

# COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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DECEMBER 2013-JANUARY 2014



## Musings from Pastor Laurene

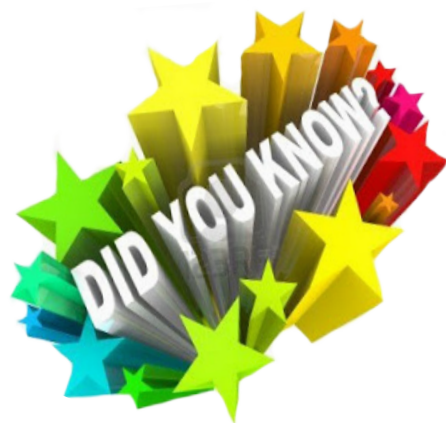
Two of my favorite childhood holiday memories revolved around Christmas lights. My great aunt and grandparents would pile us kids into their car for a drive across town to the South Hill in Spokane. On the South Hill, there were always beautiful displays, the best in Spokane. My sisters, Jean and Pam and brother, Jim, seemed to love those houses whose owners seem to cover every inch of property with a blinking light, a reindeer, an elf or Santa, or some other figure. The more, the better. They loved the brightest and loudest displays.

Sometimes amidst the blinking chaos and blur of lights, I would spot a nativity scene... thinking back, it was like a variation of "Where's Waldo?" As a child, I wondered what the baby Jesus thought about being surrounded with the blur of hundreds of lights. In many ways, that wondering still exists. In the midst of the seasonal chaos, expectations, and hopes of the perfect family Christmas celebration, the baby Jesus peers up at us as a reminder to enjoy the simple pleasures and gifts of Advent and Christmas.

In contrast to my siblings, I preferred the simpler displays. My great aunt Florence, who was the matriarch of my crazy family, would make sure that my grandpa didn't drive too quickly by those houses, no matter how loud the protests. It was from her that I developed my appreciation for artistic beauty. I simply loved to see how each colorful light pierced the darkness of night. Along with Christmas lights, as a child, I would sit in the quiet and dark living room after everyone had gone to bed, with only the lights of the Christmas tree shining. It was and continues to be a wonderfully peaceful divine experience.

I wonder what it was like to look up and see the star of David high in the sky that first Christmas night. Perhaps our Christmas lights and indoor Christmas trees are like the star of David, reminders of God's loving and peaceful presence amidst the busyness, the joys, the challenges, chaos and uncertainty that we experience throughout our lives. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let us be reminded that just as we are surrounded by the stars, so we are also surrounded by the hope, peace, joy and love of God through Christ. May your Christmas be blessed and your New Year beyond all hopes and expectations!

Peace, Laurene



The Bible used by the Protestant Church has 66 books: 39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament;

while the Bible used by the Catholic Church has 73: 39 Old Testament, 27 New Testament and 7 deuterocanonical books.

Written in 60-70 CE, the Gospel of Mark is the earliest of the canonical accounts of the life, ministry and death of Jesus but did not include the resurrection appearances of Jesus. Mark is the shortest of the four gospels with only 16 chapters and greek word for "immediately" is used over 40 times.

***Want to learn more about the Gospel of Mark? Join Pastor Laurene for the Sunday evening Bible Study starting January 5th at 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Childcare will provided upon request, contact the church office. Questions, contact Pastor Laurene at [lafontaine@cpcrochester.org](mailto:lafontaine@cpcrochester.org) or 303-521-2967.***



**Denise Swinbank**  
Director of Children  
and Youth Ministries  
Choir Director



## Time for a Break!

Parents of our Sunday School age children have been assisting me with weekly classes since September. While I greatly appreciate their help, it is time to give them a break!! I would like to enlist the help of 2 older youth or adults each week to act as “teacher’s guides”. You will not be required to teach a lesson or prepare any materials, but will be overseeing a small group art project or Bible worksheet (answer key provided!) or activity. This is also a wonderful opportunity for members of CPC to become better acquainted with the children of our church. There will be a sign-up sheet for each week in January-March in the Narthex. Please take a turn investing in the Christian Education of our children! Many thanks, Denise

## Kids in the Kitchen

This program is a great opportunity for children and youth to learn how to cook and bake, and then use those skills to prepare good eats for CPC fellowship activities. Currently, the group is comprised of elementary school age children.

Early this coming year, there will be a kids in the kitchen middle and high school group! Ellen Warner, Denise Swinbank and Pastor Laurene are Kids in the Kitchen leadership team. The next meeting is January 19th, after church school.



