

# The Bell Tower

May 2015

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



NPCPC . . . a Charter for Compassion Partner

## Presbytery Report

— Hansen

This story is actually about something completely different than the past few Presbytery reports!

For a number of years, the Presbyterian denomination to which NPCPC is affiliated (the "PCUSA" is the largest Presbyterian denomination in the country) has been considering whether to add another official confession, or creed. We have 11 documents that describe and give shape to our traditional understanding of faith. Some are well known and very old, like the Nicene Creed and Apostles' Creed. Some are newer and may be totally obscure to you, like the Confession of 1967 and A Brief Statement of Faith.

Last June our denomination gathered for its bi-annual General Assembly. That is a week-long meeting, composed of an equal number of Pastors and lay leaders, each designated by their regional bodies to handle all sorts of business of the church. One of the issues up for vote was whether to propose to add the Belhar Confession as our 12<sup>th</sup> official description of the way we approach faith.

The Belhar is unique, in that it was written, not in Europe or America, but in South Africa, not by overeducated white men, but by a group of scholars and believers, men and women, black and white, during Apartheid. The sense of the document is that God is in the business of reconciliation, so we should be too. Racial tension is definitely the background, but we are called, by God,

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## Parenting and Pot

This is a Letter to the Editor, reprinted from the 29 April *Mountain Ear*.

Back in March Nederland held an event to help parents navigate the difficulties of raising children in a town where marijuana is so prevalent. Ray Lozano presented, and about 100 folks came to hear their questions answered by a panel of locals who work with teenagers. The result? Many people were disappointed. And for all the controversy it set off, the predominant opinion seemed to be that the event simply did not achieve what folks wanted.

So, since one of our goals at the Peak to Peak Prevention Coalition is to help parents help their kids through this issue, we are going to try again.

On **20 May 6:30-8:00**, you are invited (again), to talk about parenting and pot. We will gather at the Nederland Community Presbyterian Church, instead of a big dark theatre. There will be a panel of locals answering questions, not any national experts lecturing. And we will have a civil conversation, even when we bring different perspectives to the larger topic.

This is not a place to argue about adult recreational use, nor discuss the merits of medicinal. This is about teenagers making positive choices, and how parents and the community can

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## Bible Study

Bible Study will return this summer. We will get deep into the Acts of the Apostles. Much of Scripture inspires us as individuals, pushing our own sense of faith. These stories of the early church in Acts also challenge us to rethink how we can be more faithful together, as a community of people trying to follow God's will for our lives.

**THE NEVER ENDING FOOD DRIVE** needs your continuing help and support. Consider bringing a non-perishable food item to worship next time. Thanks for your support!

## Rocky Mountain Mission

On 7 February NPCPC received a generous grant to kick off the *Rocky Mountain Mission* program!

We did a pilot for this program last summer, when Wes Stiefer recruited a church youth group from Guymon, Oklahoma to come for a week of service to our community.

This summer, we have three separate weeks of outreach, where young people will sleep at the church, and work on homes of people in need, serve the town by fixing and cleaning up parks and trails, lay up wood for elderly folks, help with the Food Pantry, and all sorts of other projects.

Our goal is to pair eager young people with opportunities to serve, all surrounded by a natural environment that can help them consider God's place in their lives and their place in God's drama.

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## Treasurer's Report

For 2015 through 03/31/15:

**Budgeted Income \$18,175**

**Actual Income \$14,983**

**Budgeted Expenses \$24,636**

**Actual Expenses \$23,208**

## Summer Socks & Sandwiches

One of the best things about last summer was the Socks & Sandwiches ministry.

Many Thursdays local folks gathered to share sandwiches with anyone who could use a simple lunch and to give socks and other supplies to folks camping in the woods around Ned.

Children came and played. Folks experiencing homelessness were helped in many ways, with dignity and respect. Volunteers from NPCPC and all around town created genuine community.

And on Saturdays a couple hearty volunteers even went to pick up trash from campsites that don't have any other way to dispose of it. *A great success!*

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## Presbytery Report

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to reconcile across any wall we build between each other, or even the walls we build between God's Creation.

