

# The Bell Tower

## NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

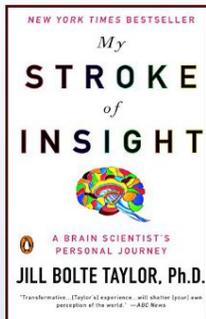


July 2017 Volume 17, Issue 7

## Gatherings



### Book Club



We're still reading Richard Rohr's *Falling Upwards*, discussing a couple chapters each Tuesday night at 5:30. Starting in August, we'll move on to

*My Stroke of Insight*, by Jill Bolte Taylor.



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.

### Men's Group

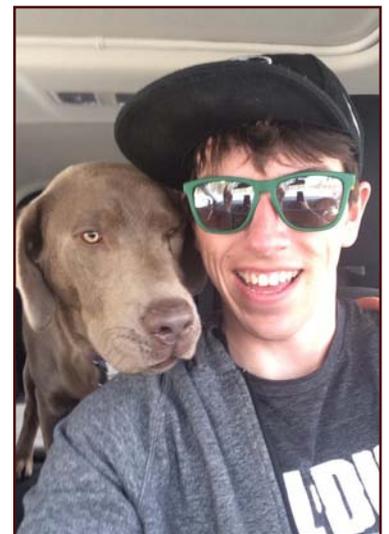
Meets on the third Sunday of each month. That means on 16 July 4 pm, we'll be at Black Sheep Brewing (13 Navajo Dr, aka Jim's garage). This is a simple chance for men of the church to get to know each other better, with or without a beer. Guys of all ages are welcome.

## Why I Love NCPC

### Will Ford, Elder for Cultural Engagement

I have been going to NCPC since I was a sophomore in high school. I mainly joined for another place to sing, but quickly fell in love with NCPC. I made friends in my first few weeks there. After a little while I started to see how close the community was. It seemed like everyone knew everyone else. They are one big happy family! I loved that. For the rest of my high school years I was a part of the choir. Singing at Christmas and Easter were and still are some of my favorite times. I was even a donkey at one point during a Christmas show! I went off to college so my church life faded a little bit but every time I came back it was like nothing had changed. I fell right back into the family like no time had passed. We were in the process of finding a new pastor while I was in college and when I returned we had our new pastor, Hansen Wendlandt. Hansen has done so many great things for this community. The list is too long to include. You can tell how much he really cares about each and every one of the people living in the community, not just the church folk. He has helped me along through some rough times and I know I'm not the only one.

I joined the church and became an Elder with a vision to find a common ground between religious people and those who are spiritual yet not drawn to 'religion'. Hansen is helping break the divide so we can all love and worship God together as one. It's rather amazing! Another reason why I love NCPC is our pianist Daniel Herman. I know BG talked about him last month, but I have to as well! Daniel has the ability to take any song, and I mean any song, and turn it into something new and beautiful. He is one of a kind and we are so lucky to have him! I'm drawn back to this little church in the mountains of Colorado. I love it!



Will Ford

*With Sue Churches' design savvy, Will has created a new banner to describe our church motto (Open doors, open minds, open hearts), particularly for people who might not know about our congregation or about the loving intention of Christianity. Very soon, we will put up some wooden posts beside our regular sign, and hang this invitation to the community to be our neighbors. Watch for this great outdoor visual expression of what we try to do indoors each Sunday morning!*

## Rocky Mountain Mission

We have had two weeks of Rocky Mountain Mission, with youth groups from Omaha and Minnesota working hard to serve our town. Jim Reis leads the sweat, and they've done a lot of that! Teens finished a number of projects for local seniors in need, transformed the Chipeta Park trail (so that wheelchairs can travel there now), planted trees for the Chipeta pond (for erosion control, so kids can still fish), put in two benches (in honor of a woman's life), painted and stained the Carousel and Visitor Center, and worked at the Clothing Closet and Socks & Sandwiches. Each night the teenagers have a devotional with Hansen, to learn how outreach is part of God's call to all our lives. They've enjoyed campfires, whitewater rafting, Rocky Mountain National Park, and local hiking. And somehow they keep putting the sanctuary back into order, after a week of sleeping on air mattresses and pew cushions. Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry, thanks to Wes for getting the program off the ground these last couple years, and thanks to our new friends from around the country who inspire us to love our neighbors even more.



Rocky Mtn. Mission folks:

## Summer Congregational Meeting

Each January our congregation holds an official business meeting, to make decisions about money and leadership. We also are trying to hold a Summer congregational meeting, to include our seasonal friends in the ministry of administration. This year everyone is invited to gather for a short state-of-the-church meeting, after worship on 23 July, where we will review the budget and discuss our church's programs and vision. We may also vote on a new Deacon, to take over for Katie Haynes, as she heads back to college. Again, this is for everyone who cares about NCP, to have a voice in where we are headed.

### CHURCH ONLINE.....

Check out the church website ([www.nederlandcpc.org](http://www.nederlandcpc.org)) and our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/nederlandcpc](http://www.facebook.com/nederlandcpc)) for recorded sermons, videos of special worship music, pictures and stories about the life of the church, articles about religion, & plenty more!

## Clean-Up Day

Thanks to everyone who came out to help at the Spring Church Cleanup Day! Jim Reis, our Elder for Property, is making the building a stable place to worship and live out our faith, and making the grounds a beautiful place for our whole community to find peace.



