

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
702 Sheyenne St., P.O. 546, West Fargo, ND 58078 701-282-4135 E-mail: office@cpcwf.org Web: http://cpcwf.org



THE COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!

The new CPC Presbyterian Women's cookbooks have arrived. The books are twelve dollars each; after one buys five or more, the cookbooks are ten dollars each. The proceeds from the sale of these cookbooks will go to Project Open Door.

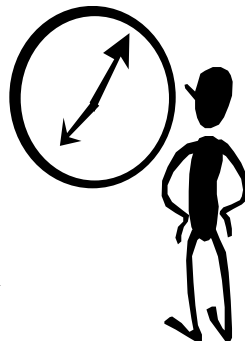
Why not support the building project and get some good eats at the same time? Buy a PW cookbook and have a Presbyterian recipe week, trying out a new recipe daily. Sounds kinda like "Chicken Soup for the Soul."

For more information, call the church office (282-4135) or Marlys Martin (282-3740).



PLEASE NOTE!

On October 29th at 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time ends. Please remember to turn your clocks back one hour.



PASTOR'S PEN



By the time this newsletter is in your hands, Tuesday, November 7, will likely be right around the corner. That is, of course, the date of Election Day this year. I can tell you with as much certainty as I can muster that I will make my way to the polls that day, and cast my vote in the many races for office and other decisions that will be before me. As in past years, I will probably bring one or both of my children along to "help" me (much to the delight of the precinct workers, no doubt) exercise this solemn civic duty. Hopefully, they

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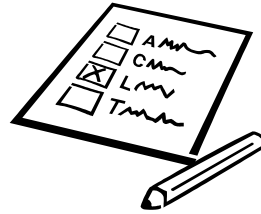
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will, by coming along with me, begin to absorb the lesson that voting is important.

This probably doesn't seem, to most of you anyway, all that remarkable a point to make. After all, you probably vote too. But, given the shockingly high number of potential voters that choose not to go vote, especially in non-presidential election years, I guess it is a point worth making. It is our responsibility, our duty as Americans, to make the time on Tuesday, the 7th, to go to the polls. I would even go so far as to say that we have a moral, or even a religious obligation to vote. Now, that last claim could probably get me in trouble with any number of people, but I make it anyway. I have heard that Christians ought to give their sole allegiance to the Kingdom of God, and not sully themselves with the things of the world—including elections. I have heard that politics should not be influenced by religious faith at all. Maybe you've heard some version or another of these things, too.



Nevertheless, I say to you that we are duty-bound, not just as Americans but also as Christians, to vote for the leaders who will govern and serve us over the coming terms. How do I justify saying so? By turning to Scripture, and especially to the commands of our King, Jesus himself. You've probably heard Jesus' command, "Render...to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God." This alone ought to convince us that our participation in the governing process is necessary. For, since we have no Caesar, no single, absolute ruler, but instead live in a society where sovereignty belongs to us, the

people, collectively, we are but giving Caesar what is his when we exercise our sovereignty by voting. Jesus clearly expected his followers to live up to the obligations and duties of their citizenship on earth as well as the obligations and duties of citizens of heaven. In a sense, we all bear dual citizenship, so long as our earthly lives last.

The Apostle Paul also made clear that God's intention was for his people to be law-abiding citizens, making a positive contribution to the societies where they live. In Romans 13, verse 1, he wrote, "Let every person be subject to the governing authorities; for there is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been instituted by God." In other words, Paul saw civil authority as a gift from God, given to protect and nurture people and allow them to live and thrive. This view of government was echoed by many down through the ages, including our own theological great-grandfather, John Calvin.

But in a republic such as ours, civil authority can only be exercised rightly and fairly, as intended by God, when those who wield it are subject to the will of the people, expressed in the voting booth. We cannot claim to be abiding by the command of Christ, or living according to the teaching of Paul, if we do not conscientiously study the issues and candidates, then go out and vote. It is as simple as that.