By a vote of 551-87, last year's General Assembly voted to propose the Belhar. That's step one. Step two was for 2/3 of the regional bodies to approve that. On 23 April we crossed that threshold. So, step three is a final vote, at next summer's General Assembly. If (likely, when) that happens, the Belhar will be official.

We have been using excerpts and language from this Confession in worship lately. And you can read the whole document here: [http://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belhar.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/theologyandworship/pdfs/belhar.pdf)

## Parenting & Pot

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support them. How can you talk to kids? Where do you hide your own stash? How do you respond when they experiment? What can happen when young folks are caught at school or by the police? And any questions you have, please send them to [nedpotquestions@gmail.com](mailto:nedpotquestions@gmail.com), so we can start with the issues that matter to you.

Let's come together as a diverse community, to support parents in navigating the ins and outs of teenage drug use.

Kristi Venditti & Hansen Wendlandt, Teens Inc & Peak to Peak Prevention Coalition

## Blue Grass at NCPC

"Pickin in the Peaks" is an annual family friendly jam camp that Annie founded in the summer of 2012! It is taught by a staff of professional bluegrass musicians that has included the likes of Jeff Scroggins, Greg Blake, Tristan Scroggins and Andrea Love.

The camp, held June 2-5 in the beautiful mountain town of Nederland at Nederland Community Presbyterian Church and teaches:

- Instrumental and vocal instruction
- Extensive jamming
- Vocal harmony technique!

We are sponsored by local musician fave Brightwood Music, so strings, instruments and resources are held on site! Perfect for families or individuals, it is a great way to immerse yourself in the art of jamming and improvisation!

For more information or to register check out <http://savagefiddler.com/picking-in-the-peaks/>

## Mission Report

— Dennis Whalen

The annual Nederland Food Pantry fund raiser is Saturday, May 2, at the Community Center starting at 6:30. There will be snacks, music by a live band combined with a sock hop, and a silent auction. Admission will be by a generous cash donation and a can or box of food or a personal hygiene item. This is the only community wide fund raising activity to the support the Food Pantry during the year and we hope everyone can attend.

We served 221 clients in March and received 854 pounds of food. In April, so far, thanks to Eldora Mountain Resort we've already received more than 1000 pounds of donated food. The gardens that support the Food Pantry have been started and we're hoping for an even larger yield of fresh vegetables during this growing season. Help with the gardening tasks are always appreciated and if you're interested please contact me.

The Food Pantry has recently received a grant to get a commercial grade freezer. This will both provide additional room to store freezable food items between distribution times, and will allow us to replace a smaller, donated freezer that has had some problems keep food frozen.

The Clothing Closet continues to receive a large number of donations. However, occasionally clothing items are donated that essentially no longer are useful as wearable clothing. Thus all donated clothing items must be sorted and evaluated, with many items being taken to the sort yard and placed into the recycle clothing box available there. Also, on a regular basis non day-to-day clothing items are left at the Clothing Closet requiring a Clothing Closet volunteer to take the items to the trash. Please, only donate clothing that may be used as everyday wear and has a reasonable amount of wear remaining.

*There is no faith that promotes violence...no faith that says that it is a good thing to steal... no faith that says it is a good thing to kill. All of our faiths in different ways tell us how we can be truly human, that we are interdependent, that we are made for interdependence.*

— ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU

## Rocky Mountain Mission

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**Would you please pray for these churches, and welcome them when they arrive?**

First Presbyterian of Alamogordo, New Mexico (June 7-13)

Federated Church of Fergus Falls, Minnesota (June 13-20)

Central Presbyterian of Longmont, Colorado (July 5-11)

**If you would be willing to cook a dinner, lend out a shower, or know of good projects for young people to accomplish, please talk to Hansen or Wes!**



## Hansen's Surgery

Between mean moguls and trying to dangle on silly rocks, I've beaten myself up pretty good. On 21 May, I'll be going under the knife to fix a bum shoulder.

It's far from my first procedure, and certainly won't be the last. I even get the same surgeon who did my left shoulder — a Presbyterian elder, who prayed for me and for his calmness, just before the anesthesia kicked in.

Expect me to be in the office a little less over those next couple weeks, and to sport a fancy sling for a while afterwards.

Church life will go on just fine, with you saints caring for each other. If you do want to help with some of the day-to-day tasks in the office, talk to me beforehand. And if you want to help me, the biggest thing I'll need is folks to bring Chugach on some doggie play dates. Thanks!

*"We'll never arrest our way out of this situation. I believe we can end the era of violence in our cities. People are doing it even now... and they need your support."*

— Rev. Jeffrey Brown, Boston, MA

## It Was A Beautiful Life

— Frank Lutz

Most of you are aware that we recently lost our cherished German Shepard, Hans. Hans was our fifth Shepard. Our first was also a Hans. That alone would have made him special. But there was much more.

Hans had been a stud dog for five years and in foster care for another year. He had no “puppy hood” and probably little, if any, love. Imagine a person who had no love for the first half of life.

From the moment Hans saw Susan he was in love with her and she with him. He loved her unconditionally and with all his being. And she returned that same love. Hans could only be happy when he was with her. She was his life. And I loved him for that because I have always felt that God had meant the two of us to be together. And so I believe God meant Hans and Susan to be together. It was six years we had together with Hans. And the love we had will never die; we will have it to eternity. “The darkness cannot extinguish the light.” It was a beautiful life.

After Hans’ death, Susan wrote the following to our sons:

*Remembering that it was almost Easter,  
I went down the snowy path  
To where each year I find  
Two pulsetilsa vulgans  
Peeking out of the snow,  
There they were, hidden  
In the melting snow –  
Beautiful!*

Thanks for letting us share this with you. We hope you might share some of the love we had with Hans and will continue to share.

### In our Prayers

Violet Aandres; Judy Anderson; Rich Deubel and his sister; Elizabeth Azcarate; Delores Cieloha; Rich Deubel and his sister; Gail Eddy’s mother; Sue Evans; Kayla; Rev. Gibney’s brother; Vicky and Brian Hardt; Marylou Harrison’s father; Linda Jones; David Lynd; Chuck Miller; Anastasia and family; Karen Moss; Miles Pancoast and family; Rhonda Skeie and her brother, Steve Holland; Gail



## Youth Group

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

3 May 11:30 – All Youth, with lunch  
21 May 7:00 – All Youth, with dessert  
31 May 11:30 – All Youth, with lunch

### CWS: So-o WHAT Now?

— Justine Irwin

Those who know me know I love collecting and wearing emblazoned tea shirts on informal occasions. A favorite one is maroon with a row of five half-grown tortoiseshell kittens seated in a straight line above a quote from 20<sup>th</sup> century author, Ernest Hemmingway: “One cat just leads to another.” While trying to draft this article, it struck me that a similar idea could be applied to the 20<sup>th</sup> century organization Christian Women in Service trying to adapt to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. “One problem just leads to another” leaving the over-riding question “Do we still have a real, viable purpose in our changing community?”

Our problems arose with an abrupt awakening in July 2014 when the annual Old Timers’ Day Bazaar was cancelled due to an inadvertent calendar overlay with a full weekend youth mission activity scheduled for the Fellowship Hall.

Then in September, the annual winter/summer potluck luncheon was cancelled by the sudden critical illness of a hostess’ family member, necessitating a move down-country for medical treatment.

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**“The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between, the leader is a servant.”**

— Max DePree

and David Skinner; Mike Smith; Megan Stadele; Karl Thompson; Atashnaa Werner; love and consideration within the church and denomination; for those who are unable to worship with us regularly; for those serving in the military; Central Presbyterian Church (Longmont); Federated Church (Fergus Falls, MN); First Presbyterian (Alamogordo, NM); and all those affected by the earthquake in Nepal and those responding with aid.

**Women’s Group** meets the first Sunday of each month at noon. All women are welcome, whether you want to share a margarita or just some laughs with new church friends! This month, 3 May, let’s get together at Kathmandu.

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**Men’s Group** meets the third Sunday of each month at 4 pm. All men are welcome, whether you want to share a beer or help plan our next outreach project. This month, 17 May, let’s get together at Black Sheep Brewing, 13 Navajo Trail (Jim Stevens’ garage).

### Book Club

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The Book Club is taking a break, while some of us navigate a busy season and Hansen goes in for shoulder surgery. When we return this summer, the first book will be Wendell Berry’s *Hannah Coulter*. Berry is an 80-year old poet, farmer, English professor, conservationist, and occasional novelist. The New York Times calls him the “prophet of rural America”. Part story about small town life, part spiritual tale of grief and thankfulness, part indictment of modern life, *Hannah Coulter* is a captivating, enjoyable and emotional book, full of grief and beauty, memories of a time undone and visions of a life worth living.

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**Summer Socks...** Continued from page 1

Soon, we are bringing back Socks & Sandwiches for 2015!

This time we’ll meet at noon every Thursday from June through mid-August, at the **NCPC playground and Guyer Garden**.

With the help of the Bridge House (one of Boulder’s best outreaches to the homeless community) we are going to offer little workshops on campfire safety and camp cleanliness. Peak to Peak Counseling will be on hand to work with mental health.

Nederland Police have volunteered to grill hot dogs one week. The Forest Service is trying to figure out how to help more with trash.

All we need now is a few good volunteers – which is where you come in. If you have time this summer, around noon on Thursdays, to serve, set up or help clean up, please get in touch with Hansen.

That was followed by a sudden September snow storm that drove the rest of our seasonal members to lower climes earlier than planned.

Thus, at our regular meeting on the second Tuesday of October 2014, the five remaining members of CWS met over tea and cookies to decide "Okay. What now? Where do we go from here? Or, do we go at all?" We spent the next three hours reviewing our situation and debating solutions. After more tea and cookies, we reached the following decision: CWS would carry on for one more, adjusted year. Then in October 2015 we would evaluate our progress and determine our future. Our first task was to clearly define our major problems. There were two. First, a declining and aging membership; second, a gradual and continuing decline in our traditional community-wide service projects.

A review of past history showed that in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, prior to 2000, CWS boasted twelve to twenty-five regular members. But time and age take a toll. Since the turn of the century, we now average five to eight active members depending on the season. At least three of us are over age eighty and no longer drive at night. Our younger women are actively involved in family, business, or otherwise occupied during the day and cannot or do not choose to attend day time meetings. In the past couple of years, even the election of officers has become a problem with offices routinely rotating among only three local members.

Change of centuries is also responsible for the decline in community-wide projects such as the clothes closet, the food pantry, and the crafting of baby quilts and layettes for indigent mothers in the Peak to Peak area. These projects as well as numerous others were started by CWS to meet local community needs. They now have been assumed by both for-profit businesses and non-profit agencies, and no longer operate solely out of local churches.

Instead, the projects which remain with CWS are both caring and supplemental in nature. We still send regular greeting cards to former members and each year handcraft Valentines in January to mail out through the special Valentine stamp program of Loveland, Colorado. We also fund and package the nuts and candy for the community Christmas baskets and provide needed foot care for low income seniors.

Our larger yearly project, requiring major hours of planning and work has traditionally

been the July bazaar which funds all the other projects. But even this activity is now in jeopardy due to our declining membership, activities of other community agencies, and the increasing "nanny" rules and regulations of the larger society.

After more tea and cookies, we concluded our review and made the decision to continue as an organization for ONE more year, adjusting the calendar accordingly. We would not meet regularly during the winter, but we would meet as needed to carry on previously planned events. In November 2014 St. Rita's held their successful annual bazaar; in December, we held a potluck luncheon and packaged 120 sacks of candy and nuts for the community Christmas baskets; in late January 2015, we met with sack lunches to craft and mail Valentines.

There were no meetings in February or March. Meetings resumed in April as usual

on the second Tuesday of each month and will be held in May, June, and July, with the annual bazaar planned for Saturday, July 25 during the newly designed Nederland Home Coming Days. The annual winter/summer luncheon will be moved from September forward to August 11. There will be no meeting in September, but we will meet on October 13 to evaluate the year and determine our future. Please make note of the dates and join us if you can. We need your participation, new ideas, and suggestions if CWS is to continue. Meeting times will be announced as business dictates. As usual, we will continue single chapter bible study in addition to regular business and fellowship. And yes, there will be tea and cookies.

Justine C. Irwin, Secretary and Historian  
Christian Women in Service Next Month:  
Bazaar or Bizarre ... Rummage Maybe?



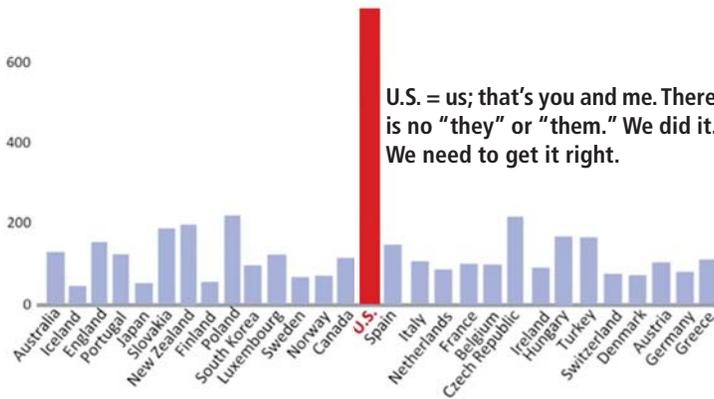
COMPASSION—MAYBE IT'S where we are headed — perhaps not where we are now — but what we are *becoming* if we authentically advance along the path that more than one great *Wayshower* blazed well before us.



### How do you spell dysfunctional society?

The U.S. has the highest incarceration rate of any country in the world, imprisoning about 716 people out of every 100,000 citizens.

800 prisoners per every 100,000 citizens



U.S. = us; that's you and me. There is no "they" or "them." We did it. We need to get it right.

**TED** Only handcuffs and jail time?  
IDEAS WORTH SPREADING  
"In the United States, two institutions guide teenagers on the journey to adulthood: college and prison.

"Sociologist Alice Goffman spent six years in a troubled Philadelphia neighborhood and saw first-hand how teenagers of African-American and Latino backgrounds are funneled down the path to prison — sometimes starting with relatively minor infractions. In an impassioned talk she asks, "Why are we offering only handcuffs and jail time?"

Check it out at the link below.  
Might some of this be mitigated in a system grounded in compassion rather than punishment? Consider the costs to society—the cost of incarceration and the cost of undeveloped human resources.

[http://www.ted.com/talks/alice\\_goffman\\_college\\_or\\_prison\\_two\\_destinies\\_one\\_blatant\\_injustice](http://www.ted.com/talks/alice_goffman_college_or_prison_two_destinies_one_blatant_injustice)

Giving Back Some of the Creator's Gifts  
It's the other guy's & gal's job. We are the other!

A pie chart divided into three equal sections: a green section labeled 'Time', a yellow section labeled 'Talent', and a red section labeled 'Treasure'.

## Do you have questions or comments about NCPC?

In the Presbyterian denomination, the ministry of administration for each congregation is handled by its Session of Elders (like a spiritual Board of Trustees), and the ministry of compassion is directed by the Deacons.

### Here are your church leaders and staff:

Clerk of Session, Nancy Lynd

Elder for Finance, Marylou Harrison

Elder for Worship, Emily Haynes

Elder for Fellowship, Claudia O'Neill

Elder for Property, Jim Reis

Elder for Mission, Dennis Whalen

Deacon, David Ford

Deacon, Katie Haynes

Deacon, Kathleen Henningsen

Deacon, Bette Ventrella

Treasurer, Wes Stiefer

Piano, Daniel Herman

Childcare, Pam North

Sexton, John Callahan

Pastor, Rev Hansen Wendlandt

### 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.

## New Church Directory

Beginning May 10 you may have your photo taken during fellowship following the worship service. Please don't put it off. We would like to publish an up to date directory by mid to late summer



### May Anniversaries

19 Mary Wingate & Dave Blanchard

31 Pat & Gary Ennor

### May Birthdays!

16 Luke Harrison

17 Rita Justice

17 Del Lynd

18 Carolyn Armstrong

20 Genette Sizer

Missing **your** birthday? Tell Gary.



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