

# 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



## CONGRATULATIONS, SENIORS!

We applaud our high school graduates: Ann Corneliusen, Breanna Olson, and Tiffany Peihl. Below is a brief description of their plans for the future.

Ann plans to take a year off and then attend Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Moorhead. Breanna will also attend MSCTC with a nursing or dental hygienic emphasis. Tiffany has enrolled at Minnesota State University at Moorhead with a communications major.

We wish all of them well as they move onto new endeavors.

## SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Interested in going to Bible Camp this summer? Scholarships of \$100 per child are available through the Presbyterian Women. For more information, call Delores Horn at 282-4501.



## DON'T FORGET



Summer worship services are held at 9:30 a.m.

## PASTOR'S PEN

You know you've got one. Everybody's got one. It lurks around every corner, jumping out when you least want it to. It's the Chore. Everybody has that one responsibility that seems to them tiresome, endless, and basically without any redeeming value whatsoever. For me, it's mowing the grass. I simply hate mowing the grass. You have to get gas for the mower, clean up the sticks and toys from the yard (ideally, at least), disconnect the downspout and



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sump pump outlet extenders, and change into grubby shoes and jeans, and then, after all that, you get to spend the next half hour or so trudging around the yard behind a noisy, exhaust-spewing machine that needs only a hidden rock to become a dangerous weapon. Of course, you do get to pause occasionally to bag up the grass clippings (and doggie doo and dandelion leaves and stick fragments), and to kick away the garden hose you forgot to roll up, but somehow these interludes are, for me at least, less than blissful. And once it's all done, there's still the edging to be done, and the clippings to be hauled to the mulching station. After that, all that remains is cleaning up and coping with the allergy symptoms for the next couple of hours. And then, within a day or two, the darn grass has grown again and you have it all to do over again.

I understand that there are some people who derive some sort of satisfaction from yard work. Maybe you are such a person. If so, I applaud you, and even envy you at least a little bit. But I would guess that there's some other part of your routine that is, for you, the Chore, inspiring very much the same loathing, misery, and soul-numbing weariness in you that mowing the lawn does in me. If there really isn't—if your life is full of nothing but meaningful and enjoyable pursuits—then may God continue to bless you, and you don't really need to read the rest of this column!

For the rest of us, however, the Chore still awaits. And if you're hoping that I have some wonderful word of inspiration to offer that will magically transform it into something worthwhile and easy to bear, I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you on that score. It is a fact of our lives

in this corrupted and fallen world that there is some stuff that we end up obliged to do that simply gives us no joy.

I find it pretty easy to imagine God having the Chore to do, too. What would that be, you ask? I can't help but think that God dealing with us is a bit like me dealing with my lawn. He's gone to an awful lot of trouble already, you know. First he created us and gave us an easy job to do in a perfect home—and we immediately started sinning against him. Over and over, he has been gracious to us, acting in love to give us guidelines for living well, sending prophets and apostles to help us see the way, and over and over, we've repaid him by sinning more. Our transgressions pop up over and over and over again, like dandelions in the yard. And even when God gave himself, dying for us on the cross, wiping away all of our sins and opening the way to eternal life, what did we do? We went right on sinning. Forgiving us, you would think, is every bit as thankless and futile a task as trying to keep the grass short and the dandelions eradicated.

But the astonishing thing is that God doesn't, as far as we can tell, think of us as the Chore. Instead, if the parables of Jesus are any guide, God and all the heavenly hosts rejoice every single time a sinner is forgiven. God's patience and love and forgiveness, unlike my patience for yard work, are infinite. If God can forgive me, every time, then maybe—just maybe—I can try to keep a civil thought in my head for the mower.

Maybe.





## MAY CLERK'S CORNER

The Session met on Thursday, May 17. A motion was approved to pay the \$1,800 for Jenna Barthensen's air fare to Kenya from the Mission Fund.

