



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

Published Semi-Monthly

August 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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Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

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We have a lot going on at Cottage Grove UCC this August! In addition to Sunday morning worship (yes, we do have church every Sunday in the summer), there's a bunch of stuff going on during the week: The Corn Booth (ends Aug. 2). Vacation Bible School (Aug. 9-13). An American Red Cross Blood Drive (Aug. 20). And, of course, the Farmers' Market, which takes place every Thursday from 3:30-6:30.

All four events are very community-oriented. The Corn Booth provides food and fellowship at the Washington County Fair. Vacation Bible School will focus on service – to family, friends, neighbors, community, and Christ. The blood drive will provide an essential resource – the gift of life itself – to people who are suffering from illnesses or injuries. The Farmers' Market provides fresh, local produce to people in our community *and* it provides income to local farmers and other folks who come to sell their wares.

So, does this mean that Cottage Grove United Church of Christ is a community center? In a way, yes. Many community groups – both religious and secular – provide food and fellowship at county fairs around the United States. Service to family, friends, neighbors, and the community is something children can learn in community centers and schools – religious or secular – anywhere. Blood drives are popular in many religious *and* secular settings. Farmers' markets can be run by religious communities, but they can also be run by secular groups – Chambers of Commerce or simply conglomerations of local merchants.

What, then, separates our Corn Booth, our Vacation Bible School lessons on service, our Red Cross Blood Drive, or our Farmers' Market from the activities of any other community organization? We sell the same kind of sweet corn and lemonade, teach similar stuff to children, collect the same bodily substance, and offer the same kinds of fruits and vegetables. I suppose we do refer to our corn booth as the Cottage Grove *United Church of Christ* Corn Booth. Is that all that makes it different from a corn booth run by a secular organization? I guess we refer to our kids' program as a *Bible* school and we include lessons about Jesus Christ. Is that all that separates us from lessons taught in school or in a secular summer program? Oh, VBS, the blood drive, and the farmers' market do take place on *church* property too. But is that what really differentiates us from activities that take place in secular locales? No. What makes our corn booth, VBS, our blood drive, and our farmers' market different from the secular versions of those events is our reasoning behind them.

We sell sweet corn and lemonade at the county fair not *just* to make a profit (something that is true at every concession stand everywhere). We sell sweet corn and lemonade in order to engage in holy fellowship and to

(continued on page 3)

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée
H. Gold



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



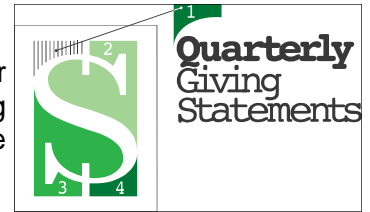
PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Karen Banaszewski; Daniel Bies; Eric Bies; Bill & Isabel Board; Ron Bonnevier; Bill Bot-hun; Beth Davies; Jean Gausman, Roxanne Burns, Claudia Weisskirk, & family on the death of Russ Gausman; Don Hanson; Chris Miller; Sandy Rabe; Emily, Chris, & Joel Spicer; Midge Youngquist; families facing unemployment issues.

Dorothy Brown (Ashley & Luke Longmuir's great-aunt); Leo Buechler (former pastor); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Roxanne Ebarb; Family of Bob Fredrickson (sudden death of Rev. Leo Buechler's son-in-law); Andrew Gatzemeyer (Doreen Barta's grandson); Guzman family (daughter's health); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Richard Lara (in prison); Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Stordalen family; Gene Sauve; Charlene Wilcox & family on the death of her son, Spc. Carlos Wilcox, and the families of the others who have died in Iraq; Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world.

Quarterly Statements Available

Second quarter giving statements are available for pick up at the church for the next week. Picking up your statement helps save the church postage costs.

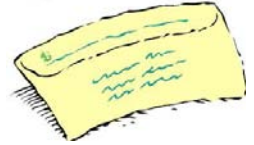


Electronic Giving

Open your heart without opening your checkbook.

