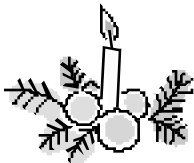


COMMUNITY CALL

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

DECEMBER PROGRAMS



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

Sunday, December 14, will mark a day of Christmas celebration starting with the Christmas Cantata during worship. The choir will be performing 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.

Immediately after the potluck, you won't want to miss the Sunday School Christmas program, The Christmas Chronicles, to be presented around 12:45.

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

These along with opportunities to ring bells and later to serve Christmas dinner for Salvation Army and to share gifts under the Giving Tree are all ways that we can celebrate Christ's birth in community.

PASTOR'S PEN



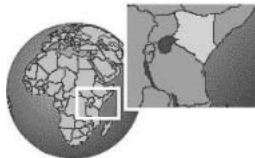
This "Pastor's Pen" is being written in haste, as I try to finish getting ready to head out of town for my annual trip to the Society of Biblical Literature's annual meeting, and I'm finding that the hustle and bustle of preparations that I'm caught up in has left me without sufficient time or ideas for the usual full-length column. And so I leave you with this simple wish, as we head into the holiday season:

May the Lord God bless you richly with joy, good cheer, and a clear sense of his abiding presence as you prepare for and celebrate the birth of his Son, Jesus. And may the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, be upon you, now and forever, nourished and renewed by the Holy Spirit. Merry Christmas.

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BLAIR'S AFRICAN NEWS



Dear Family and Friends,

This is the last update I will send from Kenya. Less than one month after this newsletter hits mailboxes, I will be back in the states until the next time it seems like a good idea to switch hemispheres.

It seems strange to be wrapping up newsletter contributions when I in no way feel ready to wrap up in Nairobi. The main reason for the reluctance to let go is that my employer doesn't really think I should be letting go. As I indicated last month, we are still full steam ahead for the 9th General Assembly of the AACC. I have written on and off for a year about this conference, and I would like to actually explain what the conference will be. It is a gathering of churches and civil society organisations from across the continent with some international ecumenical partners thrown in the mix. We are expecting about 1,000 folks to join us in Mozambique for a week of praise, AACC official business (elections, etc.), dialogue-based workshops, and presentations on everything from children in Africa to interfaith relations on the continent.

The theme of the conference is "Africa, Step forth in Faith!" based on Jesus' call to Lazarus to come forth from the tomb in John 11:43. The 9 sub-themes to be discussed are:

- Entrenching Human Rights in Africa
- From Political Liberation to Economic Liberation
- Spirituality and Environmental Conservation
- Global Pan African Solidarity
- The Church Responding to HIV, Malaria and Other Diseases
- Women as Agents of Peace, Recon-

ciliation and Development

- Youth Responding to Challenges for the Renewal of Africa
- The Challenge for Moral Regeneration in the Continent
- The Challenge of Urban Mission

While I respond to e-mails and put the nitty gritty details together for the conference, I also get to soak up the ideas which will be presented in each one of these themes. When not planning who goes on what flight, I also get to learn about the history of the African Union and how international travel restrictions affect those living with HIV. This is a perfect metaphor for the year. Very shortly after I came to Kenya it became clear that I would not be feeling without a purpose, but I would be working for an office with a very clear goal of bringing the continent together. While I came to Kenya to try on a new culture for a while, I got much more than I could have imagined.

I wanted to see Christianity in a different light (a light that comes from a sun DIRECTLY overhead on the equator), and I was allowed the opportunity. But furthermore, I got to be a little piece in a big Christian community – one that crosses national and continental boundaries. I won't pretend that I can sum up the last year and in one page, but I can indeed say that I am blessed. Not only do I appreciate the blessings abundant in Kenya (from unending kindness to fresh veggies), I have also had time to realize how blessed I am to have the family and friends that support me even from 9 time zones away. I thank you for sharing in this journey and for your continuing prayers.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more news about Blair's work in Africa, Go to her blog at:

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



CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on Wednesday, November 19, 2008, in the conference room.

The financial report and minutes of the October meeting were approved. The annual meeting was set for January 25, 2009 as prescribed in the revised church constitution. February 1 was set as the storm date.

Communion dates for 2009 are as follows: January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, April 9-Maundy Thursday, May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6, and December 25.

The youth group was given permission to hold the Annual Christmas Candy and Cookie Sale on December 7 and 14 in the narthex. An LCD projector and screen were purchased with designated funds.

There will be a blood drive at the church on May 5th, 2009. Brianne Montgomery has offered to serve as coordinator for the drive. Please help her out by signing up to give blood.

