

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; **Pastor:** Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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PROJECT OPEN DOOR II

On December 1, 2004, about 16 members and friends of the church gathered together at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary to talk about what God was calling us to do with regards to making our church building more accessible for those who found it difficult to negotiate the stairs or deal with our very limited bathroom facilities. Later that month, rumors made the rounds that a building project was in the wind and the first cash donation for the project was turned over to the church. In May of 2005, we conducted our first capital campaign to officially get the ball rolling. Thus, Project Open Door (POD) was officially launched.

Since that time, God has blessed us with resources that even the most optimistic supporters of POD could not have imagined, and so we have been able to carry out an important part of our mission, by making our building available to all to hear the Good News. By December of 2006, as we neared the end of construction, it was very much an open question as to whether or not we would have sufficient funds to meet all of our contractor obligations and have enough left over to even cover the monthly mortgage. Again God spoke to us, and
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PASTOR'S PEN



"Boy, this is a busy week for you, huh?" I've lost track of how many times in the past few days someone has said something like this to me. The perception seems to be that the week that runs from Palm Sunday through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday on to Easter is, for a pastor, something like the week before April 15 is for an accountant, and, in many ways, this perception is actually pretty accurate. This is a very busy week, with a couple more services than usual and a couple extra elements in the services themselves. But I think that the reason this week is a challenge for me has less to do with the quantity of my

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responsibilities, and more to do with the character of the various services for which I am preparing.

The week began with the rejoicing, celebration, and hope of Palm Sunday and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. But, practically before the echoes of "Hosanna" have faded away, we will be faced with the awful sadness and extinguished hope of Jesus' last supper with his disciples and, most horrible of all, his crucifixion. Maundy Thursday is as far, in spirit, from optimism and joy as it is possible to get. It is a memorial of the day when all hope for the world seemed lost, when all light seemed gone, and when death seemed to have triumphed. And then, before you know it, comes Easter, with its joyful bells, happy songs and lovely Spring weather (well, OK, maybe not that last one this year) to remind us of the ultimate triumph and most gloriously fulfilled hope of all: Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Holy Week takes every Christian on an emotional roller-coaster.

But for those of us who lead in worship, including pastors, musicians, choir directors, and more, this feeling of dissonance between happy and sad, hope and despair, is greatly magnified by the necessity for us to be preparing material for all of these services at once. In the same day, I found myself hanging the black felt cover over the stained glass window in the front of the sanctuary (one of the most somber signs of Maundy Thursday) one minute, then choosing joyous hymns for Easter morning the next. These moments occur over and over again, and the cumulative effect is, I admit, exhausting.

But I think that, while this sensation of the constant blending of joy and pain, of

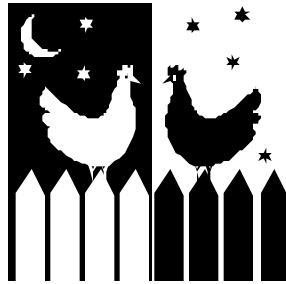
hope and hopelessness, is perhaps unusually intense for worship leaders during Holy Week, it is, in fact not at all unusual as a feature of every one of our daily lives. Think about it—don't we experience both the joys that God gives and the pains that are a part of life due to the accumulated weight of human sin over the millennia virtually every day? There may be days when our happiness is so complete that no shadow can be seen, or days when our grief and sorrow are so deep and profound that we cannot even imagine rejoicing, but such days are, I think, few and far between.

Instead, life itself is, for us, a mixture of good and evil, of blessing and curse. And, if this is so, then isn't Holy Week, with all its confusing and exhausting inconsistency, the perfect way to observe the reality that Jesus' life was in all respects like ours, except without sin? Aren't the dramatic ups and downs of his last week in Jerusalem the perfect reminder that he is Lord of our lives in all of our ups and downs? For this reason, I find that I welcome the stress and busy-ness of Holy Week: they remind me that my Lord Jesus suffered, died, rose, and reigns for me and for you, however mixed up, stressed out, and up and down we may be.

