

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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SAY CHEESE!

It's time for a new pictorial directory, so practice your smiles. We will be taking photographs for the directory the week of April 18. Watch for more information in the announcements and April newsletter.

At the same time, we are updating the contact information of all involved in the church for Community Presbyterian Church's 2010 directory.

Please take a moment to check your family's entries in the directory displayed on the small table immediately outside the sanctuary. Write in additional information that should be included (home or cell phone numbers, e-mail and street addresses) and correct any errors. Afterwards, mark the entry with a checkmark.

Remember, if you are an elder of Session, a deacon, trustee, employee, or member of a committee, your information is likely to be listed more than once. Please be sure to check if your information is correct in every section of the directory.

Thank you for helping our church family stay in contact with one another.



PASTOR'S PEN



If you are reading this column, it is because, as usual, our newsletter editor was gracious enough to accept my copy even though I submitted it after the deadline. I'm not always late, mind you, but it does happen more often than I'd like. As usual, when I do miss the deadline, I have a reason, though not an excuse. Our schedule was thrown into disarray this week by a strep throat diagnosis, and the resultant need for parents to stay home with a sick child. It was, looked at objectively, quite fascinating to observe Toni's and my reaction to the situation. Despite both of us having very busy, highly scheduled lives, there was not even any discussion over how to react to this sudden change. As

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soon as the sore throat was reported and seen to be persistent, Toni called in for a half-day off of work and headed for the walk-in clinic. As soon as the strep diagnosis was confirmed, I dropped my plans for the afternoon and headed home so that Toni could return to school for the second part of the day. There was no weighing of pros and cons, no careful consideration of which course of action was most likely to yield what result, or anything of that sort. For parents, a sick child trumps virtually all other obligations. Whatever needs to be done to provide for that child becomes the one and only priority, more or less by instinct or reflex.



I'm not sure there's anything else in my experience that compares with this imperative, irresistible priority. If my children are in need or distress, I'll do whatever needs to be done, regardless of cost. Why is this? I suppose those folks who insist on understanding everything in purely scientific, behavioral terms would point to some sort of innate drive to be sure the species survives another generation or some such thing, but I think the answer is far simpler: love. As parents, we love our children so deeply and completely that their welfare is automatically our most urgent concern. We will make any sacrifice if it is necessary for their safety and well-being.

Of course, we do know about one sort of love that compares to this love of a parent for a child, and even surpasses it. Indeed, we often use the language of parent and child to express, however imperfectly, our sense of this great and unfathomable love. The hymn "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven" offers an

example of what I mean:

*Father-like he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows;
In his arms he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.*

The love of God for his people, for you and me, is the perfection, the very model, of the love of a parent for a child. For our safety and well-being, nothing is too great a sacrifice for God to make, and we know this very, very well. After all, he has already made an inconceivably great and valuable sacrifice for us—that of himself, crucified by and for sinners. The Lord of life endured humiliating death for us. Why? Because he loves us so completely, so unconditionally, that no other concern could ever be allowed to interfere. As the Heidelberg Catechism says of God's commitment to our care in all things, "He is able to do it, being Almighty God, and is determined to do it, being a faithful Father." There can be no greater gift than this love, no greater reason for thanks and praise, and no greater model to which we should all aspire. Praise our heavenly Father for his great and abiding love!

PRAYER TIME

We do it every church service, at the beginning of every meeting, and often in the midst of our daily grind. However, beginning Thursday, March 11, we will just meet for a time of prayer.



Join us every second Thursday of the month from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the "wedding room" as we spend special time with our Lord and Supplier of every need.

Questions? Contact Bonnie Thompson (Mrs. Chuck) or Gayle Thostenson.



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The annual meeting of Community Presbyterian Church was held at 11:10 a.m. on January 31, 2010, in the church sanctuary. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Matt Stith. The Clerk verified there was a quorum present with 69 people in attendance.

Carolyn Meester, treasurer, presented the financial reports as were printed in the Annual Meeting Booklet. Starting with the balance sheet she explained that we ended 2009 with \$12,202 in the building fund which gives our church a good start in 2010 in covering our mortgage payment of \$3,154 per month. She also mentioned that the designated fund balance of \$39,589.07 was the monies received from the Lilly Foundation for Matt's sabbatical. There were also other designated monies for specific gifts. She explained how the church had ended the year with our bank note down \$3,000 from the previous year. There were no questions so she talked about profit and loss and how our giving was up \$7,000 from the previous year.