I am not going to tell you for whom I think you should vote (at least, not in

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this column. I'd be happy to discuss it in person, though!). That's a matter of each individual voter's convictions and ideas. But the act of voting itself, of participating in the exercise of popular sovereignty in this peculiarly American way that we have, is more than a matter of individual choice. It is, not to be overly dramatic, a matter of obedience to God.

So get out and vote! Maybe you'll see me out there on November 7.



**CALLING
ALL
SEWERS
AND CUTTERS!**

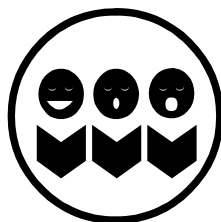
The Quilters are expanding their outreach by making Prayer Quilts. In order to do this; however, they are going to need more helpers, people willing to cut or sew fabric squares. Quilting abilities are not necessary.

If you're ready to help or have any questions, please call Carol Sterup at 293-6603.

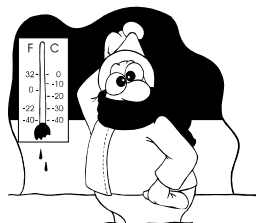
For more about Prayer Quilts, please see upcoming Community Calls.

**MEN'S CHRISTMAS
CHORUS!**

The men's choir will perform in the CPC Christmas cantata, which will be held on Sunday, December 10th. Come share your hidden talents! Stay tuned for practice times.

**WOW!**

Will all the congregation give yourselves a pat on the back! Our church was able to fill 3 laundry baskets for PATH, for kids leaving foster care when they turn 18! And those baskets were overflowing with dishes, glasses, toasters, can openers, towels, cleaning supplies, etc! PATH was so happy to get them. Bobbi, the director of PATH, said most groups that undertake this project only fill 1 basket. The first basket will be going out in November to a boy who turns 18. It was a fun fulfilling project for our church with great response!



**NOVEMBER MISSION:
THERMAL
UNDERWEAR**

Brrr, it has been chilly this last month! Are you ready for the cold? Well, while you are out buying those warmer accessories for your family, why not pick up an extra set of mittens, caps, thermal underwear, and socks for our November mission. We are collecting once again for New Life Center for the men.

Normally we collect these items closer to Christmas. We are hoping that by moving this collection a month ahead of our normally scheduled time that we can better fill their needs.

The thermal underwear sizes needed range from 34- 38 waist, and a few larger sizes are fine.

Can we do it? Can we make the tote overflow? Ready - set - go! Let's do it!



CLERK'S CORNER

The Session met on Wednesday, October 18. Cheryl Montgomery, treasurer, and Sandra Keller, bookkeeper, attended the meeting. Cheryl thanked the Session for all the support the Montgomery family received during the illness and death of Todd Montgomery. She and Sandra presented the financial report and explained that they are working to make it easier to understand.

The POD gave a report, information which will be in their report in this newsletter. Andrew Thostenson requested that the Session express its gratitude to Kevin Galt for all the work he has done and is doing on the POD project. Kevin is doing all the wiring for the internet, video, sound systems, and the digital telephone service as well as financing it. He is also working to install a new keying system which will use cards such as hotels use for opening doors.

Approximately \$31,000 from the Dain Rauscher investment fund from an anonymous donor has been added to the POD fund at the request of the donor.

The two new parking spaces and the turn-around in the West Parking Lot will be graveled this fall and completed next spring. This is not part of POD. A total of between \$600 & \$700 has been spent so far preparing the West Parking Lot to add two new parking spaces and a turn-around per the requirements of the city.

Carrie Leopold and the Handbell Choir were given permission to go to Gimley, Manitoba, Canada to help a Lutheran Church with their handbell and youth programs. Carrie, Bonnie and Chuck Thompson, plus another driver will be transporting the choir and equipment. They and the handbell choir members

are financing the trip.

The youth group was given permission to sell calendars and cards.

The Quilters were given permission to sell chances on a quilt with the proceeds to be used for quilting supplies. The drawing for the quilt will be December 17 during coffee hour. Approval was given to the Quilters to begin a Prayer Quilt project. This will be explained in the upcoming months.

A request to hold a bridal shower for Brian Matzke and Angie Korvela on November 11 was approved.

