

# The Bell Tower

September, 2011  
Volume 28, Issue 9

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](http://www.nederlandcpc.org)



**"For everything there is a season...."**

— Gary Ennor, Session Clerk

**Inside this Issue:**

**Page 2:**

Transition Team  
New sidewalks  
MCMAA Concert  
MCMAA Note  
Orders of Worship

**Page 3:**

Transitional Process  
**Directory Corrections**  
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS  
SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES  
Session Elder List

**Page 4:**

Nominating Committee  
Buildings and Gardens  
New Custodial Help  
**Summer Friends**  
Finances Steady

**Page 5:**

September Calendar  
September Potluck  
Centennial Celebration

In Don Dexter's final sermon he referred to his coffee cup with the message above. It reminded me of the virtue of living in the moment — the now — and not getting caught up and overwhelmed by thoughts of things coming up in the future or tasks I'm accountable for down the road.

It's also the title of a good book by Jon Kabat-Zinn, the founding director of the *Stress Reduction Clinic* and the *Center for Mindfulness in Medicine, Health Care, and Society* at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. It's a good read. Your library should have a copy. Check it out.

The book title also reminded me that the only constant thing in the physical universe — the only invariable thing in nature—is change. When you stop and think about it, it seems rather obvious; fairly simple. Yet of all the species on this planet, ours seems to be the only one that resists change—fights it and denies it—unless, of course, it's our neighbor who has to deal with it and not us. Then we wonder, "What's the big deal?"

Why do you suppose that is? Well, the fact is, change may be simple, but change isn't easy. Or, another way of looking at it, change is fine as long as it's not affecting my job, my income, my relationship and so on. It's always easier to expect the other guy to change, which reminds me of another title, the off-Broadway musical comedy: *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

**We are in the midst of big changes** at NCPC—the process of releasing our attachment to one pastoral relationship—bidding Don and Pennie Dexter farewell and Godspeed on their continuing journey—moving through a period of

reflection and reexamination of who we are as a congregation and the roles we are called to play collectively and individually—until we reach the point of calling a new pastor.

We are moving into and through a time of transition. We may experience many different emotions: loss, grief, sadness, anxiety and so on. These emotions may emerge unexpectedly and in ways that startle us. That's OK. It's part of the transition process—an opportunity to learn to understand one another and to learn to practice compassion, tolerance and kindness.

At a recent session meeting, Dan Saperstein of the Presbytery said this is a time with a mixture of sadness at the departure of people we have come to know and love, a time of anxiety not knowing exactly what the future holds, a time maybe for some of suppressed joy and for others a time of anticipation as one chapter in the church comes to a close and the next chapter calls to be created.

The Session is here to help. It has various responsibilities during this period, the exercise of which may be rusty or even new if a serving elder has never been active during this process before.

At the beginning of the transition period, it is the Session's job to work to stabilize the ministry of our church and to help process grief and manage anxiety.

It's also the Session's job to keep the congregation informed during the process. This will be done with announcements during the worship service as well as summaries and articles in this newsletter. If you have concerns, suggestions or questions, talk to a session member.

(Continued Page 2)



A new look to the newsletter is in the works—specifically a new header with a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday or Centennial Year theme

## **“For everything there is a season....”**

*(Cont'd from page 1)*

Below you will find the first of these announcements and on page 3 an article about the transition process as it is done in a Presbyterian Church.

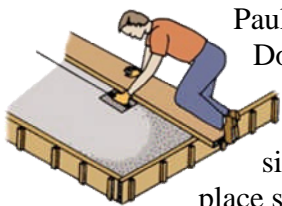
Remember, we're all in this together. Although the Session is here for you, be here for the Session. Many opportunities to serve are in the offing.

In times of change when feelings of anxiousness or concern arise, it often helps to get involved. Get in the game. Busy hands are positive hands. And that reminds me of the wisdom of an early mentor: *It's much easier to ride the horse in the direction he's going.*

### **Session appoints Transition Team**

At a special meeting on Monday, August 22, the Session elected Gary Ennor, Session clerk, to serve as the "Transition Team" leader following Don Dexter's retirement. Frank Lutz was appointed to help with this important transition work.

