



# CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ  
Published Semi-Monthly  
August 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!*

### Inside this Issue:

- Opinions..... 1**
- Electronic Giving.....2**
- News of Congregation..... 3**
- Community News..... 4**
- Notes of Thanks..... 5**
- Blood Drive..... 6**

### **Cottage Grove United Church of Christ**

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## Opinions

Many of you have probably heard the phrase, "Everybody has one, and nobody cares."

In a church setting nothing could be further from the truth. A church environment is voluntary in nature and the efforts and opinions of its members are at the core of what makes it function. One key component to success is listening to others' opinions and treating them with respect regardless of whether you agree or disagree.



I bring this to light simply because we have bigger issues to address together as a congregation than we do individually based on our opinions. The tough economy has created many obstacles we have handled and will need to continue to address in the years ahead as we pay down the loan for our expansion. The lack of development in the community means we need to work more diligently toward our plan for evangelism. Why would people want to be a part of our congregation? What are we doing to reach out to people and our local community?

The days of squabbling over the music program, how the corn booth is being operated, or how things are prepared for the Turkey Dinner need to end. Instead, bring your thoughts to the ministry teams which handle these functions. If you feel very strongly about a certain topic, join that ministry team and make a difference. We need our energies to be positive and forward. Anything else just erodes our foundation.

We need everybody feeling good about their role in our church family and all of us working as a team! The next time you have an opinion about a matter at church, ask yourself if it will be better for the entire congregation and will it create a positive change. We have a great – and I do mean great – group of families in our congregation. Let's keep as many people as possible on our team.

Enjoy the rest of summer.  
Brian Wilkinson, Church President



*"The mainline church has lost out because it keeps trying to be what it remembers it was."*

*Dan Aleshire*

## 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; Bill & Isabel Board; Ron Bonnevier; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Bill and Orinne Dunbar; Don Hanson; Hunter Hakkila; Tucker Herrmann; Chris Miller; Sandy Rabe; Karen Spicer; Lucy Spicer; families facing unemployment issues.

Dorothy Brown (Ashley & Luke Longmuir's great-aunt); Leo Buechler (former pastor); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Roxanne Ebarb; Andrew Gatzemeyer (Doreen Barta's grandson); Guzman family (daughter's health); Donna Johnson (Gary Afdahl's mother-in-law); 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; Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world.

## 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.

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.



## More on the Corn Booth

The five days went exceptionally well working in our corn booth with our church family including youth, friends, and the Boy Scouts. A couple of evenings we ran out of corn, as we did not expect that many people. There was always a line of people to buy corn, and at one time someone counted 30 people in line.

Ron Bonnevier was kept busy with ordering corn from Jordons. Lyle Biscoe and Jerry Perkins picked up the corn for the booth. The weather was perfect for eating sweet corn.

Sunday evening at 8:00 p.m. Sheri Wohlers and Ron and Judy Bonnevier arrived with vans to load up supplies and dirty dishes. They were taken back to the church to be cleaned up another day. Bruce Fiedler loaded up the grill. Mike Mills shouted out, "Two cobs for \$1.00!" and they were gone in no time. Twelve or more people showed up with trailers and trucks to take the stand down. John Perkins worked on all the wiring. Sue Weiby was very busy washing the laundry. We were wondering how we were going to clean the floor. Greg Bonngard brought his power washer and it looked like new.

The men arrived at the church garage around 9:30 p.m. to put everything away for next year. Carma Wilkinson stayed with the men and helped right along to the end. Bruce Fiedler had one huge job handling the money. We took in \$10,794 before expenses.

If I missed your name for helping, I'm sorry; God knows you were there. God bless all of you who helped in many ways. We might be a small church, but we are not afraid of work!

Bev Gross for the Corn Booth Team



## VBS Kids Sing Sunday, August 16

The children who attended Vacation Bible School this week will sing the songs they learned in Worship on Sunday, August 16. Don't miss this opportunity to hear how much the children have learned in one short week!

### Thanks for VBS!

Many thanks to Sunday School leaders Debra Hanson, Brenda Herrmann, Bobbi Jo Janicek, and Greg and Yvonne Bonngard, as well as all the parents and youth who helped, for making this summer's Vacation Bible School such a great experience for our children and those who came from the community. The children reap the benefits of your gift of love.



## Fall Adult Study

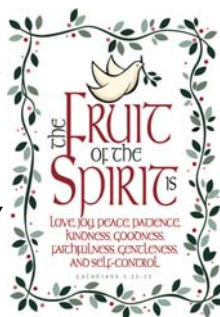
It's not too early to start thinking about the Fall Adult Study. Come, join the discussion, fellowship, and fun.

