

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Soul Train has joined an international youth movement to fight hunger!! They will be participating in the 30 hour famine on February 26 & 27th.

During this time of fasting, they will be serving a meal at the Salvation Army, delivering Meals on Wheels, participating in Bible Study, and growing together in Christ.

Last year, over 600,000 people in 22 different countries participated in the 30-hour famine. You can support the Youth Group by praying for them on Feb. 26 & 27 and/or by making a donation to: World Vision on February 29th during the worship service. (Please use the special offering envelopes in your pew.)

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FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



By the time this reaches you, the ball will be out of my court. As some of you know, I have been working since 1998 on my Ph.D. in Old Testament studies at Princeton Seminary. In the past couple of months, this work has reached a fever pitch, as I have been trying very hard to complete my dissertation, a 200-plus page research project, ahead of a March 1 deadline for my committee of advisors to decide whether it is ready for a defense. If they decide it is ready, I will get a defense date, most likely sometime in April, that will allow me, if successful, to graduate this May. If they do not think that it is ready, I will continue working toward graduation next year.

I don't bring this up because I'm looking for some sympathy, or prayers, or anything like that (although I wouldn't refuse them!), nor did I write on this topic because I can't think about anything else these days (although that is closer

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to the truth than I'd like!). Instead, I am writing to share with you one of the things of which I've been reminded through the whole dissertation process, but that will never see print in the dissertation itself.

You see, in my scholarly work, I have spent a great deal of time and energy considering the ways that evidence works in the writing of history. The discussions and debates on this topic are enough to make my head spin, but in order to speak the language, as it were, of scholarship in my area, it is necessary that I work through them. Now, don't get me wrong—I love history, and I love studying and teaching about the history that lies behind the text of the Bible, because I firmly believe that such study helps to reveal the treasures of meaning that Scripture holds for us. But sometimes, as my eyes glaze over after too many hours of plowing through these academic discussions of whether or not we can really know anything about the past, whether or not history can be true or false, or if it's all just a matter of perspective, it is a great relief to me to remember that, when it comes down to it, the scholars—myself included—do not have the final say about the things, or, better, the one thing in history that really matters the most.

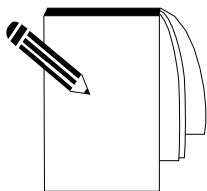
The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written. The Scriptures are not *a* witness among others, but *the* witness *without parallel*. The church has received the books of the Old

and New Testaments as prophetic and apostolic testimony in which it hears the word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated.

-The Confession of 1967,
The Book of Confessions

These words are from one of the confessions of faith that form the Constitution of our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They remind us that, when it comes to the Incarnation, the coming of God in human flesh in the person of Jesus, to live, die, and rise again for us and for our salvation, there is no question of whether we can know about it, or whether it is true. For us, this is not a matter of rational scholarly debate and inquiry. The truth of Jesus Christ is finally revealed to us in one way: by the Holy Spirit, as we read and think about the Scriptures. Nothing, from a scholarly book to a Hollywood movie can take the place of our reading of the Bible, and though such things can enhance and illustrate that reading, we must all be careful not to elevate them beyond their appropriate place. We don't need my dissertation committee, deep scholarly tomes or even letters from the pastor to know the truth about the most important thing in all of history. We have been given a better way in the gift of God's holy Word.





CLERK'S CORNER

The Session and Trustees met on Wednesday, February 18. The Trustees presented estimates of the cost for completing the secretary's office, the sanctuary carpeting, and the carpeting of the hallways, main entrance and stairs. These estimates total approximately \$10,000 less the \$1,400 which has already been designated for the secretary's office project. The Session voted to announce a fund drive beginning February 29th to raise money for these projects. The priority for these projects would be: first - secretary's office because this project had already been started when the pastor's office was remodeled, second - the sanctuary carpeting, and third - the hallways, main entry and stairs. A sum of \$3,000 which is to be received from the installer of the basement carpet because of faulty installation will be applied to these projects. As soon as adequate contributions are received, each project will be completed.

Lee Dobrinz was elected Chair of the Congregational Care Committee and Lowell Wiese was elected Chair of the Personnel Committee. If anyone would like to serve on these committees please contact either Lee or Lowell.

Jon and LeAnn Carlson requested permission to have their daughter, Cora Ann baptized on April 18. The request was tentatively approved contingent on two elders meeting with the couple and Pastor Matt meeting with them. Pastor Matt will report back to the Session at the March meeting for final approval.