Andrew Thostenson reported that the final bill to the mechanical contractor has been made for POD. The pre-school lease for the use of the fellowship hall this summer was approved with the rent to be \$750 for the summer session. Dates for summer pre-school will be June 4-7, 11-14, 18-21, 25-28, July 9-12 and July 16-19.

The flat roof on the south side of the church will be patched to prevent further leakage into the secretary's office. The floor of the mechanical room was painted and the pipes and walls of the old narthex were also given fresh coats of paint.

Connecting the telephone and internet service to IdeaOne will be completed in June if the weather permits. \$200 will be spent from the Office Budget for an update for Quick Books which is the program used for accounting.

Giving to One Great Hour of Sharing was down substantially from last year. Mission projects for both June and July will be school supplies for the United Way Campaign.

The Stewardship Committee is in the planning process for a Capital Campaign for 2008-2009. More details of this will be reported as they are finalized. Contribution reports will be mailed in the near future.

A sympathy card is being sent to Blake Humphrey on the death of his wife. Mr. Humphrey, a lay pastor, has filled the pulpit for our church several times.

Pastor Stith will be away June 2 through

the 9th on vacation. Session members should be contacted if there is a need for pastoral care during that time. Pastor Stith was given approval to take July 29th as a vacation day. He thanked the Session and the congregation for the many expressions of sympathy and other acts of kindness to his family in the illness and death of Toni's father.

Communion will be on June 10 rather than June 3 as Pastor Stith will be away on the 3rd. At their request, Rich and Krista Whitcomb were removed from the church rolls. The transfer of Melissa Odegaard Nesemeier to the Lutheran Church of the Cross was approved. Charles House will fill the pulpit on July 29th.

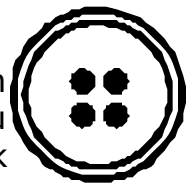
The planning for the 2008 Kenya Trip is progressing, and they hope to take 40 persons on this trip. Anyone interested in going is urged to contact Pastor Stith. The anticipated cost of the trip is in the neighborhood of \$3,000 with the Presbytery hoping to provide \$800 for each person who goes. They plan to do several projects for the people there while they are in Kenya.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session

## CRAFTERS WANTED

Don't have time to finish those craft projects you started this fall. Need to work on a baby quilt for the new arrival. Want to spend some time organizing those vacation pictures. Now you have time!

Craft night at Community Presbyterian Church will be Saturday, June 23, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Come, join us in the fellowship hall and finish or at least start those projects you want to get done. If you plan to come, please call Karen Steele (277-8843), so she can plan a snack.





## DATES TO REMEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

- 6-1 Ella Steele
- 6-2 Craig Larson
- 6-3 Jeff Jaskowiak
- 6-3 Edwin Diede
- 6-3 Zachory Steele
- 6-4 Mike Gross
- 6-5 Doug Sharbono
- 6-6 Melanie Hansen  
LeAnn Misheski
- 6-7 Norma Henning
- 6-11 Kathy Colliton  
Richard Osborne
- 6-12 Vicki Riedinger
- 6-13 May McLeod  
Allen Meyer
- 6-18 Luella Friend
- 6-19 Brandon Hanna  
Evelyn Martin  
Bill Montgomery  
Toni Stith
- 6-23 Ashley Swart
- 6-26 Carol Duggan
- 6-30 Dixon Moorhead

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 6-4-88 – Tom and Cathy Birrenkott
- 6-6-48 – Henry and Hazel Yokom
- 6-7-97 – Scott and Melanie Hansen
- 6-8-96 – Terry and Carolyn Meester
- 6-8-72 - Bruce and Karen Steele
- 6-11-83 – Marty and Debbie Matzke
- 6-11-94 – Lee and Lia Dobrinz
- 6-12-98 – Ray and Bev Christopherson
- 6-14-00 – Christopher and Ronda Green
- 6-19-?? - Chad and Tammy Nelson
- 6-20-87 - Don and Shelly Van Cleve
- 6-20-92 – Richard and Lisa Osborne
- 6-22-58 – James and Audrey Binger
- 6-24-95 – Rick and Dawn Chase
- 6-27-81 – Thomas and Nancy Kassman
- 6-28-75 – John and Loma Wilkinson