## Kids in Worship

As a worshipping community that values the participation of women and men, youth and children, regardless of age, it's important that we begin to have a larger conversation about developing ways that our children and youth can worship in meaningful ways.

Pastor Laurene and Denise will be facilitating a discussion for parents, grandparents and anyone else interested. We will meet on January 12th at 10:45 a.m.





## December Birthdays

5th Paul Harkess  
Penny Murray  
Jeanne Samways  
7th George Berg  
Carol Calehuff  
9th Lori Beckman  
11th Savannah Simms  
15th Mark Pillers  
17th Dean Meyer  
21st Denise Swinbank  
24th Noah Vig  
28th George Young  
29th Jane Burgstaler



## January Birthdays

3th Katie Marker  
8th Amanda Ross  
9th Peter Marshall  
Mary Meyer  
11th Will Anderson  
Ann Hesley  
Dalton Simms

15th Lyal Powell  
17th Dave Copeland  
19th Susan Olson  
Malinda Young  
23th Bonnie Farris-Huston  
25th Lori Hill  
26th Marita Heller  
Marc Brandt  
27th Marianne Henderson  
29th MariLynn Johnson  
Bill Webbles  
31st Ed Burgstaler  
Ronda Marshall  
Mary Alice Richarson

# C E L E B R A T I O N S



happy anniversary

## Anniversaries

December 7th	Randy Huston & Bonnie Farris-Huston
18th	Paul & Rebeca Harkess
27th	Richard & Julie Smitherman
28th	George & Malinda Young

## Community Press

Editor/Writer	Rev. Laurene Lafontaine
Writers	Denise Swinbank Paul Harkess

## Community Presbyterian Church

Pastor	Rev. Laurene M. Lafontaine
Director of Choir & Children's Ministry	Denise Swinbank
Church Administrator	Justin Ray
Bell Choir Director/Pianist	Judy Kereakos
Pianist	Laurie Priniski
Ministers to the world	Congregation Members

## Community Presbyterian Church

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[www.cpcrochester.org](http://www.cpcrochester.org)



## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ANNUAL LUNCH

Women of the Church will meet for an annual Lunch on the first Saturday of the year. We will gather on January 4 at Michaels Restaurant at 11:30. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex. Bring gifts/checks for Crisis Nursery.



Thank you for the great response to the CPC 2014 financial stewardship drive! The session has approved the 2014 annual budget, which will be presented to the congregation at our Annual Congregational meeting January 26th immediately following the worship service. Our theme, "A Season of Renewal: Renewing Our Spirit, Vision and Commitment" is rooted in a

theological understanding that stewardship is caring for all that God has created and the resources within: our own lives, our brothers and sisters, every living creature, and our environment. It is a faithful response. Stewardship is the life blood of a community. It is a way of life that can enable a community to experience the depth of relationships, spiritual growth and the profound call to be God's presence in the local community and beyond.

Caring for Community Presbyterian Church through the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure ensures that our mission statement of being "an open-hearted, open-minded Christian community sharing a ministry of faith, hope, and love" is made manifest. Through being a good steward of our own personal lives and our communal life together, the health and vitality of our congregation is not merely sustained, it is strengthened. The ongoing sharing of our time, talent and treasure enables personal and spiritual growth because we are actively engaged within a life giving community. Being a good steward can change our lives because we get to experience the abundance and richness that God has given each of us, regardless of our bank account. Practice good stewardship today!

GIVING REPORT			
November 2013 Weekly Average	\$2,282.00	Special Offerings	
Year to Date Average 2013	\$ 3,019.57	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 1,219.82
Budgeted Weekly for 2013	\$ 3,034.50	Christmas Joy Offering	\$ 922.00
Per Capita Received 2013	\$ 2,017.58	Thank Offering	\$ 698.00
Total Per Capita Paid 2013	\$ 4,402.00	Peace Offering	\$ 391.75

## Making a QCD for your RMD from your IRA

*Paul Harkess*

Huh? Too many acronyms!? If you are 70 ½ and have a traditional IRA (Individual Retirement Account), you know that you must withdraw a certain minimum amount from that IRA each year. This requirement does not apply to Roth IRAs. This is called a required minimum distribution (or RMD). Failure to meet this requirement can result in an IRS fine of 50% of the RMD amount.



For 2013, what you may not know is that you can choose to have your IRA withdrawal sent directly to a charitable organization (like CPC). This is called a qualified charitable donation (or QCD). Normally, funds withdrawn from a traditional IRA are counted as income. However, if you make a QCD withdrawal, the funds are not taxed as income.