YOU ARE INVITED!

You are invited to a bridal shower for Erin Riecke at our church at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 12. Erin is marrying Brad Sterup at Community Presbyterian Church on May 3. They are registered at Target and Bed, Bath, and Beyond.

Please contact Boots Misheski (Home: 282-5429, cell: 388-7160) or Marlys Martin if you'd like to attend.



BLAIR'S AFRICAN NEWS



Dear family and friends,
Just to issue a little disclaimer, I talked about the following event on my blog. For those who read both, I promise I will try to spice up the story telling this second time around.

In February, CPC held a funeral for my grandma – a beautiful service that celebrated the life of a truly amazing woman. I did not come back to ND, but talked very regularly with my family and did some pretty coincidental (providential?) mourning with a colleague who lost her grandmother on the same day as I did. For a gal who shares a lot of information with a lot of people, I really did not tell very many people about my grandma's passing. But word spread anyway, and a few of my friends at church knew without me ever mentioning it to them.

One day I received a call from one of these church friends asking if it was ok for her to organize a few folks from Bible study to come over to my house. She mentioned it having something to do with my grandmother, but I didn't really ask questions (there are no free nights and weekends on cell phone bills here and conversations get expensive very quickly). So when she announced to our entire Bible study the next Sunday that everyone would be coming to my house, I was a little surprised. Pleasantly surprised, but still a little startled.

Fast forward to later that afternoon: 12 of us are crowded around my living room coffee table, chatting and eating sandwiches. Can you imagine 12 people who were complete strangers until 3 months ago coming to my house because I couldn't attend a memorial service thousands of miles away? We sang,

we held hands, we prayed; I passed around a picture of Grandma so everyone could know the reason they had gathered. I have rarely (if ever) been so touched by the kindness of human beings. But you all know about kindness. You are the church that made sure a DVD was made of the funeral so it could be shared in another hemisphere.

Thank you for all your thoughts, and you are also in mine.

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/>

HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Get ready! On April 6, 2008 at 3 p.m., Community Presbyterian Church will be hosting its second annual spring handbell festival! Currently, we have 5 West Fargo churches, 2 Manitoba church handbell choirs, and the newly formed West Fargo DirectoRing handbell ensemble participating in this event. I hope you will all mark your calendars to attend this spectacular event!

SECOND ANNUAL SPRING HANDBELL FESTIVAL HELP NEEDED!

Help! I am in need of volunteers to help pull off of this year's handbell festival. I will be needing a couple of people to serve as a welcoming team at the front door, a couple of ushers, someone to provide nursery care, and people to help set up, clean up, and prepare treats for the fellowship time after the concert. If you can help with any of these requests, please let Carrie (282-9213) know a.s.a.p.





MARCH CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on March 19, 2008. Members to serve communion on Easter Sunday will be Steve Hanna, Larry Peihl, Boots Misheski, and Vicki Whitcomb. On April 6, Steve Hanna, Vicky Whitcomb, Chuck Richard, and Vicki Riedinger will serve communion, and Steve Hanna and Melissa Eiter will assist with communion on Maundy Thursday.

Cheryl Montgomery, Treasurer, reported that a total of \$6,000 has been paid off on the loan as a result of the Adopt-An-Expense program.

Bonnie Thompson was given approval to hold a family night in the fellowship hall on 4/26 < note: has been changed to 5/3 > This will include dinner with each family sharing a dish. The movie, A Man Called Norman, will be shown.

Carol Sterup of the Decorating Committee showed Session the clock the committee wishes to place in the narthex. Approval to do so was given.

Session approved placing Curtis Brophy, youth leader, under the care of CPC while he is at seminary. This means that Session and CPC will be advocates for Curtis during his schooling. A letter and the proper forms will be forwarded to presbytery to make this official.

Thomas C. Pederson and Jennifer M. Walling were given permission to hold their wedding in the sanctuary on May 10, 2008 at 3:00 p.m., providing that they complete pre-marital counseling, abide with the wedding policy of the church, and that Pastor Matt agrees to perform the service.