Electronic Giving is an easier, more secure way to make your regular contributions to our church through automated giving.

Offering



Reasons to sign up for Electronic Giving:

- No need to write checks or bring cash to church
- Peace-of-mind knowing that the church is receiving your contribution even if you are unable to attend
- More secure than checks
- All contributions are recorded for you on your bank statement with date of settlement
- IT COSTS YOU NOTHING!

Sign Up Today

Look for the yellow "Authorization Form" on the welcoming table to complete and bring back, or talk with Bruce Fiedler at church or at (651) 458-3267.

Corn Booth Set-Up

Have you ever wondered what it takes to set up the corn booth? Here is just a little run-down on what happens:

Sheri Wohlers and Bev Gross organized and cleaned supplies. Doreen Barta and Doris Fiedler bought some new supplies. John Perkins gave pep talks in church, and asked people to work at the booth. Carole Weitzel Biscoe sent letters to the workers reminding them of their hours to work. Becky Graff made flyers for hand outs. Sheri Wohlers made some great signs to put in the booth.

At 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 26, John Perkins, Jerry Stratton and a friend, Jim Herrmann, Bruce Fiedler, Jerry Perkins, Dick Spicer, and Wes Hillman arrived to load up trucks and trailers to take the booth to the fair grounds. Derek Rasmussen and Ron Neveu went up early to lay the booth floor.

As you can see, it is one big job. Much hard work is put into this, putting it together and wiring it so it is up to code for an inspection on Monday, July 27. Sheri Wohlers, Susan Weiby, Red Spicer, and Bev Gross loaded up two vans with supplies and cleaned the booth, organizing everything. Then on Wednesday, the fun begins, selling corn and lemonade for 5 days.

Please keep the team in mind on Sunday evening, August 2, when we take the booth down and bring it back to the church. We are able to do this at 8:00 p.m. Call John Perkins at (651) 459-8665 for more information about helping. And if you run into any of these people, thank them. Without their help, it could not happen.



Thank you,
Bev Gross for the Corn Booth Team

Annual Corn Booth at Washington County Fair

While you are at the Washington County Fair this weekend, be sure to stop by our church's corn booth, an annual tradition for decades. The corn booth gives us the opportunity to share information about our church with folks from all over Washington County, to enjoy the fellowship of working side-by-side, and to bring in a large amount of cash for the support of our church's ministries. Stop in to say "Hi" and enjoy our fresh, hot corn on the cob, and icy cold lemonade.



Sundae Sunday August 16

As we have done in the past, the Outreach Team is sponsoring three Sundae Sundays this summer. All of the needed materials are donated, so all of the free will offerings will go to the "Friends in Need" food-shelf in St Paul Park.



Our first two Sundae Sundays were held on June 21 and July 19, and both were very successful. Many people had cones rather than sundaes. The final Sundae Sunday for this year is on August 16. Please join us, and donate generously for the food shelf.

The Outreach Team

(continued from page 1, An Offering of Gold)

raise funds so that we can continue to teach and preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ. We teach our children about serving others in our Vacation Bible School not *only* because it's the right thing to do (something they could learn anywhere). We teach them about serving others because it's what *Jesus* taught us to do. We donate blood or volunteer at the blood drive not only because it's the right thing to do (which it would be no matter where the blood drive took place). We participate in the blood drive because Jesus gave his own blood that we might live. We participate because Jesus taught us to care for the sick, for those in need (Matthew 25:34-36, etc.) We host a farmers' market at our church not just because it's trendy and environmentally friendly. We host a farmers' market because God calls us to care for God's Creation, because having a farmers' market on our church property might make people aware of the other ministries we provide, and because, quite often, local farmers become "the least of these" (i.e., those for whom Jesus taught us to care) in an industrialized agricultural market.