## THANK YOU FROM MS SOUL TRAIN



As summer quickly approaches, another end of a successful year of MS Soul Train comes to a close. We filled our time with games: Bingo, Dumb, 7-up, TAG, Ditch, and football. We took several trips: skiing at Buena Vista, the Jamestown Retreat, a YMCA Sleepover and a Red Hawks game. We gave some of our spirit and energy back to the church: helping with Valentine's Day Dinner, making blankets for PATH, the Easter Egg Extravaganza, the Sunrise Service, and our interviews. All of these activities are fun and couldn't be done without the help of many people. The following have helped serve meals, drive, and run different programs.

Ann Chale  
Becky DeJong  
Louise Johnson  
Delores Horn  
Marlys Martin  
Debbie Matzke  
Allen and Arlyn Meyer  
Boots Misheski  
Dave and Gloria Ruhnke  
Ardis Sherwood  
Andrew and Janine Steele  
Karen Steele  
Dwight and Lisa Steffen  
Scott Stenshoel  
Carol Sterup  
Matt and Toni Stith  
Jason and Jill Swart  
Gayle Thostenson

\*\* and as always - anyone else that I may have forgotten to mention\*\*

We have enjoyed our fellowship together knowing that we are in the company of God. Have a great summer; be ready for our annual day-at-the-lake and we will see you next year.

Becky and Lisa

**ASANTE SANA!  
(THANK YOU VERY MUCH  
IN KISWHILI)**

I wanted to make sure I got the opportunity to thank everyone for all the support you all gave me. I also want to thank you all for keeping me in your prayers while I am away. This trip will be a life changing experience for me, and I'm so grateful that I am loved by so many people.

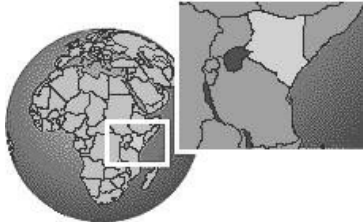
I am writing this letter to you all the night before I leave. I'm not afraid to go and be gone this long because I feel so strongly that this is part of God's plan. Since my trip to Kenya in 2004, and for years before that, I have prayed that God would show me the path he wanted me to follow. While I don't think I will ever see it all clearly (at least in my time on Earth), I have learned that he is always pointing in the right direction. I have felt for a long time that I needed to go back to Kenya, and over the last year that feeling grew stronger. I thought that this was what I was going to do in a year after I graduated, but God had other plans. Now on the eve of my departure I can see that God's timing is way better than my own.

I will miss you all terribly, but rest assured I will be well looked after by our dear friends in Chogoria. I will have a lot to say and a lot of pictures to share when I get back.

God bless you all!

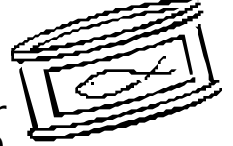
With Love,

Jenna  
Barenthsen



*Editor's note: For more information on Jenna's travels, go to <http://safarisummer.blogspot.com/> to read her blog.*

**CANS AND CANS  
AND CANS - OVER 300!**



Can you believe that our church donated over 300 cans of soup and tuna fish to the Emergency Food Pantry! There were 144 cans of soup and 160 cans of tuna fish besides 52 other canned and boxed foods! The blue tote was so heavy that it took a lot of muscle to haul that over to the Food Pantry. We found it easier to put the cans in many sacks and boxes! They were so grateful to get it. Thank you for your help!



