

The Bell Tower

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

APRIL 2016

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Violet Aandres (1943-2016)

On the very day in which the Church celebrated the resurrection, Violet Aandres breathed her last, or as Rich likes to say, *graduated*, or as Violet's sister prefers, *flew away*.

She was comfortable and accepting, and only had to spend a very short time in full hospice care. Her sister and Hansen were by her side to pray prayers of comfort as she transitioned. After many years battling with cancer, it was a particular blessing to be cared for by familiar doctors and nurses.

We celebrated Violet's life in worship on 4 April, singing some of her favorite old hymns, sharing good stories about her life, grieving together as a community, and lifting up the hope that God's love does not end, even as our bodies stop working.

See full details and a link to her obituary at www.nederlandcpc.org.



Worship in April

Sometimes Pastor Hansen's wordplay gets a little out of hand. The next worship series... Yep.

Well in my defense, the Bible does this all the time, aligning words that sound alike to make a spiritual point! Moses (*mashah*, 'to draw out') gets *drawn out* of the water. Jesus (*yeshua*, 'God is salvation') teaches and brings God's salvation. And God tells us that the *adam* (human) came from the *adamah* (humus, dirt, dust). Therefore, can't we build a whole worship series on the homophone 'tōō'?

To Be or Not To Be – Where do we find the hope, or share the encouragement, to work through the deepest despair?

Too Much Stuff – We are called to care for God's Creation; how does that relate to the American cultural assumption that we should want to have lots of stuff?

Two Become One — One of God's greatest gifts is relationship; how can we better honor our Creator by loving better, in friendship or with our romantic partners?

TuTu & Reconciliation – Bishop Desmond TuTu led the Truth & Reconciliation project to help South Africa move past its most bitter division; what could we learn from that faithful effort, to help our own lives move past our divisions?

Sorry...

No financial update from the treasurer this month. Mea Culpa; The editor forgot to remind the treasurer. Will do better next month

Compassion

Will get back on track next month with *Empathy* as well as a report on the eight week series: Compassion Cultivation Training now taking place in Boulder.

Sabbath

– Hansen

How are you doing?

Busy! You?

Crazy busy! I haven't slept in days.

What's sleep?

Far and away, the longest of the 10 commandments is the one that tells us to Sabbath. (Check it out, Exodus 20.) God showed us it can be done, even in the midst of serious responsibilities (Genesis 1). Jesus modeled a rhythm of prayer and rest, always trying to get away from the pressing crowds to be with his Father in the wilderness; and can't we agree that his business was a tad more important than whatever makes us hectic...

So, why is it so hard for us to trust this principle and actually take time away from work and stress?

Why is it so hard for us to pause and collect ourselves?

Why is it so hard to admit that we are not invincible?

Some of the reasons that people move to the mountains are to escape the rat race, to be surrounded by a sense of calm, to be invited to that same sort of wilderness where Jesus strengthened his resolve. And yet I know that some of us feel ragged. Some of us wear ourselves out. Some of us experience the joy of a break or a vacation, then jump right back into the need to be needed.

I know this, because I am this! Without throwing any stones, I know I need to be better about a rhythm of rest and prayer. And as I try to figure out ways to do so, I invite you to join me.

My sense is, parents are about as worn out as anyone. And plenty of jobs have ridiculous expectations. Even retirees are always moving.

There is no reason ministry should be like that, but pastors are notorious for ignoring boundaries, living with unhealthy schedules, and burning out. Every year I have minister friends who break down, many who change careers, because they never found a balance of service and self-care.

In a caring profession, called so precisely to rest, isn't it pathetically ironic that so, so many pastors fail to rest or care for themselves?

Some of you understand this well. You've encouraged me to take time away, before I get tired; you've congratulated me for saying 'no' to activities.

Chris Current, who runs the Food Pantry and has never been known for beating around the bush, once insisted that I go skiing, because when I don't, I'm a jerk. So, I went skiing. I think I was less of a jerk afterwards; I hope I was...

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I'm going to take a longer rest soon. In early May I go in for (another) shoulder surgery. The recovery will be longer and more difficult than what I dealt with in last year's surgery.

With guidance and assistance from the Session, my plan is to take two weeks away from church, then to come back slowly: 1-2 days that third week, 2-3 days the next, 3-4 days and then start full weeks in plenty of time for our summer friends to return to the Nederland area.

