



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

Published Semi-Monthly

February 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!*

Inside this Issue:

Caring Hearts	1
Good News	2
Opportunities	3
Women's Fellowship	4
Calendar	5
Thanks	6
Pick Me	7
Sunday School Notes	8

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397
Tel: 651-459-1501
Web: www.cgucc.org
Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

Collection of Personal Care Items

Given our present economic challenges, there are an increasing number of 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 and over-the-counter medications.

The Caring Hearts for Homeless People supply drive is asking you to participate in collecting these much-needed supplies from **February 1-28**. 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 SafeZone.

Here is a sampling of what's needed most:

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.

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 and Isabel Board; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Bob Fox; Ron and Joyce Fries; Russ Gausman; Don Hanson; Delores Janke; Chris Miller; JoAnn Nelson; Sandy Rabe; Emily, Chris, and Joel Spicer; Gary and Joan Thyren; families facing unemployment issues; the Search Team, Rev. Gold, Rev. Bryan and Emily Olson, and our church during this time of transition.

Alma Buechler (former pastor's wife); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Alex (Dorothy Crampton's grandson, who is also Deb Tilson's son); Dorothy Brown (Ashley & Luke Longmuir's great-aunt); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Molly Livingston (Eboné Kerselman's grandmother); Margie Mattison (Farmers' Market vendor); Ramona Roney; Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Agnes Thyren (Gary Thyren's mother); Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world.



Last week in worship we delved deeper into the scriptural account of Jesus calling his first disciples (Mark 1:14-20). Amazingly, immediately after calling Andrew, Simon, James and John, to come and follow him, they did so without another thought. We are told that they climbed out of their fishing boats, leaving behind family, friends, and livelihood, in order to follow Jesus. While not always classified as such by biblical scholars, this is as much a miracle story as the feeding of the five thousand or the raising of Lazarus.

As Barbara Brown Taylor says in her sermon, "Miracle on the Beach," this story is really about "the power of God--to walk right up to a quartet of fishermen and work a miracle, creating faith where there was no faith, creating disciples where there were none just a moment before." We tend to forget that God has the power to act even when we do not fully understand the outcome of those actions. Many of us, including myself, have asked why the four fishermen followed Jesus on that fateful day or how they were able to do it. Taylor says, however, that when we try and rationalize God's actions or a person's response to those actions we miss something. She says, "What we may have lost along the way is a full sense of the power of God to recruit people who have made terrible choices; to invade the most hapless lives and fill them with light; to sneak up on people who are thinking about lunch, not God, and smack them upside the head with glory. Whether we're ready or not, God acts."

It is difficult for us to imagine people overturning their entire lives in order to follow God's call, but that does not stop God from calling people to pursue new ways of living. Take Pat Tillman, for example. Pat Tillman was a highly recruited linebacker who signed a lucrative contract with the Arizona Cardinals in 1998 to play in the National Football League. In 2002, Tillman traded in his football jersey and substantial salary to put on camouflage fatigues and defend our country against all enemies, both foreign and domestic. Tillman became an Army Ranger and fought in both Afghanistan and Iraq before being killed by "friendly fire" in an altercation in the Afghan mountains in 2004.

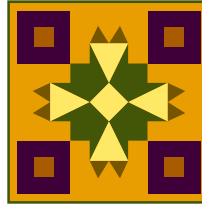
To many, Tillman's decision to join the Army made no sense. After all, how could a man who had everything trade it all in for a chance to be killed in battle? What Tillman's critics fail to understand, however, is just how strong the call upon his heart must have been in order for him to give up his financial and physical security in order to secure the lives of others. On the surface, Tillman's actions seem impractical and improbable. God, however, has the power to overcome the impossible and lead us in Christ's ways even when they do not make sense to our rational minds.

What we need to keep in mind in the story of the calling of the first disciples is that Christ did not call the four fishermen to add discipleship to their list of daily chores or as another "thing" to add to their busy schedules. Jesus called them to throw down their nets (their old lives) and follow him into a new life where creating disciples would be their only mission. It was a call to transform their entire lives, not just their occupation. At times it may feel like we are sacrificing everything to follow Christ's calling, but if we put our faith in God to guide us in that call then we will truly open ourselves to transformation and new life.

