

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

COTTAGE GROVE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 14, 2009



CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, December 14, 2009
7:00 PM

The Church Council is hereby announcing the date for the **Annual Meeting** of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ to be held on **Monday, December 14, 2009, beginning at 7:00 p.m.** Please put this date on your calendar.

Plan to attend this important meeting where every member has a vote. Bring this **ANNUAL REPORT** with you for reference as the meeting progresses.



Reports Inside this Issue

Pastor's Report	2
Church President's Report	3
Gifts Coordinator's Report	3
Church Statistical Report	4
Administration/Facilities	
Pastoral Relations	5
Policy & Procedure	5
Property Maintenance	5
Design	5
Spirituality/Worship	
Worship	6
Music Ministries	6
Altar Committee	6
Nurture/Education	
Education Ministries	7
Youth Ministries	7
Nursery	8
Historian/Archivist	8
Shepherd Ministries	8
Outreach/Mission	
Communications/Marketing	9
Outreach	9
Farmers' Market	9
Corn Booth	10
Turkey Dinner	10
Fellowship	
Women's Fellowship	11
Gratitude Group	13
Caring & Sharing	13
Hospitality	13
Annual Meeting Minutes 12/14/2008	14
Treasurer's Financial Summary	insert pages



Pastor's Annual Report

by the Rev. Désirée H. Gold

The first time I saw Cottage Grove United Church of Christ was on December 4, 2008, when I met with the Search Team in what would later become my office. A lot has happened in the past year, both in the life of the church and in my ministry. The congregation has been through the transition from interim pastor to settled pastor and I, of course, made the transition from Baltimore, Maryland to Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

Over the year we have begun to get to know each other—a process that I expect will take years yet—and we have begun to settle into doing ministry together. That process of acquaintance has taken place through regular Sunday worship, meetings, weddings, funerals, baptisms, pastoral care visits, and a variety of church activities. I got to know the children of the church better during Vacation Bible School and the youth through “A Night on the Street” and through Confirmation. I interacted with many church folk and community members at the Farmers’ Market. I began to figure out the governance and structure of CGUCC by meeting with different ministry teams and other groups. I found my way around Cottage Grove and its vicinity through trial and error (I still get lost on occasion). I discovered the spirit of the place by watching the sunset through the cemetery trees from one office window, or the sun shining over the fields from another window. In short, it has been a year of tremendous discovery and learning for me, and I hope for you. I hope, too, that we will continue to learn together, even after we have known one another for years.

I always find my first year in a church to be a year of “observance,” when I figure out how things are done at the particular church I am serving, or at least how they have been done in the past. In my months of discovery here at CGUCC, I have observed a church that is anxious to be involved in the community that surrounds it. I was deeply impressed by the Farmers’ Market and the way it brought in the community, both as vendors and customers. I enjoyed the Corn Booth and appreciated the hard work that goes into it and the efforts to make CGUCC’s name prominent—to do some evangelism in addition to selling a tasty product and fund raising. I was in awe of how smoothly the Turkey Dinner was organized and how many mouths were fed. I love that we host the CROP Walk every year and the community togetherness that event fostered (as it does everywhere it is held). I was amazed at how the community came out to participate in the blood drive in August and how our church was transformed into a blood donation clinic in a period of a few hours. Community involvement was one of the things that attracted me to CGUCC, and I have not been disappointed.

In the months since I have been here, I have been happy with the way in which visitors are welcomed to this church. On a recent Sunday, I was going to talk to a couple of visitors, but I discovered that several church members were already talking with them in friendly but non-smothering manner. When a visitor attends church, someone usually comes to tell me that we have a visitor (so I can talk with that person later), and I rarely find visitors alone. Church members seem genuinely interested in welcoming them. We have welcomed one family to our church membership since I have been here, and I look forward to welcoming more.

As I have welcomed visitors and seen them welcomed, I have felt welcomed myself—both as a newcomer to our congregation and to the community at large. I have participated in an ecumenical ministerium, a UCC clergy cluster, and met other community leaders through a variety of venues. I find these connections helpful not only in feeling more comfortable personally but in doing better ministry in Cottage Grove and the surrounding areas. I get new ideas from my colleagues and bounce off ideas I may have. I have reached out to the Minnesota Conference of the UCC and found them supportive and helpful.

