

# COMMUNITY PRESS

A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*“We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.”*

*Maya Angelou*

JUNE 2014

## Community Presbyterian Church Church Leadership Session

The Session is the governing board of the church. It consists of nine elders, elected in classes of three, for three years. Much of the business of the church is conducted on committees. Each elder chairs one of the committees.

### Class of 2014

open  
Ronda Marshall  
open

### Committee Chair

Christian Education  
Finance  
Clerk

### Meets

3rd Tuesday at 5:00 pm  
3rd Monday at 7:00 pm

### Class of 2015

Ellen Warner  
Mary Meyer  
Mary Alice Richardson

Worship and Music  
Nominating  
Mission

2nd Monday (even months) at 7:00 pm  
2nd Tuesday at 7:00 pm  
3rd Wednesday at 9:00 pm

### Class of 2016

Bruce Felger  
Stacy Kopecky  
Randy Huston

Building & Grounds  
Membership  
Personnel

2nd Monday (odd months) at 5:30 pm  
1st Monday at 6:30 pm  
1st Tuesday at 5:30 pm

### 2014 Nominating Committee

Bruce Bigelow, Nancy Massaro, Amanda Ross, Colleen Webbles  
Deacon representative Linda Overton, Ruling Elders Mary Meyer & Mary Alice Richardson

### **Deacons**

The Deacons are responsible for ministering to all those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to all those who may be in distress. They provide meals, transportation, among other requested needs. They maintain the Prayer Chain. Deacons are elected in classes of two, for three years.

### Class of 2014

Lois Nicholson  
Gwen Riggan

### Class of 2015

Carol Bigelow  
Linda Overton

### Class of 2016

Louis Bouchard  
open

### Staff

Pastor  
Choir Director  
Office Administrator  
Bell Choir Director/Pianist  
Pianist  
Ministers to the World

Rev. Laurene M. Lafontaine  
Meg Britain  
Janet Olson  
Judy Kereakos  
Laurie Priniski  
Congregation Members



## Musings from Pastor Laurene

It's hard to believe, in a few short weeks, I will be celebrating the first anniversary of my move to Minnesota to be pastor at CPC. And what a year it has been, with all the interesting highlights and life-changing challenges. In many respects, it's a typical experience of the intersection of life and change, resulting in opportunities for the deepening of one's faith, personal and professional growth and more often than not, learning to live beyond one's comfort zone. What gives it meaning is how one responds to the various twists and turns along the way.

With that said, this past year has been profoundly meaningful as you have graciously provided me with opportunity after opportunity to learn and gradually grow into what it means to be a pastor here, within this specific unique community of faith, for which I am truly grateful. It is truly about living this journey together and encouraging each another to live into the person God has created each one to be. On my daily walks with Gypsy, a part of my walking meditation and prayer time, the words of the Psalmist King David resonate within:

*"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit."*  
*Psalm 51:10-12*

Each day, we have the opportunity to live as **God's beloved**, *forgiven* for actions or spoken wrongdoings that has created a barrier between one another, God and/or ourselves, and *loved* by God's grace. It is about living into the newness of each day and as Robin Roberts has said in her new book, *Everyone Got Something*, "It takes courage to believe that the best is yet to come." I invite you to embark with me into this next year with a renewed sense of hope and trust..

As we do so, know that it is with the desire for a deeper sense of community that I would like to share with you three projects which will hopefully create a more connected and engaged community. First working with the deacons, we will create a physical and CPC private online map of every member and CPC friend and then create geographic groupings in order to facilitate smaller intentional communities of care.

Secondly, in response to concerns raised during the mediation process regarding the timely dissemination of information to every member and friend, we will be creating a phone tree for those members and friends who do not receive the E-blast. This way, everyone will be included in the information loop. This will allow for inclusive spontaneous fellowship opportunities, which will emerge throughout the summer.

And lastly, a small group of session members will be working with me on a time and talent survey. This will enable every member and CPC friend to have the opportunity to share her/his specific gifts, interests and passion for our community of faith. It will also allow us to feel more connected with one another as we get to know each other better. And who knows what God is calling you to live into as you identify your passions and desires for CPC. Again, Robin Roberts, "**Amazing things happen when you let your passion be your purpose.**"

I am looking forward to a great summer together, trusting that God "**by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine**" as we strive to be a community of faith rooted in faith, hope and love.

