

# COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith  
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## DID YOU KNOW?

Pastor Matthew Stith may be reached by phone at church at 282-4135, at home at 282-2715, and at 261-0813 (cell). He can be reached by post at the church at P. O. 546, West Fargo, ND and at home at 326 Fourth Ave. East, West Fargo, ND. His internet information will be made available soon after high-speed internet is installed at the church.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



Part III: Parenthood, Scholarship, Pastorhood

1998 was a watershed year for us. In the spring, I was accepted to continue studying at Princeton Seminary toward the Ph.D. degree in Old Testament Studies. This vocational decision came about as a result of the surprising affection for and connection with the Old Testament that had developed over the course of my Masters' studies, of a trip to Israel to work on an archaeological dig, of the PCUSA's required vocational counseling for ordination candidates, and of my gradual discernment that this was the next course God had in mind for me to pursue. I considered many schools, applied to a few, and was accepted only at the one I really wanted to go to anyway. So we knew that the fall of 1998 would bring a whole new world for us in the academic realm.

This novelty, however, paled in comparison to what awaited us in August of '98. We became, on August 18, the proud parents of Mayim, born in Trenton, NJ, our family's official 'Jersey Girl.' Becoming parents is always a monumental transition in a couple's life, and we were certainly no excep-

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tion. Toni's extended leave from teaching (still ongoing as of this writing), our move into a larger apartment, and a brave new world of different concerns, priorities, and sleep schedules were among the fallout of this wonderful event. I liked to tell people that just starting the doctoral program wouldn't be enough of a challenge for us, so we were packing two life changes into one, to raise the degree of difficulty. Little did I know!

Ph.D. study has been one of the most difficult, frustrating, and exhausting challenges of my life. It has also been, without doubt, one of the most rewarding and fulfilling. Four years (OK, more like five-and-a-half so far, but who's counting?) of being pushed to the absolute limit by some of the finest biblical scholars in the world, alongside a group of classmates who are, without exception, now among my closest friends as a result of our shared efforts has been a truly life-changing experience. The experience is ongoing, as I am still working toward the completion of my dissertation, hopefully in time to graduate this coming May.

As we approached the end of our time in Princeton in the spring of 2002, we were at a crossroads of sorts. I knew that I was interested in both teaching and in parish ministry as ways of living out my call, and I explored employment possibilities of both types. Finally, I was offered a one-year position teaching Biblical Studies at Rhodes College, a Presbyterian liberal arts school in Memphis, Tennessee. By this time, we had become a family of four (Joram was born in March of 2001), and I was hesitant to accept a position that would require uprooting the family from our comfortable life in Princeton and relocating to a totally new part of the country, knowing that we'd

◆ probably have to do it all over again in a year's time, but the chance to try my hand at teaching undergraduates at a good school with a tradition of emphasizing religious studies (all Rhodes students must take two years of Bible or Bible-related courses, regardless of their major) was too much to pass up. Off to Memphis we went.

◆ Our year at Rhodes was a study in contrasts. We loved the College, the many opportunities and options available in a major city, and the new friends we made. On the other hand, many of the less-pleasant facets of big city life were hard to take (unlike my car, which proved easy to take, at least for the person who stole it), and our transient status made us reluctant to really put down roots and make deeper connections with friends, church, and community. As the year came to an end, we felt increasingly that a parish ministry would offer us the best opportunity for some stability, a community with which to connect, and, most importantly, our next step in following God's call. Ironically, when I first told my uncle, the pastor of the Presbyterian church of Rolla and St. John, ND, that I was beginning to look at church openings, he immediately said, "I think you and the West Fargo church would be a good match." Thus, CPC was one of the first, if not the very first, churches that I looked at in the process. And, true to the ways of vocation, no matter where else we looked, we kept coming back to West Fargo, until, according to God's plan, we came back to West Fargo to stay.

◆ So that's us. Here we are. May God bless the ministry that you and we will carry out together in this place over the years to come.

