

The Bell Tower

April-May, 2014

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



March Madness Sacred Sixteen

People who profess to trust and follow Jesus tend to have very different ideas about how to live out their faith. So, in honor of March Madness, the Mountain Ear printed a Sacred Sixteen tournament, with various practices that someone might think are very important for Christians to do! Join the town in voting for which disciplines should

March Madness, Sacred Sixteen

See full description of disciplines in the Mountain Ear, 28 March 2014



move onto the Faithful Four, at our website (www.nederlandcpc.org) or Facebook page, or buy a newspaper and drop off your picks at church!



Cooperation Works!

CLOTHING CLOSET

After last fall's floods, Montrose Presbyterian collected a huge pile of good clothes, but never could find a way to distribute them. With help from Westview Presbyterian (Longmont), about fifty bags made it to the Nederland Clothing Closet! Jim Reis helped deliver, and the Youth Group organized and hung the warmer items. All over town people are sporting new coats and clothes, because Presbyterians worked and served together!



MISSION TEAM HAPPENINGS

Dennis Whalen, Mission Elder

The Nederland Food Pantry continues to be busy and is expecting an increase in the number of clients we serve as the weather warms. Thanks to some excellent grant work, fund raising, and support of the many volunteers, there is increasing hope that there might be small amount of monies available to pay an Executive Director.

Considering Chris Current, the current Executive Director spends 30-40 hours per week working in support of the Food Pantry, the Board of Directors is showing considerable support for some pay,

however small, to offset the extensive effort required of the Executive Director. A dinner was attended by several members of Nederland Community Presbyterian Church as well as representatives from St. Rita's and Calvary, to focus on possible added Mission work that might be undertaken to benefit our community.

The success of NCPC and St. Rita's working together for the Nederland Food Pantry, and the need for more people to be involved, is part of the reason for including people from other churches, and includes an openness to those who don't attend a church and including several other organizations from the Nederland community. All of which we hope will partner with us in expanding outreach to our community.

Several possible projects were discussed including providing sandwiches in Chipeta Park for children who are homeless; showers for those who spend the Summer camping; and teaming with other churches and organizations to support the Stop Hunger Now initiative to provide a fun, hands-on, foreign mission project.

Of course at this point, these are seeds that need time to hopefully germinate and grow, with the primary fertilizer being folks stepping up who are willing to participate and lead these efforts.

Spring Church Cleanup - Saturday, May 31st
 Put it on your calendar today!

Fellowship Time – HAVE YOU BEEN LOOKING for a way to serve at church, but can't make a long term commitment? Fellowship on Sunday mornings is for you! Sign up on the sheet outside the kitchen, or contact Claudia O'Neill with any questions you may have. (303-258-3447, claudiaone@wispertel.net). Below are some of the folks who hosted fellowship in March.



Where's your photo? Sign up to host fellowship.

Pg. Contents

- 1 Clothing Closet
- 1 Focus on Mission
- 1 March Madness
- 1 Anniversaries
- 1 Margaritas
- 1 Fellowship
- 2 New Members!!
- 2 Youth Group Update
- 2 Coffee & Visioning
- 2 Book Video Group
- 2 In Our Prayers
- 3 Nederland Concerts
- 3 Creation Care
- 3 Men's Gathering
- 3 Birthdays

Margaritas for Mamacitas

On April 6, the ladies of the church will meet at Sundance for an invigorating discussion, or just to have a margarita.

The June Newsletter deadline is Thursday, May 29

A pilgrim is a wanderer with purpose.

— Peace Pilgrim

Welcome to the Family

In March we welcomed David Ford, Wes Stiefer, Tricia Stiefer, and Wes Stiefer II into formal church membership! Congratulations!



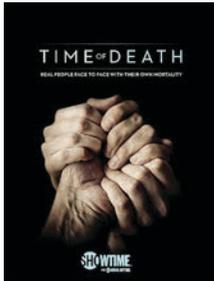
Coffee and Visioning

Every Thursday at 9 am, in The Train Cars coffee shop's back room, everyone is invited to gather for coffee and to discuss who we are as a church, what we are called to do next, and how to move toward it.

Book Video Group

What a great time we had with *When Jesus Came to Harvard*, by Harvey Cox!

Starting 1 April at 6:30, we turn our attention to *Time of Death*, a Showtime



program that follows six families through the hospice process. Come join us each Tuesday for dessert, a 50 minute viewing, and what promises to be deep conversation. The first gathering

will be at David Ford's home.

Website Update

Check out the church website, with some new features and formatting! (www.nederlandcpc.org)



While you're there, complete the survey: **Sacred Sixteen to Faithful Four** (see March Madness page 1).



