



CROSS CONNECTION

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



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

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Sunday School Awards Sunday

May 18, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
(last session of the current school year)
- 10:15 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Family Picnic

Please bring a blanket or chairs for the picnic as well as a dish to pass. The church will provide grilled hot dogs and bratwurst and all the fixings. Also, anyone who could donate cakes, pies, or bars for the cake walk and large bags of candy for "candy in the straw" and/or the Strawberry Festival would be greatly appreciated!

Summer Sunday School "God's Big Backyard"

June 1—July 27, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. through Worship time
- Kids from 3 and older

Children will have their own special time during the summer while parents attend Worship. Come, bring your friends, and enjoy the summer in "God's Big Backyard." (There will be no Sunday School on July 6.)

Sports Camp

August 11-14, 2008

K—6th grade

Sports Camp is a great time for kids to strengthen their faith as well as their athletic abilities. This year's camp will be staffed by St. Luke's Lutheran and St. Rita's Catholic, along with CGUCC. Adult volunteers are need to help staff this 4-day event. (See the article and registration form on page 4.)



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, Bill & Isabel Board, Judy & Ron Bonnevier, Bill Bot-hun, Beth Davies, Fiedler Family at the death of Don Fiedler on 4/20/08, Bob Fox, Ron & Joyce Fries, Don Hanson, Sue How-ard, Delores Janke, Leona Per-kins, Lucy Spicer, Jean Stoker, families facing unemployment issues, Rev. Bryan Olson & our church during this time of transi-tion.

Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Alan Gausman (Russ Gausman's brother); Todd & Jean Herbst (Jeff & Krisi Ja-cobs' friends); Trygg Heustad (3-yr-old relative of Russ Gaus-man); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Sharon Matzke (Bette Meyer's friend); Lynsay Nieman (Burt & Doris's granddaughter); Doris Rosenfelt (Kathy Biscoe's mother); Amy Stoker (Jim & Jean's daughter); Nick (husband of Stoker's granddaughter); Cayel (2-yr-old relative of Becky Graff); our soldiers around the world.



Last Saturday, I had the privi-lege of working alongside 60 volun-teers from CGUCC and other faith communities in the Twin Cities at the Feed My Starving Children facil-ity in Eagan, MN. The Feed My Starving Children web site (www.fmssc.org) tells the story and mission of this unique faith based

organization:

Feed My Starving Children was founded as a Christian nonprofit in 1987 through the efforts of a Minnesota businessman who felt called by God to help feed the starving children of the world during a humanitarian visit to Honduras. He returned to the Twin Cities to develop a method of large-scale relief.

His efforts, energy and resources resulted in the development of a food mixture that would be easy and safe to transport, simple to make with only boiling water, and culturally acceptable worldwide. This basic formula of rice, high protein soy nuggets, vegetables, vitamins and flavoring is still used by FMSC today.

In addition to this formula, FMSC needed to develop a cost-effective means of producing the completed meals in quantities that would make a real difference in alleviating world hunger. Initially, FMSC tested the possibility of using packaging machines, but this solution proved to be expensive and cumbersome. In 1993, a church group stopped by the FMSC facility to see if there might be an opportunity to volunteer with FMSC. That providential meeting gave birth to FMSC's volunteer packing approach.

To distribute the packed meals, the FMSC team began establishing part-nerships with major global distribution nonprofits such as Operation Blessing, Salesian Missions and UMCOR. These partnerships allow FMSC to reach desperately needy children in remote parts of the world by leveraging the in-country expertise of these organizations. Through these vital partnerships, orphanages and facilities for handicapped children can provide hot, nutritious meals—and a ray of hope for the future.

Since its inception, FMSC's model of culturally acceptable, nutritious food, combined with volunteer production and distribution through on-the-ground partners has grown exponentially. In 1994, 2,400 volunteers packed 400,000 meals from FMSC's original Brooklyn Park location. In 2005, nearly 75,000 volunteers packed more than 15 million meals at sites in Brooklyn Park, Eagan, and a third mobile packing site that travels to youth conventions and churches. In March 2006, a third permanent site opened in Chanhas-sen, Minnesota. In 2007, the three Twin Cities' sites, the newly opened Aurora, IL, site and the nation-wide Mobile Packing sites produced more than 43 million meals with 185,000 volunteers. Feed My Starving Children hopes to produce 100 million meals per year by 2010.

On Saturday, May 10, 2008, our group of 16 volunteers from CGUCC packed over 16 boxes (32 meal packs per box) of food in less than two hours. Combined with the efforts of the other volunteers, we packaged over 140 boxes of food to be sent to hungry children around the world. Our efforts produced enough food packs to feed 83 children for an entire year.