*Socks and Sandwiches* is our summer ministry to the homeless and home free campers. Each Thursday at noon, we host a simple meal in the Guyer Garden, where we give socks, hygiene products, and trash bags. Most importantly, it is a place of peace and kindness, and when that kind of respectful relationship is built, it is that much easier to encourage campers to put out their fires, clean up their campsites, and link up with helpful services down the hill.

This year we have had a team of awesome volunteers from all over the community (Food Pantry, Peak to Peak Counseling, St Rita's, Peak to Peak Human Services), led by our own Diana Nelson. Where most homeless programs tend to provide simple and efficient food, Diana has been making every week a special, tasty, home-cooked feast! And when she takes off her apron and comes outside, she is one of the first people to befriend our neighbors. (For what it's worth, one of the great descriptions of Heaven in the Bible, is an overflowing banquet of good food; and the most common accusation of Jesus is that he ate with the outcasts.) Come on down and join the fun!

## Congrats!

Welcome to the newest member of our church family! Jude Clymer was born on 9 June, a healthy prize for his parents Matt & Melissa, and a quick favorite to older sister Kaya.



## Summer Worship Series

The Bible—for all its great stories of love and peace, messages of hope and joy, encouragements to live like Jesus and trust in God's grace—the Bible can be downright confusing! Some parts are just weird. Other parts seem so stuck in an ancient worldview that they feel irrelevant to our lives. Once in a while, we stumble across stories that are so morally gross, that it's hard to see how they could ever fit into the written Word of God. There are many parts of Scripture that get taken out of context, and used as a weapon for modern arguments, rather than guidance for eternal life. And plenty of times, parts of the Bible are simply misunderstood, and those faulty interpretations take on a life of their own, far from anything the Holy Spirit would have intended when inspiring the original authors, far from anything our faithful ancestors would have recognized when they first heard and used those stories, far from anything that God would ever use to draw us closer to holy living.

For July and August, our next worship series will focus on some of the most Misunderstood passages in the Bible. Things like 'an eye for an eye', 'spare the rod and spoil the child', 'the man is the head of the house', and 'money is the root of all evil' are, in some cases just misquotations, and in other cases have become rallying cries for particular values that simply do not align with God's message. Of course, when it comes to any Scripture, especially these kinds of controversial passages, there is never one and only one right interpretation. Nor is there only one wrong way to apply God's message into our lives. There are always a lot of ways that a community might read a given verse; some are spiritually helpful, and some are harmful. So, our job will be to listen to these passages anew, for where they genuinely move our hearts, without the cultural baggage that so often comes along for the ride. Our job will be to look for where these stories might actually help us grow, rather than push people away from faith. Our job will be to learn ways in which they draw out compassion and justice, rather than self-centeredness, ways in which they point us to a more holy rhythm of life, rather than just going with the flow of the world. There certainly are enough passages that make us feel awkward, or simply give us religious hesitation, that we could follow this theme for way more than seven weeks. So, if you have questions about other passages, please do read closely, talk to your church family, and reach out to Hansen.

## Fellowship Time

Have you been looking for a way to serve at church, but can't make a long term commitment? Arranging the fellowship time after worship is for you! Sign up on the sheet outside the kitchen, or contact BG with any questions. (303-748-9172, bbrooksrnm@aol.com).

## Recovery Groups

Recently the Nederland area Narcotics Anonymous group started meeting at our church. They are here for anyone who struggles with that issue, on Monday nights at 7 pm. Otherwise, let's leave the building to them at that time.

It's worth mentioning some of the other recovery groups around town, if anyone wants their assistance and support. Alcoholics Anonymous meets at St Rita's on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7 pm, and at the Nederland Veterinary Hospital on Thursdays at 8 pm. As well, Al-Anon (for relatives and friends of alcoholics) meets at St Rita's on Mondays at 7 pm.

The prayer so often associated with these groups is derived from parts of a sermon by Reinhold Niebuhr, a very important American theologian from the 1920s through the 1960s.

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I can,  
And the wisdom to know the difference.*

### 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!



# Branching Out

## Nederland Community Summer Day Camp

Vacation Bible School  
for kids entering Pre-K-6th grade  
When: July 17-21, daily 9am-noon

Where: Calvary Chapel  
275 Highway 72

Cost: Free

Sponsored by:  
Calvary Chapel  
St. Rita's Catholic Church  
Nederland Community Presbyterian Church

For questions and to register contact Aimee Tomlinson  
aimee.tomlinson@gmail.com

A partnership with Highlands Presbyterian Camp



*Thanks to Aimee Tomlinson, for arranging a great week for our young folks!*



Judy Anderson  
Rich Deubel  
Crystal Epperson  
Linda Groves  
Greta Habak  
Judy MacDougall  
Mike Smith  
Jim Stevens  
Vince Suich  
Willi & John Brocklehurst  
Jude and the Clymer Family  
Juniper and the Waldron family  
Nederland Police & Fire Departments  
the young people and advisors who are  
doing outreach at Nederland for Rocky  
Mountain Mission; our great summer  
congregation that is traveling from  
around the country to their thin place  
where heaven and earth feel a little  
closer together; 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  
Director of Finances, Cindy Hauser  
Guitarist, Emily Haynes  
Pastor, Rev Hansen Wendlandt  
Pianist, Daniel Herman  
Rocky Mtn. Mission Work Coordinator, Jim Reis

Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts.