

The Bell Tower

September 2014

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



Church History

Last month was the official 102nd anniversary of the church, and despite reports (from a certain confused pastor) of the sanctuary cracking the century mark, this marks its 99th year. But of course, the history of the church is far more interesting than a few dates. Here are a few things I learned while thumbing through some historical records...

1874 – The first mention of organized faith in the Nederland area, even before it was called ‘Nederland’ was in the Boulder County News, which described “preaching every Sabbath” in our area. God only knows who these folks were.

1899 – Mrs Edwards, who owned a store and hotel in Ned, sought to hire a trained Sunday School teacher. She found William Seherman, who had been a missionary and was then working on the Boulder-Ward. On the first Sunday he was to teach, it snowed a foot; but he trudged from Sunset to find 20 people waiting to learn.

1912 – Our church was formally organized with 17 members on 19 August, 1912. Wayne Shoddy, a ministry student at McCormick Presbyterian Seminary in Chicago, presided over the service. That original group met for two years, to worship at places like Sunset, Wallstreet, Eldora & Sugar Loaf.

1914 – Rev J Wilson Currens was called as our first pastor. He received his Master of Divinity degree from McCormick, and his wife held a Master’s Degree in English Literature from CU. While both were studying for PhD’s in Boulder, which they eventually abandoned, Rev Currens worked part time with a home construction company, which came in handy when...

1915 – Rev Currens designed the sanctuary, hauled supplies up Boulder Canyon by horse and wagon, and directed many volunteers to build the current sanctuary. The fire

Continued Page 3

God Is Alive in Colorado!

This July five adults and eleven youth from Oklahoma and Texas joined the Stiefers and many teenagers from NCPC, to enjoy our first Rocky Mountain Mission experience! Here is a report from Rev Deborah Hollifield, to her church, First Presbyterian Church (Guymon, Oklahoma).



“On Saturday, July 19 the FPC van pulled out for Nederland, Colorado, a small community of about 1400 nestled in a canyon about 30 minutes southwest of Boulder.

“Our host was the Community Presbyterian Church where we slept in the sanctuary and fellowship hall and had the use of a small kitchen. When we arrived, we conducted the worship service for our host church.

“Our projects during the week included spending two days painting the entire exterior of a house and staining a deck for wood preservation at the home of a disabled widow. This mountain house had no insulation, plumbing or running water – we could have done a lot more work but lacked the funds for materials. Continued Page 4

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Fall Cleanup - Fix up Day – Jim Hubbard

Keeping the church grounds and gardens looking nice is a year round job especially this year with all the rain which has kept the plants green and growing.

In the past we have held a couple of cleanup/fixup days each year with one in the spring and another in the fall. We held the first last May and have set Saturday, September 20, 9:00 to noon for our fall cleanup day. Please mark your calendars and come join us.

We have a lot of fun, some refreshments, and the satisfaction of having helped keep our Little Brown Church with the Bell in repair and looking nice.

We will be doing some grass cutting, weed pulling, painting and some general repairs. Bring what tools you might need and I’ll try to have some extras with me.

Mark your calendars for September 20.

Adopt a Task or Area – Jim Hubbard

It has been suggested that we divide the grounds up into small sections and have people volunteer to take care of selected areas on a continual basis year round or when they are here during the summer.

Dean Rundle and Kathleen Henningsen have been working on the area around the picnic tables and the area between the walkway and the building on the North side.

The Ennor’s have chosen to take care of the garden area around the church sign.

Del Lynd has taken on the responsibility of keeping the lights changed as they burn out and the drains open to allow the sump pump discharge to flow into the creek.

Dave Ford and Jim Reis have been making repairs on the steps and other areas.

Let me know if you would like to adopt an area and/or a task. I will make up a map showing the areas and with enough people, we can turn one large task into many small easy tasks.



Thanks to all of you who submitted articles and photos. It makes a *HUGE* difference!

October Newsletter deadline — September 25

Mission: Nederland

– Barbara Lawlor

[In late July], a group of young adults came to Nederland on a mission trip to help local residents and non-profit organizations with some of their needs. Wes Stiefer organized the trip with the help of Hansen Wendlandt and the Nederland Community Presbyterian Church.

Stiefer, now a Nederland resident, says the project, *God is Alive in Colorado*, is one of 21 mission trips he has organized. There were 13 volunteers from Oklahoma, three from Texas, and 11 from the NCPC, as well as abundant help from the community.

