

The Bell Tower

October 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

Building a Stronger Faith

Many of you jog or bike or do yoga regularly, and slowly build your endurance or flexibility. Some of you practice at a musical instrument or new language, and make improvements little by little. Artwork and other activities also, the more you work at them, the better you get. So what can we do to strengthen our faith?

The next worship series, *Building a Stronger Faith*, will help us think about growing and deepening into a holy life, through the analogy or parable of strengthening our muscles. What should we 'consume' to be more faithful? How do we 'work out' our response to grace? How valuable is 'teamwork' or 'rest'? Is the heart muscle more important to the faith life, than what we can do for others with our hands? How do we control that strongest muscle, the tongue? Is there a prize we are training for, or is this very journey the most sacred part of life?

All through October and a few weeks of November, we hope to look at spirituality in a way that helps us work at it, get stronger, and feel better about life. And if, in the process, we can encourage each other to get more healthy, that's a blessing too!

Animal Wise

From a noted science writer comes a New York Times bestselling exploration of animal cognition with over 400 five-star ratings on Goodreads.

Discover how scientists are proving that even primitive species have cognitive abilities like memory, personality, and self-awareness. *"Touching and provocative"* (The Washington Post). Digital edition **On Sale** October 4 for \$1.99 at Kobo, Google, Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

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Blessing of the Animals

Nederland is a great place for dogs, and NCPC is one of the most dog-friendly churches you'll find. Nederland is also a place that really appreciates its wildlife, and NCPC is full of folks who love spotting a bear, bobcat, or bird in the back yard. Some people in Nederland even think there is something sacred about those animals, and some of us at NCPC also think that God's creatures are a much more important part of Creation than the secular world gives due.

St Thomas Aquinas (who effectively structured the bulk of Catholic theology) said that animals have souls—maybe not as robust as our souls, which, in his mind, aren't as pure as angels; but nevertheless, he was clear that the Spirit of God somehow participates in the life of all creation, including our pets, beasts of burden, and wildlife. Maybe he was aware of St Francis, who lived about one generation earlier and, as legend has it, cultivated a deep connection with nature.

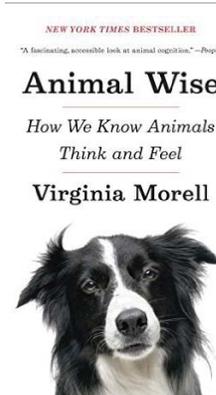
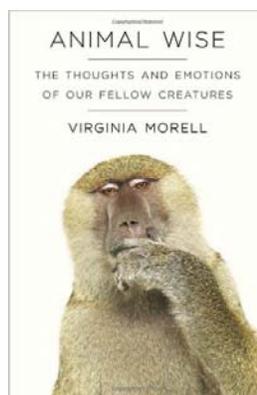
Today, many churches, Catholic and otherwise, honor that legacy through environmental stewardship. Or, you've

certainly seen statues of St Francis in church gardens, helping us remember that such things are not merely decoration, but the glory of God. And especially, many churches honor that legacy by celebrating Blessing of the Animals services.

St John the Divine Cathedral in New York City actually brings the circus, with elephants literally walking down the aisle to open worship! Perhaps you'll agree that we need a bit more discretion. So, our Blessing of the Animals service will take place behind the church in the Guyer Garden, 11:30 on 4 October, which happens to be St Francis' feast day. Our normal 10 am worship service will offer a thematic preview, and then after our fellowship time, the whole community is invited to gather outside to pray for all animals and to give blessings to our pets.

Feel free to bring your dog, cat, horse, guinea pig, llama, lizard, snake, ferret, turtle, or even your fish! (If you've lost a pet recently, feel free to bring a picture.) Of course, we ask that you attend to all leash laws, and to maintain control of your pets, and kids, during this wild zoo of an event. May it be joyful for all!

— Hansen



New Member Interest Group

Have you ever considered formally joining the congregation? Stick around for about an hour after fellowship time on 25 October to learn more and meet other folks who are newer to NCPC. We gather again on 8 Nov to learn about this congregation, where it came from, and where you can help it go. The final meeting for anyone who wants to declare their faith through official membership, is 15 November.

Treasurer's Report

For 2015 through 08/31/15:

Budgeted Income \$54,525

Actual Income \$60,262

Budgeted Expenses \$73,908

Actual Expenses \$79,639

THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE is working on Staff Reviews for Hansen, Daniel, Pam & John. If you have feedback for any of them, please get in touch with someone on the session. If you'd like to fill out a simple survey about Daniel specifically, check out www.surveymonkey.com/r/PN9P56S.

PAINTING THE STARS

Science, Religion and an Evolving Faith
Book Club

Even the readers are turning to screens! The next 'book' for our group is a video series about Faith and Science. The associated articles are very short, the discussion is great, and the topic is important for our world. Join us on Tuesdays at the church, 6:30, starting 6 October.

