



CROSS CONNECTION

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

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**OPENS IN CGUCC PARKING LOT
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 3:30-6:30 P.M.**



- EARLY SPRING VEGGIES
- PICKLES
- JAMS AND JELLIES
- BREADS
- FROZEN MEATS
- PLANTS AND FLOWERS

- BAKE SALE
- POPCORN
- ICE CREAM
- HOT DOGS AND BRATS
- COLD DRINKS

Vacation Bible School at CGUCC

Sunday, June 20—Thursday, June 24

**Mark Your Busy Summer Calendar
and Watch for More Details**

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United Church of Christ
7008 Lamar Avenue South
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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; Bill Bothun; Rick Dahlstrom; Beth Davies; John Greenwell; Jim Gregory; Don Hanson; Ruby Hanson; Huber family; Arlean Kropelnicki; Chris Miller; Joann Nelson; Jamie, Adam, and Alexander Roberts; Mike Roberts; Pam Schmuki.

Barb Abbey (Doreen Barta's daughter's relative); Jim Boucher (coworker of Traci Larsen); Christopherson family (Elaine Mitchell's friends); Don (Kathy Janke's friend); Donna Johnson (Gary Af-dahl's mother-in-law); Katie and Justin (Jill Richter's friends); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn Heschke's daughter); Natalie Labelle (Joyce Biscoe's 2-year-old friend); Richard Lara (in prison); Michelle and Marty Logan, Tucker and Michael; Mike (Midge Youngquist's brother); Joe Murphy (father of Leona Perkins' friend); Rev. Bryan and Emily Olson (expecting a baby in January); Luke Patnode (son of Hunter Hak-kila's teacher); Patty Robens; Gene Sauve (Ron Bonnevier's friend); family of Jan Sorbel who died recently; Emilie Stordalen (Pastor Gold's cousin); Sue (former JC Rock member); Paul White (Roxanne's husband); Midge Youngquist's grandmother and mother; victims of flooding in Tennessee and of the oil spill in the Gulf.

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée
H. Gold



I will be going on several trips in June:

From June 1-3 I will be attending the "Shepherding the Shepherd" retreat at Chicago Theological Seminary. This retreat is hosted by the UCC 2030 Clergy Network, the organization for United Church of Christ clergy in our 20's and 30's. I will have the opportunity to engage in fellowship, worship, and study with other young clergy - an important endeavor, since only 4% of

UCC clergy are under the age of 40.

Several high-profile UCC clergy are on the agenda at "Shepherding the Shepherd": the Rev. Lillian Daniels, who will talk about her recent book, co-authored with the Rev. Martin B. Copenhaver, *This Odd and Wondrous Calling*; the Rev. Otis Moss III, a 2030 clergyperson, who will talk about the spirituality of pastoral administration; the Rev. Alice Hunt, president of Chicago Theological Seminary; and the Rev. John Thomas, former General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and current senior advisor to the president at CTS. Thomas is also visiting professor of ministry studies at CTS.

According to an invitation to this event, "Drawing on wisdom within the group revealed through sharing, as a 2030 clergy, you will remember why you followed God into this calling in the first place, while experiencing excellent preaching and worship from within your own demographic as well as the wider Church."

From June 5-6 I will be on vacation, so that I can attend the wedding of a childhood friend in northern Minnesota. My friend Ben Marty and I have known each other since I was 8 or 9 years old, when my family began attending First Congregational Church UCC in Fargo, ND. He and I used to acolyte together and attend youth group events together at that church. We have kept in touch all these years, through many moves and life changes, and I would not miss his wedding for the world. (I really enjoy officiating weddings, but I admit I am looking forward to participating in a wedding without being in charge for a change.)

During my absence on Sunday, June 6, the Rev. Susan Burns will preach and celebrate communion.

Finally, from June 11-13 I will be away at the Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN. The theme of this year's event will be "Witnesses...to the ends of the earth!" Key-note speaker will be the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte, the Executive Minister of UCC Wider Church Ministries. At the Annual Meeting I will have the opportunity to worship and work with a variety of clergy and church members from throughout the Minnesota Conference. I always enjoy this chance to see old friends, meet new people, and take care of the business of the Minnesota Conference. I am a nominee for the Minnesota Conference Church and Ministry Committee, and conference delegates will vote on my nomination (and the nominations of several others) at this meeting.