See you in worship!
Peace,
Rev. Bryan

Everyone Can Be Part of the Quilt

The quilting team has been working hard on cutting quilt squares and beginning to piece the quilt together. All who are interested are invited to stay after worship on Sunday mornings and help with the project. The squares are available after worship each week, so stop by to pick out your square, and sign it so that you will be represented in the quilt. If you cannot be here on a Sunday morning, you may stop in the church office during the week to sign a square. The quilting team has purchased all the materials to make this quilt, but if you would like to donate a dollar to help offset the costs, that contribution would be appreciated. Please call Sue Weiby at 459-1023 for more information.



Do You Have Gifts to Share with the CGUCC Farmers' Market?

Applications have been sent to vendors, posters are being circulated through the community, and we are designing our own market website. We are on our way to the market season for 2009, but there is much work left to do. Do you have gifts you would be willing to share with the Farmers' Market? We especially need gifts of: organization, marketing, outreach into the community, and bakers. Many have shared their gifts over the last two seasons, working behind the scenes and at the markets, but as our market grows and expands, more help is needed. If you have time to share, a little or a lot, whether from home any day or at the market on Thursdays, you are welcome. Please contact one of the Farmers' Market Team, or Becky in the church office to say you want to share.



This year's market opens June 18 and runs every Thursday from 3:30—6:30 p.m. through October 8. Come and join the fun!

Becky Graff, Co-Chair

Policies and Procedures

As our church moves through the transition of a new pastor, the leadership teams believe that there should be a written manual of policies and procedures to guide who we are and what we may become. A team has formed to begin the process of assembling the policies and procedures we already have in writing, and to guide the development of those we do not already have. If you are a detail-oriented person who could contribute to this process, please contact team chair Brian Wilkinson. They are looking for a few good women and men to join the team.



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. If you would like to volunteer to be a greeter, please sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Room. A few minutes of your time will make a world of difference in the life of our church! Volunteer to be a greeter today!



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, February 1, 2009

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:10 a.m. Announcements
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Quilting Bee

Sunday, February 8, 2009

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

Sunday, February 15, 2009

Conference Youth Event
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:10 a.m. Announcements
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

Sunday, February 22, 2009

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

Sunday, March 1, 2009

First Sunday of Lent
Rev. Bryan & Emily Olson's
last Sunday

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

Participating in Worship in February

Head Usher—Ken Huber
Altar Team—Judy Bonnevier
Communion Preparation—
Nancy and Wes Hillman

Member Helping Member Directory

The listings below offer you the opportunity to call a church member when you are looking for a business? Give them a try.

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

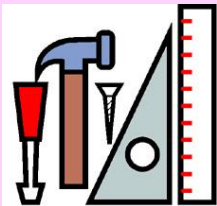
Brad Huber, B.M.H. Construction, and Realtor, new home construction, remodeling, additions, (651) 459-7545, homebuildings@aol.com; Licensed Real Estate Agent at (651) 379-2939 or bhuber@kw.com

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

Bill Larsen, Larsen Films, video production of events, photo montages, and other video services, (651) 270-2730, www.larsenfilms.com

Ramona Westerberg, The Healing Place, massage for facilitating health naturally, pain management, and pain relief, (651) 206-7141, or www.thehealingplacecg.com

Wayne Westerberg, Four Seasons Outdoor Services, tree removal, stump removal, trimming, snow removal and lawn maintenance, (651) 768-0833



If you would like to list your business, please call Becky in the church office, (651) 459-1501.

Women's Fellowship

The next Women's Fellowship meeting will be on Thursday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited. New faces would be most welcome.



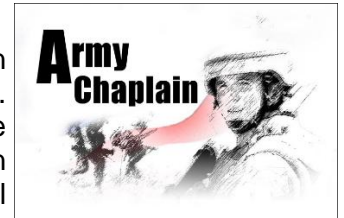
Memorial for Margaret Eberspacher

Park High School Class of 1948 has given the church a cash donation in honor of Margaret Eberspacher. Along with the check came this note: "We all miss her smile and friendship. She always made the reservations for our luncheon each month. We are continuing our monthly luncheons, as we feel we are a unique group and enjoy our time together. We also know Marg is in a better place and she is no longer suffering. God Bless! Class of 1948"



Army Looking for Chaplains

The US Army is looking for Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants to serve the troops around the world. The position of Chaplain Assistance is both full time and reserve. The job is to support the Chaplain in all areas. Their main mission is to give spiritual guidance to soldiers throughout the world. To obtain additional information and watch a short video on this job task, or any job that the Army has, you can check out the web site at www.goarmy.com.



