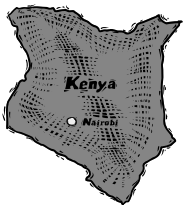


# COMMUNITY CALL

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



## HOW CAN WE HELP?

You have probably heard in the news that Kenya is reeling after weeks of protests, violence, and tribal conflict followed the disputed presidential election in late December. While the tragedy of some 400 deaths in clashes between protesters and police and between rival tribes and ethnic groups cannot be minimized, there is a larger disaster unfolding.

Over a quarter million people have been displaced, forced from their homes by violence and fear, and many have no place to go, nor any way to survive. Our partners in the Presbyterian Church of East Africa have instituted a Rapid Response Fund (RRF) to assist victims of this ongoing crisis.

The RRF will be used by PCEA churches and others to provide food, supplies, bedding, and evacuation help for persons made vulnerable by the turmoil. The congregations of the PCEA in the affected areas are already courageously and compassionately striving to assist, but they need the support of this fund, and the fund needs support from us.

To donate, make your gift out to the church, with "Rapid Response Fund" in the memo line or on the envelope, or give online to project #DR000131 at [www.pcusa.org/give](http://www.pcusa.org/give).

## PASTOR'S PEN



It's hard to know what to say. Over the past four and a half years, Kenya has, for me, gone from just one more spot on the map to a place where I have been, where I have friends, and where I am deeply and personally involved. This being the case, I am frankly heartbroken over the horrible violence and chaos that is threatening to destroy this country and these people that I have come to care about. You've probably seen at least something about the situation in the media, or heard it discussed at church or elsewhere, but here are the basics:

After a very tightly-contested presidential election at the end of December, the sitting president, Mwai Kibaki,

**(Continued on page 2)**

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was declared the winner by a relative handful of votes. The main opposition party immediately and loudly complained of fraud, claiming that their candidate, Raila Odinga, had really won and that the ruling party had simply stolen the election. While international observers agree that the election showed considerable evidence of corruption, they generally suggest that both sides engaged freely in doctoring the vote totals and other forms of cheating. Nevertheless, the tense, divisive political situation touched off an explosion of violence and destruction that continues even now, almost a month after the election.



How could this happen? The short answer lies in the Kenyan version of an old American saying. Here, we say "all politics is local." In Kenya, the fundamental truth is that "all politics are tribal." President Kibaki, along with virtually all of his political party, is a member of the Kikuyu tribe, which has been the largest, most powerful, and most prosperous tribe in Kenya ever since independence. Kikuyus and their allies have long controlled most important government positions, and have used their influence for the benefit of Kikuyu and allied communities for decades. The opposition party is made up primarily of people from the Luo and Kalenjin tribes, who have long resented the domination of the Kikuyu and looked to this election as their chance to turn the tables. This tribal background helps explain the fault lines along which Kenya seems poised to fracture.

Almost immediately after the election results were announced, gangs of Luo and Kalenjin "youth" (in Kenya, this term encompasses people, mostly men, from their mid-teens to their late twenties) went on a rampage in the towns of

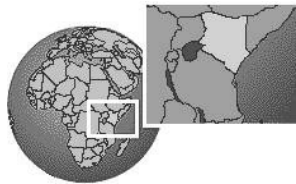
Rift Valley province, where many Kikuyu had settled as farmers and merchants on land that was traditionally Kalenjin, and in the slums of Nairobi, where people of all tribes mix. The violence quickly took on tones of ethnic cleansing, with thousands of Kikuyu assaulted, beaten, and killed, their homes looted and burned, their businesses destroyed, and so forth. Predictably, the (largely Kikuyu) police and military forces responded with vigor but not with calm, and for several days there were running battles between mobs armed with clubs, machetes, and stones and bands of well-armed police and even soldiers.

