



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
May 1, 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:

- Confirmation 1
- Offering of Gold..... 2
- Church Mortgage Report... 3
- Calendar 4
- Trash to Treasure Report .. 5
- Kids' Korner 6

**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

Confirmation Sunday May 2, 2010

During worship this Sunday, four of our students, Mike Jeffrey, Shauna Meyer, Michael Weiby, and Shayla Wirkus will receive the Rite of Confirmation.

You are invited to come and help welcome these young people into the full life of the church.



Confirmation

Awards Sunday May 23, 2010

Participation Awards Sunday will happen on May 23rd during the regular worship service. During that time we will recognize the Sunday School children for their attendance throughout the year, and also the teachers and superintendents for their faithful service to our children.



Recognition Sunday

Please plan to be with us as we celebrate the end of the Sunday School year, and the beginning of summer at church. Our summer schedule will begin the following Sunday, May 30, with Worship at 9:00 a.m.

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@usfamily.net



PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Nita Bertram; Joyce Biscoe; Lyle Biscoe; Isabel Board and family on Bill's death; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; John Greenwell; Jim Gregory; Don Hanson; Ruby Hanson; Huber family on Brad's call back to Iraq; Arlean Kropelnicki; Chris Miller; Joann Nelson; Lynn & George Ronn and family on the death of Lynn's mother, Elsie Freelove; Jamie, Adam, and Alexander Roberts; Mike Roberts; Pam Schmuki.

Becky (Pam & Rick Dahlstrom's daughter); Jim Boucher (coworker of Traci Larsen); Abi and Tracy Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friends); Danny (Tom Pechacek's coworker's son); 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); Mike (Midge Youngquist's brother); Luke Patnode (son of Hunter Hakila's teacher); family & friends of Richard Piel who died recently; Patty Robens; Gene Sauve (Ron Bonnevier's friend); Emilie Stordalen (Pastor Gold's cousin); new baby Marissa Mae and parents Mike & Chrystal, nephew and niece of Karen Rabe-Schmidt; Paul White (Roxanne's husband); Andrew Witherspoon; family of Deaken Wright, infant son of Doreen Barta's neighbor, who died recently; Midge Youngquist's grandmother and mother; the families & friends of all the young people who have died recently in car crashes, and those who have survived.

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée
H. Gold



This Sunday, May 2nd, four of our youth at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ will be Confirmed. What does the Rite of Confirmation mean? It means that these four young people have decided to *confirm* their baptisms, and by so doing to become adult members of the church. This is a tall order for Christians of any age, because as we know, church membership carries with it responsibilities for active participation in the

life of the church. During our final Confirmation class, the Confirmation students came up with a variety of ways they can be active after their Confirmations, and the list was quite long. CGUCC offers all sorts of ways to get involved.

Some of you may be reading this and thinking: "Eh, once these kids are Confirmed we'll never see them again." That is, indeed, a problem experienced by a great many churches, across denominations, and it's not really a recent phenomenon. Young people go to church as long as their parents *make* them go, but once they are given the decision to do something else on Sunday mornings, they come to church less and less frequently. Why do we "lose" young people after Confirmation? There can be many reasons, including busyness, a sense of freedom, or plain old lack of interest. But one of this year's Confirmands brought up another possible reason: Young people stop attending church because they are not asked to participate in activities. They feel left out and perhaps even unwanted.

In class I reminded the students that one of the responsibilities of adult church membership is to *offer* to get involved, even when they are not asked. If they see a need expressed in the *Cross Connection* or announced in church, it is partly up to them (and the rest of us) to volunteer, regardless of whether someone comes up to them and says, "Hey, _____, would you like to join this Ministry Team, or could you help with thus-and-such?" That said, church membership does go both ways, and these bright young people have a point. While it *is* up to them (and all adult church members) to volunteer to get involved, it is *also* up to us to invite participation from individuals who may not know how to ask how to get involved, or who may be shy about doing so. If you need new additions to a Ministry Team or Church Council, ask one of our recently Confirmed members. When we need help in worship, we should not forget to involve our young people.

Including our young people more actively in the life of our church will not guarantee their participation. They may still choose to spend their time in other ways. But it will guarantee that we have done the right thing and treated them as the able bodied people they are. I have had the opportunity to see how bright our Confirmation students are, and I would be delighted to see any and all of them more involved in the life of the church. Let's help them do that!

One final word: While this article is about our youth, the same can be said for all members of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ. For those of you who feel left out because you haven't been asked to do something... volunteer! And for those of you who are wondering why we don't have more people involved in particular ministries, start asking individuals! By working together we truly will be the Body of Christ. As we discussed in Confirmation (and as the Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31), we are all integral parts of the Body of Christ, and our body works a lot better when we are all involved!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Our Church Mortgage

February 28, 2010 - Balance		790,687.87
Monthly Payment		
Interest	4,646.68	
Principal	<u>1,953.72</u>	(1,953.72)
Total	6,600.40	
Additional Principal Reduction SCRIP Program		(1,200.00)
March 31, 2010 - Balance		<u>787,534.15</u>

FROM THE
CHURCH
TREASURER

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

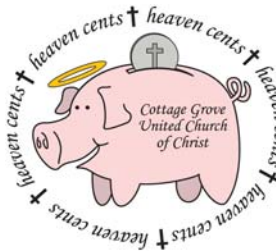
**Back issues available on our
Church web site at
www.cgucc.org**

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

Becky Graff, Editor

Great Idea

Ruby and Jerry Stratton are fixing their deck this spring. Instead of running down to Home Depot and ordering the material needed, they ordered scrip cards to cover the cost! Now they will have a great deck and because they planned ahead, the church received a \$150 rebate to help pay down the principle on our mortgage. They were going to spend the money on the deck anyway but made sure that CGUCC got the rebate. Thanks, Stratton's! Way to go shopping with the Scrip!!!!!!