Bonnie Thompson made a motion to approve the financial reports for 2009. Greg Sterup seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Moderator Matt Stith then asked the congregation to review the other reports in the booklet and asked for any questions or comments. There were none.

Vicki Riedinger made a motion to approve all reports as printed in the booklet. Gary Duggan seconded the motion. All the reports were thereby approved.

Pastor Stith and his family left the sanctuary so that Vicki Riedinger could pre-

sent the terms of call for Pastor Stith. She explained that Presbytery of the Northern Plains has now mandated salary guidelines, and if a new pastor was to come to our church, his starting pay would be higher than what Pastor Stith is now making. The proposed 3% raise for Pastor Stith would bring him halfway to the mandated guidelines. Discussion was held on what would be needed to get Pastor Stith to the recommended salary.

Roy Johnson made a motion to approve the Terms of Call as printed. Steve Hanna seconded the motion, and it passed.

Pastor Matt Stith and his family returned to the meeting. Steve Hanna of the Stewardship Committee then presented the 2010 budget. The mortgage payments were included in the budget this year. There was extra money in expenses to allow for the purchase of a new vacuum, a lawn mower attachment, and a window cleaner. The good news of giving being up \$7,000 and the note being paid down \$3,000 was again mentioned. Our church is very conservative in their spending and most of the amounts requested by the various committees had not changed. There were no questions or comments on the budget.

Steve Hanna made a motion to accept the proposed budget. Bonnie Thompson seconded and the motion passed.

Carolyn Meester, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the list of elders for the Class of 2013 to be elected. Kevin Galt, Vicki Riedinger and Bonnie Thompson were presented. Moderator Matt Stith called for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

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Andrew Thostenson made a motion to cease nominations and elect Kevin Galt, Vicki Riedinger, and Bonnie Thompson by a unanimous vote. Delores Horn seconded the motion and it passed. The candidates were elected to 3 year terms as elders.

Carolyn Meester then presented the name of Steve Hanna, to fill in a 2 year term to replace Kent Vail who resigned due to health and job constraints. Moderator Matt Stith called for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

Roy Johnson made a motion to cease nominations and elect Steve Hanna to fill in the unexpired term for Kent Vail. Dawn Larson seconded, and it passed. Steve Hanna was elected unanimously to a 2 year term as elder.

Carolyn Meester presented the names for deacons to be elected. Carolyn Koerselman and Karen Steele were presented. Moderator Matt Stith called for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

Gayle Thostenson made a motion to cease nominations and elect Carolyn Koerselman and Karen Steele to the office of Deacons. Steve Hanna seconded the motion, and it passed. Carolyn Koerselman and Karen Steele were elected to 3 year terms as deacons.

Carolyn Meester presented the names of Robert Galt and Bruce Riedinger for Building and Grounds Trustees. Moderator Matt Stith called for nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

Vicki Riedinger made a motion to cease nominations and elect Robert Galt and Bruce Riedinger to the Buildings and Grounds Trustees. Larry Peihl seconded

the motion and it passed. Robert Galt and Bruce Riedinger were elected to 3 year terms as trustees on the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Carolyn Meester presented the names of Carolyn Talley, Terry Meester, and Vicky Whitcomb to be on the Congregational Nominating Committee. There was a need for one more member so Moderator Matt Stith called for nominations from the floor.

Dawn Larson volunteered for the position, and Sue Leyendecker seconded the motion of Dawn Larson being on the Congregational Nominating Committee.

Yvonne Hummel made a motion to cease nominations and unanimously elect Carolyn Talley, Terry Meester, Vicky Whitcomb and Dawn Larson to the Congregational Nominating Committee. Boots Misheski seconded the motion, and it passed. Carolyn Talley, Terry Meester, Vicky Whitcomb, and Dawn Larson will serve on the Congregational Nominating Committee for a term of one year.

Discussion was held whether there was the need for nominations to the Endowment Committee. It was decided to table the nominations, and if there would be a need, a special meeting would be called.

Moderator Matt Stith then mentioned that installation and ordination of the newly elected officers would be held on Sunday, February 7, 2010. He asked for any other items to come before the congregation.

Andrew Thostenson made a motion to thank the financial treasurer and the clerk of session for all the work they did to get ready for the annual meeting. Mary Jo Moorhead seconded the motion,

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and it passed.

Dixon Moorhead made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. Greg Sterup seconded the motion, and it was passed.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Moderator Matt Stith.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Peihl, Clerk of Session

FEBRUARY CLERK'S CORNER



Session met on Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2010, at 7:00 pm. All except Vicki Riedinger, Chuck Richard, and Bonnie Thompson were present.