This team will also represent the church in the community as the "official" church contacts in the absence of an interim pastor or until a permanent pastor is called. Mail addressed to the pastor should be placed in the clerk's box at the church and email may be routed to him at: [ennorg@towardhealth.org](mailto:ennorg@towardhealth.org).



Paul Turnburke, Director of Nederland Downtown Development Authority (NDDA), also attended this meeting briefly to discuss

sidewalks. The town has a grant to place sidewalks from the library to the post office. Preliminary plans call for an 8-foot wide sidewalk on the south side of the church. This design includes a retaining wall between the sidewalk and the church landscaping. The project will include curb and gutter which will enhance the drainage on that side of the church. There is no cost to the church. However, placement of the sidewalk will preclude parking along that side of the street.

Session voted unanimously to instruct the Clerk to write a letter to the NDDA expressing its support for the project and encouraging them to move forward as soon as practical.

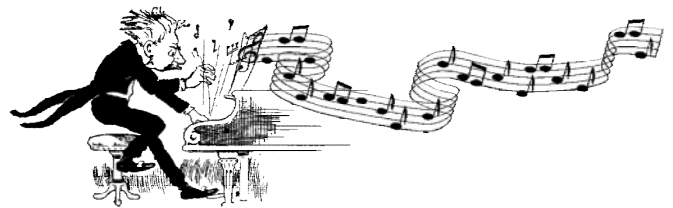
## **Mountain Community Music & Arts Association**



Announces

***Final Concert of 2011 Summer Season!***

**Don't miss it\***



Dr, Obadiah Ariss playing

*“The Music of Love”*

*Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 4pm*

*Suggested donation: Adults \$10 - \$12*

*Kids always welcomed at no charge*

*Reception with the artist follows the concert.*

*\* If you don't come, you'll hear about it and wish you had. Just do it!*

### **An MCMAA Note** (pun accepted, not intended)

Don Dexter convened a meeting with people interested in working to continue the concert series. They have accepted responsibility for the concert on September 18<sup>th</sup>

MCMAA will continue to be supported by the church and the church's 503(c)(3) determination.

If want to help continue or support the series, contact one of those who attended the meeting: alphabetical order by last name: Greg Ching, Jessica Cooper, Beth David, Sally Grahn, Bonnie Greenwood, Barbara Hardt, Betty Porter, Lark Powers and Barbara Werner.

### **Order of Worship**

In the absence of a full time minister, Dennis Whalen is now preparing the Order of Worship for each Sunday's service. If you have information you would like included in the Order Of Worship, please e-mail Dennis with the information no later than Thursday afternoon at [dww@mric.net](mailto:dww@mric.net).

## The Transitional Process

— from the transition team

The time of a pastor's departure is always unsettling to a congregation. The session is responsible for providing non-anxious leadership to the congregation during the transitional period. In addition, more of the operational decisions of "running" the church will fall to the session or session members.

The Presbytery has a wealth of experience and information regarding transitioning from one pastoral relationship to a new one. It will assist in many ways during this transition through liaisons from the Congregational Service and Development Committee (CSDC) and the Committee on Ministry (COM). These representatives will work with the session and congregation during the transition and help in the search for new pastoral leadership.

Thus, the Presbytery, session and congregation work together to facilitate a smooth transition.

For the first months after the pastor leaves the church typically arranges for pulpit supply. This means preachers are hired to deliver the sermon and participate in worship each week. Their responsibility is for a specific worship service only.

The Executive Presbyter often preaches for congregations in the first weeks after a pastor has left. This allows him to make contact and to assure the congregation of the support of the other churches of the Presbytery.

We have scheduled Dan Saperstein, the Executive Presbyter, to preach on September 11 and join us for a potluck following the worship service. Plan to be there and have your questions or concerns addressed by an expert.

### SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Barbara Stiefer 2

At its September 15 meeting, the session will work with John Hess, the session moderator and COM liaison, to begin the process that ultimately culminates in calling a new pastor. This process may last 12 – 18 months. Be patient.

Regular updates on the process will be published in this monthly newsletter. However, always feel free to contact a member of session or the transition team, Gary and Frank, if you have questions or concerns not addressed in the newsletter.

In very general terms the transition process involves the following steps:

- securing pulpit supply for the first several months
- hiring an interim pastor (this is a recommended option, not mandatory)
- conduct a church mission study
- search for and call a new pastor

This is a very large brush look at what's coming in the future. Each step above involves many small steps. Most steps require broad participation from the congregation to be representative and effective.

