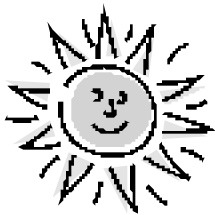


# COMMUNITY CALL

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



## SUMMER IS COMING!

Yes, yes, it's true that the thermometer shows little color these days, but before you know it, June, July, August will be here.

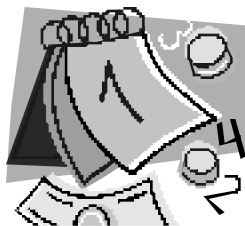
That is why the Christian Education Committee is looking for (a) Vacation Bible School Coordinator(s) now; now, when the local Christian book stores have workshops on new curriculum; now, before our calendars are full of summer activities.

With this week-long event come many opportunities for many individuals in our church. There will be opportunities to meet new friends in our community, build friendships within our church, use your God-given talents, spend time with the youth for a day or a whole week—to name a few.

Details will be determined soon. As coordinator(s) you will be able to determine many of those details. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact us.

We expect to hear from you soon.

Becky, Deb, Boots,  
Lisa, Toni, and Gayle



## PASTOR'S PEN



I have been the pastor here for five and a half years. That's what the calendar says, anyway, but I'm not so sure I believe it. Granted, when I look at photos of my family (or, for that matter, of many of your families) taken around the time I arrived, the conspicuous growth of my children argues persuasively that a good deal of time has gone by. The church building and property look rather different than they used to, as well. There's also a noticeable amount of wear-and-tear to my cars, house, and self that I can't readily ignore. It seems that I really have been here a while.

But as we move together into 2009, there are a couple of changes upon us that are going to bring home that pas-

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sage of time quite strongly for me and for just about anyone who has much to do with the day-to-day business of Community Presbyterian Church. We are undergoing a changing of the guard in two of our most important positions, Clerk of Session and Treasurer, and both transitions are well worth the notice of the church.

Delores Horn has served many years as Clerk of Session, retiring from the position once, only to take it up again. She has been an absolutely essential component of the work of this congregation ever since I've been here, and I mean no disrespect to her successor or anyone else when I say that I'm not quite sure we can even operate without Delores at the controls! She has been an exemplary Clerk of Session, keeping the church's records and statistics in order, faithfully recording the actions of the Session, and dealing with all the paperwork surrounding membership, baptisms, and so forth. But I have also grown to appreciate (and occasionally depend upon) the many other little things that Delores adds to the operation of the church: bringing treats to Session meetings to help us do the work we're called to do; serving as a living reference work that keeps track of who knows whom, where everything is stored, and what we've done before in every conceivable circumstance; and occasionally letting the pastor into his office when he's locked his keys in. Volunteers for these roles will be accepted...

Cheryl Montgomery assumed the role of Treasurer under challenging circumstances, first assisting Todd and then taking over the role when he was no longer able to serve. But she has been much more than a caretaker or fill-in. Working closely with the Clerk, two suc-

cessive Bookkeepers, the Stewardship Committee, and the Session, Cheryl has led a revolutionary change in how our congregational finances are managed, maintained, and above all reported, so that even non-financial folks like me can clearly understand what our position is. This has led to the Session and other leaders in the church having a much clearer understanding of how best to steward our resources, and to a much higher attention level during the Financial Report segment of Session meetings!

All joking aside, this sort of change in the life of a church is inevitable, and it is not a catastrophe. We will certainly continue to function once Delores is no longer serving as Clerk and Cheryl is no longer minding the church's finances, and I'm pretty sure neither of them plan to suddenly disappear, so it isn't a "goodbye," either. But it would be impossible for me not to express my appreciation for these two good and faithful servants of the Lord who have done so much for this congregation of his people, and I hope that you will take the opportunity to do the same.

### **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 2009 is \$41.95 per member or \$12,626.95 for Community Presbyterian Church. Each member is responsible for their own per capita assessment. Each family is responsible for their children once confirmed as well. 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! Thank you.





## DECEMBER CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on December 17, 2008.

Session approved accepting donations and gifts from various church groups to help pay the per capita assessment that we still owed. Youth for Christ Teen Moms was given permission to hold their Christmas party in the fellowship hall as well as to use the kitchen.

Pastor Stith was given approval to take study leave from February 8 (after church) through February 15th. He was also given permission to take vacation from December 28 (after worship) through January 4th.

Presbyterian Women were given approval to sell recycled greeting cards either in the narthex or fellowship hall with the profits to be used to help pay per capita assessments (because some members do not pay their individual per capita assessment which our church is required to pay to our local presbytery).

