

COMMUNITY CALL

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

Come! Join us in celebrating our Savior's birth! Here are just a few of the opportunities to worship and glorify Jesus' name this December:

Sunday, December 11, the Christmas cantata will be performed during the normal worship service, followed by a potluck in the fellowship hall. "Night of the Father's Love" tells the Christmas story as though hearing it again for the first time. All of the mystery, the awe, and the excitement of that night are imaginatively captured combining familiar Christmas songs, with a unique perspective in word and music.

On Sunday, December 18, at 3:00 p.m., the Sunday School children will present a traditional Christmas pageant. Please bring holiday treats to share in the fellowship hall afterwards.

Finally, you'll want to join us for the Christmas eve service on Saturday, December 24, at 6:30 p.m. and the Christmas service on Sunday, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Watch for more ways that you can celebrate Christ's birth elsewhere in this newsletter.



PASTOR'S PEN

"Behold, darkness shall cover the Earth, and thick darkness the peoples."

These words begin one of my favorite advent songs, a paraphrase of the powerful words of Isaiah, chapter 60. They seem, I suppose, to express a strange sentiment for a season we generally associate with joyful expectation, a season in which we look forward to the coming of Christmas, and the celebration of Jesus' birth. But I have to say that they seem pretty accurate as a description of the world we see around us, in a lot of ways. Darkness is creeping in all around. Consider:

In Europe, the economy is lurching toward recession, threatening millions of people with uncertainty, shortage, or worse.

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Here in the U.S., there are a nearly unprecedented number of people facing the holiday season with no jobs.

We Presbyterians are in the midst of turmoil over decisions made by our denomination to abandon the church's long-held understanding of the importance and authority of Scripture, a turmoil that threatens to undermine our ability to faithfully minister to the world.

Christians in many lands are faced with far worse, as repressive governments and unrestrained mobs perpetrate violence, terror, and even death on men, women, and children alike for the "crime" of believing in the Lord Jesus.

We cannot turn on the news or pick up the daily paper without seeing stories of child abuse, violent bullying, and criminal behavior of all kinds.

In these and far too many other contexts, darkness looms, seemingly impenetrable. At this time of year, we could even take this notion literally, as daylight seems bent on expiring each day even before most of us get home from work. And when we think about how we ought to respond to all of these situations, how we ought to react to this pressing darkness, it's hard to imagine anything that we could do. All in all, Isaiah's line sounds far, far too familiar, and the darkness he describes seems far, far beyond our ability even to endure.

Yet it is not his only line, nor his most important. The words of the song, while acknowledging the darkness that "covers the peoples," demand of us a surprising response: "Arise! Shine! For your light has come, and the glory of

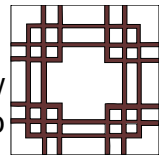
the Lord has risen!"

This is the true beauty and value of Advent, I think. It is the season where we recognize that, despite the darkness—indeed, because of the darkness—it is both possible and necessary to celebrate the coming of the light of Christ into the world. There is darkness. There are bad economies, bad decisions, and bad situations. Violence, pain, worry, and grief are still very much around. But Jesus is coming. There is darkness, but, as John says, "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." Friends, Jesus came among us, the light of the world, to defeat sin and death, to beat back the darkness, and to bring us all into the light. In this Advent season, we are called to remind the world, laboring under this present darkness, of the light that will not be overcome. By our joy and service, by our faith and perseverance, and by our unquenchable proclamation, we not only remind the world that Jesus came, but also that he is coming again.

Arise! Shine! For your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen!

PRESBYTERIAN SQUARES

A nose ring and Rebekah: how are these connected? Come to our Bible Study at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11, to find out. We offer a light supper, followed by our study at 6:30 p.m. We are learning more about Rebekah, who had such strong faith in God that she left her home forever to marry a man she had never seen or met. Could you imagine doing this or letting your daughter do this? Join us as we learn all about Rebekah.





NOVEMBER CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of Session was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the church conference room. Elders present were Kevin Galt, Carolyn Meester, Brent Montgomery, Bonnie Thompson, and Andrew Thostenson. Absent were Steve Hanna, Carrie Leopold, Jack Smith, and Vicki Riedinger.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Matt Stith.

Carolyn Meester presented the financial report. General giving continues to be down but bills aren't. There is enough money in the building fund to make the January payment. A slight increase in the per capita was seen after financial statements were sent out.

