

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
(303) 258-3579
www.nederlandcpc.org

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NURSERY SURFING

Every so often I like to treat myself to a stroll through the greenhouse at the Sturtz and Copeland nursery out on Valmont, especially during these winter months when most of our vegetation is fast asleep under a blanket of snow. I don't go to shop. I go because I have a need to look and touch and smell green, growing things. The friendly and helpful employees are always ready to help me find what I am looking for, but I always tell them, "Thank you, but I'm here to just look and touch and smell your plants." The amazing thing is that they seem to understand and leave me alone to do my thing. Usually I leave after a few minutes without buying anything. Usually. (While looking, touching and smelling on my last visit several months ago, I discovered that the tiny bloom on a "string of pearls" plant smells just like cloves. It was too good to pass up.)

I have been indulging myself in the pleasures of "nursery surfing" for many years which is how I came to acquire one of my very favorite plants. It's called a "Bottle Palm" because the base of the plant swells in the form of a bottle as it grows, or sometimes a "Ponytail Palm" because of the long grass-like leaves that grow from the top that looks something like a ponytail, or a Dr. Seuss creation. When I first saw a Bottle Palm it was too curious and odd to pass up, so I bought one. It cost all of \$1.50 and fit in a 2" pot. Now 30 years later, that little Bottle Palm has grown up and is enjoying life sitting near our bedroom window. Today the plant's bottle is 20" in diameter and it stands 36" tall. In a nursery, a plant like

that would sell for \$60.00 or more, but I would never think about selling it. After all these years it has become an old and familiar friend.

One of the reasons my Palm has lived so long is that it is difficult to kill. This one has gone for as long as two months without a drop of water. It spent part of its life outdoors in full sunlight, but today seems just as content to live indoors, crammed in a pot not much bigger than itself. After our house froze last winter I thought I had killed it for sure. But to my amazement, within weeks after thawing out, the brown frozen fronds fell away and revealed new green growth. Today a year later, it looks as healthy and happy as it ever has.

Through the years, I've lost many plants to my neglect, and nearly all of them died last winter during our "deep freeze". But this one has stuck with me through the best and worst of times with what seems to be an unlimited ability to endure, recover and live on. It is as though the key to its long life is an ability to forgive, unconditionally, put the past behind it and keep on growing.

As I gave it a long drink of snow-melt water the other day, I thought how wonderful it would be if I could be as ruggedly resilient, forgiving and loyal in my relationships as my Bottle Palm has been with me? It makes me appreciate even more those friends who have stuck with me through thick and thin.

Thank you, God, for friends.





Spring Clean Up

Saturday, May 30, at 9:00



Spring has finally arrived, and as the snow melts into our memories, it is very evident that we have some work to do around the church. The windows and sills need to be washed, floors need to be scrubbed, cupboards need to be cleaned out, and the landscaping needs all the attention it can get! There are also a number of small repairs on a growing list of to-do's. So, come early for coffee and goodies, bring rags, rubber gloves, buckets and gardening tools.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



NCPC is hosting VBS this summer! The theme is "Friendship Trek", i.e. hiking with Jesus as your friend. We need volunteers to do everything from make snacks (and they're really cool snacks!), lead crafts, act out Bible stories, supervise a video Bible study, do basic crowd control, shuttle kids to Calvary for some of these activities, and register kids when they arrive. No special skills are needed. Would you come help us?

Please call or email Kathy Brantley at:
kathybrantley@gmail.com if you're interested in serving.



Pot Luck Luncheon

Following Worship, May 17th

Plan to join us for a "Church Family" pot-luck luncheon immediately following worship on May 17th.



It is always a delicious surprise to discover what's on the serving table at a good old-fashioned pot luck. But the most amazing thing is, there is always plenty to go around, even for our drop-in visitors or friends who may have forgotten to bring something. So, bring a dish to share - that's it! Everything else will be provided, including great table fellowship with some terrific people.

Mail Reduction Effort A Great Success

Thanks to the **58 families and friends** who have signed up to receive this newsletter as a PDF attachment. After our first year, we have saved **over \$380 in printing and postage!** That's half the cost of previous years. Not only is this a savings for our church budget, reduction in printing saves paper and is environmentally friendly. And with the cost of postage going up next month, **PDF by e-mail** makes even more "cents". If you would like to join the movement and have "**The Bell Tower**" sent to you as a PDF e-mail attachment, please go to www.nederlandcpc.org and sign-up. It's that easy.

We are happy to continue to mail a hard copy to those who do not wish to use the new e-mail option.



NCPC Youth News



May Youth Group Meetings

This month, the Youth Group will meet on the first and third Sundays at 5:30, as usual. We will have dinner at each meeting, so bring \$3.00 to help cover the cost. See you there!

- May 3 Youth meeting at 5:30
- May 17 Youth meeting at 5:30



Congratulations to our High School Graduates!



NCPC has four graduates this year. From Nederland High School, **Bailey Eddy, Emma Stadele, and Erik Skeie** graduate on May 23. From New Vista High School, **Rachel Morrison** graduates on May 30.

Please join us in recognizing these amazing young people in worship on May 24.

Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. -- Proverbs 19:21

Confirmation Class to be received on May 30

Well, you did it. The "big test" is out of the way, you have most of your memorization completed, and you have met the Session. The next step is to be received by the congregation during worship on May 31.