Over the past week or two, there were some signs of, if not peace, at least a settling down of the violence. International mediators arrived to great fanfare, and there was a ceremonial handshake between Kibaki and Odinga that was seen by millions on TV. But, in the last few days, Rift Valley has again erupted, this time as Kikuyus, tired of being victimized, are striking back and behaving just as inhumanly toward their rivals as those rivals had behaved before. Again, the news is full of clashes, of people burned alive in the buildings where they had sought refuge, and worse. Again, it is heartbreaking.

There are a couple of worthy ways we can contribute to efforts that are underway to help alleviate the suffering, and information on those is included elsewhere in this newsletter. But I am increasingly convinced that the only real solution to this crisis lies in the powerful intervention of God to overcome the darkness that seems to be engulfing the people and institutions of Kenya. This is the prayer that I am praying daily, and in which I encourage you to join me.

Come soon, Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace.

## BLAIR'S AFRICAN NEWS



January 28, 2008

Dear friends and family,

What a month!

It's hard to know exactly what to say when reporting back to people at home. Obviously you have all seen the footage from Kenya and are probably thinking drastic thoughts. Sometimes I think drastic thoughts too. That is not to say that a solution can't be reached. Kofi Annan is getting political leaders to shake hands and who knows what progressive steps will happen next. Any further political analysis that I would offer would be deeply flawed, so I'll steer away from such an update.

So, in other news: work has been going on pretty much as normal. I am very lucky to live just up the street from my office, so I can get there without hassle (and without getting up very early!). The AACC has been open for the last 3 weeks, and it has been a busy month. In the 9th Assembly Office we are gearing up for some big meetings on the road toward our General Assembly in December. This involves planning budgets and such for folks coming to Nairobi from all over the continent – Angola to Zimbabwe. Conference planning provides a pretty good geography lesson, it turns out.

When I get home from work, the busy-ness doesn't stop either; I have been applying to graduate school as well as conducting interviews for future Princetonians in Nairobi. It is a strange feeling to have feet so firmly planted in Kenya and the U.S. at the same time. It's probably a sensation that will not sub-

side in the next year either. Wrestling with these issues of identity (Am I immersing myself enough in Kenyan culture? At the same time, am I keeping in touch with family and friends back home adequately?) is actually quite exciting; I feel blessed to be able to ask such questions, to be on the other side of the globe trying on some new spiritual and cultural perspectives while not ignoring the last 22 years of experiences and values from home.

I hope this letter reassures everyone that I am safe and that optimism is not such a crazy emotion to express in Kenya today. Many, many thanks for all your thoughts and prayers. Please continue to pray for the nation.

Be well! Sincerely,  
Blair

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

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

### **NAMES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS, AND ADDRESSES**



We are in the process of gathering information for the Church Directory. If you have changed your name, have a new telephone number or a new address please notify the church office. We especially would like to have the cell phone numbers of those members who don't have a land line like some of us older people do. I would like to start processing the Directory about the 10th of February. Thanks for your help!

## JANUARY CLERK'S CORNER



Session met on January 16th.

Study Leave for Pastor Stith was approved with the dates of Saturday, February 23, through Saturday, March 1st. Matt will arrange for pulpit supply on the 24th.

Approval was given to Bev Christopherson to arrange for a Blood Drive to be held on May 6th from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The Bloodmobile will be in our parking lot for the event. Since blood is always urgently needed, members are urged to sign up to give blood if they are able to do so.

Cheryl Montgomery was elected as Church Treasurer for 2008 with commendation for the work she and the bookkeeper, Lora Wehrung, have done in making financial reports more informative and easier to understand.

Elders to serve Communion on February 3rd will be Vicki Riedinger, Boots Misheski, Steve Hanna, and Larry Peihl.

An audit of the church financial records will be scheduled after the February Session meeting so that members of the congregation may be asked to conduct this audit.

After Session has been able to meet with the newly elected Elders and Deacons, Session will conduct an examination of these officers to determine if they meet the qualifications needed for their respective duties. A light dinner and meeting will be held on January 30th at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall to conduct the examination and possibly set the date for ordination or installation of new officers.

