

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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DECEMBER PROGRAMS

Once again, in addition to regular worship services, Community Presbyterian Church offers you many special ways to celebrate the Lord's birth throughout the month of December.

The first event is the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 9, at 4:00 p.m. The choir will be performing Gloria!, a handpicked collection of lessons and carols set to honor and tell the story of Jesus' birth. Junior and Senior Choir, Men's Chorus, as well as the Handbell Choir will be featured in this retelling of the Christmas story. Join us for a potluck meal in the fellowship hall afterwards.

Next, you won't want to miss the Sunday School Christmas program, The Birthday Party, to be presented on Sunday, December 16, at 3:00 p.m. Bring your favorite treats to share following the presentation.

Finally, you'll want to join us for the Christmas eve service on Monday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m. and the Christmas service on Tuesday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

PASTOR'S PEN

I write this column from the comfort of my own office, having returned, safe and sound, from a considerable amount of traveling over the past week and a half. First, I spent five days in San Diego (I know, I know—pretty tough to have to go to southern California from North Dakota in late November!) at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature and the American Academy of Religion. This is a professional conference for biblical



(Continued to page 2)

In this issue

	<u>Page</u>
A Birthday Party	5
Afternoon Circle	5
Blair's African News	3
Christmas Quilt	3
Dates to Remember	4
December Calendar	7
Interviews by Soul Train	6
Giving Tree	2
January Deadline	4
Junior Choir	5
Soul Train Schedule	5
Sunday School Schedule	4
Trustee Talk	5
Year-To-Date Report	4

(Continued from page 1)

scholars and other academics with a focus on religion and theology, and it is a highlight of my continuing education every year. I attend sessions on all sorts of topics (some of them fairly arcane), learn about what is happening in the field, check out the latest books, and, not least, catch up with my network of friends and colleagues from all over the country. This year, I particularly enjoyed spending time with some of the people who went through the Princeton PhD program at the same time I did. We no longer spend approximately three fourths of our waking hours together in the library, as we once did, but the bonds that were forged during our shared experience remain strong—in many ways, these guys are family (I'm told that a similar thing happens to people who go through military boot camp together—less different from PhD studies than you might suppose!). It was good simply to see and talk to this "family of choice."

No sooner had I returned from San Diego than we headed off to another exotic location: Rolla, North Dakota! We were at my aunt and uncle's place for Thanksgiving, celebrating the holiday with all the traditional observances: football, turkey, stuffing, potatoes, gravy, pie, complaints about feeling stuffed, pie, board games, more pie, leftover turkey-and-peanut sandwiches (hey, everybody's got their own strange traditions), and just one more piece of pie. It was wonderful to have the chance to be with relatives on such an occasion, and sharing laughs, fellowship, and even chores with my aunt, uncle, and cousin reminded me once more of how precious



a gift are the families into which we are engrafted by birth, marriage, adoption, and the like.

So, after spending time with these families of choice and of birth, you might imagine I'd be a little wistful at returning home and to work. But the fact is, I'm not. You see, I believe that I am surrounded here at Community Presbyterian by another family. My membership in my "family of choice" of Princeton colleagues dates back to 1998. My membership in the extended Stith family dates to 1971. But my membership in the family of God, of which this congregation is a part and expression, dates to before the foundation of the world, when God chose and called each of us to be one of his people. This "family of call" surrounds me every minute of every day, wherever I might be, reminding me of all that our mutual Father has given and done for us. In this time of year when we are constantly reminded to remember our blessings and to be thankful, let us all give thanks for the families of which we are a part: our families of choice, our families of birth, and, above all, our "family of call."

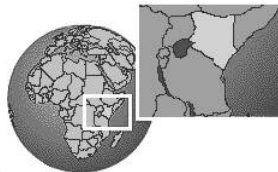
I can't wait for the next reunion!

THE GIVING TREE

It is time again to make a child's eyes sparkle with delight on Christmas morning. The Giving Tree will be up on December 2nd. Grab an ornament from the tree and return with an unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 16th. All gifts will be taken to the Holiday Clearing Bureau on December 18th. Thanks for making Christmas a little merrier!



BLAIR'S AFRICAN NEWS



Dear Family and Friends,

As I gaze out my office window (Don't worry I'm writing this on my lunch break – I'm not slacking on the job.) to the sunny, green, and invariably 70 degree weather, it is difficult to imagine that at home you are gearing up for snow. In fact, what's even harder to imagine is that for right now, I don't miss the snow! Perhaps some time mid-January I will have a craving for a snowball fight, but as this moment, I am content with sunny and seventy.