Some of the church work will get picked up by volunteers. Other things will fall through the cracks. That will be OK.

Read that again...

It will be OK to have guest preachers for a few weeks. It will be OK to have Deacons calling on people who need some pastoral care. It will be OK for some plans to go unorganized, and some things to fall away.

In all our lives, some things need to fall away. If they need to be picked up later, trust that I'll be much more able to do that when I get back, than if I didn't take this rest.

Through the next month, I'll ask for some of you to help with various tasks. And even if you won't be laid up with doctor's order, be prepared for me to encourage you all to find ways to rest in your own lives!

My prayer is that this will be a learning experience for us all. And hopefully, as the church moves to a summer absolutely full of mission and worship and book clubs and fellowship opportunities, we'll all be a little better about bringing our best selves, our rested selves, to this journey of faith. Amen.

New Director of Music Ministries

Choir is back sharing their musical gifts in worship, led by our new Director of Music Ministries!

Annie Savage (M. Music Ed) is an enthusiastic instructor and performer of bluegrass, old-time gospel and classical music. She believes that the art of music is most thoroughly enjoyed when shared with others, and offers online and in person instruction and materials through her website: www.savagefiddler.com.



Annie has performed with Aretha Franklin, Ricky Skaggs, and most recently as a member of Jeff Scroggins and Colorado. (You can see a video at www.nederlandcpc.org/church-staff.)

She holds degrees from the Interlochen Arts Academy and the Boston Conservatory/Berklee School of Music, as well as having been an instrumental and choral director in public schools for 15 years.

Annie currently serves as president of the Colorado Bluegrass Music Society

and performs with her project, the Savage Hearts, while offering the family jam camp Pickin' in the Peaks at the Nederland Community Presbyterian Church for the 4th year in a row.

Her mother is a minister and she grew up directing and facilitating music in worship. She is eager to get started in her new position here and can't wait to meet you and your family!

Annie opened our Easter service with her classical harp, played fiddle for Palm Sunday, and will be leading the Choir about three Sundays a month.

We are still blessed to have Daniel play piano for us. And *thanks so much to Emily Haynes* for volunteering to lead the Choir for the last many years, holding us together so that we can expand our music ministry! Because of her efforts, and the Choir's diligence, and Annie's new energy, we really believe that NCPC will be a place of praise and prayer, wonder and welcome, faithful service and even full seats!!!

Fellowship Corner

What a wonderful potluck pancake breakfast we shared on Easter morning! Many thanks to our jovial pancake chefs Jim Hubbard and Jack Filer for superb organization and flexibility, as well as to Judy Hubbard and Diana Nelson for helping Kathleen with set up, last minute cooking, and cleanup.

The potluck dishes brought in...eggs, salmon, salad, cookies, fruit were

phenomenal additions. We all went cheerily to enjoy the service afterwards.

If you are willing to host Fellowship on a Sunday in April or May, the sign up list is on the kitchen door. We all have special ways to gather warmth around a table. In our variety lies richness and true welcome. For any questions, doubts, offers, suggestions contact Kathleen Henningsen, 303-717-6440 or kathleenjhenningsen@gmail.com.

Men's Group meets the third Sunday of each month at 4 pm. This month, we're hitting up Salto on 17 Apr.

April Anniversary
4 Craig and Rhonda Skeie

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:

- Elder for Christian Ed, Aimee Tomlinson
- Elder for Fellowship, Kathleen Henningsen
- Elder for Finance, Marylou Harrison
- Elder for Mission, Dennis Whalen
- Elder for Property, Jim Reis

- Elder for Worship, Dean Rundle
- Deacon, David Ford
- Deacon, Katie Haynes
- Deacon, Tricia Stiefer
- Deacon, Bette Ventrella
- Treasurer, Wes Stiefer
- Director of Music Ministries, Annie Savage
- Piano, Daniel Herman
- Childcare, Pam North
- Custodian John Callahan
- Pastor, Rev Hansen Wendlandt

9HealthFair
OWN YOUR HEALTH
Free & Low-Cost Health Screenings!