Begin now to contemplate how you would like to participate.

**Next Month** – an update + The Interim Pastor

### Your Session Elders

|                   |                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Carolyn Armstrong | Worship                           |
| Gary Ennor        | Session Clerk/<br>Transition Team |
| Cinda Kochen      | Christian Education               |
| Frank Lutz        | Property/<br>Transition Team      |
| Michael O'Neill   | Finance                           |
| Janet Turnburke   | Fellowship                        |
| Dennis Whalen     | Mission                           |

### Oops!

#### Directory Corrections



Never seems to fail, as soon as you think something is *finished* and you go to press, things show up that should have been included.

Please add the corrections below to your printed copy of the new directory.

These changes were made to the PDF version.

Ben Brantley's cell phone: (303) 258-3201

Mary Commer's e-mail: [mccommers@eastmonttowers.com](mailto:mccommers@eastmonttowers.com)

Crystal Skeie's e-mail: [clskeie@yahoo.com](mailto:clskeie@yahoo.com)

Don and Pennie Dexter's present address was not available for the printed or PDF version. It is:

**P O Box 1808,  
Atascadero, CA 93422**

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Robert Bennett  | 3  |
| Lila Filer      | 3  |
| Will Ford       | 3  |
| Tim Spangler    | 7  |
| Justine Irwin   | 11 |
| Susan Jones     | 11 |
| Michael Dexter  | 14 |
| Charles Hogrefe | 15 |
| Don Hunt        | 19 |
| Jasper Burak    | 23 |
| Ed Busch        | 23 |
| Frank Lutz      | 24 |
| Emily Morrison  | 24 |
| Carol Rhoads    | 24 |
| David Ford      | 25 |
| Mark Moll       | 28 |
| Rachel Morrison | 30 |

## Nominations please . . . .

— Janet Turnburke, Nominating Committee Chair

The session has appointed me to chair the nominating committee for 2011. This committee nominates elders and deacons for the congregation to elect at its annual meeting in January. Two elder's terms are expiring in January: Cinda Kochen and Frank Lutz. However, Cinda, who is completing the term of an elder who stepped down, has agreed to place her name in nomination for a full term. Thus, we need at least one more nominee for the next elder class.

This is an exciting time in our congregation. If you'd like to have the opportunity to help chart our direction please let us place your name in nomination for elder.

The deacons in our church serve as our "nurture" committee. So if you have a place in your heart to care for and nurture our congregation this is the place for you.

If you are interested in serving as either an Elder or Deacon of the church please contact me. If you have an idea of someone who would thrive in this capacity give me the name and I'll ask!

This is your chance to have your voice heard and serve the church in an important and meaningful way.

Janet Turnburke

[janet@turnburkeassociates.com](mailto:janet@turnburkeassociates.com)

Nominating Committee, Session Elder

## Friends . . . *Thank you for sharing summer with us!*

— Michael O'Neill, for the Session

Those of us who live here well recognize the expression, "If you're lucky enough to live in the mountains, you're lucky enough."

In our dark winter nights we take great comfort, sitting by wood stoves glowing hot with the wood we've put up in the fall, in thinking about the longer days of summer, the coming blossoms on the aspens, and the arrival of our summer friends from across the country. We know you will be bringing stories of your lives, tales of your travels, fresh air from afar.

Our worlds grow with the coming of our friends from Ohio, from Texas, from Oklahoma and California. We're thrilled to hear of events in the lives of your families, your jobs, your home churches, from Kansas, from Washington State, from Tennessee and Mississippi. Even Alabama has stories to share. Did I mention Louisiana? And we know there is life in other corners of Colorado beyond the gates of our forested valleys.

Many congregations shrink in the summer—ours swells, thanks to you. We are blessed by your participation and support. As you return to your winter homes, please know that you take our love with you, and would love to hear from you through the year. Thank you for sharing our summers with us. **Farewell and safe travelling**

## BUILDINGS AND GARDENS

— Frank Lutz, Property Elder

As most of you know, the kitchen has been completed and is both beautiful and functional. New table clothes and new stainless flatware were purchased this past month.

Thanks to the work of many of our congregation pulling weeds, trimming bushes and trees, putting in a few new plants, watering and racking gravel, the gardens are in great shape for the farewell potluck honoring Don and Pennie following Don's final sermon on August 28.

