



# CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ  
Published Semi-Monthly  
September 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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# September 13, 2009



**9:00 a.m. Sunday School**

**Children age 3-grade 6**

**Youth grades 7-12**

**Adult Class begins September 27**

**Confirmation Information Coming Soon**

**10:15 a.m. Worship**

**11:30 a.m. Fellowship**

## 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!

Daniel Bies; Eric Bies; Kathy Biscoe; Bill & Isabel Board; Ron Bonnevier; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Diane Davies; Bill and Orinne Dunbar; Don Hanson; Tucker Herrmann; Chris Miller; Sandy Rabe; Karen Spicer; Lucy Spicer; families facing unemployment issues.

Angie Barta (Doreen Barta's mother-in-law); 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); Kandy Hartson (Pastor Gold's mother); Donna Johnson (Gary Afdahl's mother-in-law); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Richard Lara (in prison); Margie Mattison and family (Farmers' Market vendor); Doris Rosenfelt (Kathy Biscoe's mother); Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Stordalen family; Gene Sauve; Dan Sipe & Rob Cox; Tony Smith; Mark Tinucci (Sandy Raby's grandson & Karen Schmidt's nephew); Midge Youngquist's grandmother.

### An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée  
H. Gold



The American Red Cross blood drive we hosted at CGUCC on August 20th was the closest I had ever come to a blood drive, and I was in awe of the flurry of activity. It seemed as though the Gathering Room had been turned into a...cheerful...war zone. The room was transformed, with beds and medical equipment, and people everywhere. Church members, who I normally see in an upright position, were lying on

beds with their arms hooked up to tubes. Other church folk were scurrying around volunteering. Then there were the strangers. The congregation was no longer in charge of this space. It was run by American Red Cross staff, who went about their work with purpose. Other strangers flowed through the doors, wanting to give their blood. Farmers' Market vendors, who I had only before seen selling their wares, were waiting in line. In short, it was a remarkable scene.

One of the most remarkable things about it was how much people wanted to be there. Those of us who are medically unable to give blood or who were turned away at the door were disappointed that we couldn't have a needle stuck in our arm and have a pint of our blood removed. What sane person wants to be stuck with a needle on a normal occasion? But this was not a "normal" occasion. It was an opportunity for people to give the gift of life. The people who offered their blood were willing to risk their own discomfort for the sake of another human being. The people who volunteered to help at the drive were willing to risk their own possible squeamishness for the sake of the blood donors and for the greater good of the lives that would be saved.

What struck me was the number of people willing to make these sacrifices and their dedication. One donor (a church member) arrived a little late for her appointment, and she ended up waiting well over an hour before the Red Cross had a space for her. She waited patiently, unwilling to give up. Another donor (a Farmers' Market vendor) arrived at a busy time and was also in line for some time. He checked his Farmers' Market stand a couple of times, but he probably lost a few sales while he was waiting. I saw both the church member and the vendor leave later with the telltale bandages around their arms. A man I did not know who seemed barely able to walk came in and left with a bandage. Three young people (also strangers) had found out about the blood drive somehow and arrived eager to give of themselves. Two were turned away, but they waited patiently while their companion donated.

In all, with all that flurry of activity, we collected 26 units of blood. That might not seem like a lot, especially when you realize that a single person may require more than that amount in transfusions to stay alive. When we were in the early planning stages of the drive, Becky and I heard a story from one of the Red Cross folks about an injured woman who required 30 units of blood to save her life. We didn't collect that much on Aug. 20, and it's likely that not all the blood that we did collect will be usable. There is no guarantee that the blood that is used will actually save the life or lives of the people who receive transfusions. Does that mean, then, that our blood drive wasn't worth it? Does it mean that the woman who required 30 units of blood in a transfusion was not worth all that blood? No to both of those questions. Many people can be saved with far less than 30 units, so there's no telling how many lives will be saved by the people who donated at our church. Secondly, if that hours-long flurry of activity at CGUCC did only save one life, it would still be worth it. Even if the life was not saved, the effort itself would be

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## 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.



## 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.

## Chancel Choir Rehearsals Begin

The Chancel Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. Director Gary Afdahl always welcomes new voices in the choir. Please see him after worship on Sundays and let him know you would like to sing with the choir.



