

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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OCTOBER MISSION FOCUS: YOUTH FOR CHRIST

The mission focus for the month of October is Red River Youth for Christ. This organization has been in our area for 22 years.

Some of their programs include Teen Moms, Youth Guidance programs, and a strong presence on college and high school campuses. They are very involved young people at West Fargo High School, and who hasn't enjoyed the delicious peaches that they sell in August!

Red River Youth for Christ is always looking for volunteers to help with various projects, and cash donations are always welcome.

This year, we are once again sponsoring a table at the Youth for Christ banquet in early November (exact date and time will be announced later.). Those who went last year enjoyed a delicious meal and an inspiring program. If you would like a ticket, please see Dave Ruhnke or Vicky Whitcomb.



PASTOR'S PEN

Something old, and something new. That's one way to look at the biggest changes in my work here at CPC this fall. The "something old" refers to the topic we have taken up in the adult Sunday School class. We are studying the book of Ecclesiastes, and this qualifies, for me, as "old" because, between my PhD courses at Princeton and my subsequent teaching at Rhodes and Concordia, I have worked pretty carefully through the book at least four times in the past 10 years. It is a book that is full of surprises—a book that is concerned with the issues and challenges of daily life, in the midst of a Bible full of books that sometimes seem to have a more heavenly focus. It is a book where astonishing joy pops up just when



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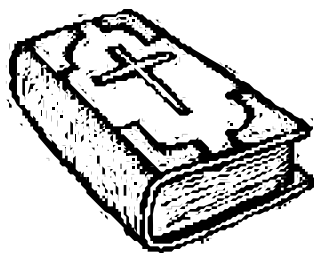
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you think there is nothing left but doom and gloom. Above all, Ecclesiastes is a book of Wisdom, a book that observes and carefully considers the world, and how life is, and then draws conclusions about God, human life, and how we can best live it.

In Ecclesiastes, we read the words of a man who calls himself, in Hebrew, "Qohelet." He examines everything that life has shown him, all the experiences and observations he has gathered, and then applies his powerful, relentless, and unswervingly realistic intellect to figuring out what, if anything, is actually worthwhile in life. The questions that he raises are sometimes shockingly contemporary, as if he were writing to our own age, not to a period some 2400 years ago. And, not to give too much away, the conclusions that Qohelet draws about the lives of people before God in this world are, in my view, among the most immediately relevant and useful suggestions for living in all the Bible. I anticipate that our study will be a wonderful one, and I hope that as many of you as are able will drop in and join us some Sunday morning at 9:00 to see what all the fuss is about!

As for the "something new," I have decided that, now that our long engagement with the book of Genesis as our primary text for preaching is coming to an end, I am next going to preach on a book about which I know next to nothing, a book I have never studied seriously, and a book that, to be frank, is not always a favorite among "Old Testament types" like me. The book is Hebrews, which, at first glance anyway, seems to be almost as unique among



New Testament books as Ecclesiastes is among its Old Testament neighbors. Hebrews is a book (actually, it looks as if it's really more of a very long sermon than a "book" as such) that is overwhelmingly and deeply engaged in one absolutely crucial question: Who was Jesus? The preacher who wrote the book explores the nature of Jesus' life and work, developing some of the most influential ideas ever put down on paper about Christ's messianic work and its implications for Christian life and community. I am excited to see what this book—

which is, for me at least, largely unexplored territory—has to offer us as we seek to live faithfully as a fellowship of disciples of Jesus, and I hope that you will pick up some of my excitement here as well.

The busy new church year is well underway, and with it all sorts of options and opportunities, including the "old" and "new" ones I've just described. I pray that it will be a good year for you, for our church, and for God's people everywhere.

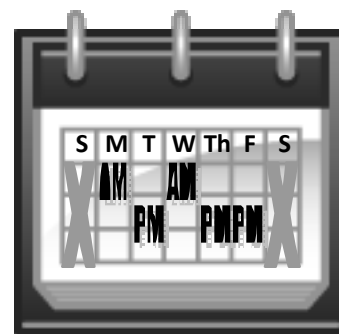
NEW OFFICE HOURS REMINDER

Beginning the week of August 25, our church secretary, Lora Wehrung, began new office

hours. Lora will be in the office:

Monday mornings
 Tuesday afternoons
 Wednesday mornings
 Thursday afternoons
 Friday afternoons

The office phone number is 282-4135.



