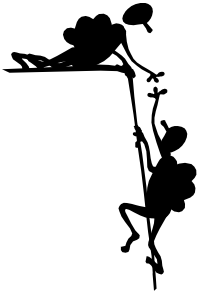


COMMUNITY CALL

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



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

The newly forming Personnel Committee is seeking your help. You can be instrumental in fulfilling needs, helping with concerns, and setting goals for our church. This committee is likely to meet three to four times per year.

If you have a desire, expertise, or knowledge of personnel matters, please apply.

For more information, contact Lowell Wiese:

Home phone: 701-282-7898
Cell phone: 701-866-7428
E-mail: LOWI58078@AOL.COM



Vacation Bible School is coming June 11-15. Watch for more news about it next month.

PASTOR'S PEN

Shortly after you read this, most likely, I will be on my way to Princeton, New Jersey, where I will be spending a week haunting the library of my alma mater, Princeton Theological Seminary. The Session has granted me study leave, for the purpose of writing some articles for a Bible dictionary that will be published within the next couple of years, and going back to Princeton will provide me the research materials and uninterrupted reading and



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writing time that I need to complete these projects. And while sitting in a library cubicle by yourself for about 14 hours a day might not sound all that good to you, I have to admit that I'm looking forward to it.

Of course, the chance to get some concentrated study in is only part of the attraction. I also look forward very much to returning, for the first time in two years, to Princeton itself. I'll get to visit with some of my former professors, eat at a couple of my favorite restaurants, check in with a classmate (who now lives in nearby Trenton, where he pastors a church and is running for city council), and even visit our own Blair Moorhead. But the Seminary itself is probably the biggest draw of all. It is the place where Toni and I spent seven of the first eight years of our married life. It is where we lived when Mayim and Joram were born. And Princeton Seminary is the place, more than any other, where God shaped and molded me for the calling that he has given me, both as a pastor and as a scholar. In a very real sense, when I get off the commuter train next door to the convenience store just down the hill from campus, I will be returning to my roots.

Roots, you know, are important. It's a bit of a cliché, but a true one, to say that where we come from has a lot to do with who we are. The places we grew up, the schools we attended, the families that formed and shaped our earliest experiences, all of these play a big role in the way we live our lives. It makes us feel centered, firmly founded, and solid when we return, from time to time, in the flesh or in spirit, to our roots.

So where are your spiritual roots? What shaped and formed your religious character? To what do you return, when you

are in need of grounding, of centering, of a reminder of who you are and what you wish to be? Many of us have strong memories of the churches where we grew up, and these memories, the recollections of the people and practices that were, for us, the first experience of the people of God. These can be very powerful, and very solid roots, and when one person's roots lead them to a different vision of what and where we should be as a church than someone else's, it can be a real problem to find common ground. Our roots can also entangle us.

But there is a deeper and more important root than all of these, a taproot, if you will, that really sustains and nourishes all of our various root systems. Whatever the specifics of our background, upbringing, and perspective, we all depend, finally, upon the Word of God, preserved for us in Scripture and made alive in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is where our roots are finally grounded, and it is there, again and again, that we must return when we feel we've lost our way, or when we wonder where to go next.

And so, as I return to my scholarly roots, I encourage you to return often to our mutual roots in the Word, and there to drink deeply and well.



**NEW
IMPROVED
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
SCHEDULE**

Apr. 2	Memorization Sunday
Apr. 16	Easter *No Sunday School*
May 14	Memorization Sunday
May 21	Carnival ***Last Day of Sunday School***



FEBRUARY CLERK'S CORNER

The Session and Trustees met on February 15th for their regular monthly meeting. Andrew Thos-tenson and Greg Sterup attended the meeting to give the Session information about the bids for Project Open Door. They requested the Session to call a Special Meeting of the Congregation to present information about the bids to the members. (By this time you should have received a letter from the POD Committee, so that is not included in this report.) The Session set the Special Meeting for February 26, a half hour after the worship service. The Session will then meet at a special meeting on February 28 to act on the recommendations of the members.

The Christian Education Committee will arrange to hold the younger children's church service upstairs to accommodate a youth in a wheel chair.

The request from Brian Matzke and Angela Korvela to hold their wedding in the sanctuary on December 2, 2006 late in the afternoon was approved. The Ses-sion approved the request from Rod and Kristi Gellner to have their daughter, Rose Katherine baptized on February 19th. Two elders will meet with the Gellners to review the baptism criteria and Pastor Stith will also meet with them before the 19th. (This has had to be rescheduled due to the illness of their son, Jack.)

Committee assignments were made for 2006. Steven Hanna will be chair of the Stewardship Committee replacing Greg Sterup. Jim Johnson will be in charge of Congregational Care replacing Lee Do-brinz, and Lee Dobrinz will be in charge of the Service and Fellowship Committee replacing Susan Gross. Other commit-

tee leadership remains the same. Please continue to support these com-mittees in their work for the church.

