

The Bell Tower

November 2014

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



New Child & Youth Protection Policy

The Christian Education Team and some helpful folks at church, spent many meetings drafting a new Child & Youth Protection Policy. This puts our kids, staff, volunteers and congregation in an ever safer position, as we put to language the calling we have to bring our young people closer to the family of God. The Session adopted the new policy in October. If anyone wants to read it, Hansen can send you a copy.

Youth Group

The 2014-2015 Youth Group calendar of events is published on our website! Check it out at www.nederlandcpc.org/youth-group.

2 November 11:30 – High Schoolers, with lunch – What’s \$ got to do with it?

2 November 1:00 – Middle Schoolers, with dessert – What’s \$ got to do with it?

20 November 7:00 – All Youth, looking ahead to Christmas worship & mission!

30 November 11:30 – All Youth, cutting down a Christmas Tree!

7 December 11:30 – All Youth, singing Carols at the Ned Mountain Market!



MILO WAITS PATIENTLY while Ray rings the church bell that welcomes folks to worship at Nederland Community Presbyterian Church.

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Thanks to all of you who submitted articles and photos. December Newsletter deadline —
November 24

December 7 at High Noon

Mark Your Calendar . . .

. . . and Tune Up Your Vocal Cords

The NCPC community is scheduled to share in caroling at the Mountain Market on Sunday Dec 7th at 12:00.

We need as many voices, instruments and joyful noises as possible — all ages are welcome and encouraged to come!!

We can go up following fellowship on that Sunday. We have books with many traditional carols.

— Emily Haynes



Fellowship

Many of you have hosted Fellowship at church and for that a BIG thank you! I know that doing Fellowship on a regular basis does not work for everyone. There is something that would be a great help however -- baked goods!

If you could bake up a batch of cookies, zucchini bread, banana bread, cupcakes, a cake or sweet rolls - whatever you enjoy making and drop it off at church that would be wonderful. Just attach a note that it is for FELLOWSHIP - your goodies will be lovingly kept in the freezer for those times when we have no fellowship coverage. What a blessing that will be.

With much appreciation,
Claudia O’Neill
303-258-3447

Upcoming Community Events

4 Nov – Make sure you have voted for Election Day!

15 Nov – Don’t miss the Nederland Health Fair!

16 Nov – Bring your plates and wares for the Thanksgiving Dinner!

7 Dec – Come enjoy the Holiday Mountain Market!

Charter for Compassion

Some form of a Golden Rule exists in just about every moral and religious system, or at least all of those that deserve the names ‘moral’ or ‘religious’. What values inspires such principles? What is it about the world that lies within, if not at the foundation of, all reasonable ways of living together? How do so many positive worldviews point toward caring for other people? The answers to all of those seem to include “compassion”.

It is easy to think that compassion is disappearing. From 9/11 to clergy scandals, from religious wars across the world to nearby neighborhoods in figurative and literal battle—there is enough bad news to bring one to despair. Karen Armstrong is reminding us of the Good News.

Armstrong is an Oxford-educated former nun, turned agnostic, and now world-renowned religious scholar. She has written many books and worked on countless videos to teach about faith, especially in the monotheistic traditions. Recently she established the *Charter for Compassion*, as an expression of and a project for encouraging us all to get back to what healthy social structures are based upon.

The Charter is a short document, not particularly controversial, but very powerful. These simple words and this simple idea are intended to transcend particular religious or moral systems, or at least to be consistent with them. The goal is to inspire individuals and organizations to restore compassion in their thinking, actions and decisions, and thereby to bring more peace into all areas of life.

Over the last few years hundreds of cities have signed the charter, including Denver, Djibouti, Dallas, Dubai & Dhaka. (What else could those five cities possibly have in common?!?) Thousands of businesses, schools,

Volunteer Opportunity

The Nederland Elementary school is always looking for volunteers. Do you have an extra hour a week to donate to the office staff or to a specific classroom? Call NES to find out about volunteer opportunities at 720-561-4800. It takes a whole village to raise a child!