Peace,  
Laurene

# Celebrations!



May

10 Stacy Kopecky  
 12 Waunita Rench  
 13 Erma Clark  
 15 Deb Weyer  
 16 Frank Hall  
 Joshua Hill  
 17 Barbara Madsen  
 19 Nick Weyer  
 19 Zach Weyer  
 21 Roy Pillers  
 24 Margaret Petersen  
 29 William Burgstaler  
 Kim Nickander  
 31 Tucker Ward

June

3 Bernie Nicholson  
 3 Ellen Warner  
 8 Matt Herbst  
 Jocelyn Herbst  
 10 Bob Smith  
 12 Carole Copeland  
 19 Richard Smitherman  
 21 Luke Ward  
 22 David Lucas  
 Grace Henderson  
 28 Kara Vig

May

26 Guy and Kara Vig  
 27 Paul and Kathy Remtema

June

8 Don and Bernie Nicholson  
 18 George and Judith Berg  
 22 Bill and Margaret Petersen  
 27 Amanda and Dennis Ross

We want to include everyone, so if your birthday or anniversary is not here, please notify the office.

**Community Press**

Editor/Writer Rev. Laurene Lafontaine  
 Writers Stacy Kopecky  
 Mary Alice Richardson  
 Ellen Warner  
 Margaret Nelson  
 Louis Bouchard  
 Editor Janet Olson

**Community Presbyterian Church**

3705 55th St. NW  
 Rochester, MN 55901  
 (507) 280-9291 – office  
 (303) 521-2967 – pastor  
 Email: office@cpcrochester.org  
 Website: www.cpcrochester.org

**Worship Volunteers Needed**

Our Worship Volunteers create a warm, welcoming worshipping environment! Currently, we are still low on volunteers for the Sunday worship service. Volunteering for one of our Worship Teams as an Assistant, Greeter, or Liturgist is an important way to contribute to the community. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, near the entrance. Thank you!

**After-Rental Checkers**

Are you available periodically to check the premises after a rental? If so, please contact Bruce Felger for more information on duties. This is a paying position!



## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

### "THIRD ANNUAL MOTHER, DAUGHTER FRIEND" LUNCHEON

Thank you to those who attended the Spring luncheon. A good amount of leftover food was contributed to Hope Lodge and they were very happy to receive it!

### APRIL NOON MEAL UPDATE

It was a stormy, rainy day topped off with hail, but 50 hearty guests came to enjoy a warm nutritious meal. CPC's meatloaf was a hit, as usual. Lots of CPC people came to help serve these guests who could not stop telling us how much they loved the meal and that they look forward to our coming again. A good time was had by all who served, as well as by the guests. Thanks for helping out!

### JUNE NOON MEAL

On June 7, 2014, we will be serving Noon Meal at Christ United Methodist Church. Help is needed as cooks (need not be a chef), servers (need not be skilled waiters/waitresses) and brownie bakers. Sign up for a rewarding Saturday helping out great guests who appreciate your being there.



### AMERICAN INDIAN FAMILY CENTER (AIFC) UPDATE

We are planning on making a trip to the American Indian Family Center sometime this summer. We are working out the details but we would like to have anyone who wants to tour the facility join us. Watch for further details.

A box will be in the narthex for you to put any items you might purchase for the Goodness in a Pack. We will be filling up boxes in the fall. Some of the items we know that are needed are toothpaste, toiletries, socks and mittens and personal items. We will be putting a list together shortly. The need of these families is great and the gratitude that they have for what we give them is far greater.

## LONGFELLOW BACKPACK PROGRAM

It is with great joy to have completed another year helping friends at Longfellow School through our partnership with Channel One Food Bank. The Food for Friends Backpack program provided 10 families of 24 children at Longfellow School child friendly meals to support the nutritional needs of the child over the weekend. This year, CPC held a Spring Break Food Drive to provide supplemental food to the children served in this much needed program. We also provided additional fresh fruit several times throughout the school year and socks this winter.

This program was successful because of the faithful volunteers who pick up food at Channel One, pack bags, and deliver packs to school each week. Thank you to George and Judi Berg, Judy Pucci and Connie Holst for picking up the food and bags all school year and Dean and Mary Meyer for delivering backpacks to school, and all of the volunteers who have helped pack throughout the year. We look forward to resuming this mission project in the fall! *Stacy Kopecky and Judi Berg*

## OUR NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR MEG BRITAIN



Meg Britain is a Vocal Education Major studying at Winona State University and is expected to graduate December of 2014. Her love for music began when she was six years old. This was the age she decided she wanted to become a choral director. She attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where she obtained her Associates Degree in music. The two most important accomplishments in her life are being committed to her career goals and being a mother to her handsome son, Trystan.