The Children's Christmas Program will be at 12:30 on December 14th right after a Christmas Potluck. The Christmas Cantata will be held during worship on December 14th.

The Nominating Committee is working to get nominations for elders, deacons, and trustees to replace those going off these boards. If you are interested in knowing more about what these entail or would like to be considered for a position, please contact Carolyn Meester.

The Stewardship Committee is working on the budget for 2009 and expects that it will be slightly more than this year's budget.

Vicky Whitcomb reminded everyone that the mission for November is gifts for

men that the New Life Center serves. There is a poster in the narthex about this and a bin to put gifts in. She also stated that several people attended the Movie Night on November 8th.

Session approved a proposed procedure for the pastor to request a sabbatical leave. Details will be available in the annual report.

Vicky Riedinger reported that the Personnel Committee has developed an ethics/sexual misconduct packet to be reviewed by each new employee of the church. The new youth director has completed his review.

Larry Peihl reported that the trustees have installed white boards in the classrooms to replace the old blackboards that used chalk. They will be placing one in the conference room soon.

Pastor Stith stated that he will be requesting study leave early in the new year.

The clerk reported that on November 2 118 persons were served communion.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session

2008-2009 SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE



- Dec. 3 - Program practice for four lead characters at 6:00 p.m.
- Dec. 6 (Saturday) program rehearsal for everybody at 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 7 - kings practice at 11:15 a.m.
- Dec. 13 (Saturday) program rehearsal for everybody at 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 14 (Sunday) final rehearsal during Sunday School
- Dec. 21 Christmas Vacation-
No Sunday School
- Dec. 28 Christmas Vacation-
No Sunday School
- Jan. 4 Christmas Vacation-
No Sunday School

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

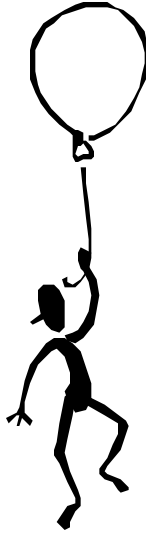
- 12-2 Amber Swart
- 12-4 Jaden Steele
- 12-5 Terry Meester
Maggie Traylor
- 12-6 Jacob Faircloth
Jessica Nelson
Kailyn Ohm
- 12-7 Alexander Green
- 12-8 Casey Larson
- 12-9 Brandi Vistad
- 12-10 Brady Bahls
Richard Pyle
- 12-11 Madison Kellerman
- 12-13 Brooke Pederson
Bo Sheeley
- 12-15 Anneus Meester
- 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
- 12-18-82 – Andrew and Gayle
Thostenson
- 12-19-86 – Ron and Kathy LaCoe
- 12-27-80 - Chuck and Sarah Traylor

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 November 30th. Grab an ornament from the tree and return it with an unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 14th. All gifts will be taken to the Holiday Clearing Bureau. Thanks for making Christmas a little merrier!



JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 1-1 Jessie LaCoe
- 1-4 Wil Petik
- 1-5 Evan Thostenson
- 1-6 Craig Pederson
- 1-8 Ross Montgomery
- 1-10 Elizabeth Meyer
- 1-11 Kristina Sterup
Nan Wiese
- 1-12 Gabriel Gross
Isaac Leopold
- 1-12 Richard Whitcomb
- 1-15 Ronda Green
- 1-16 Lora Wehrung
- 1-18 Grace Moorhead
- 1-19 Violet Galt
Donna Gertz
Pamela Kaye Moore
- 1-21 Jenna Olson
- 1-22 Derek Leopold
- 1-23 Austin Montgomery
- 1-24 Nancy Stedman
- 1-26 Gail Matzke
- 1-28 Brenda Bjorklund
Brian Matzke
- 1-29 LaVeme Dahl
- 1-30 Julie Faircloth
Pat Langfitt
Matthew Pyle
- 1-31 Cooper Pederson

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1-9-82 – Brent and Boots Montgomery
- 1-16-81 - Martin and LaVerne Dahl
- 1-19-57 – Edwin and Harriet Diede

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH
DIRECTOR NEEDED**

We have the curriculum; we have regularly attending students, and we even have the teachers-ready to sign up. What we don't have is a children's church director. Please contact Toni Stith today so that this valuable program can continue.





SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Once again Community Presbyterian Church will be preparing and serving the annual Christmas dinner at the Salvation Army. This will be our 16th year! CPC families have made this mission a cornerstone of their Christmas experience, and you are invited to join us.

