

The Bell Tower

September 2015

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



NCPC . . . a Charter for Compassion Partner

Stop Hunger Now

What a success!!! Nearly 60 people from church and all over Nederland showed up in early August to pack 10,152 meals for hungry children around the world! About a fourth of the meals started with Crystal Epperson placing a vitamin pack in a plastic baggie. The new librarian, Town Hall intern, Teens Inc staff, and lots of church folks then filled those bags with rice, soy protein & dried veggies. Little 8-year old Natalia would carry the bags to be weighed and sealed by a number of Rotary members and townsfolk; and another young boy focused hard to count and box the finished products. Sue Churches' strong teenagers lugged around heavy bags to refill the assembly lines, and Teens Inc youth helped set up and clean up. Thanks especially to the Nederland Rotarians, who gave a large grant to meet our goal! Get ready for next year, when we aim for 11,000 meals!



The kind of ancestors you have is not as important as the ones your children have.

The best things in life are not things.

Keeping a neat house is like threading beads on a string with no knot in it.

from *Amish Values for Your Family*, Suzanne Woods Fisher

Contents

1 Stop Hunger Now	2 Your Church Leaders
1 Summer Socks	3 Vacation Bible School
1 New Directory	3 Book Club
1 Treasurer's Report	3 Becoming Compassion
1 Church Membership	3 The Compassion Games
2 Mission Report	3 In Our Prayers
2 Agency on Aging	3 Birthdays
2 Men's Group	3 Anniversary
2 Coffee & Conversation	

Summer Socks and Sandwiches

Thanks, everybody, for another good summer of Socks & Sandwiches! We fed 145 people, including far more children this year. So many volunteers and organizations were there for food, set up, a kind word, and just rehearsing what it is like to live in a peaceful world.

One advantage of the new location, in the Guyer Garden, was that having us all eat closer together led to more group discussions. We could hear about campers problems with trash and bathrooms, learn their feelings about conflicts in town, and portray a more communal, integrated group. There is still room for individual relationships to grow (like with the David we got to know this summer), and our great playground for kids. This didn't raise any difficulties for our neighbor complaints. And as long as this continues to be a community effort, with volunteers from all around town, we can help mitigate any stigma attached to being at a 'church'.

Thanks especially to David Ford for picking up trash every Saturday. Even when he only had a bag or two, this really helped campers understand that we are working to meet them holistically, not just give out a sandwich.

New Directory Photos

Thanks to Cheryl Wiles, who has taken a bunch of photos for our new church directory!

Over the next few weeks, Gwyn Bass will be taking more, so that you can be included, and our whole church family can grow a little closer. Before or after worship, look for the teenager with the camera!

Treasurer's Report

For 2015 through 07/31/15:

Budgeted Income \$42,408

Actual Income \$42,165

Budgeted Expenses \$57,484

Actual Expenses \$60,573

Church Membership

It's Kinda Complicated, and It Could Be Meaningful

— Hansen

There are a lot of people who call NCPC "home". Some of our CEO's (Christmas and Easter Only) consider this their church—and we should feel blessed that they choose us for their one or two services a year. Others who come during the summer are definitely part of the family, sometimes for longer than anyone else here. There are about 60 people who have done something to become 'official' members, and another 50 or so who participate with some regularity from the safe confines of the pews. So, the church community includes a handful of different groups.

The denomination is most concerned with those 'official' members. There is a process for becoming 'official' – some of you skipped a lot of it, but most of you at least stood up before the church on a Sunday morning to say that you wanted to join. We have a fancy record book for 'official' members. They get an 'official' vote in congregational meetings. And the denomination keeps a close eye on that group, partly because congregations are supposed to pay a sum for each 'official' member we have, and partly because they want some way to know how the larger Church body is doing.

