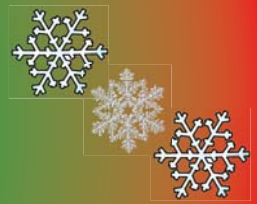


The Bell Tower

NEDERLAND COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Congregation of Caring Friends and Neighbors

Celebrating 100 Years of Service to Our Communities



December 2011 • Volume 28 • Issue 12



The Greatest Gift

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Memorial Service



December 7, 2:00 p.m.

Florence Gruchy, friend and longtime member of NCPC, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, November 15 at her home. Please keep Florence and her family in your prayers.

A memorial service will

Among the strengths of our church family is the diversity of backgrounds we come from. One element of that diversity is religious background—only some of us actually have Presbyterianism in our family history. We're represented by folks with histories as Lutherans, Methodists, Baptists, Mormons, Roman Catholics, Episcopalians—and who knows what else.

That means some have little familiarity with the Presbyterian way of bringing in a new pastor. Profoundly influenced by the belief in the "priesthood of all believers," ours is a process based completely on the democratic principal of decision by the group itself. There is no hierarchy that assigns a pastor. We select the pastor who is right for us, for who we are and how we envision our purpose as a congregation.

Such significant control over our pastoral leadership decisions comes with a price. It's a slow, deliberative process, intended to give voice to each member. We rely heavily on the support, guidance



be held at the Chapel in the Hills located at 29579 State Highway 72 on December 7, at 2 p.m. The date was selected because both Florence and David proudly served their country in the military during World War II.

Come and celebrate a remarkable life. A reception will follow the service at 3:15 pm at the Coal Creek Canyon Improvement Association (CCCIA), 31528 State Highway 72.



Transition Time

The Interim Pastor — Progress

and participation of the Presbytery our church belongs to; comprised of 42 churches in northeastern Colorado and western Nebraska.

In its early stages the process requires major involvement of the Session, until an Interim Pastor is selected. Then the focus shifts to open participation by the members of the church. Session is in the final stages of this selection process.

The Presbytery has approved the job description and compensation package laid out by the Session. The next step is to meet with the Executive Presbyter to draft a contract and review candidates.

We are anticipating selection of an Interim Pastor shortly after the beginning of the new year.

In the meantime, we hope you have found our supply pastors as inspiring as we have. We've been deeply impressed with the Spirit our pastors have brought us, and have appreciated the level of personal commitment and support we've received from them.

— Michael O'Neill, for the Session



Christmas Lights!

Two years ago your Session approved Christmas lights for the outside of our treasured historic church building. Finally we've been able to get them installed, thanks to the efforts of Tim Spangler.

We actually had a crew of men ready to join in the project, but successive weekends of hurricane-force winds interrupted those plans. Weatherman Tim seized on a window of calmness between the storms to put the lights up, and we appreciate his work.

The lights are the highest efficiency available, LED, and one of the in-

What's that on the Bell Tower?

(Look closely at the photo in the header)

teresting questions in the planning was whether to put them on a timer. Our expenses were actually greater to purchase a timer than they would have been to simply leave the lights on 24 hours a day, but in the interest of community sensitivity we installed the timer.

Lights will remain up beyond Christmas. Next month we'll include a photograph in the Bell Tower, for those of our family who live away and won't have a chance to see their beauty. Our bell tower has never looked lovelier.

December 4 is Food Pantry Sunday

Bring a can or two of food on the first Sunday of each month – or pasta – anything non-perishable will usually work. The demands on our Food Pantry have skyrocketed. Lend a hand if you can,



Stewardship Planning

We have a small group of members who are doing extra duty during our pastor transition process, and not everything gets done according to the planning calendar we hope for. Stewardship letters were a case in point.

They were a bit later going out this year than we would have liked, but go out they did.

Our lively church life depends on participation of our members, and stewardship is one of the specific times in the year we have of finding out who is available and interested. Our leadership teams rely heavily on the information we get back in the Time and Talent Surveys, and creating the budget for the year can only happen with reliable pledge information.

If you find the stewardship materials still sitting on your kitchen counter, please take a moment to complete them and drop them in the mail or bring them to church for the walnut box on the credenza.

Thank you!

— Michael O'Neill



December Birthdays!