An energy audit was completed on the church by Boulder County who supplied us with a list of things we can do to increase our energy efficiency for the operation of the church that could be purchased if money was available.

The single item saving the most money is a new hi-tech furnace costing probably between \$5000 and \$7000. While this and most other items would pay for themselves in about ten years, they do fit into current budget allotments.

The same type of assessment is available to any of you living or doing business in Nederland, at no cost. If you are interested call or email: Energy Smart at 303.544.6722 (for homes); 877.505.6722 (for businesses); or email [www.EnergySmartYes.com](http://www.EnergySmartYes.com).

## A Change in Custodial Help

Finally, Michael Dexter is staying in Nederland after Don and Pennie leave. He has served us for the past several years as church custodian. He now has a full time demanding job working in the newly opened gold mine in the Nederland area and has requested that we find another to take over the custodial job.

We found a good person, John Callahan, who some of you may know from his volunteer work at the Food Pantry and the Carousel. **We thank Michael for his fine service and welcome John to our church community.**

## Steady as she goes . . . .

— Michael O'Neill, Moderator, Finance Committee

We move into the coming transition with the finances for our church family in healthy condition, despite a deficit budget. This is thanks to the foresight and generosity of our predecessors, careful policy setting from our Session over many years, and intelligent planning and practice from our professional staff and volunteer leaders.

The task before us is to take a patient, long-term look at where we want to be going under new pastoral leadership and exercise continuing prudence in managing this legacy.

Ben Brantley, Jim Hubbard and Curt Will have agreed to work together to support the financial planning of the Session, assisting in assessing our needs, anticipating our resources and establishing guidelines for us as we move forward. We are grateful for their expertise and appreciate their willingness to serve us in this important capacity.

| ~ September 2011 ~   |     |  |  |  |     |   |
|--|-----|--|--|--|-----|---|
| Sun  | Mon | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri | Sat   |
|  |     |  |  | 1<br>10:00 Food Pantry                         | 2   | 3   |
| 4<br>10:00 Worship Service<br>10:30 Church School  | 5   | 6  | 7<br>3:30 – 5:00 Karplus   | 8  | 9   | 10<br>9:30 – 11:00<br>USDA Distribution<br>and<br>Food Pantry |
| 11<br>10:00 Worship and<br>Communion with Dan<br>Saperstein<br>10:30 Church School<br><b>Potluck</b> | 12  | 13<br>11:30 CWS at Steifer's<br>Home — Meet 11:15 at<br>church to carpool —<br>limited parking at<br>Steifer's — RSVP at<br>303-258-7144 | 14<br>3:30 – 5:00 Karplus<br><br>Only 5 months to<br>Valentine's Day | 15<br>6:30 Session meets in<br>Fellowship Hall | 16  | 17  |
| 18<br>10:00 Worship Service<br>10:30 Church School   | 19  | 20<br><b>Newsletter<br/>Deadline</b>   | 21<br>3:30 – 5:00 Karplus  | 22   | 23  | 24  |
| 25<br>10:00 Worship Service<br>10:30 Church School   | 26  | 27   | 28<br>3:30 – 5:00 Karplus  | 29<br>10:00 Food Pantry                        | 30  |   |

## September Potluck . . . .

Fellowship Sunday  
September 11, 2011 will  
be Potluck lunch with  
Dan Saperstein, the Executive Presenter.  
Dan will be there to answer questions and  
clarify any concerns the congregation may  
have as our church moves into a transition  
period. Please **plan to attend** this  
informative gathering and enjoy some  
DELICIOUS food at the same time.



## Centennial Recipe Celebration

As we look back at the last 100 years at our church, one thing that brings us together in joyful celebrations is our tradition of Pot Luck meals. In honor of that and our 100-year celebration we are putting together “100 Favorite Pot Luck Recipes of NCPC”! Go ahead write down the secret to the deviled eggs. What is that in the potato salad? We need to record these for the next 100 years! You can e-mail them or put them in my box at church. We’re looking for 100 recipes by next years’ birthday celebration to compile into a booklet so you’ll always have idea for the next potluck!



Thank you! Janet Turnburke, Fellowship Committee, Session Elder



## Nederland Community Presbyterian Church

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

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