Here are some pictures from our retreat last month:





For the Month of May

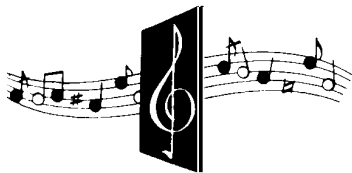
Adam Durkee	5th
Matt Witherow	11th
Rich Tillotson	13th
Peggy Martin	14th
Luke Harrison	16th
Rita Justice	17th
Carolyn Armstrong	18th
Pennie Dexter	18th
Janet Turnburke	22nd
Joye Stanich	25th



For the Month of May

Austin & Erica Phelps	2nd
Erick & Jenny Murray	19th
Jan & Mike Mussler	23rd
Gary & Pat Ennor	31st

NCPC Choir Notes:



Our one and only mid-week rehearsal for the month of May is on **Tuesday, May 5, at 6:45**. Join us for a **“Cinco de Mayo” supper at 6:15**. Rehearsal will begin promptly at 6:45.

Now is the time we begin working on music for the summer months as we anticipate the arrival of our “Summer Singers.” Oh joy!!

By the way, if you don’t sing in the choir but would like to give it a try, don’t be shy – just do it! There is always room in the choir. Sing on!!!!

Joys & Concerns - John Allen is recovering from a perforated colon after a routine colonoscopy. Judy Anderson is recovering from a hip replacement surgery. Remember Florence Gruchy and family at the passing of David Gruchy and for Florence during her own hospice care. Continued prayers for Gwen Burak’s Aunt Barbara as she adjusts to being home after her stroke; Continued prayers for healing for those dealing with physical or emotional issues; and as always for our special friends who can no longer attend worship: Jane Bauder, Gloria Fraiser, and Florence Gruchy. Let us give thanks that Tom Anderson is now back home making progress every day, and that Beth Kramer, Jim and Judy Hubbard’s niece is now on the mend as well.

Summer Sunday School Volunteers Needed



- Do you have a special gift?**
- Do you have an interesting hobby?**
- Do you miss your grandchildren?**

This summer, we would like to offer Sunday School on the second Sunday of each month, and so we are seeking a few volunteers to come share their gifts -- and a relevant lesson about God -- with the children. Are you an expert knot-tier? Were you part of a major historical event and have stories to tell? Do you have a favorite craft or activity you would be interested in leading with the kids? Any gift, personal interest, or experience you would care to share is fair game.

Highlands Camp and Conference Center has something for *everybody* this summer



- Be sure you check these special camps and programs available at Highlands Camp this year:

3rd - 6th grade

Middle School Camps - music/art/drama, horse camps, adventure camp

Sr. High School Camps - music/art/drama, horse camps, adventure camp, leaders' camp, Youth Re-Recreation

Mother/daughter, Father/son, grandparent/grandchild camps

Family Vacation Camp

- There are also events for Adults. Check out the Elder Hostel programs offered this year:

Rocky Mountain High: John Denver and Rocky Mtn. National Park - July 26-30

Grandparent/Grandchild Summer Spectacular in RMNP - August 9-14

Adventure Camp for Adults - August 23-28

Aspen Glow and Mountain Folk - Sept. 17-23,

Rocky Mountain Halloween - Stanley Hotel and Bumps in the Night - Oct. 29-Nov. 1

Dancing in the New Year with Glenn Miller - Dec 29-Jan 1

- Way Points Presbyterian Programs are:

Fourth of July Family Vacation - July 2-5

Astronomy, Geology and Theology - August 16-21

Long's Peak and RMNP - Sept 27- Oct. 2

All adult programs and camps are housed in Highlands beautiful new Conference Center designed for hotel-like comfort.

Camp schedules and other information are available in the brochures at the back of the sanctuary, or you may visit www.highlandscamp.org or www.elderhostel.org. You may register on-line and Highlands now can accept credit cards. Remember, partial Highlands scholarships are available for many Camp programs and NCPC offers a \$50 campership to our kids. Sweet deal!

May 2009

Presbytery at LaSalle, CO

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>May 2009</u>					1	2
					Presbytery at LaSalle, CO	
3 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 5:30 Youth Group - FOOD SUNDAY -	4 12:00 NAS Lunch	5 6:15 Choir dinner 6:45 Choir <u>Reh</u>	6 9 -11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch 1-3:30 Chronic Conditions <u>wkshop</u>	7 9:30 – 11:00 Food Pantry	8	9 9:30-11:30 USDA Distribution and Food Pantry
10 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School Mother's Day	11 12:00 NAS Lunch	12 1-3 CWS	13 9 -11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch 1-3:30 Chronic Conditions <u>wkshop</u> 1:00 NAS Board	14 6:30 Session	15	16
17 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School POT LUCK LUNCH 5:30 Youth Group	18 12:00 NAS Lunch	19	20 9 -11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch 1-3:30 Chronic Conditions <u>wkshop</u>	21	22	23
24 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School Memorial Day Weekend	25 12:00 NAS Lunch	26	27 9 -11:30 Painters 12:00 NAS Lunch 1-3:30 Chronic Conditions <u>wkshop</u>	28 9:30 – 11:00 Food Pantry	29	30 9:00 Spring Clean- up
31 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 10:30 Church School Pentecost Sunday	Upcoming: - June 21, 4:00. <u>Jessica Oddie</u> who has played in previous MCMAA Concerts is now studying violin performance at Julliard School of Music and will lead off our 2009 Summer Series of MCMAA Concerts					



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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.