

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: CPChurchWF@msn.com Web: <http://cpcwf.org>



LAVA LAVA ISLAND IS COMING SOON

Kids, come to Lava Lava Island and meet Anna, Blaze, Homer, Sip, and Maggie here at the church for Vacation Bible School on the evenings of June 13 through 17.

Grown-ups and older youth are invited to join in the fun. We will need a minimum of six people each day to be in charge of crafts, snacks, games, Bible lessons, shepherding a group, and the theater. Volunteers can sign up for one day or for the whole week. Volunteers can sign up for the same activity every night or for a different activity every night. We will also need a team of two preschool teachers to teach the whole week. Please sign up in the narthex.

Don't miss the fun! Those who participated last year had a great time, and the kids did too.

Also, please take a peek at our wish list which will be posted later in the narthex. Any contributions are always appreciated.

Questions? Contact Gayle Thostenson (492-0630).

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



As a pastor, the keystone of what I do is preaching. Indeed, the selection of biblical texts for preaching and the decision of how to interpret them is one of the very few things over which pastors in the PC (USA) have complete authority, and this is a responsibility that I take very seriously. It is also not always easy. There are a number of different ways in which preachers select texts, and, since this is a topic about which I am thinking a great deal right now, I thought that I might share some of the process with you.

One very common method for selecting sermon texts is to follow what is called

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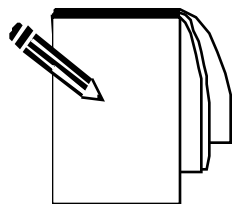
the *lectionary*. This word, for those who do not know it, refers to a list of biblical texts, selected and arranged for every Sunday in a three-year cycle. For each Sunday (and other days on which services are commonly held) the lectionary lists lessons from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the Gospels, and the New Testament Epistles (letters of Paul and others). In many branches of the church, the lectionary has a binding force on the process. In other words, there is no real difficulty in selecting texts, as they are pre-selected. This method has some real strengths. For one, it allows the preacher to, within three years, preach at least once on most of the books of the Bible. Another advantage lies in the coordination of the texts with the liturgical year, so that during Advent and Christmas, for example, texts about the appropriate parts of Jesus' earthly life are read.

On the other hand, preaching the lectionary also has some significant disadvantages. While the lectionary preacher does touch, at least, on almost all of the biblical books, the lectionary *only* touches on most of the books it includes. The church cannot get a real sense of the character and message of a book in a single sermon or two, and some books and passages would never be read and interpreted. The lectionary also makes, necessarily, decisions about where to begin and end each reading, decisions with which the preacher may not agree. For many, myself included, these disadvantages outweigh the advantages.

I mentioned above that some churches mandate the use of the lectionary. Our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is not among them, because of the influence of our Reformation heritage. The great

Reformers (Calvin, Zwingli, Luther, Knox, and others) recognized that, while the lectionary had roots going back to the 4th century or so, there was (and is) an older, more venerable tradition. Almost without exception, the churches of the Reformation heard preaching on texts selected by the principle of *lectio continua*, or "continuous reading." In its purest form, the *continua* preacher begins preaching on a book at the beginning, and picks up each sermon where the previous one left off. This is not only how our Reformation fathers preached, it is a tradition that reaches all the way back to biblical days, and the preaching of the synagogues. Jesus and Paul, among many others, preached this way. The earliest church fathers preached this way. The preachers under whose pulpits I grew up preached this way. The series of sermons on Genesis that I preached this past fall and winter represents an effort at *continua* preaching as well.

Unlike the lectionary, *continua* allows the congregation to explore more deeply the ideas and concepts of the Bible and the biblical authors, getting a fuller taste of the message and context of a book. I stand with the Reformers in claiming that this heritage is valuable, and, while I will occasionally step outside of a series to preach on texts appropriate to the liturgical season (as I did during Advent and on Easter), you can expect to hear more series than anything else in the years to come. In aid of that expectation, I would love to hear from any of you as to books or groups of books about which you might like to hear a series of sermons preached. Of course, I won't say that I'm just "taking requests," and obviously can't follow every suggestion, I am interested in what interests you, and I look forward to your thoughts on how to plot our mutual course through God's word.



CLERK'S CORNER

The Session held a Special Meeting on March 31, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Stith. A dinner and social time was held before the meeting to acquaint the Session Members and the candidates for membership with one another.

