

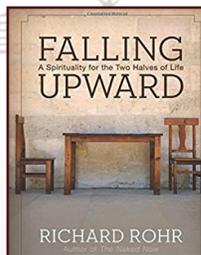
# The Bell Tower

## NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



JUNE 2017 Volume 17, Issue 6

## Gatherings



### Book Club

Book Club started back up on 6 June, 5:30 in the sanctuary. Our new read is *Falling Upwards*, by Father Richard Rohr. Rohr is a very respected Franciscan monk, who has written dozens of books and leads the Center for Action and Contemplation. In this, one of his most popular books, he asks: How does ego get in the way of our spiritual maturity, and what can we do to let our true self evolve? See you there for good conversation!

### Men's Group

Men's Group meets on the third Sunday of each month. That means we'll be at Salto on 18 June, 4 pm. This is a simple chance for men of the church to get to know each other better, with or without a beer. Guys of all ages are welcome.

### Sunday School

Sunday School takes a break for the summer. Thanks to Sara, Aimee, and Nancy for their great work with our little ones! Childcare during worship does continue - all year.

## Why I Love NCPC

### BG Brooks, Elder for Fellowship

A year ago this July – maybe a month or two before – my wife Patti and I finally acted on a long-simmering thought to look for another church.

We had been members at First Presbyterian in Boulder for nearly two decades and decided to shop first locally. We visited NCPC and our shopping list went in the trash can.

One of the early sermons we heard from Rev. Hansen Wendlandt centered on preachers engaging in “spiritual abuse.” Hmm... I'd never heard the term, but reflecting on years of sermons in the South could easily recall the “guilt trips” I embarked on in walking out of several churches. Patti felt the same way.

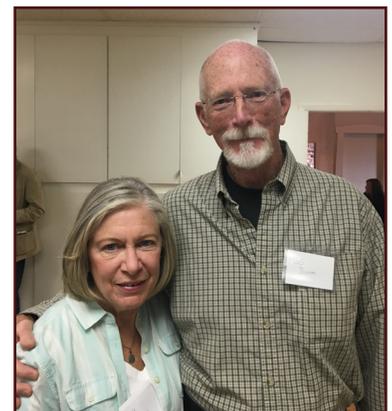
During his message – if memory serves – Hansen went on to say that his interpretation of God's love and His desire for our lives is to not have us live in guilt of the past and fear of the future, but in hope. Hope that is rooted in Him and hopefully is apparent to others in our everyday lives.

I might be getting carried away here on a specific sermon and theme, but it was a big part of our introduction to NCPC and, after hearing subsequent sermons and meeting NCPC members, we decided to join the church last summer.

We haven't been disappointed. Hansen keeps it fresh, enlightening and Christ-centered. He's not poured from the same mold as preachers we grew up listening to many, many years ago in the South – and neither is the congregation. Which is a very good thing!

We particularly liked NCPC's creed: “Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds.” I might have fouled up the firing order there, but the message is clear: If you're in our community and hear God's call, NCPC welcomes you.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention NCPC's music – specifically Daniel Herman's ability as a pianist. We left our first couple of services awed by Daniel's innovation and overall



*Patti and BG Brooks*

*(con't)*

## Why I Love NCPC

(con't)

playing. (Was that an Elton John song intertwined in an offertory? Yes, and seamlessly done!) Plus, he's connected well enough in the Boulder County music scene to have a ready list of musicians who are willing to play on Sunday mornings. Case in point: Only last week we were treated to a pair of songs from The Emmitt Sisters, who play guitar and harmonize in an unforgettable way. (Prediction: Big, big things are ahead for Sara and Samantha. Godspeed to both!)

*(Please note: This article is part of a series: Why I Love NCPC We're starting with a few of our Elders, but all of you are welcome to submit your own stories!)*

### 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](http://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!

## THANK YOU, WES STIEFER!

Since 2013, Wes has been accountant extraordinaire for NCPC, keeping our finances organized, our folks compensated, and our taxes paid. While Wes and I have worked diligently together to plan budgets and mindfully spend NCPC funds, Wes has been the one to daily watch over our money and keep us on track.