Note that this tax provision will expire on December 31, 2013 unless Congress reauthorizes it for 2014. To make a QCD from your IRA, you need to withdraw the funds before the end of 2013 and make sure that the funds are sent directly to the charitable organization. You can use the QCD provision to send monies to multiple charities (totaling up to \$100,000) from your IRA. You can use a QCD to satisfy the RMD for your IRA. Make sense now? If you have questions about making a QCD in 2013 to CPC, you can contact Guy Vig.

## CPC Making A Difference

### CHRISTMAS JARS

The Women of the Church would like to thank all who bought the mixes in a jar. We sold over 70 jars. We were pleased to donate \$250.00 to Channel One, thanks to your purchases. Thanks to everyone who helped assemble the jars on November 30th. Thanks to Lincoln for designing the direction labels. If anyone wants a copy of the recipes, please contact Mary Alice Richardson.



### ADOPT-A-FAMILY

The response to Adopt-A-family was outstanding. CPC was able to fulfill the wish list items for a family with 4 kids, their mother and father, as well as for 2 single people in group homes, who have no family. Without these gifts, they probably would not have gifts to open this Christmas. Thank you for your generosity. Vision

### GOODNESS IN A PACK

Thanks for everyone's donations towards the 1st annual Goodness in a Pack partnership with American Indian Family Center in St. Paul. We contributed 42 boxes packed with basic supplies for a child (socks, gloves, hat, soap, toothbrush/paste, shampoo, stuffed animal). 27 lucky children will also receive a MP3 player purchased with the mission committee budget.



This year's Crop Walk in Rochester raised over \$16,500. Twenty-five percent of the monies raised will help fund the efforts of Channel One. It is estimated that additional 19,310 meals will be served as a result of the Crop Walk. CPC donated about \$350.

Thanks once again for your generosity to support Church World Service in their fight to address hunger across the world.





## The LONGFELLOW FOOD FOR FRIENDS BACKPACK PROGRAM

This is our third year in partnership with Channel One in the Food for Friends program at Longfellow School . Currently, we are helping 29 children in 12 families as we provide nutritious food over the weekends and supplementing their weekly meals.



Fresh fruit ready to be packed



Denise, Judi and Gwen packing backpacks

delivering of the backpacks. The regular Food for Friends backpacks went home on Friday, December 20th.

This holiday season, we were pleased to provide an additional donation of fresh fruit, oatmeal, hot chocolate mix and popcorn packets. Our Mission Committee and other donors provided these items for our Longfellow families during this extended break.

Over 50 hours of volunteer time was given in just eight weeks by CPC members, who were involved in the planning, preparation, packing, pick-up and

Thank you to George and Judi Berg, Abby Hall, Connie Holst, Stacy Kopecky, Alayna and Nathan Kopecky, Laurene Lafontaine, Peter and Heather Marshall, Nancy Massaro, Margaret Nelson, Judi Pucci, Mary Alice Richardson, Gwen Riggan, Denise Swinbank, Picky Yasa and Ivy Pillers.

A special thanks to our Sunday school kids for decorating special bags for Christmas extras.

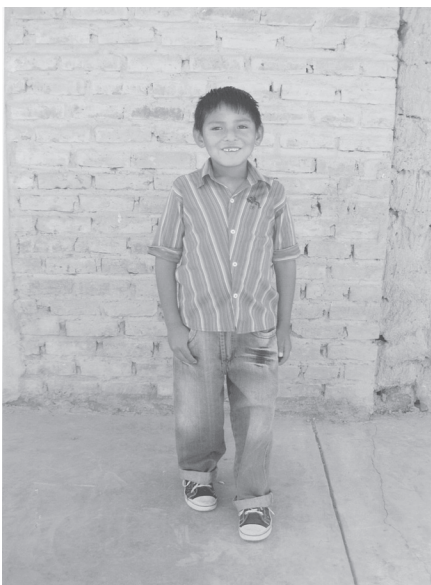


### 2013 PEACEMAKING OFFERING

Thank you to everyone for your support of the Peacemaking Offering. A total of \$391.75 was donated with \$98 being donated to Rochester's Mission 21.



