

# 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

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL EVENTS

Please join us on May 18th for a full morning of fun, worship, celebration, and fellowship. During Sunday School, children will celebrate their last day with special activities. During the worship service, attendance awards will be distributed to Sunday School students. At this time, appreciation will also be extended to all this year's Sunday School teachers.

Following the service, there will be a potluck along with a time honoring our graduating seniors. This year we will be recognizing Mandy Montgomery and Michael Potter. If you know of any other graduating seniors, please let the office know.

## NEW TIMES

With the ending of Sunday School and arrival of summer (we hope!), comes a change of timing for Community Presbyterian Church. Beginning on May 23, summer worship times will begin. Worship services will be held at 9:30 a.m.



## PASTOR'S PEN



Last evening was a special occasion for the Stith family. My son and six of his Cub Scout den-mates received their Tiger Cub awards in a ceremony that took place in front of the entire pack of Cub Scouts. I am the boys' Den Leader, so this was a moment of particular pride for me, as they were recognized for the achievement of the goal for which they, their parents, and I have worked for the whole school year. God willing, this will be only the first of many such moments in Scouting for Joram, and I, myself a proud Eagle  
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Scout, will be pleased and honored if I have the opportunity to continue to help him and his brother Scouts along the trail as a volunteer.

But I'm not mentioning this event to brag on my son, nor to try to impress anyone with my service as his leader. Instead, as I reflected on the ceremony, and on our year of Scouting together, I found myself thinking about just why it is that I have chosen to invest such time and effort in this particular activity. It isn't just so I can look good in the uniform. It also isn't (at least I sure hope it isn't) an effort to live vicariously through my son—driving him to achievements and experiences that I didn't quite manage as a boy, the perfect cliché of the "little-league parent." No, the reason, I think, that I have chosen to devote a considerable chunk of my limited spare time to serving as Joram's Scout leader is that I really, truly believe in the importance of what Scouting seeks to teach boys. The values of self-reliance, teamwork, achievement, service, character, brotherhood, and love of the outdoors that were, for me, taught and reinforced by Scouting have been foundational in my life, and I hope that they will be for my children as well. The best way I know to encourage them to take up these values is to show, by my attention, time, and commitment to Scouting that these things are important. What's more, it is by my attention, time, and commitment to my kids that I show them their importance.

Again, though, my intention in describing all of this is not to hold myself up as some sort of example as a perfect par-



ent—I am far from that! Instead, I want to share with you one particular direction my meditations on this Scouting experience have taken me: The idea of encouraging others to value what you value by your actions, instead of simply by words, is hardly a unique insight of mine. Someone Else, of whom you may have heard, said it far better:

"let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

"where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21)

Jesus himself reminds us that it is by our actions, by demonstrating what we treasure, what we value, and what we love, that we can most easily influence others, for good or for ill. If by our actions we show the world that we value the wondrous gifts of grace, forgiveness, and salvation that God has given us, we encourage others to consider their value as well. If by our devotion to the church and to the brothers and sisters in Christ we demonstrate our thanksgiving and praise for all God has done, then we will encourage all people to join us in this life. And that, after all, is why we're here.

Let your light shine.

### **FARGO MARATHON AID STATION**

There's still time to run, walk, and help CPC run its infamous Aid Station at mile 23 in the Fargo Marathon. Here's a real chance to fellowship with Community Presbyterian folk, help others, have a good time, and (maybe) get some exercise. Interested? Give Dixon Moorhead a call.



## BLAIR'S AFRICAN NEWS



Hello Family and Friends,

Writing these newsletters is an interesting exercise - what is the best way to measure the passing of a month? Usually I think back to weekends, because non-weekends are spent day to day in a very similar manner. Having said that, a couple weeks ago I left the desk and dig around the AACC archives, spelunking in search of memorabilia from past General Assemblies. In the process I found a copy of a Desmond Tutu speech, preparatory correspondence eerily similar to the letters I am writing, and the most amazing neon orange retro poster from the AACC's 2nd Assembly in 1969. And on Monday one of the first church leaders in all of Africa to reveal his positive HIV status addressed the AACC. So I suppose really interesting things are happening Monday through Friday as well.

But moving back to weekends: Two weekends ago I ushered at an all day wedding and the next day visited the family of a young adult fellowship member whose family lost their home in post-election violence. For someone living in a country with 350,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) still sleeping in tents in camps, I have been remarkably removed from the realities of the chaos earlier this year. Meeting a family who lost everything really brought home the reality of the nation's situation. Fortunately talks began today in the government about exactly how to move forward with the IDP issue and how best to approach the issue of resettlement.