Nederland Community Center
April 16, 2016
7am – 12noon



Vouchers Available
Contact (720) 272-0250
info@nederlandcommunitycenter.org



www.9HealthFair.org

Corner for Youth

A place for news, reports and updates on our church youth AND a place for our youth to let folks know what's happening, what's needed, your concerns. Let your VOICE be heard!!

Youth Group

The Youth Group religious diversity program has been a blast! We've learned about Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, earth-centered Native American spirituality, Taoism, and a little about Sikhism, Jainism, Confucianism, and Baha'i.

Each month we've met local mountain neighbors who practice those different traditions.

Now, we have Islam! No other religion gets more discussed in the media, often with silly fear and anger.

No other followers are more misunderstood than Muslims.

No faith system is more important for young people to know about.

So, teenagers (or so), come to the fellowship hall on 10 April 11:45, for lunch and fun together. All young



people in town are invited. (Adults, be patient, until maybe next year, to have your own series like this.)

Also, one Wednesday a month, Youth Group gathers to figure out what makes their Christian heritage unique and meaningful. See you there on 20 April 6:30, with dinner!



Mission

Mission Team – Dennis Whalen

Working with the Emergency Family Assistance Association (EFFA), Boulder County, and United Way, the Food Pantry has participated in the interviewing and hiring of a Mountain Resource person who will be able to meet with people who have unmet needs, identify what services are available from EFFA, Boulder County, or some of the more local providers, and then get the people signed up for those services without having to send the people, down to Boulder. This is a significant change from what has been available in the past and will provide significant help to much of the under served population of the entire Peak to Peak region. We at the Food Pantry are very excited to have this process moving forward, and are eager to get the Mountain Resource person trained and started in this position.

The Clothing Closet has approached Eldora Mountain Resort for assistance in the services the Closet provides to the community, with positive results. Eldora has provided the Clothing Closet with multiple boxes of clothes used by the staff is past year, including some very warm and useful items. And Eldora has also given the Clothing Closet a significant financial donation that'll allow for the purchase of addition clothing items.

The Food Pantry will be working with the Nederland Elementary and Middle/Senior schools so that during the Summer months the Food Pantry will prepare bag lunches for children that receive school lunches during the school year. This may be limited this Summer to one bag lunch a week, that'll supplement the breakfast and snack available to these children, due to limited resources. But we hope to be able to expand this in the coming years.

Work is in process to have the Food Pantry be part of Colorado Cares for the 2016 fund raising campaign. There are multiple steps that have to be completed but the primary one, a minimum amount of assets needed to qualify for Colorado Gives is now achievable.

Remember the annual Food Pantry fund raiser will be in late April.

Update — Rocky Mountain Mission
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Rocky Mountain Mission update

We currently have six churches lined up to take part in the Rocky Mountain Mission summer 2016 program! We will welcome young folks from Farmington, New Mexico; White Bear Lake, Minnesota; Fort Calhoun, Nebraska; Houston, Texas; along with groups from Denver & Boulder.

The teenagers will eat and sleep at the church, do outreach work around the community, and learn about their place in God's great drama, through the wonder of our mountains. Here are a few things you could do, to help support these young folks coming into our community.

- Do you know of someone of lesser means, who might need work on their house, or other help?
- Are you part of a service organization that has a labor-intensive project teens could help with?
- Can you cook a meal for a dozen or fifteen folks, to welcome one of our groups?

This is the hard one... Might you be able to offer a shower for a few kids, so they don't have to drive and pay at the Gilpin Rec Center through the week?

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.

In our Prayers

Please keep these folks and circumstances in your daily thoughts and prayers:

Rich Deubel and the family of Violet Aandres; Judy Anderson; Anastasia and family; Delores Cieloha; Rev Gibney's brother; Vic Hansen & family; Janet Irwin; Linda Jones; Holly, Mikey and Miles Kreps; Kaitlyn Lammers; Chuck Miller; Karen Moss; Carol Nowak; Morggan O'Neill; Miles Pancoast and family; Torin Perret; The Family of Matt Shannon; Rhonda Skeie and family; Gail and David Skinner; Mike Smith; Jim Stevens; Keri Stiller; Vince Suich; Pat Whalen; love and consideration within the church and denomination; for those serving in the military.



April Birthdays

3 Jim Sizer	11 Diana Nelson
7 Allison Hardt-Zeman	12 Doug Trostle
7 Bill Stiefer	27 Susan Lutz



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