During my absence on Sunday, June 13 our own George Ronn will preach. I hope that you will welcome him to the pulpit as warmly as you have welcomed him and his wife, Lynn, to the congregation.

It will feel strange to be gone from our church so much this coming month, but I am looking forward to all three journeys. They will offer me a chance to rejuvenate my mind, body, and spirit so that I can do better ministry with you upon my return.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Our Church Mortgage

March 31, 2010 - Balance	787,534.15
April 1st Payment	
Interest	4,695.13
Principal	<u>1,905.27</u> (1,905.27)
Total	6,600.40

Additional Principal Reduction

April 30, 2010 - Balance 785,628.88

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
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www.cgucc.org**

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

Becky Graff, Editor

Don't Take A Vacation From Scrip This Summer!!!

Scrip families don't stop their spending just because school shuts down for the summer. In addition to the normal household purchases you can be making with Scrip, family travel purchases are perfect for Scrip as well. Summer barbeques, picnics, pool supplies, beach toys and lawn and house maintenance tools can all be made with Scrip. Summer is gift giving season as well what with graduations, weddings, Father's Day, birthdays and don't forget teacher appreciation gifts.



It is easy to shop with Scrip. Diane Davies is here to help you with any questions you may have. For those ordering online, be sure to check out the specials before you fill out your order form. For those not ordering online, check the display board in the church gathering space, I'll try and post the specials there for you to take a look at before you buy.

Charitable Deductions: An Added Benefit of Scrip

Participants in our "Heaven Cents" program are Entitled to a charitable contribution deduction on their itemized 1040 form for next year. If you are interested in taking part in this part of the program, please contact Diane at 651-436-7234 or email at dianedavies48@yahoo.com

Diane Davies, Scrip Coordinator

New Directories

There are new Church Membership Directories available for you to pick up at the church. They are on the long table in the Gathering Room. Please note that the last page is "non-members."



Picture Found

Did you lose a picture of a darling baby girl in a hot pink sweater? It's in the church office.



Pastor Gold Out of Office

In the event of a pastoral emergency during Pastor Gold's absence from June 1-3 and 5-6, please call the Rev. Sara Morse at Hazel Park Congregational Church UCC, cell phone (651-707-4859) or at the church (651-735-2555). In the event of a pastoral emergency during her absence June 11-13, please call the Rev. Jules Erickson at All Saints Lutheran Church (651-263-3153).



Contact Us

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John Greenwell,
Church President

Evangelism Team: An Explanation and Invitation

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ has been talking about resurrecting its Evangelism Team ever since I got here (and I think long before that). Several people have asked if we really need an Evangelism Team. Others have asked, "What is it?" I hope that this article will explain both the meaning and importance of evangelism in the church, because we are trying, once again, to get this team going.

Right now, we have one member of the Evangelism Team: Troy Pribnow has agreed to be involved. However, as the clichéd statement tells us, "There is no / in team." Troy cannot and *should* not be the only person doing evangelism at CGUCC. I have promised to help the team, but an Evangelism Team cannot and should not be made up of just the two of us. Will you join us?

Of course, you want to know what you are getting into first. How the Evangelism Team operates (how frequently it meets, what actions it carries out, etc.) will largely be decided by the team itself, since it has been defunct for so long, but I can at least give you a starting point. In a nutshell, "evangelism" means "sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ." But what does *that* mean? Biblical scholar Walter Brueggemann writes in *Biblical Perspectives on Evangelism* that "it does not surprise us that there is no ready agreement among us about the meaning of evangelism, let alone consensus about strategies and procedures. Indeed, evangelism clearly means different things to different people." However, he goes on to say that "It is my argument that evangelism means inviting people into [the stories of scripture] as the definitional stories of our life." He continues that "Outsiders, jaded insiders, and *children-becoming-adults* are primary constituencies for evangelism."

How does a team share the Good News of Jesus Christ, invite people into the stories of scripture, and evangelize "outsiders, jaded insiders, and children-becoming adults"? How does the work of an Evangelism Team differ from, say, the work of the Outreach Team?

The way I see it, the *Outreach Team* is responsible for reaching into the community with a hand of Christian love. The Outreach Team helps people in need, participates in community activities in an effort to make the name of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ more visible, engages in community activities in an effort to fundraise for CGUCC. While the Outreach Team works to get people in the doors of our church through our community involvement, we do not specifically work at sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, or even try to get people to *join* our church.