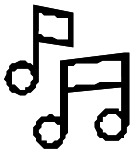
The sit down meal will be served at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 24th. We generally serve 300 plus meals to our patrons and the Meals on Wheels effort. Our kitchen and decoration people should arrive at 7:30 a.m.; the steam table people by 9:45 a.m., and our servers at 10:30 a.m. Everyone will need to stay afterwards for the clean-up, so that we can be out the door by 2:00 p.m.

This gift of ministry is such a special experience that we encourage you to invite other non-CPC families to help. We do need to know how many of us are coming, so please sign up in the narthex or call Dixon Moorhead at (H) 277-1414 or (W) 232-8283.

WEST FARGO CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Get ready to hear some beautiful music! At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 25, 2009 at the Lutheran Church of the Cross will be the Annual West Fargo Christian Music Festival.

Prepare to hear selections featuring piano, keyboard, bells, and vocalists. Watch out for some Community Presbyterian musicians as well. It should be a great time to celebrate our Lord with the West Fargo community.



2009 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, with Sunday, February 1, set as a storm date.

Committee chairs please have annual reports to the clerk by January 15.

Everyone, please make an effort to attend this important meeting of your church.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session



CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES

The Bethlehem Chronicle Newspaper is in big trouble! If subscriptions don't increase, the paper will be shut down forever. Now it's up to Scoop Early (cub reporter and part-time shepherd), Sally O'Callahan (social columnist), and Rock Gibraltar (sports reporter) as they search for the biggest news in Bethlehem to help save the paper. Add a heavenly host of angels and shepherds and you've got a miracle at just the right time!

BAKE SALE

"I'm dreaming of a White Christm"... no... fudge, caramels, dipped pretzels...The Christmas Bake Sale is coming Sunday, December 7th and 14th. Soul Train will be baking for you this year. We are asking for some help. If you are a baker, could you please bring a few goodies for us to sell? If you are not a baker, please come and purchase a few of the goodies. We've heard somewhere that Christmas treats sold at church are calorie free!!!



INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN: CAROL STERUP

Personal Information

Birth date - August 15
 Birth place - Sioux Falls, SD
 High school - graduated from
 Washington HS in Sioux
 Falls, SD
 Occupation - day care provider
 Married - Greg in Sioux Falls, SD
 on April 2, 1977
 Children and Grandchildren -
 Gwen (Belle Plaine, MN) -
 Gavin
 Brad (West Fargo, ND)
 Kristina (Boulder, CO)
 Joined Community Presbyterian
 Church - 1994

Favorites

Hymn - "O Come, O Come, Em-
 manuel"
 TV Show - Lost, I Love Lucy
 Restaurant - Olive Garden
 Color - blue
 Food - pizza, chocolate of any kind

Would You Rather

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

... always forget your name when asked or never remember anyone else's name?
 ... be a billionaire or be known all over the world?

... live the life of a cat or the life of a dog?

... walk through a cemetery alone at night or swim in a large pond that has snapping turtles in it?