The Afternoon Circle was given permission to place coin collection jars by the two doors into the sanctuary to collect coins as part of the Adopt-An-Expense

Program. They also were given permission to hold the Annual Spring Luncheon on April 26 in the fellowship hall. More details will be forthcoming.

Donna Gertz informed Session that due to surgery she will be having on her back, she will be unable to continue having the responsibility of seeing that there are flowers for the worship services.

Yvonne Hummel and Kathy Potter, members of the church, were approved to conduct the church audit for 2007. Boots Misheski will serve as the delegate for CPC at the presbytery meeting on April 25 & 26 in Jamestown.

March 30 will be Youth Sunday when the Sunday School students will be in charge of the worship service.

Mandi Radcliffe, pre-school operator of Creative Learning held in our church fellowship hall, was given approval to hold summer pre-school on the following dates: June 16-19, June 23-26, July 7-10 and July 14-17. She will pay \$400 for the period she uses the hall.

Session modified the policy for members requesting use of church chairs in their homes by removing the restriction that stated that only the old metal chairs could be used. The metal chairs are in very bad condition. Greg and Carol Sterup were given permission to use four of the bell tables and 24 chairs in their home May 1 through May 4 in connection with their son's wedding.

The Personnel Committee is considering setting up a policy to do criminal background checks on new and current employees, rewriting the job descriptions for the youth leader position in light of the resignations of the current leaders, and to set up a policy regarding sexual misconduct.

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The Deacons have met and elected Mary Jo Moorhead as chair and Linda Bishop as secretary. Session voted to dissolve the Congregational Care Committee as the deacons will be doing the work of this committee and expressed their tremendous appreciation for the work done by the committee, especially by Jim & Shirlene Johnson.

The SAF Committee has taken on the responsibility of calling members to set up appointments to donate blood during the May 6 Blood Drive. They encourage members to donate blood if they are able to do so. More details will be forthcoming. The Committee Chair, Melissa Eiter, has been recruiting members to serve as Welcome Teams members and encourages anyone interested in doing this vital service for the church to contact her or any member of the committee. A meeting to review the duties of the team will be held if there are volunteers who have not done this before.

The estimated cost of sending 16 youths to the Jamestown Retreat will be \$1,300 as reported by the Christian Education Committee.

The Stewardship Committee will be holding an informational meeting about the new Capital Campaign on Sunday, April 20, immediately following the worship service. A lunch of hot dogs and brats will be served, and members will have an opportunity to view a presentation on the details of the campaign. Members of the committee and Session will be on hand to answer any questions. (See page one for an article regarding this campaign.)

The One Great Hour of Sharing fund drive will continue for at least the balance of March. The mission project for

April will be the Food Pantry. The trustees have been making small repairs around the church, have arranged for the window at the front of the church to be replaced (The Prom Dress Fashion Show coordinator will pay for the replacement.), and they have arranged for a sign for the front parking lot stating that vehicles left overnight will be towed at the owner's expense.

Pastor Matt's request for vacation and study leave was approved. He will arrange for pulpit supply for any Sundays that he is absent. Vacation leave was granted for April 10-15, May 29-June 5, and June 29 after worship service to July 7. Study Leave for May 15-21 was also approved.

105 persons were served communion on March 2. The memorial service for Renee Jameson was held in the sanctuary on February 26, 2008. Renee passed away on February 20. Jim Bjorklund and Mary Jo Moorhead were installed as Deacons on March 9th.

Delores Horn,
Clerk of Session

MISSION OF THE MONTH



The mission of the month is the F-M Emergency Food Pantry. Watch for future bulletin announcements of how you can help this group that helps so many needy people in our region.



IS GOD CALLING YOU?

The Stewardship Committee is looking for individuals who are willing to join our committee.

If you feel you are interested in helping, please contact Steve Hanna at your earliest convenience.