◆ Matt

## NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

- 11-1 Chris Larson  
 11-3 Mary Bastle  
     Dave Ruhnke  
 11-5 Jarrett Meester  
     Ardis Sherwood  
 11-6 Amy Grossman  
 11-7 Cecil Bartholomew  
 11-8 Adam Montgomery  
     Joy Taffe  
 11-9 Shannon Hayes  
 11-10 Jim Martin  
     Susan McIntyre  
     Vicki Peihl  
 11-14 Seth Whitcomb  
 11-15 Tina Bastle  
     Breanna Olson  
     Heidi Reidinger  
 11-17 Mary DeJong  
 11-18 Brianne Montgomery  
 11-19 Kayla Videen  
 11-20 Jennifer Jazzkowiak  
 11-20 Lindsey Moe  
 11-21 Marcella Bahls  
     Brent Montgomery  
 11-22 Jill Swart  
 11-24 Harriet Diede  
     Bob Gross  
     Doug Saari  
     Jean Sheeley  
 11-28 Kyle Kassman  
 11-30 Sharon Anderson



### ANNIVERSARIES

- 11-13-94– Troy and Leann Montgomery  
 11-29-74 – Jon and Vicky Whitcomb  
 11-29-86 – Tom and Becky DeJong

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY REMEMBERED



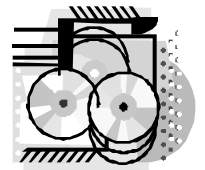
For those who missed out on the fun or for those who would like to reminisce, a complete collection of photos from CPC's 75th anniversary festivities, a slide show featuring our church's present and past, a video of the past, and a copy of the 75th anniversary booklet is posted on the church's website (<http://cpcwf.org>) and is available on computer disc. These and anniversary booklets can still be found in the church office.



### 2003-2004 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Hanging of the Greens	Nov. 30
Thanksgiving (No Sunday School)	Nov. 30
Christmas Program	Dec. 14
Potluck	
Christmas Break	Dec. 28
(No Sunday School)	Jan. 4
Sunday School Resumes	Jan. 11
Palm Sunday	Apr. 4
Senior Recognition	May 16
Sunday School's Last Day	May 16
Potluck	

### LOST AND FOUND



An Integrity iWorship music cd and DVD set was found on one of tables at the Bazaar. If you unintentionally left these items, please call the church at 282-4135 or Gayle Thostenson at 492-0630.

If no response is received by the next newsletter, the set will be placed in the church library.



## OH COME LET US ADORE HIM.....

Why not join the celebration of Christmas in song by joining the choir in preparation of this year's cantata? From the darkness and hope of Advent to the light and joy of Christmas, this new cantata, The Christmas Light, blends classic carols and rich new songs in a celebration of the Incarnation. The presentation literally moves the service from darkness to light, vividly illustrating the hope of Christmas through music and the spoken word.

Don't wait for a personal invitation. Everyone is welcome to sing along. Practices will be held on Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. until the cantata's presentation on Sunday, December 7th.

### "SOUL TRAIN"/ YOUTH PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Attention all youth in grades 7-12! Please mark your calendars for Sunday evenings:

Nov. 2 - 6:30 -dinner, fun & games

Nov. 9 - 6:30 -dinner,

Mission Sunday-Giving Tree

Nov. 16 - 6:30 - dinner, Matt Stith

Nov. 23 - TBA - Galactic Bowling

Nov. 30- no meeting, Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 7 - 6:30 - dinner,

Connie Bruse, First Aid

Dec. 14 - TBA - Mission Sunday

Dec. 21- 6:30 - Progressive Dinner

Can you help? Call Becky DeJong at 281-8122.



## THANK YOU!

I am reminded of the story of the Little Red Hen... "Who will help me find some couches?" Donna Gertz did. "Who will help me clean the couches?" Lowell and Nan Wiese did. "Who will help me re-cover the couches?" Carol Sterup and the Quilters did. Take your 'bread' during fellowship time and sit and enjoy our newest additions to the "Comfort Room." (I am still looking for one more chair to complete the room).