The volunteers were housed at the NCPC, sleeping on air mattresses on the floor and

showering at the Gilpin County Recreation Center for a discounted fee. Local families hosted meals for the group.

The mission itself involved helping a senior resident whose home in Coal Creek Canyon needed work in order to be ready for winter.

In the time they were here, the volunteers scraped and painted the exterior of the CCC house, sanded and painted the deck, and cut and hauled kindling and firewood for the winter.

At the home of an elderly couple in Nederland, the group raked, cleaned the yard, pulled weeds, removed dead branches and trees, and prepped a sidewalk for gravel delivery. They even washed the windows.

During the week, the group moved and sorted

books in preparation for the Nederland Community Library Book Sale. They sorted and organized food and did general cleaning and maintenance for the Nederland Food Pantry.

Nineteen workers can get a lot done in a short amount of time. These visitors also worked on the trail from the pedestrian trail to Chipeta Park, hauling 123 wheelbarrow loads of road base and rock to fill in the path where it had eroded. They also re-sloped and raised parts of the trail to combat future erosion.

Stiefer says the trip was a success. "I hope this is just the beginning. We hope to come back and help two or three families next year."

[reprint: *The Mountain Ear*, with permission]



A Little Church — A Lasting Legacy

The Sunday worship service on August 24 focused on the 100th anniversary of the NCPC sanctuary; albeit a year early.

In his welcoming remarks as liturgist, Michael O'Neill listed a number of towns that were prominent enough to be on 1895 Rand McNally map of Colorado and Boulder County: Caribou, Nederland, Sugar Loaf, Sunset, Altona, Hygiene, and Tungsten. In the early twentieth century, only one of these towns had a church: *Nederland*.



Did the miners who helped construct our sanctuary know they were building a lasting legacy in the Nederland community? Or were they just focused on having a safe, affordable place to sleep when not working?

Regardless of the facts and stories, today you and I benefit from the vision, perseverance and work of those who came before us.

Let's keep this in mind when we gather for worship, fellowship and all the other activities in and of our church and community.

Let's think about it when we are invited to participate in the work and mission of our church, and not just remain a name on the membership roll.

Let's consider it when the annual stewardship letters arrive in a couple months and we may feel challenged by our church's need for us to contribute our time, talent and, **yes, cash**; it does take real money to pay our pastor, to pay the bills and to contribute to other needs in our broader community.

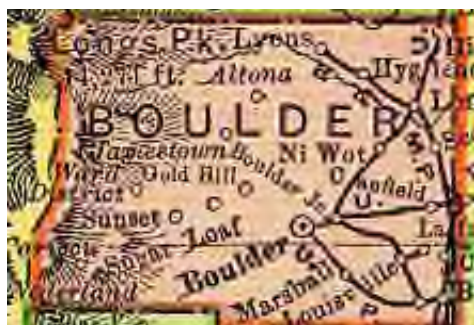
As individuals, most of us will be long forgotten and our names unrecognized in a hundred years. It's our associations with the broader community we live in that enable us to pool our energies for the greater good and, as a result, contribute to a legacy for the benefit of those who come after.

Consider this: In 2115 when folks look back a hundred years will the town still be here; the congregation; the church?

The answers to these questions are in our hands. All our choices ripple consequences. What are we choosing? What *work* engages our hands and minds? Does it reflect **His work**? If not, why not?

Such questions beget others. For example, can we pool our energies to create with conscious intention a legacy for those following after?

Think and reflect on it. More next month. — Editor
(* Okay, we know what Realtors, retailers and restauranters would probably say, "It's location, location, location!")



Today, only one of these communities remains as an incorporated town: *Nederland*. The others are only memories or small concentrations of people identified for statistical purposes by the U.S. Census Bureau as a *census designated place*.

Michael's point was quite obvious: **a church makes a profound difference** in a small, often struggling, community. †

Did those folks who initially gathered together to form a congregation know this? Or were they just like-minded people seeking guidance and learning for themselves and their children?

Found at: <https://charterforcompassion.org>
...perchance a hint of things to come?



"You can never leave footprints that last if you are always walking on tiptoe."

Leymah Gbowee
Liberian peace campaigner and Nobel Prize winner

Church History

Continued from Page 1

department donated the bell. The back of the sanctuary held a small kitchen, coal stove, and two Sunday School rooms.