God Bless,
Steve Hanna, Committee Chair



**YEAR-TO-DATE
GIVING UPDATE**

BUDGETED 2008 GIVING:
\$147,900.00 / 52 WEEKS
\$2844/WK

WEEK	NEEDED GIVING TO DATE	ACTUAL GIVING TO DATE
3/19/08	\$31,284	\$28,429

As of March 19, 2008, the year-to-date actual giving to CPC's general fund is \$28,429 compared to the \$31,284 needed for the same time period.

These figures do not include the mortgage payments which are funded from the building fund money market (Project Open Door giving).

The response to "Adopt an Expense" (the program implemented to pay off the 2007 note balance) has been a great success! Our last newsletter explained how \$4,000 had been collected to pay down on the \$11,600 note. More good news to report is that another \$2,000 was just used to pay down the note further. Thank you for understanding the need and stepping forward to participate in "Adopt and Expense"!

That being said, we also need to take to heart the need to increase our general giving for 2008 to meet a very well thought out expense budget.

We're getting there!

YEEE-HAW! SOOOOEY!

Mabel is gatherin' her herd fer a rousin' night a pig throwing. Show up ter Carol's ranch 'bout 7:00 on Monday night, the 14th a April. If yeh can bring some grub, somethin' to wet yer whistle , or excitin' prizes, please put yer John Henry on the paper out yonder in the narthex. Give us a holler if yeh can come. Hope to see yeh there!



**ANNUAL MEN'S
RUMMAGE SALE**



It's Spring!!! We always look forward to this season renewal and the observance of Easter. The Presbyterian Men sponsor an Annual Rummage Sale during this time to provide financial assistance wherever it is needed within the church. We rely on many men and women to carry out this successful project.

Now here comes your part! We once again need donations of every kind from our church family to make this successful. The sale will be held on Saturday, the 12th of April, from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Arena. We have the large room again which is so handy for dropping off articles.

We will be setting up the Friday, April 11th, and articles may be dropped off that afternoon and evening on the north side of the Veteran's Memorial Arena. Be sure to enter on 10th Ave., at the delivery entrance of the high school.

We will and have gladly taken almost anything. We have drawn the line, however, on Dixon's goat. Please look in the garage, basement, and attic for those items that are no longer of use and donate them to the project. If it will go through the door, we'll take it!

If you have any questions or require assistance call Jim Bjorklund at 282-4942, Al Meyer at 292-3913, or Andrew Thos-
tenson at 492-0630.

**BIBLE
STUDY**



Join us as we study book of Isaiah! We meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at Sheyenne Crossing. All are welcome. Questions? See Bonnie Thompson.

**APRIL
DATES
TO
REMEMBER**

BIRTHDAYS

- 4-1 Susan Gross
 4-2 Becky DeJong
 Erin Green
 Molly Nelson
 4-5 Trinity Jaskowiak
 Veril Larson
 4-6 Kadra Brophy
 Josh Corneliusen
 Brent Talley
 4-8 Hazel Yokom
 4-10 Dustin Richard
 4-13 Jon Whitcomb
 Krista Whitcomb
 Leah Whitcomb
 4-14 Cathy Birrenkott
 4-16 Bryan Riedinger
 4-18 Kathy LaCoe
 4-19 Beverly Montgomery
 Mandi Montgomery
 4-20 Lynn Hummel
 Ruby Hendrickson
 4-23 Zaryn Hansen
 4-25 Audrey Binger
 4-26 Debra (Deb) Olson
 4-27 Emma DeJong
 Andrew Thostenson
 4-28 Lorna Wilkinson
 4-30 Delbert Jenner
 Carolyn Talley

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4-2-77 – Greg and Carol Sterup
 4-3-54 – Bill and Beverly Montgomery
 4-9-88 – Dwight and Lisa Steffen
 4-12-95 – David and Nancy Stedman
 4-13-68 – Denny and Carol Braaten
 4-21-79 – Larry and Vicki Peihl
 4-27-02 - Craig and Dixie Pederson
 4-30-66 – Larry and Uneva Dobrinz



FARGO MARATHON

On May 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., CPC will again be running its infamous Aid Station at mile 23 in the Fargo Marathon. We need 30 volunteers who will get the much sought after and collectable T-shirt.