Boots Misheski was appointed delegate to the video-conferencing meeting of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains to be

held at our church on January 25th. This meeting will be held simultaneously at four different sites in the Presbytery. Our church will host the meeting and provide coffee and treats for the attendees when they register and also provide a light lunch.

Amy Walen has been given permission to hold a Modest Prom Dress Fashion Revue on March 8th from 3:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. She will use the narthex and the large classroom downstairs.

The Barentsen family has been given permission to hold a memorial service for Brent Alexenko on Saturday afternoon, January 26th, 2008. Brent and Jenna had been dating for three years. Brent died very recently, and his funeral will be held in Killdeer, N.D. The Barentsen family wish to hold this service for all of his friends who live in this area. Details will be announced later.

Pastor Stith reported on the turmoil in Kenya and stated that Blair Moorhead is safe since visitors to Kenya are not being targeted. He also reported that the Presbytery of East Africa is setting up a Rapid Response Fund to help people in need in outlying areas of the country. The turmoil has resulted in shortages in critical areas such as gasoline and food. PCUSA will funnel any donations to the Director of East Lake Community Center for their use. They provide a school and food for children who live in a vast slum area there in Kenya. This school is one of the only ways that children there have of getting food and help. Plans are being made on how to make it possible for our church members to contribute to this need. An announcement will be made in the bulletin when plans have been completed.

The Christian Education Committee will  
**(Continued on page 5)**

**(Continued from page 4)**

be holding the Annual Easter Egg Extravaganza on the afternoon of March 16. Candy and other wrapped goodies will be needed from the congregation. The committee also reported that a ski trip is being planned and will likely be held on February 16th or 23rd at Andes Mountain. It was also indicated that they have tabled the plans to purchase white boards for the older classrooms due to the budget deficit.

The Clerk reported that 130 persons were served Communion on December 2, 2007, 36 on December 25, 2007, and 114 on January 13, 2008. Nathan Craig Whitcomb was baptized on December 23, 2007.

The Clerk also reported that the Session Minutes Book and the Church Register were reviewed at a meeting held at our church on January 13. The reviewers noted 4 exceptions in the Minutes and 2 in the Church Register. These are items that were either left out by the Clerk or were not accomplished by the Session. The Session has taken steps to see that these items will be taken care of this year.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session

**PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT**

It's that time of year when we must pay the Per Capita Assessment to Presbytery of the Northern Plains. The amount to be paid for 2008 is \$36.48 per member or \$10,798.08 for Community Presbyterian Church.

Each member is responsible for paying their own Per Capita Assessment. If members do not pay their assessment it must come out of the General Fund!

Your church really needs you to step up and take care of this obligation!

**FEBRUARY  
DATES  
TO REMEMBER****BIRTHDAYS**

- 2-3 Lowell Wiese
- 2-4 Nathan Whitcomb
- 2-5 Cody Matzke
- 2-6 David Misheski
- 2-7 Tom Birrenkott  
Dolores Kinslow
- 2-8 Ann Corneliussen
- 2-8 Jack Smith
- 2-9 Dean Hall  
Blair Moorhead
- 2-10 Linda Bishop
- 2-11 Tammy Nelson
- 2-12 Gwen Keller
- 2-13 Christopher Green II
- 2-14 Randy Meyer
- 2-16 Stephanie Hall
- 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 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

**2007-2008  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
SCHEDULE**

- Mar. 23 Easter-  
No Sunday School
- May 18 Last Day of Sunday School  
Senior Recognition



## **ANNUAL MEETING CLERK'S CORNER**

The Annual Meeting of CPC was held on January 20, 2008 immediately after the worship service. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Stith. The Clerk verified that there were more than the required one-tenth of the members present to hold the meeting.

Cheryl Montgomery, Treasurer, presented the Financial Reports as they appeared in the printed Annual Report. She reviewed the income and expense accounts for 2007. She indicated that the deficit in the budget for 2007 was because of costs incurred by moving into the new addition. The electricity, heating, and unpaid per capita account for most of the increases. The deficit was about \$11,000 which was covered by borrowing against our line of credit at Alerus Bank. The Financial Report was approved.