1918-1921 – Fires, influenza, and shuttered mills broke the town. The population plummeted some 90%, and the church had to let go of its second minister, Rev. J C Smith. Regular Sunday worship discontinued in 1919, but still, the Ladies Aid society made sure there was a Sunday School for children, and somehow raised enough money to repair the roof!

1920's and 1930's – The church was no longer in communication with the national denomination, nor did we have elders. Worship was sporadic, really only held whenever any pastor came through the area. (We even had a Rabbi lead worship during the summers of 1933-1934.) In all formal respects, the church was dead. And yet...

1929-1931 – The Ladies Aid society started a program to give each child in town a Christmas package with an apple,

orange candy, and bag of nuts.

1932 – Children's Sunday School continued, and now an adult Bible Class started, probably all men.

1939 – With new, energetic women on the Ladies Aid society, and with the help of the active Bible Class, the little kitchen (where the back four pews are now) received running water.

1940 – New elders were elected, and the Rev William Marshall was called to serve.

1949 – After 30 years of living through the hearts and hard work of the community, the church was formally re-organized 15 May, with 30 members and Rev. E M Steen presiding.

1954 – Rev Allen Swan was installed to serve NCPC and Valmont Community Presbyterian in south Boulder. Rev Swan stopped back through town last fall.

1963-1973 – The longest serving minister in NCPC history was Rev Don Snaveley. He led the Boy Scout Troop, served as volunteer fire chief, and brought

youth groups from around the country to do work projects in the summer.

1972 – The new fellowship hall was completed, with most of the work done by volunteers, from church and town.

1970's – NCPC started its strong relationship with St Rita's Catholic. We held VBS together for the first time in 1970. Our joint youth program flourished under Rev Warren Muller, who began in 1974. With the larger fellowship hall, we needed to replace our small coal furnace (where the office is now) and gave it to St Rita's. And of course we worked together to start what would become the Food Pantry. Our churches even shared a Newsletter from 1977-1980, called the All Together!

1980 – NCPC and St Ritas led a community effort to bring a Laotian refugee family to America. The last we heard (in 1988) the Thaos were living comfortably in California.

2015 – We will celebrate our actual 100th year in the sanctuary!

— Hansen

Mission team

The costs for housing within our community are rising as the economy improves, and this includes rental housing. This is forcing some of the clients of the Food Pantry to move to less expensive areas, or possibly having to live on the streets. Of course this can also make it more difficult for these folks to retain current employment due to increased commuting costs, or make it more difficult to obtain employment due to the necessity of having to move further away from urban areas where there are jobs, to where housing costs are less.

The Food Pantry's Executive Director, along with a small group of others from within our community including Pastor Hansen Wendlandt, is working on identifying means to expand housing for low income families and individuals within our community. As more information becomes available it'll be communicated to everyone.

The Food Pantry has generally worked closely with the Nederland Clothing Closet, and we're expecting to expand this relationship so we can better serve the food and clothing needs within

our community. The Clothing Closet currently does not have a Board of Directors and has extremely limited options for obtaining grants or any other monetary support. Our hope is that as we grow our relationship we can improve the options for the clothing closet resulting in improved service for our common clients.

The Food Pantry is nearing completion of a web site that'll better communicate our mission and provide an easy opportunity for people to donate to the Food Pantry.

In addition, the Food Pantry now has an official phone number, 720-418-0892, that'll connect callers with the Executive Director, Chris Current.

Finally plans are already underway for the fund raiser in 2015, tentatively scheduled for Feb 22, 2015, that'll include a chili supper and a sock hop.

— Dennis Whalen, *Mission Elder*



*We're On the road again
Just can't wait to get on the road again
The life we love is doing mission with our friends
And we just can't wait to get on the road again*

Continued on Page 5 — Youth On the Move — Check it out!



September Birthdays!

3	Robert Bennett	23	Ed Busch
3	Will Ford	24	Frank Lutz
5	Wes Stiefer	24	Carol Rhoads
11	Justine Irwin	25	David Ford
15	Charles Hogrefe	28	Mark Moll
23	Jasper Burak	Missing your birthday? Tell Gary.	



Violet Aandres and Rich Deubel; Judy Anderson; the family of Robert Davis; Dave Felkley; Justine Irwin; Rita Justice; Atashnaa Medicine Shield; Karen Moss; Dean Rundle and family; Rhonda Skeie and her brother Steve Holland; Ryan McCauley; Gail and David Skinner; Kent Snow; Megan Stadele and her parents; Joye Stanich; Jerry and Margaret Ward; Pam White; love and consideration within the church and denomination; for those who are unable to worship with us regularly; for those serving in the military; Isaiah and other foster children waiting for a family.