The following persons were received into membership: Jim and Shirlene Johnson, Janine Steele, Derek Leopold, Jaclyn DeMaris, and Will Petik.

The Session voted to inform the Trustees that they should go ahead with plans for carpeting the sanctuary, upstairs halls, steps, and nursery.

The regular meeting of the Session and Trustees was held on Wednesday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. The trustees stated that they would pick out the carpet and get it ordered and installed as soon as possible taking into consideration other events already scheduled.

Jaclyn DeMaris and Will Petik were given permission to hold their wedding in the sanctuary on October 24, 2004 in the afternoon.

The evergreen tree and memorial plaque donated by the Burner Family will be moved to the southeast corner of the lawn near the larger evergreens so that the maturing tree will not obscure the church.

West Funeral Home was given permission to hold visitations and chapel services in our sanctuary during the time of

their building expansion. There will be no charge for visitation services for members, but a \$75 custodial fee will be charged for non members. Other churches are being asked to provide this service also.

Curt and Shanda Cossette's request to transfer their membership to Faith Lutheran Church, West Fargo was approved.

Melanie Hansen was selected to be the new Sunday School Superintendent for a two-year term with Becky DeJong serving as assistant superintendent. Public recognition for this year's Sunday School staff will be held on May 16th during worship. Bible School is scheduled to be June 13th thru June 17th in the evening. 4 year olds thru 6th graders are eligible to attend. Parents who have requested an activity for 3-5 year olds following Children's Time on Sundays will be asked to help organize this activity.

\$150 will be sent to the First Choice General Fund to help pay for a billboard near the Abortion Clinic giving pregnant women other options to abortions. \$649 was contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing campaign.

Toni Stith was given permission to hold a bridal shower for Melissa Gross on June 6th in the afternoon from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. She was also given permission to hold meetings of a Brownie Troop at the church for the 2004-2005 year.

147 persons were served Communion on April 4, and 56 were served on Maundy Thursday.

INTRODUCING...

The Christian Education Committee would like everyone to become better acquainted with our new Sunday School Superintendent, Melanie Hansen. Melanie will join Becky DeJong in supervising the Sunday School program starting this coming fall. Melanie, the daughter of Barbara Grossman, is a baptized and confirmed member of Community Presbyterian. She and her husband, Scott, have two daughters—Zarissa and Zaryn.

Melanie has been a Sunday School teacher in our church for the last three years. She is highly motivated and wants to become more actively involved in the Sunday School program. Her daughters will begin attending Sunday School this year. As she says, "I felt it was important to be a part of it with them."

Please take a moment to welcome Melanie to her new post. Also, don't forget to support Melanie in her efforts to bring God's word to our children as she begins recruiting teachers and helpers for the upcoming school year. (See Dear CPC Parents and Members, p. 6.)

**WEDDING SHOWER**

Come and celebrate with Melissa Gross as she prepares for her big day! Community Presbyterian Church will be hosting a bridal shower for Melissa on Sunday, June 6th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. This is an excellent opportunity to support a new bride in Christ's love and to share our stories and laughter.

Please RSVP with Toni Stith (282-2715).

**MAY DATES
TO
REMEMBER****BIRTHDAYS**

- 5-1 Lee Corneliussen
- 5-2 Tom Kassman
- 5-3 Gloria Ruhnke
Dwight Steffen
- 5-5 Henry Yokom
- 5-6 Marty Matzke
- 5-8 Austin Divet
Jane Leben
- 5-9 Carolyn Meester
Cheryl Montgomery
Justin Videen
- 5-10 Scott Hansen
- 5-12 Renee Jameson
- 5-13 Larry Dobrinz
Don VanCleve
- 5-16 Brady Kellerman
- 5-18 Len Misheski
- 5-20 Greg Sterup
- 5-22 Olivia Dobrinz
Amy Leopold
Olivia Wilkinson
- 5-23 Melissa Gross
- 5-24 Bev Christopherson
Andrew Steele
- 5-25 Gary E. Bahls Jr.
Barb Grossman
Mary Jo Moorhead
- 5-26 Reed Montgomery
- 5-27 Vickie Meyer
- 5-29 Melissa Barenthsen
Zarissa Hansen
- 5-30 Thomas Meyer

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5-11-79 – Clarence and Mary Bastle
- 5-15-53 – LeRoy and Delores Hom
- 5-21-48 – Charles and Dolores Kinslow
- 5-29-66 – Len and Boots Misheski
- 5-29-93 – Jason and Jill Swart



SPRING BRUNCH

The Presbyterian Women will be holding a Spring Brunch on Saturday, May 8th, at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All church members are invited to attend and hear Jenna Bar-enthsen give a report on her trip to Kenya. There will be musical selections as well as delicious food.