Wes has decided that the time has come to pass on the financial torch. On behalf of the entire NCPC congregation, many thanks and best of luck to Wes. When you see him in church or around town, be sure to express your appreciation for all his years of financial oversight to our church.

On a personal note, Wes' attention to detail has made my job as finance elder much easier than it would have been otherwise because of his attention to detail and his commitment to our church. Wes, I have enjoyed our brainstorming sessions and our ability to support each other as we have stepped out financially in faith to move our church forward. Thank you for the two and a half years we have worked as a team.

Marylou Harrison  
Elder for Finance



For quite a while NCPC has a tradition of moving outside for one Sunday a year, to worship in God's own sanctuary of nature. This year we met on 11 June, 10 am at Chipeta Park. This location was much easier for folks who don't drive, as well as easier on those volunteers who pack up the tables. There was at least one song that reminded you of a good ol' tent revival!



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.

## Socks and Sandwiches

is our summer ministry to the homeless campers. Each Thursday at noon, starting 8 June, we host a simple meal in the Guyer Garden. We give out socks, hygiene products, and trash bags. It's an opportunity to build relationships with people in need, encourage good behavior, and point them to helpful services down the hill. And this year we are partnering with the Fire Department and CO Parks & Wildlife to teach campers how to extinguish campfires and what to do with bears in camp. If you want to be involved in any way, please contact Diana Nelson ([alhnelson@aol.com](mailto:alhnelson@aol.com), 303-258-3745).

## Rocky Mountain Mission

brings young people to our town to serve neighbors in some amazing ways. And each night they build strong relationships with each other and with the God who calls them to serve. It's really one of the most exciting programs we have at NCPC, and you can be involved!

If you know of a local need that a supervised group of teens could help with, please contact our Work Coordinator, Jim Reis (jreis11@juno.com, 303-219-6389). If you can help by providing a meal or a campfire to grill out, please talk to Hansen. We have two bigger groups coming this summer: from Omaha on June 18-24, from Minnesota on June 25-July 1.

## CREDO

Last month Hansen went to a conference for professional development and spiritual renewal. CREDO (Latin for 'I believe') is a program that over 1000 Presbyterian pastors have completed, to help understand or reframe their sense of identity and faith, vocational skills and purpose, as well as mental, physical and financial health. Perhaps the line that best captures my experience of that week is the charge to focus on "softening my edges and strengthening my core." So, I come back with some ways to re-order my personal life toward more peace and grace, as well as some goals and methods for improving my ministry and the life of this congregation.

One lesson I keep coming back to is how to work wiser, not harder. To that end, I'll be trying to take some better control of my schedule, and with the help of our Session, delegating some responsibilities, or just dropping some projects. I'll be spending more morning time for meditative walks and reading, taking a weekly mid-day break for yoga, and honoring my Sabbath—all of which means you may miss me at the office a bit or not get email responses on Saturdays. If I can model any good behavior (that would be a first!), may it strengthen your own core and soften your own edges. If it's a hassle, just know that this process and the many small changes that pastors bring back, tends to have really good long-term effects on churches.

Help me out, if you would, with some prayers, patience, and maybe even some accountability, that I maintain energy and grow in love.



Judy Anderson  
Willi & John Brocklehurst  
Rich Deubel  
Crystal Epperson  
Linda Groves  
Greta Habak  
Robert Manes  
Shelley Millican  
Mike Smith  
Jim Stevens  
Vince Suich  
Juniper and the Waldron family  
Lorena Yolo  
Town of Nederland Police & Fire  
Departments

the young people and advisors who will be in Nederland for Rocky Mountain Mission All those serving in the military, particularly our young adults Grace Rhines (entering the Marines) and Matthew Mills (training for the Seals).



## 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 Cultural Engagement, Will Ford  
Elder for Fellowship, BG Brooks  
Elder for Finance, Marylou Harrison  
Elder for Property, Jim Reis  
Elder for Worship, Dean Rundle  
Deacon, David Ford  
Deacon, Katie Haynes  
Deacon, Nancy Waldron  
Custodian, John Callahan  
Director of Childcare, Sara Sandstrom-Kobi  
Guitarist, Emily Haynes  
Pastor, Rev Hansen Wendlandt  
Pianist, Daniel Herman  
Rocky Mtn. Mission Work Coordinator, Jim Reis

## Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts.