

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



VALENTINES DAY DINNER

Come join us on Sunday, February 13 at 6:00 for a delicious Valentine's Day Dinner. We will be serving lasagna, Greek Salad, garlic bread and cheesecake in the fellowship hall. We need to know how many people will be coming so sign up at our table on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6. We would appreciate payment at the time of sign-up. This is not intended to be a fund-raiser but any extra money will be donated to a worthy cause of the Session's choice.

Happy Eating and
Happy Valentine's Day!
The Steele's and Soul Train
Adults - \$10.00
Children 5-12 - \$5.00
under 5 - free

REAR PARKING LOT



The Trustees and Session have asked members to leave the parking lot in the back of the church open to those persons who have difficulty walking, especially at this time of year.

PASTOR'S PEN

January 22, 2005



When I got up this morning and looked out the back window, I could see just enough to know that I was in for trouble. Looking past the back corner of the garage, in which both of our cars were parked, I was able to make out the corner of a great big snowdrift. This was no surprise, of course, given the snowy and windy weather of last night, and the rather unfortunate way that our ga-

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rage doors, our fence, and the neighbor's garage form a perfect box, open to the northwest to catch drifts in. But it didn't shape up to be a great deal of fun, even with the new snow blower waiting for me in the garage.

Well, five hours or so later, after using the snow blower, the shovel (because the drift was too high for the snow blower by itself), my very helpful neighbor (to help out when the snow blower got clogged and frozen inside), and my very helpful neighbor's snow blower, too, the driveway was finally clear, I was pretty exhausted, and I caught myself thinking some fairly uncharitable things about the weather up here in North Dakota.

But then I remembered something else. I remembered someone saying to me, a couple of weeks ago, when it was so cold, "Hey, at least there aren't any mudslides here!" That person was absolutely right. We also haven't had, lately, a tsunami, a civil war, a terrorist attack, a famine, or any of the myriad of conditions that so grievously afflict so many of God's children all around the world. Snowdrifts in the driveway or not, we, living where we do, have been blessed.

This is, of course, something for which we should give thanks. Every day that we and our families are safe and well, every night that we go to bed warm and having had enough to eat, we should be mindful of how fortunate, in the grand scheme of things, we are. And, above all, when we recall that all of these things have been given us not because we deserve them, or have earned them, but simply because God loves us, we

should be awed by the magnitude of our blessedness.

Of course, there is what we might call a "catch." As I considered our many blessings and the incredible grace of God, I couldn't help also thinking about those people who don't live in such plenty and security as we do. And I also couldn't help but remember the words of Jesus in Luke 12:48: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." Is there any doubt that we are among those people about whom Jesus speaks? We have been given a great deal, and I don't speak merely of the material comforts and blessings that we enjoy, wonderful though they are. We have, after all, been given the ultimate gift of Jesus' own death, which happened purely for our benefit. We have been given nothing less than life, abundant and eternal. If much is expected of those to whom much is given, what does God expect of us, to whom *everything* has been given?

I have a sneaking suspicion that the answer may well be...well...*everything*. In light of what we have been given, what we know that God has done for us, how can we do any less than give everything we can give, do anything we can do, to worship and glorify him, to show our gratitude? That seems like an awfully high standard, but there it is. Do *everything* in such a way as to honor God and to show your gratitude to him for all of his blessings. It isn't always easy. We won't always succeed. But the more we cultivate the habit of grateful, worshipful living, the more we devote ourselves

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and our resources to the things he has called us to do, the closer we will come to being the people we are expected to be, and that is a goal worth every effort we can make.

So, the next time the drifts start to pile up, and you aren't sure whether you can manage to get out or not, be joyful, as you remember all that you have been given. Then, fire up the snow blower, and trust in God to help you carve a path.



COMMUNITY DONATIONS NEEDED

Do you want to give supplies or \$\$ for a good cause, but you want to see it kept locally? Now is your chance. Our church is starting a monthly mission project asking for donations and \$ for places here in the F-M area. For the month of February we will be collecting supplies for TEEN MOMS. Their wish list is simple: diapers, wipes, baby lotion and shampoos, sleepers and clothing, children's Bibles, Christian music, videos, and books. Items can be brought to the church during the month of February. Thanks for your support of local missions!

COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

The Worship Committee is looking for individuals to help in delivering communion to our shut-in parishioners. If you are interested and have served as an elder either here or at another church, please contact Bonnie Thompson.



2005 PLEDGE INFORMATION

Please return the pledge cards that were sent to you in this newsletter. There are also extras on the table in the narthex. These will help your Stewardship Committee to know how much can be expected in general giving for the year. These slips are **not** seen by anyone other than the one person in charge of tabulating them. Others only see the total amount pledged.

FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 2-3 Lowell Wiese
- 2-5 Cody Matzke
- 2-6 David Misheski
- 2-7 Tom Birrenkott
Dolores Kinslow
- 2-8 Riley Clennon
Ann Corneliussen
Jack Smith
- 2-9 Dean Hall
Blair Moorhead
- 2-12 Gwen Keller
- 2-14 Randy Meyer
- 2-16 Stephanie Barenthsen
- 2-17 Kevin Galt
- 2-18 James Binger
- 2-19 Esther Hemm
Alex Talley
- 2-20 Clarence Bastle
- 2-21 Scott Meyer
- 2-24 Lia Dobrinz
- 2-25 Tom DeJong
Lisa Osborne
- 2-26 Patrick Steele

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2-6-32 – Tom and Julia Pederson
- 2-19-81 – Dixon and Mary Jo Moorhead
- 2-24-79 – Scott and Vickie Meyer



SPECIAL SESSION MEETING

A special Session Meeting was held on January 6, 2005. The wedding of Miranda Karczeuski and Eric Schmidt was changed from September 10 to March 12 at their request. The Session approved the request from Miranda Karczeuski to be baptized on February 6th.

The Session voted to recommend to the congregation that Pastor Stith be given a \$500 increase in salary and a \$250 increase in his housing allowance. They also recommended an increase of \$1,000 in the Continuing Education Budget to the pastor.

Delores Horn
Clerk of Session



ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The annual meeting of the church was held on January 16, 2005 following worship in the sanctuary. The Financial Report was approved. All reports printed in the Annual Report were approved.

The congregation voted to approve the recommendation of the Session to give Pastor Stith a \$500 increase in salary and a \$250 increase in his housing allowance. His total salary is now \$39,250.00. A \$1,000.00 increase in the Continuing Education Allowance was also approved. The total change in the terms of call went from \$55,905.92 to \$58,133.91.

Melissa Barenthsen, Ann Merrill and Larry Peihl were elected as elders for 3 year terms. Scott Meyer and Ray Christopherson were elected trustees for 3

year terms. Brent Montgomery was elected to a three year term on the Endowment Committee and James Martin was elected to a 1 year term on the Endowment Committee. Gayle Thostenson, Marlys Martin and Roger Barenthsen were elected to the Nominating Committee with an Elder to be named by the Session.

Dixon Moorhead presented a line item budget which calls for income of \$147,047 and expenses of \$147,006. No action was taken on this budget, but expenditures for the coming year will be charged to the line items so that an accurate picture of the expenses can be seen.

Andrew Thostenson reported that he and Jim Bjorklund had identified the committees that will be needed to undertake the gathering of information need for the remodeling or construction project authorized by the congregation previously. An organizational meeting was held on January 18th.

Copies of the Annual Report are available at the church for anyone wishes to have one.

Delores Horn,
Clerk of Session

PER CAPITA

Per capita is due at the Presbytery Office soon. Please pay your per capita assessment as soon as you are able so that this obligation can be paid. The per capita per adult member is **\$26.04.** The less per capita paid the more money must be taken out of the General Fund to pay it. If we have to take from the General Fund, we will have less for other expenses.



CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of the Session and Trustees was held on Wednesday, January 19. The financial report, minutes of the December meeting, and minutes of the congregational meeting were all approved.

There are now keys in the filing cabinets in the nursery so that the children can't open the drawers. The cabinets will be bolted together as soon as possible.

Gloria Ruhnke and Bonnie Thompson were given permission to begin work on a nativity set to be used on the church lawn next Christmas season. The youth group, Soul Train, was given permission to hold a Valentine's Dinner on February 13. Any profit will be given to the Session to use for mission as they desire. They were also given permission to hold a Tastefully Simple Event on March 13. The proceeds will be used for the Ski Trip on January 21 & 22. More information of these two events will be in the church bulletin.

At his request Maurice Brandt was transferred to the Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Fargo. Richard and Fay Pyle and their children, Samantha and Matthew were received in transfer from Faith Lutheran Church. Eric Schmidt was received in transfer from Lutheran Church of the Cross. Donald and Shelly Van Cleve and their children, Kaylee and Melissa were received in transfer from Faith Lutheran Church.

The junior and senior Sunday School

youth were given permission to hold a mystery Dinner on April 8 at the church with proceeds to go to a mission within our Presbytery.

Bonnie Thompson reported that with more people requesting home communion we need persons willing to do this important work of the church. If you are interested and have served as an elder either here or at another church, please contact Bonnie. She also stated that more liturgists are needed for the coming Sundays. There is a signup sheet in the narthex.

The Quilters were given permission to hold an Easter bake sale on Palm Sunday with the proceeds going into a fund to purchase a portable puppet house. Participation in the All City Garage Sale in April was approved.

A dinner will be held on February 1st for new and prospective members and Session Members to help acquaint the new and prospective members with the Session and to answer any questions they may have. Boots Misheski and Delores Horn are in charge of the dinner.

Approval was given to hold the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday from 4-6 p.m. The youth group also was given permission to hold a Father's Recognition Dinner on March 6th.

Toni Stith was given permission to hold the 30 Hour Famine Event on a week end in February. Date will be announced later.

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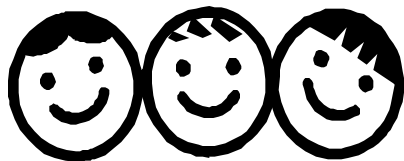
Miranda Karczeuski and Eric Schmidt have decided that they wish to be married in Casselton on April 8. This is the same day her sister will be married there. Pastor Stith will conduct the wedding for Miranda and Eric.

Pastor Stith was given permission to take study leave on April 1, 2, & 3. Dixon Moorhead will arrange for pulpit supply for the 3rd. Communion will be changed from April 3rd to April 10th.

Tom and Julia Pederson will be celebrating their 73rd Wedding Anniversary on February 6th.

145 persons were served Communion on January 9. Fourteen fruit baskets were given to shut-ins and cash gifts were given to employees. The Clerk reported that Esther Hemm is at Manor Care to receive physical therapy on her right leg and Joy Taffe suffered a stroke recently.

Delores Horn
Clerk of Session



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
CALENDAR**

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?



**ARE YOU READY
FOR THIS?**

It may seem early, but summer *is* just around the corner, and the Christian Education Committee is looking for a (or a couple of) Vacation Bible School coordinator(s). VBS curriculums come out in January, so this is a great time for someone to start VBS plans.

We are looking for one or two individuals with energy and a heart for sharing God's word with children to organize a week of biblical learning for our church's and community's youth.