Rae Kercher requested the use of the narthex on Wednesday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m. for a baby shower for Kayla Videen.

Lia Dobrinz requested the use of the sanctuary on Saturday, December 17, from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for Sunday School Christmas program practice.

Discussion was held regarding informing the congregation about the changes in New Form of Government (NFOG) and the CPC Statement of Faith.

Stewardship Committee reminded all committees to submit their budgets by December 1. Andrew Thostenson will give a Minute for Stewardship on December 18.

Trustees informed Session that the front door wasn't working but has been repaired. The back door window was broken and will soon be fixed. A leak in the roof has been attended to. There continues to be touch-up painting and lighting work done. The stained glass window

project will not cost the entire \$1,000 allocated, so \$500 will be released to the general fund.

Worship Committee reported that the adult Sunday School will serve at the potluck on December 11th following the cantata. Discussion was held regarding clapping during the worship service. It was discussed that applause can be an appropriate form of praise to God.

Linda Bishop, of the deacons, and Pastor Stith will set dates for communion training for the congregation. Birthday cards will continue. Christmas gifts will be given to the shut-ins and those in need.

Christian Education, Mission, Nominating, Personnel, and Service and Fellowship committees had no reports.

Pastor Stith will be gone December 18-22 for a Biblical studies conference in San Francisco. Pastor Stith spoke in Bathgate at a congregational meeting to explain to their congregation the changes in NFOG. A request was made that the funds for a plane ticket purchased in November to be used in January be applied to the continuing education budget for 2012.

The clerk reported that 116 people were served communion on Sunday, November 6. All committees should submit their year-end statements by January 1, 2012.

Meeting closed with prayer by Kevin Galt at 8:30p.m.

Becky DeJong, Recording Clerk
Vicki Peihl, Stated Clerk

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



The Sunday School students will present an old-fashioned program, "The Christmas Story," on Sunday, December 18th, at 3:00 pm. It will be followed by cider and cookies in the fellowship hall. We look forward to seeing you all there.

DEACONS CORNER

The current Deacons serving Community Presbyterian Church are:



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Carolyn Koerselman

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Becky DeJong

t

i

Karen Steele

sue Hanna

r

h

o

p

If you know of anyone who has a current need that we can help with, please do not hesitate to call us.

Linda Bishop
(lindabishop@far.midco.net; 282-8515)

Marj Meester
(anneusmeester@yahoo.com; 282-8297)

Carolyn Koerselman (281-2683)

Karen Steele
(klsteele@far.midco.net; 261-6432)

Becky Dejong
(tbdejong@cableone.net; 281-8122)

Sue Hanna
(srhanna@aol.com; 282-8946)

BIG BAZAAR THANK YOU!

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank everyone who helped make this year's Fall Bazaar such a success. We made about \$2,500 before expenses, and from those who crafted, canned or baked and those who prepared and served potatoes to those who enjoyed shopping and eating, a good time was had by all. We are already starting to talk about 2012. Thanks again to all, and hope to see you there next fall.

NOEL CHANTERS



Everyone is invited to join The Noel Chanters this Christmas season as they once again go caroling! This year's program ranges from the secular "Deck the Halls" to the sacred "Silent Night," providing a half hour to forty-five minutes of delightful holiday music for residents of our community. The following is the 2011 schedule:

Friday, December 2: 6:20 p.m. at Rosewood at 1351 Broadway N., Fargo

Monday, December 5: 6:20 p.m. at Bethany Alzheimer's Units at 201 S. University Dr., Fargo

Friday, December 9: 6:20 p.m. at Parkview Terrace at 100 N. 3rd St. N., Moorhead

We will meet at the front entry way of each location. Come one, come all. Last minute joiners are welcome.

Samantha Herman (763-258-4970)
Nancy Herman (763-258-4967)

FA-LA-LA FESTIVITIES!

Fourth

of December

Five-thirty

Fellowship Hall

(actually above it all)

Five dollar gift exchange

All Fantastic, Females

(Fourteen and older) are

invited to share in an evening

of Fellowship, Food and Fun.

Wear your Favorite, Fancy, Feminine

Foliday Fashion. Flavorful Food will

be shared, please sign up in the

Ffarthex.

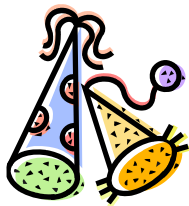
Friends,

Family and

Fudge

welcome!

