

# COMMUNITY CALL

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## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Community Presbyterian Church is set for January 11th (storm date 18th). A potluck is scheduled for that day. All committee chairs, group leaders, etc. are asked to PLEASE deliver their written annual reports to the Pastor or the Clerk by December 31st. Everyone is urged to attend so that they may vote on the issues that are presented.

## 2003-2004 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

(No Sunday School)	Jan. 4
Sunday School Resumes	Jan. 11
Palm Sunday	Apr. 4
Senior Recognition	May 16
Sunday School's Last Day	
Potluck	

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



It is probably a sign that I watched too much TV as a kid, but at this time of year, I always flash back to a particular episode of M\*A\*S\*H\*. The episode, which I undoubtedly saw as a repeat, completely out of seasonal context, begins with the New Year's Eve celebration at the 4077<sup>th</sup>. Colonel Potter, dressed as the outgoing old year, offers a toast something like this: "Here's to the new year. May she be a [darn] sight better than the old one." The episode then runs, at lightning pace, through a whole year of the hijinks of that Korean War hospital outfit, and concludes with the moment that has always stuck with me. The doctors, nurses, and other personnel gather for yet another New Year's celebration, and Colonel Potter, again dressed as the outgoing old year, offers another toast: "Here's to

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the new year. May she be a [darn] sight better than the old one."

The point made by this episode was this: despite all the events and business of a whole year, these people found themselves, one year after that initial toast, right back where they started, far from home, daily beset by war and death and violence, and desperately clinging to hope that things would, this time, finally get better. I cannot help but think that we are not in too dissimilar a place. We have come to the end of another busy year, full of changes that seemed significant—births, deaths, moves, new jobs, new relationships, and on and on. Yet Advent has come and gone, Christmas has been duly celebrated, and the headlines don't seem to have changed much from a year ago, at least in broad strokes. We still live in a world wracked by conflict, still see our neighbors suffering from want and misery, still find ourselves running as fast as we can just to stand still.

So what hope have we? What gives us the guts to wish one another a "Happy New Year," to raise our glasses in sincere belief that this year might bring a real and significant change? I would suggest that the Advent wait that we have just observed offers a clue. We are Christians, called to await the return of our Lord and Master, Jesus. He will come again, and when he does, all will be made new. We don't know what hour, what day, or even what year this will happen, but, for all we know, it could be this one! *The Return of the King* is the #1 movie at the box office these days, but the REAL return of the King will be far more powerful than any Hollywood (or New Zealand) studio could portray. It is this possibility of Jesus' return in glory that offers our only real hope that this year might truly see change for the better.

We can't schedule this event, but there are ways that we can prepare ourselves for it. Among them is to study the scriptures, not looking for signs and portents, but for strength and assurance that God still reigns. One great book for such assurance is the often-misunderstood Revelation. We will be studying Revelation in the adult Sunday School class this semester, following Bruce Metzger's *Breaking the Code*, for my money the finest exposition of this very difficult book for church use. I hope that those of you who can will come join us.

Here's to the New Year. May she be a [darn] sight better than the old one.

## JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

- 1-1 Jessie LaCoe
- 1-5 Evan Thostenson
- 1-8 Ross Montgomery  
Craig Pederson  
Wayne Radebaugh
- 1-10 Elizabeth Meyer
- 1-11 Kristina Sterup
- 1-12 Richard Whitcomb
- 1-18 Grace Moorhead
- 1-19 Donna Gertz
- 1-21 Jenna Olson
- 1-23 Austin Montgomery
- 1-24 Dennis Colliton  
Nancy Stedman
- 1-26 Gail Matzke
- 1-28 Brenda Bjorklund  
Brian Matzke
- 1-29 LaVerne Dahl  
Kaylee Jo Sharbono
- 1-30 Pat Langfitt

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 1-4-49 – Robert and Dolores Meyer
- 1-9-82 – Brent and Boots Montgomery
- 1-16-81 - Martin and LaVerne Dahl
- 1-19-57 – Edwin and Harriet Diede





## CHRISTMAS QUILT WINNER

The quilters raised \$139 for the Cuddle Up Mission Program. They sold chances on a Christmas quilt on December 7th and 14th.

Marj Meester REALLY wanted to win the Christmas quilt, so she purchased a large number of tickets to try and win. Our big winner was Carolyn Meester. So, Carolyn said, "Guess what Marj is getting for Christmas!" Marj was thrilled, but like a small child, it will be hard to wait for the 25th to arrive.

