



# 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:

- Farewell to Rev. Bryan..... 1*
- Good News..... 2*
- Lenten Study Group..... 3*
- Angels of the Heart ..... 4*
- Ash Wednesday Service.... 5*
- Emily Olson Concert..... 6*

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## Farewell for Pastor Bryan and Emily Olson Sunday, March 1, 2009



**Family Gathering  
after the morning Worship  
Service**

**Sign-up sheet on the table in  
the Gathering Room  
if you would like to bring goodies  
to share.**

**Farewell Dinner  
Mississippi Dunes  
10351 Grey Cloud Trail S  
Cottage Grove  
Doors open at 4:00 p.m.  
Dinner at 5:00 p.m.  
Sign-up sheet on the table  
in the Gathering Room  
\$15 per adult  
\$7.95 per kid's meal**



## 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; Kathy Biscoe; Bill and Isabel Board; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Bob Fox; Ron and Joyce Fries; Russ Gausman; Don Hanson; Delores Janke; Ali Manning; Chris Miller; JoAnn Nelson; Sandy Rabe; Emily, Chris, and Joel Spicer; Gary and Joan Thyren; families facing unemployment issues; the Search Team, Rev. Desiree 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 Thursday evening I had an "Exit Interview" with members of the Executive Team here at Cottage Grove U.C.C. The interview began at 6:30 p.m. and I had scheduled it for about an hour in my day planner. I was not surprised, however, when we found ourselves wrapping up our discussion at nearly 9:15 p.m., almost three hours after we began. The reason I was not surprised is because I **LOVE** talking about this congregation. Once you get me started it is hard to stop me! I enjoy sharing my thoughts and memories about the ministry that has taken place in this church over the past five years as well as my musings about the potential for its future.

I feel truly blessed to have begun my ordained ministry at Cottage Grove U.C.C. Whether serving as a seminary intern, Youth Pastor, or Transitional Senior Minister, I have always felt and received the encouragement, love, and support of this community of faith. What a gift that has been. I believe God called me to this place to learn what being part of the body of Christ is all about. In this place I have had the privilege of marrying and burying beloved members and friends of the church in Christ's name. Together we have laughed and cried, prayed and worshipped, sung songs and sold corn! Some of us spent many hours together riding on buses and driving in "odor filled" vans to get to communities where we used our "muscle ministry" to help our neighbors in need. Others of us have spent time in hospital rooms caring for the sick and dying while still others have made evangelism and sustaining our local agriculture and economy the focus of their ministry.

I love talking about this 150-year-old congregation in Old Cottage Grove because every time I do I glimpse Christ in what I am describing. I envision Christ in the smiles of the Sunday school children and the way the youth of this church encourage one another in their faith. I see Christ in the cards of the Caring and Sharing Team, the prayer shawls made by the Gratitude Group, and the fellowship of the men and women setting up the corn booth at the County Fair each year. I hear Christ in the instruments and voices of JC Rock and the Chancel Choir and in the heartfelt prayers that are lifted up in worship, at Team meetings, and over a cup of coffee each week. Most of all, however, I experience Christ in the faces of each and every person who comes to the table to receive the feast of God, whether that be through the bread and cup of Holy Communion, the pizza and pop of a youth gathering, the doughnuts and coffee of a Sunday fellowship, or the ham sandwiches and lemonade of a funeral luncheon. God is in all of these things, feeding and preparing us for a new reality in Christ.

Pastor Gold begins her ministry with you on March 1, 2009, and I cannot wait to share with her what I love about this congregation. My prayer, however, is that I will only be informing her about what she will be experiencing for herself in the near future; a community of loving, dedicated ministers who are committed to caring for themselves and the larger community in the name of Christ.

I am going to miss this church greatly, but I know that God is calling all of us to begin a new era of ministry. God has brought us together for a time to learn from one another and grow stronger in our faith. Now I hear God calling me to take Christ's message to the "next town," as the author of the Gospel of Mark might say, and begin a new church that I can only pray will be as strong and vibrant as Cottage Grove U.C.C. is after it has been around for 150 years.

Blessings to you all as you continue on your journey of faith here at CGUCC. Just remember, if you love this church too then don't be afraid to  
*(continued on next page)*

## Will You Join Me in a Lenten Journey?

Traditionally Lent is a time for introspection and self-examination, an opportunity to reexamine our relationship with the Living Lord, and what that means in our lives. Our church is in a transition between pastoral leadership so Bryan cannot lead an adult class during Lent, but I still feel a need to spend time this Lent in study and reflection. Do you? Would you like to join me in reading, reflecting upon, then discussing together a study book called *Faithfulness: Cultivating Spirit-given Character* by Calvin Miller? In keeping with the Sunday School's study of Spiritual Gifts, their choice being "self control," I thought it appropriate to choose a gift of the Spirit, "faithfulness." The group will meet during the Sunday School time, 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings, beginning March 1 and going for 5 more weeks, concluding Palm Sunday, April 5. If you would like to learn more, please call me in the office (459-150) or see me after worship on February 22. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Room this Sunday, February 16. Prayerfully consider whether you would like to walk this Lenten journey together.