Today is actually a rare day of sunshine, as Kenya is in the middle of the short rain season. Apparently, this season should have been over and done in October, but climate change has delayed its arrival. One of the more shocking weather-related things I have discovered in my time here is that if it is sunny, it is warm. There are no crisp, cool days. I tried telling one of my co-workers about the phenomenon of sun dogs, how it can be so cold on a bright day that ice crystals actually reflect the sun's light. She looked at me like I was crazy.

Since I last wrote, I have been able to see more of the country, most notably a town called Nakuru about 3 hours away from Nairobi. Nakuru is famous for its nearby lake of the same name, which is home to thousands of flamingos. In fact, there are so many of the birds that from miles and miles away you can see the lake's shore completely covered in pink. Another highlight from the last month was celebrating the Hindu new year celebration of Diwali with delicious food and fireworks down the street.

Work has been extraordinarily busy,

with a two day meeting earlier this week where 20 some General Secretaries from National Council of Churches gathering in Nairobi, largely to discuss the AACC's upcoming General Assembly (which I'm helping plan). I can now say I've had lunch with the General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches. That's neat. Just before the meeting we also launched a lectionary put together by the AACC to dedicate 2008 as a year of prayers for Africa, leading up to the General Assembly in December next year. It was a great event filled with balloons, beautiful music, and the who's who Nairobi's ecumenical organizations.

So in sum: things are going really well here. I've been healthy and happy and feel very blessed by the opportunity to be where I am. Thanks so much for your thoughts, prayers, and support. Have a very Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,
Blair

EDITOR'S NOTE: Blair 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 Moorhead's blog at:

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

CHRISTMAS QUILT CHANCES

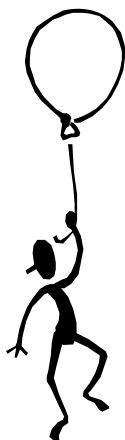


Tickets are now on sale for chances to win a Christmas quilt, carefully stitched by CPC's Quilters. The drawing for this beautiful quilt will be on Sunday, December 16th, following the Sunday School program. This is the one and only annual fundraiser used by the Quilters. All monies collected will go to fund their many, many projects which include wedding quilts, mission quilts, prayer quilts, and military blocks.

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 12-2 Amber Swart
- 12-4 Jaden Steele
- 12-5 Terry Meester
Maggie Traylor
- 12-6 Jacob Faircloth
Jessica Nelson
Kailyn Ohm
- 12-7 Alexander Green
- 12-8 Casey Larson
- 12-9 Brandi Vistad
- 12-10 Brady Bahls
Richard Pyle
- 12-11 Madison Kellerman
- 12-13 Brooke Pederson
Bo Sheeley
- 12-15 Anneus Meester
- 12-18 Janine Steele
- 12-19 Nich Leopold
- 12-21 Gail Sheeley
- 12-23 Erin Thostenson
- 12-25 Ray Christopherson
- 12-26 Boots Montgomery
- 12-28 Gary Duggan
Chad Nelson
- 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
- 12-27-80 - Chuck and Sarah Traylor

2007-2008 SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE



- Dec. 23 Adult & H.S. S. School only
- Dec. 30 Christmas/New Year's Vacation-No Sunday School
- Mar. 23 Easter-No Sunday School
- May 18 Last Day of Sunday School Senior Recognition

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORT



Budgeted 2007 giving:
\$141,430.00 / 52 weeks at
\$2719.80/week

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>BUDGETED GIVING TO DATE</u>	<u>ACTUAL GIVING TO DATE</u>
11/27/07	\$127,831.00	\$112,501.00

As of November 27, the year to date actual giving to CPC's general fund is at \$112,501 compared to the \$127,831 budgeted for the same time period. Our note is remaining at \$15,000.

These figures do not include the \$20,000 mortgage payment budget which is being funded from the building fund money market.

We knew our expenses for 2007 would be greater than 2006 based on the new addition. As stated in the pledge letter, however, many budgeted expenses did not occur, or were paid by Project Open Door or fund raising efforts.

This makes it possible near the end of the year to review expenses and forecast for the remainder of the year. The budgeted giving above reflects this revision. Therefore, to end the year with a note that is paid down while covering all our 2007 expenses, \$30,000 will be needed by the end of the year.

PLEASE NOTE:
January Community Call's deadline will be Sunday, January 6, 2008.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE

Dec. 2- 6:30 - dinner and presents for shut-ins/Giving Tree

Dec. 9- no school Monday - no meeting

Dec. 16-Progressive Dinner - details TBA

MS Soul Train is a hungry crew!!! We are looking for people that are interested in soothing our appetites. Please let Becky (281-8122) or Lisa (282-5308) know if you can help. Thank you very much.

