

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

OCTOBER 2016

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal 2016 – through September 30

Income \$112,694, includes

\$25,000 from mutual funds sales

Budgeted Income \$57,242

Expenses \$93,959

Budgeted Expenses \$90,110

Worship in October

Nederland Community Presbyterian Church... *Who are we?*

.....
We are certainly a community together. We have Presbyterians, and definitely more people who identify as generally 'Christian', although others are not quite ready to associate with that title or with others who have given it a bad name.

Many of us would say we are spiritual, or we like Jesus, but aren't quite sure about being 'religious'.

The Bible uses words like 'disciple' or 'apostle' to describe us.

What about the simple word 'church'? What has that meant over the last two thousand years? Maybe what holds us together is the Bible, or in Scripture Jesus was always pointing to the Good News of the Kingdom of God.

Do those things define us somehow? Or in other passages, we are called to be a New Creation, or come into a new life. What does all that say about who we are?

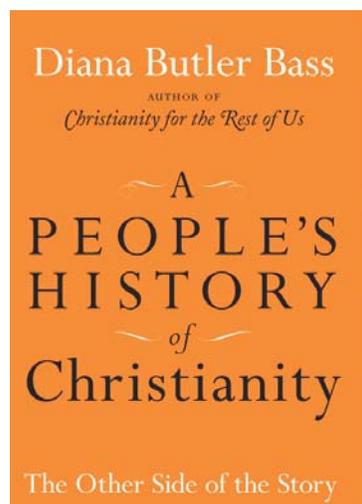
That question is the theme for the next worship series, *Who Are We?* For the next few weeks, each Sunday will offer us a chance to learn about these different aspects of faith in our tradition. What can we celebrate? What will challenge us? What do we already do well, and—quite important during stewardship season—what could we be and do even more, if we invested more deeply into the mission of God? If we are, in some sense or another, a people of faith, how could we commit that faith further to fulfilling the dream of God?

Come by the church at 6 pm on Tuesdays, and join the fun!

Book Club

"For too long, the history of Christianity has been told as the triumph of orthodox doctrine imposed through power. Now, historian Diana Butler Bass sheds new light on the surprising ways that many Christians have refused to conform to a rigid church hierarchy and sought to recapture the radical implications of Jesus's life and message."

The Book Group has just started its new read: *A People's History of Christianity* by Diana Butler Bass.



Religious Literacy Series

—Hansen

We live in a world full of diversity. That can be a beautiful thing, but unfortunately, very often, something leads humankind to build walls and judge each other.

Jesus refused to let those divisions come between Pharisee and Sadducee, Essene and Zealot, Pagan and Samaritan. At his birth were Zoroastrian priests, and some evidence has it that his apostles traveled to talk with Hindus and Buddhists.

For 2000 years, while some Christians have fought with Muslims, others have reached out to understand their neighbors and build peace; while some Christians have violently demanded conversion of native people and belittled sects like Mormonism, others have listened compassionately, become better citizens of the world, and maybe even discovered something about their own spiritual journey.

Last year NCPC invited young people from church and town to learn about different religious systems. It could have been a class, like at school, all about concepts and ideas, but instead we brought local mountain folks, ate and laughed together, and made these sometimes controversial faith traditions 'real'.

I trust that when our teenagers move on to college or beyond, they will be more able to interact with the different

people they meet, more able to parse serious issues of world politics, and be more able to live their Christian witness in a diverse world.

This year, the age restriction is lifted! All of you are welcome to our Religious Literacy series, which begins on 2 October, after worship at 11:45, when friends from here and the Boulder Islamic Society are coming to teach us about Islam.

We'll learn some basics, share a Middle-Eastern meal, have open conversation, and certainly answer some of the pesky questions many of us have. Who was Mohammad? What is 'jihad'? What is the message of the Koran? What's going on in Palestine? Why should we care about the difference between a Shia and Sunni?

In November we'll have an event on Native American spirituality. In December it's Judaism. In the new year we'll have Hinduism, Buddhism, Wicca, and others.

The entire town is invited for these events!

In fact, this might be a great way to introduce to the church your friend who is always suspicious of religion, especially your friends who are suspicious of Christianity as it is often portrayed in modern society.

Children and 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!!

Children's Ministry

Our new Childcare Director, Sara Sandstrom-Kobi, is all settled. She's meeting our kids, teaching lessons, and building relationships. But she needs help!

We have a larger group of children than any time in recent memory, so we are asking for volunteers to sign up for one week a month: at the least to help with the kids' transition from their worship story-time to childcare, but also to help Sara if there are more children than it's safe for one person to care for.

Please talk to Hansen or Aimee, if you could be such a helper.



Word in Story — Take a Hike

Deacons

The Deacons care for our congregation and community in many ways.

One way is by bringing meals to people in need. But there are only a few of them, and a whole bunch of you who can cook!

So, if you would be willing, once in a while, to make a meal for someone who is sick, please tell Tricia Stiefer or David Ford to put you on the list, and the Deacons will get in touch when it is needed.

October Birthdays

- 10 BG Brooks
- 14 Bob Rhoads
- 18 Jack Filer
- 19 Jeremy Tomlinson
- 27 John Stinton

The Community Tool Box is a free, online resource for those working to build healthier communities and bring about social change. It offers thousands of pages of tips and tools for taking action in communities. (See page 4)

Mission

Mission Team – Dennis Whalen

The Food Pantry and Clothing Closet will be working jointly with the Nederland Police to enforce the city's no littering laws hopefully to stop the dumping of 'trash' at the Clothing Closet — that is, stop the dumping of non clothing items which has been a major problem for the Clothing Closet for the past several years.

Just about everything imaginable has been dumped outside the Clothing Closet including, for example, couches, old computers, and bedding you wouldn't want your pet to use. Addressing the proper disposal of these items has required considerable extra time and effort for our volunteers that is not focused on helping our clients.

Both the Food Pantry and Canyon Cares have requested funding help from Gilpin County and the Nederland Board Of Trustees. Approximately 25% of the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet clients are from Gilpin County. In addition, thanks to a meeting with Gilpin County Human Services representatives, they stated a willingness to have a representative at the Community Center when the Food Pantry is open.

Work is underway with the Mountain Human Services Collaborative to submit a grant for additional funding for the Mountain Resource person who, currently funded at 10 hours/week, is extremely overworked and unable to address all the needs within the Peak To Peak community.

After reviewing the number of people served during the Cold Springs fire when the Food Pantry was located at the shelter located at the Nederland High School, it was determined that the Food Pantry served approximately 250 people per day. This included those evacuated, others stopping in to get the most recent information, fire fighters, and other volunteers.

The Food Pantry is altering it's policy for local clients now allowing them to come to the Food Pantry more than once a month. This change is being made in response to the huge increase in housing costs in the Peak To Peak area and will,

hopefully, help people to have something to eat while still keeping a roof over their head.

The Health and Human Services Fair will be on Nov. 12. This is when the Emergency Family Assistance Associations distributes Thanksgiving boxes and various health and human service organizations provide representatives and information.

In addition free flu shots have been provided thanks to Dr. Camarata. Also, this year will include a Channel 9 "express" Health Fair that will provide a BP check and blood draw.

In future years it's expected the November Health and Human Services Fair will be combined with the full Channel 9 Health Fair, replacing the one that's been held in the Spring in past years.

On Dec. 10 Holiday Boxes and clothes will be provided by the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet, along with toys. Thanks to a donations from the Emergency Family Assistance Association we expect to have an abundance of toys for this year.



Last August the church raised enough money to gather with the community to pack over 10,000 meals for children in South Sudan.

This year we are aiming at **11,000 healthy, tasty meals** for children in need! The **Stop Hunger Now** packing session will be Wednesday 12 October, 6:30 at the Teens Inc gym. Whether you are 3 or 93, you can be a helper! It's fun and a great way to introduce your neighbors to the church.

