



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
April 15, 2010



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:

- Trash to Treasure Sale..... 1**
- Offering of Gold..... 2**
- Upcoming Events 3**
- Outreach Ministry Teams .. 4**
- Member Helping Member... 5**
- Maintain Your Brain 6**
- Stewards of Creation 7**
- New Members 8**

**Cottage Grove
United Church of Christ**
7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397
Tel: 651-459-1501
Email: cgucc@usfamily.net
Web: www.cgucc.org

Trash to Treasure Sale, Lunch & Bake Sale "One Person's Trash is Another's Treasure"

Friday, April 16 9:00 – 8:00 & Saturday, April 17 9:00 – 2:00
Saturday is "BAG DAY"... all you can fit into a large grocery bag for \$4.00.

It's almost here; your treasures await you! Come and shop at the Trash to Treasure sale this Friday and Saturday. You'll find all kinds of household items, clothing for all, toys, books, men's stuff, linens, shoes, purses, jewelry, new and next-to-new items, electronics, collectibles, and one of a kind treasures.

How about taking your family out to dinner Friday night for some of Elaine Mitchell's famous home-cooked chicken noodle soup, or Sue Weiby's delicious, hearty potato soup? How about a savory Sloppy Joe or an all-American hot dog and some pie a la mode for dessert? Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be available throughout the two days of the sale.

Don't forget the Bake Sale where you can bring home some fresh baked goodies. CGUCC church ladies (and men) are the best bakers! Baked goods can be dropped off Friday 8am-8:45am, or Saturday 8am-9am.



©AGC, Inc.

All other donations should have been dropped off by Wednesday, 4/14. No donations will be accepted after that.

If you would like to help out during the sale we could still use your help Friday afternoon and evening, Saturday during the sale, and at 2:00 Saturday to box up unsold items and haul to Stone Soup Thrift Shop. If you could spare a couple hours, we'd love to have you. Contact Sheri Wohlers (651)324-8830, (651)731-2717, or sherileewohlers@gmail.com

Many thanks to all of you for your donations and your time, and special thanks to Sheri's dear friend Mary Smythe for co-chairing the Trash to Treasure Sale again this year.

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!

Nita Bertram; Isabel Board and family on Bill's death; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Don Hanson; Ruby Hanson; Huber family on Brad's call back to Iraq; Arlean Kropelnicki; Chris Miller; Joann Nelson; Richard Piel; Jamie, Adam, and Alexander Roberts; Pam Schmuki.

Becky (Pam & Rick Dahlstrom's daughter); Jim Boucher (coworker of Traci Larsen); Leo and Alma Buechler (son David died suddenly); Abi and Tracy Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friends); Danny (Tom Pechacek's coworker's son); Elsie Freelove (Lynn Ronn's mother); Jim Gregory; Donna Johnson (Gary Afdahl's mother-in-law); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn Heschke's daughter); Natalie Labelle (Joyce Biscoe's 2-year-old friend); Richard Lara (in prison); family and friends of Violet Long; Mike (Midge Youngquist's brother); Luke Patnode (son of Hunter Hakkila's teacher); Patty Robens; Gene Sauve (Ron Bonnevier's friend); Emilie Stordalen (Pastor Gold's cousin); Paul White (Roxanne's husband); Andrew Witherspoon; Midge Youngquist's grandmother and mother; students and staff at Hastings Middle School.

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée
H. Gold



In recent weeks two rare acts of violence have shaken our communities. On March 31 a young man was shot by police in Cottage Grove during a traffic stop gone bad. And on April 5 a teenager brought a gun to Hastings Middle School and terrorized students and staff. Such violence is thankfully rare in our small town lives, and we have understandably responded with shock and horror. We want to know who, what,

when, where, why, and how...and how we can stop such incidents...before anyone knows details or has answers.

I get much of my news from the Internet, and I occasionally read the comments that readers post to news stories. After the police-involved shooting in Cottage Grove, reader comments on the *Pioneer Press* web site ran the gamut, but most of them advocated violence of some sort: toward the man who was already shot, his wife, who was in the car with him, or, in some cases, toward the police officer who shot him. The comments regarding the wife were the most disturbing to me. Yes, she and her husband were allegedly involved in counterfeiting and drug crimes. True, if she is guilty of the crimes she has been accused of committing, she is probably not an exemplary mother to her young child. But none of those things make her "deserving" of violence. This is a woman whose husband was shot just a few feet away from her. She was undoubtedly spattered with his blood. Regardless of whether or not the shooting was justified, this woman is grieving. Regardless of anything she has or has not done in her life, she is a human being, and therefore deserving of compassion. If she is guilty, she may be deserving of a prison sentence, and her child may be removed from her care, but that does not make her undeserving of compassion.

