



COMMUNITY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

THE CHIMES

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Dear Friends

The last few weeks I've been watching some of "Beyond the Limit, Climbing Mt. Everest". It's been fascinating to consider what it takes to reach the pinnacle, the highest point on earth. The commitment means life or death to each climber.

Henri Nouwen quoted a passage from Robert Persig. He writes, "Pirsig describes two kinds of mountain climbers. Both place one foot in front of the other, breathe in and out at the same rate, stop when tired and move forward when rested. But the "ego-climber" misses the whole experience. He doesn't notice the beautiful passage of sunlight through the trees. He looks up the trail to see what's ahead even though he just looked for the same thing a second ago. His talk is forever about somewhere else, something else. He's here but he's not here. What he is looking for, what he wants, is all around him, but he doesn't want that because it is all around him."

I think we all at times live our spiritual lives in the manner of an "ego-climber. We read books, learn skills, give talks and answer letters. Things press in on us so that we cannot notice God all around us and meanwhile we strain to peer ahead farther down the trail.

Nouwen goes on to write. "Keep your eyes on the One who refuses to turn stones into bread, jump from great heights or rule with great temporal power. Keep your eyes on the One who says, 'Blessed are the poor, the gentle, those who mourn and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness;

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 2008

- 06 Heifer Project Kick-Off
- 11-13 Confirmation trip to Duluth
- 13 Ordination/Installation of Officers
- 20 Bell Choir January Jar Sale

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## FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this I am listening to a CD titled *Prodigals*, it's an album of music written and sung by an extraordinary mentor in my life, Earl Madary. My undergraduate work was at Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI, where Earl was Campus Minister and a Professor in the Religious Studies Department. My heart is heavy this morning because on December 16, 2007, Earl died from cancer at the age of 42. He left behind a wife, two children in grades 8 and 11, and an abundance of people whose lives have been changed by this man's beautiful legacy.

At one of many bible study sessions with Earl, I vividly remember him saying that he wasn't afraid to die, and that he actually looked forward to the day. At the time, a young college student just beginning to comprehend theology, I was appalled. What did he mean he looked forward to dying, he couldn't die - he was needed here on earth! And then he shared with me this incredible thought, "I have worked all my life for one great end, why should I not be excited for the day of its fruition?"

Earl was a blessing to this world, he lived his whole life in service to God; loving people and encouraging college students to make something special out of the gifts God gave them.

It has struck me strongly in the past few hours that we have all been blessed with a precious gift - the birth of God's Son into the world; to show us the way to live and love and have being. What do we do with that gift?

As we enter a new year, we are given an opportunity to make changes. To start or stop behaviors in our daily lives. It is my New Years prayer that each and every one of us will search our hearts and find a place of peace, a place of calling, and that we will work towards brightening this world for God's good. We are each called and able, filled with the Holy Spirit, and encouraged, to spread the good news of God's kingdom with our very lives. Let us join in watching goodness happen all around us as we join forces in discipleship, as we make the world a better place simply by being in it. And may we look forward to the day God's glory is made manifest in us.

Peace and All Good,  
Kim

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

### Nursing Homes

Evergreen Terrace: Betty Kauppi

Manor House: Amy Johnson, Beulah Zobel, Dorothy Brace

Grand Village Lodge: Win Latimer

Pleasant Seasons: Sylvia White, Mildred Titus, Ed Sparen,  
Edith Fitzgerald, Warren Anderson

Homestead Nursing Home, Deer River: Ellie and Skip Broberg

### Deaths

Let us keep the families of Donna Schultz, Richard Stacklie, Darrel Campbell, and Bernie Schedin in our thoughts and prayers as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

### Baptisms

On December 9 we celebrated the baptism of Summer Jean Hawkinson, daughter of Paul & Sunny Hawkinson, and sister of Cole. John & Gina Hawkinson are the proud grandparents!

And on December 24 we celebrated the baptism of Taylor Ann Spaeny, grand daughter of Janice and Dick Burch!

### New Members

On December 9<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the confirmation of Graeme Shields. You may recall that the Shields family was living in Canada last year - Graeme did his Confirmation work correspondently but wasn't able to be here the Sunday his class was confirmed. Welcome Graeme - We are very proud of you!

On December 16 we welcomed new members, Scott & Lori Kangas-Olson, by profession of faith. Scott and Lori have been active members of our congregation for some time, and their children, Luci, Grayci, and Wil have brightened our hallways. Welcome Kangas-Olson family!

On December 23 we welcomed more new members - Doug & JoAnne Peterson by letter of transfer (they were members previously and have moved back to Grand Rapids - we are so thankful for that!), Dick & Janice Burch by letter of transfer, and Dick & Marilyn Dottenwhy by reaffirmation of faith.

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

### Adult Education

During the month of January we encourage all adults to join us for discussion in the Library every Sunday morning at 8:45. We will be exploring issues of *Death and Dying*.