8	Jay Belsan	18	Betty Hunt
9	Gloria Frazer	19	Laura Stadele
10	Michael O'Neill	21	Sally Rings
11	Wes Stiefer, II	22	Claudia O'Neill
13	Kenneth Kasch	22	Joyce Trostle
15	Betty Stransky	26	Katie Haynes 😊
16	Shane Kochen	30	Sue Evans
17	Amy Hartman	31	Jim Hubbard

December Anniversaries!

24	Charlene and Gaylord Morrison
27	Martha Ann and Charles Hogrefe
31	Jaydene Morrison and Russ Peterson

Advent Music Director

Michael O'Dell has agreed to work with us as Music Director for the season of Advent. He was a student at Berklee College of Music in Boston (jazz studies,



film scoring, and vocal jazz) and is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace Conservatory of Music in Cleveland.

In addition to music direction Michael is also a composer, lyricist, film and television scorer, orchestrator/arranger, jazz pianist and conductor. You may learn more about his music and interests at <http://blankcanvasmusic.com>. Please welcome Michael to our church.



Music during the Holy Season

Throughout the year music is an integral part of who we are as a church family as we celebrate our mountain life and worship God.

Many people feel Christmas Eve is the most important gift we provide for our Nederland community in the year, and we're excited about what we have planned this year.

As we enter Advent Season we are pleased to introduce a special Music Director, Michael O'Dell. Michael will be supporting our musicians and vocalists

in creating a special program of Music on Sunday, December 18, and for our Christmas Eve service.

Michael's commitments allow him to begin working with us after December 11. A specific schedule of rehearsals will be set after that.

We are anticipating our usual group of musical talents to join us, along with new voices and new instruments, and hope that you will be among that number. **Please contact Michael O'Neill for more information and to express your interest.**

11/11—The Big Wind

For those readers not living in the area now, beginning Saturday evening, November 5 and continuing into the following morning, Nederland and the surrounding areas enjoyed (?) a breeze that sent most of us scrambling for our ear plugs in order to sleep. The official reports were of gusts in excess of 100 mph—some say as high as 115 mph.

Regardless of the actual speed, many of us awoke to downed trees, road signs and power lines. Trees and road signs were both snapped off and uprooted.

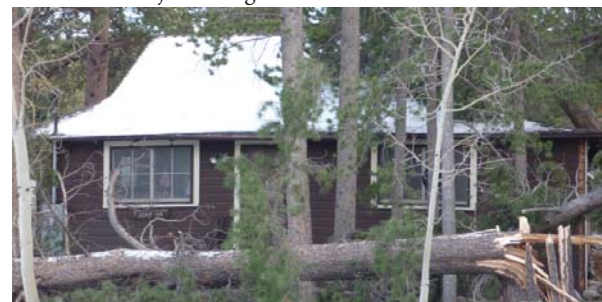


PEOPLE IN OUR PRAYERS

Gwen Burak's mother, Carole Lloyd; Michael Dexter; Gloria Fraser; Family & friends of Florence Gruchy; Blair Justice; Bob Kochen; Diana Nelson's mother, Carol Gregory; Rhonda Skeie; Vince Melander; for Robert Marble (Katie Haynes' friend) who is receiving treatment for leukemia; for those who are unable to worship with us on a regular basis, including Jane Bauder; for those serving in the military; for leaders throughout the world.



B&F lost its sign while Frank and Justine Irwin narrowly missed major damage to their house on Breed Street.



Pulpit Supply for Advent and Christmas

Rev. Bruce McQueen will serve as our supply pastor during the Advent and Christmas season. Bruce has served six churches in his 36 years of ministry. He was the pastor at Westview Presbyterian Church in Longmont, CO, for 20 years before retiring in January, 2009. This past July he completed a year-and-a-half interim pastoral position at Monument

Community Presbyterian Church, Monument, Colorado. Bruce and his wife Marilyn live in Pinewood Springs, half way between Lyons and Estes Park. They have three children and three grandchildren and all live along the Front Range. Please extend a warm welcome to Bruce and Marilyn to our church and community.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Peak to Peak Chorale will provide a Nederland community holiday concert at the church at 7 pm on December 9.

The Chorale will present a mix of sacred and secular holiday songs followed by a Christmas carol sing-along to close the concert.

A dessert reception will follow the concert. Bring your voice and holiday spirit. Plan to come.