As for the police officer involved in the shooting? I was not there, so I cannot know his motives (something we too often try to figure out without knowing the details), but the story indicates that he shot the driver in an act of self-defense. True, police officers sometimes abuse their powers (an accusation that was made in reader comments), but there is no indication that was true here. Police officers also risk their lives daily for the safety of the public. Regardless of the situation, this police officer is not deserving of violence. He shot and killed a man, undoubtedly a traumatic experience for him. He is deserving of our compassion.

The Hastings Middle School student who terrorized his classmates and school staff also received scathing Internet comments on the *Pioneer Press* web site. The recent history of school shootings in our country has made this incident particularly touchy. Very serious bullying cases have been in the news lately too. In the hours and days after the event took place, Internet commentators wished violence on this young man, on his family, on those who allegedly bullied him. When the *Press* printed the name of the alleged suspect, some people responded with concern, since he is a juvenile, while others said that the young man deserved whatever he got. Again, *no one* in this situation deserves violence. The terrified people at whom this young man pointed his gun did not deserve the trauma he inflicted or the violence he could have unleashed, even if they had bullied him. (Bullies need serious punishment but not violence. – I say this as the long-ago victim of serious bullying.) This young man's parents, foster parents, and other family members are not deserving of violence, regardless of their parenting or possible lack thereof. And the young man who held the gun is not deserving of violence.

(continued at top of next page)

(continued from previous page)

Violence is the easy way out in these cases. People will quote scripture: "An eye for an eye." But that scripture is overused and misused. "An eye for an eye" means that if someone takes your eye, you take theirs. You do not take their other eye, their arm, their leg, their life. You do not use violence as a deterrent or as revenge. In the words of Gandhi, "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind." In the words of Jesus, "Turn the other cheek," forgive "not seven times but seventy-seven times."

It is easy to judge people, whether we were involved in the incident or whether we simply heard about it on the news. However, we very rarely know enough details to make any sort of judgment of our own. If we were there, we can say, "I was absolutely terrified. I was angry. I was sad." If we heard a news story, we can say, "I can only imagine how terrifying and horrible that situation was." But we *cannot* get inside the heads of the people involved, except, perhaps to say, "Those people are deeply troubled."

As Christians we are called to respond not with violence but with prayer. We are called to pray for everyone involved, including those who have been accused and may be convicted of serious crimes. (We are called not to pray for their demise but for forgiveness, rehabilitation, and redemption.) We are called to pray for their families, who will face many difficult days ahead. We are called to pray for all victims and witnesses of the crimes, including emergency responders. While all are grateful that the gun was not fired in the middle school incident, it may take those who experienced the event a very long time to get over the emotional trauma.

I am hopeful that the good people I know at our church would not respond with the kind of vitriol I saw online. Anger, fear, and sadness, yes, but not the kind of hatred I saw in those online comments. Even if your initial knee-jerk reaction was one of hatred toward the alleged suspects in these incidents, I hope that you will turn that hatred into prayer. Jesus calls us not to revengeful violence but to forgiveness and love, through prayer.

May our communities find healing in the aftermath of these recent tragedies, and may our world someday find peace.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class will be held on Saturday, April 24, at 9:30 a.m. Please let Pastor Gold know if you will be unable to attend class.



Confirmation Sunday

Mark May 2 on your calendar, and plan to attend worship that day to participate in the rite of confirmation. Four of our students, Mike Jeffrey, Shauna Meyer, Michael Weiby, and Shayla Wirkus will be confirmed.



Honoring Graduates

If you or a member of your family is graduating from either high school or college this spring, please either call, email, or drop a note to Becky in the office. We would like to honor all our graduates in June.