It was amazing to see God at work in the hands and voices of the volun-teers and staff at FMSC. It is truly awesome to think that each bag we filled that day was a life-giving gift to a child whom we will never meet and never know.

What impressed me most about FMSC was their mission and vision for ministry (see next page).

(continued on next page)

Congratulations Confirmands

Congratulations to the three students who affirmed their Baptism and committed themselves to membership in Christ's church during the rite of Confirmation on May 4, 2008, at CGUCC. Our 2008 Confirmands: Cole Brown, Mallory Ryan, and Bryce Wilkinson.



(continued from previous page)

FMSC Mission Statement

Feeding God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit

FMSC Vision

With God's help FMSC will reduce the number of starving children throughout the world by helping to instill compassion in a generation that hears and responds to the cries of those in need.

FMSC Statement of Beliefs

As a Christian Organization:

We believe that God has directed us to help others in need.

We believe that every child has a right to be fed a nutritious meal.

We believe that our lives are enriched when we graciously give our own time and resources to help others in need.

We believe partnering with other faith based and humanitarian organizations maximizes our ability to feed God's children.

I believe the church, and Cottage Grove U.C.C. in particular, can learn much from the mission and vision of FMSC. The mission of FMSC is clearly defined and easy to understand. The mission of the church in this day and age, however, is not.

What I like about FMSC is its clarity of purpose: It exists to fulfill God's command to help feed starving children. What might we say, however, if someone asked us why our local church exists? What would we tell them is the mission and vision for ministry here at CGUCC? As the church begins to wind down this time of transition and looks ahead to a new era of ministry in Old Cottage Grove with a new pastor, what will be the identifying ministry of this congregation? What ministry is God calling this congregation to do as a community?

In order to move forward with a vision, it must be easy to define and easy to remember. And in order for that vision to succeed, it must be supported by the entire congregation. Over the next four months I want to challenge the church lay leadership to begin discussing and defining the mission of the congregation so that when the new pastor starts they can share this vision with him or her and begin a new era of ministry at 70th and Lamar with a running start. There is no time like the present. Let's get to work for God. See you in worship.

Peace,
Rev. Bryan

Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, May 18

Awards Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Sunday School
Picnic

Sunday, May 25

Summer Worship Begins

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship

10:00 a.m. Coffee &
Fellowship

Sunday, June 1

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Coffee &
Fellowship

Sunday, June 8

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Coffee &
Fellowship



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

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

Graduate Recognition

Cottage Grove U.C.C. will be recognizing and honoring our High School and College graduates during the service of worship on **Sunday, June 15, 2008**. If you or someone in your family is graduating this year, please inform Becky or Rev. Bryan in the church office so that we can make sure all graduates from CGUCC are recognized for their outstanding achievement.

In addition, if you are a graduate and would like to offer some "words of wisdom" or "life lessons" to our upcoming grads, please submit them in writing to the church office by Thursday, June 12, 2008, for use in the recognition service on June 15th.



Register for Cottage Grove Area Sports Camp

Our congregation, along with St. Luke's Lutheran and St. Rita's Catholic Church, will be hosting the second annual Cottage Grove Area Sports Camp on August 11-14, 2008. **Lamar Park** will be the host site for this camp. The camp is specifically designed to help children in K-6th grade to strengthen their faith as well as their athletic abilities. The camp is run entirely by church staff members and volunteers from the three Cottage Grove congregations. Adult chaperones from each congregation will be needed to provide supervision.



Cost of the camp is \$40 per child. *Each child that registers for the CG Sports Camp will get a free ticket to the Minnesota Twins game on Saturday, August 16, 2008, at 2 p.m.* Parents and friends can purchase additional tickets to the game for just \$12. Partial camp scholarships are available upon request. To secure your child's spot in the Sports Camp, please complete the pre-registration form below and return it to the church office by **July 1, 2008**. Please contact Rev. Bryan if you have questions about the camp or how to register.

Want to see a slideshow from last year's sports camp? Then logon to the CGUCC website at www.cgucc.org and click on Sport Camp Slideshow.

Sports Camp Pre-registration Form

Participant Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Grade: _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-mail (optional): _____

Interests (check all that apply):

Basketball Soccer Softball Arts/Crafts

Cheerleading/Dance Other _____

“Pick me . . . Pick me . . . Pick me!!!”

Service as understood by Shrek’s favorite Donkey

The Board of Shared Ministries has asked me to share with you information regarding each of our operating shared ministry teams. I thought I’d also add a bit of information regarding “spiritual gifts” and how they correlate with our existing teams.