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

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.

It's that time of year again when the Session of Nederland Community Presbyterian Church asks its friends and members to take a look at how they might serve this little church that is at the heart of our mountain community.

Please do the Session a big favor; return your Pledge Form and your Survey of Time and Talents promptly. The Session and Committee chairs depend on this information to develop the 2015 church budget and for planning next year's programs.

You know, it's not easy asking folks to donate their time and their money. Don't believe it? Then live dangerously; talk to Wes, Michael or the Session and sign up to lead next year's Stewardship Program.

Stewardship at Y/Our Church

Dear Friend or Member of our mountain Community Presbyterian Church in Nederland,

Stewardship letters usually begin the words of praise for the glory of giving, with some verses from the Bible included to remind people that this is a holy cause. Giving truly is an important part of a spiritual life, and certainly the lessons of the prophets and of Jesus speak clearly about it. Those of you who've been around churches for very long know this well.

We write now to remind you of the unique place our mountain church has in the life of our community. We urge you to remember that our church family can only exist if enough of us make pledges to support who we are and what we do. Pledged giving enables the Session to plan our budget. The Time and Talent sheets enable our leadership teams to reach out to include opportunities for all members to participate in the life of our church.

For 100 years now, Nederland Community Presbyterian Church has been the voice of thoughtful community life in our area. We've been a place people come to be cared for in maintaining a healthy sense of priorities, a place we continue to grow our abilities in being patient and caring in our relationships with others. Lately, in addition to supporting the Food Pantry, we have served the community with the Summer Socks & Sandwiches program. We hosted groups of young people to do mission work in our town. And within our sanctuary walls, worship has been filled with a spirit of God and many community groups have flourished.

As well, our church family spent two years planning and searching for a pastor who would lead us in the directions we want to go. We shared our hopes and dreams with each other, and by the grace of God we found a pastor who shares our vision. Now it's up to us to provide the support with our pledges and our time, to keep putting those dreams into action.

Please begin thinking prayerfully, progressively, and proportionally about your giving. Our stewardship campaign is quiet and it is short. It is based on good faith and on respect for your judgment. We will be celebrating our giving on Stewardship Sunday, November 16 this year, and it would be most helpful if you could make your commitment to NCPC by that date.

We have shown ourselves to be a generous people. May you continue to participate in that rich tradition and reap the rewards that come from managing your resources in a way that contributes to your own good and to the good of the community that nourishes and supports you.

With blessings to you and to those you care about,

Wes Stiefer and Michael O'Neill
On behalf of the Session

Through 10/31/14:
Income \$59,561, Budgeted Income \$63,647
Expenses \$86,027, Budgeted Expenses \$86,054

Worship

The next worship series, before we reach Advent, is *Praying Through Controversy*. We are going to investigate four of the biggest conflicts in church life, not in order to find a solution or claim that God lands on one side or the other; but instead, by raising the issues of Science & Faith, Politics, Money, and the Book of Revelation, our goal is to practice *grace in controversy*. How could it help our hearts and shape the world more peacefully, to get to know some folks on opposite sides? What would happen if we learned better how to listen to each other? How would our lives change, with more trust in God? What if we looked in odd places for inspiration to really do God's will?

**Daniel Herman Christmas CD!!!
On Sale 30 November! This is going to be your best stocking stuffer of the season!**

Compassion

Continued from Page 1

and non-profits have joined on as Compassionate Partners. Of course, thousands more churches, synagogues, mosques, humanist groups, and other religio-ethical communities of all sorts have promoted the movement. I was the 109,722nd person to sign on,[†] but Desmond Tutu, Queen Noor, Mohammad Ali, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Meg Ryan and Quincy Jones were there first. (Again, what could any of those people possibly have in common, but a commitment to a better world?)

I invite you all to visit the website to read the Charter in whole. (charterforcompassion.org/the-charter) How might more compassion affect your own life? How might it transform this congregation? How might a concerted effort toward compassion draw our families and towns toward more peace?