As I think about the year ahead, I am excited about moving forward in ministry here. I look forward to deepening my relationship with all of you and to leading you in strengthening our church. I await the discovery of new things -- about you, about myself, about the community, about God. And I trust that wherever this year takes us, Jesus Christ will be our guide.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Church President's Annual Report 2009

Dear Members of CGUCC,

If the theme for 2008 was "change," then 2009 was a year of adjusting to those changes. We had positive change, a new minister and negative change, primarily a tough economy which has been a strain on all. All in all, I would say our congregation has come through the changes pretty well.

It was the second year of our new administration including the Executive Team and Board of Shared Ministries teams. The Council consisted of the following people this year: Gary Thyren, Past President; myself as President; John Greenwell, President Elect; Karen Pribnow, Secretary; Wes Hillman, Gifts Coordinator; Donna Perkins, Administration/Facilities; Midge Youngquist, Spirituality/Worship; Doreen Barta, Nurture/Education; Krisi Jacobs, Outreach/Mission; and Judy Bonnevier, Fellowship. I am very appreciative of this group. Each Director of a Shared Ministry Team signed on for a one year term. They all stayed on for two to allow the new system to have some consistency and be more effective. Thank you to each of you for your service in these important roles. A special thank you goes to Bruce Fiedler, Treasurer and Utility Man for the Council. Your extra effort and time are much appreciated. Please make time to express your appreciation to these members for their efforts.

The Pastoral Search Team completed their search and brought forward our new pastor, Désirée Hartson Gold, in March. Again, my sincere thanks go to the members of this team. They spent numerous hours of planning and preparation to successfully find the best fit for our church. We are pleased to have Désirée and her husband, Ben, as an intricate part of our church family.

Pastor Bryan and Emily Olson left on their new church mission in Pennsylvania. We know it has been a challenge for them establishing a new congregation. Our thanks along with our thoughts and prayers are with them.

We are blessed to have a congregation that is self sufficient and giving in many ways. We have so many members that volunteer their time and resources. Thank you to each and every one who makes our church the place of worship we can all be proud of!

2010 will present a year of further challenges for Cottage Grove United Church of Christ. I am confident with the members of this congregation we will focus our energy toward solving any obstacles we will face.

May God bless you and yours. May we all be better in our outreach to others in making our world a better place. Thank you for being the important part of our church family.

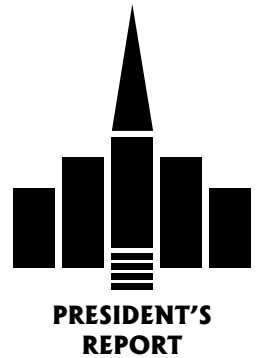
Brian Wilkinson
Church President

Gifts Coordinator's Report

I took over as Gifts Coordinator from Diane Davies in 2009. Diane has done a wonderful job as Gifts Coordinator! Thanks, Diane!

I've done a couple searches of the database to provide candidates to those looking for volunteers. I hope to conduct a new survey of our members in the year 2010 to update our database.

Respectfully submitted,
Wes Hillman, Gifts Coordinator



Church Statistical Report for 2009

Births

Ellie Grace Longtine 04-14-2009
 Sophia Jo Tate 06-02-2009

Baptisms

Joel Richard Spicer 02-15-2009
 Abbigail Grace Dahl 08-16-2009
 Ellie Grace Longtine 09-20-2009
 Zackary Jay Milton Carr 11-01-2009
 Sophia Jo Tate 11-01-2009

Deaths

Ronald Allen Fries 02-19-2009
 Delores Janke 03-10-2009
 Robert Fox 05-22-2009
 Russell Gausman 07-21-2009

Weddings

Adam Roberts and Jamie Vorlicky 05-30-2009
 Bradley Huber and Kathleen Sirois 09-26-2009
 Roxanne Burns and Paul White 10-24-2009

New Members

Adam Roberts 02-22-2009
 Jamie Vorlicky 02-22-2009
 Jason Carr 05-31-2009
 Jessica Carr 05-31-2009
 Désirée H. Gold 05-31-2009

Confirmed - May 2, 2009

Marissa Bonngard 05-03-2009
 Ashley Longmuir 05-03-2009
 Alissa Manning 05-03-2009