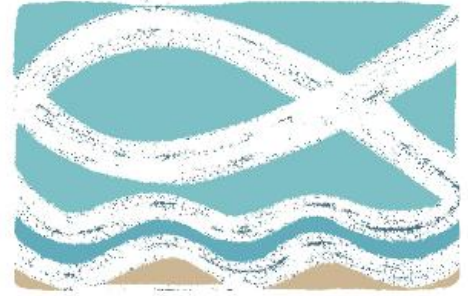
Traditional evangelism may involve going door to door, asking people to come to worship on Sunday, but evangelism doesn't have to involve door-to-door "sales." I would like to see an Evangelism Team talk about ways we can reach out to new (and existing) residents of Cottage Grove (and outlying areas), through mailings, door hangers, and the like. We could talk about visitor packets that could be handed out to people who show up at our church on Sunday mornings – and how we can best welcome visitors to our church. We could talk about how to make first-time visitors into long-time members. We could talk about training members in how to invite people they know to come to church on Sundays. We could talk about retaining our youth.

Some of this work (but by no means all) is being done already in other teams, but I would like to see it centered in an Evangelism Team, whose primary purpose is to grow the Body of Christ. If we want to keep this church thriving, we *need* to be doing the work of evangelism in an organized and consistent fashion.

I hope you will consider joining the Evangelism Team at Cottage Grove United Church of Christ. If you have questions, please feel free to talk with me.

Peace,
Pastor Gold

EVANGELISM



TEAM

Help with Coffee Time

Would you like to sign up to help with coffee time after Worship on Sundays during the summer? Our faithful coffee crew would like a little break from their duties during the summer. Our thanks go to Elaine Mitchell, Jean Gausman, Joyce Biscoe, and Claudia Weisskirk. They have done a great job. Each week they have surprised us with what they served. In addition to help, the coffee bar could use napkins, small plates, and decaf coffee.



New Recycling Bins at Church

At the Church Council meeting on May 18 we unanimously decided to purchase new recycling bins to be placed visibly throughout our church building. You will find lovely new green and blue recycling bins in the Gathering Room, Conference Room/Fellowship Lounge, and Fellowship Hall downstairs. The *green* bins are for aluminum cans only. We redeem the cans to raise money for our youth program. The *blue* bins are for all other recyclables: paper, plastic, glass, tin and steel cans, cardboard.



If you already recycle at home and/or at work, great! Keep doing that! But if you happen to have a can of pop or a bottle of juice at church, please place it in the proper recycling bin in the Gathering Room, Conference Room, or Fellowship Hall. Let's do our part to care for God's Creation!

New Look for Newsletter and Bulletin

Pastor Gold and I are working on redesigning the Sunday bulletins and the *Cross Connection* newsletter. Until now the design focus has been on esthetics, but starting this Sunday the focus is "Save the Trees." The look will be tighter, less white space, fewer graphics, and we will not be repeating things as often, all in the interest of saving space in the publication and trees in the forest.



If you are receiving the newsletter in paper form, as well as by email, please consider whether just the email version will work for you. Cutting back on our US Postal mail would not only save paper, but also postage.

For the summer we will be sending out the *Cross Connection* once a month, rather than twice a month as we have been doing. We will evaluate how this is working and decide in the fall if we need to add another issue mid-month.

Concerning Sunday bulletins, if you need the printed bulletin to follow the service, please take one. If you do not need the printed bulletin and can follow the service on the screen, please do not take a bulletin. Printing 50 bulletins on a Sunday morning would be preferable to printing 90 each Sunday, if it works for the congregation.

As you read the new publications, please keep in mind our goal of wise stewardship of our God-given resources—trees and church finances. Then if you have constructive criticism, please give either Pastor Gold or me your suggestions. Thanks.

Becky Graff

New Office Hours

Summer is here, and there is less activity here at the church than there is during the school year. Beginning on Memorial Day, May 31, the office will be closed on Mondays. If you have a pastoral emergency when the office is closed, please call Pastor Gold at home. Our administrative assistant will be in the office from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Tuesday through Friday, unless otherwise noted on the calendar.



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

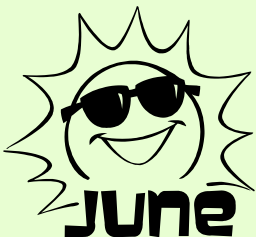


If you would like to list your business, please call Becky in the church office, (651) 459-1501.



