

The Bell Tower

December 2015

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



NCPCC . . . a Charter for Compassion Partner

Stop Hunger Now

Last month we announced that the 10,000 meals from our August packaging event had been shipped to South Sudan! This month we start to fund raise again, so that we can pack 11,000 meals next summer!

As with our last Christmas tree, we will have three types of ornament for sale – Green for \$10, Blue for \$25, and Red for \$100. All proceeds

go toward providing another fun, community-wide, inter-generational, hands-on, international mission project for Nederland, where we can turn rice, soy protein, dried veg, and vitamins into healthy, tasty meals for children. And since most of the meals go to schools and clinics and vocational programs, people are encouraged to improve their lives as they get fed!

Each meal costs about 35 cents, so it only takes a little change to make a lot of difference.

Starting 6 Dec, you can purchase an ornament at church, and receive a nice little certificate, in case you want to give one as a gift for those folks in your life who have it all.

Learn more about the program at Stop Hunger Now (www.stophungernow.com).



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Christmas Eve Services

5:00 p.m. – Family-friendly Worship Service, with hymns and stories for kids

6:00 p.m. – Share Christmas cookies with your church family

6:30 p.m. – Candlelight Service, with special music and contemplative message

Coats and Baskets and Toys, oh my

There are a lot of opportunities for you to help local families in need, during this Christmas season.

The Nederland Elementary School and PTA are conducting a clothing drive. Drop off coats, hats, gloves, socks or any warm clothes here at church, in the basket at the back of the sanctuary. They'll distribute the kid items to families in need, and send the rest to the Clothing Closet.

The Nederland Food Pantry is doing its annual holiday event on 12 December. Drop off any food in our normal ongoing collection basket at church. Any that will work for a holiday basket will be added to that; other will head to the regular Pantry.

You can also donate toys for kids who won't have as many this year. Bring them unwrapped, and the Food Pantry folks will prepare them for kids to choose on 12 December

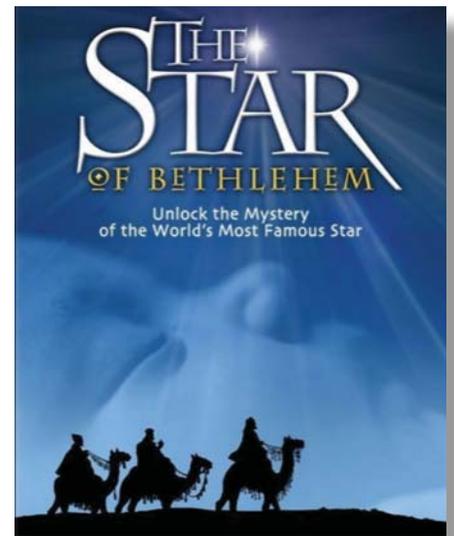
New Members

CONGRATULATIONS TO Kathy Lammers, Aimee Tomlinson, and Nancy Waldron, who participated in the New Member gatherings, and were welcomed by Session to formally join the church!

They will be standing up in worship on 13 December to declare their faith, along with Fran Bauer, who is re-activating her membership.

"Only goodness can drive out evil and only love can overcome hate." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

(Hold litmus test "Christian" politicians to that.)



Star of Bethlehem – You've always heard about this star. Is it magic? Is it mythical? Could it be a real astronomical event?

Come after worship on 13 December to watch a stunning video that explains just what is going on in this Biblical story.

(Folks who watched this last year were stunned. It was "awesome" and "scary". Carve an hour to shake yourself up!)

Holiday Mountain Market

Saturday 5 December 10 am – 5 pm

Sunday 6 December 10 am – 4 pm

At the Community Center, supports the Nederland Area Seniors

- Local Mountain Artists & Crafters
- Unique Gifts
- Silent Auction
- Festive Food
- Cash Raffle
- Live Music
- Photos with Santa (12-3)

For any information, call 30-3258-0799

Treasurer's Report

For 2015 through 10/31/15:

Income \$65,917

Budgeted Income \$60,583

Expenses \$86,436

Budgeted Expenses \$82,120



Lend a Hand

STEWARDSHIP ISN'T JUST about the fact that it takes money and sound financial management to keep our little church going – it takes a lot of helping hands to keep it going too.

CONSIDER PLEDGING some of your time and talents too. There are many tasks to be done around and in the church as well as participating in local mission projects.



For example, consider hosting fellowship after worship – coffee-tea and a few cookies will suffice – you don't have to serve brunch; it's a time for getting to know one another. Consider serving as an usher or liturgist once in a while or once a month.

Please consider a time and talent pledge for next year **and** remember to return your pledge forms immediately. Church leaders need your response to plan effectively for 2016.

THEN SAID A RICH MAN, "Speak to us of Giving."

And he answered:

You give but little when you give of your possessions.

It is when you give of yourself that you truly give.

For what are your possessions but things you keep and guard for fear you may need them tomorrow?



There are those who give little of the much which they have – and they give it for recognition and their hidden desire makes their gifts unwholesome.

And there are those who have little and give it all.

These are the believers in life and the bounty of life, and their coffer is never empty.

There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward.

And there are those who give with pain, and that pain is their baptism.

And there are those who give and know not pain in

giving, nor do they seek joy, nor give with mindfulness of virtue;

They give as in yonder valley the myrtle breathes its fragrance into space.