Reinstated from Inactive

James Morgan 04-22-2009

Transferred Out

Bryan Olson 05-24-2009

Removed per Request

Barbara Arntzen 12-02-2009

Membership Statistics

Members on January 1, 2009 312
 Confirmands 3
 New Members 5
 Removed by Death 4
 Transferred Out 1
 Removed per Request 1
Members on December 31, 2009 314



Administration/Facilities

Pastoral Relations

Team Leader: Bruce Fiedler

Members: Ron Bonnevier, Brian Wilkinson, Midge Youngquist, and Pastor Gold

The Pastoral Relations/Search Team started off 2009 with the excitement of bringing in Pastor Désirée H. Gold as our new pastor. A potluck was held on January 10th to give the congregation a chance to meet Pastor Gold, and she then preached on January 11th at which time the congregation approved her as our next pastor. Pastor Gold started on March 1st.

After Pastor Gold started, the Search Team's job was completed, and a new Pastoral Relations Team was formed. The current Pastoral Relations Team consists of Ron Bonnevier, Brian Wilkinson, Midge Youngquist, Bruce Fiedler and Pastor Gold. This team has met several times throughout the year to discuss matters to help in the transition of our new pastor. We also met to discuss various confidential matters as they needed to be discussed. The Pastoral Relations Team will continue on in 2010; if there are any concerns regarding pastoral issues please feel free to contact any of the team members.

Policy and Procedures

Team Leader: Brian Wilkinson

Members: Danyll Mills, Becky Graff, Karen Banaszewski, and Ron Bonnevier

Objective: Update and maintain Policy and Procedure Manual

Meeting Schedule: 1st Tuesday of each month in 2009. Meets quarterly in 2010. Next meeting February.

Goals: Complete new policy manual by year end 2009

Update: Hard copies available for review beginning October 2009. Available on-line after confirmation of congregation at annual meeting.

Property Maintenance

Team Leader: John Perkins

Members: Jerry Biscoe, Red Spicer, Greg Bonngard, Ken Huber, Jerry Stratton

The Fellowship Hall basement floor was replaced, which completed the church remodel. Water pipes were insulated, which has improved hot water availability. Painting of north stairwell is being completed by year end – this completes all painting in the existing building prior to addition. Block stairs to the outdoor bench area were installed, utilizing leftover blocks from the new retaining wall. The trees on the property have been trimmed.

Design and Decorating

Chair: Donna Perkins

Members: Danyll Mills, Joyce Biscoe, Jill Richter

We review all requests/suggestions about furnishings such as furniture (tables, chairs, etc.) and/or other items to be added around our facility. The committee brings these requests and our suggestions/ recommendations with payment options to the council for final approval.

New furnishings were added to the administrative offices. New stencils were added to identify rooms in the church and stencils were added to Sunday School rooms for décor.

Painting project in the North stairwell is underway.

Spirituality/Worship

Worship

Team Leader: Ron Bonnevier

The Worship Team is in the process of being reactivated. I have been meeting with Pastor Gold and the Music Team in order to formulate how the team should function within our new organizational structure.

We have started to establish goals, mostly to assure smoother planning for our service(s), namely, to know who the liturgist and greeter volunteers are far enough ahead for easier planning.

So far our team is comprised of Elaine Mitchell, Karen Banaszewski, Pastor Gold, Bruce Fiedler (representing the music team) and me. If you are interested in joining our team please contact me.
Ron Bonnevier, Chairperson

Ushers: We have a schedule for the year posted. I am working with the confirmation class to help with acolytes and communion.

Jerry Biscoe, Head Usher

Music Ministries

Team Leader: Bruce Fiedler

Members: Amy Jo Corson, Elaine Mitchell, Patti Most, Rev. Desiree Gold, Tom Pechacek, Gary Afdahl

Team Activities for the Year: The Music Ministry Team has done an outstanding job of supporting the music programming of CGUCC. We have spent a lot of time reviewing and talking about the music and worship needs of the congregation, and how to make the music fit within the worship experience.

A challenge that we met this year was to find a new music director. After much searching, Gary Afdahl was hired in March. Gary has provided wonderful music through his piano and organ playing and leads the Chancel Choir. The Chancel Choir continues to learn together, and make beautiful music for the congregation in worship. JCRock provides both heart-felt and professional contemporary music.

As the new year approaches, we will always be tweaking with the Music Ministry to continue to provide outstanding quality music at CGUCC.

