



# CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ  
Published Semi-Monthly  
February 1, 2008



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

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## *Lent Begins with Ash Wednesday Worship Service*

**February 6, 2008  
7:00 p.m.**



# *Lent*

We begin the Lenten season with a special service of worship on **Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.** We will prepare for our journey to the cross with Jesus this night through the celebration of Holy Communion and the ritual posting of ashes. Readers and Communion Hosts are needed for this service. If you would like to participate in worship on Ash Wednesday, please contact Rev. Bryan.



## 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**

### Name Tags!

**"Who Are You?"**

Help us be a welcoming church!  
Please wear your name tag  
each Sunday morning.



### PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Ken and Nora Krahn; Ron and Joyce Fries; Don Fiedler; Denise Heschke Krech; Eileen Wilson; Don Hanson; Abi Christopherson; Alan Gausman; Michelle Boudreau; Lynsay Nieman; Judy Bonnevier; Connie Meyer; Ruby Hanson; Bernice Kuehn; Bill Bothun; Bill Board; Kathy Biscoe whose sister Carol died recently; our soldiers around the world; Rev. Bryan Olson and our church during this time of transition.

### PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!



I recently read an article about Jack McConnell. Jack is an "Everyday Evangelist." After spending most of his adult life as a physician and medical researcher, Jack retired in his mid-seventies to play golf in Hilton Head, South Carolina. At 81, however, God called McConnell off of the golf course and out of retirement to start a free clinic for the new neighbors in his community who he knew lacked adequate healthcare and affordable health insurance.

Following McConnell's example, the Volunteers in Medicine Institute established a network of more than 50 neighborhood clinics throughout the United States for people in need. McConnell credits his parents for helping him be concerned about the needs of others. He said, "They asked us, at the end of each day, what we had done for someone else that day." (*Homiletics*, January 2008, 36).

Reflecting upon and responding to those types of questions is what makes Jack McConnell an "Everyday Evangelist." Everyday evangelists are in a constant process of listening, reflecting, and acting. They listen for what God is calling them to do, reflect upon how best to carry out that calling, and then act to fulfill that call through word and deed.

Everyday evangelists are not passive. They do not sit around and wait for God's call to come to them. They seek out God's word for their lives in prayer, study it in the scriptures, and talk about it with other people. They are not shy about bringing up Christ in conversation with others. They want to share how Christ is working in their lives and hear how Christ is impacting and influencing others.

To be an everyday evangelist, one must go through the process of listening, reflecting, and acting on a daily basis. God certainly has a larger calling for our lives, but within that calling are a multitude of opportunities for daily action. For example, if our larger calling is to be disciple makers, as the "Great Commission" states, then what actions can we do each day to bring more people to Christ?

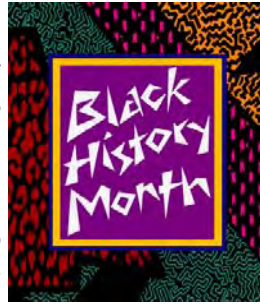
Jane Fidler-Hoffman, a member of the United Church of Christ e-Team, gives some helpful suggestions on how to be an everyday evangelist. She says the first thing to do is to decide to speak of and share your faith with others. Deciding is a giant step! Next, we have to be disciples ourselves. In essence, we have to walk the walk of discipleship ourselves, not just tell other people to do it. That means we have to learn about our faith, read and study the Bible, pray, and seek a relationship with God and Jesus Christ. We also need to practice sharing our faith. Fidler-Hoffman says to start with children, grandchildren, friends, and neighbors. Start with people you trust to build your confidence before branching out to talk to acquaintances and strangers. Once you feel confident sharing your faith, close your mouth and listen. Listen to the needs, concerns, fears, doubts, and questions of others. Evangelism is not about "preaching at" others; it is about inviting people into a spiritual journey with Christ. Finally, Fidler-Hoffman tells us that to be an everyday evangelist we must simply tell the story of Jesus and his love whenever and wherever we can.

(continued on page 3)

## Annual Black History Month Concert

Our congregation is proud to announce the Black History Month Concert will be presented on February 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Community UCC in St. Paul. The concert will feature the Hands for Christ Choir, Kevin and Aretta-Rie Johnson, the Fred Steele Singers, soloists, and the combined voices of our people from Friendship Baptist Church and Grace Community UCC. As a tradition, we will receive an offering, with proceeds going toward concert expenses, and the balance designated for our New Carpet Drive. We sincerely look forward to celebrating our heritage, lifting up our music, and rejoicing with our brothers and sisters in the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Grace Community UCC  
986 Forest Street, St. Paul (651)771-7649  
www.gracecommunitychurch.com



## Next Women's Fellowship Meeting

Women's Fellowship will meet next on Thursday, February 21, at 6:30 p.m. We will have a pot luck supper, so bring a dish to share. All women are invited.



