker truck. Remember when Ed Warnick bought the old school house from the church and moved it down into Cottage Grove behind Leona's made a house out of it?

