

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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CPC CHRISTMAS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Mark your calendars now!
On Sunday, December 12th at 3:30 p.m., Community Presbyterian Church will present its first annual Christmas Music Festival. This "Bigger-than-a-cantata" program will feature the adult choir, men's choir, bell choir, and Rising Spirit motion choir to be followed by a Christmas treat feast (bring your best cookies, candy, etc.).

Please plan to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior with music and fellowship on Sunday, the 12th.

COME SEE THE NEWBORN KING

On December 19th, you are invited to join us for a special worship service prepared by our Sunday School children. They will be presenting The Newborn King, a look at God's gift of salvation as told by Jesus' disciple, Luke.

The service is at 10:00 a.m. with a potluck following the program.



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



This is what happens when you send the pastor to a scholarly conference: he comes back with books, and then you get to hear about them! As we enter the season of Advent, I want to share with you a story found in one of my new books, *Understanding Judaism through History*, by S. Daniel Breslauer (pages 11-12):

A non-Jew wanted to convert to Judaism. This Gentile first approached a rabbi named Shammai, known to be a strict and
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rigorous teacher of Torah [the code of laws and instruction derived from the first five books of the Bible], and demanded to learn the entire tradition *beregel echad* (usually understood as "while standing on one foot," but some scholars suggest that the text is using a pun and means "in one short rule"). Shammai drove the man away with the builder's measuring rod that happened to be in his hand.

The story gives no reason for this reaction, but readers can assume that this teacher took the Gentile's request as a mockery of his tradition. After all, Shammai had dedicated his life to decoding the meaning of the Torah. Even after advanced study he did not know all the intricacies of the text. How could he take seriously a request to summarize the entire teaching in a short pithy statement? The seriousness of Torah required more extended learning and study than the questioner assumed.

The story continues, since the Gentile refused to give up trying to have his question answered. He next approached Hillel the Elder, who was known for his patient and urbane disposition, with the same question. Rather than drive the man away, Hillel gave him a brief response: "That which is hateful to you, do not do to your fellow person. That is the entire Torah, the rest is commentary. Go and *gemar*."

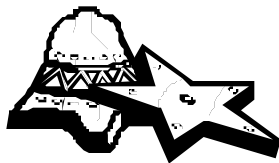
Gemar is an Aramaic word that means either "learn" or, perhaps better in this context, "complete." What rabbi Hillel is saying to his questioner is that all of the practices and principles of God's law as embodied in the Torah really amount to "commentary," to an expression of the

basic principle he states in all facets of life. "You want to know Torah?" Hillel seems to ask. "Then go out and *do*, go out and *complete* the principles of Torah in your own life, and thereby go out and *learn*."

So what does this story about Jewish teachers have to do with us, and with Advent? Good question. You may have already recognized the similarity of Hillel's dictum to the "golden rule" given by Jesus in Matthew 7:12: "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets." Certainly this parallel commends Hillel's teaching to us as a valid exposition of God's law, but the connection to the Advent season is still vague. Indeed, I will admit that I myself am not entirely certain why this story stuck so urgently in my mind when I read it, practically insisting that it be shared with all of you. But here is my best guess.

In Advent, we all are busy, both in real, practical terms and in terms of our inner lives of prayer and contemplation, getting ready for Christmas. There is a temptation to treat the intervening weeks before December 24 and 25 as unimportant in their own right, as time either spent focusing on the coming celebration or simply endured in waiting for the really important stuff. I call this impulse a temptation because I believe it to be wrong, not because Christmas isn't important (it is!), but because every day of our lives should be spent as part of our effort to reflect and respond to God's law, in our behavior towards others and in our own hearts. A day spent *only* in looking ahead, *only* in thinking about what is to come, is a day in which we have fallen short of our calling to complete the instruction of Torah in our lives.

Go and *gemar*.



CANDY AND COOKIE SALE

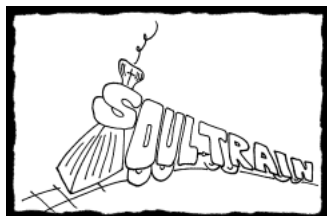
The PW will be holding their Annual Candy and Cookie Sale on December 12 and 19th in the Narthex. Please bring goodies on those days to sell and also be prepared to buy some of the delicious things that are prepared by our members.