Becky DeJong



### SUNDAY SCHOOL 2003-2004

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:

October	Sorry, filled
November	Sorry, filled
January	Sorry, filled
February	> 1
March	> 3
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.

### MIDNIGHT MIRACLE



During the worship service on December 14th, the Sunday School classes will perform a musical Christmas story called "Midnight Miracle." The story is told through angels, shepherds, and animals! Rehearsals will be held during Sunday School classes. Please join us for this special children's performance. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Stith (282-2715).



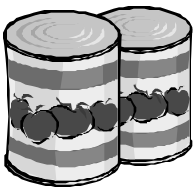
## ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR, BAKE SALE, AND WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

The fall bazaar was held in the church basement on October 11th. This is the major annual fundraiser sponsored by Presbyterian Women.

Items sold included crafts, baked goods, white elephant items, produce and costume jewelry. We also served a baked potato bar for lunch. The profit from all these venues came to \$1,200.

Some of the Presbyterian Women contributions for this past year include Bible Camp scholarships for youth, a donation to the boiler project, a gift to the puppet ministry, and supplies for the kitchen.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this year's bazaar a success. Without our faithful workers, it would not happen.



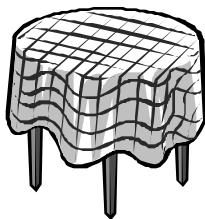
## CANNED FOOD DRIVE

On October 19th, The youth group had a fantastic night of collecting canned goods and non-perishable items

for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. They would like to invite you to add to their collection by bringing your food donations to the church on Sundays, November 2nd and 9th.

## TABLECLOTHS

The Presbyterian Women would like to buy some new lace tablecloths like the ones we already have (with the scalloped edges). We are wondering if anyone remembers where the ones we have were purchased. If you know, please call Marlys Martin at 282-3740 or Delores Horn at 282-4501.



## WILL YOU HELP?



Most of you are aware that there has been some remodeling done in the office area of the church. The secretary's office has been moved to the area formerly used as the library, and the pastor's office is in the space formerly used for the secretary's office.

The remodeling in the pastor's office is nearly complete, waiting for the installation of a set of shelves and a few minor items; however, the secretary's office has not been finished. After working in the office for the past 5 months, I can honestly say that there is a great need to have more storage and counter space. We have about a fifth of the storage and work space that we had in the other office, and more is dearly needed. The trustees have received bids on new furnishings for this office to make it more functional for the secretary to work. The cost for the project is \$2,500.

If you feel that you would like to contribute to this effort, please use the special offering envelopes in the pew racks to make your contribution. Be sure to indicate that the offering is for the Secretarial Office Fund so that it will go into the correct fund, and also be sure that your name or offering box number is on the envelope so that your contribution can be recorded for your tax information.

Thank You,

Delores Horn  
For the Session and Trustees

## STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."

-1 Peter 4:10

We are saved solely by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The mission of Community Presbyterian Church is to nurture individual spiritual growth through the Bible, the inspired Word of God. We seek to embrace the hearts and minds of all individuals through worship, fellowship, and service.

We care for one another and we equip our members to reach out to the community in word and service.

-CPC Mission Statement

### "Stewardship Season"

The time of year is upon us when many of us begin to look toward next year. We start to plan our work schedules and our vacations, we make plans for education, for personal enrichment, and for recreation, and we make financial plans and decisions that will impact us through the coming year and beyond. In short, this is a season for stewardship, for orderly and careful reflection on how we will utilize our time, talent, and treasures in the coming year. No less than our families, the church also needs to reflect and plan for the best possible pursuit of the mission we have set forth for ourselves over the coming year. These next few weeks, the Stewardship Committee, on behalf of the Session, asks for your assistance in this effort.