## Red Cross Blood Drive

Many thanks to all who helped make our blood drive last week such a success. The American Red Cross collected 26 units of life-saving blood, most of them from donors in this congregation. So thank you if you donated blood, and thank you if you donated treats or time to make everything run smoothly. We have been asked if we would host a blood drive twice a year. Please watch for opportunities to help make it happen here in January.



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worth it. You see, we are created in the image of God, and every single human being on this earth is worth saving. We are called by Christ - the Great Healer himself - to help those who are less fortunate than us. What better way can we help people than by giving them life? What a wondrous idea that the blood that was only recently flowing through your own veins may soon be flowing through the veins of another human being who needs it more than you at that particular moment! What better way can we love our neighbors as ourselves?

Those of you who participated in the blood drive - including my husband, Ben - have become my new heroes. I understand that not everyone is able to give blood, as I am not, and that not everyone was able to volunteer their time this past week. That said, I look forward to seeing even more folks - church members and strangers alike - participate in our next blood drive this coming January! I am sure that I will be awestruck once again. May God be with you all.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Gold

## 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)**

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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Herrmann, BobbiJo Janicek**,  
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**Sheri Wohlers**, Custodian  
[sherileewohlers@msn.com](mailto:sherileewohlers@msn.com)

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

# Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

## Treasurers Financial Summary Report

For the Month Ended July 31st, 2009

### GENERAL FUND INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY

	<u>Jul-09</u>	<u>2009 YTD</u>	<u>Jul-08</u>	<u>2008 YTD</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$ 6,844.19	\$ 78,916.22	\$ 11,306.66	\$ 92,067.60
<b>Expenses</b>	12,349.97	96,517.50	11,660.87	82,950.39
<b>Gain or (Loss)</b>	<u>(5,505.78)</u>	<u>(17,601.28)</u>	<u>(354.21)</u>	<u>9,117.21</u>

A positive amount means we have taken in more than we have spent.

A (negative amount) means we have spent more than we have taken in.

### GENERAL FUND BALANCE SUMMARY

	<u>2009</u>
January 1st, Balance	19,559.64
Gain/Loss for the Year	<u>(17,601.28)</u>
<b>General Fund Balance</b>	<u>1,958.36</u>

A positive number is good news - we are in the black.

A (negative number) means we are in the red.

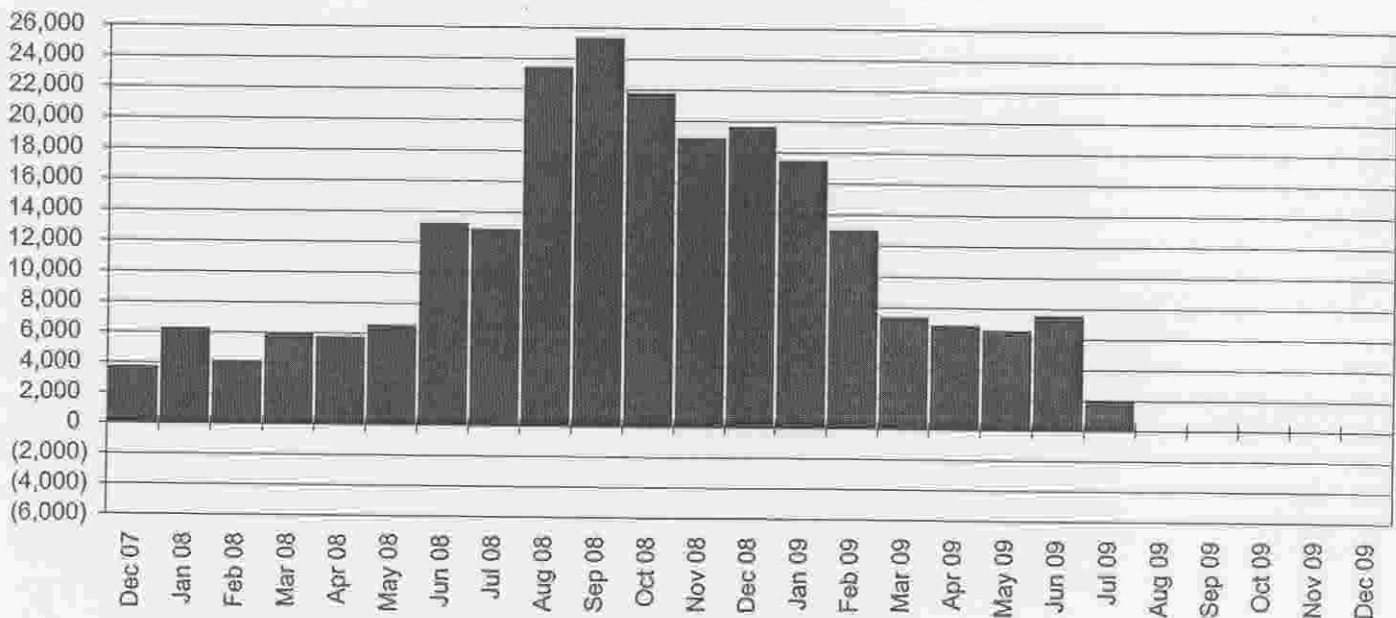
### GENERAL FUND BUDGET SUMMARY

	<u>Jul-09</u>	<u>2009 YTD</u>	<u>Jul-08</u>	<u>2008 YTD</u>
Budgeted Expenses	\$13,546.55	\$102,720.85	\$12,962.93	\$ 90,135.51
Actual Expenses	12,349.97	96,517.50	11,660.87	82,950.39
<b>Under or (Over)</b>	<u>1,196.58</u>	<u>6,203.35</u>	<u>1,302.06</u>	<u>7,185.12</u>

A positive amount means we have spent less than we have budgeted.

A (negative number) means we have spent more than we have budgeted.

**General Fund Balance**





### September

- 1 - Jerry Stratton
- 4 - Kristina Pribnow
- 6 - Al Miller
- 7 - Jack Ratzlaff
- 8 - Cole Bertram  
Steve Biscoe  
Karen Fritze  
Morgan Marty  
Pam Schmuki
- 9 - Judy Lauber
- 11 - Marie Berndt
- 12 - Zachary Larsen
- 14 - Stanley Barta  
Nathan Bloomquist
- 15 - Darlene Kieffer
- 17 - Roby Graff
- 18 - Mary Pat Marty  
Koryn Warner
- 19 - Désirée Gold  
Christopher Spicer
- 20 - Scott Spicer  
Shawn Spicer
- 21 - Ryan Hunter  
Michaela Mills
- 22 - Bruce Fiedler  
Mark Hunter
- 24 - Traci Larsen
- 26 - Sarah Sieben  
Joel Spicer
- 27 - Mackenzie Denny  
John Perkins
- 29 - Don Berndt
- 30 - Jean Stoker



### Prayer at the State Fair

Sunday, August 30 & Sunday, September 6, 9:15 – 9:45 am  
State Fairgrounds, Bandshell

Add prayerful celebration to your experience of the abundance of life at the State Fair. The Minnesota Council of Churches annually organizes this ecumenical service of music and readings. For more information contact Gail Anderson at 612-230-3210 or [gail.anderson@mnchurches.org](mailto:gail.anderson@mnchurches.org).



### 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."



### News From the United Church of Christ

Ecclesiastical Council for Vicki Wunsch  
Wednesday September 2, 2009  
Council at 7:00pm, light supper at 6:00pm  
Mayflower Community UCC  
106 E Diamond Lake Rd, Minneapolis, MN 55419

Member churches and ordained ministers of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ will engage in a period of examination and vote on a motion that Vicki Wunsch be ordained into the ministry of the UCC.

To ensure a quorum for the council, please RSVP to the church 612-824-0761 or [mayflower@mayflowermpls.org](mailto:mayflower@mayflowermpls.org). Anyone who wishes to have supper before the Council is requested to so indicate with the RSVP. Delegates from churches and clergy of the Minnesota Conference are urged to attend.



Don and Maryjane Westra of Fergus Falls have been called to Missionary service by the Board of Global Missions, a joint service of UCC and Disciples of Christ. They will serve as co-missioners for three years in Mt. Zimbabwe. Please attend a commissioning service for them on September 13 at 4:00pm at Federated Church in Fergus Falls. Be prepared for African music and fun! African or Ethnic dress encouraged. If anyone is interested in being on a mailing list and email list to get periodic updates, please email me at [maryjane41@aol.com](mailto:maryjane41@aol.com). Please include your mailing address also.



### Baptized August 16

During Worship on August 16 Abigail Dahl received the sacrament of baptism. Abigail is the daughter of Katie Reardon, and the granddaughter of proud Great-Grandparents Norma and Carl Manke. Congratulations to Abigail and her family.