The Youth Group was granted permission to hold a sleep-over at the church from Thursday, February 26th at 6:30

p.m. to Friday, February 27 after dinner. This will be held in conjunction with the World Vision 30 Hour Famine Event. They were also granted permission to receive a special offering for World Vision. The leaders of the group have several community service projects lined up for the youth to do in connection with the sleep-over.

It was decided to celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sunday, April 4th and on Maundy Thursday, April 8th. There will be no communion on Easter Sunday.

Skip and Teresa Delo were removed from the active membership roll as they have joined another church in South Carolina. The Session approved the Church Statistical Report sent to the Presbytery by the clerk.

Dixon Moorhead reported that he has held two sing-a-longs for the residents of the High Rise. He is planning to conduct Bible Study there on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. This was at the request of the High-Rise residents. This effort was approved as an outreach ministry of the church.

Toni Stith was given permission to hold a baby shower for Janine Steele on Saturday, March 27th in the Fellowship Room.

A special meeting of the Session will be held in late March or early April to receive new members who are scheduled to attend the Inquirers Class to be held by Pastor Matt.

The Worship Committee reported that Youth Sunday will be April 25th. This is being held later than usual due to time conflicts. They reported that they are close to a decision to choose a new hymnal for the church. They will also

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be publishing a supplemental hymnal to include favorite congregational hymns that are not in any of the currently published hymnals. They requested that the sound system be inspected and this will be done.

The Mission/Outreach and Evangelism Committee received permission to conduct the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering at the Palm Sunday service. They will begin promoting this offering shortly with bulletin inserts, Minute for Mission, Posters, and the Fish Boxes for the children.

The Service and Fellowship Committee met with Pastor Matt recently. He indicated that he would like to have extra greeters for each Sunday who would be responsible for greeting newcomers, perhaps sitting with them during the service, escorting them down for refreshments and introducing them to Pastor Matt and other members.

The plans for the Pictorial Directory are underway and information will be sent out to members and friends of the church shortly. The dates for the pictures to be taken are the afternoon and evening of Thursday, April 22nd, afternoon and evening of Friday, April 23rd, and the morning and afternoon of Saturday, April 24th. Please be sure to sign up promptly, so that you can get the time and day most convenient for you.

The Christian Education Committee has selected its members: Toni Stith, Deb Matzke, Gayle Thostenson, Becky De-Jong, Lisa Steffen and Chair Boots Misheski. They will have their first meeting March 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

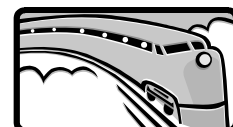
Pastor Matt reported that there has been problems with the copier and he requested that someone look into replacement since it is several years old.

Andrew and Janine Steele presented the church with a check for \$110 representing the profit from the Valentine's Day Dinner. This will be added to the Youth Fund as approved by the Session.

109 persons were served Communion on February 1st.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session

SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



- Mar 7—regular meeting—
Jill Swart—scarves and hats
- Mar 14—Mission moving event
- Mar 21—possibly seeing the movie, The Passion of Christ (waiting for reviews)
- Mar 28—regular meeting—
Andrew Thostenson—set up web page
- April 4—help run Easter Egg Hunt
- April 11—Easter—no meeting



JUNIOR CHOIR NIGHT

Junior Choir will meet Friday, March 19th at 7:00 p.m. We will go Cosmic Bowling from 9:30-11:30. Cost for Bowling is \$12.00 per person. They will sing in church on the 21st. Junior Choir is 4th-7th graders.

JOIN THE BUNNY HOP



Hop on over to the church for an "Eggs" traordinary good time. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 4 from 4:00 to 6:00 at the church. All kids through 6th grade are welcome to join in the fun.

Attention all 'Bunnies' —we are looking for donations of wrapped candy. We would like to have the candy by Sunday, April 4. Thank you for helping.



PM MEN'S RUMMAGE SALE

The April 3rd Rummage Sale is fast approaching. The Presbyterian Men would like to remind you to be collecting those items that are unused or in the way and set them aside to be included in this year's sale.

Let's all pitch in and make this a successful sale. Let's see if we can't break the old record of \$1200.

Further information about the sale and the workers needed will appear in the church bulletin and the April Community Call. Direct questions to Jim Bjorklund.