The trustees have removed the old blackboard and installed a white board in the conference room.

Session approved the proposed budget for 2009 which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Carolyn Meester, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that they still need two persons to fill the slate for deacons and two persons for the elder positions.

Emma and Mary DeJong were commended for their work with the Children's Christmas Program.

Delores Horn  
Clerk of Session

## JANUARY CLERK'S CORNER

The Session met on January 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Carolyn Meester was elected as Church Treasurer for a one year term. An audit of the treasurer's books will be made because of the change in treasurer.

Christopher & Ronda Green, and family were removed from the rolls at their request as they have joined a church in Sioux Falls, SD.

Boots Misheski was elected Commissioner to represent our church at the Presbytery Meeting in East Grand Forks, MN on January 24th.

Session approved forwarding Vicki Peihl's name to the Annual Meeting so that she can be elected as an elder for the purpose of serving as Clerk of Session for a term of three years.

Sarah and Maggie Traylor's request to have their membership transferred to Fairfield Glade Community Church, Fairfield, TN was approved. Also the request from Linda Brown to transfer her membership to the United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, ND was approved.

Brad Charais was received as a member by transfer from First Presbyterian Church, Crookston, MN.

A discount program presented by the Mission Committee from the Rainbow Shop allowing our church members to receive 10% off purchases made there if a copy of the current week's church bulletin is presented at the time of purchase was approved. The church will then receive a 10% credit toward purchases for the amount of the member's

**(Continued on page 4)**

**(Continued from page 3)**

purchase. See elsewhere in this newsletter for more explanation of this action <Editor's Note: see page 10> .

The Jamestown Youth Retreat will be held April 17-19, 2009. Youth are requested to contact the Christian Education Committee if they are interested in attending this retreat. The CE Committee is still searching for leaders for the Middle School youth group. They also need members to sign up to bring Sunday evening supper for both youths groups. Approximately 20-25 youths attend the Sunday night meetings.

The mission for January 18 to February 8 is the Teen Moms of Youth for Christ. For the balance of February the mission project will be for used household items to be given to the Veterans Administration to help homeless veterans set up apartments. I'm sure everyone has some used items that they are no longer using. Let's honor these veterans by helping them get into an apartment of their own. One Great Hour of Sharing is the mission project for March.

Pastor Stith was granted permission to take an additional Sunday as leave to attend an award presentation for Toni in Los Angeles, CA. She will be presented with the award on Saturday, April 19, and would like Matt to be there.

By e-mail vote Session approved the request from Brad and Shawna Charais to have their son, Allen Urby Charais, baptized on January 18, 2009 and for Shawna Charais to be received into membership by profession of faith on the same date. Both took place on January 18th during worship.

The Clerk reported that 37 persons were served communion on Christmas Day and 101 were served on January 11th.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session

### A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS



The Board of Deacons of Community Presbyterian is excited to begin its second year serving our congregation. As we look back on our first year, we see three areas where the congregation can help us.

In the first case, you have already responded wonderfully. We have had a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for those who would be willing to provide meals for members of our church family and many of you are on that list. If you aren't and would like to be, now is the time!

We are organizing more communion visitors to cover those of our congregation who cannot be with us on Communion Sundays. Anyone who is an ordained elder or deacon and would like to become involved should contact a deacon to become part of this effort.

The third, and most important, way you can help the deacons is to let us know of people you think might appreciate a visit from a deacon or communion visitor or some other sort of assistance. This is the best way for us to keep up with needs of our congregation.



### WANTED: SUNDAY SCHOOL NURSERY HELPERS

Do you have a morning open before church this month? Why not help out and share a hug and a smile with some young folk?

We are in need of some adult volunteers to supervise the children, aged two years under, in the nursery during Sunday School. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex.



## FOCUS ON MISSION

The mission for January 18 through February 8 is the Teen Moms program offered through Red River Youth for Christ. Linda Bass spoke to the congregation on January 18 and reminded us of the different components of the program. Each young mom is paired with an older, experienced "Mentor Mom". They have weekly meetings and Bible Studies. There is also a "store" where the young moms can get supplies for their babies as needed. The Mission Committee is asking you to donate supplies for the store. Diapers, wipes, baby lotions, shampoo, sleepers, onesies, blankets, children's books, small baby toys—anything you would give a baby at a baby shower would be very welcome! Linda also asked for volunteers to provide childcare at the weekly meetings/Bible studies. Mentor Moms are also needed. If you are interested in volunteering, call Linda at 729-3039.