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

Kindest Regards, Dixon Moorhead

MAY BLOOD DRIVE



The Blood Drive was such a success last year that United Blood Services has ask us to sponsor another drive in May. The Blood Mobile will be set up in the CPC east parking lot on May 6th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Delores Horn and Bev Christopherson will coordinate the drive along with Service & Fellowship who will be asking you to sign up to donate. Last year we had 26 willing donors. Invite a friend or your teenage son or daughter. Hope to see you there! Its a good feeling to know that you might have saved someone's life.

SPECIAL YOUTH WEEKEND

Hurray, Wow, Yahoo!!! We have 16 kids and three chaperones going to Jamestown (with a possibility of 6 more kids and another chaperone). We will spend the week-end in fellowship with other Presbyterian youth from the state. The kids worship, eat, sing, eat, have small group studies, eat, and play-all in God's name. The weekend costs \$70.00 per person. If you are interested in helping to send us to camp please fill out an envelope in the pew and mark it 'Jamestown Retreat'.



Thank you for your support.
 Soul Train

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He provided enough funds to complete our construction contracts, carry out landscaping needs following the construction, and still have funds available to meet our mortgage through August of 2008.

Now is the time to look ahead and plan for not only servicing the debt but also taking care of some of the pressing infrastructure needs of our church property. Session has authorized a follow up capital campaign, "Project Open Door II". In mid-April, members and friends will be mailed a campaign prospectus. On Sunday, April 20th, following worship, a hot dog and brats luncheon will be served and folks will have an opportunity to view a presentation on the campaign and the Stewardship Committee and members of Session will be on hand to field questions.

Over the next several weeks, please be in prayer about how you and your family (with the Holy Spirit's direction and resources) will financially support this next capital campaign.

God bless,

Steve Hanna
Elder for the Stewardship Committee

GIVING THANKS

The family of Renee Jameson would like to thank our extended family at Community Presbyterian for everything you have done for us in the last couple of months. Whether it was the beautiful Prayer Quilt, or food, flowers, card, visits, phone calls, prayers or words of encouragement and comfort, your caring and thoughtfulness was very much appreciated by Renee and all her family.

**PRAYER BREAKFAST/
EVENING DESSERT**

This spring's New Life Center Prayer Breakfast will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 17, while the dessert event will be held that evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Fargo Holiday Inn. Best-selling author, Sheri Rose Shepherd, will be the speaker.

Breakfast tickets are \$15.00; dessert tickets cost \$8.00. Reservations are required. For breakfast ticket information, contact Reta Gage at 239-0428. For evening dessert information, contact Jewell Fiskness at 233-6497.

**OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS:
WILL YOU OPEN THE DOOR?**

Once again this coming summer, the Christian Education Committee plans to launch Vacation Bible School. With this week long event comes 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. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact us.

We expect to hear from you soon.
Boots, Becky, Curt, Deb,
Gayle, Lisa, and Toni

**H.S. SOUL
TRAIN
SCHEDULE**

April 6 Coffee Shop at 6:30 p.m.
11-13 Jamestown Youth Retreat
20 Coffee Shop at 6:30 p.m.
27 Coffee Shop at 6:30 p.m.

INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN:

Personal Information

Birth date - March 3, 1943
 Birth place - Fargo, ND
 High school - graduated from
 Fargo Central
 Occupation - mediator
 Married - Chuck in Fargo on March
 14, 1964
 Children and grandchildren -
 Michael (Mapleton) -
 Garrett and Matthew
 Stacey (Wichita, Kansas) -
 Jaden
 Joined Com. Pres. Church - 1985

Favorites

Hymn - "I Love to Tell the Story"
 Author - Janet Evanovich
 Household Chore - dusting -
 least favorite - cleaning
 rooms and doing dishes
 Season - summer
 Sound - music

Would You Rather

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

- ... end hunger or hatred?
- ... publish your diary or make a movie about your most embarrassing moment?
- ... meet the president of the U.S. or Billy Graham?
- ... be the sand castle or the wave?
- ... wear a school uniform or last year's Halloween costume?