WANTED

We need a piano player to play about 5-6 songs over the course of one hour on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the High Rise. We will pay you for your preparation and playing time.



Dixon Moorhead
W: 232-8283
H: 277-1414

PER CAPITA

The total assessment for per capita for our church is \$6, 979.65 for this year. This breaks down to \$24.49 per confirmed member. If there are two adults and two confirmed youth in the family it means that the assessment for that family would be \$97.96.

A total of \$1, 862.77 has been paid by members so far. Please make your payments as soon as possible so that this assessment can be paid to the Presbytery. As you will remember the Presbytery was a great help to us in securing a new pastor and helping us through the year between pastors.

Please remember to pay your share!

COMING SOON... BABY SHOWER



Everyone is invited to a Baby Shower for Janine & Andrew Steele on Saturday, March 27th, from 10:00 am-Noon. The Steeles are expecting a baby girl in June.

Please RSVP to Toni Stith (282-2715). This is a fun way to care for our ever growing church family.

2004 CHURCH DIRECTORY

The 2004 Church Directory is in the final stages of completion. If your address has changed since last April please make sure we have the correct address.

There is a copy of the directory on the table in the narthex on which corrections can be made or you can call and leave a message on the answering machine at the church. Please do this promptly so that this directory can be ready for distribution the first part of March. Thank You!

2003-2004 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Palm Sunday	April 4
Easter	April 11
No Sunday School	
Youth Sunday	April 25
Senior Recognition	May 16
Sunday School's Last Day	
Potluck	

PW TABLECLOTHS



The Presbyterian Women has purchased 12 ecru lace tablecloths (60" x 120") for use in the fellowship hall. They will replace the white lace tablecloths which are quite worn from heavy use for many years.

We believe it is time they were honorably retired. If anyone knows of a use for these old tablecloths, please let Delores Horn or Marlys Martin know. They can be inspected in the kitchen.

Dear Members and Friends,

On April 22, 23, and 24, Olan Mills will be at our church to take photos for our new church directory. Our goal is to have 100% participation.



We want you and your family to appear in this directory because, as a church family, we are constantly changing and growing, and this directory offers us an excellent way to keep track of who we are, and to become better acquainted with one another. You'll use your copy of the directory for addresses, phone numbers, and to get to know fellow members and friends better. The church will also use the directory as a tool for outreach and for welcoming future new members.

Joining us in the directory also offers you the opportunity to update your family portrait without the trouble and expense of an additional sitting. The video imaging system that will be used means that you will have your picture taken and then see previews on the spot, rather than returning later to look at proofs.

Remember that each family who participates will receive a free color directory and a free 8 x 10 portrait. Other portrait packages will also be available at an additional cost. Note that there is no cost to the church for this service.

Please sign up for the day and time that are most convenient for you. Sign-up volunteers will be stationed at the front door of the church and downstairs in the Fellowship Hall after worship. If you cannot sign up this way, you may contact Susan Gross, Service and Fellowship Chair, at 277-0860.

We hope to see you on the 22nd, 23rd, or

24th. Our directory will not be complete without you!

Service and Fellowship Committee

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 3-3 Julia Pederson
- 3-5 Joram Stith
- 3-8 Troy Montgomery
- 3-9 Amy Matzke
- 3-10 Phil Martens
Claire DeJong
- 3-13 Becki Hummel
Kristi Hummel
- 3-15 Irene Martin
- 3-16 Dustin Smith
- 3-19 Derrick LaCoe
- 3-21 Patrick Talley
- 3-22 Bonnie Thompson
- 3-23 Ryan Kellerman
- 3-24 Dawn Larson
Clifford Sheeley
- 3-25 Michelle Ohm
- 3-26 Keith Sebelius
- 3-28 Sam Barenthsen
Tom Taffe
- 3-29 Jessica Peihl
- 3-30 Jordan Birrenkott

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3-3-79 – Cliff and Gail Sheeley
- 3-4-78 – Bruce and Vicki Reidinger
- 3-5-51 – Ted and Evelyn Martin
- 3-14-64 – Chuck and Bonnie Thompson
- 3-27-70 – Doug and Cheryl Saari

ATTENTION COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN SCOUTS!



If you are either an active Boy Scout or Girl Scout, please call Toni Stith (282-2715). All scouts will be recognized on Scout Sunday in March and will also participate in the worship service.