"When I have a terrible need of—dare I say 'religion'—then I go outside at night and paint the stars." (Van Gogh)

New Directory

Many folks in our church family been photographed for the new directory! But there are still a lot of you, who we want to include.

If you haven't had a portrait with Cheryl or Gwyn, please email one to Hansen. Make sure your photo is close to your face/s without a busy background (so we can recognize you well), and at least a megabyte large (so it will print well).

Soon, we will start checking what personal information you want in the directory, and hopefully publish it quickly, so that it's easier for all of us to build relationships and community.

Homework Help

We have a new outreach, to Nederland children who need a little help and guidance! Starting in October, a few volunteers will gather each Wednesday & Thursday at the Elementary School for some after-school support. We'll reach out especially to 4th graders to begin, but any child is welcome.

If you have taught younger children, or worked with kids before, and have time to commit an hour and a half each week (or twice a week), please talk to Hansen or Nancy Waldron.

Imagine how your childhood could have felt, with one more caring adult on your side. Now imagine how the children of our town could benefit—and their parents, and the teachers, and the whole community, and your own spirit—from you being that one more caring adult...

October Birthdays!

7	Crystal Skeie	18	Jack Filer
14	Bob Rhoads	19	Jeremy Tomlinson
15	Alexandra Mills	27	John Stinton

Mission Report

The Nederland Food Pantry served 270 people in August and received 920 pounds of donated food in addition to what was gathered at Boulder County Community Food Share. In addition several volunteers from a Boulder business spent time helping with the garden harvesting potatoes, preparing camper bags for those people who are camping and don't have a Nederland address, and sorting clothes in the Clothing Closet. Their energy and enthusiasm was especially appreciated.

Thanks to a generous opportunity provided by Boulder County Community Food Share the Nederland Food Pantry is able to purchase a van that'll be used for picking up and hauling food to the food pantry. This will help reduce the number of trips needed to gather food, and also

reduce the use of personal vehicles which currently often end up carrying hundreds of pounds of food.

Finally the Nederland Food Pantry is working on some grants and other funding sources to allow the food pantry to pay the Executive Director a living salary. It's hoped, at some time in the future, the food pantry will be able to hire an Executive Director and having a salary package in place is the necessary first step.

A couple upcoming events for the food pantry are: November 14, Thanksgiving boxes will be distributed and a health fair will occur at the Community Center; and December 12: Christmas boxes and toys will be distributed at the Community Center.

Dennis Whalen, Mission Elder

Youth Group

We live in a diverse world, and young people could use help understanding some of those differences, especially with regard to faith. At the very least, some inter-religious dialogue can help them become better citizens; or more so, it can help them reflect on what the world means and how they want to engage it spiritually.

So, starting in October, NCPC is sponsoring a program for teens and pre-teens to learn about various religious traditions. One Sunday a month *all young people in town* are invited to interact with local folks who associate with other religions. (We could invite some Boulder faith leaders, but the priority is for our young folks to see and better understand their neighbors.) We'll have food and games and stories to make it engaging and educational. Any volunteers to help manage this fun?

Also, one Wednesday a month, our own Youth Group—with any visitors welcome—are invited to come figure out what makes their Christian heritage unique and meaningful.

The first gatherings are 7 Oct 6:30 (*What is the 'Christ' in 'Christian'?*) and 18 Oct 11:45 (Hinduism).

Becoming Compassion

Cultivate Kindness



Forget pay-it-forward or anything about karma. This is just about being nice and good with *no expectation of reciprocity or personal gain*. Let someone cut ahead of you in line, listen to someone who needs an ear, give a compliment you really mean.

Make your default mode one of generosity. It's a nice way to live, and it's contagious. (... and it's healthy, too — physically, mentally and spiritually! Ed. Emphasis above added)

(Source: *The New Health Rules – Simple Changes to Achieve Whole-Body Wellness*; Frank Lipman, M.D. & Danielle Claro, p. 185)



Church Office Printer

Because of Jesus, we are not scared of death. We are, however, a bit scared of when the office printer dies, and it is just about in the tomb. If you'd like to help resurrect it--say, by rolling away the stone to the tune of about \$300 for a new one--please talk to Hansen or Wes.

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 18 October at Black Sheep Brewing (Jim Steven's garage, 13 Navajo Trail).

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.

October Anniversary

13 Kevin & Michelle Kozel
26 Jim & Judy Hubbard



In our Prayers

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



Violet Aandres and Rich Deubel; Judy Anderson; Anastasia and family; Delores Cieloha; Rev Gibney's brother; the family of Dale Heber; Linda Jones; Cinda Kochen's brother, Bob; Judy MacDougall; Chuck Miller; Karen Moss; Morggan O'Neill ; Miles Pancoast and family; Rhonda Skeie; Gail and David Skinner; Mike Smith; David Starr: the family of Rev Adrian Butch Washington; love and consideration within the church and denomination; for those serving in the military.

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