We witnessed the joy that Carolyn and Marj felt by winning the quilt, but Cass County Social Services witnesses the joy children feel every time one is given a "cuddle up" from the Community Presbyterian Church. Many thanks to all for supporting our Cuddle Up program.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

Teaching positions are filling up fast. Don't miss your chance to get to know the children of your church. We need four teachers every month.

Teachers needed:

January	Sorry, filled
February	Sorry, filled
March	> 2
April	Sorry, filled

Please sign up soon so that we can order the materials for the rest of the year.

Contact Becky DeJong (281-8122) or Lisa Steffens (282-5308) with any questions.

## SOUL TRAIN NEWS

The Soul Train was off to a great start in 2003. We have had lots of fun and fellowship on Sunday nights. We have been to the Corn Maze, Haunted Farm, Cosmic Bowling, on a hayride and attended a progressive dinner. We collected canned foods to donate to the Salvation Army, decorated the giving tree and made look-and-find bottles for the hi-rise.

We would like to thank Connie Bruse for teaching us first aid techniques, and we would like to thank everyone who brought us dinner—Roger and Melissa Barentsen, Tom and Cathy Birrenkott, Tom and Becky DeJong, Jim and Marlys Martin, Marj Meester, Boots Misheski, Bob and Deb Olson, Larry and Vicki Peihl, Dwight and Lisa Steffen, Matt and Toni Stith, Carolyn Meester, and Gary and Brenda Witt.

## CANDY AND COOKIE SALE

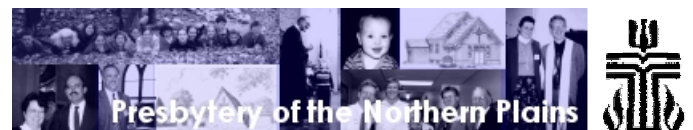


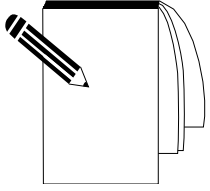
A big thank you to everyone who donated goodies for the Bake Sale on the 7th and 14th of December. Also a big thank you to those who purchased the goodies. The amount received from sales was \$476.00 which will help the PW with Mission Work.

THANK YOU EVERYONE.

## PER CAPITA

Per capita for 2004 is \$24.49 per member. This totals to \$7,077 for the Community Presbyterian Church. Per capital is due in January. These funds are used to support our local presbytery, regional synod, as well as the Presbytery USA General Assembly.





## CLERK'S CORNER

The Session and Trustees met on December 17th at 7:00 p.m. Their next meeting will be on January 21st.

The Trustees have received an estimate on replacing the carpet upstairs in the church. They will review it and make a recommendation to the Session at the January meeting.

Antoinette (Toni) Stith was received into membership by Certificate of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Plainsboro, New Jersey.

The Session received the report of the Personnel Committee regarding the terms of call for the pastor for the next year. This will be included in the Annual Report. The increase includes both a cost-of-living and merit raise.

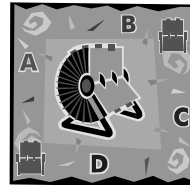
A Valentine's Day Dinner is being planned by the Youth Group with Andrew and Janine Steele doing the catering and the youth doing the serving. This will be on February 14. More information will be available later.

Greg Sterup reported that the Nominating Committee had contacted persons and were recommending them to fill slots for Elders, Trustees, Endowment Committee and Nominating Committee for next year.

There were 137 persons served communion on December 7th. The Jameson Family gave a memorial of \$780 in memory of Joe Jameson to be used for the Secretary's Office Fund. (Clerk's Note: We are still short \$1,250 of the amount needed to complete this project). The Clerk and Vickie Peihl will deliver Christmas Fruit Baskets to shut ins and elderly members of our church on Monday, December 21st.

The Session voted to use the Christmas Eve Offering for the Deacon's Fund. This is also known as "Congregation Care".

Delores Horn  
Clerk of Session



## ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER CHANGES

Please inform the Clerk of any address or telephone number changes so that the Directory update will be correct. We have received some changes but know there are some whose addresses will be changed in January.

Also for the snowbirds, please inform us of your winter address so that the newsletter and any other information may be sent to you there. The post office will not forward bulk mail.

Thank You.

## 2004 HEAD USHERS

January - Dwight Steffen  
February - Duane Ohm  
March - Bob Gross  
April - Dave Ruhnke  
May - Brent Montgomery  
June - Larry Peihl  
July - Jim Bjorklund  
August - Terry Meester  
September - Chuck Thompson  
October - Jack Smith  
November - LeRoy Bowman  
December - Jim Martin