Vacation Bible School

Summer time with God

— Barbara Lawlor
[reprint: *The Mountain Ear*, with permission]

Nederland's three churches, Calvary Chapel, Nederland Community Presbyterian Church, and St. Rita's Catholic Church join hands every summer to create the Vacation Bible Study camp. This year the theme was "Living in God's Time," which looked into the Christian holidays of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

Up to 14 children attended this year's camp and eight regular helpers prepared snacks and helped with organizing projects and daily activities. Three of these leaders from the Highlands Camp spent the week in the historic Cardinal townsite.

Third graders and up participated in the afternoon mission projects, which meant some residents had their windows washed and their firewood stacked. The kids helped senior citizens with chores that needed to be done and they washed windows at the Carousel, which was their favorite activity during the week. They all had a chance to ride the Carousel in the brilliant light shining through the recently cleaned windows.

It was a fun time for those who attended, it was also a time for considering the stories in the Bible and relating them into their everyday life.



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.

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, 7 September at Sundance.

Youth Group

With a new school year and everyone's new schedules, the Youth Group is reconfiguring its meeting times. Parents and teenagers, talk to Hansen about the best time for you to participate, and very soon we'll have a new calendar.

We may quarrel with men sometimes about things on this earth, but we never quarrel about God. We do not want to learn that. — Chief Joseph of the Nez Percés

THE NCPC KITCHEN NEEDS your help! We are looking for some specific items to fill out our kitchen needs.

Please email Barbara Hardt at publisher@themountaineer.com with ideas or to **sign up for a specific item**. Photos of each item and links to websites for ordering are available upon request.

- Meat tongs (*these are larger, longer tongs that are good for gripping meat to pull off a grill, out of an oven or hold while slicing meat. The edges are often "scalloped"*).
- 4c glass measuring cup
- No-stick griddles for pancakes and bacon
- A set of mixing bowls (*glass or plastic*)
- Ice Cream scooper
- 9 x 13 baking pan (*glass or no stick*)
- Soup pot (*these are normally 40 qt and made out of aluminum, often referred to as a stock pot*)
- Good can opener
- Skillet set with lids (*8", 10" and 13" preferably*)
Corning ware bake set for oven & microwave
- Salad tongs (*looks more like a spoon and fork with a jointed handle*)
- Colander (*aluminum or plastic*)
- A quality knife set (the set at this Amazon link has ALL the knives we need: http://www.amazon.com/Slitzer%C2%AE-21-Pc-Professional-Chefs-Cutlery/dp/B000N4PLYS/ref=sr_1_3?s=home-garden&ie=UTF8&qid=1408985061&sr=1-3&keywords=chefs+knife+sets)

God Is Alive in Colorado!

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She was very grateful for this help from God.

Another large project involved two days doing trail maintenance for the Town of Nederland, filling in holes and washed out areas, diverting water flow and cutting back trees and brush along the trail; a day of yard and home maintenance at the home of an elderly couple; and a day of hauling and sorting books for the annual book sale at the Nederland Public Library.

We took a break one day and visited the Continental Divide and Estes Park.

Thanks to everyone for their support of our wonderful youth!

(See "Mission: Nederland" on page 2 for a local perspective of these recent mission activities.)

Summer Concert Series

The last concert of the summer series was 17 Aug, featuring Dale Sherrod and friends playing ragtime music. This event benefited the Teen Center, who wrote us a nice note:

"Thank you so much for donating the space and the wonderful piano for the Music in the Mountains concert. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are very much appreciated, and we had a great turnout with lots of fun!"

Thanks to Jan Tafoya for organizing the concerts and Ned's Reds for hosting the receptions. **It wouldn't have happened without you!**

Sunday school teacher for K – 5th

NCPC is seeking caring and enthusiastic individual to teach our K through 5th grade kids on Sunday mornings from 9 am to 9:55 am.

We are looking for someone that has experience working with children and is excited about helping children learn about God. This person will need to lead a lesson each week, which will be provided to them by NCPC prior to Sunday.

Qualified applicants should be open to an exploratory approach when teaching Bible stories and should be interested in incorporating arts, crafts and music. Applicants would need to have availability before and after the lesson from around 8:45 am to 10:15am.