Lowell Wiese, for the Personnel Committee, reported that at the last Presbytery meeting it was approved that salaries for pastors would be set at certain levels. For a pastor with the education and experience that Pastor Stith has, we should be paying him \$45,000 per year. Lowell Wiese reported that he told Chuck Traylor, Executive Presbyter, that we would not be able to raise Pastor Stith's remuneration to that level in one year. The Session approved recommending to the congregation that Pastor Stith's salary be raised by \$2,800 this year and by approximately \$2,900 next year to bring his salary in line with the Presbytery vote.

Christmas Service dates and times were approved. They are: the Christmas eve service at 5:00 p.m. [Editor's note: due to conflicts with the Salvation Army dinner, this is likely to be rescheduled for 6:00 p.m.]; a Christmas day service at 10:00 a.m. with Communion; the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 p.m. with a potluck meal to follow. Jenna Barenthsen and Bonnie Thompson will coordinate the children's Christmas program to be held on December 17th in the afternoon.

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Time to be set later.

The Session also approved reviewing the mission statement of the church to be sure that it reflects the current mission of the church. It will then be included in the bulletin each Sunday.

The Annual Report to the People Banquet of the Youth for Christ program will be on November 2nd, and Dave Ruhnke has free tickets for those who would like to attend. Youth for Christ is the mission project for October. New Life Center will be the mission project for November, and the Christmas Giving Tree will be the mission for December.

The Session approved giving \$500 to the Bdecan Church as our contribution to the Presbytery project to help them.

The Service and Fellowship Committee met recently and started plans for the Everett Paulsen Welcome Center to be in the new narthex. Goodie Paulsen has given memorial money to be used for this purpose as Everett was very active in greeting newcomers to the church on Sundays.

Delores Horn, Clerk

**TOO COLD TO GO OUT.....
LET'S READ**

A new series of books by Beverly Lewis has been added to the church library. The Shunning, The Confession, and The Reckoning tell us a story about a young Amish girl who discovers a secret on the eve of her marriage that changes her life forever and affects many others in the Amish community. Follow Katie Lapp as she struggles to understand where God is leading her. It's a powerful look into a life of faith, search for truth, and promise of peace. Better plan to read all three in a short time as they are hard to set down!



**EVERETT PAULSEN
WELCOME CENTER**

The Service and Fellowship Committee will be setting up the Everett Paulsen Welcome Center in the new narthex. This project will be financed with contributions given in memory of Everett Paulsen. Everett was very active in welcoming visitors to our church.

A group of church members will be assembled to serve as a Welcome Team to greet visitors to our church and to acquaint them with the church and the programs provided here. This is a very important mission because we feel that we will be having many more visitors once our POD project is complete. Research has shown that visitors greeted by lay people and contacted again the same day with a personal visit and a gift of baked goods are much more apt to become members than if the pastor were to greet them.

The Committee will be contacting church members to join the Welcome Team.. If you feel that this is something that you are called to do, please contact Lee Dobrinz, chair of the Service and Fellowship Committee.

**SING WITH
THE CHRISTMAS
CHOIR!**

It's that time of the year again! The choir is busy preparing for the Christmas cantata. Singers please join us on Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m.

The cantata will be performed on Sunday, December 10th at 4:00 pm. We will be singing a special selection of Handbells, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, and Jr. Choir will also be playing.





NOVEMBER HIGH SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN

November is always that time of year where life gets a little colder, and we stay just as busy. Just having finished college a few months ago, I have some idea what this can be like. Not to mention, this is Fargo, where it doesn't just get cold out, but there are days it is safer to stay indoors. Still, I hope that the Youth Group is just getting warmed up, and even amongst the busyness and the cold, the Soul Train will have enough coal to keep us moving and keep us warm.

In the past two months the youth and I have gotten to know one another pretty well, and we are both beginning to get a better idea of what November will look like. During November, I would like to see the group grow beyond just the Presbyterian kids to the West Fargo community. To do this, we may be planning events with Red River Church's youth. I have gotten to know their youth pastor, Nick, and we both expressed a desire of getting together.