BLAIR'S AFRICAN NEWS

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings from Nairobi! I have been back in Kenya now for two weeks, part of the three month extension

tacked on to my previously year-long program. The reason I am still in Kenya is to continue working on the All Africa Conference of Churches' 9th General Assembly preparations, so 12 hours after I landed in Nairobi I was back in the office doing just that!

Since I have been back, these preparations have meant writing funding proposals, getting trained on a conference-planning database used at the Olympics, and sending reminder e-mails galore. The Olympic database is a tool that will help us gather all the names of the delegates coming to Maputo so we can point them to their workshop on climate change or tell them where the interfaith session is taking place at the click of a button. At the database training, the six of us huddled around one projector came from 3 different continents; during the part of the session where we learned how to enter in our delegates' mother tongues, we had about 5 different linguistic backgrounds. From such a small and potentially mundane part of the work day, I was able to smile and think – this is why I am back at the AACC!

The diversity that you could not avoid even if you tried is one of the most exciting parts of this job. A week after the database training, I attended an AACC dinner and sat next to a communications officer from Lesotho (one of those small, small countries found inside South Africa) and a man who works for



the Kenyan Ministry of Youth. Oh, and there was a Swede at the far end of our table too. These small examples of coming together are at the heart of ecumenism, the gathering of people from all across the Christian family and all across the earth! The function that is bringing us together may be labelled a conference on the effectiveness of foreign aid, but the true focus of each meeting is celebrating God's love and seeing how best to act on this love in global society today.

In sum, I am happy to be back in this environment! Not only has slipping back into the busy routine of a continental organisation been welcome, but catching up with friends is always a blessing too. Whether I was depositing flannel sheets with my host mother (can you believe they don't sell those in Nairobi?) or meeting the new volunteers now in Nairobi to start their YAV experiences, the last two weeks have been full and blessed.

I would also like to add that the clothes and school supplies CPC so graciously collected last month were received by happy administrators and children at the Mama Ngina Kenyatta Children's Home <pictured>. On behalf of the Home, thank you for your contributions! As always, I am also incredibly grateful for your continued prayers and support. Let me also say a huge thank you to all that attended the Kenyan tea in August. Your donations mean so much and have gotten me 1/3 of the way to my fundraising target for this year! Thank you, and have a blessed month.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Blair Moorhead is currently serving in Nairobi, Kenya with the PC(USA)'s Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program. For more news about her work in Africa, Go to Blair's blog at:

<http://blairinkenya.blogspot.com/>

GOODBYE TRAYLORS!

Our Presbytery of the Northern Plains Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Charles R. Traylor, has accepted a call to be the Pastor-Head of Staff of Fairfield Glade Community Church, a PCUSA/United Church of Christ union congregation of Fairfield Glade, TN.



Moving will allow both Chuck and his wife, Sarah, to be closer to family and allow more church involvement for the both of them.

While we will miss them, we wish Chuck and Sarah well as they make their move and ask for God to bless them in their new home.

As a matter of practicality in making the move, Chuck and Sarah have several items which they'd like to sell. The Traylor's will donate 10% of the proceeds to Community. The prices are just suggestions, so if you're interested, but don't agree with the price, feel free to make an offer.

They include: a 2007 GE washer and dryer (\$350), a pillow-top queen-sized bed (\$175), a pillow-top king-sized bed (\$250), oak dining room table with two leaves and four chairs (\$375), two small matching dressers (\$75 each), a love seat with two pillows (\$50), a triple dresser with mirror (\$125), a fantastic sofa with double recliners and table (\$275), an antique oak dresser (\$175), two antique oak occasional tables (\$150 each) (one mission style), two wooden desks (small \$75, large \$125), two mission style end tables (\$75 each), an antique Queen Anne style cabinet (\$75), one antique rocker (\$175), a 27" RCA television (\$25), an upright freezer (\$175), and the most comfortable ottoman in the world (\$150).

If you are interested in any of these items, please contact Sarah at 218-493-4603 or, if you'd like digital photographs of the items, at sg.traylor@gmail.com.

OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 10-2 Delores Horn
Peggy Rosenkranz
- 10-4 Stephanie Corneliussen
- 10-5 Chuck Richard
- 10-6 Sue Hanna
- 10-6 Sonda Pederson
Matt Stith
- 10-7 Jon Carlson
- 10-8 Denny Braaten
- 10-9 David Stedman
Brenda Witt
- 10-11 Rick Chase
- 10-12 Roger Barenthsen
- 10-13 Carol Braaten
Curt Brophy
- 10-13-1908 – Thomas Pederson
- 10-14 Melissa Kellerman
- 10-15 Esther Nitschke
Virginia Ruff
- 10-16 Rae Irene Kercher
Tom Pederson
- 10-17 Brad Sterup
Jenni Hummel
- 10-18 Michael Richard
- 10-23 Jason Swart
- 10-26 Ron LaCoe
- 10-28 Melissa Kassman
- 10-29 Larry Peihl
- 10-29 Cody LaCoe

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10-4-86 – Lee and Stephanie
Corneliussen
- 10-5-96 – Jeff and Jennifer
Jaszkwiaik
- 10-7-89 - Chuck and Kristen Richard
- 10-9-47 – Tom and Joy Taffe
- 10-13-73 – Lynn and Yvonne Hummel
- 10-14-95 – Ryan and Melissa Kellerman
- 10-23-04 - Wil and Jackie Petik



COMMENTS FROM CURT

September 7, 2008

**And so it begins...****Beginning Class**

If I was to take it all in and try to describe the past week and a half in one word I would have to say: "busy." And then if I were to get two words, I would say: "incredibly busy." The good news is that although I am incredibly busy, I have awesome classmates, interesting classes, and engaging professors. I am finding that my time here will be challenging yet ultimately helpful.

I began with orientation where we learned anything from how to use the computers to nice group building activities. Then we started class. So it begins.

Most Recent Updates

I sent out a smaller update telling everyone that Kadra found a job at Mercy Hospital in the NICU. She now has had two full weeks of work and is also thoroughly oriented. So far she really enjoys the work and is learning a lot on this new floor. Overall, I believe God really opened up this specific door for Kadra. Although she will be working a lot of nights, I believe she is up to the task.

In finding a good job our income has become far more reliable. Instead of simply spending, spending, spending, we now may be spending, earning, then spending. We are realizing two things though. 1. School is not cheap, go figure. And 2. God is faithful and your prayers have been more than heard.

The Round up

After the first week, I am somewhat surprised at how much I am learning and how much I am enjoying this. We go into a new area of our lives with so much doubt, but if that area of our life is

a place that God wants us to be, we find reassurance in ever step. I am learning how to be faithful regardless of what I am up against. I am learning that my mind right now is like a sponge, and I feel like I am soaking up everything that is placed in front of me. I am amazed that my memory is keeping up so well with Greek. Already we have memorized the Greek alphabet and 10 vocabulary words.

Kadra and I are also making new friends. These friendships, we are realizing, will form us for a lifetime and are so incredibly supportive. We have so enjoyed being around people in the same areas of life as we are. We have a lot in common and so it makes our experience here in Dubuque so much more fulfilling and enjoyable.

Finally, I commented earlier on our financial stability and God being faithful relative to that stability. This may be the first time in my life I have had to really trust God for our finances and have the faith we will be just fine. God, in return, regardless of my doubt or my faith, is faithful to us. Recently, we have had contributions from my family that I never saw coming. It has been both humbling and amazing at the same time. All I can do is raise my hands, bow my head, fall to my knees, and just be silent.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our former youth leader, Curtis Brophy, is currently pursuing a Masters of Divinity degree at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. He remains under care of Community Presbyterian Church during this time. To contact and encourage Curt write to:

Curtis and Kadra Brophy
73 Collins St Unit B
Dubuque, IA 52001

brocur@yahoo.com or brokad@yahoo.com

INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN: TERRY MEESTER

Personal Information

Birth date - December 5, 1963
 Birth place - Oakes, ND
 High school - graduated from
 Cooperstown, ND
 Married - Carolyn in Kragnes, MN
 on June 8, 1996
 Children and Grandchildren -
 Joan Levin -
 (south of Audubon, MN)
 - Tyler (6), Trevor (3),
 Tommy (1)
 Keith Sebelius -
 (Palmer, Alaska)
 Paula Sebelius -
 (West Fargo, ND)
 Jarrett Meester - 4th grade -
 (West Fargo, ND)
 Occupation - territory manager
 covering ND and SD
 Joined Community Presbyterian
 Church – 1985

Favorites

Hymn - "Amazing Grace"
 Athlete - Kevin Garnett
 Season - Hunting season, fall
 Actor - Clint Eastwood
 Music - Old Rock, Country

Would You Rather

How well do you know Terry? Try to guess which answer he chose for each of the following questions. His answers will be at the end of the interview.