**SUMMER MISSION  
PROJECT**

School is out for the summer, but those 3 months fly by so fast! It won't be long before the YWCA will be needing new backpacks for next year's school children. So before July 20 please bring in any of the following (new only): plain backpacks, 2 inch binders, highlighters, loose leaf paper (wide or narrow), colored pencils, or markers. These are the supplies that they were way short of last year. Of course you can bring in scissors, red pens, folders, glue, and notebooks also. Let's make the tote overflow again - can we get over 100 items? Thanks!

**THANKS FOR GIVING**

Bev Christopherson would like to thank the members who donated blood at the May 22 church blood drive, also a thank you to Pastor Stith & the church secretary for their support. Twenty-one members volunteered to donate and thirteen people were able to give. Bev stated you have all truly given the gift of life to patients in the seventy-four hospitals in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota - all served by United Blood Services.



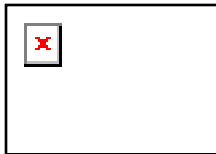


**COFFEE HOUR  
FOLLOWING CHURCH**

Coffee Hour after church is very much enjoyed by most members of the church. We are asking that when you are called to help by the Service & Fellowship leader of your group, you will be cheerfully willing to help in whatever way you can. The leaders do a fantastic job of getting people to help but they do get frustrated when people refuse to help. We do realize that people are not always going to be in church on the Sunday they are asked to serve but urge you to help if possible. Thanks for your cooperation.

The Session would like us to be environmentally friendly with the use of cups and glasses during coffee hour. They suggest that we use the glass cups and glasses whenever possible. This would also be more economical. The SAF Committee is trying to find cups for hot beverages that would be easier on the environment than the styrofoam that we have been using.

**OUR FAMILY LABELS:  
TRASH TO TREASURE**



We need your help. There's only a few weeks left for us to reach our goal of turning trash into treasure. In order for us to collect *any* funds in this project, we need to collect 500 Sun Mart's Our Family UPC labels. For that our church will receive \$25.00 and a bonus of \$25.00 for a total of \$50.00—all to be used for Vacation Bible School.

Right now, we have collected 395 labels. That means we need at least 105 more in the next couple weeks, or we will receive no treasure for our trash. If 27 of us bring in 4 labels each, we will surpass our goal. Let's work together to help our 2007 VBS Lift Off!

**YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL REPORT**

Budgeted 2007 giving: \$157,328.49  
Or 52 weeks \$3,025.55/week

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>BUDGETED GIVING TO DATE</u>	<u>ACTUAL GIVING TO DATE</u>
5/29/07	\$63,536.55	\$56,999.15

As of May 29, the year-to-date actual giving to CPC's general fund is at \$56,999 compared to the \$63,536 budgeted for the same time period.

These figures do not include the \$20,000 mortgage payment budget which is being funded from the building fund money market.

The note is now at \$8,500 due to borrowing \$6,000 in May to cover additional building insurance, mission work, buildings and grounds work and increase in personnel expense. Our giving usually drops in May and stays that way until September, meaning that we borrow on the note all summer long!

**RAIN CHECK  
ON IMPROVEMENTS**



Project Open Door landscaping has suffered a delay due to much rain in the last month. Plans are to resume work in June. Please pray for fair weather.

**OUR CHURCH LADIES  
CAN COOK!**



Now that we've all had a chance to try the many delicious recipes of our church ladies, it's time to share them with the community and make some money for Project Open Door.

Use your imagination, and let's sell some cookbooks! Please stop by the cookbook table each Sunday to check out or purchase a number of cookbooks. Cookbooks are \$10.00 each.

## MAY TRUSTEE TALK

May 9th--Ray Christopherson, Bob Galt, Bob Olson, and Andrew Thostenson were in attendance. Derrick Leopold and Scott Meyer were absent. Jim Bjorklund also attended.



Scott Meyer reported in writing that:

- Lee's Roofing examined the flat roof on the old annex during the downpour on May 5 and did find some spots that could be patched. Scott indicated that this patching would take place in the next couple of weeks and that an additional downspout was also recommend. Scott said he would follow up on the patching, getting the estimate on the downspout, and on getting a figure for roof replacement.

