

# COMMUNITY CALL

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## GET YOUR PUMPKINS!!!!!!!

Soul Train will be selling pumpkins on Saturday, October 15th and Sunday, October 16th in the church parking lot. Thank you to Marty and Debbie Matzke for donating the pumpkins to the youth group.

A special thank you to Bruce and Karen Steele for donating the basketball hoop to the church. We have already used it at West Fest, and we plan to use it for several activities at Soul Train. Be watching for a basketball challenge from the Soul Train in the spring. We are planning 'Lightning Tournaments' and 'PIG Tournaments,' and we are pretty sure that we CAN'T be beat!!!

A third thank you to all those who helped at West Fest. \$250 was raised to support Project Open Door.



## PASTOR'S PEN

What do a goat, a hammock, a high-tech air purifier, and a jar of bread-and-butter pickles have in common? Not much, I suppose, except that these are among the many items that have been donated by various people and churches in the Presbytery of the Northern Plains for auction at the Harambee, to be held on October 7 in Bottineau at the Presbytery meeting. You regular readers will remember that the Harambee is a



**(Continued to page 2)**

### In this issue

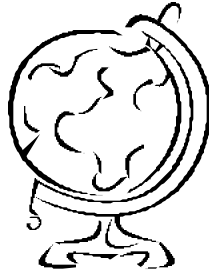
	<u>Page</u>
2005 Per Capita	7
Annual Fall Bazaar	5
Attention: Congregation	8
Attention: Soul Train	7
August Clerk's Corner	3
Baby Shower Invitation	4
Bazaar at Moorhead Mall	4
Can You Give a Month?	4
Invitation to Women	8
October Calendar	9
October Dates	8
Project Open Door Update	5
September Clerk's Corner	6

**(Continued from page 1)**

Kenyan institution that combines elements of a worship service, a party, a meal, and an auction, all for the purpose of bringing together people from many communities in order to support a cause or project. In our particular case, the Harambee is being held for two reasons: To honor the visit of some friends from our partner Presbytery of Chogoria, Kenya, and to raise funds for computers to be placed in the new computer training center at the Chogoria Presbytery headquarters. By the time you read this column, chances are you will either already have made your plans to attend this event, or it will be too late to do so, so I'm not planning to devote much space to urging your participation (although if it isn't the 7th yet, and you would like to attend, or make a donation in cash or of an item to auction, or bid on an item by proxy, please contact me or Dave Ruhnke as soon as you can!). Instead, I would like for us to reflect a bit on what this partnership means, and how our participation reflects our calling to live as a community of God's people.

All too often, I think, church families fall into the habit of thinking that our church is really the church, that our local community is our only community, that God's call to us to live in community with our fellow believers, to devote ourselves to service and mutual love really extends no farther than the church walls, or maybe the Cass County line. And, while God certainly does call us to minister in the places where he has put us, he also has bigger plans for us, and we need a bigger vision to keep up.

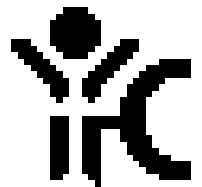
To this end, our Presbytery has entered into a covenant of partnership with the Chogoria Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. Each of our



churches, us included, also has a sister congregation in Kenya. The idea of these partnerships is to encourage and nourish the life of faith of each partner by supporting one another in prayer (as we do each week in our Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving), building bonds of friendship and mutual care across the vast geographical distance between us, and to

learn from one another what it means to be disciples of Christ in our very disparate contexts. In other words, we can help and teach each other to better live out our mutual calling, and so express in our lives the unity of the church around the world. We talk about this unity all the time, especially in our service of Communion, but we don't often have as good a chance to make it a reality as we have right now. By embracing our Kenyan brothers and sisters, improving our habits of communication with them, and praying with and for them, we can help to realize the benefits of this unity, benefits that will enhance our local ministry as well as expand our horizons. I hope that this prospect is as exciting to you as it is to me.

**GIVE - GIVE - GIVE -  
NOT MORE  
MISSION STUFF?!!!**



Have you been hearing enough of that on TV lately with all the hurricane news? I know I have - and yet - our local mission committee doesn't want to turn you all off to giving anymore. At least through our mission giving we know exactly each month where the items and money are going! October mission will be the Youth for Christ. But we don't know for sure what they need, so please watch the bulletins at church to see how you can help. Thanks so much!



## AUGUST CLERK'S CORNER

The Session met on August 24th. The next meeting will be September 21st, 2005.

The trustees reported that the parking lot has been repaired and that the bill will be paid by the person who caused the damage. The Session approved having the parking lot sealed before cold weather sets in.

The request from Heidi Riedinger and Bryan Babb to hold their wedding in the sanctuary on July 29, 2006 was approved.