... have a foot long eyelash you can never pluck or an earlobe the size of a basketball?

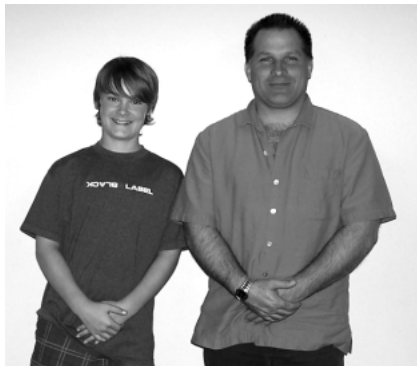
... eat a lime or a lemon?

... fight a lion or a shark?

... spend a year in jail for something you did or for something you didn't do?

... go to an amusement park or to a family reunion?

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I interviewed Terry Meester. I asked him if he was always late or always early. He replied that he was always on time for work, and he also

said he is once in awhile late for things that he doesn't like and early for activities that he enjoys.

I asked him about his favorite subjects in school. He replied that his favorite subject was science because he has always liked the outdoors. He also liked spelling because he was very good at it. His least favorite was English because he found that all of the parts of speech and articulation were boring.

I was curious about his first car. He said that he had a 1967 Chevrolet El Camino with 400 small block. It had Cadillac red rally rims and tires that moved faster than the car!! He bought it from a body shop in Horace and then eventually sold it to his brother.

Terry also has some pet peeves. He doesn't like it when people worry more about themselves than their children. He also doesn't think that people should sweat the small things.

I asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. He said that he hasn't grown up, but when he does he wants to be a lottery winner and help pay off the POD2!! He would also like to build his getaway in the country.

Terry Meester is a very nice person who loves to be around people. If you do not know Terry then I would suggest that you get to know him.

**(Continued on page 9)**

**(Continued from page 8)**

Interviewed by:  
 Brandon Hanna  
 7th grade  
 April 20, 2008

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 "Would You Rather" answers:

(Would You Rather answers: eyelash, lime, lion, something I did, family reunion)

**YEAR-TO-DATE
 FINANCIAL REPORT**



BUDGETED 2008 GIVING:
 \$153,280.00 / 52 WEEKS
 \$2948/WK

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>NEEDED GIVING TO DATE</u>	<u>ACTUAL GIVING TO DATE</u>
9/14/08	\$109,076	\$94,062

As of August 17, 2008, the year-to-date actual giving to CPC's general fund is \$94,062 compared to the \$109,076 needed for the same time period. Another \$4,900 of Preschool rent is added to our income to pay our expenses. The note is at \$10,000.

These figures do not include the mortgage payments which are funded from the building fund money market (Project Open Door II giving).

As we shared in the August newsletter, the "summer" pattern of lower giving continues through September as it did this year. Yes, many have stepped up this year by increasing their general giving, joining the direct pay option of giving, or sent in their giving this summer with the envelopes provided with their contribution reports. Thank you.

You may wonder about our expenses. We have seen a general "tightening of the belt" throughout our committees in many aspects of our expenses. For example, this monthly newsletter has been

made available electronically to all who wish to receive it in that format. This saves: paper, copying expense, hand labor for folding, and postage. This year we will be using accumulated extra boxes of old Sunday School and Adult giving envelopes by manually re-stickering 2009 dating on them to reduce stewardship envelope expense. In recent years we routinely hired professionals to come in to do some electrical repairs, but this year the trustees have been able to do the work. Further, budgeted expenses for landscaping and weed control have been retained by using volunteer labor.

Next newsletter we will give you a forecast of where we will end the year with expenses. In the meantime, please take a look at your giving to date. Many of you have increased your general giving over the last few years, but many have not. We are on the right track of ending the year with a low bank note if folks respond to God's call.

WEST FEST THANK YOU

On Saturday, September 20, during West Fest, Community Presbyterian Church grilled brats and hot dogs, sold bars, beverages, and other snacks in hopes of building a music education fund. About \$750 was raised!

In addition, there was fun to be had at a Bounce and Slide, basketball hoop, and a book sale sponsored by the Mission Committee and the Rainbow Shop. Thanks to all who cooked, sold, and helped in any way. Thanks also to those who made purchases to help these projects.

**The November
 Community Call
 deadline will be
 October 22**