



CROSS CONNECTION

The Newsletter of Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
Published Semi-Monthly
May 1, 2009



150 Years and Going Strong



*No matter who you are
or where you are
on life's journey,
you'll find a home here!*

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**Cottage Grove United Church
of Christ**
7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove, MN. 55016-2397
Tel: 651-459-1501
Web: www.cgucc.org
Email: cgucc@usfamily.net

Confirmation Sunday

May 3, 2009

On Sunday, May 3, 2009, we will welcome three new members into Christ's church through the rite of Confirmation. Congratulations to Marissa Bonngard, Ashley Longmuir, and Alissa Manning!



Thank you to mentors Bobbi Jo Janicek (Marissa Bonngard), Yvonne Bonngard (Ashley Longmuir), and Amy Howard (Alissa Manning) for their love and support for these three young women during their two years of Confirmation classes.

We hope you will join us in celebrating this great event during worship and in the cake reception for the Confirmands following the worship service.

Confirmands and Mentors, please remember the rehearsal at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Rev. Désirée Gold, Pastor

Office Hours
Tuesday—Thursday
10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
Office Phone:
(651) 459-1501
Rev. Gold's e-mail:
pastorgold@inbox.com



PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

Susan Berndt; Daniel Bies; Eric Bies; Rob Biscoe; Bill and Isabel Board; Ron Bonnevier; Bill Bothun; Beth Davies; Bob Fox; Joyce Fries; Russ Gausman; Don Hanson; Nancy Hillman (sister ill); Chris Miller; JoAnn Nelson; Leona Perkins; Richard Piel as he mourns the death of his son; Sandy Rabe; Emily, Chris, and Joel Spicer; families facing unemployment issues.

David Bloomquist (at home recovering); Alma Buechler (former pastor's wife); Abi Christopherson (Elaine Mitchell's friend); Dorothy Brown (Ashley & Luke Longmuir's great-aunt); Roxanne Ebarb (Birdie Meyer's daughter); Guzman family (daughter's health); Rev. Frank Hudson (daughter's death); Ken & Nora Krahn (missionaries); Denise Heschke Krech (Marilyn's Heschke's daughter); Richard Lara (in prison); Margie Mattison (Farmers' Market vendor); Mary Schmidt (Karen Schmidt's mother-in-law); Midge Youngquist's grandmother; our soldiers around the world; those affected by flooding in Minnesota and North Dakota.

An Offering of Gold

Rev. Désirée
H. Gold



In recent weeks I have been talking up the Park High School production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" quite a bit. Why was I advertising it so much, when no one from our church was involved in the production? For one thing, I believe in supporting community events, even if "our" people aren't involved. For another thing, "Jesus Christ Superstar" tells the story of our faith, albeit in a modern, unorthodox way. Thirdly, I have already told you that I love "Jesus Christ Superstar," and it is natural that I would be excited about a production of it. But it goes deeper than that.

Last Thursday, when I went to see the show, I was able to mouth the words to every single song, sometimes singing several parts at once. I have seen many different productions of it, including both the 1972 film (which I watch every year during Lent) and the 2000 film, and I could tell you how the director of the Park High School production incorporated various influences from these earlier productions. I can tell you, for example, that the production I saw last week reminded me of the '72 movie, in that the characters started out wearing street clothes. One of the scenes in the Park High School version was reminiscent of a scene in the 2000 movie. "Judas" used different vocal inflection than the "Judas" in the original British production. One of the songs in more recent versions of the show was not in that original production.

How can I tell you these things? Because I have been listening to "Jesus Christ Superstar" since I was three or four years old. My parents had the records for both "JCS" (as we fanatics call it) and "Godspell," and I would make them play the records over and over while I sang along and/or danced. These shows were more than just great music to me, though. When I was born my parents were not church-goers. It was partly because of my interest in "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Godspell" that they began taking me to church as a little girl. They recognized that these rock operas were influencing me in a different way than some of my other favorite childhood music (such as The Beatles "Abbey Road" album – imagine a four year old singing along to "Maxwell's Silver Hammer") and that there might be something behind it. Sure enough, once they started taking me to church I relished in it... and now here I am!

