

The Bell Tower

January, 2009
Volume 26, Issue 1

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"The Little Brown Church with the Bell"



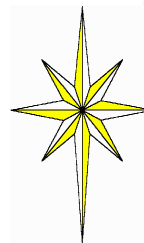
We are a Congregation of

Open & welcoming doors

Open & growing minds

Open & faithful hearts

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A Message from the Stars

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HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

On these clear crisp nights, even as the world seems frozen solid in the grip of winter, the stars in the winter sky continue the eternal dance that has entranced star-gazers since the beginning of time. One glance upward and we become swept up in the audience of an extravaganza as old as time itself. Star gazing makes one feel very small and defenseless, but there is no fear. It is humility that we mostly feel; humility before a vast universe that expands beyond our wildest imagination.

Star gazing has the mysterious power to draw us back into the questions of childhood; questions we no longer ask because we know they must remain an unanswerable mystery: *Where did it all begin? What was here before what now is? Where is the universe headed? When will it all end?* And we are not alone with our questions. The same stars and other heavenly bodies drift over the heads of star gazers all over the world, and our ancestors also looked heavenward to seek the same answers from the same stars. Some saw answers in constellations while others created stories and legends about what they saw in the heavens that helped make sense of their earthly world. Every culture has its star stories.

Traditionally, it has been spiritual and religious leaders who have been the storytellers. However, in these enlightened times in a world of logic and reason, science is providing us with more and more answers based on observable truths and measurable facts. But in this season of Epiphany, Christians celebrate and remember the story of a star that leads, beckons, and draws us to the side of a manger. It's a place where science cannot go, and it's a story with which science cannot reason. The manger is our place to wonder, to dream, to hope – and to ponder anew how God can love us so. This is not an intellectual proposition to consider, but a truth to ponder in our hearts.

Christian faith does not begin when we finally accept traditional dogma, or when we decide what intellectual propositions are true for us, or adopt a new set of rules for living, a new ethic, a new list of sins to avoid, or anything else. Faith begins when we know we are gripped by the power of God's love. The stars in the winter sky remind us that we are not the center of the universe, but neither are we alone. The story of the Bethlehem star helps to remind us who we are, and to whom we belong. Peace to you in this New Year.

Don

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 25

Make plans to enjoy a delicious, pot luck luncheon after worship on January 25, followed by the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. The Annual Meeting of a congregation is a time to review the past year and hear plans for the new one, and beyond. In addition to the regular business of approving the terms of call for the pastor, electing officers and receiving the budget for 2009, the congregation will receive the written reports from our Session Committee moderators and hear the results of the session retreat in response to the recent self-study. And of course, we will enjoy a "NCPC 2008 in Review" slide show. Please plan to join us for this important time of fellowship, remembering, giving thanks, and catching a vision for our future



New Photo Directory

The brand new NCPC Photo Directory will be available at the Annual Meeting.

The directory will be free for the asking, but if you would like to contribute \$1.00 or more to help cover the cost it would be appreciated.



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is currently working to identify those whom God is calling to be leaders in our church. The election of new officers will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on January 25.



Participation in the leadership of our church or any other organization is something like navigating in a car; you don't have much control over where you think we should go while sitting in the back seat.

If you have a suggestion or are personally interested in serving NCPC in the leadership position of Elder or Deacon, please contact Michael O'Neill (303 258-3447)

Thank You NCPC Choir



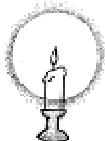
The special Christmas Music offering on December 21st, "Kneeling in Bethlehem" was inspiring and a beautiful way to hear the Christmas story set to music and interpreted through the poems of Ann Weems. Thank you choir, for the many hours of rehearsal that made it possible, and for your consistent support of our music program throughout the year. Music is such an integral part of worship, and NCPC is truly blessed to have you as our choir. And thanks to our narrators, Claudia O'Neill and Phillis Wright for a thoughtful reading of the poems.

A note about a dear friend and former choir member: **Peggy Martin** is settling nicely into her Fort Collins community and has now joined Westminster Presbyterian Church. She enjoys singing in their choir, but still misses all of her friends here at NCPC.

A note about a new friend and new choir member: **Nicki Handy** is new to the area and is now singing with our choir. Please welcome her into our fellowship and add her information to your directory:

Nicki Handy, 103 Silver Road, Black Hawk, CO 80422, nicki@nickihandy.com 303-408-7139

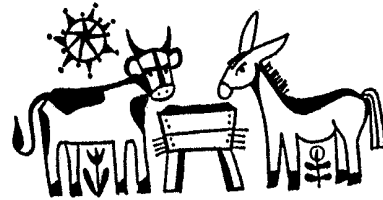
The Upper Room The Upper Room is a devotional guide which provides a suggestion for daily scripture reading followed by a short meditation and thought for the day. It is a wonderful way to give focus and perspective to each day.



Copies of the Upper Room are made available by the session and are located on the credenza in the back of the sanctuary.