Meals are usually directed toward schools, so that families are encouraged to send their children for an education.

And where else can you get your hands on international outreach, without flying somewhere? The event should take about two hours, with some set-up and clean-up on either side.

[Talk to Hansen](#) if you are interested in joining us, or if you want to donate to 17,000 in 2017!

October Anniversary

26th Jim & Judy Hubbard

Stewardship



*Nederland Community Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 467
Nederland, CO 80466*

October 1, 2016

Dear NCPC Community,

Our 'little brown church with the bell' has provided folks a sanctuary for worship and comfort in Nederland for over 100 years. As well as being a home where we seek and praise God together, Nederland Community Presbyterian Church has become a hub for making the world a more Christ-like place. Whether we're packing meals to feed hungry kids in Africa or reaching out to hungry folks along the Peak to Peak, whether we're working for more reasonably priced housing so locals can stay in the mountains or providing physical, financial, or emotional support during the Cold Springs fire, folks at Nederland Community Presbyterian Church are making big changes in the world.

When I attend Plains and Peaks Presbytery meetings and share with others how much impact our congregation makes locally as well as globally, often I am met with surprise and the question, "How do you do it?" My answer is two-fold: It's our people, and our pastor. Our congregants genuinely care about each other and about creating a more just future. Our pastor inspires us with his passionate example of action and 'walking the talk' that God's grace is for everyone, those with means and those in need, the disenfranchised and those who are well connected, mountain residents and those who are just passing through. I share that our church doors are frequently open for people to come in when they need help or for advice or just to see a friendly face. As a specific example, I share that during the Cold Springs fire, our pastor and our mission elder were fixtures at the evacuation center, caring for the needs of others despite their own home evacuations.

As we look to 2017, we hope to continue God's work here in Nederland, providing warm, engaging Sunday services, fellowship opportunities for our congregation, strong pastoral leadership, and active community outreach. To do that, we need your help. This year, rather than politely asking you to pledge, I am intently asking you to dig deep as you consider your giving for next year. NCPC is at a crossroads: Can we continue to support our important mission work and achieve financial stability, or must we return to the days of a part-time pastor and a less vibrant community of faith?

Enclosed with this letter you will find a pledge card for the coming year. You will also find a form so you can tell us how you would like to participate in the work done at NCPC. Please give this annual request prayerful thought. God has provided us with so much. Search your heart for what you can share.

Thank you for your continued support of Nederland Community Presbyterian Church.

Marylou Harrison
Nederland Community Presbyterian Church
Elder for Finance

Pledge Card on Page 5

*"Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present".
Albert Camus*



Word in Story — Take a Hike

Online Giving

Sure, there is an offering plate every Sunday. But if you can't come to worship, or don't carry cash, now you can also give to NCPC on-line!

Try it out at www.nederlandcpc.org, with the obvious "Give Now" button.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to support the great things God is doing in this community!



Join the choir!



Judy Anderson; Doug Armitage; Willi & John Brocklehurst; Rich Deubel; Don Henningsen; Doris Hobaugh; Robert Manes; Shelley Millican; Miles Pancoast and family; Torin Perret and family; Russ Peterson; Rhonda Skeie; Mike Smith; Jim Stevens; Vince Such; Rick & Nancy Tasto; Lorena Yolo; For those serving in the military; Safe travels for all our summer partners at church.

Men's Group this month is going on a field trip. Let's visit a classic car collection right here in Nederland! Meet at 4 pm on 9 October, up the steep driveway at 877 Cold Springs Rd. No test drives...



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



**The Twelve Steps
to a
Compassionate Life**
by Karen Armstrong

Step Ten - Knowledge

Armstrong opens the tenth step noting that abandoning, or seeing beyond, our tribal and cultural predispositions in order to really get to know one another is not easy. Most folks have neither the interest nor inclination to take on the difficult task of listening with patience to begin to understand the cultural, religious and political customs of another people.