Our kids' fabulously decorated gift bags

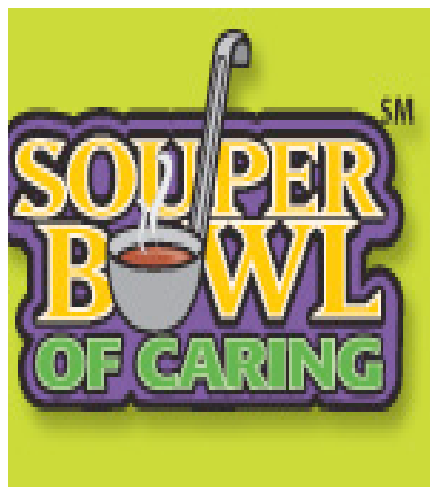


## Support for Cristhian Gaspar in 2014

A new sponsorship sign-up sheet is in the narthex for Cristhian who lives in Bolivia with his mother. CPC has committed to sponsoring Cristhian, now 8 years old, until he graduates from high school.

Monthly sponsorships of \$38 allow Cristhian to attend school and receive medical care. We receive periodic letters from him telling us of his school work and daily life. Our children and youth write to him in return. Even though we are not allowed to send gifts to Bolivia directly, Compassion International staff make sure he receives our birthday presents and Christmas presents for him and his immediate family. These are usually clothes and household supplies needed for daily living.

We also use Noisy Collection monies to provide Christmas gifts to two extra children who currently are without sponsors. Your continued support of this mission project is greatly appreciated.



## 2012 CHAMPIONS CPC KIDS VS 2013 CHAMPIONS CPC ADULTS

Kicking off in January 2014, the "Souper Bowl Challenge pits the Kids against Adults for a great cause ... Channel One Food Shelf! The team bringing in the most cans of soup will hold bragging rights for the year.

This year's challenge includes a TEAM SPIRIT award, so start working on those team cheers! The winning team in the end is our local food shelf.

### LET'S FILL THE BARREL!

#### Top 10 items Needed for Channel One!

1. Flour
2. Sugar
3. Cooking Oil
4. Pasta
5. Rice
6. Peanut Butter
7. Coffee
8. Laundry Detergent
9. Dish Detergent
10. Canned Tuna



### Saturday Noon Meal

The first chance in the new year to help with the Saturday Noon Meal is January 18th, 2014.

Anyone interesting in helping with the "sought-after" CPC meatloaf can help cook during the morning shift or if you would like to help serve and cleanup, please stop by for a couple hours around 11:00 am.

If cooking at home is easier, you could prepare brownies for the desert. CPC is also known for the delicious brownies.

Sign up in the narthex!





### **Elizabeth Deeds**

on receipt of the 17th highest medal awarded by the U.S. Army. Elizabeth is a Senior at John Marshall High School and one of our nursery attendants at CPC.

Her award reads:

*For meritorious Achievement while completing the Basic Training Course, Class #57-13. PV2 Deeds distinguished herself by scoring 330 points on her Army Physical Fitness Test, was one of ten selected to compete for Soldier of the Cycle board and was selected as an Honor Graduate for class #57-13. PV2 Deeds' performance of duty brings great credit upon herself, RSP DET Mankato, The Minnesota Army National Guard, and the United States Army.*

**We are so proud of you, Elizabeth!**

### **Nathan Kopecky!**

He was honored on November 7th at Gage Elementary School, where he is a third grader. Ms. Thomas, the assistant principal, presented him with "Be Respectful" award which reads

*"Nathan is respectful to his peers and to adults. He is kind and helpful to his classmates. He is polite, lets others do their work, and talks at appropriate times. Signed by Mr. Jared Groehler, Principal and Ms. Catherine Dussol, Nathan's 3rd grade teacher"*

Nathan is Stacy and Gene Kopecky's son and Alayna's brother.

**Way to go, Nathan!**

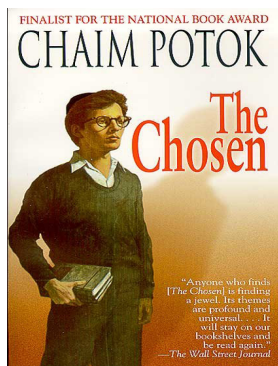


### **Margaret Nelson**

Madonna Towers, where Margaret lives, just completed the addition of an 8000 ft Health and Wellness Campus Center, with an auditorium and a library. Over the last several months, Margaret provided her expertise in the reorganization of the old library, and subsequent planning necessary for the new library space.

**Congratulations Margaret!**

There are so amazing people at CPC! Is there someone you would like to have recognized? If so, please email Pastor Laurene with the details at [lafontaine@cpcrochester.org](mailto:lafontaine@cpcrochester.org)!



