



# CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ  
Published Semi-Monthly  
November 15, 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!*

*Dedication of  
150th Anniversary Quilt  
Sunday, November 22, 2009  
During the worship service*

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*Susan Weiby  
assembling the quilt*

## Rev. Désirée H. Gold, Pastor

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Tuesday—Thursday  
10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

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### PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Nita Bertram; Daniel Bies; Eric Bies; Kathy Biscoe; Joyce & Jerry Biscoe (death of Joyce's mother); Bill & Isabel Board; Ron Bonnevier; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Don Hanson; Rod & Susan Heuer (death of Rod's brother); Gayle Korth; 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; farmers who need to bring in their crops.

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 (Birdie Meyer's daughter); Kayleigh Hallen (Doreen Barta's granddaughter); Kandy & David Hartson (Pastor Gold's parents); Brady Heschke (Marilyn Heschke's grandson); 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); Allison Rathlisberger (Doris Fiedler's great-granddaughter); 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



How can we be grateful in times like these? Our world is deeply troubled with violence, and poverty, and sickness, and grief. We cannot turn on the news without seeing tragic stories. Our own lives may be troubled with sadness and hurt too. So, how can we be grateful when our hearts ache for ourselves, for our communities, for the entire planet? How can we celebrate

Thanksgiving as anything other than a day to eat too much and watch football this year? How can we really, truly, *be thankful*?

The first place to turn in this dilemma is our Bible. The concept of thanksgiving occurs numerous times throughout scripture. Among my favorite thanks-giving passages are "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever" (this appears in 1 Chronicles 16:34 and in several Psalms) and "Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me" (Psalm 50:23) and "I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart" (Psalm 138:1) and "After giving thanks Jesus gave it to them" (Matthew 26:27) and "Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ Our Lord" (Romans 7:25) and "Entirely out of place is obscene, silly, and vulgar talk; but instead, let there be thanksgiving" (Ephesians 5:4).

Now, we know that our ancestors in faith did not have easy lives. They faced every bit as much violence and poverty and sickness and grief as we do in our modern world. They lived through wars and captivity and exile and hunger and sickness and grief and personal violence. Our scriptures are as rife with sad stories as they are with gratitude. Our Biblical ancestors complained a lot too, to God, to Jesus, to one another. Yet, the people in our Bible stories always eventually came back to thanksgiving. As their descendants, we are called to do the same.

Again, *how* do we do this? How do we say "thanks" when our world or our very lives seem to be falling apart? We start, as our Biblical ancestors did, through prayer. Maybe we won't really mean our prayers of thanksgiving when we first say the words. Maybe we will just be going through the motions. If we are stuck there for a while, that's okay. But I believe that if we really, truly start to count our blessings we will all discover that we are more blessed than we thought we were. We will discover that, while many aspects of our lives may be crumbling, we do, in fact, have things for which we can be truly thankful.

This thanksgiving, I would like us all to take a careful inventory of our blessings. If the only thing for which you can be thankful is the simple act of breathing in and breathing out, so be it. Be thankful for that. If breathing is too painful or difficult for you, be thankful for our beautiful Minnesota skies – one of which is gracing my view as I write this. Be thankful for the "usual" things if you can – family and shelter and food – but if those things are eluding you this Thanksgiving, find something else. You may well discover more than you ever thought possible.

When you have come up with your list of blessings, do not keep your gratitude to yourself. As our Biblical ancestors did, share your blessings in songs or prayers of praise with the people around you. And if nothing else, be sure to share them with God. God knows our every thought, but God still needs to hear our prayers.

Have a blessed and true Thanksgiving. I am thankful for all of you.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Gold

## Sunday School

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



Children's Choir

## 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:



Women's Fellowship

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

## 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](http://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.



## Correction

The name of the Director of Admissions at United Theological Seminary was incorrect in the Nov. 1 edition of "An Offering of Gold." His correct name is The Rev. Glen Herrington-Hall.



