

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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HAUNTED FARM AND CORN MAZE



All who are brave and daring are welcome to join us on our adventure to the Haunted Farm and Corn Maze. We will be going on Saturday, October 9. We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m., leave at 6:45 p.m., arrive at the corn maze at 7:00 p.m. and return (hopefully) to the church around 10:00. It will cost \$12.00 per adventurous soul plus a little extra for a snack. Invite a friend to scream with and sign up in the Narthex.

Becky and Lisa -
the loudest screamers
281-8122; 282-5308

PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE



The church directories are here! Don't forget to pick up your copy. Directories are displayed in alphabetical on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



As some of you know, I am a runner. In fact, as I write this I am less than two weeks away from attempting my first-ever marathon! On Saturday, October 9, at the CenturyTel Whistlestop Marathon in Ashland, Wisconsin, I will attempt the rather curious task of running for 26.2 miles. This distance is pretty much the "holy grail" of distance running, and I've been working very hard to train and prepare myself for the ordeal. Even with all of my efforts, though, I won't
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know for sure whether I can do it until I've tried. My brother-in-law, who is running the race with me, has finished three or four marathons, and is a good deal faster than I am, to boot, but he assures me that the training I have done so far will carry me through. I hope he's right!

Now I am not one of what I call the running mystics. Do you know the type of runner I mean? These are the folks who, when they talk about their running, talk about how their daily run is when their mind, body, and soul find harmony, when they become one with the natural world around them, when they encounter God, when they have all their inspirations and profound ideas, and so forth. *Runner's World* magazine always seems to have at least one or two of these people in every issue. As for me, though, if I'm thinking about anything on the run, other than trying not to trip on stuff, keeping my breathing regular, and that sort of thing, it's most likely the lyrics to some song, either 80's pop or Veggie Tales, usually, running over and over on a semi-conscious loop as I plod along. Not exactly the stuff of great insights and epiphanies.

Nevertheless, I do think that there are some interesting parallels between my exercise of choice and some other, more eternally significant pursuits, and in this I am not alone. The Apostle Paul, in First Corinthians, compares the discipline and training that an athlete must exhibit in order to succeed with the self-discipline and control that are required for success in the Christian life:

"Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to

receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified."

Paul realizes that living as the people of Jesus in the world requires constant effort, constant vigilance, and constant discipline, to avoid the temptations and distractions that threaten to turn our focus away from the only prize that matters. He contemplates that prize, again using the terms of a runner, in Second Timothy, apparently written as Paul neared the end of his life:

"As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

Again, I am reminded of a marathon. Every finisher in a marathon gets a medal, prizes that recognize that just finishing is a victory. Paul tells us that the prize awaits all of us, if only we stay the course. That, though, is the trick. Whether we're talking about life or the marathon, it's a long, long race, with many, many opportunities to turn aside, to drop out. It is at these times that it helps to have a more experienced runner, like my brother-in-law, along with you, someone who has been all the way through the rough patches before, and will help you get there too. And the good news is that such support is avail-

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able in the race of life, too. As the author of Hebrews puts it,

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."

The saints of the church, those who have gone on before, and those who walk with us today, are always there to support us. And, above all, Jesus has already blazed the trail and won the race that really counts, and will always be there to lend us his aid.

Keep on running!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sept. 12	Sunday School started
Oct. 3	Memorization Sunday*
Oct. 31	Memorization Sunday*
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving No Sunday School
Dec. 5	Memorization Sunday*
Dec. 26	Christmas Break No Sunday School
Jan. 2	Christmas Break No Sunday School
Jan. 30	Memorization Sunday*
Feb. 27	Memorization Sunday*
March 27	Easter No Sunday School
April 3	Memorization Sunday*
May 1	Memorization Sunday*
May 22	Last Day of Sunday School

*K-5 students have you been studying your animal sections? Have you colored your ark?

**COMMUNITY
PRESBYTERIAN
ON THE WEB**

In case you missed West Fargo's West Fest or if you missed the church picnic, there's naught to worry. Cameras were there and photos are ready for your viewing on the church's website. Go to <http://cpcwf.org> and enjoy.