As I grew in faith, the music and lyrics of these shows continued to influence my faith journey. When I worked as a hospital chaplain in Daly City, California I would listen to the song "Long Live God" from "Godspell" every time I would drive home after responding to the death of a hospital patient. As I mentioned in a sermon last month, when my sister was in a production of "JCS" several years ago it was painful for me to watch her "nail" the body of "Jesus" to the cross. I often listen to the music from either or both shows on my way to church on Sunday mornings.

Over the years, "Jesus Christ Superstar" has stirred up controversy by those who see the show as blasphemous. Creator Tim Rice has said that Judas viewed Jesus as only human, not divine. The show also does not show the Resurrection. As a scholar of scripture I am aware that the show has its difficulties. "Godspell," too has had its detractors, particularly among those who protested the characters' "hippie" clothing. I must set aside the controversy, however, with the knowledge that I came to faith with the help of these two theater productions. God speaks to human beings in myriad different ways, and we must not discount the notion that a child (or adult) could be led to faith through something other than the "usual" methods.

(continued at bottom of page 4)

Calendar Available on Web Site

Coming Up in Worship

Sunday, May 3, 2009

Confirmation Sunday

9:00 a.m. Adult Discussion

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:10 a.m. Announcements

10:15 a.m. Worship with
Confirmation &
Communion

11:30 a.m. Special Confir-
mation Reception

Sunday, May 10, 2009

9:00 a.m. Adult Discussion

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:10 a.m. Announcements

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship

Sunday, May 17, 2009

Awards Sunday

9:00 a.m. Adult Discussion

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:10 a.m. Announcements

10:15 a.m. Worship with
Sunday School Awards

11:30 a.m. Family Picnic

Sunday, May 24, 2009

Summer Schedule Begins

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

Participating in Worship in May

Head Usher—Jerry Biscoe

Altar Team—Susan Berndt

Communion Preparation—

Krisi & Jeff Jacobs

Participating in Worship in June

Head Usher—Ron

Bonnevier

Altar Team—Bev Gross

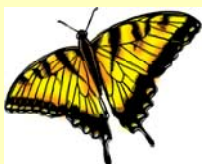
Communion Preparation—

volunteer needed



May

- 5 - Miranda Ries
- 6 - Bobby Welck
- 9 - Brad Huber
- 10 - Wes Hillman
Shauna Meyer
Elaine Mitchell
- 12 - Adam Hillman
Leona Perkins
- 14 - Donna Perkins
- 15 - Tina Eddy
Ron Meyer
- 17 - Brian Marty
- 18 - Lori Fiedler
- 19 - John Greenwell
- 20 - Bill Larsen
- 21 - Brandt Fritze
- 22 - Katie Johnston
Deb McCoy
- 23 - Butch Davies
Mary Pearson
- 24 - GeorgAnn Biscoe
Ashley Perkins
Troy Pribnow
- 25 - Erin Gottfried
Birdie Meyer
- 27 - John Denny
Amber VanTassel
Daniel Wohlers
- 28 - Mallory Ryan
Ruby Stratton
Claudia Weisskirk
- 29 - Nancy Hillman



Minnesota Conference 2009 Annual Meeting

"Together, we will be renewed"

College of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, MN, June 5-7, 2009
Splendid Speakers * Inspiring Worship * Valuable Workshops

Rev. Dr. Paul Nixon, author of I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church
Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith, co-president of BREAD,
(Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) Columbus, OH

*Register before May 5 and pay only \$70 early registration fee.
See Pastor Désirée Gold for more information and registration.*



Pilgrim Point Camp—50 Years of Changing Lives!!!

Below is a partial "Camp Wish List" from the camp web site:

A second AED (Automatic External Defibrillator)

New round light-weight tables for the dining hall with racks for storage
Piano replacement (or repair?) Fund

New roof on the Lodge (*either donate the volunteer labor or the funds to employ a contractor*)

Large capacity air compressor

Canoe Trailer

Swim area buoys

New (larger) glasses and storage trays for dining hall (200)

Zero turning radius mower with 5 foot deck

Log splitter

There is a wish list on the website with links to sample items. The web site list is periodically updated as new needs arise. www.pilgrimpoint.org



Invitation to Installation

Hazel Park Congregational United Church of Christ Cordially invites you to share in the Service of Installation for Rev. Sara E. Morse on Sunday, May 3, at 3:00 p.m.