Altar Committee

Team Leader: Jan Huber

I took over as chairperson in February 2009 for Jean Gausman, former chairperson. Thank you, Jean, for many dedicated years of service. I also thank the following people for helping take a month, making sure the altar looks nice. Each person brings their own creativeness and uniqueness and it shows each Sunday each month.

Jean Gausman, Judy Bonnevier, Donna Perkins, Midge Youngquist, Susan Berndt, Bev Gross, Roxanne White, Karen Fritze, Claudia Weisskirk, Joyce Fries, and Doreen Barta.

Nurture/Education

Education Ministries

Sunday School Directors: Debra Hanson, Brenda Herrmann, Bobbi Jo Janicek

So far Sunday School has had a great year. Thanks so much to our teachers and other volunteers for helping to make this happen!

Last spring we had a great picnic after giving out the participation awards. During the summer we had a great Vacation Bible program that the kids loved. We had Rally Day this fall, then we started right up with a "Peacemakers" theme and presented songs and a Bible verse during the worship service. At present we are preparing for our Christmas pageant. We will be having a fun practice day on Saturday, December 19. Currently, we started a contest in Sunday School for donations to the Food Shelf. The Sunday School child who brings the most canned goods and/or donations will be presented with a prize. After the first of the year we will start the next rotation, "Christmas Messengers," for approximately six weeks, then we will sing in church and recite a Bible verse. We will start the next rotation, "Symbols of Holy Week," for the next six weeks. We will sing in church for Palm Sunday. We will sing and recite the Bible verse from the last rotation for the awards/participation Sunday picnic this spring.

Debra Hanson
Education Ministries

Youth Ministries

Team Leader: Bruce Fiedler

Youth ministry at Cottage Grove U.C.C. has undergone a transition over the past year. Without a full-time staff person leading the program, more responsibility for leadership has been passed to the Y.A.H.O.O. youth and adults to continue the challenging, exciting, and spiritually nurturing ministry that is now in its sixth year at CGUCC.

Fun activities such as lock-ins, bowling, concerts, and movie nights gave the youth a chance to bond and build relationships with one another. Taking part in mission-oriented events such as the CROP Walk, Feed My Starving Children, A Night on the Street gave youth the opportunity to deepen their commitment to serving and ministering to others outside their local church.

The youth have played an integral role in the success of many ministries of the church this year including the County Fair Corn Booth, Farmers' Market, Sunday School, and Turkey Dinner. The youth have also been active in leading and participating in worship.

The Y.A.H.O.O. youth have continued to stay connected with the larger church through their participation in Minnesota Conference Youth Events. In February Ali Manning, Marissa Bonngard and Ashley Longmuir attended the event at United Theological Seminary, and in October Shauna Meyer, Shayla Wirkus and Mike Jefferies attended the Fall event at Pilgrim Point Camp.

The Youth Ministry Team will continue to focus on expanding the ministry context of our youth in 2010 through a possible trip to Regional Youth Event in Kansas City, KS in July and a possible mission trip in June or August.

The Youth Ministries Team would like to thank all of the members of Cottage Grove UCC for their support of the Y.A.H.O.O. youth ministry program. Your participation in our work, worship, and fundraising activities demonstrates your dedication to helping our youth grow in their faith and commitment to Christ. Thanks again for your nurture and support.

Nursery

We have one nursery coordinator and two nursery workers at this time; Jessica Carr and Kristine Heuer are our workers. They work every other Sunday, and if one or the other is not available, the coordinator steps in and takes on the responsibility of being there for that Sunday. There are several things the little ones can do during their time in the nursery such as coloring pages, reading available books, and playing with a variety of toys. The Women's Fellowship is buying another table and chair set to be put in the nursery along with the one already in there; the existing one is really small and is not enough room sometimes. There is an average of 3 to 6 children present in the nursery on any given Sunday.

Nursery Coordinator
Doreen Barta

Historian/Archivist

This year has been a busy one for me. I feel it is time for me to step down and turn my history duties over to someone else.

I have been interested in preserving the history of our two early churches here in old Cottage Grove (Congregational—organized in 1858, and St. Matthew's—organized in 1874). Previous pastors have sent statistical and early records to the Minnesota Historical Society, however I am interested in preserving our history at the Washington County Historical Society in Stillwater as well. I called them and asked if they had any information on our two original churches in their files. They advised me that they did not have anything. With the approval of the Church Council, I took them early photos and records and they are now a part of early Washington County history.