Session approved a quilt with prayers to be hung downstairs near the elevator.

Carolyn Meester, treasurer, presented the financial report. Giving was up slightly. The note on the bank had decreased again and was just under \$5,000. \$2,500 had been paid toward per capita so far.

Session approved new software for the office computer and the annual meeting minutes.

New committee assignments were Kevin Galt-Missions, Bonnie Thompson - Service and Fellowship.

Discussion was held on a new liaison for Blair Moorhead. This will be discussed with the absent Session members and decided next meeting. Session approved paying one third of an airline ticket needed by Blair Moorhead in order for her to appear before Presbytery of the Northern Plains at their February meeting.

Session approved the transfer requests from Messiah Lutheran Church for Karen Stolt and Jayne (Iannocone)

Lewandowski. The Church Record Report for 2009 to be sent to the Presbyterian Church USA was reviewed.

Session approved that Communion will be served the first Sunday of each month, plus Maundy Thursday and Christmas Day of 2010.

Christian Education reported that they are in the early stages of cleaning and organizing the nursery. The committee is working with Personnel Committee regarding the position of youth director. The younger youth group has leaders and meals through May. Children's church has been discontinued until fall due to lack of participants.

Mission Committee discussed their goal of supporting a teacher in Kenya. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) starts February 28 with a minute for mission that will be presented each of the next five Sundays. The goal for OGHS this year from our church is \$3,000. The theme is "Feed my Sheep." Paper sheep will be displayed on the back wall of the church showing donations as they are received.

Deacons have been doing home visits. They would like a vase of roses left in the narthex with tags for members to record births of babies. The birthday party idea has been dropped for now. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex for volunteers who can offer rides to appointments and church for members. They are also in need of people to sign up to take out communion to shut ins.

Stewardship Committee has started an all member canvassing. They will have another canvas meeting in March. More people to help with canvassing are always welcome.

Trustees have put in one new coun-
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top and hope to put in the rest this coming weekend. Flooring will be replaced this summer after preschool is on break. The small water heater under the sink has quit and needs to be replaced. Kevin Galt is checking on prices for another vacuum cleaner.

There were no reports from Worship, Personnel, Service & Fellowship, or Nominating Committees.

Moderator Matt Stith mentioned that he and Andrew Thostenson attended the Presbytery of the Northern Plains meeting in Grand Forks on February 5th and 6th. An overture that was made to significantly reduce use of genetically modified crops was defeated. The silent auction of Kenya items to help with fundraising for the Chogoria Partnership brought in \$900. Matt was installed as a clergy delegate to the General Assembly in Minneapolis on July 3-10. He now officially starts his 2 year term on the committee. Matt will also be gone May 17-18 for continuing education and June 7-21 for vacation.

The clerk's reported that 82 persons were served Communion on Sunday, February 7. The committee for the new pictorial directory is Sue Hanna, Yvonne Hummel, Jackie Petik, Ann Chale, and Uneva Dobrinz. Pictures will be taken the week of April 18.

On February 7 installation of new officers was held. Bonnie Thompson, Kevin Galt and Vicki Riedinger were installed as elders for 3 year terms; Steve Hanna was installed as an elder for a 2 year term. Karen Steele and Carolyn Koeselman were installed as deacons for 3 years. Buildings and Grounds Trustees were also recognized: Robert Galt and Bruce Riedinger for 3 year terms.

Endowment Committee has 3 members with 3 year staggered terms with a new

one added each year. Current members are Jenna (Barenthsen) Kahly and Kevin Galt. Dale Matzke has finished his term this year (elected in 2007). It was decided to fill the position next year at the annual meeting rather than call a special congregational meeting.

Meeting closed with prayer by Steve Hanna at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Peihl, Clerk of Session

**MARCH DATES
TO
REMEMBER**

BIRTHDAYS

- 3-3 Julia Pederson
Karen Steele
- 3-5 Joram Stith
- 3-8 Troy Montgomery
- 3-9 Amy Matzke
- 3-10 Claire DeJong
- 3-11 Bob Galt
- 3-13 Kristi Walker
- 3-15 Irene Martin
- 3-16 Dustin Smith
- 3-19 Derrick LaCoe
Lydia Leopold
- 3-21 Patrick Talley
Melissa Van Cleve
- 3-22 Bonnie Thompson
- 3-23 Randy Ackerman
Ryan Kellerman
- 3-24 Dawn Larson
Clifford Sheeley
- 3-25 Michelle Bucy
- 3-26 Samantha Pyle
- 3-27 Patrick Richard
- 3-28 Sam Barenthsen
Tom Taffe
- 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
- 3-14-64 – Chuck and Bonnie Thompson



FROM THE DEACONS

It seems many of our announcements end with the phrase "and there's a sign up sheet in the narthex."

