

# The Bell Tower

April, 2011  
Volume 28, Issue 4

## NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*"The Little Brown Church with the Bell"*



### **We are a Congregation of**

*Open & welcoming doors*

*Open & growing minds*

*Open & faithful hearts*

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## **Easter Sunday, April 24**

### **8:30 – Potluck Breakfast**

Bring your contribution and gather around the table at 8:30 for this fun tradition. The choir will begin their rehearsal at 9:00

### **10:00 – Easter Worship Celebration**

The crowning worship celebration of the Christian year is Easter Sunday. Worship begins with the return of the "Alleluia" to our liturgy and song.



## **The Gift of Being Small**

Over the past six years I have had a number of conversations with members and friends of NCPC who say one of the best things about our church is ... our small size! For people who measure success and greatness by numbers, that makes little sense. But the truth is that small churches and fellowship groups are, and always has been, God's primary way of nurturing faith.

In a church our size it is not long until everyone knows your name, or at least recognizes your face. In a church of two rooms, there is no way to overlook a visitor or avoid people who bug you, or ignore those who get on your nerves. In his book, "The Gifts of the Small Church," Jason Byasse writes: *"in a small church you must learn Christian virtues like patience and practice the gospel gifts of grace and forgiveness. You must learn to love people as they are, not as you wish them to be. In other words, you have to want to be like Jesus in your heart."* As a small church, we are a family in Christ, a fellowship of friends who love and support one another.

Something I read recently opened the ears of my ears to hear the deeper meaning of these words of Jesus: "The Kingdom of God is within you." I have always understood those words to speak about our need to go inward to seek the spiritual center of life where God may be experienced. What I have come to understand is that when Jesus said those words he was speaking to the disciples (plural) – the

gathered disciples – the fellowship of disciples. The word "you" as Jesus used it is a plural pronoun, as in "Y'all."

As a small church with limited budget, staff, and volunteers, there are limits to what we can "do", but Kingdom of God living has no boundaries. While we are a "family" church, we also strive to be a welcome place for any and all who come through our front door, regardless of who they are or where they have been.

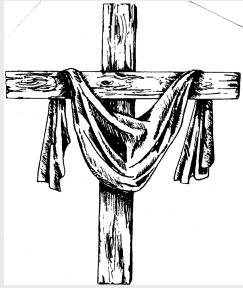
Many people who visit our church are looking for something. Some are going through life changes; a move, a divorce, the birth of a child, the death of a family member or friend. People are searching, not for programs and activities, but for friendships that bring meaning into their lives. Visitors return to church because of how they are welcomed, and small churches who are intentional about "experiencing Kingdom of God living" within their church family understand and exercise the spiritual discipline of Christian hospitality.

So, while we like our small church, let's not keep it to ourselves or forget we have a mandate to share the Good News with our friends and neighbors. Let us welcome our visitors with the hospitality of a church family, and let us never forget that 60% of people attending church started to do so because someone once invited them. We have the gift of being small, and gifts are to be shared. Bring a friend to church on Sunday. – Don



**EASTER LILIES:** If you would like to provide an Easter lily for our worship on Easter morning, you may make a donation of \$10 to NCPC and note: "Easter Lily". After worship you are invited to take your lily home or give it to a friend. Please place your order by Palm Sunday, April 17.

**April 21, 7:00pm**



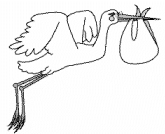
**Maundy Thursday  
Service of Darkness**

On Maundy Thursday, we remember how the mood of the city changed toward Jesus. The week of betrayal, arrest, trial and execution of Jesus will be retold through scripture and music in a traditional "Service of Tenebrae."

As the story is told, candles will be extinguished, symbolizing how the darkness of our world seemed to have overcome the light of God's love as Jesus died.

**Thank you to the Choir**

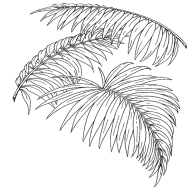
On March 13, our church choir provided entertainment for the Mt. Meeker Society dinner at Highlands Camp and Conference Center. This annual dinner honors the donors who have supported the program and facilities in the previous year. The dinner was delicious, and the entertainment provided by the NCPC choir was very much appreciated.



