

The Bell Tower

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

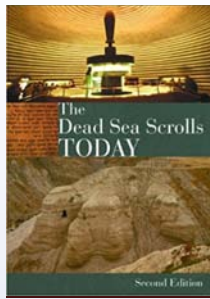


March 2018 Volume 18, Issue 3

Gatherings



Book Club



Our next book is *The Dead Sea Scrolls Today* (2nd edition), by James VanderKam. The reason we're aiming in this direction is that the Denver Museum of Nature and Science has an exhibit coming mid-March, of some actual Dead Sea Scrolls! Join us Tuesdays, starting 13 March, 6 pm in the sanctuary, to learn about this obscure spiritual community that lived in Qumran during the two centuries before Jesus, and how their writings shine some light on the Bible and early Christian understandings. Let's try to read the first chapter (through page 46), although we may only get to discussion on parts of that.

Dead Sea Scrolls Field Trip – And whether you take part in Book Club or not, join us on a field trip to Denver! The date is TBD, so watch out for the announcement. This could be just the sort of activity for which to invite a neighbor or friend who would be otherwise intimidated by Sunday worship.

The Sacred Music that Matters to Me

Cinda Kochen

Simple Gifts – *“Tis the gift to be simple, tis the gift to be free, tis the gift to come down, where we ought to be...”*

Traveling in my family's Ford, in the 1950's, the tall, lush cornfields passing by meant home. What didn't mean home were the horse-pulled, black buggies traveling next to my station wagon on the dirt strip next to the “hard” road. I was fascinated at their Amish owners desire' to forego motorized travel. I was worried about them, their kids, and horses, and how easily they could get run over by the speeding cars. I couldn't understand their need to deprive themselves of comfort and safety. Obviously, there must be something very wonderful about their lifestyles for them to reject the modern amenities of life.



Cinda Kochen

Whenever we arrived at Aunt Martha and Uncle Elmer's farm, all the men folk, including the Amish workers that my uncle hired, went out to the barns and fields to help with the farm work. I loved visiting the farm. There was a big playhouse where my twin cousins and I played, but one thing was missing—Amish children who could play with us. I wanted to ask them so many questions. I wondered if they were home working. Did they ever play? I actually was envious of their simple life as my lofty age of 10 was already filled with frustrations.

During one visit, my uncle rushed in carrying one of his favorite Amish workers. He had been pulling nails, when a rusty nail shot backward, piercing his eye. I was horrified as there were no doctors in the little village where he lived. My uncle rushed him to doctor in a car which was forbidden transportation in his lifestyle. Even today, I still hurt inside for that man and his family. I began to appreciate the modern conveniences that I took for granted. While I still admire his family's lifestyle, I'm personally not strong enough to give up the advantages of modern life. Can I enjoy the simple gifts, while immersing myself in modern life's perks?

“And when we find ourselves in the place just right, it will be in the valley of love and delight.”

For 2017 our Elders and Deacons told you why they love this church. For 2018, it's your turn, to tell us: What Sacred Music is important to you? Can you write a short essay about your favorite hymn? Talk to Hansen, if you'd be open to it.

NCPC Online

the most popular social media post in February was... The simple announcement that the late Presbyterian Minister Fred Rogers (from the iconic children's show, Mister Rogers Neighborhood) was having a biopic made, with Tom Hanks cast to play the be-slipped saint! To learn more about Rev Rogers, check out Amy Hollingsworth's touching, short biography, *The World According to Mister Rogers*. You might also want to see our latest Guest Musician, Ryan Hutchens, who played two wonderful songs in worship on 25 February. Go check it out on our church Facebook page (www.facebook.com/nederlandcpc) or Hansen's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/hansenwendlandt), or it's linked from our website (www.nederlandcpc.org), under Worship. When you interact with our online content, that has a way of spreading the good news with our community, which makes you a modern media-vangelist!



Rocky Mtn. Ministry UPDATE:

We already have eight churches signed up to take part in Rocky Mountain Mission! Young people will be coming from Montana, Texas, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico, over four separate weeks this summer. (Many smaller churches are joining forces.) They'll be sleeping and eating at the church, serving in the neighborhood, adventuring in the mountains, and learning about their place in God's Creation.