Violet Aandres; Judy Anderson; the Filer family; Jerry Griess; Justine Irwine; Rev Mark Lake; Jeremiah Long and family; Judy MacDougall; Karen Moss; Rhonda Skeie

and her brother Steve Holland; Kent Snow; Megan Stadele and her parents; Joye Stanich; Orran's family and friends; for those who are unable to worship with us regularly; for those serving in the military.

Youth Group

Mission Weekend Report

Katie Haynes

I had the pleasure this week to be a part of a very fun and exciting mission trip right here in Nederland. This included Wes Stiefer II, myself, the Bass family, Hansen, and thanks to Wes & Tricia Stiefer for helping lead us!

We were happily joined by another group from Westminster Presbyterian in Pueblo, including Pastor Adrian 'Butch' Washington, Emily, Alex, Mandy, Katelyn, Cameron, Jack, Dennis and Debby.

The group assembled Friday at the church, and enjoyed some lovely karaoke music thanks to DJ Jim Reis. On Saturday we had a wonderful breakfast, and volunteered for Saws n' Slaws, a fire mitigation group, to help a family protect their home. Afterwards we went to shower and swim at the Gilpin Recreation Center. That night we had a Progressive Dinner, starting with a walk to an abandoned mill above Hansen's house. The main course was generously provided by the Harrison Family, and dessert by the Crain Family. Thanks for

Nederland Concert Series

On April 27TH at 4:00 pm the Symphonic Winds of the Flatirons Community Orchestra present the first concert of the 2014 Nederland Concert Series. This full concert will feature the ever popular Gershwin piece **RHAPSODY IN BLUE**. This piece will be conducted by Dr. J. Arturo Gonzalez who himself has a degree in piano performance and has been the assistant conductor of the CU opera. He came to the United States from Mexico to earn advanced degrees from Southern Methodist University in Dallas and the University of Colorado.

Additionally the Symphonic Winds will perform **QUIET CITY** by Aaron Copeland. This piece highlights the talents of local musician David Norman on trumpet who works in the solo roles with Jack Bartow on the English Horn.

COME TO THIS OPENING CONCERT of the 2014 Nederland Concert Series and enjoy the full sound of gifted area musicians who look forward to sharing in Nederland. A reception will follow the performance.

your wonderful burrito and ice cream bars, which stuffed us to the brim!

Sunday morning the youth from both churches led the worship service. Emily from Pueblo and I were liturgists; we had a skit, fun music, prayers written by the Bass family; and we even let Hansen talk once or twice. Next we went to the community center to help with cleaning and planting potatoes for the food pantry. We also took a very sugary trip to The Candy Man, and everyone had a glorious time at the Carousel of Happiness. Sunday night offered more karaoke, lots of teenaged weirdness, and a movie. Skiing was the order of the day on Monday. I, being "lodge mama", got a wee bit jealous that I wasn't skiing. But everyone had a great time.

New friends developed, old friendships were deepened, memories were made, and fun times were had! As to other shenanigans, what happens at Youth Group stays at youth group! To God be the glory!

Upcoming Youth Group meetings!

- 13 April 11:30 – Your Faith Questions
- 18 April 6:30 – Good Friday with St Rita's
- 29 April 6:30 – Youth Group: Jesus

Pineapple Cheese Ball

FELLOWSHIP IN LATE March found many of you wolfing down Judy Hubbard's cheese ball like there would be no tomorrow.



It's a recipe contributed by Bette Ventrella to the "Oldies but Goodies" cookbook put out by the Nederland Area Seniors.

- 2 (8-oz.) pkgs. Cream cheese
- 1 small can crushed pineapple
- 2 tsp. grated onion
- 2 tsp. seasoning salt
- 3 T. green pepper, chopped fine
- chopped pecans

Mix together and form into a ball. Roll in chopped pecans.

Serve with crackers.

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If you realized how powerful your thoughts are, you would never think a negative thought.

— Peace Pilgrim

Creation Care

Rev. Hansen Wendlandt

Many churches designate the Sunday worship nearest Earth Day (22 April) as one focused on Creation Care. This year, however, with Easter just two days previous, we won't have that powerful spiritual reminder about the connection between God and environmental stewardship. So, in an effort to raise up the faithful basis and inspiration for "eco-mmandments", here is a simple daily devotional you can use for the next three weeks. (This list is based on one I created for Ideas! Magazine in 2009.) You might also check out some good little books: *How Many Light Bulbs Does It Take to Change a Christian* or *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth*.

April 1 – Numbers 35:33a – What does this tell us about using batteries, coal-powered electricity, and other pollutants? Make sure to recycle dangerous items properly this month.

April 2 – James 5:17-18 – Does Creation Care belong more on mission committees, education programs, or in Sunday morning worship? Write a prayer for the Earth, and give it to Hansen to use for an upcoming service.