We are *not* just a community center providing community services. We are a church. We do the things we do because Christ has called us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Mark 12:31). Let us remember this as we prepare for our busy August at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ. Let us remember this as we prioritize our schedules. Let us remember this always.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Désirée Gold will be on vacation from Monday, August 24—Thursday, August 27.



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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

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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

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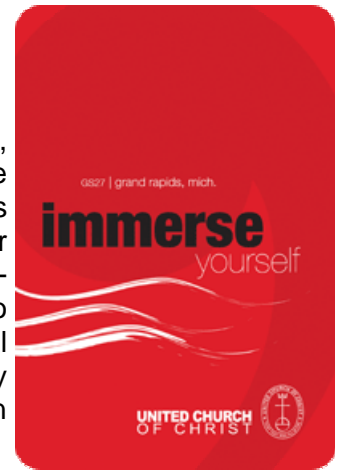
Sheri Wohlers, Custodian
sherileewohlers@msn.com

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

Synod news: It's a wrap

Written by Synod 27 Newsroom Staff, July 7, 2009

The UCC's 27th General Synod came to a close Tuesday evening, June 30, with a celebration of five days of worship and work. In her concluding sermon, the Rev. Patricia E. deJong recalled Matthew's Gospel story of Jesus and the disciples and the Sea of Galilee. While Jesus walked on water in the Sea of Galilee, it is Peter who provides the drama. Will he or won't he step out of the boat and walk with Jesus? "Are we ready to take the risk and step out of the boat? Are we willing to go where Jesus is standing?" she asked. The senior pastor of First Congregational UCC in Berkeley, Calif., deJong also reminded visitors and delegates that "anybody who rocks the boat takes a tremendous risk. Water is mighty powerful, and it can also be impersonal and downright mean."



As General Synod ended, delegates and visitors had much boat-rocking to remember from their time together. The Rev. Geoffrey Black, who has served for nearly a decade as minister of the UCC's New York Conference, was called by election Tuesday evening to succeed the Rev. John Thomas as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Thomas was ineligible for an additional term. The announcement of Black's election was greeted with a standing ovation. In brief remarks, the new general minister and president thanked the delegates and spoke of his high expectations of working with other members of the UCC's five-person Collegium of Officers. Echoing his remarks at the time of his nomination, Black affirmed, "We are in this together."

The Executive Ministers of two covenanted ministries also were called by election to new terms. The Rev. M. Linda Jaramillo was re-elected as Executive Minister of Justice and Witness Ministries and the Rev. Stephen L. Sterner was chosen as Executive Minister of Local Church Ministries. All will serve four-year terms beginning Oct. 1, 2009.

Longtime health care reform advocate Rep. John Conyers of Michigan visited with UCC members and made the case for a single-payer health care system during a workshop on Saturday afternoon. Conyers, a 22-term U.S. Representative and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus, came over from Detroit for the day. During a brief meeting with a handful of church leaders, Conyers said he admires the UCC and has friends in the church. He expressed appreciation for the denomination's stands on civil and human rights issues.

Monday afternoon, 200 Synod-goers marched from DeVos Place to City Hall and gathered in the shadow of Grand Rapids' signature Calder stable to demonstrate their commitment to universal health care. Leading the 15-minute walk was Mayor George Heartwell, a UCC pastor, and the demonstration organizers, the Rev. Bert Perry of the Florida Conference and the Rev. Peter Wells, an Associate Conference Minister from Massachusetts. Chanting "Health care now!" they wound their way through downtown streets on a path cleared by city police.

Resolution actions called for solidarity with the people of Iran, support for Iraqi refugees, a continuation of "Sacred Conversations on Race" and advocacy regarding a single-payer health care solution - among many others. Delegates also considered resolutions on restructuring the national setting of the UCC, approving a resolution written during Synod called "Toward Unified Governance for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ." The resolution asks the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministry Boards to bring to General Synod 28 a proposal for a single governance board, along with necessary constitution and bylaw changes. That Synod is planned for Tampa, Fla., in 2011.

Bylaw and constitution changes were approved allowing the creation of guidelines facilitating multiple paths to authorized ministry. Amendments emphasized authorization of all UCC ministers: ordained, commissioned, and licensed; the responsibility of Associations in determining fitness for ordination, discernment in the ordination process in all settings of the church and the importance of covenants of mutual responsibility. A coverage archive of all resolutions, committee actions, worship services, pre-Synod gatherings, River City Saturday events and presentations is available at <ucc.org/news>.



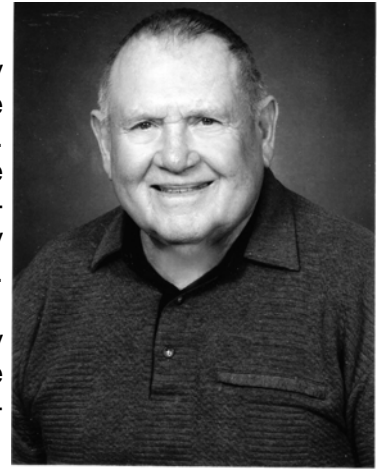
August

- 1 - Carole Weitzel
Biscoe
- 3 - Benjamin Denny
Bill Kropelnicki
- 6 - Jerry Biscoe
Don Korth
Kali Taylor
- 7 - Bonnie Euerle
- 9 - Rian Resendez
- 10 - Tara Bertram
Cody Utsch
- 12 - Richard Piel
Isaac Sorensen
- 13 - Megan Ryan
- 14 - Sean Jeffrey
- 15 - Shae Longtine
Tony Weber
- 16 - Dan Howard
Joyce Nieman
- 17 - Rod Heuer
- 20 - Sandy Rabe
Tom Youngquist
- 21 - Marilyn Hesckhe
- 23 - Daniel Bies
Mitchell Kottke
Bette Meyer
Brian Wilkinson
- 25 - Bill Biscoe
- 26 - Nita Bertram
Becky Graff
- 28 - Glen Biscoe
Aidan Lindeman
- 29 - Caiti Vink
- 31 - Adam Ratzlaff



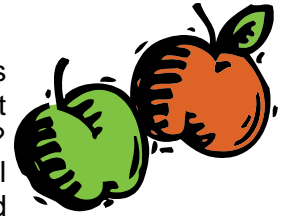
In Loving Memory of Russ Gausman

Long-time member Russ Gausman died on July 21, and the Service of Thanksgiving for his Life was on July 26 at CGUCC with Rev. Désirée H. Gold officiating. Mourning Russ's loss are his wife Jean, daughters Roxanne Burns, Claudia Weisskirk, sons Matthew and Paul Gausman, and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends. Condolences may be sent to Jean Gausman at 51 13th Ave, St. Paul Park, MN, 55071. The family prefers memorial gifts be sent to either Cottage Grove United Church of Christ, or the National Kidney Foundation.



Give Your Extra Fruit a Good Home

Do you have an apple, plum or pear tree that produces more than your family can eat? Why not donate that fruit to help fight hunger and poor nutrition in the Twin Cities? The Minnesota Project's new fruit gleaning initiative will send volunteers to harvest the excess fruit from backyard fruit trees in Minneapolis and St. Paul and donate it to neighborhood food shelves. Your extra fruit will go to families that otherwise wouldn't be able to afford fresh fruit. To register your tree, call Ben at (651) 789-3320 or e-mail localfoods@mnproject.org. This initiative is also looking for volunteer gleaners to help harvest the fruit. Harvest days will be held regularly from mid-August through October. For more information, go to <http://www.mnproject.org/food-FruitsOfTheCity.html>



Women's Retreat at Pilgrim Point

September 18-20, 2009
Creating Space for Spirituality

Join friends, old and new, for a wonderful weekend of fun, fellowship, and relaxation!