— Hansen

[†] Up to 109,825 signators at press time! Will you be below 110,000?



JOIN the GROWING MOVEMENT



The Ancient Future Church

COMING UP 14-15 NOVEMBER one of the world's experts on being Church, will be at Highlands Camp in Allenspark. We are blessed to have the fabulous speaker, *Rodger Nishioka*, teaching a retreat for Colorado congregational leaders. He will be using the book of Acts to address some of the difficult cultural changes that are affecting church today. NCPC wants to offer this for as many people as can go, so we are reducing the price for commuters to \$20 for the Fri-Sat event. Please see Hansen for more information, or to sign up!

Peacemaking Offering

Thanks to everyone who gave to the Peacemaking Offering in October! We collected \$120! Half of that goes to one of our denominations international peacemaking initiatives, and half goes toward our own local efforts to make Nederland a more peaceful community.

Violet Aandres and Rich Deubel; Judy Anderson; Nick Kassera and family; Dave Felkley; Atashnaa Medicine Shield; Karen Moss; Miles Pancoast and family; Rhonda Skeie and her brother Steve Holland; Bob Kochen; Gail and David Skinner; the Stadele family in the loss of Megan's father; 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; for all those caring for aging parents.



If You Can . . . Lend a Hand

On October 13, two Nederland High School seniors, Miles Pancoast and Nick Kassera, were injured in a rollover accident near the Kelly Dahl Campground on Hwy. 119.

Miles sustained serious spinal injuries and was flown by helicopter to St. Anthony's Hospital in Denver. Kassera was taken by ambulance to St. Anthony's with face and shoulder injuries. Miles has since been moved to Craig Hospital, an internationally known facility for leading edge treatment of traumatic spinal and brain injuries. Miles is expected to be at Craig for at least 90- days.



CHES & PEAK TO PEAK HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Every Wednesday at 5pm a group of kids and adult mentors meet at the Nederland Community Library to play chess. Here is some information that may be useful about chess (but don't share with the kids, they just think it's fun).

Countless researchers and studies have shown over the years that chess does indeed strengthen a child's mental clarity, fortitude, stability, and overall health. Many schools are now finding chess as an inexpensive but essential way of helping kids grow mentally. In this technologically driven world, chess helps aid in the synthesis and growth of certain areas in the brain and mind where many children can benefit as they grow older from the game.



Dr. Robert Furgeson, Jr., the Executive Director of the American Chess School has prepared a review of key research studies

Support for both men from Nederland and the Peak to Peak community has been swift and heart-warming.

If you would like to help, donations for both families are being accepted at Brightwood Music, Nederland High School, or can be mailed to: Peak to Peak Healthy Communities Project, PO BOX 668, Nederland, CO 80466. All donations to the PPHCP fund are tax deductible.

Donations for Miles recovery made be made online at: https://www.giveforward.com/fundraiser/zm46/many-arms-around-miles?utm_source=facebook

For more information or to keep up on this journey please check out the Community Cares Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/728431973876914/>

for the chess in education conference. This review contains many charts and graphs that give detailed explanations and results of numerous studies.

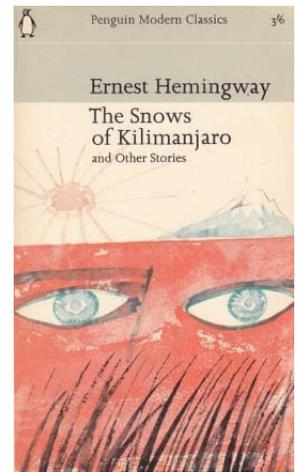
Steve Sawyer, The Oklahoma Scholastic Chess Charter President, compiled "*Chess: A Learning Tool*", which also gives insights into the benefits of chess on children.

Another interesting article was published in Time Magazine back in 2001 by Evan Levy about chess and learning. He discusses chess in schools.