Cross Connection

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

Published on the 1st and 15th
of every month

Deadlines are the 10th and 25th
of every month

Edited by Becky Graff

**Back issues available on our
Church web site at
www.cgucc.org**

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

Becky Graff, Editor

Contact Us

**Cottage Grove United
Church of Christ**

7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove MN 55016
(651)459-1501 www.cgucc.org

Rev. Désirée H. Gold, Pastor
pastorgold@inbox.com

Gary Afdahl, Director of Music

Becky Graff,
Administrative Assistant
cgucc@usfamily.net

**Deb Hanson, Brenda
Herrmann, BobbiJo Janicek**,
Sunday School Team

Sheri Wohlers, Custodian
sherileewohlers@msn.com

John Greenwell,
Church President

Outreach/Mission Board of Shared Ministry Groups

Each group would welcome new members at any time to share in the joy of ministry. Three of these groups are looking for a chairperson. Please contact Krisi Jacobs, Midge Youngquist, or Pastor Gold if you are interested in chairing one or more of these three groups.

Corn Booth (John Perkins)

An annual church-wide fundraising booth held at the Washington County Fair each August. Sweet corn and lemonade is sold in the concession area of the fair grounds.

Meets: as needed surrounding the Washington County Fair

Group Responsibilities:

- Register the church with the Fair Board to have a booth at the annual Washington Country Fair
- Obtain the proper insurance rider to cover the corn booth
- Obtain all materials and supplies to operate the corn booth
- Assemble and disassemble the booth at the fair grounds
- Schedule workers to cover all shifts during the fair

Turkey Dinner Team (chairperson needed for 2010)

An annual church-wide fundraising event held in September. The three-day weekend consists of activities to prepare for and carry out the serving of a full turkey dinner and then clean up afterwards.

Meets: as needed surrounding the actual Turkey Dinner event

Group Responsibilities:

- Implement advertising for the dinner (Marketing Team)
- Buy items needed for the dinner
- Update and place advertisement signs
- Call church members for donations and volunteering
- Organize set up and clean up
- Organize and operate the take-out order room
- Organize and operate the pie, bun, cranberry, cabbage, and turkey carving room
- Organize and sell dinner tickets

Marketing Team (Chris Miller)

Mission: to build and maintain an effective communication system within the church and community.

Meets: First Monday of each month

Group Responsibilities:

- Implement all advertising for the church
- Evaluate all current print communications within the church
- Oversee maintenance of the web communications system
- Submit up-to-date happenings from our church to be published in the South Washington County Bulletin, the St. Paul Pioneer Press, and other media

Farmers' Market Team (Chris Miller)

Mission: to operate a farmers' market in the church parking lot each year from June through October.

Meets: Every 3 months over the winter, monthly in spring when preparing to open market, as needed during market season (next meeting scheduled for April 22)

Group Responsibilities:

- Plan for and conduct a farmers' market in the church parking lot, every Thursday afternoon from 3:30-6:30 p.m. from mid-June through early October
- Seek and contract with vendors to sell their goods at the market
- Advertise the market throughout the area
- Enforce regulations by the State of Minnesota governing farmers' markets
- Operate a hot dog stand during market hours
- Stock and sell baked goods at the weekly bake sale during market hours
- Facilitate the Kids' Korner at each summer market, where the Gratitude Group has free crafts and activities for children
- Tithe at least 10% of proceeds from vendor fees to go to a livestock purchase through Heifer Project International
- Use proceeds from the market to help pay down the church mortgage

(continued at top of next page)

(continued from previous page)

Outreach Team (Elaine Mitchell – temporary chair)

Mission: to support the church in outreach programs

Meets: once every three to four months or as needed

Group Responsibilities:

- Organize the Sunday School All Church Picnic with the help of the Sunday school superintendent(s) and teachers
- Organize and conduct the bi-annual road clean up in the spring and fall
- Create, organize, and participate in the church float for the Strawberry Festival parade in Cottage Grove in June
- Organize Sundae Sundays during the summer months
- Participate in the *Toys for Tots* campaign at Christmas time

Evangelism Team (chairperson needed)

Mission: to work closely with other ministry teams within the congregation to fulfill the mission of proclaiming the good news of Christ in the world and promoting the ministries of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ in our local community.

Meets: to be determined by chair

Group Responsibilities:

- To create opportunities for members to minister to others outside of our community of faith, such as Feed My Starving Children

UTS Class at CGUCC

United Theological Seminary is holding a class, *Wrestling with the Problem of Evil and Suffering*, at CGUCC this spring. The class meets in the Fellowship Lounge on Tuesdays from April 13 - May 11 from 7:00-9:00 PM.