The position is for 1.5 hours of work per week, and the compensation for this position is \$25/week.

In addition, teachers are required to attend quarterly meetings with the NCPC Youth Education Team, usually held on Sunday after worship. The anticipated start date would be in September.

Anyone interested in the position should send a statement of interest and resume. Please include a phone number and email in your application response to ncpcpastor@gmail.com. We will contact references, and a background check will be required. We strongly encourage applicants to visit our website for more information about our church community. **No phone calls please!**

Got Church Keys?

— Jim Hubbard, Property Elder

I don't know if we ever had a good inventory of the church keys but I know that we don't now and this should be corrected.

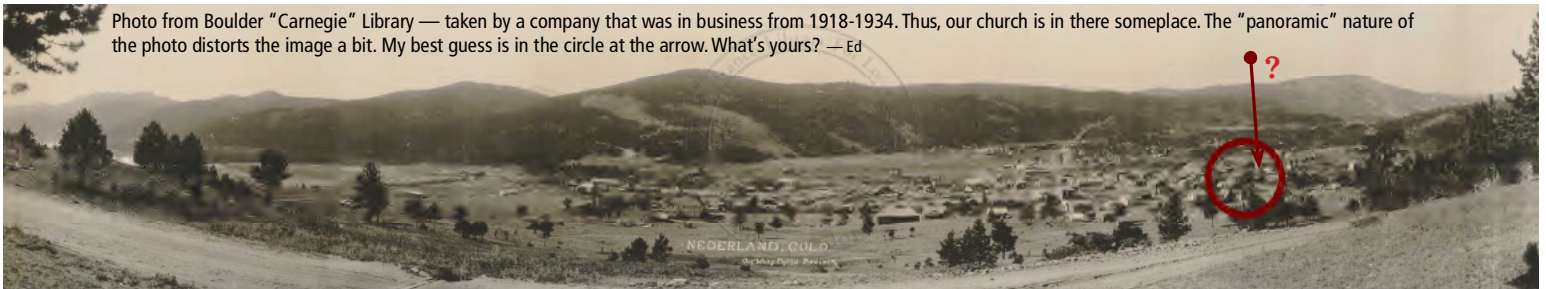
Please let me know if you have a key to either the front or the back door. If you have a need and would like to keep the key, that is great.

However, if you have a key and don't use it anymore, please give it back to me so we can issue it to someone else. We have a limited number of back door keys, no easy way to get more, and they are expensive.

Please help me get some control on our keys for a number of reasons, security being one. Thanks for your help.



Photo from Boulder "Carnegie" Library — taken by a company that was in business from 1918-1934. Thus, our church is in there someplace. The "panoramic" nature of the photo distorts the image a bit. My best guess is in the circle at the arrow. What's yours? — Ed



Summer Sandwiches & Socks

Thanks to everyone who participated in this great ministry program!

The volunteers were amazing: folks from our church and from all over Nederland!

We were able to engage about 100 summer campers with dignity and fellowship, eating together, and offering socks and supplies. Plenty of children brought their Icy Pops onto the playground. And we helped clean up many bags of trash from local campsites.

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!

If you have any feedback for the program, check out the church website for a short survey. (<http://nederlandcpc.org>) — Hansen (And a huge Thank You to Hansen for his commitment and vision for organizing and managing this new [annual?]event.)

Book Club

Over the last nine months, the Book Club has read three books, watched a video series, and now we are going to visit a live performance of a podcast! The Moth radio hour is "true stories, told live". (Check out a program at themoth.org.)



If you would like to join when the show comes to Denver on 30 Sept, talk to Hansen!

Music Survey – We come from so many different faith backgrounds, and have certainly sung out of dozens of different song books.

Youth On the Move....

*On the road again
Goin' places that we've never been
Helpin' folks that we may never see again
And we just can't wait to get on the road again*

YOUTH MISSION TRIP – Once again we are partnering with Westminster Presbyterian (Pueblo) for a Youth Mission Trip!

Over Labor Day weekend, we are sending six teens and pre-teens down to Lake City, to offer their little mountain town some hard work and Christian love.

Listen for a report at the 7 Sept worship service!

One person's familiar tune is completely new to the people in the pews around them.

So, the Worship Team wants to know about music that brings you closer to God.

Please pick up a Music and Worship Survey on the shelf at the back of the sanctuary, or at our website, and give/send it to Hansen.

Thanks for your help, and consider joining the choir, or sharing your gift of an instrument!



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