We are also looking for qualified personnel to fill the position of Chaplain. This is an officer position. For more detailed information about this career field, or any other position in the army, please call 1-800-217-6954.

February Food Distribution

The Harbor Church, at 11125 W Point Douglas Rd, is having their monthly food distribution on Saturday, February 14, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. They provide milk and dairy, fresh produce, meat, and bread, enough to feed your family for a week, for a suggested donation of \$15. This is for families who could use help to cover their housing, utility and food needs. Please take advantage of this opportunity if you and your family could use the help.



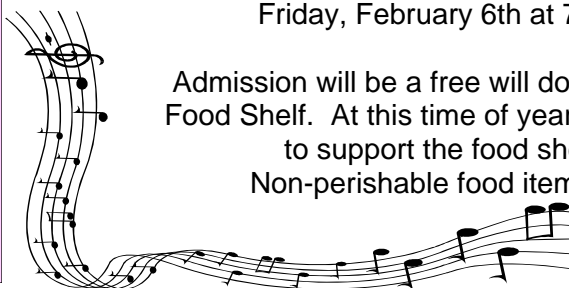
St. Rita's Concert of Joy 2009 To Benefit Friends in Need Food Shelf "Go Light Your World"

The Church of St. Rita, 8694 80th St S, Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Friday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Admission will be a free will donation for the Friends in Need Food Shelf. At this time of year, cash donations are preferred to support the food shelf in coming months.

Non-perishable food items will also be accepted.

**Come celebrate the joy of
music and giving.**





February

- 1 - Emily Ernster
- 2 - Ramona Westerberg
- 6 - Bernice Kuehn
Meagan Richter
- 7 - Karen Greenwell
- 8 - Ken Eshom
Renotta Scherr
Carrie Tate
- 9 - Barb Larson
Ava Youngquist
- 10 - Darrin Hunter
Steven Miller
- 13 - Joan Goebel
Amy Howard
- 14 - Julia Biscoe
Karly Biscoe
- 15 - Kathy Hunter
- 17 - Heather Biscoe
- 21 - Kristine Eberhardt
Karen Spicer
- 22 - Greg Bonngard
Ken Huber
- 23 - Colton Brown
- 24 - Harlow Radke
- 27 - Evan Murr



Thanks!

Thank you to all who sent cards, notes of encouragement and called. I appreciate them all.
God bless you,

Chris Miller

More Thanks!

To all of my friends at CGUCC, thank you for your cards and prayers. I really appreciate every one of them. God bless you all.

Thanks!
JoAnn Nelson



Attention 9th-12th Grade Youth & Parents

You may still register until February 6 for the Winter Conference Youth Event to be held February 13-15. Please contact Rev. Bryan if you need a registration form. Scholarships are available for this event! Please see Rev. Bryan for more details.



Save Your Stuff!!

It's never too early to start saving your stuff for the annual Trash to Treasure Sale here at the church in the spring.

**THINK SPRING—START CLEANING
SAVE YOUR STUFF**



Remember When?

From stories told by Lucy (Brown) Spicer and Hilda (Bahls) Lindeman
Remember when we went to confirmation in the little school house? Rev. Boland was our minister. We went all day Saturday, from 8 am to 4 pm. We brought our lunch along. We played Bible Baseball, and made maps out of flour and water and put them on apple box boards. We learned so many hymns and psalms by heart, and learned the whole catechism book, too. We got confirmed on Palm Sunday, and on the Sunday before we had question Sunday when we were asked all the questions in the catechism book, and we had to know all the answers.



Catechism

M&M's Help Feed Children

Remember to support Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) by purchasing a tube of mini M&M's for \$1, enjoy eating the candies, then fill the empty tube with quarters and bring them back to church. Filling the container with quarters 5 times feeds a child for a year. The display with tubes of mini M&M's is in the Gathering Room. Pick up a tube and leave a dollar if you would like to participate. Our grand total thus far for this fundraiser is around \$450. Let's keep eating M&M's and raise that total! Thanks!