OVERFLOWING THANKS

Thanks to everyone who worked to make our annual fall bazaar successful. We made a profit of \$1,559.00. A large part of the money we make goes to the youth of our church for Bible camp scholarships. Other projects we donate to are puppet ministry, Teen Moms, New Life Center, and other ongoing projects at our church.



Thanks for all the donations and help.



SOUL TRAIN ON THE WEB

There's something new on the Community Presbyterian Church's website. There is now a link to what's happening with our youth. That's right. The Soul Train now has its own website.

Take a peek at the activities of our older youth. You can peruse photographs and stories of this year's meetings or check out their meeting times. See all this and more on CPC's website at <http://cpcwf.org>.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS



Your chance has come. The Christian Education Committee still has positions available for Sunday School rotational teachers for the months of January, February, and March. Sign up and you will have the opportunity to teach the same lesson to kindergarten/first graders, second/third graders, and fourth/fifth graders for three different weeks.

Sign up in the narthex now! This opportunity is too great to miss.

OR

CONTACT: Melanie Hansen
Phone: 261-8476



JUNIOR CHOIR MISSION PROJECT

If you would like to donate a toy to the needy, the Junior Choir will be collecting them at their 7 to 9 p.m. practice at the church on December 3rd. These new toys will be delivered to PATH in time for their Children's Christmas party the following week.

Fourth through eighth graders who love to sing are invited to join the Junior Choir at that time. We will be singing, eating, and having a good time as we prepare to sing for the CPC Christmas Music Festival the afternoon of Sunday, December 12th.

SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



Dec. 5 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Class dinner -

??? I wonder what this means???

Dec. 12 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Dinner and make and deliver presents for shut-ins/high-rise

Dec. 19 - 6:00-(around) 9:00 p.m.

Progressive Dinner -

Meet at Stith's house

Dec. 26 - Christmas break - no meeting

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR



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?



GIVING TREE

Do you want to make a child's Christmas better? The Giving Tree will be in the sanctuary soon.

Please take an ornament from the tree and bring it back attached to an unwrapped present. The tree will be up from November 28 from December 12.

Thank you for making a child's Christmas better.

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

12-2	Amber Swart
12-5	Terry Meester
12-6	Kailyn Ohm
12-8	Casey Larson
12-9	Arletta Geiss
	Brandi Vistad
12-10	Brady Bahls
	Richard Pyle
12-11	Madison Kellerman
12-12	Jim Martens
12-13	Brooke Pederson
	Bo Sheeley
12-15	Anneus Meester
12-18	Janine Steele
12-19	Nich Leopold
	Mike Moe
12-21	Gail Sheeley
12-23	Erin Thostenson
12-25	Ray Christopherson
	Todd Montgomery
12-26	Boots Montgomery
12-28	Gary Duggan
12-31	Sophia Dobrinz

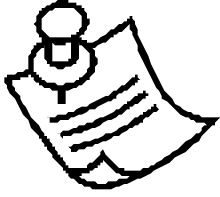
ANNIVERSARIES

12-12-70	- Jack and Dixie Smith
12-16-89	- Richard and Faye Pyle
12-19-86	- Ron and Kathy LaCoe
12-18-82	- Andrew and Gayle

Thostenson

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 16 with January 23 set for a storm date. All Committees and Groups should have their yearly reports in by December 31 to give the Clerk time to get the Report ready to be distributed on January 9th.



FALL CLERK'S CORNER

On October 2nd, the Session held a special meeting at the Fargo Presbyterian Church to discuss ways to live up to our mission statement. Areas deemed most pertinent were: reaching out to unchurched persons and inactive members, ministry to older adults in our community, ministry to persons living in the High Rise and Low Rise Housing Units, and outreach to the growing residential areas south of 13th avenue. A special congregational meeting was set for October 31st to present the project to the congregation to get their input and enlist their participation in the project.

On Wednesday Oct. 20, the Session and Trustees met for their monthly meeting. Committee on Ministry representatives Rev. Kari Jutila and Morris Saxerud attended the meeting to make their Triannual Visit. The purpose of their visit was to facilitate relationships between congregations, ministers, and the presbytery.