School has always been a part of Meg's life and she has many talents to show from it. In 2009, she obtained a cosmetology license from Stewart's School in Sioux Falls, SD. Meg is a skilled hair stylist with over 5 years of experience in the field and currently works for JC Penney's Salon. When she isn't driving in the car to and from school, a daily occurrence, or working at the salon, she is reading books, practicing piano, and writing music.

*“Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!” [Psalm 95:1]*

## MEET NEW MEMBER, MARK A. NEVILLE by Margaret Nelson



Three major items stand out as Mark recounts his life: his family, his work and his music. We know him first from his music as a member of the CPC Choir. He also sings with the Rochester Male Chorus. His music

began as a Sunday school singer and as a trombone player in grade school, and continued in college as he sang in the Millikin University Concert Choir. He was also active in theater as he earned his degree in Speech Communication.

Following college and military service, he entered what was to become his lifetime vocation – charitable fundraising. He started at Millikin and later moved to the University of Illinois, Champaign, earning an MBA along the way. In 2003 he accepted a position at Mayo Clinic where he was a colleague of Paul Harkess. After eight years, he left Mayo for Saint Mary's University in Winona where he worked for two years until a 100-mile daily round trip became a bit much. Since December, he has been working as Director of Development at the History Center of Olmsted County.

Mark was born and raised in Woodstock, IL, which is close to Wisconsin and also on Highway 14. Mark is the youngest of three brothers. His father was a sales representative for New Holland farm machinery and his mother was a homemaker who always told him, “You are blessed with a talent for music, but you can't call it a *gift* until you share it with others.” Mark was at a professional meeting in Baltimore and met Gwenn as a group gathered around a piano after dinner. She grew up near the Adirondacks in upstate New York and getting her to move to the flatlands of Illinois was, “...the best job of selling I ever did!”

Gwenn is a librarian at RCTC. She recently received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and worked with a group from RCTC and Winona State to organize a series of public programs on civil rights titled, “Created Equal.”

They have one daughter, Emily, who just received her degree in creative writing from UW-River Falls. Gwenn and Emily attend St. Pius X Catholic Church.

For recreation, Mark enjoys playing golf at Eastwood Golf Course near their home. We are fortunate to have Mark as a member.

## MEET NEW MEMBERS, BRANDON, MARIANNE, AND GRACE HENDERSON by Margaret Nelson



“How did you Mantorville residents find us, clear over here in Rochester ?” I asked Marianne and Brandon this question when we met to visit in the church library one recent Sunday morning. Marianne replied that she'd grown up in Rushford, where she was a Presbyterian, so when they got jobs in Rochester, they tried the two Presbyterian churches and, fortunately for us, liked us better. Brandon had been a Catholic, but was willing to join Marianne in her choice of churches. Grace, a very happy baby (nearly a year old now), was baptized at CPC by Pastor Laurene last fall. Many of us remember that day.

Marianne and Brandon don't see a lot of each other because, in order to care for Grace, he works nights and she works days. Brandon works for Mayo in the Mayo Inventory Center. This is Mayo's warehouse on Valley High Drive, where he says they have thousands of items. They have business and medical supplies as well as many disposable items, such as gloves. His job is to ship needed items to the proper area at Mayo. Marianne also works for Mayo as a Medical Secretary in the Medical Oncology Department. She must have to know how to spell some very difficult words in her work!

The Hendersons live in the country outside of Mantorville, as they prefer the rural life. Although they are not technically farmers, they have three acres and enough chickens to keep themselves in eggs and perhaps a bit of meat. The chickens, two dogs, a house cat, two barn cats, and a rabbit are the extent of their livestock. They enjoy camping out and Brandon goes fishing when he has time. He also fixes old cars on the side. Marianne likes to read and garden. Their garden includes the usual tomatoes, beans and peas, plus pumpkins so they can grow their own jack o' lanterns. They are both very modest about their hobbies: Marianne sewing and Brandon playing the guitar.

Brandon was born and grew up in Winona. They both attended The Minnesota State Southeast Technical College in Winona, though they did not know each other at that time. They met through mutual friends and were married five years ago. They hope someday to become involved in church activities, but with their work and wanting to be the ones caring for Grace as she grows up, that will need to wait a few years.

### A Card Can Help



Our Deacons have a ministry of sending greetings to our members and friends to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries. What you might not be aware of is that we also try to keep in touch with those who can no longer attend our services because of health concerns. We also try to remember those who are brought before the congregation during our Joys and Concerns, if we have names and addresses.