Retreat Focus:

Join us as we explore ways to make room for spirituality in our busy lives. This fun filled weekend will include time for rejuvenation, opportunities to try many forms of meditation, artistic expression, and Taize worship.

Rev. Barb Martin, one of our retreat leaders shares this: "Creativity for me is a gateway to the sacred garden of my soul where I commune with God. Creating time and space for the sacred requires some intentionality and I hope we can share that with each other during our retreat time."

Please see Pastor Gold for more information.



Note of Thanks

Thanks go to Sue Brown for helping in the office while Becky took her vacation. It's nice to know that things are being taken care of.



Lost and Found

A small colorful bag containing some tiny precious polished stones was found after the Gausman Memorial Service. Please call the church office to claim your bag of treasures.



Y.A.H.O.O. Pool Party

Friday, July 31, 7:00—9:00 p.m. Grab your suit and towel, gather some friends, and meet at the pool at Wilkinson's home. Munchies provided. RSVP Bruce ASAP.



Red Cross Blood Drive Coming

Our church is hosting an American Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, August 20, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. We have a number of volunteer opportunities leading up to and during the blood drive, so if you would like to volunteer a little or a lot of time to the American Red Cross, please talk with Pastor Gold or with Becky in the office, and we'll find a way to utilize your services at our own blood drive. And don't forget to sign up on the blue sheet at the welcome table to donate blood. You'll be giving the gift of life!



CGUCC Farmers' Market Every Thursday

3:30—6:30 p.m.

We are relieved to see it end in October, we rest over the winter, and by spring the anticipation builds until we can finally reopen the market in June. I think I speak for the entire Farmers' Market Team when I say we love the excitement, the fellowship, the opportunity to meet and chat with our neighbors, the great feeling of accomplishment, and the well-earned weariness at the end of the day, not to mention the satisfaction of knowing that we are making a difference in the lives of our vendors, our shoppers, and in the coffers of our church.



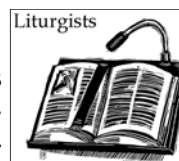
What a joy it is to see grandparents and grandchildren happily working side-by-side to sell a product others might enjoy. We see extended families among our vegetable farmers—parents, grandparents, children and grandchildren, aunts and uncles, sisters and brothers—working together to support their families. And families come to shop together, the grandparents sometimes in wheelchairs and the energetic children running alongside, each choosing their favorite vegetables, and stopping for ice cream on the way. Sometimes the Kids' Korner has so many children the ladies can hardly keep up with activities to keep them busy. We have had live music as well, and more scheduled as we move into the cooler days of fall.

Oh yes, the Farmers' Market is much more than vegetables in the parking lot. It's an opportunity to enjoy God's bounty of warm summer sunshine, fruits of the soil and of human labors, and the joy of being together. You are invited to come and join the fun!

Becky Graff, Co-Chair
Farmers' Market Team

Liturgists Needed

Thanks to all who have participated in Worship by serving as liturgists. There is a new sign-up sheet out covering the remainder of the summer into September. Please sign up for your opportunity to share in this important ministry.



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, August 2, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Fellowship

Sunday, August 9, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Fellowship
6:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School

Sunday, August 16, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship with Baptism
10:15 a.m. Fellowship with Sundaes Sunday

Sunday, August 23, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship with JC Rock
10:15 a.m. Fellowship

Sunday, August 30, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Fellowship

Participating in Worship in August

Head Usher—Wes Hillman
Altar Team—Karen Fritze
Communion Preparation—Karen Pribnow

Participating in Worship in September

Head Usher—Ken Huber
Altar Team—Claudia Weisskirk
Communion Preparation—Gary and Joan Thyren

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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!

STOP!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

August 9-13, 6:00—7:30 p.m.



All Ages Invited

Please Call Church Office to Register (651) 459-1501