Chess is in many ways like life itself. It's all condensed in a playful manner in a game format and it's extremely fascinating because first of all I'm in control of my own destiny, I'm in charge. You have to be responsible for your actions, you make a move, you had better think ahead about what's going to happen, not after it happens, because then it's too late. Chess teaches discipline from a very early age. It teaches you to have a plan and to plan ahead. If you do that, you'll be rewarded; if you break the rules, you will get punished in life and in chess. You need to learn the rules to break the rules. — Susan Polgar, 4 time World Champion and founder of the Susan Polgar Foundation.

Book Club – The next read for the Book Club is *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*, by Ernest Hemingway. Join us on this adventure story, where conflict and self-serving attitudes get in the way of ever summiting the "House of God".

We start on 18 November, and continue each Tuesday at 6:30. We have great conversation and usually a nice after-dinner snack.

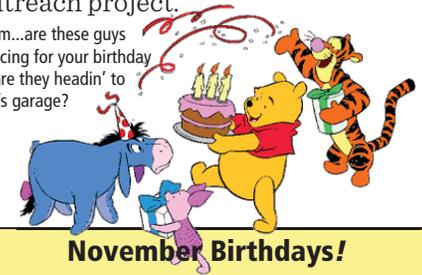


Men's Group

usually meets the third Sunday at 4 pm, but this month we need to reschedule to 9 November, at Black Sheep Brewing. (This is Jim Steven's garage, 13 Navajo Trail.)

All men are welcome, whether you want to share a beer or help plan our next outreach project.

Hmm...are these guys dancing for your birthday or are they headin' to Jim's garage?



November Birthdays!

1	Mary Commers	17	Cinda Kochen
2	Rosalie Bargmann	24	Floy Walber
2	Esther Rings	25	Dan Harrison
5	Charlene Morrision	25	Janice Rundle
5	Debbie Stevens	26	Eleanor Busch
6	Dave Blanchard	27	Pat Ennor
9	Hayden Hardt-Zeman	30	Charlie Allen
10	Russ Peterson	30	Mark Haynes
11	Kathleen Henningson		

Did we miss your birthday? Tell Gary.

Peak to Peak Healthy Communities Project sponsors two kids events each week. For more information about the chess club please contact Barbara Hardt at 303-810-5409 or publisher@themountaineer.com

Pickin' in the Peaks

NCPC has hosted the Pickin' in the Peaks Camp for two years now. After the 2013 camp a group of parents organized a weekly pick for the kids to get together and play.

Each week the group continues to meet during the school year at 5:30pm at Kathmandu (minus holiday weeks).

After the 2014 Pickin in the Peaks camp a new idea was born. The Colorado Bluegrass Music Society offered to sponsor a group of kids that would play at local Continued next page

Pickin' in the Peaks

Continued

venues. The group, "Young Pickers", has played at NedFest, OktoberFest, Art on the Town, Enchanted Forest and MORE. The group meets once a month in Lafayette to practice, once a month in Nederland for an official practice and then gets together to pick as often as possible.

For more information about Young Pickers please contact Barbara Hardt at 303-810-5409 or publisher@themountainear.com.



Compassion Week 2014
 NOVEMBER 10 - 16 San Francisco, CA

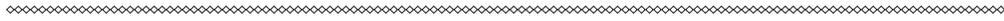
Events hosted by: The Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education, The Tenzin Gyatso Institute, & The Charter for Compassion

The Science of Compassion Conference Empathy & Compassion in Society Conference
 Compassion & Healthcare Conference Living Compassionately Retreat

visit ccare.stanford.edu/events-list/ for more info

Come join in for all of the events of Compassion Week. All events are being held at Fort Mason, San Francisco. Register today!

Friday evening, November 14: Early evening gathering of Charter organizers, partners, and members. Come and meet each other and members of the Charter's Global Compassion Council who are present for the



Compassion Week events. This gathering is being sponsored by Compassionate California and will be held at the office of one of our partners, GoodMojo, who has produced the Compassion Week video.

Now, if I was living in the "bay area," as at least a couple of our readers are, I would hustle on over to Fort Mason for this event — at least Friday evening. — Ed.



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