If you have someone you would like to have receive a prayer greeting from our church, please contact Gwen Riggan at [gwenrig@live.com](mailto:gwenrig@live.com), or by phone at 507-251-7874, giving the name and address.

## Asperger's Syndrome Through the Eyes of Louis Bouchard

As a kid, after church, Louis Bouchard's mom had the responsibility for taking the flowers from the Communion Table to congregation members who weren't able to get out of their homes. Most of these were elderly folks – people we sometimes refer to as “shut-ins.” Often, Louis would go with his mom on these errands. Usually she would hand him the flowers and tell him to bring them to the door and drop them off.

But there was often a problem. When she let Louis go by himself to drop off the flowers, while she waited in the car, often an hour or so would go by before Louis came back. “Even as a kid,” Louis said, “I enjoyed talking with elderly people. I liked visiting nursing homes and sitting and listening to people talk.”

Talking with older people was one uncomplicated and enjoyable activity for Louis who, as a kid growing up with Asperger's Syndrome, faced many hurdles.

“The specialists told my mom that I would never be educated and that she should give up on me,” Louis said, “but when I was still very small, she made a room out of a refrigerator box and that was my school room, where she taught me the things I needed to know for school.”

“My mom was 5 foot tall and weighed 100 lbs, but she was fierce, and she was determined that I would get an education and learn independence,” Louis said.

By high school, Louis was an honor student. Through his mom's encouragement and advocacy and his own determination, Louis, who had been labeled as someone who would never develop past the cognitive level of a 3 or 4 year old, won the Jessie Ketchum Award for having the highest exam scores and graduated from one of the most distinguished high schools in the U.S.

Through college and as an adult, Louis worked out for himself what it meant to have Asperger's. “There's a saying,” Louis says, “that if you meet one person with Asperger's, you've met one person with Asperger's.”

His own Asperger's makes it difficult for Louis to pick up on social cues – to understand the intricacies of the unwritten code of small subtle shorthand signals we send out in a social setting to telegraph how we're feeling or what we need.

For instance, if someone is talking too long, we send cues that our attention is waning. If someone isn't talking as much, we send them signs of encouragement to indicate we want to hear from them. Without the codebook, you can miss all of

these cues and have no way of knowing that others may think you should be saying less or speaking up more.

For Louis, part of living with Asperger's has been figuring out which cues he tends to miss and creating ways for himself to either compensate for what he might be missing or to get that information in another way.

“I always really appreciate it when people are direct with me,” Louis says, “Usually it's just something I didn't pick up on and, if you tell me, I can adjust.”

Louis has used his creativity and determination to find a place for himself in church as well. It hasn't always been easy. A minister at a church Louis once attended didn't make the time to understand anything about Louis or Asperger's, and Louis found himself feeling frustrated and devalued. But, when he first came to the Community Presbyterian Church in Rochester, MN, he felt that he had found a church that would be a good fit. “It didn't feel old and stoic or full of cliques that I didn't understand or couldn't become a part of.”

Louis took on the job of running the sound for the service each Sunday and producing the recorded version of the service that would be distributed to those who couldn't make it to church on a regular basis. Being the “sound guy” was one place where he could use his gifts to full advantage.

It was through these service recordings that Louis found himself back in a familiar role from his childhood. He noticed that one particular congregation member wasn't attending church very often, so he stopped by his house to find out if he would like to receive the recording. As it turned out, this older congregation member was having health issues and worried about attending church because he needed frequent access to a bathroom.

From then on, Louis would bring over the recording each week and, just as he had when he was a kid, he would sit and talk for an hour or so. He kept visiting even as his new friend's health worsened. He continued visiting through hospice care, until his friend passed away. It was a ministry he was glad to offer.

Louis's advice for anyone living with a disability, especially Asperger's: “Your life may be different, but after a while, you'll learn that that's ok. You have to live it in the way that works best for you.”

Louis Bouchard has been doing just that – learning to live a life of faith and service, in a way that works for him and for the people around him.



## 39 Forever Annual Potluck

The 39 Forever seniors group will have their annual potluck picnic on Saturday, June 28th. The social/gathering time is from 5:00—6:00 pm, with dinner at 6:00 pm. Please bring your own utensils and a dish to share. Beverages will be provided.

The picnic will be at Ann Hesley's home, 8601 County Road 3 NW in Oronoco (1 mile north of Douglas). Call Ann at 289-5063 or Duane Olson at 289-0659 for directions or information.

Anyone admitting to being 39 and holding is welcome. Watch for the sign-up sheet. It is a fun evening of food and fellowship. Please join us!

