



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

Published Semi-Monthly

March 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!*

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Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

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One Great Hour of Sharing Where Is Your Treasure?

2009 Theme, Scripture Reference Matt 5:21

If you were searching for God's treasure, you'd find it in people. Every person, in every nation on earth, is treasured by God! Yet for many people, life can be searingly tough.

One Great Hour of Sharing joins our hearts with God's by providing decisive aid when disaster strikes and by helping refugees rebuild their lives. Your gift strengthens struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds, and wells.

Taken from the 2009 OGHS Bulletin Insert



1. What is One Great Hour of Sharing?

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

2. Who participates in One Great Hour of Sharing?

Nine Christian denominations—American Baptist Church, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Church of the Brethren, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church, Reformed Church in America, United Church of Christ, The United Methodist Church, and Church World Service work together to develop common promotional materials thereby sharing ideas, costs, and a commitment to faithful service. Each denomination receives and manages its respective OGHS offerings.

3. How is the United Church of Christ's offering used?

More than 60 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for approximately six missionaries working in health care, education, and agricultural development. Gifts are also used for disaster preparedness and response, refugee and immigration advocacy and assistance, and disaster and refugee related volunteer initiatives.

(continued on page 3—"One Great Hour of Sharing")

Rev. Desiree 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!

Susan Berndt; Daniel Bies; Kathy Biscoe; Bill and Isabel Board; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Bob Fox; Joyce Fries and family mourning Ron's death; Russ Gausman; Don Hanson; Ken Huber and family as they mourn the death of Ken's father; the family of Delores Janke who mourn her death on May 10; Chris Miller; JoAnn Nelson; Leona Perkins; Sandy Rabe; Emily, Chris, and Joel Spicer; families facing unemployment issues; Rev. Désirée Gold as she assumes leadership of our congregation.

Alma Buechler (former pastor's wife); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Dorothy Brown (Ashley & Luke Longmuir's great-aunt); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Guzman family (daughter's health); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Richard Lara (in prison); Molly Livingston (Eboné Koerselman's grandmother); Margie Mattison (Farmers' Market vendor); Ramona Roney; Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world.

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée
H. Gold



An Offering of Gold

Starting a new job is always stressful. My first week at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ went well, but by the end of it my head was spinning. I still don't have it quite unwound yet, and I expect it will take several more weeks before I do. What should go in which drawers of my new desk, how should I organize my (many) books in

the lovely bookcases you provided for me, where should I put my pictures and knickknacks? Who's on the prayer concerns list and why? Who are the confirmation students and what have they been studying...and why do they have green hair? Who do I talk to about what and where do I locate them? How do the various ministry teams function? How and by whom is worship planned? What is everyone's name and who's related to whom?

The trouble is, then I start to get the *answers* to these questions, which means that my brain gets filled with more and more information. Every church does everything a little differently, so things may be totally different here than they were at the church I served as pastor in Baltimore, Maryland or the church I served before that in Sacramento, California. Things I thought I knew become null and void, and I am a "new minister" all over again. In short, my head is spinning.

Then, in the midst of all of this, I suddenly notice the silent prairie outside the church window and I am no longer overwhelmed. Even on a stark, gray winter day the prairie is expansive and welcoming and peaceful. I know that for some of you the fields represent toil, but for me they simply represent peace, the beauty of God's Creation. I was a city girl (in Fargo, ND), but I spent many summers playing at my ancestors' farm near Enderlin, ND. My heart would swell as we got further into the prairie, where the sky was endless and the fields changed color by the day. I determined around the age of 12 that my favorite place in the whole world was this little butte (it looks miniscule today) in the middle of a cow pasture on The Farm (it's always capitalized in our family). It had one tree clinging to the edge of it and was covered with flowers at certain times of year. From it I could see forever.

I have not lived on the Northern Plains for 15 years, and the only time I lived closer to the prairie was when I did a pastoral internship in Mayville, ND and could walk two blocks, past the grain elevator, into the sunset. Now I have a view of the fields from my office, and I anxiously anticipate watching them come alive, change colors, and show me all God's glory come spring. Even now, they lift my spirits and calm my nerves, because I can see God's hand at work in the stubble from last year's crops and even in the snow which fell upon it.

Why am I telling you these things? One reason is to give you a better idea of who I am. I am also telling you because it is my simple hope that, if you do not already, you will begin to take notice of the land in which you live. I have heard many places referred to as "God's country" but this is it for me. I don't expect every one of you to feel the way I do about the prairie but I hope you will at least take the time to appreciate your surroundings and God's hand in creating them. I get the feeling that many of you already do notice and love the open spaces and all they contain (yes, these "open" spaces are full of life). I hope those of you who go about life with blinders on will take those blinders off and breathe in the expansiveness of God's Creation.

(continued on next page—"An Offering of Gold")

(continued from previous page—"An Offering of Gold")

I will close with the words of North Dakota poet Marlene Norris: "A watchful sky projects in depth / The conscience of the earth, / Amid the texts of shifting winds / And scattered streaks of calm." Or, in these simple words from Genesis... "and God saw that it was good."

May God be with all of us as we enter into ministry together and as we soak up the beauty around us.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

(continued from front page—"One Great Hour of Sharing")

4. Where and how are OGHS funds shared?

The United Church of Christ responds to development, disaster, and refugee needs in more than eighty countries, including the United States. Funding decisions are made by asking our worldwide mission partners, "What would you have us do with you?" The United Church of Christ responds as a member of ecumenical organizations such as Church World Service and Action by Churches Together, International. We also support the direct mission efforts of churches and church-based organizations with whom the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have direct partnerships with through Global Ministries. Nearly one-fourth of the UCC's offering is shared through Church World Service to support refugee, disaster, development, and advocacy programs.

5. How many dollars are given to the UCC's OGHS offering?

On average, annual OGHS special offering receipts total \$3 million. Nearly seventy percent of UCC congregations participate.

6. What percentage of OGHS donations are used directly for mission?

On average, of every dollar given to One Great Hour of Sharing, 92 cents are used directly for mission programming. Most administrative costs are paid with gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support and endowment funds. Due to decreases in OCWM Basic Support, beginning in 2004 both mission and administrative costs for refugee ministries are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing.

7. Where's the Accountability?

Currently, the OGHS Program Committee of the Wider Church Ministries Board meets at each of its semi-annual meeting dates to review expenditures and to address initiatives to increase the promotion of the offering for the United Church of Christ.

8. How can I contribute to One Great Hour of Sharing?

The OGHS special mission offering is received through local UCC congregations and all UCC members are encouraged to participate in this way. Local churches will forward gifts to the conference office and all gifts will be forwarded to the United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Secure on-line contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing may also be made at 222.ucc.org/oghs.

sharing resources... changing lives...

Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, March 15, 2009

Third Sunday of Lent

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

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Lent

One Great Hour of Sharing

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

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Fifty Sunday of Lent

9:00 a.m. Adult Lenten Study
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 March

Head Usher—Bob Janicek
Altar Team—Donna Perkins
Communion Preparation—Diane
Davies

Participating in Worship in April

Head Usher—Gary Thyren
Altar Team—Midge Youngquist
Communion Preparation—Jan
Huber



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

Palm Sunday Brunch
Sat. Apr 4—10 am setup
Sun. Apr 5—9 am setup
Sun. Apr 5—11:15 am Brunch

Night on the Street
Friday, April 24

Palm Sunday Brunch

The youth group will be preparing and serving the Annual Palm Sunday Brunch again this year on April 5, 2009. We will need the help of all youth and their parents to make this brunch a success.



Please mark the following dates on your calendar:

Saturday, April 4, 2009, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Table set-up, egg bake preparation, decorating of Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 5, 2009 9:00-10:00 a.m. – Final set-up

11:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Serve brunch and clean-up

Coffee Cakes Needed for Brunch

Y.A.H.O.O.s are in need of coffee cakes for the Palm Sunday Brunch. They can be dropped off at the church on Saturday morning, April 4, between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, or Sunday morning, April 5, between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. Please contact Bruce Fiedler if you have questions.



Thank you for supporting our youth!