West Fest plans call for the sale of brats and trimmings, a carnival with Gloria Ruhnke in charge, and a float for the children.

Approval was given for both Girl Scout groups to continue meeting on Tuesday nights at the church.

Project Open Door has received \$360,000.00 in commitments. \$112,000.00 has been received and put in a CD with the balance (about \$30,000 in cash) to be used for architects' fees throughout the fall. Presbytery Council has agreed to support our request for a loan from the PCUSA. Council will bring our request to a full Presbytery vote in October. Other sources of loans are still being looked at. Jim Bjorklund will be working with the architects on design issues.

The request from Derek and Carrie Leopold to have their children, Amy Joyce and Isaac Judd baptized on August 28th was approved.

Lee Dobrinz explained that the architects in the area are holding a competition to get food for the Food Pantry. The project is named "Can Struction" and the architects will build structures with the cans of food that are donated. Our church approved taking part in this project. Lee is on one of the teams.

Gayle Thostenson's request to erect a sign publicizing Sunday School was approved. The Christian Education Committee needs a teacher for the junior or senior high class. A leader is also needed for the older youth group as the group was so large that they had to divide it. Becky DeJong and Lisa Steffen will lead the younger group.

The Stewardship Committee reported that the contribution reports were sent out with a letter asking members to bring their pledges up to date. Giving was up the first two Sundays in August.

The Congregational Care Committee reported that the persons getting rides to church are very appreciative of the service.

Cheryl Montgomery explained the process for Todd to receive stem cells and also the process persons can go through to see if they would be a match. Persons must be between 16 and 61 years old and must be in good health. If they are of German and Scottish descent there is a better likelihood that they might match. More information can be found in the blue folders in the secretary's office.

The Mission Committee reported that they will be having a pizza meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 7th and afterwards will be distributing 500 door hangings informing people in the community about the beginning of Sunday School and inviting them to attend. \$250 was contributed to the Churches United for the Homeless in August and this was given to them to purchase meat. The Committee will look into what is involved in being a member church with the Churches United for the Homeless. At the present time we are concentrating our efforts towards the Salvation Army and the New Life Center.

**(Continued to page 4)**

**(Continued from page 3)**

Dixon Moorhead is checking to see if there is enough interest in the cluster to hire a bus to take members to Bottineau for the October Presbytery meeting. A Harambee (a dinner, social meeting, and auction) will be held with donated items to raise money for computers for our sister churches in Kenya. We also may be asked to house people from Kenya in October while they are in the area. If you would like to take part in this, let Matt know. If you can't attend the meeting in Bottineau you can still contribute financially toward the computer fund.

An ad was put in the Forum regarding the start of Sunday School. Matt was approved to teach a class at Concordia for the Fall Semester. This will be on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 8:00 a.m. The Session approved allowing Matt to serve as co-leader for a trip to Kenya next summer. No money will be needed for this, and it will mean that Matt will be gone on two Sundays.

90 persons were served Communion on August 7th. Skylar Pederson was baptized on that day.

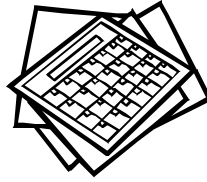
Delores Horn,  
Clerk of Session

**COMING SOON... BABY SHOWER**

Everyone is invited to a Baby Shower for Abigail Sharbono, daughter of Doug and Kristin Sharbono, sister of Kaylee Sharbono. It will be on Sunday, October 23rd at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

The Sharbonos are registered at Target, and Abigail's room has a Precious Moments theme.

Please RSVP to Gayle Thostenson (492-0630 or atgtet@msn.com). Come join us in the fun of giving a special welcome to this newest member of our ever growing church family.

**CAN YOU GIVE A MONTH?**

When a person is baptized in the church, we as a congregation assume the responsibility to nurture that person in the Christian life. This is something we promise as a whole and as individuals when we recite the liturgy of the sacrament of baptism.

With this in mind, won't you consider spending some time with some of those baptized members? Maybe you could spend a month of Sunday mornings with a class of elementary students or high schoolers as a Sunday School or Children's Church teacher. Or perhaps you could volunteer your help with Soul Train.

Listen for Christ's Call.

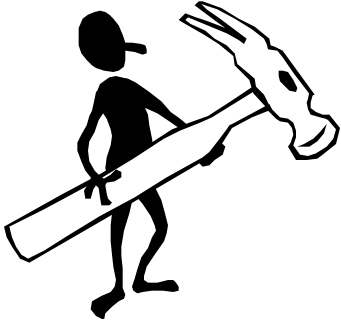
For more information, check the bulletin board in the narthex or contact Becky DeJong, Melanie Hansen, Debbie Matzke, Boots Misheski, Lisa Steffen, Toni Stith, or Gayle Thostenson.