JUNIOR CHOIR CHRISTMAS PARTY



Calling all Junior Choir members! On Saturday, December 8th, at 10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. bring your voice, smile, two dozen favorite Christmas treats for a cookie exchange, and a generic \$5 gift for our annual gift swap. Lunch will be provided.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM: IT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY!

The Christmas program, The Birthday Party, will be presented by the children's Sunday School on Sunday, December 16th, at 3:00 p.m., followed by shared cookies and coffee.

The practice schedule for all Sunday School children is as follows:

Sat., Dec. 8 from 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 15 from 12:30-2:00 p.m.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE

Afternoon Circle will meet December 13, 12:30 p.m. at TNT Cafe. Please bring one and a half dozen cookies to make treats for shut-ins and for the New Life Center.

We will be studying lesson seven and, Ann Chale will be the leader. All the ladies of the church are welcome.

HS SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE

Dec 2 Coffee Shop 6:30 p.m.

Dec 9 Coffee Shop 6:30 p.m.

Dec 16 Progressive Dinner-
details TBA

See you in January, Curt

NOVEMBER TRUSTEE TALK

November 14--Ray Christopherson, Bob Olson, and Andrew Thostenson were in attendance. Bob Galt, Derrick Leopold, and Scott Meyer were absent.

The trustees reviewed the remodeling and cleaning progress in the sanctuary. Bob and Debbie Wenzloff completed the shampooing of the carpets on October 30th. Andrew indicated that he would retrofit the bulbs over the pulpit area with florescent flood lights. (At the time of this writing this has been completed.) The trustees developed a plan to cover for Bob and Debbie Wenzloff while they are on vacation November 9 through 25. Andrew reported that he had communicated the trustees' budget ideas for 2008 to the Stewardship Committee.

The trustees reviewed the on-going situation regarding the lighting in the sanctuary. Essentially, the radio controlled light switch which is installed near the new entry door is causing bulbs to pre-maturely expire. Prosper Electric was asked by Scott to change the switch from the globes to the canister light above the organ. (At the time of this writing, this has been completed.)

The trustees considered whether or not to purchase a used or new electric start snow blower. It was decided that this would be tabled until we could determine if our existing snow blower could be retrofitted with an electric start kit. Andrew will follow up on this.

The next meeting of the trustees will be December 12th at 7:00 p.m.



**INTERVIEWS
BY MS SOUL TRAIN:
SUE LEYENDECKER**

Personal Information

Birth date - September 6
 Birth place - Bemidji, MN
 High school - graduated from
 Walker, MN
 Occupation-organist, editor, writer
 Children - Joyce (14)
 Joined Community Presbyterian
 Church - 2005

Favorites

Restaurant - prefers the home of a
 family member and enjoys
 whatever comes out of the
 garden
 Music - oldies

Would You Rather

How well do you know Sue? Try to
 guess which answer she chose for
 each of the following questions. Her an-
 swers will be at the end of the interview.

- ... know it all or have it all?
- ...give bad advice or take it?
- ...eat a bar of soap or drink a bottle of
 dishwashing liquid?
- ...have an ugly, loyal dog or a prize-
 winning, snobby cat?
- ...have the ability to see ten years into
 your own future or one year into the fu-
 ture of the world?

Sue's greatest present ever was her
 parents, because they are irreplaceable.
 She thinks they are perfect and would
 never want to be more grateful for any-
 thing else. She enjoys word puzzles and
 likes words; what they mean and their
 functions. When she was in college, she
 once had to try Dutch licorice. She did-
 n't enjoy it. She said it tasted salty in-
 stead of sweet.

She is a neat person, not a messy one.
 When there are messes around her it
 makes her not think clearly. She does-
 n't like germs, and since she is neat she
 almost never gets sick. People think
 she's a better person because she has a
 clean house and they feel welcome
 when they go to her house. Her biggest
 pet peeve is when people don't listen.
 She doesn't like it when she is talking,
 and they are only thinking about what to
 say next.

Sue didn't learn how to use her first
 computer until a year ago. It was
 HUGE. You had to dial a phone number
 and then put it in a slot. She was afraid
 to use it at school.

When she was younger she wanted to
 be a mother, a teacher, or something to
 do with music. Today she is a mother
 and is involved with music. It seems
 like her wishes have come true.

Sue is a very unique and interesting
 person. You should take the time to sit
 down and get to know her like I have.

Interviewed By:

Amber Swart
 7th grade
 April 22, 2007

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**"Would You Rather" answers:**

(Would You Rather answers: know it all,  
 take it, drink, ugly-loyal dog, ten years  
 into own future)