Beginning February 8, our mission focus will be the Veteran's Administration. Brenda Witt, Dave and Gloria Ruhnke's daughter, works with veterans who have multiple needs, and many of them are homeless. She often helps them find apartments, and they need help in furnishing these apartments. Donations of "gently used" items such as dishes, silverware and other utensils, pots/pans, blankets, sheets, towels, appliances, lamps, furniture, etc. would be very much appreciated. These items do not have to be new, but they should be in good condition.

REMEMBER—we serve lunch at the Salvation Army on the third Saturday of each month. Upcoming dates are February 21, March 21, and April 18. Set-up starts at 10:30 a.m. and concludes

around 1:00 p.m. If you have questions or need a ride, contact a member of the Mission Committee: Kevin Galt, Dave Ruhnke, Bonnie Thompson, Carrie Leopold, Mary Jo Moorhead, and Vicky Whitcomb.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



- Feb. 1 – Super Bowl at Stith's  
 8 – 6:30 - diving in with the Thostensons - dinner served by Becky and Lisa  
 15 – activity with Van Cleves and Beauchanes  
 22 – 6:30 - mopping up for God with the Thostensons - dinner served by Becky and Lisa  
 28 – Saturday - Skiing –plans in progress-no Sunday meeting  
 March 8 – 6:30 - interviews – dinner served by church women  
 15 – dinner and TAG – for both MS and HS – dinner - ???  
 22 – ?  
 29 – activity with the Moorhead MS – dinner - ???  
 April 5 – Easter Egg Extravaganza – time TBA  
 12 – Easter Sunrise Service – breakfast  
 17-19 – Jamestown Retreat – Our goal is to get every 6th-12th grade student to go.  
 26 - ?  
 May 3 -?  
 10 - ?  
 17 -going out with the Thostensons

## DON'T FORGET

Attention all Soul Train members and parents, don't forget to mark your calendars for the Jamestown retreat. The all-presbytery youth retreat will occur on the April 17, 18, and 19. You won't want to miss it.



## IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Do you like to organize and enjoy the fellowship of our church? Do you have a desire to further our children's relationship with God? Do you enjoy children, but aren't comfortable teaching? Well, the job of Sunday School Superintendent is right for you or for you and a Co-superintendent.

With the help of the Christian Education Committee, the Sunday School Superintendent(s) oversee(s) the following tasks:

- ◇recruiting classroom and music teachers for the school year
- ◇finding directors for the Christmas program and VBS
- ◇ordering teaching materials
- ◇keeping the congregation informed of educational events through church announcements, the bulletin, and the newsletter
- ◇stocking the supply room: construction paper, markers, birthday surprises, etc.
- ◇handing out attendance sheets and collecting Sunday School money on Sunday mornings
- ◇awarding attendance certificates twice a year
- ◇attending monthly meetings of the Christian Education Committee

As the Superintendent, you would have input on all decisions regarding education, work closely with the Christian Education Committee, and receive active support from the committee in carrying out your responsibilities.

Ask yourself and ask God if He is calling you for this rewarding challenge.



Please call any committee member if you are interested or have questions. They are:

Boots Misheski, Session Committee Chair	282-5429
Becky DeJong	281-8122
Debbie Matzke	282-9463
Lisa Steffen	282-5308
Toni Stith	282-2715
Gayle Thostenson	492-0630



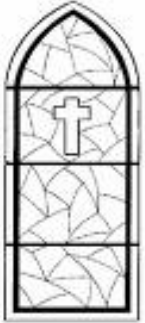
## FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

### 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 Jack Smith
2-9	Dean Hall Blair Moorhead
2-10	Linda Bishop
2-11	Tammy Nelson
2-12	Gwen Keller
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



## COMMENTS FROM CURT

December 26, 2008

Greetings and a Merry Christmas!!!

This letter is long overdue, but life gets in the way. As I was first caught off guard by the flu, Kadra now has her own shifts, I embraced finals, and finally we made a trip to Colorado and back again. Then, and only then, do I have time to get anything remotely resembling a Christmas letter out to one and all. In any case, here is my first attempt at doing so. That is assuming I get one out over the coming two years while we are still in seminary.

I must say though, so far, so good. I have gotten four of my grades back and am sitting at a 3.33. With two more coming, I hope they bring my overall accumulative for my first semester at Dubuque to a 3.5 (my goal for my time here). I am finally feeling like the time and effort that I am putting into my work is really paying off. This is a huge Blessing, and I hope to see the trend continue.