Steve Hanna, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, presented the Proposed Budget for 2008. He reviewed the income and expense entries. He explained that for purposes of the budget, the committee had used the amount of general giving for 2007 (General giving for 2007 did not increase from the amount given in 2006 and 2007.) and one half of the 2008 per capita assessment. He stated that the Committee with input from Session worked hard to present a budget without frills, that took into account the amounts spent in 2007 by the various committees, groups, and the other items of expense in the 2007 financial report. He also stated that the 2008 Budget shows a projected shortfall of approximately \$17,000 assuming general giving does not increase.

Greg Sterup presented a printed list of

items and their cost with the idea that church members could adopt an item of expense from 2007 and pay that amount to reduce the 2007 deficit. Andrew Thostenson also called attention to the need to increase the general giving for 2008 to cover the projected shortfall. The Proposed 2008 Budget was approved.

The Membership Report and all other committee and groups' reports were approved as printed.

Andrew Thostenson, for the Personnel Committee, reviewed the Terms of Call. A raise of \$500 in salary and \$500 in housing allowance were suggested for Pastor Stith. Pastor Stith stated that rather than a raise he would like the \$1,000 to be sent to Kenya for the Relief Effort occasioned by the rioting there. An additional one week of Study Leave was included in the proposed Terms of Call to allow Pastor Stith more time to work on the book he is writing. The Terms of Call were approved as presented with the stipulation that Pastor Stith can do as he wishes with the raise but that the congregation felt that he deserved a raise.

Melissa Barenthsen, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the nominees for new officers for the church. The following new officers were elected: Elders: Larry Peihl, Carolyn Meester, and Chuck Richard. Office of Deacons: Mary Jo Moorhead, Linda Bishop, Karen Steele, Shirlene Johnson, Jim Bjorklund, and Don Van Cleve. Congregational Nominating Committee: Carol Sterup, Marj Meester, Vicki Peihl, and a member of Session to be chosen at a later date. Kevin Galt was elected to serve on the Endowment Committee. Melissa Bar-

**(Continued on page 7)**

**(Continued from page 6)**

enthsen also called attention to the revision of changes to the wording of most sections of the CPC By-Laws of the Corporation to make them more accurately reflect the requirements of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA). One change is that elders also serve as trustees of the corporation. A new category entitled Buildings & Grounds Trustees was established to oversee the buildings and grounds of the church. This changes the title of this position from just Trustees to the Building and Grounds Trustees to differentiate them from the trustees of the corporation. The proposed changes were approved and the Revised By-Laws of the Corporation were accepted.

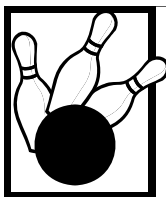
A motion by Cheryl Montgomery set the date for the Annual Meeting for the 4th Sunday of January or a date set by the Session, if a different date is needed. This would allow time for the treasurer and bookkeeper to get the Financial Reports ready and for the clerk to get the other reports ready and the Annual Report printed so that it could be distributed to the members a week before the meeting. This was not possible this year and members indicated that they like to be able to study the report before the meeting.

The congregation thanked the elders and trustees who are completing their terms for their work.

Delores Horn  
Clerk of Session

**COSMIC SINGING**

Junior Choir will meet on Friday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m., followed by Cosmic Bowling.

**SKI TRIP**

On February 16, we will be taking our youth and whoever is interested in our church to Andes Tower Hill just outside Alexandria, MN. We will plan on leaving for the hills on Saturday around 7 a.m. We will stop for breakfast in Fergus Falls, ski throughout the day, and, then, stop on the way home for pizza. The costs are as follows: lift tickets (if we get 20 or more)—\$20/ticket, ski rentals—\$19, Snowboard rentals—\$27, optional tubing—adults \$14, youth (15 and under) \$12. We are asking for \$5 extra for gas and pizza. Breakfast in Fergus Falls will be paid for by each individual.