January 6: *Death and Faith* with Kim Johnson

January 13: *End of Life Issues* with Judy Pittack

January 20: *Conversation about Wills* with Keith Anderson

January 27: *Planning Ahead* with Warren Ramsey from Libbey's

February 3: *Planning Ahead* with Warren Ramsey from Libbey's

February 10: *Death and Faith* with Kim Johnson

### Confirmation

Wednesday, January 9: *Religions of the World*

Wednesday, January 23: *Theology Review*

Duluth Trip: As part of our Religions of the World study, we will travel to Duluth on Friday, January 11 and visit the Temple Israel. We will spend that evening with our Superior friends at *The Edge*, Duluth's new waterpark hotel. Information about times and details will be mailed the first week of January. Please call Kim with any questions.

### Sunday School

All children ages 3 through those in 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited and encouraged to attend Sunday School each week. We begin at 8:45 in room 205 (Middle School youth may go right to their room 104).

### Something Special

The first Sunday of every month is Something Special. Children spend the Sunday School hour together in room 205. The month of January will bring us Heifer International activities! Come and participate!

## YOUTH NEWS & EVENTS

### High School Youth (6:30pm unless otherwise noted)

Wednesday, January 2: *Dinner Out* (Meet at 5:30pm!)

Wednesday, January 16: *Random Act of Kindness*

Wednesday, January 30: *Catch Phrase*

Mark Your Calendars... Sunday, February 17-Monday, February 18: Youth Ski Trip to Giants Ridge!!

### Middle School (4:15pm unless otherwise noted)

Wednesday, January 2: New Year 2008

Wednesday, January 9: Now Starring: YOU

Wednesday, January 16: Cross Assembly

Wednesday, January 23: Sledding (Bring Sleds & Winter Wear)

Wednesday, January 30: Random Acts of Kindness

Mark Your Calendars... Sunday, February 17-Monday, February 18: Youth Ski Trip to Giants Ridge!!



## CHOIR NEWS

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR AND A NEW HANDBELL CHOIR!

Over the past couple of years, there has been growing interest in starting a beginning handbell choir for adults. Now is the time!

Darcy will meet with interested adult ringers at 5:00 on Wednesdays beginning January 9. Then plan on staying for dinner at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall.

If you've watched others play bells and wanted to give it a try, this is a great place to start. Contact Darcy ahead of time if you're interested.



### JANUARY JAR SALE

Thank you to everyone who financially supported the bell choirs through the November bake sale and the freewill offering at the December 11 bell concert. The money raised will be used to fund the handbell festivals taking place this spring and summer. We are very grateful for your generosity.

The bell choirs will be holding a January Jar sale on Sunday, January 20. A variety of items will be sold including soup mixes, brownies and bars, beverage mixes and other assorted items.

We look forward to seeing you then!

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

JOIN US FOR DINNER ON WEDNESDAYS!

Our church family and friends gather for dinner every Wednesday night at 5:45pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please come join us!

Jan. 2: Beef One-Pot Dinner/Rolls/ Green Salad & Dessert  
Jan. 9: Pork Loin/Mashed potatoes/gravey/ Peas/ Salad & Dessert  
Jan. 16: Vegetable Beef or Chicken Rice Soup/1/2 Sandwich (Beef; Turkey or Egg Salad)/Relishes/ Crackers, Chips & Dessert  
Jan. 23:Cordon Bleu Casserole/Corn on the Cob/ Rolls/ Dessert  
Jan. 30: Ham/ Raisin Sauce/Aguratin potatoes/ Green Beans & Dessert

MANY THANKS TO OUTGOING CPC OFFICERS!!

As this year draws to a close, we thank our Elders, Deacons and Trustees in the class of 2007. This has been a year of transformation for CPC and the whole congregation is grateful for the work of our elected leaders. Elders in the class of 2007 include: Kris Johnson, Andy David, Gwen Litchke, Ken Hanson and Steve Wright. Deacons include: Denny Hagelee, Jarrian Barsness, Deb Kilpela, Janet Anderson, Dorothy Zobel. Trustees include: Chris Peterson, Clint Erickson and Lowell Pittack.



WELCOME TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

At our last congregational meeting the following people were elected to serve as Elders, Deacons and Trustees: Elders for the class of 2010 Steve Benson, Andy David, Carmen Haugen and George Shields. Elder for the class of 2008 Norane Stejskal. Deacons for the class of 2010 Deb Kilpela, Carol Rassmussen and Mary Schnell. Trustees for the class of 2010 Charles Meyer, Chris Peterson and Lowell Pittack. Thanks to everyone taking on these leadership roles for our ministry at Community Presbyterian Church.



Thanks to all you wonderful people who have been checking out our library books. Since our November 11th, 2007, Library open house, books have been flying off the shelves. Let's hope 2008 will be a banner year. We're not sure what type of a book budget we'll have for this new year, but hope we can do a little "book" shopping again.