Thanks Received

Rev. Bryan received a phone call this week from a representative of Feed My Starving Children thanking him and the congregation for the \$450 dollars to help feed children around the world. This is where your dollars are going when you buy a tube of mini M&M's, and where your quarters go when you bring back a tube full of quarters. Your quarters and dollars can make a real difference for a child who goes to bed hungry. Thanks!



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

Service as understood by Shrek's favorite Donkey

NOW is a great time to get involved in church activities! What is it that makes your heart sing? When you really enjoy what you are doing and the time flies by, what is it that you are doing? Happiness comes when you are involved and helping others. What can you do to bring a smile to someone else's face and to your own? Think about the answers to these questions. Then take a look at the team board in the gathering space. Find the person that is in charge of a team where your interests lie and give that person a call and offer your help. There is ALWAYS a need that you can fulfill. SEARCH for that NEED and get INVOLVED!

Here are a couple of NEEDS that could use your INVOLEMENT. Please give prayerful thought to each of the opportunities listed and perhaps you will find one that fits your schedule and more importantly your gifts. Pick up the phone and say, “Here I am, Lord. Pick me!” (Or was it “send me!”) at any rate – make it happen.

The Communication Team – This team is seeking new members that would be willing to help provide a means of informing the congregation and the public of church activities. They hold monthly meetings and are responsible for the church website, press releases to local newspapers and general advertising. An interest in communication, a willingness to learn and some computer skills would be of great help on this team. If interested in serving in this way, please contact the church office for more information.

Volunteer Coordinator – This position is responsible for assisting in the recruitment of volunteers, maintaining the volunteer database, writing a volunteer opportunities column for the Cross Connection, and attending council meetings to be informed of activities within the church. This person also attends all Board of Shared Ministry meetings. People to people skills, the gift of organization and some basic computer skills are important in this position. The job can be done in just a couple of hours a week. We do ask for a 1 year commitment. Diane Davies will train this person on the use of the database. (This is not difficult.) If interested, please contact Diane Davies at 651-436-7234 or Dianedavies48@yahoo.com

It would be wonderful to have these positions filled by the time our new pastor comes on board. Give some thought to teaming with another person to fulfill either of these positions if you do not want to do it alone.

I hope to hear from you.
See you in Church,
Diane Davies

Lost and Found

There is a size M short black leather jacket hanging on the coat rack near the restrooms at the church, and it's been there for months. If no one claims it soon, I'll have to call The Fonz.

Becky Graff



Cross Connection

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

Published on the 1st and 15th
of every month

Deadlines are the 10th and 25th
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>
February 10	February 15
February 25	March 1

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

Becky Graff, Editor

Contact Us

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove MN 55016
(651)459-1501 www.cgucc.org

Rev. Bryan Olson, Pastor
olsonbw@hotmail.com

Emily Olson, Director of Music

Becky Graff,
Administrative Assistant
cgucc@usfamily.net

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

Sheri Wohlers, Custodian
sherilewohlers@msn.com

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

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397
Phone: 651-459-1501
Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

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!

Sunday School Notes

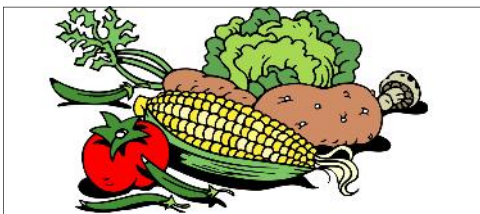
We would like parents and caregivers to practice the following objectives at home with their children to reinforce the Biblical themes they are learning about in Sunday School this rotation. The rotation focuses on the story of Daniel and the King in Daniel 1:1-16:

- *God wants us to make good choices.
- *We can choose to honor God in our choices.
- *We can ask God to help us stay in control.

Our hope is that practicing the objectives at home and at church might better solidify the main idea for the children.

Lastly, we would like to remind parents and caregivers about our new safety practice: All children will be dismissed at 9:55 am from their rooms and be directed to go to the music room. At that time

we will collect name tags, announce reminders for the next week and say our good byes. All children in 4th grade and above will be dismissed but children in 3rd grade and below will remain in the music room until a parent or designee picks them up. We feel very strongly about this practice so that everyone can return safely the next week.



Daniel Chose Vegetables

Bobbi Jo Janicek, Sunday School Superintendent