In the next couple weeks, we will be getting permission forms out to people who will not have their parent/guardian coming with them. Please let Becky, Lisa, or Curt know if you are planning on going and what you will want to rent so we can calculate the costs for each individual and have everything ready by the time we arrive at the mountain. This will also help us have enough drivers for the event.

**YOUTH VOLUNTEERS  
FOR THE NURSERY  
DURING WORSHIP**

We are in need of some additional youth volunteers to help out the adults who supervise the children in the nursery during worship. Youth should be 12 years or older. They could be younger if they help with younger children at home. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact Delores Horn at [dellerho@yahoo.com](mailto:dellerho@yahoo.com) or at 282-4501.



## 1/08 FINANCIAL REPORT

2007 proved to be a very unique year for Community Presbyterian Church! Due to the generous giving by the membership to the P.O.D. Capital Campaign, the full year of mortgage payments were funded from the Building Fund and will be through July, 2008. This is certainly good news and shows the dedication of the membership.

Along with the new addition in 2007 came increased expenses. Our general giving was not enough to cover these increased expenses, and we ended the year with an \$11,000 note balance. "Adopt and Expense" was implemented and is explained in this newsletter.

Recognizing our additional operating expenses, the 2008 budget was created based on much work looking at past year's expenses and knowledge of new 2008 expenses such as increased building insurance, increased city special assessments.

As pledge forms have been arriving, the treasurer has reported that pledges are the same as the last two years. If our giving stays the same as the last two years, we will be short 12% again for 2008. If everyone in our congregation recognizes the need for covering our new expenses and increases their pledge, we can get out of this cycle of borrowing on the bank note.

In newsletters going forward we will go back to our format of showing how much giving is necessary to pay our 2008 expense budget versus how much general giving has been received.

Please pray and take time to reflect on our financial commitment that we are giving to support our church and the community as a whole.

## ADOPT AN EXPENSE

"Adopt an Expense" was introduced at the Annual Meeting as a way to pay down our \$11,000 note for expenses we did not meet with our 2007 general giving. One Sunday has passed since the annual meeting and 3 contributors have stepped forward with \$945. Let's take care of old business. Please pick an expense that interests you and mark your check "Adopt an Expense". This giving will go directly against the note, be recorded on your contribution report as "other" giving, and is over and above your 2008 pledge. Of course, any amount can be given and marked "Adopt an Expense".

\$2.00 Box of crayons or colored markers for Sunday School

\$3.00 Colored paper for children's bulletin

\$10.00 3 Pack of fluorescent light bulbs

\$20.00 Furnace filters

\$40.00 Safety deposit box annual fee

\$75.00 Christmas ad in The Pioneer

\$150.00 Bulk mailing postage

\$200.00 Telecommunications monthly bill

\$255.00 Copier monthly lease

\$423.00 September Cass County Electric bill

\$575.00 Giving envelopes

\$772.00 Monthly per capita payment

\$870.00 Snow removal and sanding for a season

\$1,135.00 Monthly medical and retirement dues

\$1,231.00 Quarterly insurance bill

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE

- Feb. 3 -Super Bowl Sunday - 5:15 p.m. at Talley's  
 Mar. 30 -YMCA Lock-in  
 Apr. 11-13 -Jamestown Retreat

MS Soul Train dinners are needed. If you would like to help serve dinner for the youth on Sunday nights our tummies would surely appreciate it. The nights that we need dinners are: Feb. 10, 14, March 2, 9, 16, April 6, 20, 27, May 4, 11. Contact Becky or Lisa - Thank you.

### THE MOST VULNERABLE OF ALL

The children of the Mathare slum in Nairobi, Kenya are among the most deeply affected by the recent violence and disorder. At the Eastleigh Community Center, brave Presbyterian men and women provide those children, who are among the world's neediest in the best of times, with education, nutrition, and emotional shelter.