Interested? Please contact Christian Education Committee members:

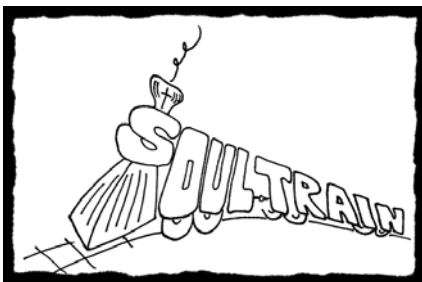
Becky DeJong
Melanie Hansen
Debbie Matzke
Boots Misheski
Lisa Steffens
Toni Stith
Gayle Thostenson

**SEE IT
AGAIN!!**



On December 12th and 19th, did you miss the CPC Christmas programs? Maybe you did attend and would like to see it again. Now you can.

There are two options for you. If you have a computer, log on to the church website at <http://cpcwf.org>. Next, go to the Christmas Program 2004 Web Page linked below the church's picture at the top. There you can watch or just listen to both the CPC Sunday School program or the CPC Music Festival. If you have a DVD player, you can sign up in the narthex for a DVD (\$5-at cost) which features both programs, the Newborn King book, and the Sunday School slide show.



SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE

Jan	30	6:30-8:30 special dinner (not the no utensils) - plan fundraiser, Valentine's Dinner, and a Father's Day evening
Feb	6	5:00-whenver the game is over - dinner will be served -Super Bowl Party at Moorhead's House (6401 64th Ave. S., Fargo)
	13	Valentine's Dinner - served at the church with Steele's
	20	President's Day - no school on Friday or Monday so <u>no</u> meeting
	25-26	30 Hour Famine - meet at church at 6:00-6:00 - no meeting on Sunday - more details will be coming
Mar	6	Father's Day Surprise - we will know details after we plan it on Jan. 30.
	13	Tastefully Simple Fundraiser - details coming
	20	Easter Egg Hunt - we will run the egg hunt and then stay after for dinner and fun. (time to be announced)
	27	Easter - no meeting
April	3	???
	10	???
	17	???
April	24	???

May	1	6:30-8:30 dinner and start planning Sunday School Carnival and plan Mother's Day dinner with Toni - I'm sure it will be scrumptious!!!!
	8	Mother's Day Dinner
	15	6:30-8:30 dinner and finish preparing for Sunday School carnival
	22	Sunday School Carnival - during the SS hour



PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

Once again the Presbyterian Men are giving you a chance to recover some space (clean out) in your garage or attic. We can use that un-used or unwanted item to raise money for many church projects. The annual rummage sale will be held on April 9th. More details will be supplied as the date gets closer. We have already started a box of these items.

PRESCHOOL NEEDS

We are updating our preschool curriculum for both Sunday School and Children's Church. We are especially looking for: play dough and cookie cutter/tools, puzzles, lacing toys, Christian board books, felt toys, arts and crafts supplies, early childhood educational games, or other items which could be used in a preschool resource tub.



If you have any extra items which may fit this description, please consider donating them to our church's preschool program. Donations can be made in the narthex of the church.

BUILDING TASK FORCE IS WORKING

This past month the Building Task Force (BTF) met several times and is now meeting in work groups to answer necessary questions for the session and the membership. So far, about 20 people have come forward to participate in this enterprise. Below is a mission summary that the BTF is working under. If, after reading this you see areas that you can lend a hand in, please call either Jim Bjorklund (282-4942 or jbjork@i29.net) or Andrew Thostenon (492-0630 or athosten@ndsuxext.nodak.edu).

The Building Task Force Mission

We are to find the best course of action to recommend to the session and the membership as to how to solve the problem of inaccessibility and inadequate bathroom facilities. Then we need to implement the solution that the session and the congregation endorses. No matter what direction the church decides, we need to remodel our existing building or provide for new construction so that all people, regardless of their physical limitations, can participate fully in the life of Community Presbyterian Church.

Guiding Principles

There are certain principles that we need to keep in mind when conducting our task. Most importantly, we need to keep God at the table while we deliberate and do our tasks. Doing so will focus our efforts on what is truly important and not allow human doubts and petty ambitions to sidetrack this enterprise. Further, based on feed back from the membership and the session, we need to understand that:

1. Accessibility means accessibility to ALL levels of the church and it must in-

clude bathroom(s) that are large enough to accommodate wheelchairs and walkers.

