

# The Bell Tower

February, 2009  
Volume 26, Issue 2

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*

P.O. Box 467, 210 Jefferson Street, Nederland, CO 80466

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## Sometimes Less is More!

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There are many blessings of being part of a small worshipping community the size of Nederland Community Presbyterian Church. We are a fellowship where "everyone knows your name". We are a diverse mix of young and old, longtime and new. Like a family, we seek to be inclusive of all and tolerate and respect differences of opinions. We celebrate together in the good times, and encourage and support one another when we are challenged. And, like a family, we each have an important role and responsibility for the welfare of the entire church. It is my personal joy to walk into our fellowship hall following worship to see and hear the joyful cacophony of this church family and friends sharing a few moments over a cup of coffee. The church is not a building; it is not worship on Sunday morning or any of its programs. The church is a fellowship of people bound together by the love of God as they worship, fellowship, and serve together.

The focus group discussions held late last year highlighted many of the strengths which make our church so unique. They also raised particular concerns which the Session has begun to address. However, the study reminded us of some of the perpetual challenges that face all small churches; we are small in number, and therefore limited in resources of time, talent, and finances to accomplish all we wish we could do.

Many larger churches have individual rooms dedicated for a particular purpose: church suppers, youth groups, choir practice, session and committee meetings, multi-grade church school classes, and so on. Here at NCPC, other than the sanctuary, the nursery and one impossibly small classroom, we have just one "multi-purpose" room which is used for everything else: coffee fellowship after worship, session and committee meetings, youth group gatherings, adult education, church suppers, receptions, Food

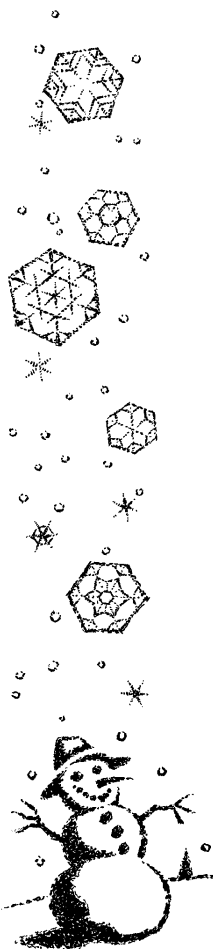
Pantry food distribution, USDA distribution, twice weekly luncheons of the Nederland Area Seniors, a painting group, meetings of various community organizations such as the Nederland Library, Mountain Forum for Peace, and the NAS board ... just to name a few.

Larger churches also have larger budgets which enable them to employ secretaries, church administrators and other office staff, as well as hire trained leadership to develop Christian education programs, youth groups, choir and music programs, outreach and evangelism programs, and fellowship programs ... and of course, at least one minister to plan and lead weekly worship. Here at NCPC we have one pastor, one part-time custodian, a part-time nursery caregiver and a part-time pianist.

Yet, in August of last year volunteers of this little church hosted the all-day, quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Plains and Peaks; a gathering of 130 Presbyterian Ministers, Elders, and Presbytery staff – which was a daunting task. But our small church made a big impression on those who came from much larger churches and who know how much work goes into hosting such a meeting. I use this example because it can be a powerful metaphor to help us cast a vision for our future.

The findings of our focus group discussions last fall will now be incorporated into our long-range plan. Knowing the limitation of space and budget to accomplish much of what is desired, we do have one resource that is abundant beyond measure. The program, vitality, mission and long range plan for NCPC will be shaped "of and by the people"; people who love this church family and are willing to assume responsibility for the stewardship of our future. Sometimes, less is more. May God bless us in our ministry in this New Year and for years to come!

-Don Dexter-





## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 24, 2009 – 6:00  
Freewill Offering

**Let the flapjack flipping and feasting begin!**

Our traditional wild and crazy Shrove Tuesday flapjack feast will begin promptly at 6:00 and continue until we are all so full we can't eat any more. Then the fun and frivolity begins with a "bang" (Shhh, only those of you who attended Shrove Tuesday in previous years know what to expect). And of course, we will break out the "pipe bells," hang some spoons, and stomp a few paper cups as usual, but we will also begin a new tradition by rewarding (in a very special way) those who bring guests or carpool. This is a "church family and friends" event, so bring a friend along. Because this is a school night, we will end the festivities at 8:00 on the button.

Our Shrove Tuesday party will conclude with a short devotional in the Sanctuary, when we will "*bury the alleluia*" in anticipation of Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of Lent.

### So, why *pancakes* you ask?

Our tamed down version of "Carnival," the sometimes wild celebration we see take place in New Orleans, began hundreds of years ago in the Middle Ages. The festivities include parades, costumes, dancing, music, and of course, eating. Carnival always begins the three days before Ash Wednesday in anticipation of the approaching strict and severe Lenten observations of the time.

The last day of Carnival is known as "Shrove Tuesday," the day before Ash Wednesday. It was on this day that people traditionally went to confession in order to be "shriven" of their sins before the beginning of Lent.



