



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
November 1, 2009



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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United Church of Christ**
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STEWARSHIP

God has put together here a **remarkable** church. This is a congregation that is different and yet in so many ways we are all just right. Here we have a **worship** not quite like you will find anywhere else. Here is found a **passion for serving** a God who leads our members into unusual risks and challenges. Here many hearts **seek to grow** in grace and mature in discipleship, as we study and learn together. Here is a **unique friendship** that brings us much joy.

You are invited to reflect on the last few years and what we have gone through: our new building, pastors leaving and coming, funerals, weddings, confirmations, Sunday School, etc. experienced by all of us one way or another. None of this would be possible at Cottage Grove UCC without your financial donations.

The gospel tells us that God has acted **boldly** on our behalf in Jesus Christ. The scriptures reveal that God calls us to a bold faith. May we each be bold as we consider our 2010 support for Cottage Grove UCC, and its mission.

The Finance Team would also like you to consider how we should apply fundraiser monies toward paying down the principal and thereby reducing the total interest we would pay on our building loan. We have two proposals:

- 1). To do the same as we have been with the fundraiser monies and pay a portion of some of them toward the mortgage.
- 2). Apply the entire amount(s) raised, from all fundraisers, toward the mortgage and also develop more fundraisers than we now have. We feel that additional fundraisers should have the funds raised from outside our congregation. That way we are not going back to the same people asking for more money.

If we pay an additional \$10,000.00 per year toward the principle we would save approximately \$200,000.00 in interest over the life of the mortgage and the mortgage term would drop from 20 to about 16 years. If we pay \$20,000.00 per year the term drops to about 13 years and we save over \$300,000.00 in interest.

Please contact one of the members of the Finance Team (Brian Wilkinson, Midge Youngquist, Bruce Fiedler, John Perkins, Tim Power and Ron Bonnevier) with your thoughts and ideas regarding the fundraising efforts. In particular, the Finance Team needs your ideas about developing new fundraisers.

Please carefully read the financial information sent to your home this week, and prayerfully consider what you will offer in 2009 to your church. Then complete the 2010 pledge sheet and return on Stewardship Sunday, November 8th.

Rev. Désirée H. Gold, Pastor

Office Hours
Tuesday—Thursday
10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Office Phone:
(651) 459-1501
Rev. Gold's e-mail:
pastorgold@inbox.com



PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Nita Bertram; Daniel Bies; Eric Bies; Kathy Biscoe; Bill & Isabel Board; Ron Bonnevier; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Don Hanson; Chris Miller; Sandy Rabe; Jamie & Adam Roberts; Lucy Spicer; Bonnie and Dave Utsch and family; Roxanne and Paul White; families facing unemployment issues; all those who have the flu.

Howard Biscoe (Rob Biscoe's brother); Dorothy Brown (Ashley & Luke Longmuir's great-aunt); Leo Buechler (former pastor); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Cheryl (Joyce Fries' daughter); Diane (friend of Carole Weitzel Biscoe); Roxanne Ebarb; Kayleigh Hallen (Doreen Barta's granddaughter); Kandy & David Hartson (Pastor Gold's parents); Brady Heschke (Marilyn Heschke's grandson); Gary Heuer (Rod Heuer's brother); Donna Johnson (Gary Afdahl's mother-in-law); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Richard Lara (in prison); Margie Mattison and family (Farmers' Market vendor); Fred Minster (Stan Barta's cousin); Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Stordalen family; Gene Sauve; Elaine Torseth; Midge Youngquist's grandmother and mother.

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée
H. Gold



On Wednesday, October 22, I attended an event for clergy new to the Minnesota Conference UCC, our regional United Church of Christ body. The event was held at Olivet Congregational UCC in St. Paul and was open to UCC clergy from around the state. (One pastor even drove from International Falls.) The purpose of this mini-retreat was to help us get to know the Minnesota Conference a little better and to get to know one another better too.

The morning started out with...*dancing*, of all things! A pastor led us in a devotional dance to get our bodies and minds moving. There was much tripping over one another and laughter, but some serious praying went on too.

The remainder of the morning consisted of a variety of introductions. We each introduced ourselves and were introduced to Glenn Beck, Admissions Director at United Theological Seminary; our two Associate Conference Ministers, Rev. Elena Larssen and Rev. Rick Wagner; our Conference Minister, Rev. Karen Smith Sellers; and several other conference staff members. Karen, Rick, and Elena were asked to speak about themselves and to tell us how they found their work as conference staff people different from their previous work as parish pastors. Rev. Larssen spoke about the many transitions she has experienced over the past few years – from campus minister and part-time pastor in California, to transitional minister in Chicago, to conference ministry in Minnesota – and I found this particularly meaningful, as I, too, have been through a rapid-fire succession of transitions in recent years.

Following this “introduction to the Minnesota Conference,” we broke for lunch. At lunch-time we were joined by ministers who were *not* “newbies” – folks who’ve been around the Minnesota Conference for a long time. I had the opportunity to hear stories of ministry from folks who have been around here for 20 years or more – including the woman who served as interim pastor in my home church in Fargo a few years ago. It was a great chance to join together in Christian fellowship.

The afternoon program consisted of a panel of two people who spoke about the spiritual disciplines they have adopted as pastors. One spoke about how he manages his schedule and the other spoke about the importance of reading non-theological books to gain new insight for ministry and preaching. As an avid reader myself, I particularly resonated with this discussion. I am always reading at least one non-church book, as an escape from reality and/or mental and spiritual edification. I am currently reading a non-fiction book about death in Grand Canyon and a humor book about lovers of the movie “The Princess Bride.” I can often be found reading fiction, biographies, history – just about anything – and while the secular books I read may not always make their way into my sermons they affect the way I think about the world, and therefore they affect the way I do ministry.

Events like the Minnesota Conference New Clergy Event are important because they remind pastors – yours included – that we are not alone. They remind us that we and our churches have the support of the Minnesota Conference, through the pastoral presence of our conference staff and the programs available (and thus remind us of the importance of our churches' OCWM dollars). They give us a chance to connect with our fellow clergy and find support and new ideas among them. They provide much-needed education and remind us that we cannot do good ministry if we do not allow ourselves time for study. They help us to think in new ways about the work we do with the local church and in the wider world.

(continued on next page)

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, November 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Some of the items on the agenda include:

1. A Christmas Bake Sale held after church on a Sunday in December
2. Gifts for the needy for Christmas
3. The Evergreen Christmas Mitten Tree
4. An all-women Christmas party to be held at the church on Thursday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m. This will be a catered dinner with exchange of gifts.

Come to the meeting on November 19 with your ideas and fill up the room. Keep these dates open.

Chris Miller, Women's Fellowship Chairperson



Cross Connection

A Periodical Newsletter of
**Cottage Grove United Church
of Christ**

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of every month
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of every month

Edited by Becky Graff

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

Submit articles via e-mail at
cgucc@usfamily.net or drop
them off at the office.

Becky Graff, Editor

Check Out Our Web Site

The Communications/Marketing Team is seeking evaluations of our church web site. The next time you have a few minutes, check out www.cgucc.org and let us know what you think! What's good about the web site? What could be changed? Have you seen things on other church web sites that looked really cool...or didn't? Whether you are tech-savvy or not, you can help us make improvements and better determine the direction we should take. Contact Chris Miller with your comments and suggestions.



Sunday School

Rally Day was held in September, and our regular Sunday School rotation classes are in full swing. We hope everyone can join us each week from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you!

The Sunday School children will be singing and reciting the verse "*Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God,*" *Matthew 5:9*, in church on Sunday, November 15. Due to the Thanksgiving weekend and people traveling, there will be no Sunday School on November 29th.