Let’s start with the spiritual gift of **LEADERSHIP**. This definition is taken from Spirit Gifts One Spirit, Many Gifts by Patricia D. Brown. “Persons with this gift are able to lead others effectively.” In 1 Timothy 3:5, the apostle Paul gives Timothy some common sense related to recruiting leaders: “For if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how can he take care of God’s church?”

God-empowered leaders have the ability to elicit trust. Persons with the gift share the vision of God’s *shalom* in ways that capture the imagination. They use their leadership energies and skills for the good of the community. They set goals and communicate the desired results to others. They do all of these things so that God’s will is accomplished.

Leaders care for the spiritual well being of persons entrusted to their care. Hebrews 13:17 says that leaders “are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing.” Those with the gift create “safe space” for others to function and use their unique spiritual gifts.

I’m sure as you read this definition, leaders within our own community come to mind for you that have this spiritual gift. Our Finance & Administration Team is made up of people using their gift of leadership for the good of our community.

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Finance & Administration Team

This team is led by Bruce Fiedler. The members are Midge Youngquist, Ron Bonnevier, Brian Wilkinson, Tim Power and John Perkins.

Their mission is to manage the Church’s finances through record keeping, seeking income, preparing budgets and providing personnel support for our minister and our staff here at CGUCC. They can be found on Sunday mornings after worship counting the offering and preparing the weekly bank deposit. Another responsibility is that of communicating monthly financial statements with the congregation and preparing each year the annual budget for congregation approval. At present, this team is conducting a capital campaign and looking to obtain the best financing available for the mortgage on our church addition. Researching electronic ways of giving and making deposits is also a part of this year’s plans.

Is leadership one of your spiritual gifts? Do you have talents that would lend themselves to good use in this area? If you’d like to become involved in fulfilling the body of Christ on the Finance & Administration Team, contact Bruce Fiedler. (See Church Directory for phone # and address.)

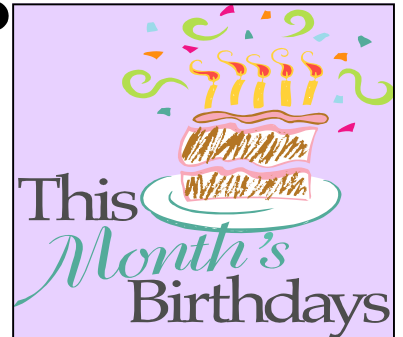
MORE TO COME . . .

Diane Davies, Gifts Coordinator

Many Thanks

We would like to thank everyone for all of the comforting and caring words during our loss. We appreciated the love and support of everyone. It is such a blessing to have a wonderful church family. Thanks so much.

Doris Fiedler and Family



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.

MAY

- 5 - Miranda Ries
- 6 - Bobby Welck
- 9 - Brad Huber
- 10 - Wes Hillman
Shauna Meyer
Elaine Mitchell
- 12 - Adam Hillman
Leona Perkins
- 14 - Donna Perkins
- 15 - Tina Eddy
Ron Meyer
- 17 - Brian Marty
- 18 - Lori Fiedler
- 19 - John Greenwell
- 20 - Bill Larsen
- 21 - Brandt Fritze
- 22 - Katie Johnston
Deb McCoy
- 23 - Butch Davies
Mary Pearson
- 24 - GeorgAnn Biscoe
Ashley Perkins
Troy Pribnow
- 25 - Birdie Meyer
- 27 - John Denny
Amber VanTassel
Daniel Wohlers
- 28 - Mallory Ryan
Ruby Stratton
Claudia Weisskirk
- 29 - Nancy Hillman



Member Helping Member Directory

Would you like to be able to call a church member when you need to hire someone for a task around your house, garage, or business? Steve Miller has come up with the idea of compiling our own members' business directory, listing who does what within the congregation, so if you need work done, you know who you can call. Good idea? If you would like to be listed, please talk with Steve after worship, or call him at 651-436-3007.

Twins Game and Grill Out

Mark your calendars for this fun all church fellowship event. On **Sunday, June 22, 2008**, we will be grilling Bonngard's brats, burgers, and hot dogs out in the church parking lot immediately following worship at 10:30 a.m. and then heading down to the Metrodome to watch the Minnesota Twins take on the Arizona Diamondbacks at 1 p.m. Tickets for the game are just \$12!!! Reserve your tickets today by e-mailing Rev. Bryan at olsonbw@hotmail.com or by signing up at the Welcome Table in the church Gathering Room.



Spring Flowers Support CGUCC

Women's Fellowship has made arrangements with Linder's and Heschke Gardens whereby Women's Fellowship will receive a percentage of sales made by congregation members and friends.



The dates to shop at **Linders are May 16 through**

May 19. When checking out, tell the cashier that you would like to support Cottage Grove United Church of Christ, You will receive a slip confirming your purchase along with your register receipt. This worked well last year and we hope it will also be a success this year. Women's Fellowship receives 15% of your sale.

Our arrangement with **Heschke Gardens runs the month of May**. Heschke Gardens will be open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings from 4 pm to 8 pm. They are located at 11503 77th Street. Just go south on Lamar through Old Cottage Grove, turn left at 77th Street (you will be going east) and Heschke Gardens is located on the south side of the street.

Heschke Gardens is an excellent place to purchase hosta.

Proceeds received from these sales will go towards projects such as the blind installation in the administrative offices.

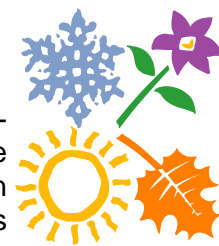
Strawberry Days

Mark your early summer calendar with Strawberry Days in Cottage Grove on the weekend of June 13-15. The parade is June 14, and our church will be represented in the parade. If you would like to help work on the float or be part of the parade, please call Jerry Biscoe at (715) 262-3587.



Delegates for MN Conference UCC Annual Meeting

Cottage Grove U.C.C. is seeking two delegates to attend the Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Conference U.C.C., June 6-8, 2008, at the College of St. Benedict's in Collegeville, MN. The theme of this year's meeting is "Extravagant Welcome, Evangelical Courage," and will feature Rev. John Thomas, President and General Minister of the U.C.C., as keynote speaker.



**ANNUAL
MEETING**

Delegates and visitors from U.C.C. churches throughout the state of Minnesota will spend the weekend engaged in discussion of special resolutions and other Conference business. They will also participate in vibrant worship and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship with one another.

CGUCC will pay the cost of registration, housing, and meals for two delegates to attend this meeting. If you are interested in representing Cottage Grove U.C.C. at the Conference Annual Meeting, please contact Rev. Bryan to receive the registration forms and other informational materials. Early registration deadline is May 9, 2008. Final registration deadline is May 30, 2008.

Stewardship Corner

Bruce Fiedler, Treasurer

Financial Summary for April 30, 2008

GENERAL FUND INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

	<u>Apr-08</u>	<u>2008 YTD</u>
Income	<u>13,019.00</u>	<u>50,570.30</u>
Expenses	<u>13,284.56</u>	<u>48,577.97</u>
Gain or (Loss)	<u>(265.56)</u>	<u>1,992.33</u>

A positive amount means we have taken in more than we have spent.

A (negative amount) means we have spent more than we have taken in.

GENERAL FUND BALANCE SUMMARY

	<u>2008</u>
January 1st, Balance	<u>3,691.69</u>
Gain/Loss for the Year	<u>1,992.33</u>
General Fund Balance	<u>5,684.02</u>

A positive number is good news - we are in the black.

A (negative number) means we are in the red.

Have you turned in your Capital Campaign Pledge Card?

If you haven't turned in your Capital Campaign Pledge card, please do so as soon as possible. We would like to receive your pledge card back even if you feel you cannot pledge anything at this time. This will then prevent us from giving our members who have not pledged a follow-up phone call.

CGUCC to start electronic giving

The church has made an agreement to work with VANCO Services, Inc. to electronically transfer your donations to the church. You can have a weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or one time deposit. The electronic transfers can be for your general fund as well as your capital campaign contribution. What a great way to continue to contribute to the church during the up-coming summer months!!!

For more information and/or an authorization form please see Bruce Fiedler.

2008 Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market Team continues to meet to plan for the 2008 market season, June 19-October 9, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. each Thursday. There will be vendors selling their goods, CGUCC folks selling food, baked and canned goods, and ice cream from the Caring and Sharing Team on the last Thursday of each month. We welcome all who would like to become involved in the Farmers' Market. Just contact one of the Team members to join in. Thank you for all your support last year, and we are looking forward to another great year!



Farmers' Market Team

Cross Connection

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

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

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
May 26	June 1
June 10	June 15
June 25	July 1

Submit articles via e-mail at
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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12:00 noon

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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!!

LET'S THROW A PARTY!

CGUCC 150th Anniversary Celebration Is Coming!



The Anniversary Team, chaired by Karen Greenwell and Karen Priknow, has begun planning for the celebration over the weekend of August 23-24. Keep watching for details of the events as they unfold. Mark your calendar to be here for the **BIG CELEBRATION** of the heritage of this church over the last 150 years.