



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
July 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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Join Us at the Washington County Fair Wednesday, July 30—Sunday, August 3

CORN BOOTH AND LEMONADE STAND

We've become a fixture at the County Fair
—Ice cold lemonade and steaming hot sweet corn on the cob—

This is one of our biggest fundraisers every year
so come on out to the fair—HUNGRY AND THIRSTY
and get your sweet corn and lemonade!



*If you would like to join in the fellowship and work a while at the fair,
please call Carole Weitzel Biscoe at (651) 459-1518
and she'll fit you into the schedule.*



Farmers' Market CGUCC Parking Lot Thursdays from 3:30—6:30 p.m.

THE VEGGIES ARE HERE! AND SOME FRUITS, TOO

Vegetables, Fruits, Herbs, Breads, Jams, Jellies, Preserves, Honey,
Pickles, Flowers, Plants, Crafts
Hot Dogs, Brats, Cookies, Beverages, Bake Sale, Ice Cream
Children's Activities, Drawings
Eat Healthy—Buy Local

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, Bill Bothun, Beth Davies, Bob Fox, Ron & Joyce Fries, Don Hanson, Delores Janke, Doris and Burt Nieman and family on the death of their granddaughter Lynsay, Emily Olson and the entire Helin family on the death of Emily's grandmother; families facing unemployment issues, Rev. Bryan Olson & our church during this time of transition.

Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Alan Gausman (Russ Gausman's brother); Todd & Jean Herbst (Jeff & Krisi Jacobs' friends); Trygg Hemstad (3-yr-old relative of Russ Gausman); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Ron Lindeman (Diane Davies' cousin); Patti Mogren; David Rowe (Doreen Barta's uncle); Amy Stoker (Jim & Jean's daughter); Nick (husband of Stoker's granddaughter); Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world; all victims of floods, tornados, and other natural disasters.



I received the following e-mail forward from a church member last week. I am not sure who the original author is but I think the message is well worth sharing.

92 YEAR OLD PREACHER

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I witnessed a Church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the Church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait, to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak.

He said, "When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50 odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me... the only thing that would comfort was this verse.....

'Jesus loves me this I know.
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to God belong,
we are weak but God is strong.....
Yes, Jesus loves me...
The Bible tells me so.'

When he finished, the church was quiet. You actually could hear his foot steps as he shuffled back to his chair. I don't believe I will ever forget it.

Sometimes the simplest messages are the most powerful and profound! See you in worship.

Peace,
Rev. Bryan

Bible Challenge Group to Meet on July 20

Members of the Bible Challenge are asked to note that the monthly small group discussion will take place following worship on the third Sunday this month (July 20) rather than the final Sunday (July 27). July 20th is also a Sundaes Sunday which means the group will meet around 10:30 a.m. so that everyone can enjoy a little ice cream treat and fellowship following worship. All are welcome to join the discussion no matter where they are in the challenge!



Summer Sunday School

Through July 27, 9:00 a.m. through Worship Time

Kids from preschool through going-into 4th grade 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."



July 20th Is Sundae Sunday

We have a tradition in this church of having a special Sunday during each of the summer months when we serve ice cream sundaes and other treats. The free will offering from these "Sundae Sundays" goes to support our local Friends in Need Food Shelf. The area food shelves are serving record numbers of families during these difficult economic times, and it's extra hard when children are not receiving breakfasts and lunches at school during the summer. Please give generously for a good cause when you enjoy your ice cream on July 20, and August 17. Thanks for your support, and thanks to Judy and Ron Bonnevier for coordinating this effort.



For All Involved in Food Preparation at the Church

We received a letter from the University Extension Office offering a class to faith-based organizations in Washington County. At the June meeting, Women's Fellowship voted to pay for the class. It is going to be available to 35 people (women and men) on Tuesday, August 12 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.. It will be taught by U of M Extension personnel and has been designed to provide research-based food safety information to volunteers to decrease the possibility of a food borne illness outbreak at any volunteer food event. The Extension educators provide practical, understandable food safety education that can be applied at any food events.



We will be passing a sign-up sheet around in church the next two Sundays. Sign-up sheets will also be on the bulletin boards, or you can call Chris Miller at 651-436-3308 to sign up. The sign-up deadline is August 4.