Peter reminds us, in the text above, that all of the gifts God has given to us, gifts of time, talent, and treasure, are not simply ours, to do with as we please, but rather are given to us to hold in trust as stewards, to use for the purpose God intends, which is to serve one another in

every way we can. The church is a main avenue for us to exercise this stewardship.

In order to best pursue our mission, to best exercise Jesus' commands to make disciples of all nations and to feed his sheep, Community Presbyterian Church, just like you and your family, needs to have a plan. But in order to best make plans for our ministry in the coming year, we need to know, as best we can, what resources we will have available. To this end, we are asking you to think, over these coming weeks, on how you will steward your time, talent, and treasure this year, and how you will honor God's gifts to you by returning some portion of them to the church for the purposes of God's work. On November 16, we will ask all members and friends of Community Presbyterian Church to submit a pledge card, detailing your best estimate of your planned giving to the church this coming year, incorporating your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

While we know that such measures have not been taken in the recent past, we urge you to consider how much a good idea of what support we can expect will help us in planning new and exciting ways of pursuing our mission, of answering Christ's call. We are confident that our ability to care for our own membership and facility, to reach out to the community, and to reach out to the entire world will be dramatically enriched if we as a congregation are willing to make this concrete expression of our faith and of our gratitude to God for his many, many gifts. We will be speaking in worship this month on various aspects of this program, and look forward to the wonderful blessings that God has in store for us, both those we plan for and anticipate, and those that will surprise us.

The Stewardship Committee

### CLERK'S CORNER

The Session and Trustees met Wednesday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

The Trustees have identified three projects that need to be addressed soon: the downstairs carpet needs to be replaced (They are working on this with the previous installer who will pay for the new carpet and installation since it was his fault that it was not done right the first time.); the sprinkler system needs to be checked after the installation of the back parking lot, and furnishings must be added in the secretary's office. (See separate article about this.) There is concern about the carpet in the sanctuary and narthex, so these will also need to be addressed in the near future. (It is really looking worn and has some tears in it.)

Dixon Moorhead will be working with Becky DeJong to work up a survey of the talents and abilities of our congregation. This would make it much easier for the Congregational Care Committee as well as others to find persons who can assist older members and others of the congregation.

Susan Gross, Dave Ruhnke, Boots Misheski and Kathy Moe will serve the sacrament of communion on November 2nd. On October 5th, 102 persons were served communion.

A contract has been signed with Olan Mills to produce a pictorial directory. The dates are April 22, 23 and 24. The Fellowship Committee will be working on this and if anyone would like to help please let Susan Gross know. The Service and Fellowship Committee will also be contacting members to serve as head ushers for next year. We would like to have 12 members (men or women) to serve so that they only have a one month term per year.



The Worship Committee reported that the group, Cool Reign, will be conducting the service for us on November 28th. They are still reviewing options for new hymnals.

The Stewardship Committee will be making some presentations to the congregation in the next few weeks. The goal is to inform the congregation about the monetary needs of the church for the next year and to have the congregation indicate what their contribution for next year will be so that a budget can be set up.

Moderator Stith asked the Session to elect a new delegate to Presbytery. Any current or prior elder is eligible to serve in this capacity. There are three meetings each year: January, May and October. If you have been an elder and would like to serve your church in this way please let Matt or one of the current elders know. The Session plans to elect the delegate in November.

Bonnie Thompson was invited by Emory Roy to make a presentation to First Presbyterian Church of Fargo detailing our program of serving communion to shut-ins. He also made a report on it to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. Fargo First Presbyterian Church plans to set up a committee to institute this program.

Chad and Tammy Nelson have indicated a desire to have their son, Parker, baptized. Dixon Moorhead and Greg Sterup will meet with them and explain baptism and what it means for both the family and the congregation.

The Session and Trustees will meet again on November 12th. If you have something to come before them, please contact Matt or Delores Horn, Clerk.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session