Thank You to the NCPC Children and Youth

Children and youth of NCPC, *you are appreciated and loved!* Thank you so much for the gift of your creative dramatic interpretation: "**We Could Go In.**" It is always a lot of work to memorize lines, practice speaking loud enough so the audience can hear, and attending rehearsals, but you did it - and you did it so well.



Our actors were (in order of appearance): **Jasper Burak** (Dog), **Will Ford** (Donkey), **Ali Mills** (Ox), **Tamara Haynes** (Cow); **Lila Filer** (Dove), **Katie Haynes** (Cat), **Westley Landry-Murphy** (shepherd), **Will Ford** (lead sheep), **Hayden Hardt-Zeman** (little sheep), **Luke Harrison** ("Amazing" sheep), and **Larson Burak** (camel... "the really big one").

But we can't thank **Gwen Burak** enough for organizing and directing the play, and assistant directors **Michael Dexter** (managing and coaching) and **Alyss Filer** (prompter) for their inspiration and guidance of the kids during rehearsal. The gift of your time, patience and love is priceless as we seek to nurture the children of our church family. Also, thanks to **Pennie Dexter** for brownies and hot chocolate for the dress rehearsal, **Matthew Witherow**, our performance accompanist, and to **Don Dexter** for building the stage.



In our prayers

Pray for Janet Turnburke and family upon the death of her sister, and pray for the Tom Murphy family upon the death of his wife Joan Fiore. Joan was very active with our Food Pantry, the mother of 2 young children and the secretary for St. Rita's Catholic Church. Continued prayers for Jenny & Erik Murray, Sue Evans and Don & Betty Hunt as these dear friends settle into their new communities. Prayers for Gwen Burak's family as they mourn the death of her grandmother and also for her Aunt's renewed health after a recent stroke; Pray for Kathy Brantley as she continues with tests and the frustration of no definitive answers about her health problems; Prayers for Joy Witherow as she goes in for surgery in early January. Joy has a basal cell cancer on her lower eyelid - we pray for skilled surgeons and complete healing. Pray for Steve Filer as he continues to recover from his back injury. And let us continually pray for our special friends who can no longer attend worship, Florence and David Gruchy, Jane Bauder & Gloria Fraiser.

Thank you for your delicious hospitality!

Thank you to our December Fellowship Hosts for making our time of fellowship so welcoming each Sunday: On Pageant Sunday, **Phillys Wright** caused a near feeding frenzy with her "Buckeyes." Following the choir's special music Sunday **Frank and Susan Lutz** prepared a beautiful reception. On Christmas Eve **Al and Diana Nelson** organized the donation of many cookies and other goodies for the candlelight fellowship time which was a very welcome reception for our many guests. Pat and Gary Ennor were our hosts for the first Sunday after Christmas.



If you would like to host fellowship some Sunday in the near future, please contact Kathleen Henningsen or sign up some Sunday morning.

NPCPC Youth Group Newz

Many thanks to **Susan and Frank Lutz** for allowing us to harvest the beautiful Christmas tree that adorned our Sanctuary during Advent and at Christmas.

And, thank you to **Michelle Kozel** for helping with the gingerbread house icing and to **Mark Haynes** who served as the spontaneous and impartial judge of our creative efforts.

The Progressive Dinner was such fun, thanks to **Claudia and Michael O'Neill** (hors' devours), **Mo Fauvel & Susan Morrison** (salad), **Frank and Susan Lutz** (lasagna) and **David and Liz Ford** (dessert). Opening your homes on cold winter night to host 11 youth and 5 adults was a gesture of pure hospitality.



January Birthdays

Cheryl Wiles	5
John Allen	8
Dorothy Whalen	15
Barbara Hardt-Zeman	18
Jenny Murray	30

January Anniversaries

Claudia & Michael O'Neill	11
Violet Aandres & Rich Deubel	13
Barbara & Matt Hardt-Zeman	17
Tom & Ellen Andersen	22
Doug & Joyce Trostle	29




"Photo to Fabric Workshop"

February 7 & 21

This workshop led by Bette Ventrella is sponsored by "The Palette Gallery of Nederland" in association with MCAA. For times, materials and suggested donation call Kathy at "The Palette Gallery" 303-258-7292, or speak with Bette or Phillys Wright.



Sundav	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; background-color: #e0e0e0;"> January 2009 </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Session Retreat January 11, 2:00 – 8:00</p> <p>Annual Meeting and Pot Luck January 25, 11:00 after worship</p> </div> </div>						
4 No Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School	5 12:00 NAS Lunch	6	7 9-11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch	1 No Food Pantry	2	3
11 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship and Communion 10:30 Church School 2:00-8:00 <u>Session Retreat</u>	12 12:00 NAS Lunch	13 1:00 -3:00 CWS 6:30 Choir	14 9-11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS lunch	15	16	10 9:30-11:30 Food Pantry
18 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School 5:30 Youth Group	19 12:00 NAS Lunch	20	21 9 - 11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch and board mtng.	22	23	24
25 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School 11:00 <u>Pot Luck Lunch and Annual meeting</u>	26 12:00 NAS Lunch	27	28 9-11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch	29 10:00-Noon - Food Pantry	30	31



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