Now, with many of Mathare's children orphaned, displaced or otherwise traumatized, the ECC has issued an appeal for financial support to help meet the increased need for medical and counseling assistance, as well as school fees, books, and uniforms.

To donate, make your gift out to the church, with "ECC-Mathare Children's Relief" in the memo line or on the envelope. Your gift could save a life, or help make one more worth living.



## HIGH SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE

- Feb 3: 4:00 Super Bowl at Brophy's.  
 Feb 10: No Meeting  
 Feb 16: Skiing, leaves 7ish a.m., returns p.m. Students without adult guardian need permission slip.  
 Feb 24: 6:30 Coffee Shop

### JANUARY TRUSTEE TALK

January 9---Bob Galt, Derrick Leopold, Andrew Thostenson, and Larry Peihl, Session Liaison, were in attendance. Ray Christopher, Scott Meyer, and Bob Olson were absent.



Bob Galt reported cabinet proposals for the office. Plans were put on hold until Delores Horn could be consulted.

Larry reported that Scott will do the trustee write up for the Annual Report. The trustees then spent considerable time discussing spring work projects. Signage, painting fire suppression pipes, and downspout drainage enjoyed the most attention. These items were tabled until the next meeting.

Larry Piehl asked if an under the counter light could be placed over the sink in the narthex. Andrew agreed to take care of this.

The next meeting of the trustees will be February 13 at 7:00 p.m.

### BIBLE STUDY

Millions believe in some sort of god, gods, or God, but it doesn't make a difference in their lives. Join us as we study the difference between "believing that..." and decisive, life-changing trustfulness that keeps us going through all that life brings. It's all in the book of Isaiah! We meet on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in the conference room. All are welcome. Questions? See Bonnie Thompson.



## INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN: DIXON MOORHEAD

### Personal Information

Birth date - June 30, 1942  
 Birth place - Evanston, Illinois  
 High school - graduated in San Marino, California  
 Occupation - stock broker for AG Edwards  
 Married - Mary Jo in Redondo Beach, CA on Feb. 19, 1981  
 Children -  
     Grace (Twin cities)  
     Blair (home and Princeton)  
 Joined Com. Pres. Church - 1993

### Favorites

Author - Robert Crais, Tom Clancy  
 Color - Orange  
 Smell - Brownies or cinnamon rolls cooking  
 Historical Figure - Jesus Christ and Martin Luther  
 Restaurant - fast food - McDonalds  
     - likes hamburgers!

### Would You Rather

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

- ... have stars in your eyes or eyes on the back of your head?
- ... have 1 song playing in your head forever or have to say "like" before every sentence?
- ... get free chocolate for one year or free potatoes forever?
- ... eat sushi or liver?
- ... wear all pink or all purple to school?

~~~~~

Dixon had the privilege of being interviewed by two people at the same time. He has many unique and charming perspectives on life. Here are some things that Nich and David found interesting.

Dixon likes to throw 'Super Surprise

Birthday Parties'. He does this by calling everyone that's coming to the party and tells them about the surprise, and then he makes them promise not to tell about the surprise. Then after the person comes home from work on Monday, when they least expect it, everyone jumps out and surprises the lucky person. He especially likes to do this to his wife, Mary Jo. She absolutely hates surprise parties! That's how Dixon throws his famous 'surprise birthday parties'.

Dixon also has a few good home remedies. One of the best ones is that when having an asthma attack you drink chilled coffee. If you want more of Dixon's home remedies for sickness or illness, you should contact him personally.

Another interesting thing about Dixon is that he is very generous with money. He is also a saver and good with money. Dixon has one daughter who goes to Princeton and another daughter who went to the University of Minnesota.

One last thing is that Dixon once wore a pink skirt. I know you're curious about the details, but if you want to know more, then you'll have to ask him!

Interviewed by:

Nich Leopold and David Misheski  
 8th grade                      7th grade  
 April 22, 2007

~~~~~

"Would You Rather" answers:

(Would You Rather answers: eyes on head, one song, chocolate, sushi, pink)