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There is a very nice person in our church and her name is Bonnie. She is involved in a lot of things in church. She is the head of two things: dowel rods and puppets. She also sings in the church choir. Those were the things I already knew about her and now I'm go-

ing to tell you what other things I found out about her.

In the interview I asked Bonnie a bunch of questions. The first thing I asked her about was what her favorite game was when she was a child. She answered that her favorite game was 'Ghost, Ghost'. She does not remember how to play the game but yet she still remembers following the rules.

The next question that I asked her was where did she "hang out". She said that she "dragged" Broadway. She said that it was fun because she got to hang out with her friends.

Do you think Bonnie was scared when she was a child? She said that going into a dark and empty house scared her but now it doesn't because she grew up and got over her fear.

I wondered if Bonnie liked the same subjects in school as I do. She said that her least favorite subject was math because she doesn't understand it. Her favorite subject was history because she likes the fact that 'you can't know where you're going if you don't know where you've been'. Even though we both love music, we definitely don't have the same interests in school!

The last thing that I'm going to tell you  
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about is her learning to drive. She said that she is always learning to drive, even today. One day, when she was parking, she backed up next to a light post. She parked so close that when she opened the door it hit the light post. She also has trouble with directions. One time she got directions to go to a certain place but when she had to go back home she didn't reverse the directions correctly.

In the interview I learned so much more about Bonnie than I ever knew before, and I hope that you did too. It was great talking to her, and I hope that I will be able to do it again soon.

Interviewed by:  
Claire DeJong  
5th grade  
April 22, 2007

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"Would You Rather" answers:

(Would You Rather answers: hatred, diary, Billy Graham, wave, costume)

MARCH TRUSTEE TALK

March 12--Lynn Hummel, Derrick Leopold, Andrew Thostenson, and Larry Peihl, Session Liaison, were in attendance. Bob Galt, Bob Olson, and Don Van Cleve were absent.



Bob Galt relayed through Andrew that the cabinets for the office are on order and should be delivered in mid-April.

Andrew reported that a disabled pickup was in the lot for the past several days. The vehicle could have been towed, but without proper signage, (The tow-away signs were not replaced after the POD construction.) this could have caused problems with the owner. With the aid of the West Fargo Police, the owner was eventually contacted. The vehicle was

quickly removed. It was decided that once spring weather permits, the tow-away signs would be replaced so this is not a problem in the future.

Larry Peihl reported that Chuck Richards had agreed to do some sheetrock work on the old basement window opening in the "Branches & Vine" room in the older portion of the basement.

Andrew reported on some different lighting configurations prices in the old basement hallway. It was decided to purchase a single light unit (about \$25.00) to experiment with before retrofitting the entire hallway.

Andrew reported on a problem with the chair storage room doors not latching properly. Lynn agreed to follow up on this.

Andrew asked that he and Jim Bjorklund be allowed to paint some of the old steel chairs in the storage shed. The plan was to then offer them for sale at the spring garage sale. The trustees agreed to this proposal.

Andrew reported that Fargo Glass would be coming down to give an estimate on repairing the glass window to the interior vestibule. Larry said he would get a bid from Northland Glass. Andrew also promised to follow up on checking with our insurance carrier to find out what deductibles would apply.

The next meeting of the trustees will be April 9 at 7:00 p.m.

M.S. SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



- April 6 – dinner - ???
- 11-13 - Jamestown Retreat
- 20 – dinner and interviews
- 27 – dinner - Human Sorry with Moorhead
- May 4 – dinner and TAG
- 11 – dinner - ???
- 18 - last meeting