**BAZAAR AT  
MOORHEAD CENTER MALL**

The PW has been asked to take part in the 14th Annual Church Bazaar on November 12 & 13 at the Moorhead Center Mall. This will be a first for us and we hope to be successful in having lots of items to sell. The profits will be donated to the Project Open Door Fund.

All kinds of items can be brought for this, just like for our own bazaar, except that we will not sell jewelry or white elephant items. We cannot sell cream pies or items that need to be refrigerated. Contrary to previous announcements, lefse can be made and sold. Again if there are questions please contact Delores Horn or Marlys Martin.





### **PROJECT OPEN DOOR UPDATE**

Project Open Door (POD) is moving ahead on several different fronts.

First, at the time of this writing we have not incurred any expenses. This will change in October, as expected.

Second, our architect has met and is actively meeting with our design committee and various other committees in the church to seek input. Further, our architect has ordered soil samples to be pulled before freeze-up and will do further site assessments into the early winter.

Finally, we have a firm offer from a local commercial lending institution to finance the project. We are also still pursuing financing from the PCUSA Building and Loan Fund. We have secured endorsements from the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Governing Council. Next, we expect a positive vote from the full Presbytery in early October. Then, we hope to get word back from the PCUSA Building and Loan Fund in late October.

POD is moving ahead on several different tracks and we continue to ask for your ideas, your time, your financial support, and especially your prayers.

### **ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR**

The annual Fall Bazaar including potato lunch, craft and baked goods sale, jewelry sale, and white elephant sale will be held on Saturday, October 29th in the church fellowship hall.

Please begin thinking about items that you can make and/or bring for this sale. We need to replenish our treasury after spending \$1200 for camp scholarships for the youth of the church.

If you have ideas for items that could be made as a group project please let Delores Horn or Marlys Martin know.

This has always been a great success as we have such faithful people who take the time and effort to bring items to sell.

Baked goods, candy, canned fruit and vegetables, pickles, jams and jellies, are just a few of the items that sell very well. Craft items also are good sellers and the jewelry sale has been one of the highlights of the bazaar.

We will be serving baked potatoes with all the trimmings as we have the past few years. Make plans now to come and have lunch with us that day. Even the men will enjoy this lunch as there is nothing dainty about it.

Questions? Call Marlys Martin or Delores Horn.





## SEPTEMBER CLERK'S CORNER

The Session met on Wednesday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m. The co-treasurers and bookkeeper were present to help the Session understand the financial report.

Andrew Thostenson and Jim Bjorklund reported on Project Open Door. Financing plans are moving ahead nicely. The Session approved empowering Greg Sterup to sign the contract with the architect for the Session. A meeting will be held in October with Amanda, the architect for the project, to work out plans for the construction. Information will be published later about the date and time.

Jerald Wilkinson was placed on the inactive list at the request of his parents. Charles and Kristen Richard were received in membership from First Presbyterian of Fargo. Please make them welcome. They have three boys: Patrick, who is 13, Dustin, who is 11, and Michael, who is 8.

Pastor Stith reported that 4 or 5 visitors from Kenya will be arriving in Minneapolis on Sept. 29th. We will be hosting them from September 30 through October 5th. The Barenthsens have indicated that they would be willing to house the visitors, but volunteers are needed to take them to different activities in the area so that they can have an idea of how we live. If you are willing to do something with them, please let Pastor Matt know. The bus to go to the Harambee in Bottineau does not look to be a possibility due to lack of interest. They are still working on it and if you are interested, there are sign up sheets in the narthex. Also sign up sheets for items to be auctioned off and contributions toward a computer fund are in the narthex.

Gayle Thostenson was given approval to host a baby shower for Abigail Sharbono, daughter of Douglas and Kristin Sharbono. It will be October 23rd at 2:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Andrew Thostenson was given permission to use 30 of the metal chairs and two of the older tables on October 15th.

The Personnel Committee is still searching for a Youth Director. One candidate was interviewed but was found to be unsatisfactory. Ads were placed in the Forum for Sept. 18 and 25th. Also announcements were taken to the three colleges in the area. Christian Education still needs a high school teacher. \$250 was earned by the youth at the West Fest Food Booth for Project Open Door. The Stewardship Committee is working on the line item budget for next year.

The Mission, Evangelism, and Outreach Committee sent out a large mailing and also distributed door hangings in the Elmwood Area informing people about our church activities. A table will be sponsored by the church at the Youth for Christ Dinner on November 1st. Dave Ruhnke will have 10 tickets for church members if they are interest in going. Make that 6 or 7 tickets, the and the Stiths will be attending.