This past weekend I spent roaming the halls of the National Archives in downtown Nairobi. The museum's lower level is an eclectic mix of traditional tribal

weaponry, modern art from across the continent, and my favorite - a display of a Swahili home found mostly on the coast of the country. Think Middle East meets Middle of Africa; it's quite lovely. Upstairs you walk through a photo gallery chronicling the last century or so of Kenyan history. Luckily I had a friend from Nairobi with me who could explain which chief struck friendships with the British or which freedom fighter was thrown in prison with Jomo Kenyatta, the nation's first President.

One thing that has been really exciting about living in Kenya is how politics, history and knowledge of world events really slip into everyday life. I once took a politics course (and once is really the appropriate word - it was the only one I ever took) with a professor who made reading the New York Times a daily assignment. I tried. I even subscribed online. But I found there are ways to survive in life without reading international news stories everyday - unless you live in Kenya. Everyone knows what is happening in the world, and it comes up often in ever day conversation. So next time you ask me about Paraguay, I can tell you they just ended 60 years of one party rule - just because I live in Kenya.

Thank you as always for your continued support and prayers.

-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/>





## APRIL CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on April 16th at 7:00 p.m. Vicky Whitcomb was appointed as Clerk Pro-Tem in the absence of the Clerk.

The date for Communion in May was changed from May 4 to May 11. Pastor Stith will be away on study leave on May 4. The date of the Pederson-Walling wedding was changed to April 19th.

Session considered a fund-raising project from a company that will pay money for used ink cartridges, both ink-jet and laser. They would provide a container for them to be collected at the church, would make monthly pickups and then would send the church a check. Session tabled the project to get more information.

A bridal shower for Alison Archibald was approved in the evening of June 10, 2008. She and Chris Larson will be married in July.

The Service and Fellowship Committee will be calling members and friends of the church to have them sign up to donate blood at the Blood Drive on May 6th. Donors will meet into the fellowship hall for coffee and lemonade on April 27 and May 4.

The Christian Education Committee received approval to hold Vacation Bible School on August 10 - 14. It will be held in the evenings from 6:00 - 8:15 p.m. Carrie Leopold will be the coordinator. There will be classes for preschool through 6th grade. The older youths will be asked to help with the classes. There will be an adult class if a leader can be found. A potluck dinner is planned for May 18 to recognize the graduating seniors. Teacher recognition and attendance awards will be given during the worship service on May 18.

The Mission Committee reported that the Food Pantry Challenge has been going well. The committee is making plans for further monthly Mission projects.

The Stewardship Committee reported that they had mailed out information about the capital campaign this week. There was a luncheon of brats, salads and desserts on Sunday, April 20, in the fellowship hall, and Andrew Thostenson gave a presentation to inform members and friends of the church about what is hoped will be the results of this campaign. Session thanked Andrew for his work in putting together the information in the letter.

The Personnel Committee is about ready to do background checks on current employees and to have the forms ready for any new persons who are hired. They reported that they have a good applicant for the youth director position. Advertising has been done at area colleges and Presbyterian churches in the area.

The deacons met and divided up the list of people who should be visited. They will begin the visits immediately. They will also be sending out birthday and anniversary cards. They ask that members of the congregation donate any unused cards for this ministry. Bud vases will again be provided for new births. Discussion was held on deacons providing communion to shut-ins as they are ordained and are eligible to do so. They also have asked that the Sunday School students make some items so that they can leave the items with the shut-ins when they are visited.

The trustees are putting mirrors and hooks for hanging clothes in the bride's room. They are working on a design for an information board to be in the vesti-

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bule of the church. It will be similar to the one outside the church.

Pastor Stith's vacation dates were changed to May 31 - June 6. Pastor Stith will be away from the pulpit on the following Sundays this during the spring and summer: May 4, June 1, July 6 and August 6, 10, 17. The August dates are when he will be in Kenya.

He reported that there are six persons from our church going on the trip to Kenya: Pastor Stith, Boots Misheski, Bonnie Thompson, Jackie Petik, Melissa Barentsen, and Mary Jo Moorhead. The group will be putting on a Vacation Bible School while they are in Kenya. Pastor Stith stated that he is very proud of the way our congregation is providing support for mission efforts in Kenya, including donations for the Kenya Relief Fund.

Pastor Stith visited Florenz Bjornson and set up her computer so that she can now hear the Sunday worship services.

The Clerk reported that 79 persons were served Communion on Maundy Thursday, 119 on Easter Sunday and 100 on April 6.