Our newest addition is New York Times best selling author David Balducci's "Wish You Well": 813.54 BAL. A moving story that focuses on young people, and faith, set in the Appalachian mountains of southwestern Virginia, an old fashioned tale, beautifully written, an uplifting gospel, suitable for young adult and adult readers.

Remember that your library is open all the hours that the church is open. Come in, browse, and cuddle up with a good book in the coming winter months.

Happy New Year,  
Juliet Jones and Mary Erickson



THANK YOU TO MARY AND JULIET

What a wonderful job you have done in building a wonderful library here at CPC!! The shelves are full and the atmosphere is "cozy". Thank you also for taking the time to share summaries of the new books.

We appreciate you!!



If you don't have time to bake, you can still help. You can contribute money here on "your" Sunday and the committee would be glad to buy the cookies for you and have them there on "your" Sunday.

If you would like to just serve the coffee, we need you, too! Sign up and put "serving coffee only." If you have questions, call the church office and ask Patty, 326-8515.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION - FEBRUARY 3, 2008

Community Presbyterian Church will hold our annual meeting of the congregation on February 3rd following worship. Annual reports will be prepared in advance of this meeting. This meeting is a chance to review the year that has just finished and discuss any issues that members would like to bring up to the congregation as a whole. Please plan to come and be part of this conversation.

MOVEABLE FEAST SIGN-UP NOW!

Here we go again: It's Moveable Feast time again! This always popular group will be "re-grouping" again in February. In case you aren't familiar with this "feast format" it goes something like this: groups of 6,7, or 8 folks meet for dinner approximately once a month. The group can decide to meet in member's homes, at a restaurant, for a picnic, etc.... meals can be totally host provided, pot-luck, dutch treat and so on. The main purpose is to sit down and share a meal and get to know the folks in your group. **Sign up by January 30<sup>th</sup>** - - For further information call Sandie Trappe at 326-2576 or the church office 326-8515, and watch for that sign-up sheet!

## MISSION

### MISSION: GRACE HOUSE HOMELESSNESS IN ITASCA COUNTY

People are often surprised when they learn there is need for a homeless shelter in Grand Rapids, perhaps because the homeless in rural areas tend to be less visible than in larger cities, but they are here. Statistics give us some insight: An hourly wage of \$17.00 per hr. is needed to meet the basic expenses of 1 adult and 2 children. This does not include budgeting for debt payment, entertainment, extra travel, or emergency money. There are over 4400 families who live at or below the federal poverty guidelines in Itasca County. In Itasca County 40% of the jobs pay less than \$10.00 per hr. The rental vacancy rate in the Grand Rapids area is 1%. There is an 18 month waiting list for subsidized housing due to budget cuts. Many wage earners are one paycheck away from being homeless. Other causes that lead to homelessness are mental illness and chemical dependency.

Grace House guest statistics since opening in April 2006: Guests served: 229, with a total of 3,000 beds supplied; 76% of guests are Itasca County residents; 21 families with 40 children; 42 youth(ages 18-22); 58 people turned away due to lack of room. Guests are allowed to stay for up to 30 days, while they are working on finding housing and jobs. That time period may be extended in specific circumstances.

Zion Lutheran Church has generously donated their church to be used as a shelter for another year while the Grace House Board is awaiting word on grants that have been submitted for the Building Fund.

New Volunteer Training: Tues. Jan 15 5:30-7:30 P.M. at Zion. Call Jill at 326-2790 Attend a session and see if this is a mission for you.

## BRIDGES KINSHIP MENTORING

Bridges Kinship Mentoring is looking for individuals who are interested in being part of their Ambassador team. An Ambassador is someone who will commit about an hour a month to building awareness of the Bridges programs with a goal of referring five people over a year to become volunteers. You do not need to be a mentor in order to be an ambassador. The ambassador serves as a link between their church community, as well as their work and social network, and Bridges. Bridges will provide a brief orientation, recruitment materials, follow-up support, and will be available for presentations. The first Ambassador orientation will be held in early January. If interested, contact Bridges at 326-4700.

### 6TH ANNUAL CHILI BOWL COMING SOON

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb. 2nd. Bridges Kinship Mentoring and Rotary Clubs Annual Chili Bowl will once again be held at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church from 11AM – 2 PM. In addition to great chili choices, there will be raffle prizes both for adults and kids, hand-made items to purchase, a bake sale, and a really awesome silent auction. This year we will have "Ground Hog" Chili to commemorate the day.



Tickets are only \$5 and you may purchase them either in advance by calling Bridges at 326-4700 or at the door on the day of the Chili Bowl. Kids 5 and under are free. This event is not only fun for the entire family, it's a great way to support Bridges Kinship Mentoring

DEAR FRIENDS (con't)

blessed are the merciful, the peacemakers and those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness. Keep your eyes on the One who is poor with the poor, weak with the weak and rejected with the rejected. That One is the source of all peace."

Certainly, at the Christmas season and all year round, we need to keep our eyes on the "source of all peace". We need to see Him who is all around us, not just further ahead down the trail.

Elder, Duane Geislser