So, if you are involved in food preparation at our church in any way, please register.

Chris Miller
Women's Fellowship

Farmers' Market Update

The Farmers' Market Team would like to recognize some people who have been so very helpful, but if we mentioned names, chances are high we would miss someone, so we won't do that. You know who you are, and we do, too, so please accept our thank-you. And thank you to all you faithful bakers and canners who have brought goodies for the very profitable bake sale. God bless you all.



Vegetables have been coming in every week now, and we have a new vendor selling raspberries scheduled to start on July 17th.

See you at the market!

Farmers' Market Team

Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, July 20

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Sundae Sunday
10:30 a.m. Bible Challenge
Small Group

Sunday, July 27

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Coffee &
Fellowship

Sunday, August 3

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship
No Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Coffee &
Fellowship

Sunday, August 10

9:00 a.m. Summer Worship
No Sunday School
10:00 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/cguccyouth>

YOUTH Events Calendar

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

Prayers for NYE Participants

On July 23, 2008, over 100 youth and adults from the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ will be traveling to Knoxville, TN, to attend the U.C.C. National Youth Event. This national gathering happens every four years and attracts nearly 3000 participants for a week of wild worship, unique workshops, fun, and fellowship. Eight youth and three adults from Cottage Grove U.C.C. will be attending NYE this summer. The youth attending NYE are: Marie Berndt, Erich Fiedler, Ali Manning, Shauna Meyer, Raquel Roman, Katie Weiby, Alyssa Wilkinson, and Bryce Wilkinson. The adult leaders are: Bruce Fiedler, Rev. Bryan Olson, and Carma Wilkinson.



Please keep these members of our congregation and all NYE participants in your prayers as they travel and prepare for an amazing adventure with Christ. In addition, please pray for all of the people planning this event that they may be filled with the kind of energy and enthusiasm that only the Holy Spirit can bring.

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, from 9-11:30 a.m. each day. **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. Registration forms have been mailed to each Sunday School family, but if you need another form, they are available on the church web page, or call the church office. 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.

HomeShare St. Croix

"We match caring Homeseekers with sharing Homeowners." An AARP study has shown that 85-90% of those adults surveyed would prefer to remain in their own home for as long as possible. We assist those seeking affordable housing and those seeking affordable help, by bringing them together.

HomeShare St. Croix is celebrating their 2nd year anniversary! HomeShare St. Croix facilitates to match homeowners in need of non-medical support to stay in their own home with homeseekers who are willing to exchange such services for affordable housing. Exact services and time devoted are negotiated. HomeShare also provides on-going support once a match has been made.

HomeShare St. Croix keeps people in their home, where they want to be. We bring generations together, preserve neighborhoods and can bridge the gap in your community. For more information, please call us at (651)967-5004, or visit us at www.homesharestcroix.org.



“Pick me . . . Pick me . . . Pick me!!!”
Service as understood by Shrek’s favorite Donkey

NOTICE ***NOTICE*****NOTICE*****NOTICE**

So far twenty-six people have turned in the Gifts Checklist. If you remember, that is the long form (in paper size only) that asks you to circle all of the items that are of interest to you and that you feel fit with your own personal spiritual gift package. It should only take 5 – 10 minutes for you to complete. When you have filled it out, please return to the gift box on the table in the Gathering Room. You can find copies of this form next to the gift box.

“Why is this Gifts Checklist so important?” The information gathered from this checklist is recorded in a database on the computer. When the church has a need for someone with a specific gift or desire to serve, the database can be searched and a list of interested people can be generated. This list then becomes the contact list for the team leader.

“I filled out one a number of years ago. Why do I have to do it again?” The database used previously to record the information is no longer supportable. We are now using Church Windows to create a new database that is much more user friendly. To make this project work successfully, we need the input from each and every one of our confirmed members. We need you to fill out and return the Gifts Checklist. When the data is entered, which I’d like to complete before fall, team leaders can contact Diane Davies (by phone 651-436-7234 or email Dianedavies48@yahoo.com) with a need. She will do the search and generate the contact list for that leader. All the information gathered so far has been entered. Searches are now possible but the lists will be short. Let’s try and finish this up by September 1. THANKS!!!!

MERCY is our Spiritual Gift for this week. If you are one who assists and lends a helping hand in times of need, this may be your gift. Mercy is when you identify with a need, when you are able to empathize with others, stand in their shoes and then act in ways to help them on their journey. People with this gift give freely and with special measure and delight to further God’s work in the world.

We have many opportunities to share the gift of mercy at CGUCC. Here are just a few that come to mind: mentoring, Crop Walk, Stone Soup Thrift Shop, Friends in Need Food Shelf, local mission opportunities, elder care drivers and care provider for the elderly. I know you can come up with even more. Contact me if you wish to share your gift of mercy in some way.

Our **150th Anniversary Celebration** is coming up in August. The planning team for this great event has been working hard to come up with what sounds like a wonderful weekend full of activities. They are asking each team to celebrate the anniversary in some way big or small between now and the end of this year. For example; Gratitude Group has created a 2”x3” sticker that says “150 Years and Going Strong at CGUCC.” This sticker will be used on the craft projects being sent home with the children from the Kids’ Korner at the Farmers’ Market. Team leaders need to get together with their teams and get thinking about what they can do. Karen Greenwell and Karen Pribnow may have some suggestions for you.

Diane Davies, Gifts Coordinator



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.

JULY

- 2 - Emma Bonngard
Elsie Jacobs
Allison Resendez
Bob Resendez
- 4 - Dan Mathison
- 5 - Doris Nieman
John Smith
- 10 - Ann Weber
- 15 - Burton Nieman
- 16 - Rob Fritze
Karen Pribnow
- 17 - Karly Howard
- 19 - Bev Gross
Lisa Wohlers
- 21 - Randall Arntzen
- 22 - Ryan Asuncion
- 24 - Midge Youngquist
- 25 - Ryan Gottfried
- 27 - Dakota Smith
- 28 - Barb Arntzen
Kyle Marty
- 29 - Bud Gross
- 30 - Jennifer Stanger



Member Helping Member Directory

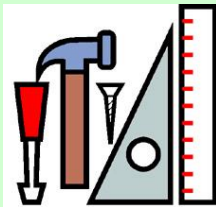
Would you like to be able to call a church member when you need to hire someone for a task around your house, garage, or business? Check out the businesses below for members ready to help you.

Karen Fritze, Cake Cottage, makes cakes for weddings or special occasions. Karen can be reached at (651) 459-4460, or at www.cakestands.com.

Brad Huber, B.M.H. Construction, does new home construction, remodeling, additions, and kitchen and bath updating. Brad can be reached at (651) 459-7545, or at homebuildings@aol.com.

Ken Huber, Home Building Services Inc., does architectural design, plans for new homes, additions, remodeling, kitchens and bathrooms. Ken can be reached at (651) 459-7545, or at homebuildings@aol.com.

Bill Larsen, Larsen Films, does video production of events, photo montages, and other video services. Bill can be reached at (651) 270-2730, or check him out at www.larsenfilms.com.



May we list you? Look for the tan form on the Welcoming Table, complete the information about your business, and leave it in the office. We'll add you to the **CGUCC Member Helping Member Directory**.

“Buy a Bag” Campaign

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) is currently holding a “Buy a Bag” campaign to offset the skyrocketing cost of rice, an essential ingredient in the millions of meal packs they prepare for hungry people around the world each year. The cost of an industrial size bag of rice has nearly doubled in the past six months due to increases in fuel prices and ramifications of natural disasters around the world. To help FMSC keep their goal of producing 55 million meals for hungry children this year, please prayerfully consider making a donation to their “Buy a Bag” campaign. \$700 will pay for one (1) industrial size bag of rice and, more importantly, help produce 21,600 meals!



To make a donation of any amount, please make a check payable to CGUCC and put “FMSC – Buy a Bag” in the memo line. If you would like to make a donation directly to FMSC, please go to their web site at www.fmsc.org.

If you are interested in putting your hands and heart to work at FMSC along with your monetary donation, there are volunteer opportunities for walk-ins each month. Below, please find a list of walk-in shifts that are available in July at the FMSC location in Eagan, MN.

July 17, 25, 31	6-7:30 p.m.
July 21, 30	2:30-4:30 p.m.

Ice Cream Social at Community UCC

Thursday, July 24, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., Community U.C.C. in St. Paul Park is having their annual Ice Cream Social. So after you have your hot dog or brat at the Farmers' Market, head on over to Community U.C.C. for your ice cream.



Calling All Crafters

The 150th Anniversary Team is looking for crafters to share their talents at the 150 Years of Horsepower Show on Saturday, August 23rd. Any crafts, new or old, for youth or adults, are welcome. If you are willing to demonstrate as you work on a project, teach a small project, or display some of your work, please contact Karen Greenwell (651-459-4904) or Karen Pribnow (651-436-5457).



Good Summer Read

Looking for a good book to read this summer? Try “Blue Like Jazz” by Donald Miller. Miller takes you on a private tour of his own faith journey and gives readers frank and honest answers as to how he got to where he is today in his life as a disciple of Christ. It is funny, poignant, and touches the soul. Rev. Bryan’s personal copy of the book is available to borrow from the CGUCC library.



From Feed My Starving Children

Thank you for responding to the world hunger crisis. Thanks to your recent \$500 contribution, Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) will be able to donate 2,940 Sunday school life-giving meals to God's hungriest children.

At a time when skyrocketing global food prices and shipping costs are making national headlines, the need for FMSC food is greater than ever.

Deana Dorce, an FMSC mission partner in Haiti, witnesses the ways FMSC shipments transform communities. She recently sent these words: It gets me every time the kids see me coming with those famous FMSC boxes. When they see the boxes coming, their eyes dance and sparkle with the relief it is bringing.

In 2007, 185,000 FMSC volunteers helped FMSC donate more than 43 million meals to children in countries including Haiti, Swaziland, Nicaragua, and the Philippines. In 2008, FMSC hopes to increase that number to 55 million meals.

We cannot accomplish this significant goal without the continued support of volunteers and contributors like you. Thank you for helping us "Feed God's Starving Children Hungry in Body and Spirit."

Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, "Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land." - Deuteronomy 15:11

Onward in God's service, Mark Crea, Executive Director

Dear Friends of Cottage Grove UCC

Dan and I would like to thank you for all the wonderful help with setting up tables and chairs, and for the use of the church for Dan's 70th Birthday Party.

Many thanks,

Dan and Gloria Mathison



Dear United Church of Christ,

Thank you so much for the use of the church for our Eagle Ceremony and reception. It was a wonderful celebration in a place that has a lot of Scouting memories.

Once again, Thank You,
Bob and Kris Treadway, Andrew
Brent and Jackie Larsen, Brandon
Jan and Tamara Karlstrand, Peter



Breast Cancer 3 Day

I wanted to update everyone on my progress and say THANK YOU to all who have donated so far. A special BIG thank you to Danielle Mills and the Sunday School Program for their wonderful donation!!!!

I have reached 75% of my \$3000.00 goal and everything you have given has really helped, so thanks and I'll keep you updated on my progress. The Breast Cancer 3 Day walk is the weekend of September 19th, 2008. so keep me in your prayers as I'm in "Training" for the 20 miles a day for 3 days..... If anyone still wants to donate you can do so by going to: :Breast Cancer 3 day.org and go under my name Jan Huber. You can donate up until September.



Thank you and God Bless,
Jan Huber

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Published on the 1st and 15th
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**Back issues available on
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www.cgucc.org**

Deadline	Issue Date
July 25	August 1
August 11	August 15
August 25	September 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

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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!!

CGUCC 150th Anniversary Celebration

August 23-24, 2008

1858—2008 . . . 150 Years and Still Going Strong

Saturday, August 23



150 Years of Horsepower Show

Bring your horsepower from 1858 - 2008:

cars, trucks, tractors, steam engines, etc.

People's Choice Awards for top 5 — Pastor's Best of Show Award

Registration: 10 a.m. - Noon; Show: Noon - 3 p.m.; Awards at 3 p.m.

To pre-register your vehicle: Call John Greenwell, (651) 459-4904

Also Food, Crafts, Music, Tours of our 1858 and 2008 Church Buildings

Sunday, August 24

Special Worship Service

Catered Dinner with VIP Guests

Keep watching for more details, and mark
your calendar for the weekend of August 23-24.

LET'S PARTY!!



Church
ANNIVERSARY