**Brantley Baby Shower:**

Thanks to all who helped with the shower, those who attended, and those who sent in gifts or contributions from afar. A special thank you to the Lutz' and Hubbard's who hurried along construction and installation of cabinets and appliances in the kitchen so there was room in Fellowship Hall; and for their hard labor cleaning up all the dust; to Michael Dexter who hauled debris to the dump; to Don Dexter who mopped and decorated; to Michael O'Neill for the "Congratulations" sign; to Cinda Kochen who baked the beautiful monkey cake and coordinated food; and to all who provided food, including Frank & Susan Lutz, Claudia O'Neill, Michelle Kozel, Philly's Wright, Rosalie Bargmann, Gary & Pat Ennor and Pennie Dexter. Most of all, thanks to Ben and Kathy for giving us all an opportunity to celebrate with zesto! We look forward to welcoming the new baby to be born on April 28.

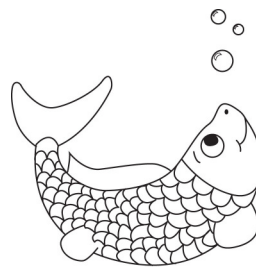
**One Great Hour  
of Sharing Offering**



Palm Sunday, April 17

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is one of the four annual special offerings where the monies collected get shared across 3 Presbyterian charitable programs. They are the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, which among other things is deeply involved in helping the people of Haiti and will, no doubt, be very involved in helping the people of Japan; the **Self Development of People** is working with community leaders in Detroit to use vacant lots to cooperatively grow and produce foods as a base for long-term, sustainable income and community re-development; and the **Presbyterian Hunger Program** provides tools and skills for low-income individuals to grow and prepare their own fresh produce.

The need is increasing throughout the world, between those who have enough and those who don't.



We've provided Fish Banks for the children, so they can collect and save up what monies they can throughout Lent, and on Palm Sunday we'll collect those fish banks as well as there will be additional envelopes for donations so that the congregation can more formally support these important causes.

Sharing brings Joy - To Others, to God, and to Us.  
Dennis Whalen, Missions Committee

**Lent**

Lent is a time to take the time;  
to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events get up and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem  
or to walk along the sea and listen to his word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder ...  
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!

-From *Kneeling in Jerusalem* by Ann Weems



## Tuesday Book Study Group Tuesdays – 6:30 soup supper / 7:00 study

On May 10, the Tuesday Book Study Group will begin to read and discuss “**Writing in the Sand**” by Thomas Moore. As a best-selling author and psychotherapist, Moore has written extensively on Spirituality, theology and religion. In this book, he reconsiders the common interpretations of many Gospel stories as taught by the church over the past 2,000 years. He shows us a Jesus whose teachings act as a guide to creating a happier and more meaningful life. Jesus appreciated true pleasures in life – food, friendship, love and community. In a time when traditional religious beliefs and dogma seem to create distance, Moore presents Jesus as the path to enlightenment that is echoed in other major world religions. You are welcome to join us on this adventure.

## Our Kitchen

Thanks to Jim Hubbard, who has agreed to coordinate the installation of our new kitchen; things are moving along on schedule. Most of the cupboards are in, as are the dishwasher, refrigerator and microwave. The template has been made for the new countertops, which will soon be fabricated and installed. All we will then need is the kitchen sink ... (that will be installed along with the countertop), a little trim and wall covering, and the kitchen will be complete!



We are all watching this transformation week-by-week, and are so excited. We anticipate that the kitchen will be complete and ready to use by the Easter Sunday potluck breakfast on April 24, at 8:30.