## Baptized November 1

During Worship on November 1, two children received the sacrament of baptism: Zackary Carr and Sophia Jo Tate. Sophia is the daughter of Carrie and Frank Tate, and granddaughter of Karen Banaszewski. Zackary is the son of Jessica and Jason Carr, and little brother to proud big brother Alex. Congratulations to Zack, Sophia, and their families.



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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

Deadlines are the 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<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)**

Submit articles via e-mail at  
[cgucc@usfamily.net](mailto:cgucc@usfamily.net) or drop  
them off at the office.

Becky Graff, Editor

## Contact Us

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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



## Thanks for the Blanket

Pictured to the right is Wally Fritze, very pleased because he won the raffle held by the Farmers' Market Team over the summer. The subject of his smile is the blanket hand stitched by Jean Bloomquist, pictured next to Wally. Thank you, Jean, for your lovely donation which helped raise raffle money during the market. Your skill and generosity are much appreciated.



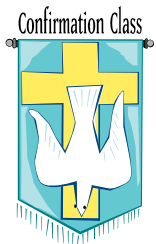
## Policies and Procedures Manual

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.



## Confirmation

The Confirmation Class along with their mentors continues to meet every other week. Their upcoming meetings are on Saturdays, November 21 and December 5, at 9:30 a.m.



## Carole's Cookies

Celebrating 13 years of Holiday Baking for your holiday entertaining or for a special gift. I offer cookies and candies by the dozen, also breads 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

All Women Are Invited

Women's Annual

Christmas Ecumenical Service

Thursday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.

Newport Lutheran Church

900 15th Street, Newport (651) 459-2447



Women's Ecumenical  
Christmas Service

Please join us in Christmas fellowship to celebrate the true meaning and richness of this beautiful season.

Refreshments will be served immediately following the service.

## Thanksgiving Eve Service

On Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00p.m., you are invited to gather at All Saints Lutheran Church for the ecumenical worship service using Holden Evening Prayer. Father Greg Esty will be our preacher. Karen Pieper, All Saints' music director, would love to create a choir from all of our churches. You are invited to join the choir for a musical offering of "Blessed Assurance" during the offering. Rehearsal will begin at 6:00 p.m. that evening.



We need pie cutters, coffee pourers, clean up crew, and ushers. Help is especially needed with bringing pies.

All Saints Lutheran Church is located at 8100 Belden Boulevard in Cottage Grove. For more information, talk with Pastor Gold or contact the office at All Saints (651-459-1117).

## Pastor Gone

Pastor Gold will be on vacation from Wednesday, November 25—Saturday, November 28. She will also be out of the office on Tuesday, December 1 while her mother has surgery at Abbott Northwestern. Pastor Gold will be unavailable for evening meetings November 29—December 5. She plans to be at work during the day on December 2 and 3, and will remain available for pastoral emergencies throughout the week of November 29—December 5.



## *An Invitation to All the Ladies of Cottage Grove UCC*

*You are Invited to an Evening of Faith, Fun,  
Fellowship and Good Food*

**Women's Fellowship Annual Christmas Party**  
**Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM**  
**CGUCC Gathering Room**



*Holiday Dinner Catered by Betty Dilla*

*\$15.00 per Person Includes:*

*Christmas Punch and Nibbles*

*Tossed Salad with Strawberries, Cranberries with Orange Dressing*

*Choice of Entrée: Stuffed Boneless Pork Chops, Baked Salmon, or*

*Chicken Breast with Bacon, Chives and Cheese*

*Loaded Mashed Potatoes, Green Vegetable, Dinner Rolls*

*Dessert and Beverages*

**Reservations a must!**

*Sign up on the Bulletin Board by Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>*

*Bring a Small Gift for Our Annual Gift Exchange*

*Questions, contact Elaine Mitchell 651-459-6298 after 6 pm*

## Coming Up in Worship

### **Sunday, November 15**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship with  
Children Participating

11:30 a.m. Fellowship  
hosted by Farmers'  
Market Team

### **Sunday, November 22**

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

### **Sunday, November 29**

#### **First Sunday of Advent**

NO Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

### **Sunday, December 6**

#### **Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. 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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