We need sources of accurate information and the personal discipline and willingness to question the ideas and data we receive. We need the support of experts, yet most of us rely on the media or our governments for this kind of information.

But our media and political leadership are not helpful. They're strongly biased—stuck in the same predicament as *we the people*— they too are people with varying degrees of personal, selfish agendas and the willingness to communicate accurately.

Couple this with a myopic, or heavily filtered, view of the history of our country

The Step Ten chapter ends with the following from the Sutta Nipata 1.18.

Let all beings be happy!

Weak or strong, of high, middle or low estate, small or great, visible or invisible, near or far away, alive or still to be born—May they all be perfectly happy!

Let nobody lie to anybody or despise any single being anywhere.

May nobody wish harm to any single creature out of anger or hatred!

Let us cherish all creatures, as a mother her only child!

May our loving thoughts fill the whole world, above, below, across—without limit; our love will know no obstacles—a boundless goodwill toward the whole world, unrestricted, free of hatred or enmity.

Whether we are standing or walking, sitting or lying down, as long as we are awake we should cultivate this love in our heart. This is the noblest way of living.

or our religious traditions and we begin to *unconceal* the complexity that lies below. This is a difficult road to tread. It requires deep commitment, thought and patience. It sends most folks scurrying back to the comfort of their traditional pet beliefs and customs.

All too often Christians decry the perceived intolerance and terrorism attributed to Islam. This demonstrates a profound ignorance of Muslim history. It also turns a blind eye on the horrific blood baths, persecution and carnage committed in the name of God by the followers of the Church.

Once again, we are being called to make a place for the other in our mind.

Just how much work is it to truly understand another's culture, politics or religious tradition?

Armstrong notes that *when Wilfred Cantwell Smith (1916–2000), the distinguished Canadian scholar of comparative religion, was teaching Islamic studies at McGill University, he used to make his students observe the fast during Ramadan, celebrate Islamic holidays, and perform the prayers at the correct times—even get up for the dawn prayer—because he was convinced that it was impossible to understand another faith simply by reading books about it.*

The personal ignorance of two young men resulted in the recent Cold Springs

Fire. Folks whose lives were both directly and indirectly influenced by this event berated and condemned this ignorance yet probably remain blissfully unaware of their own ignorance.

How might it feel if your personal ignorance was viewed, discussed and excoriated similarly? Didn't someone say something about removing the beam from our own eye first?

Is there perhaps an opening here for both learning and compassion to show up? After all, everything is connected and we're all in *this* together — “this” meaning the great mystery of life that we capriciously slap “answers” on without a clue of what's really going on.

This *is* the rubber meeting the road! It may generate friction, heat and skidding off the road. “He” didn't say His way was an easy path.

Armstrong invites the reader to engage in a couple activities designed to begin to shed some light into the areas of our ignorance. You will have to read the book to learn more; an invitation to knowledge.

In conclusion, Armstrong requests: *Do not leave this tenth step until you feel that you are beginning to change your mind. This does not mean that you should reverse all your former opinions; rather, you will be developing a healthy distrust of what the Buddha called hearsay.* — Gary Ennor

Next Month: The Eleventh Step – Recognition

If you've ever wondered what other partners of the Charter for Compassion do, check out <http://ctb.ku.edu/en>.



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
- Director of Finances, Wes Stiefer
- Director of Music Ministries, Annie Savage
- Pianist, Daniel Herman
- Director of Childcare, Sara Sandstrom-Kobi
- Custodian, John Callahan
- Pastor, Rev Hansen Wendlandt



Nederland Community Presbyterian Church

PO Box 467, Nederland, Colorado 80466

In gratitude to God and in support of the ongoing mission and program budget of my church, my/our faith commitment for the year 2017 will be:

\$ _____ weekly – monthly – yearly (please circle one)

Name _____ Phone _____

*Please place this form in the pledge box on the credenza in the church on or before **November 13**, or you may send it to the above address, Attention: Treasurer.*



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P.O. Box 467 • 210 Jefferson St. • Nederland, CO 80466