We hope to start broadening our horizons beyond Fargo in a trip to Alexandria for a Skillet concert. There we will see both Skillet and Ron Hutchcraft, a motivational speaker for today's youth. The event will take place on November 11th, and as of right now we will need volunteers to drive to the event. I am unsure how many kids will be going, but there seems to be a good amount of interest. I should have a better idea of how many are coming soon. The concert will cost ten dollars, and then I will ask each of the kids to bring five dollars for gas money. The kids may also want

to bring extra cash for merchandise from the concert and a snack for the way back to Fargo. We will probably leave the church around 5 p.m., so we can have enough time to find the Lake Geneva Event Center and seats.

On November 19th, the middle school and high school groups are planning to have a self defense seminar put on by a close friend of Becky DeJong. <See Self Defense article on page 6> Anyone and everyone, not just the youth, is invited to this event, and as the event gets closer I will be posting a potluck sign up for a dinner that will go along with this event. We are very excited about this event and hope to make it a fun and educational time.

Below you will see a tentative schedule that goes through December. The schedule will be flexible to the kids needs as well as their interests. I hope to incorporate more of what the high school kids are interested in to make them enthusiastic about what the group is doing. Hopefully, this will be helpful for the youth group's consistent numbers, and a reason for the kids to invite friends from outside of CPC.

I am very much looking forward to the months to come as well as getting to know the high school students and their families. Thank you all for your warm welcome you have given both my wife and I as we have been attending your church. We have very much enjoyed the experience and the atmosphere at CPC.

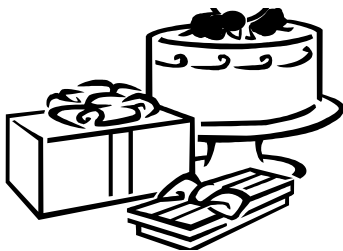
God bless and empower all of you as you walk Christ's way.

Curtis Brophy

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
 11-8 Adam Montgomery
 Joy Taffe
 11-9 Jackie Petik
 11-10 Jim Martin
 Susan McIntyre
 Vicki Peihl
 11-12 Olivia Clennon
 11-13 Carrie Leopold
 11-14 Seth Whitcomb
 11-15 Tina Bastle
 Heidi Babb
 Breanna Olson
 11-17 Mary DeJong
 11-18 Brianne Montgomery
 11-19 Kayla Videen
 11-20 Jennifer Jaszkwiaak
 Chuck Traylor
 11-21 Brent Montgomery
 11-22 Jill Swart
 11-24 Harriet Diede
 Bob Gross
 Jean Sheeley
 11-25 Erika Matzke
 11-28 Kyle Kassman



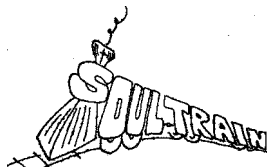
ANNIVERSARIES

- 11-13-94 – Troy and Leann Montgomery
 11-29-74 – Jon and Vicky Whitcomb



2006-2007 SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

- Nov. 12 Memorization Sunday
 Nov. 26 Thanksgiving
 Sunday School activities
 Dec. 24 Christmas-
 No Sunday School
 Dec. 31 New Year's Eve-
 No Sunday School
 Jan. 28 Memorization Sunday
 Mar. 4 Memorization Sunday
 April 8 Easter-No Sunday School
 May 13 Memorization Sunday
 May 20 Last Day of Sunday School



SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULES

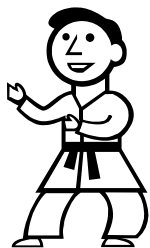
MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Nov. 5 6:30-8:30 Bookmarks
 Nov. 12 6:30-8:30 Outrageous Acts
 Nov. 19 5:30-8:30 Self-defense
 Nov. 26 Thanksgiving – no meeting
 Dec. 3 6:30-8:30 presents for shut-
 ins
 Dec. 10 No meeting because of no
 school on Monday
 Dec. 17 Progressive Dinner – details
 TBA

***Have a Merry Christmas and a
 Happy New Year!!! Our next meeting
 will be on Sunday, January 21st.***

HIGH SCHOOL

- Nov. 4/5 TBA—Tentatively: Bigger
 or Better/Movie Night
 11 TBA—Skillet Concert in
 Alexandria
 19 5:30-8:30—Self-defense
 class
 26 Thanksgiving—No Meeting
 Dec. 3 TBA
 10 No meeting, no school on
 Monday
 17 Progressive Dinner – details
 TBA



SELF-DEFENSE SEMINAR

HI-yah, Karate chop!!! OK, I don't know anything about self-defense but Scott Stenshoel does. On Nov. 19th, from 5:30-8:30 the youth group will be learning about self-defense.