The Congregational Care Committee reported that the float in the West Fest Parade was a big success. They are also coordinating ways to help Florenz Bjornson during her recovery from back surgery. If you would like to help call Lee Dobrinz or Vickie Peihl.

Pastor Stith will be in Philadelphia from November 18th through the 25th. Pulpit supply will be needed for November 20th.

The Clerk reported that 57 persons were

**(Continued to page 7)**

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served Communion on September 4th and that Amy Joyce and Isaac Judd Leopold were baptized on August 28th.

An effort to contact Theresa Tilly has been unsuccessful, so the Session voted to place her on the Inactive List since she now resides in Arizona. The Clerk will contact her parents to see if they can help us find out if she has joined another church in Arizona.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session

**2005  
PER CAPITA**



So far we have received just a little over half of the amount needed for our per capita assessment. If you have not paid this, it is not too late to do so. We need to get this paid so it does not need to come out of the general fund. We have a balance of about \$3700.00 left to be paid.

More people have paid than in past years, but we need cooperation from all members to take care of this bill. Remember, if you do not pay your share (\$24.08 per member), it will need to come out of the general fund which means that someone else is paying your share. This is your church and if you want and need the services that are provided you must do your share.

**FAMILY OPEN DOOR  
FROLIC IN AUGUST**



The pizza party and walk for Family Open Door was a wonderful time for all - a nice evening for everyone who attended to get out and hang door hangers about our church in a new neighborhood of West Fargo. Thanks to all the walkers!

**MISSION MEATS GOAL  
FOR CHURCHES UNITED  
FOR THE HOMELESS**



No, that is not a misspelling of meet. Our committee really did donate money for the Churches United to purchase meat. It was just not feasible to ask you to bring meat in! But you *did* bring in around \$100 of food stuff for the homeless in August which was very much needed. Please keep this place in mind if you ever have a family function with lots of food left over. They are so appreciative of anything they get to help the local displaced families. Sharing and caring is what our church wants to do!



**ATTENTION:  
SOUL TRAIN MEMBERS**

Welcome back all Soul Train members!!! We want anyone who is in 6th-12th grade to come and join us for great times. Here is a tentative schedule for the next couple of months. All meetings are at the church from 6:30-8:30 unless otherwise noted. See you there, Becky (281-8122) and Lisa (282-5308)

- Oct. 9 - 6:00-8:30 - hayride at Matzke's
- 16 - Projectile Competition at Bar-enthsen's - time TBA
- 23 - basketball competition/giving plate
- 30 - Canned Food Scavenger Hunt
- Nov. 6 - games - some embarrassing
- 13 - invited to the Moorhead church
- 20 - giving tree
- 27 - Thanksgiving - no meeting
- Dec. 4 - TO BE ANNOUNCED
- 11 - presents for the hi-rise
- 18 - progressive dinner

Thanks to all who have signed up to help us with meals. Our stomachs are looking forward to them. We still have Dec. 11 open, and we are working on details for the Progressive Dinner (too many of us to fit into one house at a time). Thanks again for your support!

## 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 Thomas Pederson  
Carol Braaten  
10-14 Melissa Kellerman  
10-15 Esther Nitschke  
Virginia Ruff  
10-16 Rae Irene Kercher  
Tom Pederson  
10-17 Brad Sterup  
Jenni Hummel  
10-23 Jason Swart  
10-26 Ron LaCoe  
10-28 Melissa Kassman  
10-29 Larry Peihl  
Cody LaCoe

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 10-2-82 – Todd and Cheryl Montgomery  
10-4-86 – Lee and Stephanie  
Corneliussen  
10-5-96 – Jeff and Jennifer Jaszkwiaak  
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  
10-23-04 - Wil and Jackie Petik  
10-30-54 – Wayne and Jo Radebaugh

## AN INVITATION TO WOMEN



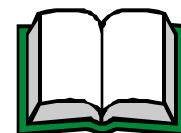
Have you ever read Proverbs 31: 10-31? Are you a woman of strong character, great wisdom, multiple skills, and great compassion? I know I can't do it all and fall short, and I feel very inadequate when I read this passage.

So what does a godly woman look like today? What does God expect of us? This fall, I am inviting you to explore God's plan for women in a Bible Study on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. We started in late September, but it's not too late to join us.

We will be studying "The Godly Woman," a Bible study based on Titus 2: 3-5, written by Fargo resident, Marilyn Moe.

Come learn how to discover strength and dignity that comes from the study and reflection of God's word.

To order study materials or if you have any questions, please call Melissa Barenthsen at 232-8595.



## ATTENTION CONGREGATION!!!

Soul Train needs your help.

We are having so much fun that it is time to break into two groups - 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. You would work closely with Becky and Lisa throughout the year. If you can help run this program or know of anyone who would be interested, please contact a Christian Education member.