A letter from Chuck Traylor, Executive Presbyterian was circulated. This was in reference to the overture presented to the Presbytery by Community Presbyte-rian and several other churches.

Pastor Stith encouraged all Session members to attend the Stewardship Workshop on March 4th at the Moorhead Church. This is on a Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Anyone interested in attending may do so. Speaker will be Dick Craft who is with the Stewardship and Mission Funding Committee, a unit of the General Assembly Council.

The request from the PW to hold a spring brunch on Saturday, April 29, was approved. The program will be Rae Kercher presenting information about her recent trip to Africa. There will also be musical selections. The brunch be-gins at 10:00 a.m., and a free will offer-ing will be taken to cover expenses.

The Cuddle Up Committee's request to hold a bake sale on Palm Sunday in the narthex was approved. The proceeds will be used to purchase material to make cuddle-ups which will be given to Cass County Social Services, PATH, and the Linus Project, which gives blankets to youngsters who are hospitalized.

Delores Horn was reelected Clerk for 2006 and election of co-treasurers was deferred to the March meeting so that the Montgomerys could be present when they will be asked to continue as co-treasurers. The Annual Statistical Re-port was approved and will be submitted to the Presbytery. 100 persons were served Communion on February 5th.

Delores Horn,
Clerk of Session



29TH ANNUAL NEW LIFE CENTER PRAYER BREAKFAST/DESSERT

The 29th Annual New Life Center Prayer Breakfast and the Evening Dessert will be held on Thursday, April 20th at the Fargo Holiday Inn and Conference Center.

Jan Dravecky, co-founder of Outreach of Hope Ministry, and wife of baseball legend and amputee Dave Dravecky, will be the speaker at both events.

Tickets are \$15 for the breakfast and \$8 for the dessert and will be available after February 16th. Reservations are required. Call Reta Gage at 239-0428 for ticket information.

To learn more about Jan Dravecky, visit her website, www.OutreachOfHope.org.

SECOND ANNUAL FARGO MARATHON

Our church has been given the privilege of manning the Mile 22 aid station at the Fargo Marathon on May 20 this year. The good news is that's about a mile north of where we were last year (on Elm Street). The bad news is that we won't see our first runner until 10:10 (if it is Alberto Salazar in his prime) or, more likely about 10:20 or later (but we WILL be there much, much earlier!!). At least the snow will have stopped for the day.

We have shirts plus goodie bags for 30 volunteers, so we should handily outnumber the runners when they come by. Details to come much later, but start rounding up people, shirt sizes, banners, and let me know. We will have prizes for the last water and ERG people that lose feeling in their fingers this year. Here we go!

Regards, Dixon Moorhead

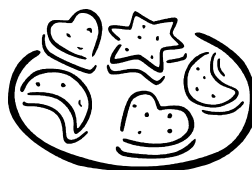


PRAYER CHAIN



Sharing our needs and concerns in prayer with our church family brings us closer to one another and lightens our load. If you have a prayer concern for any person or need, please call Carol Sterup at 293-6603.

Also, it's never too late to join the prayer chain. Just call Carol or e-mail Gayle Thostenson (atgtet@cablone.net) to become a member.



HAVE YOU SEEN THE TRAVELING PLATE?

*This plate shall have no owner
For its journey never ends
It travels in the circle
Of God's family and our friends.*

*It carries love from home to home
For everyone to share
The food that's placed upon it
Is filled with love and care.*

*So please enjoy what's on this plate,
Then fill it up again
Pass along the love it holds
To your family and friends.*

So says the verse displayed on the CPC's traveling plate. Made by Becky and Emma DeJong and started by Soul Train, this plate was featured in our presbytery's January edition of Light of the Northern Plains.

The traveling plate is set up to share goodies and God's love with our entire congregation. So watch out! The traveling plate may be visiting you soon!



MISSION GOALS MET

For January we aimed for 25 cans of coffee for the new life center - and thanks to all your generous donations we more than reached our goal. Jim and Brenda Bjorklund delivered the 40 cans of coffee to the New Life Center. Brenda reported back to us - they were overwhelmed with what our church brought in!

Thanks again to our wonderful congregation!

FISHING IN MARCH



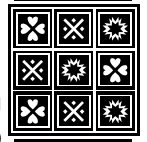
Let's all get ready to go fishing for our March mission! Yes- fishing! This is the time of year for One Great Hour of Sharing- the time of year Sunday school kids receive boxes of fish to fill up with coins. But we decided to let the adults have fun filling their own fish too! So, on the 2nd Sunday of March, we will be handing out fish after the service to any adult household. Fill it up with coins, dollar bills, or even checks and return to the church on Palm Sunday.