I have placed photo and history albums in our library for anyone who is interested in looking at them.

I have three people to thank for accepting the duties of maintaining our church history. Barb Larson will take care of the files; Karen Pribnow will take care of the panels and early church photo albums; and Gina Gross will keep up the album of new pictures and newspaper clippings.

I have enjoyed organizing and keeping up the history files and have fond memories from my youth when I lived in old Cottage Grove as many of our activities were centered around our church.

God Bless You All,
Emily Biscoe

Shepherd Ministries

The New Member Shepherding Ministry was formed in 2003. The ministry team offers an opportunity for individuals to share in nurturing new members as they enter our church family. Shepherds are matched with new members by the pastor and the coordinator. Since we started the ministry program we have matched up 32 new members with Shepherds.

Some of the responsibilities of a Shepherd are to include making contact at least once a month, inviting new members to participate in activities of the church and introducing new members to at least 10 members of CGUCC.

We had 2 new members join in February 2009 and 3 new members in May 2009. A letter was sent to these new members introducing them to their Shepherd. They include:

Adam Roberts and Jamie Vorlicky—Shepherd Barb Larson
Jason and Jessica Carr—Shepherds Bill and Traci Larsen
Désirée H. Gold—Shepherd Elaine Mitchell

The ministry team has room for many people interested in becoming Shepherds and helping new members feel welcome in our church family. The Shepherds who are on the team have done a great job shepherding and those new people have become involved with the activities of CGUCC.

Judy Bonnevier, Coordinator

Outreach/Mission

Communications/Marketing

The Communications Team is comprised of Pastor Gold, Sue Brown, Bill Larsen and Chris Miller, Team Leader. The Communications Team began its work in early September in preparation for the Turkey Dinner. We placed ads in the South Washington County Bulletin, Woodbury Bulletin and the Hastings Star Gazette. We also sent press releases to the Pioneer Press, Station KDWA in Hastings, the Free Press and the South Washington County Bulletin. We also arranged for the transition to the fall schedule with the South Washington and Woodbury Bulletins.

We sent a press release to the South Washington County Bulletin regarding the 150th Anniversary quilt dedication.

Outreach

This team did not hold any meetings during 2009.

1. Jerry and Ruby Stratton held a spring & fall road cleanup.
2. Joyce Biscoe, Jean Gausman and Elaine Mitchell took care of the coffee bar.
3. Jerry Biscoe set up two dates to help sort toys at Toys for Tots: December 10 and 17 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM

Chairperson Jerry Biscoe would like to pass the leadership of this team to someone else, while he stays on the team to help.

Farmers' Market

The 2009 season began on June 18 and ended on October 8. On October 1, we had a drawing for the afghan donated by Jean Bloomquist. Wally Fritze was the lucky person to win the afghan.

We continued our tradition of purchasing a water buffalo through Heifer International. This represents 10% of the money we received for stall rentals.

We were fortunate to have the services of a young man who is a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This young man, Luke Boyle, contacted us on the internet and offered to help us, and he really did help us. Luke was not a member of our congregation and we appreciated his help. Thank you, Luke.

During the 2009 season we had an average of 12 vendors per week. The season began slowly because of the weather conditions, but it picked up.

We lost a few members of our original team. Jerry Stratton will not return next season. Barb Meyer will organize and shop for the hot dog stand for the opening market, but will not continue through the season. And Becky Graff, our co-team leader, will not be working the market next year, and we will miss her.

The Farmers' Market Team donated \$7549 to the Capital Campaign in 2009. We had expenses of \$1,380.97. We voted to put aside \$850 for startup expenses for the 2010 Farmers' Market.

We are currently selling 2010 calendars, the profits of which will also go to the Capital Campaign.

We would like to recognize Bill and Orinne Dunbar for their help, and their grandchildren's help at the hot dog stand. Thank you Bill, Orinne, and your grandchildren.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Miller

Corn Booth

Team Leader: John Perkins

Members: All members of the church, friends, and sponsored Boy Scouts

The Corn Booth is at the Washington County Fair each summer. Profits exceeded \$8,000.00 which went into the general fund.

Turkey Dinner

Chair: Donna Perkins

The annual turkey dinner fund raiser was held on the third Sunday in September as in the past. Membership participation was good and much appreciated as always. All profits from the dinner went into the general fund.

