

The Bell Tower

January, 2014

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of caring friends and neighbors . . . growing
to live our motto: *open doors, open minds, open hearts*

CONTENTS

Annual Meeting	1
Advent & Christmas	1
Sanctuary Candle	2
Mission Team Report	2
Star of Bethlehem	2
New Member Classes	2
Youth Group	2
Sermons Online	2
Presbytery Meeting	2
In Our Prayers	2
NCPC Website	2
Birthdays	3
Announcements	3
Church Directory	3
Book Study	3
Sunday School & Kids	3
Facebook	3
Teacher Needed	3
Coffee Group	3
Filler	3

31 December 2013

Many We're Called . . .

. . . few were chosen

Presbyterian (USA) congregations hold a meeting each year for their official members. This year's gathering will be Sunday – January 12th, immediately after the worship service. A potluck will follow in the fellowship hall.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS annual meeting of the congregation is to elect the new ruling elders and deacons to the class of 2017, to receive the budget approved by Session, to establish the pastor's terms of call and to thank those leaving service.

Claudia O'Neill and Dennis Whalen have agreed to serve on the Session. Kate Haynes and Kathleen Henningsen have agreed to join Pat Ennor and Bette

Ventrella as deacons. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

Please make a point of thanking these folks for their willingness to serve our church family.

Also, remember a word thanks to those leaving the Session, Janet Turnburke and Dennis Whalen and those who continue to serve as elders (Barbara Hardt, Emily Haynes and Jim Hubbard), deacons (Pat Ennor and Bette Ventrella) and Wes Stiefer, our treasurer who has been attending session meetings because of the absence of anyone to serve as financial elder.

And a special thanks to Dennis for being willing to serve a second term!



December 2013 — Advent at NCPC



Richard, Doug, Erica and Cassie lighting candles on the fourth Sunday of Advent.



Christmas Eve Services?

That's right—it's plural—two Christmas Eve services were held at the church; a family-children oriented service at 5:00 p.m. and a more contemplative service at 6:30 p.m.

The children were invited to come forward frequently during the first service to hear parts of the Christmas story told by Rev. Hansen.

The photo above does not fully capture the number of children present—estimated to be 31-35 in number (*it's hard to count moving targets*)—accompanied by around 75 adults; the sanctuary was filled.

It was reported that attendance at the second service also filled the sanctuary.

Many thanks to all of you who helped put on these services for our broader community—it was well appreciated—and some may have stepped up at the last moment to help (the Brandon brothers?).

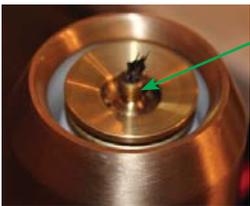


The Candle That Isn't

For those of you who notice such things, the Christ candle in the sanctuary (pictured above behind the Bible) is not—a candle, that is—it is a small cylindrical kerosene lamp inside a 12 inch tall white plastic sleeve designed to look like a candle. Thus, most of the “candle” is empty white plastic anchored to the wood stand that previously supported a wax candle

This eliminates the need to replace a small tea candle as well as the need to search for a wick with enough length to support a flame. (*Just try doing that quickly when the prelude is being played.*)

Unlike a candle, a kerosene lamp does not require very much wick to be exposed to support a 1 inch high flame suitable for a worship service—no more than about 1/8 inch of wick is needed. The wick holder is threaded brass that screws into the top of the lamp. Thus, if you need the wick higher to facilitate lighting by the children, it can be raised by turning the holder counter-clockwise (unscrewing it).



Threaded wick holder “unscrews” to elevate the wick if it needs to be higher for lighting.

On the other hand, if you choose to pull the wick higher to facilitate lighting, the increased surface area will produce a much taller flame — e.g., the 5-6 inch flame you may have witnessed on the first Sunday of Advent — and probably earn an admonishment from the local Fire Marshall. In other words, please don't do it; choose to use the threaded wick holder appropriately.

Report from the Mission Team

“Thank you”, “Bless You” and “Merry Christmas” were the nearly unanimous responses from nearly every family that received a food basket during the distribution on December 14. We distributed 100 food baskets along with some toys and clothing items to families from the Peak to Peak area.

This is nearly twice as many families as we served last year. The food and toys help many families to have a special and enjoyable Christmas rather than experiencing a cold and depressing time.

I want to thank everyone who was able to help in any way with the gathering, preparation and distribution of these items. I can assure you that they are very much appreciated by the families who have received them.

Looking back, 2013 was a very busy year with an increasing number of clients using the services of the Nederland Food Pantry—and we're expecting the needs for our services to continue to grow in 2014.

The Nederland Food Pantry has established a Board of Directors and

is working towards a somewhat more formal approach to the distribution of food so that our clients will be better served. Hopefully, the Food Pantry can grow to serve more of the needs within our community.

One of the items that is making it hard for the Food Pantry as we go forward, is that the rules for the availability and distribution of the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP, formerly known as USDA) has changed. It now appears that the Food Pantry will no longer have access to these food items for distribution.

Thus the Food Pantry will be applying for more grants and will be doing other various fund raisers in 2014 to make certain that the Food Pantry can continue to serve the working poor and other families in need that live in the greater Peak to Peak community.

I sincerely thank you all for your support during the past year, and I look forward to a fabulous 2014.

Dennis Whalen, Mission Elder and Chairperson, Nederland Food Pantry.

Star of Bethlehem – The Youth Group watched a video a few weeks ago that explains the Star of Bethlehem, astronomically and theologically. If you've written that off as ancient myth, or wondered about God's strange miracle, stick around after fellowship on Jan 5, to see for yourself just what it's all about.

New Member Classes – Are you interested in joining the church as a formal member? In early 2014 we will have a series of New Member gatherings, from 9-9:45 on three Sunday mornings. No tests or homework; this is simply to help us get to know each other, to learn about the history and ministry of NCPC, and to think about what it means to be a Presbyterian Christian.

Youth Group

Upcoming Youth Group meetings!
Jan 12th, noon – Faith Questions
Jan 17th, 6:30 – Movie & Mission
Jan 28th, 6:30 – Soup and Super Bowl

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP – If you can make coffee, set out some cookies, and fill a dishwasher, we need your help with Sunday Fellowship! The sign-up sheet is outside the kitchen.

THE SESSION MEETS on January 19, at 11:30, or earlier, following fellowship for its regular monthly meeting



Sermons Online

When we launch the new website, links will make it very easy to listen to sermons online. Until then, you can find them at YouTube.com, by searching for “Hansen Wendlandt”. By clicking on his name, you will be directed to Hansen's channel with dozens of videos and sermons.

Presbytery – The next meeting for the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks is February 7-8, at United Presbyterian in Fort Morgan.



Violet Aandres; Judy Anderson; Sebastian and Livingston Crain; Cheryl Cwelich; Shirley Filer; Justine Irwin; Rev. Mark Lake; Karen Moss; Kent Snow; Megan Stadele; Joye Stanich; for those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis; for those serving in the military.

New Website in the Works — The church website domain name nederlandcpc.org is back in our hands. We will move the material from nedcpc.org back to the previous location and expand it with more information about NCPC and its missions. If you have any skill in web arts and would like to help, then please talk to Gary Ennor or Hansen.



January Birthdays!

- 7 Adrianna Heller
- 11 Aimee Tomlinson
- 15 Dorothy Whalen
- 18 Barbara Hardt



January Anniversaries!

- 11 Claudia & Michael O'Neill
- 29 Doug & Joyce Trostle

An Alternative Game to Practice

The practice of this chapter is *inventing* oneself as a contribution, *and others as well*. The steps to the practice are these:

1. Declare yourself to be a *contribution*.
2. Throw yourself into life as someone who makes a difference, accepting that you may not understand how or why.

The contribution game appears to have remarkable powers for transforming conflicts into rewarding experiences.