Vicky Whitcomb,  
Clerk Pro-Tem

**COME SING!**

It's time for Song Festival Choir! Join us for one hour of singing on Thursday, May 15th at 7:00p.m! In addition to a hymn sing-a-long, we will work on "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," to perform in church on Sunday, May 18th! Join in the fun of the third annual "one night rehearsal song-fest." Guitars welcome!

**PRESBYTERIAN MEN  
DO RUMMAGE:  
\$2,600 WORTH**

Thanks to a lot of hard work from many Presbyterian Men...and of course Women, some Girls and Boys, and all the folks who donated rummage, the annual Spring Rummage Sale was a huge success. But, it was more than just successful in the monetary sense. It was a great opportunity to be in community with one another. Stories we will have to tell to our children and grandchildren will live on in infamy. On another level, we had an opportunity to present our faces to the community. We advertised and we handed out refrigerator magnets with our church's essential contact information. The result, we had over 600 people who bought our rummage and everyone of them received this useful gadget. Bravo, and it is not too early to set aside rummage for 2009; be ready because next year will be here before you know it.



West Fargo's Community  
Presbyterian Church  
Corner of Sheyenne Street & 7th Ave.  
Sunday School - All Ages 9:00 AM  
Worship 10:00 AM  
Summer Worship 9:30 AM  
Join our live web broadcast Sunday  
at [www.cpcwf.org](http://www.cpcwf.org)  
701-282-4135

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**MAY 6TH 5:00-8:00 p.m.**



Statistics show that almost 90% of us will need blood at some point in our lives. That means that even if it isn't you who needs blood, chances are pretty high that a family member, friend, co-worker, or neighbor will use blood. United Blood Service needs you to be one of the local "Heroes" who makes sure blood is available if you or someone you love ever needed it. Your chance to make a difference is coming soon. Community Presbyterian Church Blood Drive is Tuesday, May 6th, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. For an appointment, please call Melissa Eiter at 433-0558.

**MAY  
DATES  
TO  
REMEMBER**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 5-1 Lee Corneliussen  
 5-2 Tom Kassman  
 5-3 Gloria Ruhnke  
     Dwight Steffen  
 5-4 Dawn Chase  
 5-5 Faye Pyle  
     Henry Yokom  
 5-6 Steve Hanna  
     Marty Matzke  
 5-8 Jane Leben  
 5-9 Carolyn Meester  
 5-9 Cheryl Montgomery  
 5-10 Scott Hansen  
     Justin Videen  
 5-13 Larry Dobrinz  
     Don VanCleve  
 5-14 Skylar Pederson  
 5-16 Brady Kellerman  
 5-17 Edsel Kercher  
     Kaitlyn Anderson  
 5-18 Len Misheski  
 5-20 Greg Sterup  
 5-22 Ashley Chase  
     Amy Leopold  
     Olivia Wilkinson  
     Olivia Dobrinz  
 5-23 Melissa Eiter  
 5-24 Bev Christopherson  
     Andrew Steele  
 5-25 Gary E. Bahls Jr.  
     Barb Grossman  
     Mary Jo Moorhead  
     Sarah Traylor  
 5-26 Reed Montgomery  
 5-27 Vickie Meyer  
 5-28 Cole Chase  
 5-29 Melissa Barentsen  
     Zarissa Hansen  
 5-30 Thomas Meyer



**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5-11-79 – Clarence and Mary Bastle  
 5-12-(00 or 02) - Bob and Violet Galt  
 5-24-03 - Tim and Carly Hager  
 5-29-66 – Len and Boots Misheski  
 5-29-93 – Jason and Jill Swart  
 5-29-04 - Seth and Alicia Whitcomb

**FOCUS ON MISSION**

March Project – OGHS  
 Thank you, thank you! Our goal for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering was \$2,000. Not only was this goal met, but we surpassed it a little bit. Our final total was \$2,016! Thanks for giving so generously!



**April - Food Pantry**

Our mission focus for April was the Food Pantry. We decided to have a friendly competition. People tend to sit on one side of the sanctuary or the other, and seldom "cross over." The "north side" challenged the "south side" to see which group could fill up their bin with the most food items. With one and a half weeks to go, the south side looked like the winner, but do not forget that everyone is a winner when we've given so enthusiastically to those who have need.

**May - Presbyterian Clearwater Forest**

The mission focus for the month of May is the Presbyterian Clearwater Forest. Look for more details in the Sunday bulletins.

Please remember the Salvation Army! Our church serves lunch there the third Saturday of each month. Come and help on May 17.

The Mission Committee will meet Tuesday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m. If you have any ideas for new mission projects, come join us!



## YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORT

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

WEEK	NEEDED GIVING TO DATE	ACTUAL GIVING TO DATE
4/20/08	\$45,504	\$41,225

As of April 20, 2008, the year to date actual giving to CPC's general fund is \$41,225 compared to the \$45,504 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).

This financial report is key in showing you each month how our giving is keeping up to our expenses. We just received the winter snow removal bill, that will be paid the 1st of May, for \$940. A quarterly insurance payment of \$1200 will soon be paid. And summer is around the corner! Please consider signing up for direct deposit (see page 10) or fulfilling your pledge a little sooner than you usually do before summer hits so we can alleviate the almost certain need to borrow against our note.

If everyone does their part we can break the cycle of having to borrow in the summer.

Adopt an Expense has been a thrilling experience for us as we see once again show how we tackle a project, this being paying off 2007 expenses. Our 2007 note balance has gone from \$11,600 down to \$2,000 thanks to individual contributions, Presbyterian Women and Presbyterian Men contributions and moving \$1600 from the Building Fund to repay the January 2007 interest payment that came from our general giving. Keep up the good work!

## APRIL TRUSTEE TALK



April 9 - Bob Galt, Lynn Hummel, Bob Olson, Andrew Thostenson, and Larry Peihl, Session Liaison, were in attendance. Derek Leopold and Don Van-Cleve were absent.

Bob Galt reported that the cabinets for the office were ordered and should arrive the last half of April. The supplier will notify us once they are in Fargo to coordinate a time for installations (As of April 23, no word has been received.).

Andrew reported that he adjusted the chair storage room doors so they would latch again. Apparently settling in the building had resulted in a wide gap preventing latching.

Andrew reported Jim Bjorklund, Lynn, and he had painted about two dozen of the old steel chairs to sell at the Presbyterian Men's Annual Rummage Sale.

Larry reported that Northland Glass had repaired the front window for about \$179. A discussion then ensued on ways to protect the window from damage in the future and ways to accommodate signage in this area. Andrew promised to follow up on this.

Bob Galt and Lynn volunteered to mount the "No Parking Except for Church Business" sign in the east parking lot.

Carol Sterup requested that a mirror and dressing hooks be placed in the lounge room for upcoming weddings. Andrew promised to follow up on this with Carol.

The trustees adjourned and spent an hour cleaning the old storage shed on the southwest corner of the church.

The next meeting of the trustees will be 7:00 p.m. on May 14.



## PROJECT OPEN DOOR II IS UNDERWAY

PODII was formally presented at a luncheon to about 100 members and friends on April 20th. (If you missed this event, please note, that another open meeting regarding PODII will be scheduled for the second half of May. Watch your mail for dates and times.)

Basically, this capital campaign has several goals: service our mortgage, replace the roof over the old annex, retire a portion of the principal on the mortgage, resurface the east parking lot, and last but not least, it has a 10% capital mission component. In order to meet all of our goals, we are asking folks to pray to God for discernment and respond with financial commitments by June 1. Over the next two years we need commitments of slightly more than \$221,000 to meet all of our goals.

Please pray about what you can do to support PODII.

A prospectus is available online at: <http://cpcwf.org/PODII.pdf>

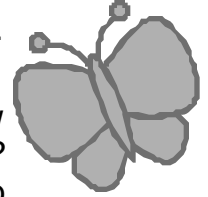
You can also call the church office to receive a prospectus via mail or give a call with questions to elders Steve Hanna at 282-8946 or Andrew Thostenson at 492-0630.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that there are large print bulletins at the usher's stand in the back of the sanctuary? Also available are the hymns for the day printed in large type for those of us who have difficulty reading the hymns in the hymnal. Remember also that there are hearing assistance devices there for those who have impaired hearing.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL RAINFOREST ADVENTURE



Are you looking to reach new heights of fun this summer? Then, this August, head to CPC for a Rainforest Adventure! This vacation Bible school is for everyone. There will be classes for those in pre-school through middle school and possibly for high schoolers and adults. Of course, there are always opportunities to volunteer through teaching, decorating, and leading groups as adventure rangers--to name a few.

Every evening Sunday, August 10, through Thursday, August 14, you'll hear stories about Jesus, make cool crafts, learn catchy rainforest tunes, play super fun games, do some zany skits, and make lots of new friends. Sessions include dinner and snacks.

Ready to sign up? Give Carrie Leopold a call at 282-9213.