## New Directories Are Here

The new church pictorial directories have arrived, and are available after worship. If you had your picture taken for the directory and cannot get to church to pick up yours, please call Ruby Stratton at 651-459-9600.



## Trash to Treasure Sale RE-SCHEDULED

Start saving your un-needed items for the Trash to Treasure Sale to be held the weekend of **April 19th (please notice new date)**. You can start bringing items after the Palm Sunday Brunch on March 16. Please call Sheri Wohlers at (651) 731-2717 if you have questions.



## Dear Partners in Mission

No words would ever be enough to express the importance of your donation of a water buffalo to Heifer International. Because of your generosity, every day a struggling family receives a helping hand to overcome poverty and hunger. Your support means better nutrition, health care and education, the hope for a better future. Thank you once again for being Heifer International's partner for a better world.



Sincerely,  
Jo Luck, President and CEO, Heifer International

(continued from page 2)

Want to become an everyday evangelist? Get started today! All it takes is a willingness to follow Christ and a passion to share Christ with others. See you in church.

Peace,  
Rev. Bryan

### Works cited:

Fisler-Hoffman, Jane. "Eleven Commandments for Ordinary, Everyday Evangelists," *www.ucc.org, the e-word* (vol. 2/ no. 9, 2).

## Coming Up on Sundays

### Sunday, February 3

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Adult Class  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
7:00 p.m. Jr/Sr High Bible Study

### Wednesday, February 6

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday  
Worship Service

### Sunday, February 10

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Adult Class  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
7:00 p.m. Jr/Sr High Bible Study

### Sunday, February 17

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Adult Class  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
7:00 p.m. Jr/Sr High Bible Study

### Sunday, February 24

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Adult Class  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
11:15 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship  
11:30 a.m. Bible Challenge  
Small Group Discussion  
7:00 p.m. Jr/Sr High Bible Study



## Y.A.H.O.O.

*(Youth Aspiring to Help Out Others)*

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

**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/cguccyouth>

## YOUTH Events Calendar

Saturday, February 2—  
Confirmation 9

Wednesday, February 6—  
Confirmation 8

February 15-17—Winter  
Conference Youth Event

Friday, April 18—Night on the  
Street

July 23-28—National Youth  
Event in Knoxville, TN

## Confirmation

Confirmation 9 students and mentors will gather for their fourth class session on **Saturday, February 2, 2008**, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. The session is entitled, “**Why Worship?**” – An exploration of the significance of worship through study and participation in the worship liturgy.

Confirmation 8 students will continue meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. Upcoming class sessions will be held on **February 6 and 27 at 6:00 p.m.**



## A Night on the Street

On **Friday, April 18, 2008**, the Y.A.H.O.O. youth will spend a “**Night on the Street**” in downtown Minneapolis to raise awareness about the problems of homelessness in Minnesota, and to raise money for homeless people and families in our community. The Y.A.H.O.O.’s, along with hundreds of other youth from around the state, will sleep overnight in cardboard boxes in the parking lot of Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Minneapolis. The youth will spend the evening learning about issues specifically related to teen homelessness and how they can work as advocates to help make sure all people have access to affordable housing.

This event is open to all youth in grades 8-12. If you wish to participate in this event, please RSVP with Rev. Bryan by no later than **March 1, 2008**. Parental permission is required for youth to participate in this event. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Bryan at (651) 459-1501.



## Greeters Wanted

Each week we welcome members and visitors to worship with a smile and a friendly greeting. Please prayerfully consider helping with this ministry. Greeters are needed both before and after worship each Sunday. To volunteer to be a greeter, please sign-up on the sheet in the Gathering Room or contact Barb Arntzen. A few minutes of your time will make a world of difference in the life of our church! Volunteer to be a greeter today!



## New Bible Challenge

Here is a new challenge—read just the New Testament in one year. Reading lists are available on the table in the Gathering Room for reading the entire New Testament in one year.



**OR**

It's not too late to start the One Year Bible Challenge. Copies of the full-year reading plan are available on the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room, while the weekly study guide questions are posted on the church web site [www.cgucc.org](http://www.cgucc.org). The next Bible Challenge small group discussion session will take place on Sunday, February 24, following worship from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Join us as we walk through the Holy Scriptures together.

## Thank You Very Much

Thank you so much for all of the gifts you gave our family for Christmas. Your generosity means a lot to us.