WHEN YOU PLAY the contribution game, it is never a single individual who is transformed. Transformation overrides the divisions of identity and possession that are the architecture of the measurement model, recasting the tight pattern of scarcity into a widespread array of abundance.

NAMING ONESELF and others as a contribution produces a shift away from self-concern and engages us in a relationship with others that is an arena for making a difference. Rewards in the contribution game are of a deep and enduring kind, though less predictable than the trio of money, fame, and power that accrue to the winner in the success game. You never know what they will be, or from whence they will come.

Excerpts from: *The Art of Possibility*, Pages 59, 61, 63; Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander, Penguin books, © 2000

Now, which game are you playing or going to play—the success game or the contribution game? Benjamin Zander has been the conductor of the

THE CHURCH DIRECTORY is long overdue for an update—updated information, new folks and photos—it's a big job and a very important one.



Can you help out? Gather information? Take photos? Help with layout and publishing? Please talk to Hansen or Gary Ennor.

Rumor has it that several people have said they would be available for a "project" but not a regular commitment such as serving as an elder or a deacon. This is a project opportunity just waiting for your participation.

THE NEVER ENDING FOOD DRIVE

keeps on keeping on because of your generous participation. It's "never ending" because poverty and hunger keep rolling along in this nation.



Boston Philharmonic Orchestra since its formation twenty-five years ago. *Zander moves audiences with his unbridled passion and enthusiasm.* (Sue Fox, London Sunday Times).

Zander delivered a dynamic presentation at TED in Feb 2008. See it at: http://www.ted.com/talks/benjamin_zander_on_music_and_passion.html

Additional info at: <http://benjaminzander.com/> and <http://www.rosamundzander.com/>. (*Inventing Practices For Personal And Professional Transformation*)

The book is a good read; well worth your time.

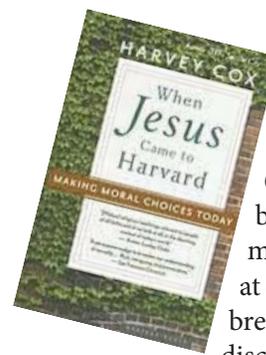
NCPC ON FACEBOOK – Have you liked us on facebook? We are up to 116 likes. If you like us, then Like Us! If you have already liked us, check your settings to make sure you get all our updates.

Coffee at Happy Trails — Every Tuesday morning at 9, a motley group of folks gather for coffee to discuss who we are as a church, what we are called to do next, and how to move toward it. Come, join the ongoing conversation at Happy Trails.

[Hansen is indeed interested in your participation in a "visioning group." Tuesday morning at 9 a.m. is not a convenient or practical time for many of us. What do you suggest? Is there a time and place that works for you? Tell Hansen what will work for you. That may work for others too.— Ed.]

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one.
— Elbert Hubbard

Book Study



The book club has been going strong with *When Jesus Came to Harvard*, by Harvey Cox. We meet each Tuesday at church for soup, bread and vigorous discussion! You can still join in, and we're always looking for folks to sign up to provide the soup!



THE NCPC YOUTH have been busy with Sunday school each week from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We

are following the lessons from the "We Believe" multi-age program. Kids Pre-school to 5th grade are welcome to join us.

A Day for the Kids

We are planning a fun day at NCPC for kids to spend time together, watch a movie and bake cookies. Please contact Barbara Hardt for information at 303.810.5409.

Sunday School Teacher Needed

NCPC is also looking to hire a regular Sunday School teacher. This person will be required to pass a background check and should be available 11 of every 13 weeks. Please contact Barbara Hardt for information at 303.810.5409.

Scholarships Available

NCPC is sponsoring half scholarships (for church members) for the Bluegrass Camp held June 2nd to 5th AT NCPC. The band "Colorado" host this camp.

A form will be available to apply for this half scholarship. The family is required to pay the remaining half.

This camp includes Fiddle & Bass, Banjo, Guitar, Mandolin & Vocals. Please contact Barbara Hardt for information at 303.810.5409. Spaces are filling fast!

A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of.

— Nelson Mandela

THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER deadline is Thursday, January 23.