2. Accessibility must be uncomplicated and undemanding on the AVERAGE infirmed person. A physically limited person must be able to operate or negotiate the system on their own without assistance from others.

3. Any scheme or system to provide accessibility must not sacrifice existing floor space.

4. The order of priority for any building should be:

- a. Accessibility & bathroom(s) without compromise
- b. Additional storage space if at all possible
- c. Additional classroom space would be nice but would not be necessary to accomplish our mission

Timeline

We are working on an extremely short timetable. We need to produce a preliminary report to the session by the last half of March. We then need to make a final report to the church in the first half of April so they can act on our proposals by the end of April.

Work Team Tasks

Four Work Teams have been identified. They are listed below with the major tasks that they need to accomplish.

Finance and Education

- Investigate sources for financing
- Consider spending plans for \$200, \$400, and \$600 thousand dollars
- Evaluate up front and pay back funding needs for each scenario
- Prepare reports and communications for the entire task force

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Finance and Education (cont.)

- Evaluate fundraising strategies and solicit advice or training from outside entities (i.e., Executive Presbyter of the North Plains)
- Others?

Current Building Appraisal

- Review the master plan building inspection report developed four years ago by the architects Shultz & Torgeson
- Consult with trustees on major known building deficiencies
 - Roof replacement?
 - Basement leaks?
 - Soil filling around the foundation?
 - Replacing the sidewalk on the east entrance?
 - Other?
- Hire a professional building inspector to identify major unknown deficiencies
- Prepare estimates as to the costs to address these deficiencies (get bids if necessary from professional contractors and pay them if appropriate.)
- Hire a professional appraiser to determine the value and the marketability of our building. The marketability piece should explore how long it would take for us to sell our building and what price could be used to offset new construction.
- Others

New Construction

Some will say that this is an academic exercise and not worthy of serious attention or church funds because the membership has neither the means nor the desire to pull off new construction. This

may be true, but we owe it to ourselves and our membership to go through this exercise to simply be able to say, with confidence, that we have considered all the possibilities. Who knows? If God wants us to move to a new building, he will provide the funds. So, the task for this team is to:

- Review other church construction projects in the FM and GF area to get a general idea as to what the cost would be for a building of the approximate size of ours
- Retain professional services to help in the estimation of new construction
- Retain professional services if necessary to estimate the cost of suitable land
- Estimate time required from approval of a new construction program to a completed building
- Estimate cost of time and money required to move to a new building
- Others?

Remodeling Existing Building

- Review the master plan developed four years ago
- Consider roughly three different scenarios:
 - 1.Master plan phase 1 C1 proposal as described by Shultz & Torgeson (\$350 to \$425 thousand)
 - 2.Intermediate cost proposal (\$275 to \$350 thousand)
 - 3.Bare bones proposal (\$200 to \$275 thousand)
- Consult with and hire professional help to estimate costs
- Estimate time required from approval of construction to completion
- Others?

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2005

*The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully,
Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
Not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

How will you share the time, talent, and treasure that God has given you?

After prayerful reflection on God's generosity to you, please fill out the information below and return it by January 9, if possible. Completed pledge sheets can be placed in the offering plate, left in the church office, or mailed to

Community Presbyterian Stewardship Campaign

702 Sheyenne Street

West Fargo, ND 58078

Name: _____

Address: _____

Estimate of Giving 2005

Time: ___ I am/We are willing to give of my/our time to assist in the work of the church
___ In these specific areas: _____
___ For whatever is needed.

Talent: ___ I/We will contribute my/our specific talents and/or information to the work of the church. I/We am/are willing to assist or advise in the following areas:

Treasure: ___ I/We intend to provide this amount of financial support for the work of the church.

___ \$_____ per year OR

___ \$_____ per month

Per Capita _____ (\$26.04 per adult member)