If you know of anyone who is needy or disadvantaged in our community, who could use some help around the house, talk to Jim Reis. These teens can help with all sorts of small home improvement projects. Or, if you might be able to host a Wednesday night campfire and devotional, talk to Hansen. One new thing this year: each Sunday night that we have a group, you are invited to come meet them. We'll publish the dates closer to the summer, but we want to welcome our guests with a pot luck dinner and your smiles.

Soul Sisters

Soul Sisters (the NCPC women's group) meets on the third Thursday of each month, so that's 15 Mar, 5 pm at The Oyster Bar. Come get to know some other ladies, with or without a margarita.

Men's Group

The group meets this month on 18 Mar, 4 pm at Salto. 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.



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.

Highlands Camp

Summer isn't that far away! Check out our local Presbyterian camp in Allenspark, www.highlandscamp.org, for when you can send your youngster for regular summer camp for all ages, high adventure camp for middle and high schoolers, drama camp for middle and high schoolers, grandparent/grandchild camp for younger ones, and more. Scholarships are available. And they are always looking for college staff and volunteer nurses, if you know anyone who might fit the bill.

Vacation Bible School

Each year Highlands sends three of its staff members to Nederland to lead our joint Vacation Bible School program (with St Rita's and Calvary Chapel). This year we are on the schedule for July 23-28. Registration information will be out soon, but block that week for your child to learn and grow!

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).

A reminder from the Brooks for Fellowship volunteers: To lighten your load on Sunday morning, you'll find coffee ready and water in the urn for tea (you plug in the pots). Also, lemonade is made in the fridge; coffee cups, plates, forks and napkins are on the table. Your job: deliver the good eats and get them on the table before the service ends. We're usually around to help with clean up, but other folks help too. Thus, volunteering for Fellowship is a snap! Sign up for an April Sundays ASAP. Blessings!



Sunday School

Sunday School is going so well! Check out some of the awesome activities that Sara and the kids are doing, over in their corner of the fellowship hall.

Spring Break – There is no Sunday School before worship on either side of BVSD Spring Break, March 25 and April 1. There will be childcare during worship on that first Sunday, but everyone of all ages is welcome to join in Easter worship!

Lent and Holy Week

Lent is a time of spiritual grow, before Easter offers transformation to new life. This year, all through the season of Lent and Holy Week, we will be growing with some special verses of Jesus' teachings. But what makes them special?

Down south, if I say "much obliged", I mean 'I am much obliged', and everyone knows the 'I am' is just part of my thoughts, even if I don't say it out loud. The same sort of thing happens when teachers take attendance at school: you say "here", and they know you mean, 'I am here'. These days text messages are getting even more succinct: "LOL" means 'I am laughing out loud', but no millennial in their right mind would spell that out!

For a lot of languages this is even more normal. In Spanish, for instance, every verb carries with it a sense of who is doing the action. "Canto" means 'I sing', and it is completely unnecessary to say 'yo canto' for 'I sing'. Greek is the same way. All through the New Testament, hundreds of times, the gospel writers and Paul write "eimi" to say 'I am'. No one spells out the whole phrase, "ego eimi", except... Jesus does it seven times in the book of John. Seven and only seven times in the whole New Testament, Jesus emphasizes the 'I', as a sort of underlining. And if Jesus wants to underline some teaching, let's pay attention!

All through Lent and Holy Week, we'll read these seven statements that seem so important to Jesus—I am the light of the world, I am the bread of life, I am the way, I am the resurrection—and hopefully grow into our relationship with God, our trust in grace, and our commitment to love.

Other than normal Sunday worship, don't forget...

