

The Bell Tower

August 2014

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Music in Worship

If you go to Google.com and start to type "Why are Presbyterians. . ." the most popular autocomplete shows that the Internet wonders, "Why are Presbyterians called the frozen chosen?" Indeed.

The 'chosen' part is a bit heavy for this newsletter. In a sentence, Presbyterians have tended to commit more than any other type of Christianity, to some sense that God's *choice* about our ultimate destiny is more important than our *choices*. If you want to dig deeper on that, check out my sermon (The Good News of Being Presbyterian, Frozen Chosen) from 16 February, on <http://nederlandcpc.org/sermons/>.

Why we are called 'frozen' is far simpler. The short answer is, Presbyterians are boring.... Especially in America, churches in our tradition have had, and in many places still do have, a more formal and less energetic style of worship.

For people looking to *learn* about God, this has actually been a good thing—and in fact, Presbyterians are the most highly educated denomination in the world, followed closely by Episcopalians, who apparently get the blood pumping in worship with (get ready for it) kneeling. Yet, for all that we have tended to value contemplation and theology over ritual or entertainment, when you compare us to other types of churches that focus on 'feeling' something spiritual, or 'praising' God, Presbyterians just look dour.

Part of the reason this became a trend, is that our very first congregations were even worse snoozers. The Puritans, of course, thought Presbyterians were too enthusiastic, so they broke away and worshiped with such excitement that they had to invent a device to actually wake up people from sleeping in worship.

The first Presbyterians worshiped
Continued Page 3

State of the Church (financially)

Apparently, the newsletter editor is supposed to know about such things as NCPCC's finances (he doesn't) because several people have inquired.

Wes Steifer, church treasurer, is the one qualified to speak accurately about such matters and this month he does. Please read his letter on page two.

There's an often heard expression that *it takes a village to raise a child*; there's truth in there. Perhaps it's similar to what it takes to sustain a church; or any other organization. — Ed.

If you're not there for your community, your community may not be there for you.



What's impossible for one, may be possible for many.

— Turtle Woman Singing

Kitchen Needs — Barbara Hardt

Oh the times, they are a changin'

We are busier than ever in our little mountain church. With afternoon art classes, music lessons, Cub Scouts, Vacation Bible school, Youth Mission groups and more.. the NCPCC kitchen crew has come to the realization that we don't have everything we need to feed these folks.

NCPCC is looking for donations of the following items to complete our kitchen setup:

- meat tongs
- 4c glass measuring cup
- griddles for pancakes and bacon
- mixing bowls
- Ice cream scoop
- 9x13 baking pan

Continued Page 3



Our food drive is never-ending
See page 3.

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 State of NCPCC | 2 Birthdays |
| 1 Kitchen Needs | 2 Anniversaries |
| 1 Welcome New Members | 2 Book Club |
| 1 Women's Group | 2 Socks & Sandwiches |
| 1 Youth Group | 2 Coffee Conversations |
| 1 Concert Series | 2 Men's Group |
| 1 Music in Worship | 3 Food Drive |
| 2 Letter from Treasurer | 3 Prayer List |

Welcome to our New Members

On 27 July we introduced four people, who felt the call to formally join the congregation. Welcome to Elizabeth Azcárate, Nancy Harrower, Jaydene Morrison and Russ Pederson!

On 10 August we will add Dean Rundle.

How great to see folks with such diverse backgrounds coming together to be part of this church family!

Women's Group meets the first Sunday of each month at 4 pm. All women are welcome, whether you want to share a margarita or just some laughs with new church friends! This month, 3 August at the Stage Stop.

Upcoming Youth Group meetings!

- 10 August 11:30** – Faith Questions
 - 15 August 6:30** – Youth Group at the Movies!
 - 26 August 6:30** – Youth Group
- Rising 6th graders, it's been great to see you in Youth Group!

2014

NEDERLAND CONCERT SERIES Music in the Mountains

4:00 PM – Sunday, August 17th

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MUSIC BOX REVIEW

Ragtime piano with violin and vocal solos and duets

Dale Sherrod, Becca Fenton, Renee Comeau & Mark Johnston

\$10 donation suggested

Reception follows

This concert is a benefit for TEENS, Inc.



TEENS, Inc. supports, educates and empowers youth & their families to make healthy choices and thrive.

It is a non-profit serving youth and their families in the

Nederland and surrounding area known as the Peak to Peak region. <http://teensinc.org/>



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Dearest members and friends in Christ,

August 15, 2014 marks the one-year anniversary of our pastor, Hansen Wendlandt. During the last 12 months, our church has seen the revival of many of the programs and services that have been the lifeline of our church over the years. In addition, many new programs have been developed to address the needs of not only our church but our community as a whole. None of this is possible without the continued support and participation of our members, regular attendees, friends, and visitors throughout the year.