## JANUARY BOOK DISCUSSION

January 26, 2014

5:00 pm

CPC Library

"The Chosen" by Chaim Potok is our selection for January reading and discussion. Gwen will have 10 copies available.

We meet at 5 p.m. in the church library and all are welcome to join our discussions.

Please contact Gwen with any questions, via [gwenrig@live.com](mailto:gwenrig@live.com) or 507-251-7874.

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE CPC LIBRARY

New library books are now on display in the Narthex!

**In Memory of**  
Charles Clark  
"Amish Grace"

Felix (Phil) Overton  
"Jesus Calling Bible Storybook"

Clarence Henderson  
"Illustrated Guide to the Bible"

Steve Kereakos  
"Orthodox Faith, Vol. 1-4"

**In Recognition of Baptism**  
Grace A. Henderson  
"My First Book of Prayers"

## January 2014 Worship Schedule

Date	Worship Assistants	Greeter	Liturgist	Nurse Attendants	Library
Jan 5th	Gwen Riffin Penny & Ron Murray	Colleen & Bill Webbles	Louis Bouchard	Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Margaret Nelson
Jan 12th	Pillers Family			Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Judi Berg
Jan 19th	Linda Overton Jennifer Hall Guy Vig		Doug Marker	Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Judy Kereakos
Jan 26th	Anderson Family	Connie Holst	Peggy McCarty	Elizabeth Deeds Tabitha Harland	Judy Pucci

**Please contact the church office  
if you are interested in helping with  
Sunday morning worship service.**

**507-280-9291 or [office@cpcrochester.org](mailto:office@cpcrochester.org). Thank you!**

# January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 ■ 9:30 AM Worship	29 ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	30	31 Office Closed ■ 11:30 AM Bulletin info Due	1 ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	2	3 ■ 10:00 AM Aikido ■ 11:30 AM Women of CPC Luncheon
4 ■ 9:30 AM Communion ■ 10:45 AM Sunday School	5 ■ 6:30 PM Membership ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	6 ■ 10:00 AM Office Staff ■ 6:00 PM Great Room Occupied ■ 6:00 PM Brain Injury Support Group ■ 7:00 PM Mission	7 ■ 6:30 AM Prayer Group ■ 12:00 PM Bulletin info Due ■ 7:00 PM Choir	8 ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	9 ■ 7:00 PM AS Support Group in Library	10 ■ 10:00 AM Aikido ■ 9:00 PM Elder Training
11 Channel One ■ 9:30 AM Worship ■ 10:45 AM Kids in Worship Class for Adults/Beg. Bells for ■ 11:00 AM Potluck and Games	12 ■ 5:30 PM Building & Grounds ■ 7:30 PM Personnel ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	13 ■ 7:00 PM Women of CPC	14 ■ 6:30 AM Prayer Group ■ 12:00 PM Bulletin info Due ■ 7:00 PM Choir	15 ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	16	17 ■ 9:00 AM Saturday Noon Meal ■ 10:00 AM Aikido
18 Noisy Can ■ 9:30 AM Worship ■ 10:45 AM Beg. Bells & Kids in the Kitchen	19 ■ 7:00 PM Finance ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	20 ■ 10:00 AM Office Staff ■ 5:00 PM Christian Education	21 ■ 6:30 AM Prayer Group ■ 12:00 PM Bulletin info Due ■ 7:00 PM Choir	22 ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	23	24 ■ 10:00 AM Aikido
25 ■ 9:30 AM Worship ■ 10:30 AM Annual Meeting ■ 10:30 AM Child Care during Annual Mtg.	26 ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	27 ■ 7:00 PM Session	28 ■ 6:30 AM Prayer Group ■ 12:00 PM Bulletin info Due ■ 7:00 PM Choir	29 ■ 7:30 PM Aikido	30	31 ■ 10:00 AM Aikido



Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 55th Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901

*Kneeling in Bethlehem  
Is it all sewn up-my life?  
Is it at this point so predictable,  
so orderly,  
so neat,  
so arranged  
so right,  
that I don't have time or space  
for listening for the rustle of angels' wings  
or running to stables to see a baby?  
Could this be what he meant when he said  
Listen, those who have ears to hear...  
Look, those who have eyes to see?  
O God, give me the humbleness of those shepherds  
who saw in the cold December darkness  
the Coming of Light!  
the Advent of Love!  
~ Ann Weems*

***May this New Year exceed all your hopes, dreams and expectations!***