Agape: God's Love for Us ALL

The UCC Regional Youth Event with the theme "Agape: God's Love for Us ALL" will be held in Kansas City, Missouri on July 14-18, 2010. This will be a time for youth across our region to gather, share in our faith stories, and have a lot of fun! Please contact Bruce Fiedler ASAP for registration information.



JBPerkins Architect

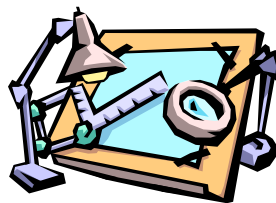
Jerry Brad Perkins, AIA

Commercial, Retail, Medical, Restaurant.
32 years professional experience.

Current projects:

- Blondie's Tavern, Farmington, Mn.
- Carbone's Restaurant, Woodbury, Mn.
- Minnesota Historical Society, Data Center, St. Paul, Mn.
- Health Source Chiropractic, Hugo, Mn.
- USA Karate, Oak Park Heights, Mn.

7621 Neal Avenue South, Hastings, Minnesota 55033
Direct 651.436.6966 Email jbperk@usfamily.net



**Member Helping
Member Directory**

The listings below offer you the opportunity to call a church member when you are looking for a business? Give them a try.

Karen Fritze, Cake Cottage, cakes for weddings or special occasions, (651) 459-4460, www.cakestands.com

Ken Huber, Home Building Services Inc., architectural design, plans for new homes, additions, remodeling, kitchens and bathrooms, (651)459-7545, homebuildings@aol.com

Bill Larsen, Larsen Films, video production of events, photo montages, and other video services, (651) 270-2730, www.larsenfilms.com

Jerry Perkins, JBPerkins Architect, architectural services for commercial, retail, medical, and restaurant buildings, (651)436-6966, jbperk@usfamily.net

Ramona Westerberg, The Healing Place, massage for facilitating health naturally, pain management, and pain relief, (651) 206-7141, or www.thehealingplacecg.com

Wayne Westerberg, Four Seasons Outdoor Services, tree removal, stump removal, trimming, snow removal and lawn maintenance, (651) 768-0833



If you would like to list your business, please call Becky in the church office, (651) 459-1501.



April

- 1 - Troy Longtine
Lucy Spicer
- 4 - Lyle Biscoe
Wayne Westerberg
- 5 - Sue Brown
- 6 - Norma Manke
- 8 - Jerry Perkins
Mitchell Ries
- 9 - Crystal Kruse
- 10 - Darrel Johnston
Ryan Long
Jamie Roberts
Bonnie Utsch
- 11 - Gina Gross
- 14 - Todd Christianson
Bill Dunbar
Ellie Longtine
Candy Meyer
Michael Weiby
- 17 - Dick Spicer
- 18 - Jeff Jacobs
Robert Radke
- 21 - Jeffrey Warner
- 25 - Beth Davies
Ashton McCoy
Kacie Perkins
- 26 - Scott Weisskirk
- 27 - Sara Larson
- 28 - Jane Hayden-Hart
Brenda Herrmann
- 29 - Judy Bonnevier
Alexander Marty
Rachel Schmidt



Maintain Your Brain: Brainhealthy Lifestyles

Scientific evidence shows us how to improve the way our brains work to potentially decrease the risk of Alzheimer's.



Participants will learn:

- how the brain works and changes with age
- how the heart and brain are connected
- how social connections & emotional health affect your brain

Presenter: Ashley Brooks-Danso, MSW, Family and Community Education Manager, Alzheimer's Association Minnesota-North Dakota

Monday, April 26, 2010 @ 6:30 pm

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2125 Tower Dr., Woodbury MN 55125

This event is free and open to the public.

Certificates of Attendance will be available.

Sponsored by The Faith-Based Health & Wellness Network

Childcare at the 2010 UCC Annual Meeting

The MN Conference UCC is looking for two people, 18 or older, to work in the nursery at the Annual Meeting June 11-13. It will pay \$150/person, and room and board are included. Prior child care training is a big plus. Contact Wade (wadez@uccmn.org or 612-230-3368) for more information!



UCC to Install General Minister and President

*Written by Gregg Brekke
March 30, 2010*

All are invited to attend the installation of the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black as the United Church of Christ's seventh general minister and president.