... forget your sunscreen or your sunglasses?

~~~~~

Carol is a fun person to be around and I have a few facts to prove it. I am sure most of you know she runs a daycare

for about 4 kids during the week. But I bet you didn't know what she likes best about it. She says that the best thing about it is the fact that it is so rewarding. She knows that the parents trust her with their child, who is their "most prized possession".



I also don't think you knew that when she was a child that everything scared her. Things don't scare her anymore now that Kevin and Bob Galt have installed a security system for her home.

When Carol was a kid she used to hang out at Terrace Park in Sioux Falls. It had a park, a pool and Japanese Gardens and it was right on Covell Lake. Some kids came for the pool and others to just hang out. It was a popular place to be because everyone walked or rode their bikes past it. Can you believe that is where Greg proposed!?! Even their first house was right there.

A few things that bother Carol are when people say they will do something, and then they don't do it. She also hates when someone is late. She gets mad when she feels like she has been taken advantage of.

Carol has been embarrassed a few times. Once, her friend, Debbie, tried to teach her how to drive a stick shift but Carol had the car going in circles in reverse! Wow! Another embarrassing moment was when she was in Denver with her family. She was sitting in a chair and she fell over. When she fell, she hit a bike and there was a domino effect.

**(Continued on page 7)**

**(Continued from page 6)**

Carol says that the most interesting person she has ever met is Jesus. She met him in junior high when she accepted Him as her Lord and Savior. That must have been some experience!

If you would like to know more about Carol, then talk to her. Don't be afraid, she doesn't bite. I know I had a great time interviewing her. I bet if you talk to her about something like the chair incident she would be glad to share her story with you.

Interviewed by:

Amy Leopold

6th grade

April 20, 2008

(Would You Rather answers: forget my name, billionaire, dog, cemetery, sun-screen)

### TRUSTEE TALK

The trustees met for their regular monthly meeting on November 12th. Bob Galt, Lynn Hummel, Derek Leopold, Bob Olson, and Andrew Thostenson were in attendance. Don Van-Cleve and Larry Peihl (Session Elder liaison) were absent.

At the request of the stewardship committee, the trustees spent most of their meeting reviewing previous year building expenses. Most expenses to date are slightly below original estimates. The exceptions are an increase in water and street assessments and inspection costs for the elevator and fire protection systems. (We will spend about \$2,000 more than what was previously budgeted.) Even with this, we will probably come in about where we budgeted for managing the entire building in 2008.

So far, the roof is holding water, and the east parking lot is suffering normal wear and tear with the exception of a

pothole which is developing in the approach along Sheyenne Street. The trustees asked that additional funds be allocated in 2009 to deal with that.

The trustees were requested to hold a cleaning night for the sanctuary. This was scheduled for December 2.

Larry reported through e-mail that he's converting the chalk boards to white boards. This should be done in the next couple of weeks. Andrew will install a fire extinguisher near the organ.

Andrew and Larry are working on plans to upgrade the outdoor church sign. Bob Galt is going to purchase some lighting to experiment with in the basement annex hallway. Andrew is researching light bulb options to improve the lighting over the pulpit.

The next meeting of the trustees will be December 10th at 7:00 p.m.

### SAVE THE DATE!

Attention all Soul Train members and parents! The Jamestown retreat dates have been set. The all-presbytery youth retreat will occur on the April 17, 18, and 19. Ask anyone who has attended this in the past: you don't want to miss this special event. So, mark your calendars now, so you can save the date.



### 2009 HEAD USHERS LIST

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| January   | Dwight Steffen   |
| February  | Dale Matzke      |
| March     | Bob Gross        |
| April     | Dave Ruhnke      |
| May       | Brent Montgomery |
| June      | Larry Peihl      |
| July      | Jack Smith       |
| August    | Chuck Thompson   |
| September | Don Van Cleve    |
| October   | Jim Bjorklund    |
| November  | Derek Leopold    |
| December  | Wil Petik        |



**YEAR-TO-DATE  
FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

| WEEK     | NEEDED<br>GIVING<br>TO DATE | ACTUAL<br>GIVING<br>TO DATE |
|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11/16/08 | \$135,608                   | \$120,163                   |

As of Nov. 16, 2008, the year-to-date actual giving to CPC's general fund is \$120,163 compared to the \$135,608 budgeted for the same time period. The \$120,163 includes \$6,400 of preschool rent which is used to help pay our expenses. Our note stands at \$12,400.

These figures do not include the mortgage payments which are funded from the Building Fund Money Market (Project Open Door II giving).

Our expenses will be less than we forecasted in our budget due to many committees finding ways to economize. Also, we have a great majority of our membership stepping up with increased pledges to help meet our goals.

Now, please consider meeting those increased pledges, or deciding to increase your giving if you hadn't made that decision yet this year. If we do not, we will be announcing ending the year with a \$10,000 note.

It's not too late to end the year meeting our expenses. We are so close!

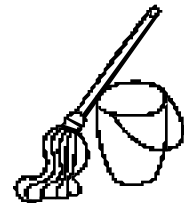
**TO ALL SNOWBIRDS**

Travelers, please don't forget to let CPC know when you'll be leaving, returning, and what your warmer address will be. If you want to receive the electronic newsletter, include your e-mail address. That way you won't miss any church news, and CPC won't need to pay return postage.



**SANCTUARY CLEANUP**

The trustees have a cleanup night for the sanctuary set for Tuesday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m.



Our goal is to spend an hour or so scrubbing down the pews and doing some general tidying up before advent begins.

We need help, the more the merrier. Do not worry about cleaning supplies, just bring yourself and wear some grubby clothes.

For more information, call Andrew Thostenson at 492-0630.

**TECHNOLOGY ON WHEELS**

Those of you, who attended the recent Kenya travelogues, may have noticed something new at Community Presbyterian Church. The church now owns an LCD projector which is capable of projecting DVD, VHS tapes, and Power Point presentations (digital slide shows). We also have a 7 foot square portable tripod screen. The media center is portable, ready-to-use anywhere in the church building.

Funds from Presbyterian Women and memorials were made available to purchase the projector while Presbyterian Men funds were used to purchase the screen. Jim and Brenda Bjorklund donated the computer which manages the media.

If you would like to use this new mobile media center, please see Pastor Matthew Stith or Andrew Thostenson.

**The  
February  
Community Call  
Deadline will be  
Thursday,  
January 22**