Children-Youth Christmas Pageant

The Christmas Pageant will be **Sunday, December 11**. During the Sunday services preceding this special event there will be practice and other

preparations for those wishing to participate. All children and their friends are welcome.

Christmas Eve Service

7 p.m. Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve is one of the few times each year our sanctuary fills and overflows onto folding chairs.

and singing Silent Night. Following the song, the congregation is invited to file silently out of the church

Participate! The Christmas Eve service is still being planned. Typically, there are opportunities for individuals to participate in scripture reading. If you can help, please contact Michael O'Neill.



Passing quietly into the night —

This year we will return to an earlier Christmas Eve tradition. The service will conclude with candle lighting

Fellowship

Many thanks to all who have hosted fellowship this year. It has been fun working side-by-side loading the dishwasher and enjoying each other's company.

We are looking for volunteer hosts for January and February please let me know if you'd like to participate. Most Sundays we serve cookies and coffee.

We will have a soup potluck in January and a chocolate theme in February.

Janet Turnburke 303-258-7031
janet@turnburkeassociates.com

Lose time and its gone forever (filler)

I have a friend, a rabbi named Hayyim Angel, who carries reading material with him whenever he goes to a meeting. Why? "Because," he told me, "according to the Talmud [the Jewish book of law], if someone comes late to a meeting they are committing the sin of stealing—stealing the time of the person who had to wait for them. And it's the worst kind of stealing because what was taken can never be returned. I don't want to cause anyone to sin. So I always make sure, if I have to wait for someone, they're never in the position of stealing my time."

And yet we steal time from ourselves constantly....

18 Minutes, Peter Bregman



Holiday Caroling at the Community Center

We've been invited to join once again in providing music at the Holiday Market, December 3. Please plan to join us in bringing the spirit of the Season, at the Community Center, Saturday from 1:00 to 2:00.

Stewardship!

Some of us have the best intentions to return our time and talents form promptly, but leave it on the kitchen counter or some other manner of forgetting. This form, your pledge of time and talents, is important to the life of our church.

Get up and get the form right now and put it on the driver's seat of your car. That way it will at least get one step closer to the church than it might otherwise. *Bless our church with your participation.*

Mountain Community Music & Arts Association



The MCMAA committee met on November 19 for a productive brainstorming session. Many fun ideas were generated. There is a good deal of enthusiasm for continuing the concert programs.

Watch for some news after the first of the year. Better yet, get involved. Join the committee!

Hanging of the Greens

After church on **Sunday December 4, 2011** we will celebrate the holiday season together with the Annual Hanging of the Greens.

Help decorate the freshly cut tree, make a wreath or sit and enjoy our **holiday potluck meal**. Bring a dish to share. We'll have coffee, lemonade and cheerful conversation. All are welcomed. There will be plenty to share.

Wreath Making - Please sign up with me or on the list at church if you'd like to make a wreath so we can be

sure to have enough materials. Bring evergreen materials from home if you'd like (wind storm clean-up cuttings work too!) for wreath making.

Sign up to make cookies to be decorated or bring some candy decorations or frosting for cookies.

Come have fun!

Please **bring your favorite recipe** to drop in the basket for our 100 year celebration recipe book!

Janet Turnburke 303-258-7031
janet@turnburkeassociates.com

Seven Deadly Social Sins

Politics without principle

Wealth without work

Commerce without morality

Pleasure without conscience

Education without character

Science without humanity

Worship without sacrifice

— Gandhi

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30 - 11:00 am Food Pantry and USDA Distribution	2	3
4 10:00 Worship Service and Communion with Rev. Bruce McQueen 10:30 Church School Potluck Hanging Greens & Trimming the Tree	5	6	7 3:30 - 5:00 pm Music Lesson	8	9	10
11 10:00 Worship Service with Rev. Bruce McQueen Children's Pageant	12	13	14 3:30 - 5:00 pm Music Lesson	15 6:00 pm Session Meeting at the Kochen's Home	16	17
18 10:00 Worship Service with Rev. Rev. Bruce McQueen Christmas Music Program	19	20	21 3:30 - 5:00 pm Music Lesson	22	23	24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
25 10:00 Worship Service with Rev. Rev. Bruce McQueen 10:30 Church School	26 Boxing Day 	27	28 3:30 - 5:00 pm Music Lesson	29	30	31