## In Our Prayers:

Prayers of strength and comfort are offered for the Caldwell family (husband, Rick and sons Luke and Matt) and friends as they grieve the loss of Jean, who passed away March 12. Pray for healing and strength for Gwen Burak’s mother, Carole Lloyd, who had a seizure and was diagnosed with a brain tumor; for Justine Irwin after completing radiation treatments; for Ken Kasch going through some hard times; for Jonathan, Tim Spangler’s son, recovering from a motorcycle accident; for Philly’s Wright’s brother-in-law, Jerry, who is now in the end stages of cancer, and for his wife Shery (Philly’s sister) and family; for Crystal Epperson recovering from hip surgery; for Gloria Fraser adjusting to a new assisted living situation in Arvada; for Bobbi McIntosh as she continues cancer treatment; for those in the military, including the Lutz’ grandson, Keith, and Carolyn Armstrong’s nephew, Jonathan. Let us hold in prayer the people of Japan in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami; the people of Libya, and wherever there is violence. Pray for peace in our world. Let us continue to remember in prayer those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis, including Florence Gruchy and Jane Bauder.

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Megen Stadele	2
Jim Sizer	3
Allison Hardt-Zeman	7
Bill Stiefer	7
Ryan Tipton	8
Diana Nelson	11
Doug Trostle	12
Lee Stadele	18
Susan Lutz	23
Larson Burak	25

### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Craig & Rhonda Skeie	4
Don & Pennie Dexter	8

## **The Crack House in Denver** - *Counseling is About Change*


I stood staring at the Victorian apartment house in front of me. I could feel eyes peeking at me from behind the smudged curtains and broken blinds. I knew if I didn’t get moving quickly, someone would come out and ask me if I was a cop or a social worker. The dress code at the Denver non-profit community center where I worked always placed me in one of these categories, neither of which was welcome. Over the past few months, I had developed a victim services program to offer the residents of this particular neighborhood in Denver. A community with high crime but low reporting rate, the DA’s office was hoping to offer counseling and services to people falling through the cracks.

Recently, a woman from the community was talking to a friend in California who had a daughter living in the neighborhood. The daughter had two girls of her own, and the grandmother was worried about them. Could I help? I found someone who knew someone else who got me in touch with the daughter. She was happy to hear news from California and invited me to her home. What she didn’t mention was that she was addicted to crack, living with her abusive drug dealer, and trading sex for drugs.

All of this was going through my head as I stood paralyzed on the sidewalk. I took a deep breath, found her apartment and knocked on the door. A hulk-like man in sunglasses answered. After I shared who I was and that I brought news from the girls’ grandmother, he moved aside and gestured me in. Shortly I was sitting on the balcony, drinking iced tea, and listening to the daughter and girls chattering away about their lives. We began planning how the girls could go visit their grandmother to give their mother time to “pull herself together.”

One myth about counseling is that it’s always touchy/feely, people crying in cozy offices drinking herbal tea. The truth is counseling’s about change, which can happen anywhere at any time; we just have to be up for the challenge.

Amy Hartman, MA [www.peaktopeakcounseling.com](http://www.peaktopeakcounseling.com)

April 2011						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 17. Worship 10:00</li> <li>• Maundy Thursday service of Darkness, April 21. Worship 7:00pm</li> <li>• Easter Sunday – Potluck breakfast 8:30 / Worship at 10:00</li> </ul>						
<b>3</b> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship with Communion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 3:30-5:00 <u>Karplus</u> 6:30 Soup Supper 7:00 Book Study	<b>6</b> 3:40 – 5:00 <u>Karplus</u> 5:00 – 6:30 Tipton	<b>7</b> 10:00 Food Pantry	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30 USDA and Food Pantry
<b>10</b> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 1:00 CWS 3:30-5:00 <u>Karplus</u> 6:30 Soup Supper 7:00 Book Study	<b>13</b> 3:40 – 5:00 <u>Karplus</u> 5:00 – 6:30 Tipton <b>6:30 – Session</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 3:30-5:00 <u>Karplus</u> 6:30 Soup Supper 7:00 Book Study	<b>20</b> 3:40 – 5:00 <u>Karplus</u> 5:00 – 6:30 Tipton	<b>21</b> 10:00 Food Pantry <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> Service: 7:00	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 EASTER</b> 8:30 Potluck Breakfast 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 3:30-5:00 <u>Karplus</u>	<b>27</b> 3:40 – 5:00 <u>Karplus</u> 5:00 – 6:30 Tipton	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



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