Jesus certainly wasn't as concerned with whether or not someone is 'official'. And I sincerely hope that neither I, as the pastor, nor any other folks in this church community, ever treat someone differently because of their status as 'official' or not. We're in this together: a messy, diverse group of people who find God's Word for their life, in the fellowship, mission and/or message of this congregation.

But set aside for a second that membership is something important to

Continued Page 2

the red tape of the denomination, and that it is less important to the way the church actually functions. What might membership mean to you? What could it mean to you and your journey with God, to make the decision to officially join a congregation? What would it mean to you, to express your faith by standing before the congregation to say something like, "I don't understand it all, but I trust that God is on my side"?

This fall (dates TBD) we will have a new member interest group, for a few Sundays after worship. We'll learn about each other, the Christian and Presbyterian traditions, and this particular congregation. There's no commitment implied when you come to those gatherings, so that whether you decide to join officially or keep participating without that, either way, you're a cherished part of this family.

Another option, for those of you who aren't here in the fall because you primarily take part in the summertime, is 'affiliate' membership. 'Affiliate' membership is another category that the denomination offers. Sometimes a college student will join a church as an affiliate, while their 'official' membership remains back at home, with the teddy bears and high school mementos. Sometimes a person who works seasonally will join a church as an affiliate, so that they have a community to call home, even when they are on the road. Sometimes a person who lives or vacations somewhere during a summer or winter will join as an affiliate, so that they can declare something about their commitment to that part-time faith community.

Becoming an 'affiliate' member is as easy as having your 'official' church send a letter to us, then standing up on a Sunday morning to express your desire to be part of this wild crowd. That's it – no other requirements or responsibilities, but it still could be a very meaningful demonstration.

If you want to talk more about 'official' or 'affiliate' membership, check in with Hansen after worship or on email. Peace!

Mission Report

The Nederland Food Pantry provided food for 318 people in July, and received 2206 pounds of donated food, in addition to the food we were able to gather from Boulder County Community Food Share. The Food Pantry and Clothing Closet is getting assistance with the garden and with sorting and arranging clothes by United Way volunteers that are from a Boulder Count business and will be in Nederland the morning of September 11. Additional help will be appreciated on that day, especially in the afternoon, so that all the various tasks can be completed. Thus, if you have some time available we'd appreciate your assistance. Simply come to the West wing of the Nederland Community Center and look for Chris Current.

The Board, working through the Executive Director, is working to identify some additional sources of funding so the Executive Director can be paid a living wage in the future, thus assuring that the Food Pantry will be able to continue functioning as long as necessary. Because these would be operational expenses grants are not a realistic source, so it will require some added effort to identify such sources.

Dennis Whalen

Home: 303-642-1435

Mobile: 303-862-1501

The outer work can never be small if the inner work is great. And the outer work can never be great if the inner work is small.

—Meister Eckhart, 14th century Christian mystic

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

Training Courses for Family Caregivers of Older Adults

Are you providing part- or full-time care for an older loved one? Do you know someone who is? Boulder County Area Agency on Aging offers two training courses for family caregivers. The **National Caregiver Training Program**, which teaches practical skills for providing care at home, will meet on Thursdays, September 17 – October 29, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m., in Boulder.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers, which helps caregivers reduce stress and care for themselves, will meet on Wednesdays, September 23 – October 28, 1:30 – 4 p.m., also in Boulder. These courses are free (donations welcome), and financial assistance for respite care (substitute elder care) during class periods is available. Pre-registration required: 303-678-6116 or InfoCaregiver@bouldercounty.org.

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 it's 20 September at Salto.

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.

Factoid

In the *olden days* at NCPC, way back around the late '90's (as in 1990's) congregants, both official and seasonal members, often served as ushers and liturgists for a full month.

Now some take a Sunday each month. There's always room for more and it's painless.

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

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School – Every summer NCPC joins with Calvary Chapel & St Rita’s to put on a week of camp for the children. This year Aimee Tomlinson recruited 14 youngsters and a group of volunteers! Staff from Highlands Camp in Allenspark taught the kids about peace and the values that we learn from Jesus and the Bible.

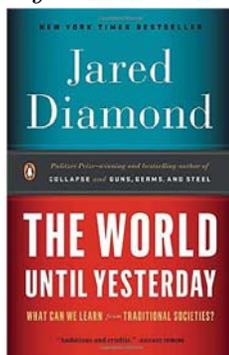


Book Club

The Book Club is reading Jared Diamond’s *The World Until Yesterday*. Join us each Tuesday at 6:30 for good discussion!

The bestselling author of *Collapse* and *Guns, Germs and Steel* surveys the history of human societies to answer the question: *What can we learn from traditional societies that can make the world a better place for all of us?*

No time to read? It’s available as a CD book at many libraries. Listen to it while commuting or exercising. Diamond is the quintessential left brained scientist; his research is thorough and he tells a great story. *But*, if you’re a dowser, or believe in dowsing, look out! He has no use for things beyond the five physical senses. Let the good times roll.



Becoming Compassion



Do Something Besides

Work and Play

Helping others, working for a cause you connect with, participating in something that sparks your compassion and passion, is not just an important part of being human; it’s an important part of being *healthy*. When you engage in something that matters to you, your spirit and energy surge (sort of the way they do when you’re in love). You feel—physically—way better.

Are you shaking your head, thinking “I don’t have the time?” Look at it this way; when you add something you care about, you change the way the pie chart of your life is divided. That new thing that matters finds a place in your world, and when it’s let in, the things that stress you out get smaller.

Investigate options. Ask friends. Poke around online. And sign up for something. There’s a nice phrase that cuts through the barriers to this kind of small but significant step: **“Commit. You’ll figure it out.”** (Source: *The New Health Rules* – Simple Changes to Achieve Whole-Body Wellness; Frank Lipman, M.D. & Danielle Claro)

Playing Together Changes the World!

The **Compassion Games** are a powerful social tool designed to ignite, amplify, and catalyze compassionate action in communities around the world. By infusing the power of playfulness and compassion with the fun of friendly competition, the Games offer a unique way to strive together to serve each other, our own personal well-being, and the Earth.

The Ways to Play are grouped into three dimensions: Compassion for, Self, Others, and Earth. There are also Ways to Play in the Annual Games.

Did you know that the original meaning of the word competition was “to strive together?” No one can lose the Compassion Games and as the more people play, the more people win!

There are several ways you, or a



Greatness is the courage to overcome obstacles. It is the willingness to move to a higher level of love. It is the acceptance of others’ humanness and having compassion for their suffering by putting ourselves in their shoes. Out of the forgiveness of others come self-forgiveness and the relief of guilt. The real payoff we get is when we let go of our negativity and choose to be loving; we are the ones who benefit. We are the ones who gain from the real payoff. With this increased awareness of who we really are comes the progressive invulnerability to pain. Once we compassionately accept our own humanness and that of others, we are no longer subject to humiliation, for true humility is a part of greatness.

— David R. Hawkins, M.D. PhD., *Letting Go: The Pathway of Surrender* (p. 48)

In our Prayers

Please keep the folks and circumstances noted below in your daily thoughts and prayers.



Violet Aandres and Rich Deubel; Judy Anderson; Delores Cieloha; Gail Eddy’s mother; Gary Ennor; Rev Gibney’s brother; the family of Dale Heber; Linda Jones; Chuck Miller; Anastasia and family; Karen Moss; Morggan O’Neill ; Miles Pancoast and family; Rhonda Skeie; Gail and David Skinner; Mike Smith; David Starr: love and consideration within the church and denomination; for those serving in the military; for all who have been touched by Charleston

group of friends, can join and play in the Compassion Games! Learn more about some of the suggested Ways to Play at: <http://compassiongames.org/play/>

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

September Anniversary

2 Bill and Barbara Stiefer