Connie Cook was received into membership on Reaffirmation of Faith. A New and Prospective Member Dinner was planned for November 9th. (This had to be canceled and will be rescheduled at a later date). Moderator Stith reported that the wedding for Jackie DeMaris and Wil Petik would be held October 23rd at 3:30 p.m. 118 persons were served communion on October 3rd.

The special meeting of the congregation was held on October 31st following worship with a potluck following. The purpose of the meeting was to act on the decisions made by the Session at their Oct. 2nd special meeting. After considerable discussion about the project and others that the congregation felt impor-

tant, Dixon Moorhead made a motion to approve the program that had been mentioned and for the congregation to give their approval and their active participation in the project. The motion was seconded and approved.

On Wednesday, November 17th, the Session and Trustees met again in their regular meeting. Discussion was held about building better communication between the two groups.

Greg Sterup presented models for a new communion table and a new pulpit. The Session authorized Greg Sterup to design and construct the items. Greg will provide the materials, design and the labor to make the communion table and new pulpit.

Andrew Thostenson was given permission to hold a meeting on December 1st at 7:00 p.m. to determine the interest regarding accessibility issues and to determine if members of the congregation are willing to commit their time, energy, and money to such a project.

Douglas Sharbono and Kristin McDougall were received into membership by letters of transfer. Douglas' daughter Kaylee was also received as a baptized member. Nich Leopold's request to be baptized on December 19, 2004 (his birthday) was approved. He is the son of Derek and Carrie Leopold.

Approval was given for the PW to hold their Annual Candy and Cookie Sale on December 12 and 19th in the narthex.

Miranda Karczeuskie and Eric Schmidt were given approval to hold their wedding in the sanctuary on Sept. 10, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. This is with the usual provisions that Pastor Stith agrees to perform the ceremony and that they complete the marriage counseling process.

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The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 16th with the 23rd as a storm date.

Lee Dobrinz volunteered to write a letter to the people who indicated interest in various projects at the special congregational meeting to indicate that the Session will make further plans at the December Session meeting.

Dixon Moorhead reported that our church will probably not be doing Christmas Dinner at the Salvation Army this year as they plan to be closed that day. The plans to take High Rise residents to the Concordia Christmas Concert are progressing nicely.

An updated copy of the Church Wedding Policies was distributed and will be acted on at the next meeting.

An advertisement will be placed in the Forum announcing our Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. Items will also be placed in the Pioneer and Forum regarding the Christmas Music Festival.

Pastor Stith reported that he will be out of town from Nov. 18 through Nov. 22 on study leave.

117 persons were served communion on November 7. The bazaar proceeds were \$1,550 this year.

Cole W. Chase was baptized on Oct. 3. The funeral for Cecil Bartholomew who died on November 13th was held on Wednesday, Nov. 17 in the church.

**NEW OFFERING BOXES**

The Offering Boxes for 2005 will be in the back of the Sanctuary beginning on Sunday, December 12. Please pick up your boxes promptly.

**NOTE OF APPRECIATION**

The following note was sent November 13th by Presbyterian Clearwater Forest's Hospitality Director in appreciation for a quilt made by CPC's quilters in celebration of Clearwater's fiftieth anniversary to help refurbish camp beds.

Thank you for the beautiful twin size quilt you made for us. It has already been put to good use. It is both beautiful and useful! Most of our beds in both lodges now have a blanket and quilt to keep our guests warm.

It was an exciting venture we took on about a year ago and the response from ladies like you has been great. I am sure that each quilt, we have received, was made with lots of love. We really appreciate you!

Thank you and God Bless!

Denise Kalevik

PRAYER REQUEST

Karl Bischoff, Everett and Goodie Paulson's grandson, is a Lance Corporal in a Marine weapons platoon which just recently has been sent to Kabul, Afghanistan.

Karl is an excellent marksman and loves being in the woods with his dogs and rifle. He is scheduled for two more years of service.

Everett and Goodie would appreciate your prayers for Karl, his platoon, and his family. Karl's mother, Cindi, is Everett and Goodie's daughter.





BIRTHDAY—ANNIVERSARIES UPDATES

If you are new to the church, have recently gotten married, had a baby or some other life-changing experience, we would like to include to you in our birthday and anniversary list.

Please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or give it to Becky DeJong.

Birthday—(year optional)

**Anniversary-
(year NOT optional)**