Scott will give a presentation about prevention awareness, we will break for dinner and then he will show us self-defense moves and tactics.

Important - this is a Soul Train event but the information that will be provided is beneficial to all of us. As a parent and a woman I am very interested to hear what advice he has to give. If you would like to come, please sign up in the narthex. Don't forget to sign up for the potluck for a dinner that will go along with this event.

SECRET ANGELS

Isn't it nice when someone is looking out for you? Isn't it nice when someone makes you smile when you weren't expecting it? Isn't it nice to be reminded that you have people that care for you?



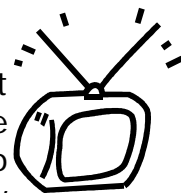
Isn't it nice to make someone smile and remind them that they are special?

The newly formed, "Brilliant, Ravishing, Audacious Society" will be organizing secret angels to make people smile and feel loved throughout the month of December. If you would like to be a part of this experience then give your name to Becky DeJong (281-8122) or Carol Sterup (293-6603) by Sunday, November 12. We will end our secret angel event with a gathering during the first week of January (time and place TBA).

All angels are welcome!!!

MORE SHOWS TO SEE

Pop some popcorn and get out that blanket - we have more additions to our video library. Here are some new titles for you to enjoy. There are movies for all ages so feel free to munch and watch!!



Little Dogs on the Prairie:

A Lotta Love and a Little Off the Top
Lyn', Cheatin' and a Hot Lollipop
Pride, Prejudice and Fudge

VeggieTales:

Esther, the Girl Who Became Queen
King George and the Ducky
Larry-Boy and the Rumor Weed
Larry-Boy - the Cartoon Adventures
Lyle, the Kindly Viking
Silly Sing-Along 2
The Toy the Saved Christmas
The Ultimate Silly Song Countdown
A Very Silly Sing-Along!
Where's God When I'm Scared

Air Bud - World Pup

Fabulous Cartoon Funnies - 6 Full Hours

Fabulous Cartoon Funnies - Volume 2

Jeremy's Egg

Little Shepherd

Miracle on 34th Street

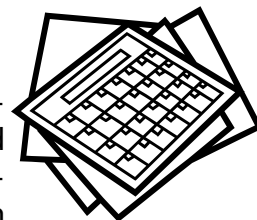
The Revolutionary - Epic Version

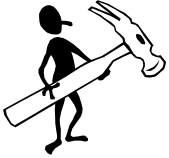
The Santa Clause

White Fang

CALENDARS FOR SALE!

These calendars are extremely beautiful and inspiring. A sample calendar will be hanging in the Narthex. Soul Train will be pre-selling calendars on November 5 and 12. Each calendar will cost \$6.00. These make wonderful Christmas presents for friends and family.





PROJECT OPEN DOOR UPDATE

Progress on POD continues in several areas as finishing schemes are becoming the primary focus.

The Exterior

The east sidewalk was completed on the 19th of October. If the weather holds, asphalt in the east parking lot will be completed the week this newsletter goes to press (October 22 through 28th). Siding and flashing should be completed this week as well. The big problem we face now is the cold. We need temperatures in the upper 40's to low 50's to cure the paint properly, if the weather does not cooperate, this may have to be put off until spring. If this happens we can rest easy as the siding is made up of synthetic material that will not be adversely impacted by winter weather, but we will have to endure looking at dull gray walls for several months. Pray for good weather!