### CPC SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

*each week's first game begins at 6:30*

- 5/7 Red River/Shiloh at Lewis & Clark
- 5/14 Newman Center/Com. Methodist at McKinley
- 5/21 Knollbrook/Olivet at Longfellow
- 5/28 Calvary II/Calvary I at Longfellow
- 6/4 Pontoppidan/Shiloh at Lewis & Clark
- 6/11 Our Redeemer/Calvary III at Longfellow
- 6/18 Newman Center/Com. Methodist at Discovery
- 6/25 Calvary I/Calvary II at McKinley
- 7/2 Atonement II/Atonement I at Discovery
- 7/9 Pontoppidan/Red River at Lewis & Clark
- 7/16 Immanuel/Bethlehem at McKinley
- 7/18-19 Toumament

**INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN:**

Personal Information

Birth date - August 1  
 Birth place - Tachekawa, Japan  
 High school - graduated in Grangeville, Idaho  
 Occupation - stay at home mom/teacher  
 Married - Andrew on 12/18/1982  
 Children - Evan and Erin  
 Joined Com. Pres. Church - 1998

Favorites

Movies - Dreamer, Lord of the Rings, Sound of Music  
 Season - Fall  
 Music - Christian, Jazz  
 Historical Figure - C.S. Lewis  
 TV Shows - PBS Mystery, Good Eats

Would You Rather

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

- ... give up movies or music?
- ... always lose or never play?
- ... be a professional baseball player or a champion horse breeder?
- ... not be able to use your phone or your e-mail?
- ... have a mansion in the middle of nowhere or an apartment with 10 friends?

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I have lived across the street from Gayle for several years. I got to interview her and here are a few interesting things I found out about her.

I asked her if she had a favorite toy as a child. She said her favorite thing was a pink security blanket, one she had for many years - that is until one day when visitors came and it "disappeared". Another thing from her childhood was a fear. She was afraid of being lost or



abandoned. It wasn't likely to happen but it came from dreams that she had.

I asked her about her jobs. She said the worst one she has had was

cleaning wheat. She received it when someone asked her to help and she needed the money. The reason that she didn't like it was because there was so much dust in the air. Her current job is 'Sanity Manager' (a.k.a. Mom). The reason for this being her job is to make sure her family is raised right.

Gayle has many stories to tell and many interesting opinions. I really enjoyed interviewing her.

Interviewed by:  
 Alisa Jacobson  
 8th grade  
 April 22, 2007

~~~~~

"Would You Rather" answers:

(Would You Rather answers: movies, always lose, horse breeder, phone, apartment)

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE**



- May 4 - dinner and TAG
- 11 - dinner - ???
- 18 -- last meeting

**HIGH SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE**

- May 4 TAG
- 9 Remedy Drive Concert at Dike. Details TBA
- 18 Final Meeting and Potluck

**Community Presbyterian Church** is pleased to be able to offer you a new way to make contributions to the church using pre-authorized debits. Now you can have your contributions paid automatically each month. Plus, you don't have to change your present banking relationship to take advantage of this service.

- No check writing with associated charges
- Control over funds is guaranteed (via Regulation E)

Easy to sign up and easy to cancel – easy to change for whatever reason

The authorization below gives Community Presbyterian Church and your financial institution authority to make contributions from your account. To take advantage of pre-authorized debits, simply complete the form as follows:

- Check whether your payment will be deducted from your checking or savings account
- Fill in your name, financial institution name and location, and date
- Attach a voided check for verification of all the financial institution information. If you are unable to attach a voided check, please provide your account number.
- Sign the form

Pre-authorized debits are safe, convenient, and easy. To take advantage of this service, please complete the following and return it to Cheryl Montgomery, Treasurer, at the address below.

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**Pre-authorized debits customer authorization form**

**November 1, 2007 start-up date – forms accepted at any time**

I authorize Community Presbyterian Church and the financial institution listed below to initiate electronic debit entries, (and if necessary, credit entries and adjustments for any debit entries in error) to my:

[ ] checking account                      [ ] savings account                      for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

***(This authority will remain in effect until I have cancelled it in writing.)  
(Changes can be easily made)***

\*Please select from the following options to make contributions:

<u>MONTHLY</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> _____ OR 16 <sup>th</sup> _____	<u>TWICE A MONTH</u> 1 <sup>st</sup> AND 16 <sup>th</sup> _____
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**Please print the following:**                      **A confirmation letter will be sent from the church office**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Routing Number (9 digits):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Account Number:

**Please return to:**  
Cheryl Montgomery, Treasurer  
Community Presbyterian Church  
P. O. Box 546  
West Fargo, ND 58078  
(A confirmation will be sent to you)

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**November 1, 2007 start up date – forms accepted at any time**