- He had some conversation with Cheryl Montgomery regarding cabinets for the office.

- He was investigating installing light switches in the sanctuary near the new entry door.

The trustees then heard a report from Jim Bjorklund:

- Our POD contractors are working through various deficiencies. Jim is in regular contact with them. He expressed some frustration with the timeliness of their responses, but was optimistic that reasonable progress was being made.

- On behalf of Gary Duggan, he asked for permission to paint the floor of the new mechanical room, and the trustees approved his request.

- He reported that the painting of the pipes and the walls in the old narthex was complete. The trustees expressed their thanks.

The trustees reviewed the plan developed on May 7th regarding landscaping on the East and North sides of the church. They approved this and asked that Larry Peihl share it with the Session. Jim indicated that he would make certain our property was marked for underground lines and would work on recruiting members to smooth and shape the landscape.

The trustees expressed thanks to those who helped during the spring cleaning week. Much was accomplished. Preliminary discussions were also held regarding a sanctuary specific cleaning day to be held sometime in the early fall.

Kudos to Bob Olson for the window replacement in the West door.

Kudos to Larry for the trim work in the basement, the new opener on the West door, and the preliminary work on the new locks in the older portion of the church.

Bob Olson agreed to have someone look at repairing the cracked wall in the front of the sanctuary.

Bob Galt agreed to retrofit some of the outlets in the sanctuary and the old narthex with white plugs and plates.

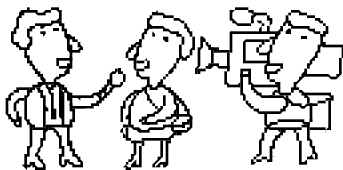
The next meeting of the trustees is scheduled for June 13 at 7:00 pm.

## JACK ATTACK

The 3rd Annual Jack Attack on Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) will be held on Saturday, June 2nd, at Lindenwood Park. The 5K Walk/Run is in honor of Jack Gellner. All money raised goes directly to research for finding a cure for SMA.

For more information, contact Kristi Gellner at 282-2146.

## INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN



**A few thoughts by  
Becky DeJong:**

*Last fall I was treated to a relaxing day off. I was surrounded by the burst of autumn colors and charming company. As I took in the peacefulness and tranquility of the day what I found that I most enjoyed was listening to the stories that Roy and Louise Johnson told of their lives and of others that they knew. I was reminded that everyone has amazing stories to tell and share with others. The MS Soul Train has chosen a few of our amazing church members to get to know a little better. Please look forward to and enjoy our monthly interviews.*

### ROY JOHNSON

#### Personal Information

Birth date - July 17, 1925  
 Birthplace - Casselton, ND  
 High school - graduated from Casselton, ND  
 Married - Louise in Larimore, ND on Sept. 3, 1949  
 Children and Grandchildren -  
   Nancy (Fargo) - Brent and Erik  
   Roy (Chicago) - Roy and Adam  
   Chuck (Des Moines, Iowa)  
 Joined Community Presbyterian Church - 1967/1968

#### Favorites

Movies - Harry Potter and cowboy movies  
 Smell - lemons  
 Athlete - Lou Gehrig  
 Sport to play and watch - football  
 TV show - CSI, Discovery, History,

Animal Planet and police shows

#### Would You Rather

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

... forget who you are or who everyone else is?

... have a beautiful house and ugly car or an ugly house and beautiful car?

... have x-ray vision or bionic hearing?

... snowboard in the winter or swim in the summer?