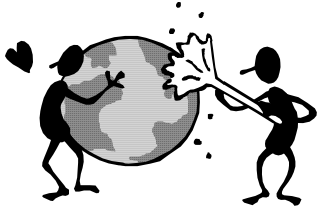
**RELIEF OF
CONSCIENCE
UPDATE**

At the most recent Presbytery meeting, held on September 24 and 25 at First Presbyterian Church in Minot, the Presbytery voted unanimously to grant the request made by our Session for Relief of Conscience. What this means is that, as of now, none of the dues that we pay to the PC(USA) Board of Pensions for health coverage for the pastor and the pastor's family will be used to pay for abortions or abortion-related services. Instead, a portion of our dues will be set aside to help pay for adoptions and related claims. No changes to the pastor's health coverage, or that of anyone else covered by the Board of Pensions, will result from this change.

**WEDDING
SHOWER**

Come and celebrate with Jackie DeMaris as she prepares for her big day! Community Presbyterian Church will be hosting a bridal shower for Jackie on Sunday, October 17th at two to four p.m. in the fellowship hall. This is an excellent opportunity to support a new bride in Christ's love and to share our stories and laughter.

Please RSVP with Toni Stith (282-2715).



A CAREGIVER'S WORD

Your church family is CALLING YOU!

Picture these events:

- 1) You and your spouse are happily married, busy with jobs, with kids moved out and away. Suddenly your spouse passes away, and you come down with health problems and can't get out much. Long lonesome days follow, and you don't want to cook just for you.
- 2) You are one of our older church members who is now totally homebound.
- 3) You are newly divorced with two little kids and no family nearby. On a Saturday you come down with the flu. Your kids don't understand how sick you are, and they need you too.
- 4) You recently moved to the area and don't know anyone. Your new baby is due and there's no one to watch your other child when the baby comes.
- 5) You want to attend church or help with church events but need a ride since it is too far to walk.
- 6) You are selling your house and need help sorting and moving stuff.
- 7) You still live in your own home, but the yard and housework is too much.
- 8) You're in the hospital or nursing home. You would like some company.
- 9) You've separated from your spouse and need a friend with whom to talk things over.
- 10) Your spouse needs constant care,

but you need to get out for groceries or recreation at times.

11) You are undergoing medical tests and need prayer to ease your concerns.

12) You just started attending church, but feel uncomfortable when no one sits with you at coffee time.

Everyone in the church should have his or her name on the caregiver's list for you never know when you will need the help back! You can visit, clean, babysit, pray, play games, cook meals, and much more. What is your specialty?



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Are you a student in either the 9th or 10th grade who has not completed confirmation class? If so, this item is for you. Please let Pastor Matt Stith know that you will be attending the upcoming confirmation class. He will be sending out information regarding the class in the near future. The church telephone number is 282-4135.

PRAYER CHAIN

In the last month, fourteen people have been added to the church's electronic prayer chain. Rather than spending time trying to reach others on the phone, these folk have been able to spend more time in prayer for those in need.



If you would like to be added to the e-mail prayer list or if you have a prayer concern, it is never too late. Simple contact Carol Sterup at g.d.sterup@juno.com or at 293-6603.



ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR, NOVEMBER 6TH

The Annual Fall Bazaar will be held on November 6th. Please bring as many crafts items as you can. Also baked goods and items for the White Elephant Sale are needed. Evelyn Martin has agreed to run the Costume Jewelry Table again this year and she hopes that we will get a lot of additional costume jewelry this year. This is a very popular part of the Bazaar. We need a husband and wife team to staff the White Elephant Table this year as our usual team will be unavailable.

The Baked Potato Bar is back again by popular demand. Various toppings will be available. We will also have rolls and coffee for sale during the morning. More details will be available later. Also sign up sheets for volunteers to help with various aspects of the bazaar will be on the Bulletin Board later in October.

Anyone having questions or willing to help with the planning stages of the bazaar are encouraged to contact Marlys Martin or Delores Horn.

WELCOME ALL HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Soul Train will be starting
on Sunday, Oct. 3.

We will meet at the church from 6:30-8:30 for fun, dinner, fun, devotionals, fun, games and a little bit of fun. We are inviting anyone who is in 6th -12th grade to join us. Come with an open mind, some ideas for the year and a willingness to be *slightly* embarrassed!!