Kadra, as I already mentioned, is getting her own shifts now at Mercy Hospital. Although she is a little hesitant, I believe she is completely competent and she is excited to continue her time at Mercy. She gets to work with babies on a daily basis and help the delivering mothers go through the greatest labor of all. It seems to me that her work is a Blessing, and she will continue to be a blessing to all that she serves.

As some of you may have heard or seen, we did get a dog. His name is Toby, and he is a combination of Golden Retriever, Walker Coonhound, and Russell Terrier. On any given day, we can

see a little bit of any of those three, but I will let you decide as you see the picture attached.....



Finally, I hope this letter finds each of you doing well. I hope it finds you making room for Christ in your hearts in a season where the Son is often forgot. I hope God blesses your life in special ways when money seems to be all for naught. May the season remind you of family, friends, and our Savior. May it be forever warm in your heart. Where the weather is cold, the fire is delightful. Where the season gets long, God is forever faithful. And where an old year ends, God gives us the chance to start anew. May each of you start anew, fresh in your faith, renewed in spirit, and may we all know that the Kingdom of God is near.

Friends, this season, we rejoice, Amen.

In, with, and through Christ,  
Curtis, Kadra, and Toby too



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S NEW PROJECT

The Presbyterian Women are starting a new project to recycle used greeting cards. These will be sold for \$ .50 in the narthex. We hope to be able to start selling cards on February 8th. Any profits from this project will be given to the church's per capita fund to help pay this assessment.

We hope to have all types of greeting cards available for sale. This is similar to the card sale at the Hi-Rise. However, we have checked with them, and they feel we are not cutting into their client base.

Any PW member is welcome to help make these cards. If you would like to help, contact Delores Horn at 282-4501.

## INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN: CARY TALLEY

### Personal Information

Birth date - April 30  
 Birth place - Fargo, ND  
 High school - graduated from  
 West Fargo High School  
 Occupation - head cook for West  
 Fargo Schools  
 Married - Brent in Mapleton, ND  
 on September 25, 1993  
 Children -  
 Patrick (7th Grade)  
 Alex (4th Grade)  
 Joined Community Presbyterian  
 Church - 2000ish

### Favorites

Author - Janet Evanovich  
 TV Shows - Survivor, Biggest  
 Loser  
 Favorite Household Chore -  
 cooking  
 Least Favorite Chore Household  
 Chore - dusting  
 Historical Figure - Clara Barton  
 Foods - mashed potatoes, meat-  
 loaf