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

~~~~~

Roy Johnson, what an amazing person! There is so much history and life in him. Where do I begin?

Roy Johnson was born on July 17, 1925. He was born and raised in Casselton, North Dakota. He is the youngest child in his family.

When Roy was younger, he didn't have things like computer games, video games or TV. (How did he survive?!) Instead, Roy played games outside with his friends. They played games like Tag, Kick the Can, Anti-Over and Mumbly Pig. He claims he was pretty good at them. (hehe)

By the time high school rolled along, most kids (including me) would have been extremely nervous. Not Roy, he was excited and had lots of fun. Plus, he had all of his brothers and sisters there to help him out. He hung out with his friends quite often. During the winter, the ditches would fill up and then freeze over. He would then go skating with all of his friends.

**(Continued to Page 9)**

**(Continued from Page 8)**

Alright; time for the embarrassing story. Actually, this is more like 'the embarrassing story to be'. When Roy was in high school he was one of the shortest in his grade. He had the hand-me-down uniform from his brothers. Well, his thighs weren't long enough. The knee-pads in the pants came to about mid-thigh. Uh-oh. Not good. He did not want to be made fun of for his uniform. This worried Roy so much that he finally went to his dad about it the night before practice. His dad convinced Roy that it would be alright. It turns out, that by morning, his dad had stayed up all night sewing and fixing his uniform. It sounds like Roy's dad was a pretty cool guy.

When Roy graduated from high school, he didn't go to college right away. He joined the service to fight in WWII. He was in the service for three years with his brothers. He is a 'Battle of the Bulge' veteran.

After his three years in the service, Roy came home with his brothers. They all attended NDSU. (Roy told me it was fun because the girls were all three years



younger.) He played football in college and had a wonderful time.

Even though Roy is now retired, he has had many jobs. He has been a county agent, a John Deere dealer, a banker, and followed NDSU athletics while being in charge of fundraising for eleven years.

I had so much fun interviewing Roy. He is a very interesting person with so much personality. Thanks, Roy!

Interviewed by:

Mary DeJong

8th grade

April 22, 2007

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**"Would You Rather" answers:**

forget who you are, beautiful house and ugly car, bionic hearing, swim in the summer, macho woman

**CPC 9-HOLE GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**Thursday, June 28th  
6:00 - when we're  
done**



\*\*You do not need to be a great golfer to play!

\*\*You may sign up as an individual and then we will pair you with a partner or you can sign up with a partner.

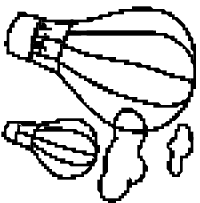
\*\*The basic rules, besides having fun, will be that everyone tees off and then after deciding which shot is best the teams will alternate shots to the hole. There will be additional rules but you will have to come to find out what they are!

\*\*\$15.00 will cover prizes and greens fees at Osgood Golf Course.

\*\*Please sign up in the narthex.

# Lift Off!!

Soaring to New Heights with God



## Vacation Bible School

Community Presbyterian Church  
702 Sheyenne St., West Fargo, ND  
(701) 282-4135

Date: August 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Dinner: 6:00 to 6:30pm

Program: 6:30 to 8:00pm

Classes for all ages:

Preschool through Adult  
(Nursery care provided)

Activities:

Bible Storytellers, Music, Puppets, Games,  
Crafts, Science fun, Snacks,

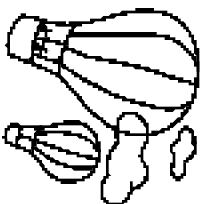
(MS/HS) Youth Group Service Projects

Like to Help? Contact Toni Stith

(282-2715 or [tonistith@yahoo.com](mailto:tonistith@yahoo.com))

**Register Today!!**

Don't forget to register for Vacation Bible School!! Please share extra forms with family, friends. And neighbors. We want everyone to have a chance to soar to new heights with God.



Community Presbyterian Church  
Vacation Bible School  
August 5 through 9

## Registration Form

Name(s) and age(s)/grade(s) completed participating in VBS, include adults and nursery care:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How many of you and what nights shall we plan for you to join us for dinner?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any special dietary needs to consider for dinner or snacks?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who will pick up VBS participants?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact phone #  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_