The installation service will be held from 2:00-3:30pm on Saturday, April 17, 2010, at Federated UCC, 76 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls, OH 4402276 Bell Street, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022.

Elected by the 2009 General Synod 27 in Grand Rapids, Mich., Black, a former national church staffer and New York Conference Minister, succeeds the Rev. John H. Thomas as general minister and president. He is the seventh head of the UCC and the second African-American elected to the position in the denomination's 53-year history.

A massed choir is being assembled to sing at the installation service. Those interested in participating in this choir are instructed to contact Rev. Scott A. Ressler.

A reception will follow the service where attendees will be able to meet Rev. Black and his family. Updated information is available at Federated UCC's website www.fedchurch.org.



Dear Friends at CGUCC

All of us will find ourselves too weak and frail to cope with the loss of a loved one. How supportive you have been in the loss of our son David. Thank you, and we have been comforted by your words.



Rev. Leo and Alma Buechler

Thanks!

Many thanks go to Greg Bonngard for the hours he spent painting the north stairway of our church. It's a beautiful job. Go check it out.



Bev Gross

We Are Stewards of Creation

On April 10, Confirmation class was combined with our semi-annual Road Clean-Up. We had a short class session before going outside, and since the Road Clean-Up fell two weeks before Earth Day (April 22), we focused our class time on caring for God's Creation. The students, mentors, and I came up with ideas for things that our church can do to better care for God's earth. Here are the ideas we came up with.



1. Road clean-up
2. Visible recycling bins everywhere; continue collecting aluminum cans
3. Turn off lights when leaving the room; install motion sensor lights
4. Carpool to church
5. Reduce paper use (smaller bulletin size, etc.)
6. Turn heat/air conditioning down/up when leaving
7. Recycle paper (even more than we already do)
8. Use fewer paper and styrofoam cups and plates
9. Draw the shades when it's warm and raise them when it's cool
10. Use alternative energy
11. Use compact fluorescent light bulbs (in places where we currently use incandescent)
12. Use leftover coffee grounds for compost around the church

Many of these are ideas that we can implement right now. Can you think of other ways our church can be a better steward of Creation? If you have ideas, let Pastor Gold know.

A Night on the Street

On Friday April 16th, four youth (Ali Manning, Jon Balagot, Shauna Meyer, and Shayla Wirkus) representing Cottage Grove UCC will be spending a Night on the Street in downtown Minneapolis to raise awareness about the problems of homelessness in Minnesota, and to raise money for homeless people and families in our community. Our Y.A.H.O.O.s, along with 400 youth from more than 30 congregations, will sleep overnight in cardboard boxes in the parking lot of Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Minneapolis. Please keep them in your prayers as they participate in this powerful learning experience.



The youth will spend the evening learning about issues specifically related to teen homelessness and how they can work as advocates to help make sure all people have access to affordable housing. This year we will be taking along donations to support the Groveland Food Shelf and building Food Shelf Mountain. If you would like to make a donation for this cause please see one of the youth who are participating, or Bruce Fiedler at (651) 238-4644.

Thanks to All

A big thank you to all who sent cards, made calls, brought food, and most importantly prayed for me. It helped with the healing and reconfirmed to me how much my church family means to me. You are all a huge blessing. Thank you so much – I really do love my church family.



Love, Marilyn Heschke

Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, April 18

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

Sunday, April 25

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

Sunday, May 2

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

Sunday, May 9

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

Participating in Worship in April

Head Usher—Ken Huber
Altar Team—Midge Youngquist
Liturgist—Wes Hillman
Communion Preparation—Jan and Ken Huber

Participating in Worship in May

Head Usher—Bob Janicek
Altar Team—Susan Berndt
Liturgist—Ron Bonnevier
Communion Preparation—Bob and Bobbi Jo Janicek

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397
Phone: 651-459-1501
Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

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!



Welcome New Members

On April 11 we welcomed into membership these three couples:

Pam and Rick Dahlstrom who live in Cottage Grove. Pam works for the State of Minnesota. They love to go to their cabin on the Canadian border.



Barbara and Jim Gregory who live in Cottage Grove. They love spending time with their grandsons, Aidan and Dylan (and love bringing them to church!). Jim also enjoys racing.



Lynn and George Ronn who live in Cottage Grove. George works for SuperValu and Lynn is a homemaker. They enjoy participating in our worship services at CGUCC. Lynn loves horses, and George is into model railroading.