But the truth is, without those sign up sheets and subsequently without your help, we simply would not always be able to provide assistance to our church family when it is needed. Currently the Deacons have three "sign up sheets in the narthex". The one to provide meals is nearly filled, and we thank all those who provide their "culinary skills" when needed. The Deacons have recently posted two more sign up sheets. One is to provide rides for church services or appointments and the other is to participate in providing Communion to those who are unable to attend the services at church. If you are able to assist with either of those, please "sign up" or contact one of the Deacons for any questions you may have.

We, however, do not want this whole article to be about asking for help without thanking you for your "willing spirits" and for all you do so..."Thank You."

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 2010 is \$41.95 per member or \$12,794.75 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.



FARGO MARATHON

In less than 90 days, on Saturday, May 22, the next Fargo Marathon is slated to begin, and the CPC Helping Hands are in training for the event. We have requested and been granted Mile 23 once again, but are ready to shift to new locations if flooding calls for it.

We have gained the reputation of bringing warm encouragement to all—regardless of their speed and distance. Brats, cookies, donuts, and fruit have no doubt started this, but our Community spirit has as well. This is a way to share God's love to many—all in one day.

All people who enjoy hilarious chaos are welcome. Let me know.

Kindest Regards,
Dixon Moorhead

THANKS TO ALL!

TO THE MEMBERS OF
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH:



There is no way that Esther and I can ever repay the kindness and generosity of the members of our church during our recent misfortune.

We feel it is impossible to thank each of you individually, so we are making the enclosed contributions on their behalf:

\$300 to the Deacons Fund
and
\$200 to the Youth Group

We thank our friends at CPC and ask God to bless each and every one of you who helped us so very much during this trying time.

Our Sincere Thanks!
LeRoy and Esther Bowman



THEOLOGY IN THE BIG APPLE

by Blair Moorhead

A new semester: new courses, new challenges, new practices. This semester, I am taking New Testament 101, a required class generally taken by all first year students. This is my first time immersed in the Bible, in a Union classroom filled with nearly 100 other students doing the same. We began our journey through the New Testament with Acts. We read the text with more attention than I ever have before, noting that Saul's name does not change to Paul on the Damascus road, but rather four chapters later (13:9). Then the class discovered that Acts holds the first mention of the term Christian (11:23). More exciting than uncovering these details of the text is the fact that we discover them together.

Reading the Bible in community brings up new insights, perspectives, and a feeling of connection to that first community of Jesus' believers described in the opening chapters of Acts. We bring our questions and our own diverse experiences to the text, each reading it through a different lens. We learn not only from the text but from our fellow readers diving into the text with us.

This is a process that occurs in the pews and Sunday school every week, and may occur in your family or a Bible study you attend. In seminary, we meet three times a week to explore Paul's journey throughout the Roman world, and then we find ourselves chatting about the course over lunch or in the hallways. Although I am only two weeks and one and a half chapters into the New Testament, I am very excited about the opportunity to get closer to the Bible with my classmates.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budgeted 2010 giving:
\$167,892.97 / 52 weeks =
\$3,228.71 per week



<u>Week</u>	<u>Budgeted Giving to Date</u>	<u>Actual Giving to Date</u>
2/14/10	\$23,300.97	\$23,479.83

This report does not include the mortgage payment of \$3,146.54. We have funds designated to pay the mortgage through June.

The balance of the operating fund loan at this time is \$5,000.00.

"For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give-large or small- will be used to measure what is given back to you." Luke 6:38



THE RUMMAGE SALE IS COMING ON APRIL 10TH!

The rummage is piling up! The Thostenson's porch has been overrun with easy chairs, mattresses, and computers; the Hanna's have boxes filling their basement, and that can only mean that the Presbyterian Men are on the hunt for more stuff for West Fargo's Annual Rummage Sale. The grand event will be held April 10th from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Veteran's Memorial Arena. Proceeds will be given to missions, building and grounds, and/or simply the general obligations of the church. So now is the time to "be ye men (or women) of valor" and begin to set aside items for the sale. More details on collections and setup will be published in the weekly reminders and the April issue of the Community Call.