Where does this money go? This is the annual appeal for our national Presbyterian denomination and the monies given are split 3 ways: for Presbyterian disaster assistance, hunger program, and self development of people.

The last year has been overwhelming with natural disasters alone. Jesus still calls us to provide drink to the thirsty, shelter to the homeless, and food to the hungry. With your donations we can help supply safe drinking water, feed those in drought stricken areas, and care for the sick and homeless.

Last year our church donated about \$1200 to One Great Hour of Sharing. I think this year with filling up our fish our church could reach \$1500! Thanks for your support!

QUILTERS FUNDRAISER



Last fall, Andrew Thostenson asked the church quilting group if they would make a Raffle quilt for Project Open Door. The challenge was accepted by Carol Braaten, Marlys Martin, Ann Chale, and Carol Sterup, and a quilt was completed. Sue Gross put her computer skill to use and printed up the tickets. Sue, Brenda Bjorklund, Ann, and Carol spent one evening cutting, numbering, and sorting the tickets for sale.

CPC members are asked to contact Carol Sterup to obtain books of tickets to sell to EVERYONE as part of the fundraising for the new building addition.

After you have sold the tickets, quickly return the monies and ticket stubs to Carol and pick up some more to sell. Carol will be available Sundays at coffee time after church. Volunteers are also needed for ticket sales during the church rummage sale in April.

If you have an idea on other times/ places tickets could be sold between now and the raffle drawing on May 21, please contact Carol Sterup. If you have other fundraising ideas for Project Open Door, please contact Andrew Thostenson. All church sponsored fundraisers must be approved by the Session .

CUDDLE UP BAKE SALE



Get your taste buds, tastiest recipes, and baking pans ready. On April 9, Palm Sunday, there will be a bake sale. All proceeds will benefit CPC's Cuddle Up mission.

Interested? Watch for details in the April Community Call and upcoming bulletins.



**MARCH
DATES
TO REMEMBER**

BIRTHDAYS

- 3-3 Julia Pederson
Karen Steele
- 3-5 Joram Stith
- 3-6 Ken Faircloth
Troy Montgomery
- 3-9 Amy Matzke
- 3-10 Claire DeJong
- 3-13 Becki Donahue
Kristi Hummel
- 3-15 Irene Martin
- 3-16 Dustin Smith
- 3-19 Derrick LaCoe
- 3-21 Patrick Talley
Melissa Van Cleve
- 3-22 Bonnie Thompson
- 3-23 Ryan Kellerman
- 3-24 Dawn Larson
Clifford Sheeley
- 3-25 Michelle Ohm
- 3-26 Samantha Pyle
Keith Sebelius
- 3-27 Patrick Richard
- 3-28 Sam Barenthsen
Tom Taffe
- 3-29 Jessica Hill
- 3-30 Jordan Birrenkott

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3-3-79 – Cliff and Gail Sheeley
- 3-4-78 – Bruce and Vicki Riedinger
- 3-5-51 – Ted and Evelyn Martin
- 3-7-70 - Lowell and Nan Wiese
- 3-14-64 – Chuck and Bonnie Thompson

**SOUL TRAIN
SCHEDULE**

- Mar. 5 - 6:30-8:30 - dinner and Talk About God 
- Mar. 12 - 6:30-8:30 - dinner and PATH
- Mar. 19 - 6:30-8:30 - dinner and Fathers' Night Out
- Mar. 26 - 6:30-8:30 - dinner and plan Easter Sunrise Service and EEExtravaganza
- Mar. 30 - April 2 - Presbytery Retreat in Jamestown - details TBA
- Apr. 9 - 2:00-4:00 - EEExtravaganza - dinner following the EEE
- Apr. 16 - Easter Sunrise Service - details TBA
- Apr. 22/23 - *Saturday - Mission Day and Sleepover - details TBA
- Apr. 30 - 6:30-8:30 - dinner and golf competitions
- May 7 - 6:30-8:30 - dinner and golf competitions continued
- May 14 - 6:30-8:30 - Mother's Day Dinner
- May 21 - SS Carnival - final Soul Train outing

**AFTERNOON CIRCLE
MEETING CHANGE**

The Afternoon Circle will hold their March 14 meeting at the home of Ardis Sherwood. Jiggs Restaurant is undergoing remodeling and is unavailable. The Circle will meet at 1:00 p.m. for dessert and Bible study.

Ardis lives at 4243 9th Avenue Circle, Apt. 203, Fargo. Take 45th to 9th Avenue. The entrance to the building is on the south side and you should use the door at the middle of the building. You can take 45th to 9th Avenue, turn left at 9th Avenue Circle and follow the street until you get to 4243. Ardis's phone number is 282-7994.