Maundy Thursday worship & dinner, 29 Mar 6:30, fellowship hall

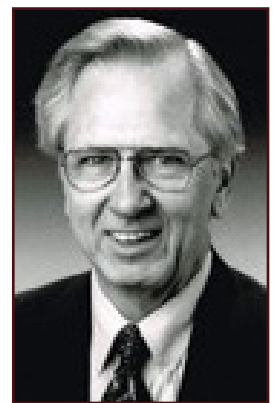
Good Friday vigil, 30 Mar 6:30 in the sanctuary

Pancake Pot Luck, 1 Apr 8 am, fellowship hall

Easter worship, 1 Apr 10 am – Don't you love that Easter lands on the very day when death is an April Fool?

Jerry Griess

About a month ago Rosalie Bargmann and Pastor Hansen were talking about her husband's health. Jerry Griess had been ill for a while, and he was slowing down more. He used to sing in our choir, so I asked if we might play a song in worship one of these next weeks, sort of a prayer for his healing. Well, he passed away about a week later, on 13 February, painless and comforted by family (even Colorado family that traveled out last weekend). That Sunday we honored his life, with the song Rosalie said he loved the most, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee". . . This summer, 23 June 3 pm, we'll come together for a full memorial service to celebrate his joyful life. *Check out Jerry's obituary at:*



<http://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/annarbor/obituary.aspx?pid=188171656>

Church Politics

(Background from Hansen: NCPC is part of a regional group of Presbyterian churches, called the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks which includes all PCUSA congregations in northern Colorado and western Nebraska. There are 170 of these bodies throughout the US, to help support the over 10,000 congregations. In each Presbytery, leaders meet about four times a year to handle business of the denomination. Sometimes that business is very routine, but recently a set of overtures was proposed. If enough Presbyteries approve an overture, the proposal goes on to our bi-annual General Assembly meeting, for the entire denomination to vote on whether to make it church 'law'.)

Report from Presbytery of Plains and Peaks, from Marylou Harrison: "I am pleased to share with you news coming out of the February Plains and Peaks Presbytery meeting. Folks who attended the meeting voted to send to the 223rd General Assembly a proposal that, if passed, would instruct the Board of Pensions to provide 12 weeks of paid parental leave whenever a Pastor's or certified Christian educator's family grows, through birth, adoption, or fostering, or in the case of miscarriage, still birth, or infant death. To support congregations as they support their staff, PC(USA) would also instruct the Board of Pensions to allocate financial resources "in a way that supports its pastors in small, struggling, or otherwise financially insecure churches". This Paid Family Leave proposal received passionate debate from both the pros and the cons. In the end, the yes votes far outweighed the no votes."

If anyone has questions, or wants to see the official language, please talk to Hansen or Marylou.

Family of Jerry Griess

Family of Fran Bauer

Cassie Brandon

Willi & John Brocklehurst

Colleen Commons

Rich Deubel

Crystal Epperson

Sue Evans (recovering at home now!)

Greta Habak

Charles Irwin family

Barbara Lawlor

Bill Martin

Miles Pancoast

Charlie Smart

Pat Strawn

Town of Nederland Police & Fire Departments

All those who have and are now serving in the military

The many churches preparing to join us for

Rocky Mountain Mission

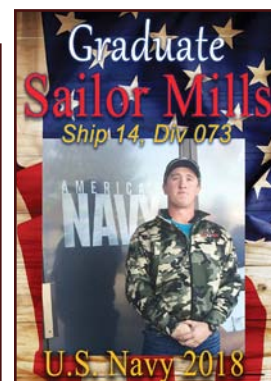
All the many folks in our lives who are dealing with grief and stress who do not want their names publicized...



Congrats to Matthew and Grace!

Matthew Mills completed his Pass In Review for the United States Navy on Friday, January 26, 2018. He is officially a Seaman. He is currently in Groton, CT, learning about Submarines! He will complete that work March 30, 2018 and then receive his next orders.

Grace Rhines (Daughter of Jim & Alisha Reis) graduated Marine Corps boot camp at Parris Island, SC on 23 February 2018. She gets a week off to spend time with friends and family, eat lots of junk food and catch up on sleep! Then she is off to Camp Lejeune, NC for Marine Combat Training, followed by Engineer training. We are extremely proud that Grace has chosen the path of selfless service to defend our Nation as one of the Few, the Proud, the Marines. Oorah!



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, Jaydene Morrison

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.