Next year a new chair person will be needed.

Fellowship

The Fellowship Shared Ministry Team includes the following groups:

- Caring and Sharing
- Gratitude
- Hospitality
- Women's Fellowship

I check with the groups periodically to see if there are items they would like me to take to the Council meeting. I then follow through.

Judy Bonnevier, Chair

Women's Fellowship

DECEMBER 2008-NOVEMBER 2009

Women's Fellowship is based on the principle of giving back to God in appreciation for His blessings to us. We take on the tasks of rummage sale, bake sales, donating to the food shelf, caring for the shut-ins and providing various monetary funds for the needs of CGUCC. Chris Miller is president, Judy Bonnevier is secretary, Marilyn Heschke is treasurer, and Carole Weitzel Biscoe is the funeral coordinator for food. We meet on the third Thursday of the month on a flexible schedule.

December 2008: Christmas goodie bake sale. Funds to be distributed as follows: 25% to Women's Shelter in St. Paul Park and 75% to the Capital Campaign. Other funds this month: \$100.00 to the food shelf and \$100.00 to Stone Soup. We did a sock and mitten tree and hosted a Christmas party for the women of the church.

February 2009: Activity bags for the children were replenished. Purchased a new coffee pot for the coffee bar. Sue Weiby is working on a 150th anniversary quilt.

April 2009: Trash to Treasure sale held for 2 days; it was chaired by Sheri Wohlers and Mary Smythe. Proceeds went to purchasing banquet tables and chairs, window blinds for the Fellowship Hall, and local charities.

May 2009: Window blinds and a stand-alone mirror for brides were purchased and installed. Funds from the cleaning supply raffle went to the decorating committee.

August 2009: Country Market took place at the turkey dinner in September. Another chafing dish was purchased.

November 2009: Harvest Festival pot luck chaired by Elaine Mitchell.

Besides providing funds for the many projects and finding the women and men power for many events, the group of women is an intergenerational group with diverse backgrounds. We accept one another as unique creations of God, and are thankful God has given us the opportunity to know and enjoy one another regardless of age. We agree to disagree and learn from one another and we do have fun!

Judy Bonnevier, Secretary

Women's Fellowship Treasurer's Report December 1, 2008—December 6, 2009

Income from December 2, 2008—December 6, 2009	\$6,434.23
Expenses from December 2, 2008—December 6, 2009	\$7,165.65

Income from December 2, 2008—December 6, 2009

12-02-08	Charles Eberspacher	\$50.00
12-11-08	Christmas Party	520.00
12-14-08	bake sale	185.65
03-08-09	Ron Fries Funeral	60.00
04-24-09	Trash to Treasure Sale	2,915.21
04-25-09	Trash to Treasure Sale	1,384.94
04-26-09	Trash to Treasure Sale	87.50
05-03-09	Trash to Treasure Sale	21.00
	Trash to Treasure Grand Total	4,408.65
05-10-09	Mary Smythe (part of raffle)	95.00
05-27-09	Bob Fox Funeral	100.00
07-25-09	Jean Gausman's brother	100.00
08-01-09	Jean Gausman (Russ Gausman's funeral)	150.00
	Bruce Fiedler CGUCC for Sam's reimbursed for corn booth supplies	618.68
09-20-09	craft sale at Turkey Dinner	146.25
	TOTAL OF INCOME	\$6,434.23

Expenses December 1, 2008—December 6, 2009

12-01-08	Friends in Need Food Shelf	100.00
12-01-08	Stone Soup	100.00
12-06-08	Doris Fiedler - supplies for Marg Eberspacher's funeral	61.56
12-08-08	Becky Graff—Christmas	50.00
12-08-08	Sheri Wohlers—Christmas	50.00
12-08-08	Rev. Bryan and Emily Olson—Christmas	100.00
12-11-08	Emily Olson—catered Christmas party	1,081.00
12-16-08	Upper Room Jan & Feb	20.00
12-16-08	Capital Campaign—75% of bake sale	139.00
12-16-08	Tubman and Chrysalis—25% of bake sale	46.00
12-29-08	Laurel's Floral (Chris Miller)	45.00
02-14-09	Upper Room Mar & Apr	20.00
03-07-09	Carole Weitzel Biscoe—Ron Fries Funeral	25.55
03-08-09	Elaine Mitchell—coffee pot	76.52
03-21-09	Home Building Services—Ken Huber (front of sink)	170.00
04-20-09	Lake Elmo Bank—Trash to Treasure Sale start up cash for 2 days sale	1,850.00
04-21-09	Upper Room May & June	20.00
04-26-09	Sue Weiby—supplies—lunch & T-T sale	26.22
04-26-09	Doreen Barta—mirror with stand	245.24
05-10-09	Donna Perkins—decorating	95.00
05-19-09	Mary Smythe—advertising	38.20
05-26-09	Sam's Club—renew membership	35.00
05-26-09	The Free Press—T-T advertising	10.00
06-10-09	Whispering Gardens—plant by church steps	50.00
06-08-09	service charge for a T-T check redeposited	4.00
06-11-09	Sam's Club—paper products	68.48
06-12-09	Upper Room July & August	23.80
06-22-09	Jill Richter—blinds in fellowship room & library	521.35
07-23-09	Sam's Club—supplies for corn booth to be reimbursed by Bruce CGUCC	618.68
08-17-09	Elaine Mitchell (Christopherson family)	200.00

09-16-09	Lake Elmo Bank—start up money for crafts at Turkey Dinner	200.00
09-17-09	Sam's Club—chafing dish	39.57
10-09-09	Sam's Club—paper products	57.98
10-18-09	Elaine Mitchell—Fall Festival supplies	30.00
10-19-09	Upper Room Nov & Dec	23.80
11-19-09	Judy Bonnevier—yarn supplies for hats, mittens, etc. for those who need them	300.00
11-19-09	Lisa Wohlers—mission trip	100.00
11-19-09	Sheri Wohlers—bottoms for tables	80.00
12-01-09	Friends in Need Food Shelf	300.00
12-06-09	Donna Perkins—2 poinsettias	119.90
	TOTAL OF EXPENSES	\$7,165.65

A blessed Christmas to all,
Marilyn Heschke, Treasure, Women's Fellowship

Gratitude Group

Members: Doreen Barta, Carole Weitzel Biscoe, GeorgAnn Biscoe, Judy Bonnevier, Diane Davies, Doris Fiedler, Becky Graff, Marilyn Heschke, Ruby Stratton

Mission: 1. Focus on gratitude through study and prayer
 2. Community outreach

We meet the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 10:00 a.m. Our focus of study is the Daily Guideposts 2009, and other materials. The Taste of Gratitude Cookbook sales are our major fund raising that supports our community outreach activities. These outreach projects include our prayer shawl ministry, adoption of a family for Christmas gifts, cash donations and providing the Kid's Korner during the summer months of the Farmers' Market.

We welcome new members to join our group.

Diane Davies, Leader

Caring & Sharing

We are sending cards to the sick and shut-ins and other occasions like Christmas, Easter, spring, and Thanksgiving. We also make cards and give gifts to the Sunday School children and teachers at Christmas time.

We also get together to go out and eat sometimes.

We hope we can spread a little cheer to everyone and let them know we (the church) are thinking about them.

God Bless
Bette Meyer, Chairperson

Hospitality

The Hospitality Group at CGUCC exists to encourage Christian fellowship among our parishioners. We seek to provide an atmosphere of warmth and cheer to all who enter our Gathering Room. Our official committee includes Elaine Mitchell-Chairperson, Jean Gausman, Joyce Biscoe, Claudia Weisskirk, and Roxanne White. We look upon our mission as our ministry to the church.

In addition to our core group, many others participate. In the summer months of June, July and August, Judy and Ron Bonnevier have Sundaes Sunday on the 3rd Sunday. They take up a free-will offering and the proceeds go to Friends in Need Food Shelf. We have goodies donated by many people in our congregation, including birthday and baptismal cakes, homemade cookies, and treats and paper supplies.

I always come early to make coffee on Sunday morning as many people come early to visit before the service. We usually go through 54 cups of coffee and a gallon of juice on any given Sunday. We know which of our "flock" likes decaf and which like high test. It gives us an opportunity to say "Hi" to everyone who comes through our line.

It has been a great year for us, and we look forward to 2010 and some new surprises.

Elaine Mitchell, Chairperson

Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

December 14, 2008; 11:30 AM

Call to order by Gary Thyren. A count was made to make sure that we had a quorum of the congregation to vote.