See you soon,
Becky (281-8122)
and Lisa (282-5308).



OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

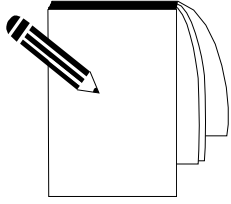
BIRTHDAYS

- 10-2 Delores Horn
- Peggy Rosenkranz
- 10-4 Stephanie Corneliussen
- 10-6 Sonda Pederson
- Matt Stith
- 10-7 Jon Carlson
- 10-8 Denny Braaten
- 10-9 David Stedman
- Brenda Witt
- 10-12 Roger Barenthsen
- 10-13 Carol Braaten
- Thomas Pederson
- 10-14 Melissa Kellerman
- 10-15 Esther Nitschke
- Virginia Ruff
- 10-16 Rae Irene Kercher
- Tom Pederson
- 10-17 Jenni Hummel
- Brad Sterup
- 10-23 Jason Swart
- 10-26 Ron LaCoe
- 10-27 Robin Moe
- 10-28 Melissa Kassman
- 10-29 Cody LaCoe
- Larry Peihl



ANNIVERSARIES

- 10-2-82 – Todd and Cheryl Montgomery
- 10-4-86 – Lee and Stephanie
Corneliussen
- 10-5-96 – Jeff and Jennifer Jazzkowiak
- 10-9-47 – Tom and Joy Taffe
- 10-13-73 – Lynn and Yvonne Hummel
- 10-13-79 – Mike and Kathy Moe
- 10-14-95 – Ryan and Melissa Kellerman
- 10-30-54 – Wayne and Jo Radebaugh



CLERK'S CORNER

The Session met on Wednesday, Sept. 15 at 7:00 p.m. A request from Rick and Dawn Chase to have their son, Cole William baptized on Oct. 3rd was approved. A request from Andrew and Janine Steele to have their daughter, Ella Leone baptized on September 26th was also approved.

Jackie DeMaris and Will Petik's request to use the Fellowship Hall and the kitchen for their wedding rehearsal dinner on Oct. 22nd was approved. Also the request from Kristin McDougall and Douglas Sharbono to have their wedding in the church sanctuary on November 27th at 4:00 p.m. was approved. They are both in the process of transferring to Community Presbyterian.

The final plans have been made for the Session retreat on October 2nd. It will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Members of the Session will provide the lunch. The Christian Education Committee's request to begin a class for 3 year olds to pre-school youth during the worship hour was approved. They also stated that they are working on a pamphlet to be distributed to the teachers of Sunday School to help them with their classes.

David Ruhnke reported that he has been attending the weekly meetings of the Organizing Committee for the Prairie Fire Evangelism Event. There will be a breakfast for anyone wishing to attend at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 2nd in Kindred. Dave has free tickets if you are interested. This event is on the order of the Billy Graham Crusades and the organizers need volunteers in many areas. Again, see Dave for details.

Reports on congregational giving will be mailed out the first part of October. For those who indicated the amount they planned to give to the church this year, the report will show what they have given and indicate if they are current in their pledges. For others the report will show what they have given. It will also indicate if their Per Capita Assessment has or has not been paid. (A note from the Clerk: If you checked your bulletin recently you will note that we are behind last year's giving total. With a pastor's salary and other expenses to pay we really need to be giving more than last year when we didn't pay a pastor for the first six months of the year. We have needed to borrow money to pay bills already this year and hope that we can reduce that amount now that the church year is in full swing.)

Susan Gross reported that the pictorial directories are in and will be ready to hand out on Sept. 26. You are eligible to have a directory if you had your picture taken. The directories will be on a table in the narthex with your name and address on them.

A informal get-together for new and prospective members with the Session is being planned for November. More details will be available later.

Pastor Stith was given permission to ask for a special offering to help a good friend, who lives in Mobile, Alabama, and his congregation in the event that they are adversely affected by Hurricane Ivan. The Clerk reported that 72 persons were served Communion on Sept. 5th.

Delores Horn,
Clerk of Session