### Would You Rather

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

- ... give bad advice or take bad advice?
- ... not be able to talk or not be able to stop talking?
- ... go without television or without junk food for the rest of your life?
- ... get shot from a cannon or walk a high wire?
- ... be able to hear one conversation or take back one thing you said?

~~~~~

How many of you think that Cary Talley is just someone that goes to your church? Well, I think she is much more

than that, and I am going to tell you why.

These are a variety of things that I learned about Cary. First of all, she is always either early or on time. She was in the Air National Guard. She always played with friends, which tells me that she was very sociable. She had always wanted to live in Bismarck. Her first car was a brown Mustang. Those are some little tidbits about Cary.

Cary is not a doctor but, she has many ways to cure some aches and pains:

| Aches and Pains | Remedy                                            |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1. hiccups      | hold your breath as long as you can               |
| 2. tooth-aches  | make a certain paste and put it on the sore tooth |
| 3. earaches     | get a hot water bottle with a towel and lay on it |
| 4. arthritis    | wear a copper bracelet                            |
| 5. cough        | have honey and warm water                         |
| 6. brain freeze | hold your tongue on the roof of your mouth        |
| 7. sore throats | gargle salt water                                 |

She has a couple pet peeves like when people say that they are going to do something and don't do it, or when people don't know how to drive correctly. One thing that makes her really mad is when somebody is in charge and someone else tries to take over. She says that then things can get out of hand easily.

She has had a couple of bad jobs. Once  
**(Continued on page 9)**

(Continued from page 8)



she had to baby-sit for a farmer and she turned out to be sort of like a maid. Another job was when she worked at Mount Eye Clinic. She had a bad boss and he was always mad. When she was working there she was pregnant with Patrick, so she figured that she only had to work with him for nine months.

When Cary was young she played a lot of things. She played many games like Red Rover, kickball, baseball, Ante Over (like S.P.U.D.), Wild Horse Tackle (like sharks and dolphins), and Hide and Seek. She was definitely better at some games than others. She would usually play these games at school. Ante Over is where you throw a ball in the air and you call a name and everybody runs except that person. Once that person has caught the ball everybody has to stop running and the person with the ball can take three steps and try to throw the ball at somebody. Wild Horse Tackle is where one person is in the middle and on his/her cue everybody runs and the person in the middle tries to tackle them. If you got tackled you were also it, and then this game just keeps going until everybody is it. Those were the games that Cary played when she was young.

I think that Cary is a very kind, interesting, and funny person, and I hope you do too.

Interviewed by:  
Claire DeJong  
6th grade  
April 20, 2008

(Would You Rather answers: take bad advice, stop talking, junk food, cannon, take back one thing said)

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL LEADERS NEEDED**

Our middle school youth are energetic, bright, enthusiastic, and dedicated to spending one evening per week at the church for youth group activities. However, they don't have a leader for every week.

Meetings include dinner, devotions (ready to select in a binder in the Sunday School cupboard), and an activity. Activities could include making cuddle-ups for PATH, serving at the Great Plains Food Bank, playing Human Sorry, watching a movie followed by discussion, attending a Christian concert, and so much more.

Openings are posted in the narthex and in this newsletter. Please sign up now before you miss the chance to spend time with these special kids.

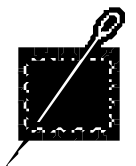
### **SOUL TRAIN MEALS NEEDED**

Help! Soul Train is a hungry crew of 25!!! We are looking for people that are interested in soothing our appetites. We need dinners on 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/26, 5/3, and 5/10. Please sign up by yourself or with a friend in the narthex.

### **CHRISTMAS QUILT**

Congratulations to Grace Moorhead, the winner of this year's Christmas quilt. Thanks to all those who bought chances for the quilt.

The \$203 raised will go to fund the Quilters' many projects which include wedding quilts, mission quilts, prayer quilts, and military blocks.





### FINANCIAL REPORT

In upcoming newsletters we will go back to our format of showing how much giving is necessary to pay our 2009 expense budget versus how much general giving has been received.

At our last annual meeting when the 2008 \$160,000 budget was announced, many asked, "Couldn't we find ways to cut this budget down?" But the budget was well-researched and our operating income would have to increase 12% to cover our expenses.

Well, our operating expenses came in well under budget at \$150,000, but our operating income did not increase and we are left with an \$11,000 note.

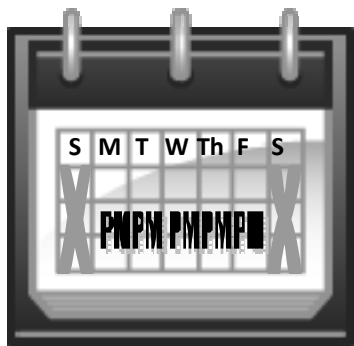
We also are beginning the year with POD funds to cover mortgage payments only into March.

Many members have increased their pledges and stayed committed to their POD giving for our mortgage. Let's take the new year to pray and reflect on our financial support for God's work here at Community Presbyterian.

### NEW COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

Beginning the week of February 1, our church secretary, Lora Wehrung, will have new office hours. Lora will be in the office only in the AFTERNOONS.

The office phone number is 282-4135.



### SHOPPING ALERT

The Rainbow Shop, located at 1801 45th St. S. in Fargo, has a new store promotion for our church and its members. If a member of our church brings in of copy of the bulletin of Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo for the week, they will be given 10 % off his/her entire bill of regularly priced items. Plus, our church will get the same 10 % as a church credit to use in the store. For example, if someone buys \$100.00 worth of regularly priced items, that person will get \$10.00 taken off his/her bill. In addition, Community Presbyterian Church would get a \$10 store credit.



So, next time you plan to shop at The Rainbow Shop, bring your church bulletin, and you will get a discount, and the church will as well.



### THE POTTER'S HAND

On Sunday, February 15, for our worship service, we will be treated to a presentation by Rene Fuglestad of Glyndon, MN., whose wife is a relative of Becky DeJong. A potter by trade, Rene gives a unique perspective of the hand of God upon His creation. Using scripture and his potter's wheel, Rene will help us better understand the imagery used in Biblical texts from Isaiah and the Psalms as well as gain an appreciation for the history and tradition of working with clay.

**THE  
MARCH  
COMMUNITY CALL  
DEADLINE WILL BE  
THURSDAY,  
FEBRUARY 19**