Any one wishing to attend should sign up either in the narthex, on the sheets on the tables during coffee hour, or by calling Marlys Martin at 282-3740. We would appreciate your letting us know if you plan to attend so that we know how many to prepare for. If anyone is interested in helping with this event, please contact Marlys Martin.



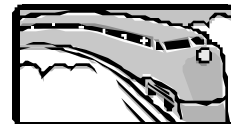
CARPET FUND UPDATE

As of 4-23, \$5900 had been raised for the carpet fund, but another \$5100 is needed to complete the carpeting for the sanctuary, narthex, hall/stairs on the main level, the nursery, and the choir loft. The carpet has been ordered with the conviction that the additional monies will be raised by the time installation begins, hopefully in late May if the carpet can be delivered by the factory in time.

Additional work may include wiring updates and waxing of the flooring between the pews in the sanctuary.

The Session and Trustees want to thank those who have worked so hard to date in raising funds to make this project happen. This is your church. Please contribute and be a part of the needed upgrades.

SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



May 2—regular meeting—Toni Stith—influences in our culture/plan for Mother's Day
May 9—Mother's Day—Make a wonderful, scrumptious dinner for your mothers!
May 16—carnival during Sunday School—last meeting of the year—something really, really, really fun!!! (any ideas???)

We would appreciate meals served on the following Sundays:

*May 16

2003-2004 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

Sunday School's Last Day	May 16
Teacher Appreciation Day	
Potluck	
Senior Recognition	May 23

PRAYER CHAIN



Community Presbyterian Church has started a prayer chain for all members and visitors. Sometimes we have a concern that we don't want to bring up in church. This is the perfect way to have others ease your concern!

We have had a very good response this month. About fifteen joys or concerns were reported and raised to our heavenly Father in prayer.

If you have a prayer concern for any person or need, or questions regarding the prayer chain, please call Vicki Peihl at 356-0458 or Carol Sterup at 293-6603.

Dear CPC Parents and Members,

What a wonderful year we have had in Sunday School!

We studied about Noah, Abraham and Sarah, the ten commandments, the good Samaritan, the prodigal son, the woman with the alabaster jar, the crucifixion, and the resurrection. The kids enjoyed having over 30 different teachers throughout the year! God is working through our Sunday School program to bring so many people together.

We are already looking forward to next year and have made some exciting changes. These are the classes that we will be offering:

Preschool-ages 3-5-They will meet every Sunday in the nursery for some instruction and creative playtime. We are looking for one or two teachers to take on this class.

Elementary-grades K-5th- These classes will meet every Sunday using the rotation system that we have used in the past. They will study one topic for three weeks and then have a 'Game Sunday' that will include memorization, Bible work, and, of course, games! We will need three teachers every month to sign up for three weeks of teaching.

Intermediate-6th grade-This class will meet every Sunday with a more in-depth study of God's word. Music will still be a part of their curriculum, although not every week. We will need one or two teachers for this class.



Young Adult-grades 7th-12th-

This class will meet every Sunday. They will study God's word as well as work on mission projects and teaching Sunday School. Bonnie Thompson will be their teacher.

We have formed a Christian Education Committee. The members include Boots Misheski, Toni Stith, Becky DeJong, Lisa Steffen, Gayle Thostenson, Debbie Matzke, and our new Sunday School Superintendent, Melanie Hansen. We are working together to teach the word of God to our children.

Please look to your hearts, to the children, to the church and to God and help us fill these teaching positions for next year. Sign up sheets will be posted in the narthex. Please ask any Ch. Ed. member if you have questions.

Thank you,
The Christian Education Committee

Attention: Clearwater Forest Campers

Camp time is fast approaching. After visiting with most families it looks as though the two weeks of camp in July work best. (July 11-17 and July 25-31) You may register for any camp session up to 10 work days prior to the start of camp. It is important that you let Becky DeJong know when you are going to camp so that church scholarships can be sent at the appropriate times. If you have questions feel free to call, look at the brochures in the narthex or check out the website at:
www.clearwaterforest.org.

Happy Camping,
Becky
281-8122