INTERVIEWS BY MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN: JASON SWART

Personal Information

Birth date - October 3, 1971
 Birth place - Lemoore, CA
 High school - graduated from
 Greenbush High School, MN
 College - Moorhead State Univ.
 Married - Jill in Fargo in 1993
 Children - Amber (15 - 9th grade),
 Ashley (13 - 8th grade),
 Danielle (8 - 2nd grade)
 Joined Community Presbyterian
 Church - 2009

Favorites

Movies - Top Gun, Goonies
 TV Shows - Seinfeld, Alias, Wipe-
 out, Heroes
 Color - green
 Actor - Will Smith
 Actress - Elisabeth Shue

Would You Rather

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

... be forced to lie to your best bud or tell the truth to your parents?

... eat sushi or liver?

... as a man, be beaten up by a wimpy guy or a macho woman?

... be nervous but excited or relaxed but bored?

... wear a school uniform or last year's Halloween costume?

~~~~~

Do you want to know about Jason Swart? Well, this piece of paper can tell you everything you need to know. Jason is nice, kind, funny, modest, and one of the 'King's of Cool'.

Let's start at the beginning of the day. For breakfast, Jason likes to eat toast



and milk, but his favorite cereal is Frosted Mini-Wheats.

Now for his career, he is a CPA, which is a fancy word for an accountant. He wanted to be an accountant at a young age, and now he likes it because it pays a lot of money!

As a kid, Jason liked to play dodge ball, basketball, floor hockey, football, etc. He remembers how to play them and the rules are still the same. His skill level was average during his younger days. Now his skills are most likely *more* than average. Growing up, Jason recalls spending time at his family's farm or cousin's farm. He felt that his home or his cousin's farm was a relaxed, happy, entertaining, and fun place. He chose these two places because there was not a lot to choose from. All of the memories from these places were good. His dad taught him to drive. It didn't take long. He started at age eight because he lived on a farm so there were not a lot of signs or things to run into.

When Jason was older, he moved out of his parent's house in to a college dorm. The first furniture he bought was a black velvet couch with grey and purple stripes all over. His original car was a

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1982 Buick Regal Diesel. It was his mom's. His first car that he bought was an Oldsmobile Cutlass Calais. He chopped wood to get it. A man in Greenbush (where he went to high school) sold it to him. The company's name was Tom's Motors. He sold it later in his life.

Jason would like to live in multiple homes: one in Arizona, a cabin in Denver, and here in the West Fargo area. He would want this because he likes it here, but he doesn't like the cold. He likes snow for hiking (Denver), and he likes the heat (Arizona).

One of his most embarrassing moments was ten years ago. Jason was at his in-laws and they had a BMX track set up. He wanted to try it. So he took a bike and crashed! He got cuts all over his face.

Jason joined the church recently. He grew up Catholic. When Jason and his wife got married, they started attending regularly. One of the most important reasons for him to join was to be a good example for his kids.

Another interesting fact about Jason is that he is pretty good with money. He used to be a saver. Now he is a spender. He used to be stingy, but now he is VERY generous. He usually pays his bills on time. This has not changed over the years nor has this affected his life. Jason usually uses debit cards or cash to pay for things.

One last thing - Jason likes to play golf.

That is all I know, and now you know about Jason Swart.

Interviewed by:

Garrett Thompson

6<sup>th</sup> grade

March 8, 2009

~~~~~  
(Would You Rather answers: the truth, liver, macho woman, nervous, Halloween costume)

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



Mar. 7th - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

- activities with Lia Dobrinz, dinner by Carol Sterup

Mar. 14th - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - interviews, dinner by Terry and Carolyn Meester

Mar. 20th (Saturday) - meet at church at 12:30 p.m. (after lunch) - service at the Great Plains Food Bank. Bring money for treats on the way home.

Mar. 28th - Easter Eggstravaganza -TBA
[Anyone, please bring wrapped candy.]

April 4th - Easter Sunrise service - TBA

April 9th-11th - Jamestown Retreat

April 18th - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Bible Fun with the Thostensons, dinner with Becky and Lisa.

April 25 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - TAG, dinner with Boots Misheski

May 2nd - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Bowling with the Thompsons. Meet and eat at the Bowler.

May 9th - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Mother's Day activities with Lisa and Becky, dinner by Cary Talley.

May 16th - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - dinner by 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 9, 10, and 11. You won't want to miss it.