As of 4/26/2010, CGUCC has sold nearly \$40,000 worth of Scrip Cards and has made \$1,855 in rebates to help pay off our building mortgage. That is \$1,855 of "free money"!

Specials – when ordering online be sure, be sure to check the specials before checking out!

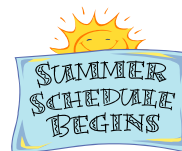
Blockbuster Night Card – through May 28th 25% rebate!

Land's End – through May 21st 18% rebate!

Applebee's – through May 7 – 10% rebate!

Worship at 9:00 AM

Our summer worship schedule begins on May 30, Memorial Day weekend, with Worship at 9:00 a.m., no Sunday School, and fellowship time following Worship.



Farmers' Market Team Hard at Work

The CGUCC Farmers' Market Team has been meeting for months, and is well into planning for the market season to open on June 17. They are lining up vendors, and they find they now have two vendors wanting to sell egg rolls! The market now has its own phone number! If you are looking for information about the market, please call (651)-354-2899.



New Email for Pastor Gold

In recent weeks it has become apparent that Pastor Gold has not been getting all of her email, and not all of the email that she has sent has been received by others. Please use her new address: pastorgold@usfamily.net.



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@usfamily.net

Gary Afdahl, Director of Music

Becky Graff,
Administrative Assistant
cgucc@usfamily.net

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

Sheri Wohlers, Custodian
sherilewohlers@gmail.com

John Greenwell,
Church President



May

- 5 - Miranda Ries
- 6 - Jason Carr
Bobby Welck
- 9 - Brad Huber
- 10 - Wes Hillman
Shauna Meyer
Elaine Mitchell
- 12 - Adam Hillman
Leona Perkins
- 14 - Donna Perkins
- 15 - Tina Eddy
Ronald Meyer
- 17 - Brian Marty
- 18 - Lori Fiedler
- 19 - John Greenwell
- 20 - Bill Larsen
- 21 - Brandt Fritze
- 22 - Katie Johnston
Deb McCoy
- 23 - Butch Davies
Mary Pearson
- 24 - GeorgAnn Biscoe
Ashley Perkins
Troy Pribnow
- 25 - Birdie Meyer
- 27 - John Denny
Amber Rasmussen
Daniel Wohlers
- 28 - Mallory Ryan
Ruby Stratton
Claudia Weisskirk
- 29 - Nancy Hillman
- 30 - Connor
Eisenmenger



Trash to Treasure Sale, Lunch & Bake Sale

The profit from the Trash to Treasure sale, including the bake sale and all kitchen sales, totals \$4,353.06. This is close to last year's record profits. Well done, all who worked with the big sale!



Thank You!

Thank you to Sue and Gary Weiby for taking the piles of aluminum cans that were in the garage to be recycled. Because it was Earth Week, the price for cans went up, so they made even more money for our youth programs!



Thanks to You!

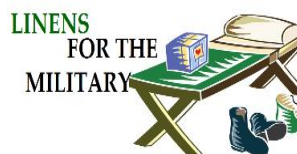
Thank you to Bonnie Utsch and Sue Weiby for making the beautiful Confirmation stoles, which the Confirmands then decorated. You will be able to see the stoles at the Confirmation Service on Sunday.



With Thanks!

I would like to thank everyone who donated towels and pillowcases for the troops. They have enough for now. Thank you for your support of our men and women in uniform.

Sandy Dahlke



Another Thanks!

Thank you to the Women's' Fellowship who purchased new furniture for the nursery. Bring your children into the nursery to check out the new child-sized table, benches, and toy box in bright primary colors. Thanks also to Doreen Barta who delivered the furniture to the church.



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, May 2

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

Sunday, May 9

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

Sunday, May 16

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

Sunday, May 23

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

Sunday, May 30

No Sunday School
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship

Participating in Worship in May

Head Usher—Bob Janicek
Altar Team—Bev Gross
Liturgist—Ron Bonnevier
Communion Preparation—
Bob and Bobbi Jo Janicek

Participating in Worship in June

Head Usher—Gary Thyren
Altar Team—Bev Gross
Liturgist—
Communion Preparation—
Lynn and George Ronn

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!

Kids' Korner at the Market

Summer is just around the corner and with summer comes the Farmer's Market. The Gratitude Group is once again putting together plans for the "Kid's Korner" tent where parents may drop off their little ones while they do the shopping. The creativity of Judy Bonnevier and her



craft ideas keeps the kids busy and entertained. Gratitude Group will do the planning, the gathering of supplies, and the putting together of the materials for each week. We are asking for volunteers to help staff the "Korner". Volunteers of all ages, sizes, descriptions are welcome. If you love working with children, here is an opportunity for you. A signup sheet will be posted in the gathering space on Sundays. It would be great to have two or three volunteers for each Thursday afternoon during June, July and August. This could even be a great family or group volunteering opportunity. See you at the Market!

Diane Davies