A Night on the Street

On Friday, April 24, 2009, the Y.A.H.O.O. youth will spend a "Night on the Street" in downtown Minneapolis to raise awareness about the problems of homelessness in Minnesota, and to raise money for homeless people and families in our community. The Y.A.H.O.O.s, along with 400 youth from more than 30 congregations, will sleep overnight in cardboard boxes in the parking lot of Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Minneapolis. The youth will spend the evening learning about issues specifically related to teen homelessness and how they can work as advocates to help make sure all people have access to affordable housing.



This event is open to all youth in grades 7 - 12. This year we will be taking along donations to support the Groveland Food Shelf, and building Food Shelf Mountain.

If you wish to participate in this event, please RSVP with Bruce Fiedler no later than April 3, 2009. Parental permission is required for youth to participate in this event. If you have any questions, please contact Bruce at (651) 238-4644.

Slideshow of Bryan and Emily's Ministry

If you would like a copy of the slideshow on DVD that I made for Bryan and Emily's farewell, please contact me in the office or Bruce Fiedler.



Becky Graff



Palm Sunday, April 5—10:15 a.m.
Brunch served by youth 11:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 9—7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 10—7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Death of a Member

We extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Delores Janke who died Tuesday morning, March 10. Her memorial service was held at Wulff Funeral Home in Woodbury on Saturday, March 14. Committal service will take place at 1:30 on Sunday, March 15.

Sympathy cards can be sent to Delores' daughter:

Darlene Horwath
 47272 254th St.
 Baltic, SD 57003



Are You Looking for a Small Job?

We are looking for an adult to staff our church nursery on Sunday mornings, taking care of children while their parents attend worship. The employee will need to be available every Sunday morning before, during, and after the worship service for drop off and pick up of children. The position pays \$25.00 per Sunday. Please contact Doreen Barta or Bruce Fiedler for more information and an application.



It's Time to Think Easter Flowers

With the beginning of Lent comes the promise of Easter, and a sanctuary filled with the colors and fragrance of spring flowers. Watch for an order form for you to purchase flowers for the traditional Memorial Garden to beautify our sanctuary for Easter. Now is the time to start thinking of your dedication.



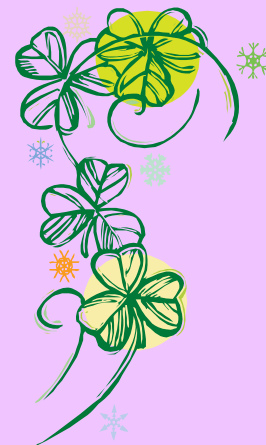
Helping Those in Need

At the last Church Council meeting it was decided to have a discretionary fund for Pastor Gold to use for folks coming to the church for help. If you would like to contribute to this fund, we would appreciate your donating \$25.00 gift cards for food or gas. A box will be on the coffee bar going forth through the year for your gift cards. Thanks for helping others during these difficult economic times.



March

- 6 - LeeAnne Eshom
- 7 - Cooper Blair
- 8 - Zachary Richter
- 9 - Sam Ratzlaff
- 13 - Debra Hanson
Melinda Lindeman
- 14 - Erich Fiedler
- 15 - Jan Huber
- 17 - Doreen Barta
Emily Denny
Mark Rabe
- 18 - Orinne Dunbar
- 22 - Ryan Bertram
Bryce Wilkinson
- 23 - Bryan Hakkila
Alissa Manning
- 24 - Diane Davies
Tucker Herrmann
Nicholas Warner
- 25 - Gayle Korth
Janice Munson
- 26 - Jessica Kottke
- 27 - Amanda Cherry
Emma Weber
- 29 - Karson Kropelnicki
Donna Marty
- 30 - Rod Vink



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.

Doreen Barta, Worldventures

Travel, Leisure Travel Consultant, (651) 458-9184, doreenbarta.worldventures.biz

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 are a member and would like to list your business, please call Becky in the church office, (651) 459-1501.

Trash to Treasure Sale

“One Person’s Trash is
Another’s Treasure”

TWO DAY SALE!! Only 6 weeks away!