June

- 1 - Kristine Jacobs
Lynn Ronn
Donna Ryan
- 2 - Sophia Tate
- 4 - Roberta Arntzen
Alexis Resendez
Patty Sorensen
- 5 - Anna-Marie Larsen
Mike Roberts
- 6 - Jason Ernster
Tim Power
- 7 - Karen Banaszewski
- 9 - Deidra Murr
- 10 - Braden Hanson
Emily Christianson
- 11 - Katie Weiby
- 12 - Matthew Lindeman
Tim Mohrlant
Kathy Warner
- 14 - Greg Eshom
- 18 - Danyll Mills
- 19 - Jessica Carr
- 20 - Emily Biscoe
- 21 - Claude Schmuki
- 22 - Derek Rasmussen
- 25 - Jessica Marty
- 26 - Corrie Kropelnicki
Susan Weiby
- 27 - Amanda Marty
- 29 - Jean Bloomquist
Ira Mitchell
Liz Youngquist
- 30 - Joan Thyren



Celebrations in Our Church Family

On Sunday, May 16, Sophia Marie Braaten received the Sacrament of Baptism. Sophia's parents are Jamie Brown and Neil Braaten.

On Saturday, May 22, Nicole Johnson and Scott Spicer were married at CGUCC. Parents are Rodney and Mary Johnson, and Dick and Karen Spicer.

Congratulations and our best wishes go out to all.



Women's Fellowship

The next Women's Fellowship meeting will be on June 10 at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share for a pot luck supper. All women of the church are invited.



Dear Church Family:

Words are inadequate to express what all your prayers have meant to me during my unexpected and most recent vision loss. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a loving and caring church family. As it often happens to each of us sometime during our life time, an unwelcome, unwanted and unplanned bump in the road. My recent vision loss was just that! Thankfully, with God's grace, all your prayers, cards, calls, visits and concerns, I did not have to bump alone. Continued prayers are still welcome as we are still working on saving the right eye.

Also a very special thank you to Pastor Désirée Gold for her visit and always calling to check on me and helping me through all this.



Blessings,
Joyce Biscoe

Many Thanks

Thank you to our new friends for your thoughts, prayers and beautiful cards sent concerning the passing of my Mother. The hand written words of condolence were very nice and thoughtful. Mom would have liked coming to CG UCC during a visit.

Blessings to all, Lynn & George Ronn



Note of Thanks

We want to thank you for all your thoughts, prayers, and cards during Lyle's recent surgery. We are truly blessed to have such a caring church family.

Lyle and Emily Biscoe



Thanks to You!

I want to thank everyone who helped with snow removal last winter. Some show up automatically, some say, "I'm ready. Just give me a call and I'll be there." These volunteers save the church a lot of money which can in turn be used to help pay off our building loan. Thank you Tom, Wayne, Durant, Craig, Steve, Steve, and Steve.

John Perkins



Moving Sale

Doreen Barta is having a moving sale at her home at 9713 85th St S in Cottage Grove on June 4, 9AM-6PM, and June 5, 9AM-2PM. She has a juke box, antiques, furniture, Coke collection, and lots more, but too much to mention.



Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, June 6

9:00 a.m. Worship with Rev.
Susan Burns Preaching
10:00 a.m. Fellowship

Sunday, June 13

9:00 a.m. Worship with
George Ronn Preaching
10:00 a.m. Fellowship

Sunday, June 20

Father's Day
9:00 a.m. Worship with
Baptism
10:00 a.m. Sundae Sunday

Sunday, June 27

9:00 a.m. Worship with
Baptism
10:00 a.m. Fellowship

Sunday, July 4

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

Participating in Worship in June

Head Usher—Gary Thyren
Altar Team—Susan Berndt
Liturgist—George Ronn
Communion Preparation—
Lynn and George Ronn

Participating in Worship in July

Head Usher—Jerry Biscoe
Altar Team—Roxanne Burns
Liturgist—
Communion Preparation—
Donna and John Perkins

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Sundae Sundays this Summer

The Outreach Team will be sponsoring three Sundae Sundays this summer. Everything needed will be donated so all of the free will offerings taken will be sent to the “Friends In

Need Food Shelf” in St. Paul Park. Please join us after worship for fun, fellowship, and to help support a needy organization. The three dates are June 20th, July 18th, and August 15th.



The Outreach Team