**When:** Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Starting September 27<sup>th</sup> for 7 weeks

**Topic:** *Patience*, using the *Fruit of the Spirit Study Guide* by Calvin Miller

**Books:** Will be passed out at the first meeting and will cost approximately \$10.

There will be a sign-up sheet at church, or you can call Wes Hillman at 651-768-0121.



## Sundae Sunday August 16

The final Sundae Sunday for this year is on August 16. Please join us, and donate generously for the food shelf.

The Outreach Team



## Return to Fall Worship Schedule

On Sunday, September 13, we will return to our fall worship schedule, with Sunday School for children and adults beginning at 9:00 a.m., and worship beginning at 10:15 a.m., followed by coffee and fellowship.



## Pastor on Vacation

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



## Cross Connection

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

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of every month

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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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[sherileewohlers@msn.com](mailto:sherileewohlers@msn.com)

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



### 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



### Friends in Need

CGUCC is sponsoring an end-of-summer drive for our local Friends in Need Food Shelf. Please bring bags of donations to the church on Sunday, August 23, and place them around our "Zacchaeus" tree. We will take the items to the food shelf on Monday, August 24.

Donation Requests:

#### Toiletries—HIGH NEED

toothpaste  
toothbrushes  
shampoo  
bar soap

#### Food Items

peanut butter  
hamburger helpers  
canned fruit  
pork n beans

instant potatoes  
canned veggies  
mac n cheese  
jelly

"Or anything your heart desires to donate"



### Mental Illness 5K Walk

Individuals, families, and groups from Washington County are invited to join "Team Washington County" for a 5K walk to support the mission of the National Alliance on Mental Illness—Minnesota (NAMI-MN) beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis.

NAMI-MN's mission is to champion justice, dignity and respect for all Minnesotans affected by mental illness (brain disorders).

For details about the walk or to join Team Washington County, see [www.nami.org/namiwalks/mn](http://www.nami.org/namiwalks/mn) and select "Join an existing team."



### 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.



### Volunteers Needed for County Courthouse

Are you interested in learning first-hand the many nuances of the justice system? The Washington County Court Volunteer program is looking for volunteers who will greet, direct, and provide assistance to visitors of the courthouse. In the process, you'll have a chance to get to know the judges, bailiffs and county staff. Please contact Lisa Spreeman at (651) 430-6286, or [lisa.spreeman@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:lisa.spreeman@courts.state.mn.us).



## From Russ Gausman's Family

Thank you to everyone who supported my family and me during this time with cards and prayers. Thank you to all who made food and those who put it together, served it, and cleaned it up. You are very special to us.

The Gausman Family



## From the New Grandma

Thank you all for the prayers, cards, visits and phone calls regarding the June 2009 milestones in my life: my hip replacement and becoming a Grandma all in the same month of June. It is wonderful to have an extended family at church.

Hugs to all of you, Karen Banaszewski

## From Washington County

This note is to thank the members of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ who helped a family in need on 7/30 and 7/31 by assisting with cleaning up a home in Cottage Grove. The family was able to remain safely in the home thanks to the efforts of these volunteers.

Jodi Kennedy, Washington County Social Worker

## Web Site for Abi Christopherson

Here is the Link for the Caring Bridge Journal to follow Abi's progress after her surgery. She is in recovery in the hospital in Chicago. She is having a rough time of it. <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/abigail1>

Thanks for caring,  
Elaine Mitchell



## WF Meets August 27

Because of the Red Cross Blood Drive on August 20, the Women's Fellowship will meet this month on Thursday, August 27, at 7:00 p.m. All women in the church are invited.



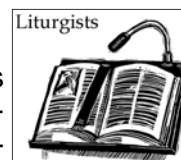
## CGUCC Farmers' Market Feeds the Hungry 3:30—6:30 p.m.

One of the marvelous results of our weekly Farmers' Market is that we are able to take excess produce (that the vendors leave us) to Stone Soup to give to those who need help with groceries this summer. What a joy to be able to share! Thanks to all who bring homemade goodies for the bake sale, and all who donate time and energy in so many ways to make the market a successful community event. The market will continue Thursdays through October 8, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Come join the fun!



## 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 16, 2009

9:00 a.m. Worship with  
Baptism of Abigail Dahl  
10:15 a.m. Fellowship with  
Sundae 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

### Sunday, September 6

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

### Sunday, September 13 Rally Sunday

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

### Sunday, September 20

9:00 a.m. Sunday School  
10:15 a.m. Worship with  
Baptism  
11:30 a.m. Turkey Dinner

\*\*\*\*\*

### **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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**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!



**Blood Drive**  
**August 20, 3:00—6:00 p.m.**

**Please Call Church Office (651) 459-1501  
for Appointment to Donate**