Shrove Tuesday is also the day of feasting that came to be known as "Mardi Gras" in French, "Fetter Dienstag" in German, or "Fat Tuesday" in England. (Patience, we're getting to the pancakes). About the time of Henry VIII, the Anglicans' tradition of feasting on pancakes on Fat Tuesday was a way to use up their eggs and fat in preparation for the Lenten fast, so the Anglicans have given it the name, "Pancake Day." Historically, Lent was a period of giving up a number of foods and taking on spiritual disciplines, all ordered by the pope. Thus, a party and feasting before the beginning of Lent was not only lots of fun, it was also very practical. It was necessary to clear the house and cupboards of the foods that could not be eaten during the Lenten fast but would spoil without refrigeration. Those foods included meat, butter, cheese, milk, eggs, fats, etc. The word "Carnival" itself comes from the Latin phrase, "Farewell to meat".

## Create Pastel Paintings That Glow

March 21, 2009 10AM-3PM



In association with MCAA and sponsored by "The Palette Gallery of Nederland" this workshop, led by Virginia Unseld, will focus on instruction for beginner to intermediate levels. The day will consist of individual and small group instruction, demonstrations, and critiques. The class is partially funded by a grant from the Boulder County Arts Alliance awarded to the Palette Gallery. For information and registration contact Kathy Spratford at "The Palette Gallery", 303-258-7292. More information and a materials list can be found at [www.virginiaunseld.com](http://www.virginiaunseld.com).

## Per Capita Apportionment

Every Presbyterian Church pays a per capital apportionment each year based on the number of members it has on the books. This is one way we participate in the work of our Presbytery, Synod, and the PC (USA).

**NCPC's Per Capita Commitment for 2009 is \$2954.80 or \$35.00 per member.**

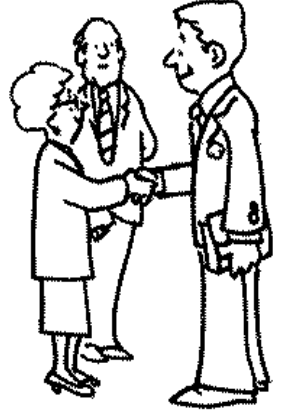
If you would like to help our budget by paying your own Per Capita this year, just write a check and put in the memo "per-capita". It will be included as part of your total contributions to NCPC during the year 2009 and a great help to the budget.

Thank you, from the Session

## Inquirer's Luncheon

**Sunday, February 22, at the Dexter's Home**

If you are new to our community of faith, or even a long-time friend of this congregation who would like to know more about us and to explore what it means to become a member of this church family, please join Don and several members of the Session for lunch following worship on Feb. 22. Please RSVP at 303 642-7227



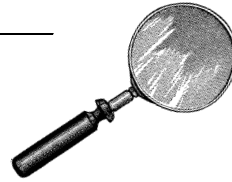
This will be an excellent way to get to know one another as more than just a friendly face on Sunday mornings. You will be a welcome guest at the table.

## NCPC Choir



The Choir's "Music of Christmas" was a beautiful enhancement of our worship, both for the choir and congregation alike. We are so blessed to have a choir of such quality in such a small church. But, we are always ready to welcome new choir members. If you would like to give choir a try, speak with Don. We are just now beginning new music for the Easter Season, a perfect time to jump in!!

For the present time we have just one mid-week rehearsal each month. **Our February rehearsal will be on the evening of February 3 and will begin with supper together at 6:15, followed by rehearsal.** Please join us, and "sing on"!



## Focus Groups and the Long Range Plan

On January 11<sup>th</sup>, the Session met for an extended 6-hour meeting to review the results of the recent self study. We are excited about the results of the study and will now begin to work on creating programs and a strategy to address what we have determined to be the five highest priorities:

1. **Christian Education** opportunities for both youth and adults.
2. **Congregational Life** – more opportunities to celebrate our life together throughout the year.
3. **Fiscal concerns** – moving toward a balanced budget
4. **Facility concerns** including: Completion of the Fellowship Hall renovation and storage.
5. **Community Relations** – outreach and connecting with our community in creative ways.

As we progress along the way, please consider where and how you can participate to help keep Nederland Community Presbyterian Church a "welcome place" for all who seek Christian Fellowship and Worship.

## February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship and Communion 5:30 Confirmation	<b>2</b> 12:00 NAS Lunch	<b>3</b>  <b>6:15 Choir Dinner and Rehearsal</b>	<b>4</b> 9-11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch	<b>5</b> <b>10:00 Food Pantry</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 1:00 – 4:00 Photo to Fabric Workshop
<b>Presbytery meets in Yuma, Colorado</b>						
<b>8</b> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School 2:00 Davis Recital 5:30 Confirmation	<b>9</b> 12:00 NAS Lunch	<b>10</b> 1:00-3:00 CWS	<b>11</b> 9-11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30-11:30 USDA Distribution and Food Pantry
<b>15</b> 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School <b>No Confirmation Class this week</b>	<b>16</b> 12:00 NAS Lunch	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9-11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch	<b>19</b>  <b>Session – 6:30</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1:00 – 4:00 Photo to Fabric Workshop
<b>22</b> 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship and 10:30 Church School <b>12:00 Inquirers' lunch</b> 5:30 Confirmation	<b>23</b> 12:00 NAS Lunch	<b>24</b> <b>Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – 6:00</b>	<b>25</b> 9-11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch  <i>(Beginning of Lent)</i>	<b>26</b> <b>10:00 Food Pantry</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>



### Nederland Community Presbyterian Church

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*If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please notify us at (303) 258-3579, or the address listed above.*