The Sunday School Team
Debra, Bobbi Jo and Brenda



(continued from previous page)

I am grateful for the ministry of the Minnesota Conference UCC and for the fact that our connection to a wider church body means that we do not need to be lone wolves in a troubled world. Because we have access to these resources, we can do greater ministry here at CGUCC. Praise God!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Contact Us

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

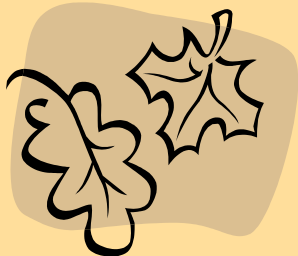
Sheri Wohlers, Custodian
sherileewohlers@msn.com

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



November

- 4 - Lucas Fiedler
Stephanie Miller
Nan Palmer
- 5 - Jean Gausman
- 8 - Marissa Bonngard
- 9 - Molly Murr
- 10 - Jim Herrmann
- 12 - Kayla Howard
- 13 - Sheri Wohlers
- 16 - Michael Euerle
- 17 - Jim Berndt
Denise Sutter
Starian Vink
- 18 - Hailey Wilkoske
- 21 - Kathy Bloomquist
Gary Weiby
- 22 - Jill Richter
Russ Trout
- 23 - Taylor Tungseth
- 25 - Michele Stensgaard
- 26 - Don Schmidt
- 27 - Karina Ertman
- 28 - Alison Burns
- 30 - Sue Howard
Jenni Huber
Jackie Mohrlant
John Palmer
- 31 - Breeanna Marty



Policies and Procedures Manual

The Policies and Procedures Team has reached the point where they have copies of the manual for anyone from the congregation to check out, read, and comment on. The Team plans to have all editing done and have the final copy ready for approval at the Annual Congregational Meeting in December. Please contact the office if you would like to read a copy.



Arts, Crafts, and Home Festival

The fifth annual Fall Arts, Crafts and Home Festival at Minnehaha United Church of Christ, 4001 38th Avenue South will be held Saturday, November 7, 2009, from 9:00am - 2:00pm. Twenty-five vendors offering jewelry, pottery, home decorating and cooking items, candles, lotions and skin care products, bakery and home made pickles are among the items available for purchase. This is a wonderful place to begin your Christmas shopping. Create your wish list, bring a friend and join us. Coffee and cookies are served in the morning and lunch is served 11:00am - 1:00pm featuring our famous turkey salad and sloppy jobs, pie and beverage. Door prizes awarded on the half hour. For more information call 612-866-3949.



Furniture Needed for Refugee Families

MCC Refugee Services once again has space to accept furniture donations! Our families are in great need of mattress/box spring sets, bed frames, sofas, dining room tables, dining room chairs, and coffee tables. You can contact Liz at 612-230-3221 or email at liz.leicht@mnchurches.org for location, a complete set of donation guidelines, and to set up a drop off time.



Lost and Found Thank You

We would like to profusely thank everyone who helped search for the diamond that fell out of Désirée's wedding ring at church on November 1. Special thanks to Doreen Barta, the Utsch family, and the Greenwells, who stayed very late and kept looking after we had nearly lost hope. After much searching, our new hero, Karen Greenwell, found the diamond in the hymnal rack at the back of the church. While the ring is insured, that wasn't the point. We would have been heartbroken to lose the stone with which Ben proposed nearly 8 years ago. We are very grateful to have a church full of people who could help us search for this "needle in a haystack"...and then find it. God bless you!



Grace and peace,
Pastor Désirée and Ben Gold

Missing Your Pie Tin?

To the person who is missing a stainless steel pie tin, please call Sandy Rabe at 651-730-1166.



Married October 24

Roxanne Burns and Paul (Britt) White were married at CGUCC on Saturday, October 24, with Pastor Désirée H. Gold officiating. Congratulations to the newlyweds, who are making their home in Oakdale.



Harvest Festival Pot Luck

A good time was had by all who attended our Harvest Pot Luck on Sunday October 18th. Fifty people gathered in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a wonderful array of delicious dishes and good company. The Spicer family won the prize for most family members attending.

Daniel Spicer, Sherry Spicer and John Perkins shared some very funny stories about cats, toads and left over hot dish growing furry mold on it after being left in the kitchen oven for several months after a Palm Sunday Breakfast! Yuk! Stinky, stinky, stinky!

We collected lots of canned goods and other non perishables and cash which Susan Weiby took to the Friends in Need Food Shelf on Tuesday for us.

We look forward to our next Pot luck event and hope that all will attend. It will be held on a Saturday evening in February and will feature a home grown talent show! So you all have plenty of time to polish up your tap shoes and harmonicas, loosen up those vocal cords and get together with your friends and family and plan a skit!

Thanks again for sharing in a fun time.

Yours in Christ, Elaine Mitchell



Road Ditch Pickup

Thank you to Ruby and Jerry Stratton and Barb Larson for their hard work in fulfilling CGUCC's Adopt-a-Highway responsibility. (Special thanks to Ruby and Jerry for organizing the event.) The four of us spent a beautiful morning picking up trash along 70th street. It was fun and hard work, but we found a depressing amount of garbage. Please don't litter!



Pastor Gold

Friends In Need Says Thank You!

On behalf of all the less fortunate of South Washington County please accept our thanks for your generous contribution of 85 pounds of food and \$35 to Friends In Need Food Shelf. Please know that your donations will be put to very good use.

Friends In Need Food Shelf



Thanks!

Lots of thanks go to John Perkins and Lyle Biscoe who have been working around the church doing outdoor maintenance and clean up to get our property ready for winter.



To My Church Family —

A big and heartfelt thank you for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls this past year. It has helped so much in my continuing recovery. A special thanks to my daughter Karen for taking me to church when I was up to attending; to my confirmation student Shauna Meyer for her care and concern, and to the entire Meyer family for all of their thoughtfulness; to the Gratitude Group for the prayer shawl—what a comfort it was when I was struggling with rehabilitation; to my sisters in Christ, Becky and Jean, who walked that dark road with me; to Pastor Gold for her visits and prayers; for the rides and offers of rides; to the Farmers' Market for taking over for me and for their birthday gift of fresh produce, delivered by Becky—what a treat! Also, thanks for all your prayers for my grandson Mark Tinucci, Jr. He continues to recover.



I am blessed!
Sandy Rabe

Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, November 8 Stewardship Sunday

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

Sunday, November 15

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship with
Children Participating
11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Sunday, November 22

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

Sunday, November 2 First Sunday of Advent

NO Sunday School
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Participating in Worship in November

Head Usher—Gary Thyren
Altar Team—Doreen Barta
Communion Preparation—
GeorgAnn Biscoe

Participating in Worship in December

Head Usher—Jerry Biscoe
Altar Team—Jan Huber
Communion Preparation—
Midge Youngquist and
Mike Roberts

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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!

FARMERS' MARKET TEAM IS STILL WORKING

TEAM VOTES TO PURCHASE WATER BUFFALO

The Farmers' Market Team voted to purchase a water buffalo through Heifer International. This will be the third year that a tenth of the proceeds from the vendor stall rental will go to purchase livestock as a gift to help struggling families lift themselves out of poverty.



TEAM RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS FOR 2010 MARKET SEASON

A number of the founding members of the Farmers' Market Team will not be returning next year, so the Team is recruiting new members. If you would like to join a busy team with much to show for their efforts, or just talk about the possibility, please see Chris Miller or Pastor Gold.

TEAM HOSTING COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP

The Team will be hosting coffee and fellowship time after worship on Sunday, November 15, as their way to thank the congregation for volunteer hours, and baked and canned goods for the bake sale.



TEAM DESIGNING 2010 PHOTO CALENDAR

The Team is designing a 2010 calendar using photographs taken at the market this year. Proceeds from the sale of the calendar will help pay down the mortgage. Watch for calendars to appear by mid-November.