In January 2014, the NCPC session approved a "deficit" budget for calendar year 2014 with the understanding this was necessary to support the new expense of a full-time pastor, an investment must be made in programs and services if we are to grow the church, and most importantly demonstrating the faith they have in God to provide for the needs of NCPC.

As of the end of July 2014, our financial situation is as follows:

Total Offerings are \$32,874 which is below budget by \$11,630 (less than expected), and Total Expenses are \$57,821 which is below budget by \$2,382 (less than expected).

The result is negative cash flow of \$21,807 as of the end of July 2014 (we have spent more than we've collected), which is \$6,131 higher than the budgeted deficit after the first seven months of the year.

Due to faithful and frugal budgeting in past years, NCPC does have money invested which is drawn on to cover the deficit spending this year.

What can each of us do to help NCPC now and in the future?

1. Prayerfully consider your financial commitment to NCPC for 2014 and beyond,
2. Prayerfully consider where you can use your individual talents to become more involved in the life of NCPC, and
3. Pray daily for our pastor, our session, and our congregation as we navigate through these rough waters.

Wes Stiefer, Treasurer
 On Behalf of the NCPC Session

Thank You – To David Shortridge, John Brocklehurst and Andrew Titchiner for transforming the Guyer Garden with beautiful vision, advice and new plants!



August Birthdays!

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 7 Linda Bennett | 24 Sierra Rae Tomlinson |
| 9 Michael Rundle | 25 Ginny Leever |
| 15 Kristina Heller | 28 Dean Rundle |
| 22 Jaydene Morrison | 30 Dennis Whalen |
| 23 Julia Stadele | 31 Tami Kochen |
| 24 Emily Haynes | Is your birthday missing? Tell Gary. |

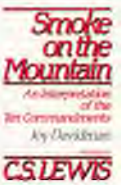


August Anniversaries!

- 2 Larry & Lynn James
- 4 Dean & Janice Rundell
- 5 Carolyn Armstrong & Mark Moll
- 6 Frank & Justine Irwin
- 11 Emily & MArk Haynes
- 15 Megan & Lee Satadele
- 2 Carol & Bob Rhoads

Compassion is a practically acquired knowledge, like dancing. You must do it and practice diligently day by day.
 — Karen Armstrong

Book Club – The Book Club meets each Tuesday, 6:30 at the church, for dessert and good discussion. On 8 July we started *Smoke on the Mountain*, by Joy Davidman.



So far we have learned that no one in the group wants a narrow conception of God, but just about everything else has sparked great conversation! We're tackling a short chapter each week, so you still have time to join!



Summer Sandwiches & Socks – NCPC has been working with a number of other local organizations for the Summer Sandwiches & Socks program!

On the middle Thursdays of each month (as opposed to the first and last Thursdays, when the Food Pantry is open), we have been inviting the community, especially those who might need food or camping supplies, to meet at noon in Chipeta Park.

We have had **great** volunteers, kids having fun on the playground, and lots of summer campers. Folks have received socks, trash bags, first aid kits, dignity, sandwiches, fellowship, icy pops, and even help with dental and mental health. Despite the many problems Nederland has had with rowdy visitors in the summers, this event has been peaceful and compassionate, with a great diversity of participants—a little hint of the Kingdom of God!

The program continues August 14 & 21, and anyone is welcome to join us!

Coffee and Conversation – Every Thursday, 9 am, at *The Train Cars* back room, everyone is invited for coffee and conversation about life, faith, church and everything in between.

Men's Group usually meets the third Sunday of each month, but we're making a little change, so that we can go to Black Sheep Brewery, 10 August, 4 pm. (This is Jim Steven's garage, 13 Navajo Trl.) All men are welcome, whether you want to share a beer or just talk and maybe help plan our next outreach project.

*If we're all here to help others,
 what are the others here for?*

— Graffiti

in buildings without art, partly in response to the opulence of some Catholic cathedrals, but also because the introduction of the printed word made it less necessary to tell Bible stories through art. And our early music was almost entirely responsive Psalms, where the cantor would sing a line and the congregation repeated.

It took 150 years until Presbyterians would get so wild as to sing the whole Psalm themselves. And in another 150 years, congregations throughout Europe and America began to split over the issue of using hymns and instruments. Some other Christians *still* think that instruments and images are blasphemous, but among the larger Christian traditions, enough of us in the 1600's and 1800's stood our ground against smells and bells, that people began to think we must be icy killjoys.

Nowadays, Presbyterians worship in endless different ways. Our *Book of Order*, which sets the guidelines for being a decent and orderly church, points to three things that must be part of a proper worship service. First, we should have Scripture, preferably with some sort of exposition, whether that be a sermon or skit or artwork or conversation or whatever. Second, we should have a way to respond to the Word, perhaps with an offering or affirmation of faith or communion. Third, we should have prayer, which includes thanksgiving, confession, concerns, and music.

Music as prayer? Indeed.

In the Presbyterian understanding, music in worship is a type of prayer. Psalms or hymns, praise songs or instrumentals, even so-called 'secular' music that touches a spiritual nerve... All music in worship is supposed to bring us closer to God. Like other prayer, we express ourselves and receive God's message through music.

This raises the question: Is the music at NCPC 'frozen', or does it give warmth to our spirits? Specifically, is our congregational singing boring, or too difficult, or unknown; or do you like the songs we sing, and appreciate new ones, and prefer that they connect and build on the theme of the sermon?

During worship on 3 August, folks were invited to share, *What are your favorite hymns?* We come from so many different faith backgrounds, and have certainly sung out of dozens of different song books. One person's familiar tune is completely new to the pews around them. So, Hansen and the Worship Team want to know, what are your favorite songs in our two hymnals? Which ones that we have sung do you not like? Which songs should we introduce, or sing more often, or have the choir introduce? In general, what advice do you have, for helping music inspire your faith?

You are welcome to write down your feedback on the insert that Sunday, or email your comments to Hansen, or find a link on our website or Facebook page. And as always, if you have even the slightest gift of music, with your voice or an instrument, please contact Emily and offer yourself as a prayer! — Hansen

The Never Ending Food Drive is never ending because _____ (fill in the blank). Regardless of your answer, NCPC and the Food Pantry need your continued help and support. Consider bringing a food item to church for our food basket (on the credenza). Canned and non-perishable food only.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kitchen Needs . . . Continued from Page 1

- soup pot
- good can opener
- large covered skillet
- corning ware bake set for oven & microwave
- salad tongs
- colander
- large bowl for popcorn

Help us bring these items in before the next Potluck (August 24th) and celebrate 100 years of our church building at the same time!

Barbara is preparing a flyer to publicize and clarify these needs. Please contact Barbara if you have questions, want to clarify the needs, or simply want to communicate that you will supply an item (to avoid duplication). — Ed.

Triple Filter Test

In ancient Greece, Socrates was reputed to hold knowledge in high esteem. One day, as the story goes, an acquaintance met the great philosopher and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about your friend?"

"Hold on a minute," Socrates replied. "Before telling me anything I'd like you to pass a little test. It's called the Triple Filter Test."



Violet Aandres and Rich Deubel; Judy Anderson; Dave 'Bigfoot' Felkley; Atashnaa Medicine Shield; Karen Moss; family of Ruth Richardson; Dean Rundle and family; Rhonda Skeie and her brother, Rev. Steve Holland; Kent Snow; Megen Stadele and her parents; Jerry and Margaret Ward; Pam White; Orran's family and friends; love and consideration within the church and for the denomination; for those who are unable to worship with us regularly and for those serving in the military.

"Triple filter?" **Continued from middle column**

"That's right," Socrates continued. "Before you talk to me about my friend, it might be a good idea to take a moment and filter what you're going to say. The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No," the man said, "actually I just heard about it and..."

"All right," said Socrates. "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of Goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my friend something good?"

"No, on the contrary..."

"So," Socrates continued, "you want to tell me something bad about him, but you're not certain it's true. You may still pass the test though, because there's one filter left: the filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me about my friend going to be useful to me?"

"No, not really."

"Well," concluded Socrates, "if what you want to tell me is neither true nor good nor even useful, why tell it to me at all?"

This is why Socrates was a great philosopher and was held in such high esteem.

We both know that no one really recorded this conversation with Socrates; but it makes a good point. Would it be more useful to you if we substituted "the man Jesus" for each reference to Socrates? Try it.

This is a filler story because the editor/publisher doesn't like expanding font sizes to fill empty space. Now if you hadn't let the little voice in your head (it's that one asking, "What little voice?") talk you out of submitting your story, your news, your photos, this wouldn't have been necessary. Your stories and photos are important. Get it? — Ed.



"How much can we ever know about the love and pain in another heart? How much can we hope to understand those who have suffered deeper anguish, greater deprivation, and more crushing disappointments than we ourselves have known?"

~ Orhan Pamuk, Snow
Patrol
Nobel Prize-winning Turkish novelist
[Painting by Albrecht Schenck]