### Session Snapshot

#### April Session Meeting

We approved the following dates for events:

- Lunch gathering May 14 in the University Square food court meeting near Chico's at 11:30.
- Happy hour at Beetles May 16 around 5:00
- Music appreciation Sunday May 18
- Youth and graduation Sunday June 1
- Church picnic August 10
- Outdoor service with pancakes September 7

Other topics:

- Plans were reviewed for Sunday School for the remainder of the year. The Session regrettably accepted Shannon Bennett's resignation as Chair of CE and Session member.
- The Membership Committee will be working on a survey to find out what kinds of activities members are interested in attending.
- The Session will be working in the coming months to review and update descriptions for all the committees and to better communicate our actions to the congregation.

#### May Session Meeting

We approved the following dates for events:

- June 8 Congregational meeting to elect a Deacon
- June 19 Honkers game

Other topics:

- Pastor Laurene will be on vacation June 23-July 6 and attending continuing education September 22-27.
- A phone tree will be established for those not receiving the Eblast to communicate pertinent information, such as spontaneous event planning.
- A Christian education consultant will be hired to help create a vision for the CE program.
- Barbara Lutter was present to give an update on the mediation process. A letter will be coming from her shortly. She also presented some ideas for writing committee job descriptions.
- Building and Grounds Committee is working on several major projects, including parking lot resealing, possible roof replacement, and evaluation/update of the HVAC system.
- The Session elected Dave Anderson as treasurer for the remainder of the 2014 term and the Finance Committee has hired a bookkeeper to help out approximately 2 hours per week.
- Session accepted the resignation of Darlene Lucas from the Membership Committee, Session, and the Clerk position, effective May 29, 2014.

## CONGRATULATIONS to CPC GRADUATES!



**Will Anderson** is graduating from Century High School on June 7th. He'll be attending the University of Minnesota in the fall, where he will major in Engineering.



**Gene Kopecky** graduated on May 9, 2014 from Winona State University with a Masters Degree in Nursing and Organizational Leadership.

**Peggy Pillers** is graduating from Mayo High School on June 7th. She will be attending the University of Arizona in Tuscon, AZ in the fall.



**Congratulations to Alayna Kopecky,  
a 3rd grader at Gage Elementary,  
who received an award for being responsible at school!**

Her certificate reads:

*"This certificate is awarded to Alayna Kopecky in recognition of being responsible - for always being ready to work and learn. Alayna is always willing to help and support other students and adults. Alayna always works hard. Way to go Alayna!"*

Pictured with her teacher Ms. Emily Ellson, Alayna is the daughter of Stacy and Gene Kopecky, and twin sister of Nate.

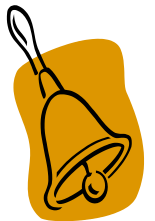
GIVING REPORT			
May '14 Weekly Average	\$ 1,687.41	Special Offerings	
Year to Date Avg. '14	\$ 3,543.41	One Great Hour of Sharing	\$ 200.00
Budgeted Weekly for '14	\$ 2,827.67	Christmas Joy Offering	\$ 1,219.82
Per Capita Received '14	\$ 791.98	Thank Offering	\$ 1,56.00
Total Per Capita to be Paid '14	\$ 4,390.20	Peace Offering	\$ 391.75



Community Presbyterian Church  
3705 55th Street NW  
Rochester, MN 55901  
www.cpcrochester.org

### **SAVE THE DATE – JUNE 22ND!**

Come hear CPC bell choir members play in a closing concert of the Area VII Handbell Festival in La Crosse. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the narthex for carpooling and rides. Admission is free.



### **TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME!**

Join team CPC on Thursday, June 19, 2014 at Mayo Field to watch the Rochester Honkers Baseball Team defeat the Thunder Bay Boarder Cats at 7:05 pm.

General Admission tickets are \$7.00 and may be purchased at the ticket window. Please sign up in the Narthex and plan to meet at 6:40 pm at the admission gate.

Keep an eye out for the Honkers bat boy, our very own Peter Marshall!

### **WHERE'S CRISTHIAN SIGN-UP?**

We have looked high and low for the sign-up sheet for Cristhian Gaspar, the 8 year old Bolivian child CPC is sponsoring, and cannot find it. Could you please help us with the search? Contact Mary Alice Richardson to inform her if you have signed up to sponsor a month for 2014, if you have paid for your month, or if you would like to sponsor a month. A reminder will be sent to each donor a month before the donation is due or you can pay the \$38.00 in advance.