Bruce Fiedler provided the members with the Agenda, 2008 Financial Statement as well as the 2009 Proposed Budget.

Rev. Bryan Olson led us in prayer.

Pastor Comments:

Rev. Bryan thanked the church community for allowing him to serve our congregation. He asked the members to have faith in the search committee to find his replacement. Our church has been reaching out more to our community through the Farmer's Market. Please consider this outreach ministry as we vote on the 2009 budget as it is needed.

Last Year's Minutes

Gary Thyren asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to the minutes. No questions, additions, corrections or deletions to last year's minutes by the congregation. Midge Youngquist made a motion to accept as written. Elaine Mitchell 2nd the motion and the congregation passed it.

By-Law Change

There were 2 minor changes to the by-laws that Gary proposed as changes.
Change the name from Finance Committee to Administration and Facilities Committee.

Change the name from Property and Maintenance to Fellowship Ministry.

A motion was made to accept the name changes to the Executive Board Structure by Wes Hillman and 2nd by Doreen Barta. Congregation passed.

Pastoral Search Team Report by Bruce Fiedler

- May congregation approved Church Profile

- Profile submitted to the conference. Search committee has reviewed over 60 minister profiles. They started reviewing 10 at a time and found that many of the candidates were called to another church. Currently there are 120 congregations looking for ministers. One third of the churches in Minnesota are in transition.
- Currently they have 3 good candidates they are interviewing. With the holidays, it is more difficult to schedule time to complete. They hope to have a decision within the next month. There may be a possibility that we may be without a minister for a period of time.
- A member asked for an update on Rev. Bryan's search. Bryan and Emily were leaving today for an interview in Illinois. They think he is also considering another offer. Rev Bryan will give the church 60 days notice so the Search team is looking at a possible vacancy by March 1st.

Financial Report by Bruce Fiedler

Bruce highlighted the 2008 financial statement. The church is in the black at this time in the amount of \$18,821.42 as out lined in his report. The main reason for the 2009 budget cost increase is due to the cost of hiring a new minister. Currently Medical Insurance cost is an unknown cost. In the past we reimbursed the minister for the cost paid by their spouse. The new minister can either use the UCC program or the reimbursement option. We are also required to pay 14% of their income to a Pension Fund. This year the church received 40 Pledge Cards versus 50 in 2008. Some members could not pledge. Therefore, there is a decrease in the income.

A motion was made by Wes Hillman to approve the 2008 Financials as well as the 2009 Budget. John Greenwell 2nd. No additional discussion. Congregation passed.

Capital Campaign update by John Perkins

John did a summary of the decision to remodel the church 4 years ago. A pledge drive was completed and we raised \$480,000 to be paid over 3 years. The church took out a loan for \$1.2 million. 6 months ago we had another campaign and received pledges of \$237,000 over the next 3 years. The payments are around \$252,000. Our loan was extended in July for another 3 years at 6.9% on a principal balance of \$850,000. If everyone could increase their pledge by another 10% we could pay off \$200,000 and cut 5 years off the loan. If they gave 20% more it would increase it to \$300,000 and cut 8 years off the loan. John suggests that people remember the church in their will.

Nomination Committee by Ron Bonnevier

John Greenwell has been nominated to be the President elect and Karen Pribnow has agreed to be the secretary for another year. Other nominations were requested from the floor. No other nominations presented. The chairs from each of the Shared Ministry teams have agreed to chair their committee another year. Joan Thyren made the motion to accept the nominations as read and Ruby Stratton 2nd. Congregation passed.

Elaine Mitchell made the motion to elect in to office John and Karen. Marilyn Heschke 2nd the motion. Congregation passed.

Ron Bonnevier and Bruce Fiedler were recognized for all the hard work that they have done for the church over the past year. We are all grateful for their commitment.

Gary Thyren led us in the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Karen Pribnow

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

7008 Lamar Avenue South

Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397

Phone: 651-459-1501

Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

Web site: www.cgucc.org



ANNUAL REPORT

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ

7008 Lamar Avenue South

Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397

Phone: 651-459-1501

www.cgucc.org

cgucc@usfamily.net

Rev. Désirée H. Gold, Pastor

Gary Afdahl, Director of Music

Becky Graff, Administrative Assistant

Brian Wilkinson, Congregation President

Wes Hillman, Gifts Coordinator

We Are Family!

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you'll find a home here!