April 3 – Ezekiel 47:7-9 – How can we make rivers more abundant and healthy? Listen to John Prine's Paradise, and consider what environmental jewels you miss from your childhood.

April 4 – 2 Samuel 12:1-7a – What happens when the wealthy take more than their share of the resources? Consider donating to a well on www.presbyteriangifts.org.

April 5 – Ezekiel 34:18 – How do you "tread" on land and "foul" the water, and how can you reduce that impact? Can you give up cheap, factory-farmed meat for a day? A week?

April 6 – Water – What is your favorite Bible story about water? Where in your home could you conserve water?

April 7 – Psalms 103:16-18 – Since God made wilderness to support trees, birds, goats and conies, how should we treat wild lands: as a resource to dominate or a treasure to conserve? Go enjoy something natural today.

April 8 – Jeremiah 4:23-25 – Much of the coal in America is mined by mountain-top removal, which lays "waste" to entire regions; how can you keep the mountains from "quaking" by using less coal? Research

how you might add some alternative energy to your life.

April 9 – Psalm 24:1-2 – Since the Earth is the Lord's, wherein comes the right to make trash at all? How can you reduce your refuse? Start a home compost, maybe with www.nedcompost.org.

April 10 – Psalms 103:14a – How does God want us to cultivate our food: naturally or with chemicals that produce as much as possible? Pledge to eat environmentally-sustainable food for a day, or a week, or until Earth Day.

April 11 – Matthew 25:44-45 – Many companies exploit the "least of these" environmentally. How can your shopping decisions "take care" of Jesus? Check out the smartphone app, Free2Work, to help you shop consciously.

April 12 – Isaiah 14:3-4, 8 – When the evil king leaves, no one cuts down forests. What does that tell us about our use of paper? You can't plant a tree today, but you could plant something in your home.

April 13 – Air – The Greek (pneuma) and Hebrew (ruach) words for 'Spirit' also mean 'breath' and 'wind'. Beyond morality and discipleship, how might environmental stewardship affect your spiritual life?

April 14 – Acts 17:26 – When we encroach on natural habitat, do we encroach on God's plan? Spend some time today praying with photos of wild places.

April 15 – Matthew 28:18-20 – How can we "teach" God's eco-mmandments to young disciples? What role does the Church have in teaching the community and world about environmental sustainability? Tell the church what you think!

April 16 – Isaiah 5:8-9 – Does God prefer that we shop at ecologically abusive strip malls, big box stores and factory farms, or support more sustainable independent small business and family farms? Consider how your investments match with God's sense of justice.

April 17 – Psalm 147:16-17 – If human activity contributes to less snow than God intends, how can we repent and reverse climate change? Other than personal actions, how can you help promote deeper political change?

April 18 – Micah 6:1-8 – How does it matter that the mountains hear the suit against Israel? If mountains could sue us, would we have a defense? Go build your case.

April 19 – Proverbs 31:8-9 – Since God is concerned about environmental justice for people who have no voice, and voiceless non-human creation (trees, fish, air), what do we do when those interests collide? Take a moment to forgive those in your life who don't take Creation Care as seriously.

April 20 – Land – According to the Genesis 2 story of creation, we are made from dirt, humans from humus. Spend some time today reflecting on how interconnected we are to all of God's creation.

April 21 – Exodus 20:8-10 – Is there anything else you can rest weekly, such as your vehicle or some office equipment? Unplug your TV when it's not in use.

April 22 – Genesis 13:5-6 – When a given area does not sustain an amount of people and stuff, should we search for more land and resources, or settle for less stuff and fewer people? What can you sacrifice for the rest of this year?

MEN'S GATHERING – We had a dozen guys come out for the second NCPC Men's Gathering, a totally diverse group of ages, church participation, and beer snobbery! Once again, it was fine fellowship and conversation. Our latest completely-random Bible study led us to Samson, and what genuine manhood should look like. Because April's 3rd Sunday is Easter, we are shifting the schedule just a bit.

13 April, gentlemen, meet at the church at 4 pm to walk en masse to Very Nice Brewery.



April Birthdays!

2 Megen Stadele
3 Jim Sizer
7 Allison Hardt-Zeman
7 Bill Stiefer
11 Diana Nelson
12 Doug Trostle
27 Susan Lutz
25 Larson Burak

May Birthdays!

16 Luke Harrison
17 Rita Justice
17 Del Lynd
18 Carolyn Armstrong
18 Pennie Dexter
20 Genette Sizer
25 Joye Stanich

THE NEVER ENDING FOOD DRIVE needs your help and support; it keeps going on because poverty and hunger keep rolling along in this nation. Thanks for your generous support.