Though the hands of such as these God speaks, and from behind their eyes He smiles upon the earth.

It is well to give when asked, but it is better to give unasked, through understanding;

And to the open-handed the search for one who shall receive is joy greater than giving

And is there aught you would withhold?

All you have shall some day be given;

Therefore give now, that the season of giving may be yours and not your inheritors'.



See first that you yourself deserve to be a giver, and an instrument of giving.

For in truth it is life that gives unto life – while you, who deem yourself a giver, are but a witness.



– Gibran



"Unless we learn to implement the golden rule globally so that we treat all peoples, all nations, as we would wish to be treated ourselves, we will not have a viable world to hand on to the next generation."



DR. KAREN ARMSTRONG

FOUNDER, CHARTER FOR COMPASSION

Armstrong admits compassion isn't a very popular virtue. *"People often prefer to be right,"* she says. And though she offers these 12 steps, it's not a get-compassionate-quick scheme. *"This is a struggle for a lifetime, because there are aspects in it that militate against compassion."*

For example, it's hard to love your enemies. We are driven by our legacy from our reptilian ancestors, Armstrong says. It *"makes us put ourselves first, become angry, [and] when we feel threatened in any way, we lash out violently."*

Armstrong says she struggles with

compassion, *"all the time, every day."* She admits to a sharp tongue, and *"like everybody, I feel I've suffered, I feel I've been damaged, I meditate unpleasantly on my enemies and feel this corrosive sense of anger."*

npr July 14, 2011

(A twelve month series will begin in the newsletter in January following Armstrong's book: *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life.*)

New Directory

Many folks in our church family have been photographed for the new directory!

We are now in the process of proofing the contact information you want printed. Watch out for a call or email from church, and the sooner you let us know that everything is correct and how you want it, the sooner we'll be able to publish, and the better it will be for us to build relationships and community!

Men's Group usually meets the third Sunday of each month at 4 pm. This month, we're skipping the gathering, so you can go Christmas shopping! No excuses, guys! (Your welcome, ladies...)

Coffee and Conversation

Every Thursday, 9 am, at *The Train Cars*, everyone is invited for coffee and conversation about life, faith, church and everything in between

Greening the Sanctuary

Following worship on November 29, church youth harvested a tree for the sanctuary.



They hauled the tree back to the church, set it up and decorated it for our advent season. Remember to say *Thank You* to our NCPC Youth!!

Mission Report

— Dennis Whalen

The yearly Nederland Community Health Fair was held on Saturday, Nov 14. The Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFFA) provided food boxes, there were free flu shots available thanks to a small grant, and several other health related organizations were available allowing people to register for various benefits.

Holiday food boxes and toys will be distributed on Saturday, December 12. This is a big event for the year and help is welcome setting up tables on Friday afternoon, Dec 11, and with the distribution of food on Dec 12. In addition, the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet are working jointly with the Nederland PTA to help children and families get the assistance they need, including Winter clothing. If you have gently used Winter socks, mittens, gloves, snow pants or men's Winter coats, your donating them to the Clothing Closet will benefit others. Such items may be left at the church.

Peak To Peak Imports has donated Winter tires for the Food Pantry's van, and Very Nice Brewery hosted a chili cook off fund raiser for the Food Pantry. These donations are especially beneficial this time of year because they provide extra dollars for the Food Pantry where we're working to adequately stock the Holiday food boxes.

The Channel 9 Food Bank of the Rockies will no longer be providing food to the Nederland Food Pantry after 20 years of working with us. They've decided that they need to better focus on the needs within the Denver area. However they've indicated that they will provide a cash donation in place of the food.

December Birthdays

10 Michael O'Neill	21 Sally Rings
11 Wes Stiefer II	22 Claudia O'Neill
16 Shane Kochen	22 Joyce Trostle
17 Amy Hartman	26 Kate Haynes
19 Laura Stadele	31 Jim Hubbard

December Anniversaries

- 24 Charlene & Gaylord Morrison
- 27 Martha Ann & Charles Hogrefe
- 31 Jaydene Morrison & Russ Peterson

Homework Help

The details have been ironed out, and we are starting our new outreach, to Nederland children who need a little help and guidance!

A few volunteers gather each Thursday at the Elementary School for some after-school support. We reach out especially to 1st 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, please talk to Hansen or Nancy Waldron.

Imagine how your own 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...

In our Prayers

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

Violet Aandres and Rich Deubel; Judy Anderson; Carrie; Cinda's brother, Bob; Delores Cieloha; Rev Gibney's brother; Mike Haynes; Janet Irwin; Linda Jones; Kaitlyn Lammers; Chuck Miller; Anastasia and family; Karen Moss; Morggan O'Neill; Miles Pancoast and family; Rhonda Skeie; Gail and David Skinner; Mike Smith; David Starr; Keri Stiller; Pat Whalen; Love and consideration within the church and denomination; for those serving in the military.



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; and more so, it can help them reflect on what the world means and how they want to engage it spiritually.

NCPC started in October 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 have food and games and stories to make it engaging and educational.

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 next gatherings are 16 Dec 6:30 (Why is Christmas important?) and 6 Dec 11:45 (Judaism).



Christian Women in Service

CWS will meet December 8 at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall to bag peanuts and candy for the Christmas boxes.

We will have a potluck luncheon at noon and then have our meeting and sign Christmas cards for our summer friends.

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