Hazel Park Congregational United Church of Christ, 1831 E Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul. Reception and dinner will follow the worship service. Please talk with Pastor Gold if you would like to attend.



Photo Albums in Library

I put a few albums of photos of church events from our past on the lower shelves in the library. Feel free to browse at your leisure. Let me know if you would like to see more albums out for use.

Emily Biscoe, Church Historian



(continued from page 2)

"Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Godspell," while unorthodox, are certainly not *weird* ways of coming to faith. After all, they're about Jesus Christ and based on the Gospels. But let us open our minds and hearts to the idea that people sometimes encounter God and Christ in places one would never think to look. As our faith grows and changes, let us keep all our senses open to voice of God, which may come at the most unexpected times, in the most unexpected ways.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Gold

Trash to Treasure Sale Report

Friday, April 24

pre sale	\$210.00
next-to-new	395.00
main room	1516.86
kitchen	482.85
bake sale	<u>310.50</u>
	\$2,915.21



Saturday, April 25

next-to-new	147.10
main room & bag sale	742.00
kitchen	363.59
bake sale	<u>132.25</u>
	\$1,384.94

Sunday, April 26

soup, donations, etc.	87.50
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\$4,387.65

The raffled off "Baskets of Necessities" went to Janis Anderson of Dennison, MN.



Additions to Women's Fellowship Booklet

Jamie Vorlicky (soon to be Mrs. Adam Roberts)
phone (651) 442-8473
added to Service Group "D"

Allyson Youngquist (Tom), phone (651) 493-8036
added to Service Group "D"

Joyce Fries—new phone number (651) 319-0658

Please let Becky know in the office if there are other changes or additions.



Thanks!

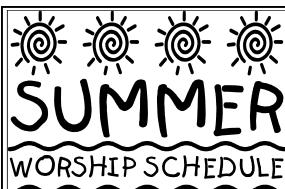
Thank you all for your cards, visits, and calls. And thank you, Pastor Gold, for your kind visit and the plant from the church.

With thanks,
Bill and Isabel Board



Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers. Your kindness means more to me than you will ever know.

Thanks and God Bless,
Doreen Barta



Beginning Sunday, May 24

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Fellowship
No Sunday School

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**Cottage Grove United Church
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Published on the 1st and 15th
of every month
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Edited by Becky Graff

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www.cgucc.org**

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
May 11	May 15
May 25	June 1

Submit articles via e-mail at
cgucc@usfamily.net or drop
them off at the office.

Becky Graff, Editor

Contact Us

**Cottage Grove United
Church of Christ**

7008 Lamar Avenue South
Cottage Grove MN 55016
(651)459-1501 www.cgucc.org

Rev. Désirée H. Gold, Pastor
pastorgold@inbox.com

Gary Afdahl, Director of Music

Becky Graff,
Administrative Assistant
cgucc@usfamily.net

**Deb Hanson, Brenda
Herrmann, BobbiJo Janicek**,
Sunday School Team

Sheri Wohlers, Custodian
sherileewohlers@msn.com

Office Hours: Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Cottage Grove United Church of Christ
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STOP!!
If you would rather not receive this news
letter, please call or send an e-mail, and we
will take you off our mailing list. Thanks!

Spring at CGUCC



May 3— Sunday—Confirmation during the morning worship service. Three of our youth will be confirmed: Marissa Bonngard, Ashley Longmuir, and Alissa Manning.

May 17— Sunday—Sunday School Awards and Family Picnic. The special worship service will feature the children singing and sharing what they have been doing in Sunday School this year. The annual end-of-year family picnic will follow worship.

May 24—Sunday—Memorial Day weekend—Worship at 9:00 a.m.—We begin our summer worship schedule with no Sunday School, and one worship service at 9:00 a.m.