Thank You and God Bless You,  
Larry and Shelly Brown and Family



### National Youth Event

The U.C.C. National Youth Event (NYE) will be held July 23-28, 2008, in Knoxville, TN, on the campus of the University of Tennessee. At NYE, you will have the opportunity to join over 2500 other U.C.C. youth from around the United States in worship, workshops, fellowship, dances, mission projects, movie nights, meals, and more!!! NYE only happens every four years - so don't miss out on your opportunity to experience this fun, faith-building event! All youth that will be entering eighth grade through graduated high school seniors are eligible to attend NYE.



The Y.A.H.O.O. Youth are going to be a part of this very special celebration! Plans are currently being made to register for this event. The cost will be \$400 per person.

**NOTE TO YOUTH:** Remember that your participation in youth group and Sunday school events has been earning you points which translate into real dollars. Some youth have already earned over \$100 towards the cost of this trip!!! With six months remaining before NYE, there is still time to offset the cost of the trip considerably with your participation.

Official registration forms will be available at the end of February. It would be helpful, however, to know before that time which Y.A.H.O.O.'s are planning on attending NYE! Please complete the brief RSVP form below and return it to Rev. Bryan ASAP to reserve your spot on the trip.

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### RSVP Form for National Youth Event

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish to attend the U.C.C. National Youth Event on July 23-28, 2008, in Knoxville, TN. I have spoken with my parents and/or guardians about this opportunity, and they support my participation in this event.

I also understand the financial costs associated with this trip and am willing to earn, through my participation in Y.A.H.O.O. events, and/or pay the full registration/transportation cost to attend this event.

Please reserve a space for me on the Y.A.H.O.O. NYE trip.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to Rev. Bryan ASAP**



#### **Something New!**

*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.*

- 2 - Joan Goebel
- Ramona Westerberg
- 5 - Deb Madsen
- 6 - Bernice Kuehn
- Meagan Richter
- 7 - Karen Greenwell
- 8 - Ken Eshom
- Renotta Scherr
- Carrie Tate
- 9 - Barb Larson
- 10 - Darrin Hunter
- Steven Miller
- 13 - Amy Howard
- 14 - Julia Biscoe
- Karly Biscoe
- 15 - Kathy Hunter
- 17 - Heather Biscoe
- 18 - Russ Gausman
- 21 - Christine Eberhardt
- Karen Spicer
- 22 - Greg Bonngard
- Ken Huber
- 23 - Colton Brown
- 24 - Harlow Radke
- 27 - Marc Meyer
- Evan Murr



## Head Start

Head Start is a free pre-school program for children ages 3—5. Head Start Accepts applications year-round. Please call (763) 783-4300 for eligibility guidelines and to register your child. Volunteer and employment opportunities are also available. Please call the above number for information.

## Stone Soup Thrift Shop

Stone Soup is located at 950 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, St. Paul Park, next to Oltman Junior High School. Store hours are 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday; 9 am to 4 pm on Saturday; Closed Sunday. Drop off donated items from opening until 1 hour before closing. Questions, call (651) 458-9786.

## Feed My Starving Children

You are welcome to volunteer to help provide meals for starving people all over the world. This organization, located in Eagan and Brooklyn Center, needs people to help package meals. Open hours to volunteer are numerous during the week and on weekends. For more information, contact 763/504-2919 or [www.fmssc.org](http://www.fmssc.org).

## Boy & Girl Scouts

More than 40 boys are involved in both the Cub Scout Den 777 and the Boy Scout Pack 777, both of which meet regularly in our church. And more than 20 adults are involved in each. Girl Scouts and a new Troop of Brownie Scouts also meet regularly at our church.

## Board of Shared Ministries Established

On January 14, 2008, the CGUCC Executive Team convened a special meeting of the Shared Ministry Teams to discuss the new by-law changes and establish the Board of Shared Ministries. Under the new CGUCC by-laws that were adopted at the Annual Meeting on December 3, 2007, the congregation was given the responsibility of establishing a new Board of Shared Ministries. The Board is responsible for meeting quarterly each year to receive and review reports from the Shared Ministry Teams; to hear proposals for new ministry teams and approve those teams whose mission is consistent with that of CGUCC; to advise teams with regard to available resources; and to assign teams accordingly within the new operating structure (see flow chart on opposing page).