## A Good Time in God's Big Backyard

We had a great turn out this year for VBS. The kids had a great time in God's Big Backyard where they learned to serve their friends, family, neighbors, community and Jesus. We had about 18 participants in all. Thank you to those individuals who donated time and/or money to make VBS a huge success. We couldn't have done it without you!



## Thanks to All

Thanks to everyone for their cards, phone calls, visits and prayers during my recent knee surgery. Everything is progressing very well and soon I will be climbing mountains in Alaska (so, Dick tells me). I am not sure this is exactly what I had in mind; I will settle for being able to climb the Church steps. Thanks again to everyone for their support. See you soon.



Karen Spicer

## Many Thanks!

Thank you to those of you who sent cards and well wishes to Tucker during recovery from his tonsillectomy. He is doing great! He really enjoyed receiving lots of mail! Thanks again!

Brenda and Jim Herrmann



## Sundae Sunday Report

Our Sundae Sundays this summer were a success due to you. We collected \$186.81 in the free will offering and we rounded it up to \$200.00 and sent that to the Friends In Need Food Shelf in Cottage Grove. With their purchasing leverage they will be able to buy about \$1,000.00 in food for those who need it. Thank you again.



The Outreach Team

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

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!



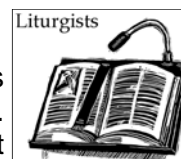
## UCC MN Conference Budget Vote

The Minnesota Conference of the UCC will have a vote on the budget at a Special Meeting of the Conference on Saturday, September 26, 2009, beginning at 1:00 pm at Wayzata Community Church.

**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

## Liturgists and Greeters Needed

Thanks to all who have participated in Worship by serving as liturgists and greeters. There are new sign-up sheets out. Please sign up for your opportunity to share in this important ministry.



## Coming Up in Worship

### 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

### Sunday, September 27

#### Rally Sunday

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

9:00 a.m. Adult Class

Begins

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

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### *Participating in Worship in September*

Head Usher—Ken Huber

Altar Team—Claudia

Weisskirk

Communion Preparation—

Gary and Joan Thyren

### *Participating in Worship in October*

Head Usher—Bob Janicek

Altar Team—Joyce Fries

Communion Preparation—

Bobbi Jo & Bob Janicek

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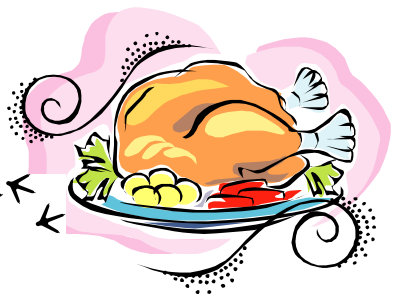
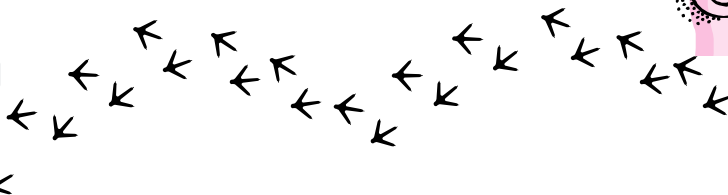
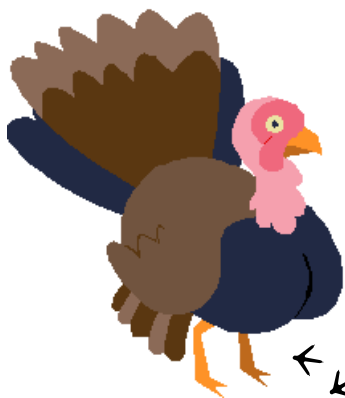
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If you would rather not receive this news  
letter, please call or send an e-mail, and we  
will take you off our mailing list. Thanks!

# **Annual Turkey Dinner Country Market and Quilt Raffle**

**Sunday, September 20, 2009**

**11:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.**

**Take Out Available**



**Tickets Available at the Door**  
**Adults—\$10; Children 5 to 14—\$5; Children 4 and under—Free**  
**Take Out Meals—\$10**

The Country Market will be back this year as part of the Turkey Dinner.  
Crafters are welcome to bring their items for sale.  
Women's Fellowship will keep 15% of the total sales,  
so please mark prices on your items accordingly.