At the time of this writing, four items will definitely be put off until spring. First, the temporary sidewalk cannot be pulled until we can have access to the new entry way. This will not be case until December, so we will have to wait. Second, the demolition and sealing of the kitchen door and stairway has to be delayed until new routes are open. So this will need to wait until spring. Third, the asphalt for the addition on the west parking lot has been put off until spring when more paving company bids will be available. (Thus, gravel was hauled in and packed for a temporary parking pad by Larry Peihl on the 21st of October.) Finally, the final landscaping and seeding will not be done until spring.

The Interior

The progress and activity is much more

intense. Heating has been restored to all portions of our existing structure. A temporary electric furnace is heating the new addition even though the gas system is available. (This system will not be turned on until most of the dust and mess of construction is complete so it will not contaminate and clog the new ducts.) Insulation is complete and sheet rock is up on about 70% of the walls.

A new doorway will be cut and a wood door installed in the sanctuary the week of October 23rd. Assembly of the elevator will begin the first week of November (The elevator is on site in our east parking lot.). Rough electrical and plumbing work has been completed with fixtures to be put in place once the interior walls and ceiling are in place.

Kevin Galt has been working, in cooperation with the electricians, to wire the classrooms, offices, sanctuary, narthex, and fellowship hall with audio, video, digital telephone, and network connections. He is also working on a key-less entry system for the new front door. The scope of this undertaking is spectacular, and the results will place us in excellent shape technology wise for many years to come.

Financially, we continue to get funds in from pledges and the Presbyterian Women are working mightily on various fundraisers so we are in good shape to date. We will take our next draw against our loan around the 10th of November and our final draw around the 10th of December. As for the loan expense, we budgeted for \$11,600 in 2006, but it looks like we will spend less than half of that. Cost overruns have been manageable thus far though we discovered an old sidewalk buried under our east parking lot that will require more asphalt work. Plus other little things creep in

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like new insulation needs here, fire suppression there, etc., etc.

As we go forward, we need to continue to ask God for fine weather in order to complete our most important outdoor tasks. We need to ask God for a safe and efficient work environment for our contractors. We need to be in prayer for the members of the church who are laboring so hard overseeing the project. (So far, God has heard our prayers and several additional members have stepped forward to shoulder the burdens of the project. This has been a joy to see.) We need to ask God to continue to touch the hearts of our members and friends to give generously to POD. Finally, we need to ask God for wisdom on how to best use this new space. For so long we have just talked about how nice it will be, but now we need to have serious conversations about how we will actually use our facility.

Be in prayer about all these matters and take refuge in the sure knowledge that He will lend us his wisdom if we humbly ask.

NOTE FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

What are church trustees?

The dictionary definition of a trustee is a board of persons appointed to manage the affairs of an organization or a person to whom another's property is entrusted. Just as each of us cares for our home, apartment, car, or personal property, God has entrusted members of our church family to care for the building, grounds, and personal property of our church.

Each of us has God given gifts either naturally or acquired for the various duties of the church. We are all called to serve the church in some way by using

those talents. Christ Jesus' ministry is the basis and example for all within our church family when he came "not to be served but to serve." Matthew 20:28.

What are the duties of trustees?

Examples of the duties of trustee might be checking on the trees after a wind storm, noticing a leaky faucet and seeing that it gets fixed, getting bids to have the air conditioner replaced, making sure there are enough tables and chairs for church events.

What commitment is asked of trustees?

Our church board of trustees meets monthly and has six members. Each member is asked to serve for a three year term.

Titus chapter 3 describes doing what is good. It is good to take care of the gifts God has given us - spiritual gifts, physical gifts, and the gift of our church family. Verse eight says that in doing so "These things are excellent and profitable for everyone."

If you feel you are called to serve as a trustee, know of someone you would like to recommend, or would like further information, please contact a nominating committee member.

Lynn Hummel
Carol Sterup

Melissa Barenthsen
Marlys Martin

PRESBYTERY IS COMING!

Our presbytery, The Presbytery of the Northern Plains, will be meeting at our church on Friday and Saturday, January 26 and 27, 2007. What does that mean for Community Presbyterian Church? Watch and find out in future issues of the Community Call.