NEW HOURS

Friday, April 24th 3:00 – 8:00

and Saturday, April 25th 8:00 – 2:00

Saturday is “BAG DAY”... all you can fit into a large grocery bag for \$4.00.



Now is the time to clean out your closets and attics for the Trash to Treasure Sale. Items will be accepted beginning Sunday, April 5 after the Palm Sunday Brunch. We would like the majority of items to be dropped off by Saturday, April 18th; however we will continue to accept donations through Wednesday, April 22nd. Watch the newsletter for more specific drop off dates and times. Bring your stuff to the stage area of the downstairs Fellowship Hall.

Women's Fellowship is sponsoring the Trash to Treasure Sale. Donating your unneeded items to the Trash to Treasure Sale will allow us to continue to support the church's needs. Last year Women's Fellowship gave \$5,000 to update the church kitchen with new counter tops and sinks. Since then we have begun purchasing new banquet tables and chairs to replace the old worn-out ones and we will continue to do this as needed. New blinds were purchased and installed in the 3 church offices. The benches in the Gathering Room were purchased. New chafing dishes to be used at the Turkey Dinner were purchased. A new coffee urn for the coffee bar, and the big planter full of flowers outside was paid for and provided by Women's Fellowship. Christmas gifts of money were given to the church staff and over \$500 was given to local charities. WF also helped make the Women's Christmas party affordable for the 45 women who attended by sponsoring this event.

So, start saving your **new or gently used** clothing and shoes, kitchen items, bedding, baby clothes, toys, books, records, CDs, tapes, DVDs, jewelry, small working electronics and appliances, tools, women's accessories, collectibles, antiques, sports equipment, those unwanted Christmas gifts, etc.

Please, **no** hide-a-beds, bunk beds, water beds, pull out sofas, paint, chemicals, car seats, encyclopedia sets, exercise equipment, TVs or computers, curtain rods, car tires, large furniture items or large appliances.

Call Sheri Wohlers 731-2717 if you would like to help out or if you have questions.

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.



Stewardship Message

Checking Our Balance

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted...
(Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2)



A time to break down our budgets – at home or church -- in new ways, and a time to build them up by asset mapping. A time to weep for recession, unemployment and homelessness, and a time to meet doomsayers with humor and hope. A time to mourn for the time-famine of contemporary families, and a time to dance with our faithful volunteers. A time to embrace generosity, and a reminder to refrain from embracing consumerism. A time to keep – recycle, re-use, re-new – in church and home -- and time to throw away responsibly. A time to tear our clothes on a mission trip with teens, and a time to knit prayer shawls in the parlor. A time to love our children enough to teach them stewardship, and a wake up call whenever and wherever they learn hatred for themselves or others. A time-out for war, and an always time-enough to work for peace ... a peace for every season that blesses God's purpose under heaven.

It is March – the month of balance. Life isn't like Daylight Savings time – we cannot "make" hours or resources or energy or sunshine. On the other hand, the Spring Equinox is a true teaching moment. We even use the word "balance" financially. The "balance" is what we work with, give with, use to care for ourselves and others. Financially, emotionally, and spiritually, as individuals and as communities of faith, this is the season to commit ourselves to balance.

Emily Olson and JC Rock Concert February 28, 2009



Thanks for the Music!

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>
March 25	April 1
April 15	May 1

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

Becky Graff, Editor

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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!

It's a Contest

YOU Could Design the New Logo for the Farmers' Market

We have a new web page for the Farmers' Market www.cguccfm.org.
Now we need a new, attention-grabbing LOGO that is entirely our own.

Could it be your design that will be on the world wide web??

*Think Farmers' Market—veggies—fruits—flowers—honey—jam—sweet corn—bread
Baked goodies—hot dogs and ice cream—Kids' Korner*



Draw your design with web page banner, posters,
and business cards in mind.

Submit to cguccfm@hotmail.com, Cole Bertram,
or Becky in the office
by **Wednesday, April 15.**

**Kids of all ages are especially encouraged to
come up with ideas.**

**This is your big opportunity to let your
creativity shine
and show off your ideas to the world!**