The Board of Shared Ministries is made up of elected leaders from the five main operating Teams of the church (Administration and Facilities, Fellowship, Nurture and Education, Outreach and Mission, and Spirituality and Worship). Each of the Shared Ministry Teams within the church has been assigned to one of the five main operating Teams (see flow chart). For example, the Altar Committee resides under the Spirituality and Worship Team. All the Teams that make up a main operating Team are responsible for selecting one (1) person to represent them on the Church Council. The five team leaders that will serve on the Board of Shared Ministries and Church Council in 2008 were elected at the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. They are: Donna Perkins (Administration and Facilities); Midge Youngquist (Spirituality and Worship); Doreen Barta (Nurture and Education); Chris Miller (Outreach and Mission); and Carole Weitzel-Biscoe (Fellowship).

The Church Council will thus be made up of the four Executive Team members (President Gary Thyren, Past President Ron Bonnevier, President Elect Brian Wilkinson, and Secretary Karen Pribnow) and the five representatives of the main operating Teams. These nine representatives will have both voice and vote on the Council.

Minutes of the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting are available upon request. Please contact Becky in the church office to receive a copy. In addition, if anyone has questions about the new CGUCC operating structure, please contact any member of the Executive Team (President, Gary Thyren; President Elect, Brian Wilkinson; Past President, Ron Bonnevier; Karen Pribnow, Secretary) or Rev. Bryan Olson.

## Submit Your Thanks

Is there someone you think should be thanked for their behind-the-scenes work at CGUCC? So many folks contribute in so many ways that are never seen. If you would like to thank someone for what they do, please submit to Becky in the office at any time. We'll keep the thanks flowing.



## Thanks to the Newsletter Crew

A big thank you goes to Bev and Bud Gross who stuff, fold, and mail the Cross Connection nearly every issue. Their dedication and flexibility are only surpassed by their efficiency. Thanks a bunch!



## Collection of Personal Care Items

In Ramsey County alone, there are more than 1,450 people living without basic supplies in shelters, transitional housing and in streets or places not intended for human habitation. These people have a great need for hygiene supplies, over-the-counter medications and clothing.

The Caring Hearts for Homeless People supply drive is asking you to participate in collecting these much-needed supplies from **February 1-29**. Monetary donations are especially welcome. Please make checks payable to the "HealthEast Foundation Homeless Project." All collected items can be dropped off in the box in the Gathering Room, and will be distributed to the homeless through Health Care for the Homeless, Listening House and Safe-Zone.

This year the Y.A.H.O.O. Youth of CGUCC are sponsoring this special collection. The youth thank you in advance for your generosity.

### *Caring Hearts for Homeless People*

#### Shopping List

*(non-alcoholic, non-aerosol, new items)*

##### Medication *(not expired)*

- Adult pain relievers such as Ibuprofen, Advil or Aleve
- Adult cough syrup, cold/flu tablets and cough drops
- Children's pain relievers and vitamins
- Vaseline and lip balm
- Antacids (*Maalox, Tums, Rolaids*)
- Foot care (*corn pads, nail clippers, antifungal cream or powder*)
- Pedialyte, Enfamil or Similac (*with iron*)
- Multivitamins, prenatal vitamins

##### Hygiene *(travel size preferred)*

- Deodorant, soap, razors and razor blades
- Hand and body lotions such as Eucerin and Aquafor
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Hair products (*including products for African Americans*)
- Sanitary pads and tampons

##### Other

- Diapers, baby wipes, bottles and pacifiers
- Band-aids and ACE wraps
- Winter gloves, hats, white socks, underwear and washcloths

Monetary donations are also encouraged.

Make payable to: **HealthEast Foundation Homeless Project**

Thank you for giving from your heart.



## Cross Connection

A Periodical Newsletter of  
**Cottage Grove United  
Church of Christ**  
Published on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>  
of every month  
Edited by Becky Graff

**Back issues available on  
our Church web site at  
[www.cgucc.org](http://www.cgucc.org)**

Deadline	Issue Date
February 11	February 15
February 25	March 1
March 10	March 15

Submit articles via e-mail at [cgucc@usfamily.net](mailto:cgucc@usfamily.net) or drop them off at the office. Thanks for all the information you submit to share with the congregation! Keep it coming!

Becky Graff, Editor

## Contact Us

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

## Could HomeShare Be for You?

HomeShare St. Croix celebrates their one year anniversary as they proudly serve the St. Croix Valley. We recognize that two people have needs and something to offer to one another. We are a unique program that assists those seeking affordable housing and those seeking affordable help in the home, by bringing them together. Check out our new website for more information: [www.homesharestcroix.org](http://www.homesharestcroix.org) or call us at (651) 967-5004.



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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!

**STOP!!**

## *Come for Worship – Stay for Fellowship*

*Coffee, juice, and goodies are served each Sunday after worship.*

*You are invited to greet and get to know visitors and new members as you enjoy the fellowship with old friends and new. It may be cold outside, but it's warm in here!*



# CGUCC Executive Structure