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 12-2 Amber Swart
 12-4 Jaden Steele
 12-5 Terry Meester
 12-6 Jessica Nelson
 Kailyn Ohm
 12-8 Casey Larson
 12-10 Brady Bahls
 Richard Pyle
 12-11 Madison Kellerman
 12-13 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
 12-28 Ian Alves
 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-?? - Randy and Joyce Ackerman

CHRISTMAS EVE AT SALVATION ARMY



We plan to serve the Salvation Army Christmas meal on Saturday, December 24. We need cooks, steam table, and serving help with everyone helping in clean-up. Share this gift of ministry with others.

Kindest Regards, Dixon
 W 232-8283; H 277-1414

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 1-1 Jessie LaCoe
 1-4 Wil Petik
 1-5 Joyce Ackerman
 Evan Thostenson
 1-7 Emmalee Lynn Babb
 1-8 Ross Montgomery
 1-10 Elizabeth Meyer
 1-11 Kristina Krzysiak
 1-12 Gabriel Gross
 Isaac Leopold
 Richard Whitcomb
 1-16 Doris Randle
 Lora Wehrung
 1-18 Grace Moorhead
 1-19 Violet Galt
 Donna Gertz
 1-21 Jenna Olson
 1-22 Derek Leopold
 1-23 Austin Montgomery
 1-26 Gail Matzke
 1-28 Brenda Bjorklund
 Brian Matzke
 1-29 La Verne Dahl
 1-30 Pat Langfitt
 Matthew Pyle
 1-31 Cooper Pederson

ANNIVERSARIES

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

YUM, YUM, YUM!!!



Mark your calendars - the Holiday bake sale is coming December 11th and 18th. Soul Train will be sponsoring this delicious event. We need bakers to supply some goodies and we really need samplers to taste our treats. Come hungry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

There will be no Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Budgeted 2011 giving:
\$162,496.42 / 52 weeks =
\$3,125.00 per week



Week	Budgeted Giving to Date	Actual Giving to Date
11/13/11	\$143,750.00	\$125,354.00

This does not include the mortgage payment of \$3,146.54.

The per capita assessment for 2011 is \$12,505.60. So far we have collected \$6,756.55.

The balance of the operating fund loan at this time is \$10,085.00.

We sometimes think of stewardship as an administrative task to meet the needs of the church. In fact, it is a spiritual exercise through which each of us grows in faith by assessing the many blessings of our lives and considering our need to give as an expression of our gratitude to God.



HEAR THE BELLS RING!

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who will ring bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 3rd. The following CPC volunteers signed up to ring bells at four locations in the FM area from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a total of 40 hours:

Linda Bishop, Gordy and Judy Pederson, Dave and Gloria Ruhnke, Larry and Vicki Peihl, Al Meyer and Rita Rice, Bruce Riedinger, Sue and Steve Hanna, Leopolds, Toni Stith and Girl Scouts, Alves, Gloria Ruhnke and Molly Nelson, Bev Christopherson and Mitzy Hager, Carolyn Talley, Dale and Gail Matzke, Jim and Brenda Bjorklund, Ann Chale, Carolyn Koerselman, Doris Randle, Joan and Dean Hall, Jack and Dixie Smith, Audrey and Jim Binger, Thostensons, Bob and Susan Gross, Gary Duggan.

MS SOUL TRAIN

Dec. 4—TBA

Dec. 11—5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Family night and potluck

Dec. 18—3:00 p.m.—Children's program

Progressive dinner-See Toni for details.

Dec. 25—no meeting—Merry Christmas!

HS SOUL TRAIN



Dec. 4—3 to 5 p.m.— Metro youth at United Campus Ministries

Dec. 11—3 to 5 p.m.— Metro youth at United Campus Ministries (UCM)

Dec. 18—Metro Youth caroling- TBD

CPC progressive dinner 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 25—No meeting (Christmas)



2012 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, immediately following worship. Sunday, February 12, is the alternate date in case of bad weather.

Committee chairs please have annual reports to the clerk by December 15. Everyone, please make an effort to attend this important meeting of your church.

Becky DeJong, Stated Clerk
Vicki Peihl, Clerk of Session

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank our church family, for all of the care, love and support you have given to us over these last few months. You have touched our hearts and surrounded us with God's loving care. We would like to thank each one of you.

God Bless, Lise, Sean and Ian Alves



**February Community Call's
deadline is
Friday, January 20**