Becky Graff

## Early Deadline for Cross Connection

The next issue of the Cross Connection is due out March 1, but I would like to get it out early to be sure people know when Rev. Bryan and Emily will be leaving, and Rev. Gold will be coming. So please, if you have items for the next Cross Connection, be sure I have them by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 24. Thanks!

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Becky Graff in the Office

## CGUCC Farmers' Market Has a Website!!

Farmers' Market Team member Cole Bertram has been working long and hard to design a brand new website for our Farmers' Market. Check it out at [www.cguccfm.com](http://www.cguccfm.com). Shauna Meyer has designed posters to attract new vendors; if you can post one or a dozen around town, see Shauna on a Sunday morning and she will get you some. We have 6 vendors signed up so far to sell when the market opens June 18, and runs every Thursday from 3:30—6:30 p.m. through October 8.



## 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.



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share why you love it with the other people in your life. Let them know what it is that excites you about the ministry and mission of this church and then invite them to join you. I think you will be surprised just how much a church can grow when we trust in the truth of our own testimony.

As you continue on your journey... May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. This is my prayer for all of you, now and forever. Amen.

Your friend in Christ, Rev. Bryan

## Coming Up in Worship

### Sunday, February 15, 2009

Conference Youth Event  
9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:10 a.m. Announcements  
10:15 a.m. Worship with Baptism  
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 with New Members Joining  
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 with Children Singing  
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship

### Sunday, March 8, 2009

#### Second Sunday of Lent Rev. Desiree Gold's First Sun-

day  
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

#### Participating in Worship in March

Head Usher—Bob Janicek  
Altar Team—Sue Berndt  
Communion Preparation—Diane Davies



## 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



## Angels of the Heart Card Making for Soldiers

Are you interested in making homemade cards for the service men and women that they can use to send home for special occasions? Join us on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00-3:00 at the church. There are only 20 spots available at \$15 each, so reserve a spot today by calling Angie Naegeli at (651) 387-1986 or Barb Larson at 459-4448.

We are also sending items to the troops that they need and/or enjoy getting. If you wish, you can donate money for us to purchase items and also to use for shipping these items to our soldiers.

Suggested troop donations:

baby wipes	magazines (recently old or new)
hand sanitizer	granola bars
feminine products	beef jerky
cotton socks	small stuffed animals (they give them to children)
lip balm	calling cards
Crystal Light To Go	basic toiletries
hard candy (they use it and share with children)	sunscreen
Oreos cookies	

*Thanks for your support.*



## St. Thomas Aquinas Lenten Parish Mission March 1-4, 7:00-8:00 p.m.

All are welcome! Father Tom Donaldson C.S.S.R. will preach each evening. Sunday: Salvation, Monday: Jesus as Savior, Tuesday: Sin and Reconciliation, Wednesday: Your Mission! Join us! Each evening is followed by refreshments! 920 Holley Ave., St. Paul Park. [www.st-thomas-aquinas.com](http://www.st-thomas-aquinas.com)



## Save Your Stuff!!

It's never too early to start saving your stuff for the annual Trash to Treasure Sale here at the church April 24-25.

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



## Have You Signed Your Quilt Square Yet?

The quilting team is piecing the 150th Anniversary quilt together. All who are interested are invited to sign a quilt square and become a part of history. Squares are available after worship each week, or in the church office during the week.



## Your Help Is Needed

As we get ready to welcome a new pastor to CGUCC, there is a lot of cleaning and organizing to do. Would you like to help? Sheri, our custodian, could use help doing some extra cleaning, especially vacuuming and shampooing the cushions in the sanctuary. I could use some help cleaning out and organizing the hymnal racks in the pews, including removing broken pencils from the pencil holes. The bulletin board in the Gathering Room could use a makeover. The children's activity bags need to be redone. The name tags could use reorganization in the big drawers in the Gathering Room. I'm sure there is more, but this is a good place to start. If you would like to help with one of these projects, please call Sheri or Becky in the office. THANKS!!

**NEW VOLUNTEER  
POSSIBILITIES**

## Ash Wednesday Service February 25

Lent begins with the Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m. on February 25. Rev. Bryan will lead this service of the imposition of ashes and sharing holy communion as one of his final opportunities for worship with our congregation.



## 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.**

## Cross Connection

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)**

Deadline	Issue Date
February 24	March 1
March 10	March 15

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

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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!

## *Farewell and Thanks!* *Emily Olson in Concert*

*Cottage Grove United Church of Christ Music Director Emily Olson would like to take the opportunity to say good-bye and thank you to the congregation with a concert on Saturday evening, February 28, 2009, at 6:30 p.m. The concert will feature Emily's vocal and piano music, along with some favorites from the praise band JC Rock. Bring the kids, grandparents, neighbors and friends to this event to enjoy the sounds of JC Rock, and to soak up for one more time the beauty and joy in Emily's musical talents.*