

# COMMUNITY CALL

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## IN GRATITUDE



Thanks to all who answered the call and came to volunteer at Lava Lava Island this past week.

In addition to teaching how Jesus followed God's word and gives us hope, courage, salvation, and a reason to celebrate, Lava Lava Island gave us an opportunity to build friendships amongst Christian believers, young and old, and to reach out to those in the community. We had around forty children participate daily who, on the last day, were joined by friends and family to fill the sanctuary and fellowship hall with smiles.

This project took much effort by over forty volunteers which is why an extra pat on the back should be given to all leaders, teachers, actors, helpers, and those who donated funds or items. Special thanks go to Nancy and David Stedman who donated dilly bars from Dairy Queen for all the families and staff for our Lava Lava Luau. Major thanks go also to the Afternoon Circle who funded a major portion of our costs.

For those who missed the action, go to the church website at <http://cpcwf.org> to see photographs and a video from the week.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



From June 26 through July 3, the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will meet in Richmond, Virginia. This meeting, which constitutes the highest governing body of our church, consists of commissioners, both ministers and elders, from all of the presbyteries in the PC(USA), along with hordes of "advisory delegates," lobbyists, salespeople, protesters, etc. As always seems to be the case, the GA will take up a number of vexing, difficult issues, issues that will affect the life of our church for years to come. In this column, I will offer a brief orientation to some of the many things that will be before the GA, in hopes that you will join me in praying that the Assembly will act according to God's will for his church.

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• **Election of the Moderator and Stated Clerk:**

Every Assembly elects a Moderator, and that person, along with presiding over the GA meeting, serves as a sort of chief ambassador for the PC(USA) until the next GA meets. Until this year, the meetings have been annual. However, last year's Assembly voted to shift to biennial (every two years) meetings after this current meeting. Thus, the Moderator elected in Richmond will be the first to serve a two-year term, and it is especially important that the commissioners make a wise choice. An election with even more far-reaching significance is that of the Stated Clerk. The current Clerk, Clifton Kirkpatrick, is up for re-election to another four-year term (he has served 8 years), and is being challenged by three other candidates. The Clerk is, in effect, the chief executive officer of the church, and has tremendous responsibility for shaping the work of the denomination. Both offices are being sought by candidates from all over the theological spectrum, and the decisions made in these elections will have a profound impact on our church for the next several years.

- **Ordination Standards:** Once again, there are many challenges being brought to the PC(USA)'s ordination standards. Five different overtures (requests for action brought by presbyteries and voted on in committees at the GA and then, potentially, on the floor of the GA) have been submitted with the intent to either weaken or remove the current language in the Book of Order that requires candidates for ordination as

elders, deacons, or ministers of Word and Sacrament, among other requirements "...to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness." Given the national furor over gay marriage and related issues, as well as the terrible discord in the Episcopalian church over the recent election of an openly gay bishop, this promises to be the "hot button" issue of the 216<sup>th</sup> GA, even though the overwhelming majority of presbyteries have consistently voted in favor of retaining the current standards (even when GA votes to change elements of the Book of Order, changes must be ratified by a majority of presbyteries).

- **Abortion Issues:** Three overtures seek to change the official position of the PC(USA) from its current "pro-choice" stance, in which the denomination's insurance plan covers even elective abortions, and in which the official policy of the church allows even for partial-birth abortion to an essentially "pro-life" one, urging the church to endorse the protection of life in the womb, especially when babies are viable for delivery, and to advocate live delivery in problem pregnancies in order to protect the lives of both mother and child. On the other hand, overtures have also been advanced that seek PC(USA) support for a United Nations initiative that would aim at decreasing worldwide birth rates, in part through increased access to abortions, and for over-the-counter availability of the so-called "morning after" contraceptive pill, along with changes to the denominations' sexuality curriculum that would advise young women of the availability of this pill and en-

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courage its use. This issue will also be a difficult one for the Assembly.

- **Other Issues:** Among the multitude of other questions facing the GA are: Whether biennial assemblies should be retained, or annual meetings reinstated; Whether a General Assembly Committee should be established to ensure compliance with the rulings of Presbytery, Synod, and GA Permanent Judicial Commissions (the church courts of the PC(USA) whose decisions are often simply ignored by individuals, Sessions, and even the Stated Clerk); Judicial procedure in cases of alleged sexual misconduct by pastors; and many others.

Let us all, regardless of our various stances on particular issues before the GA, pray that God will lead those who lead us, and inspire the 216<sup>th</sup> Assembly to make faithful decisions for the life and mission of the Presbyterian Church.

**A CAREGIVER'S WORD**

Remember: Matthew 25: 35-40?

<sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

**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!

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.

**CARPET FUND UPDATE**

If you haven't attended worship lately, you'll be in for a surprise. New carpeting for the sanctuary, narthex, hall/stairs on the main level, the nursery, and the choir loft has been installed!

Session had ordered the carpet with the conviction that the additional money would be raised by the time installation began. And, indeed, contributions have poured in. As of June 20th, \$10,833 had been raised for the carpet fund.

The Session and Trustees want to thank those who have worked so hard to date in raising funds to make this project happen. But it's not too late to contribute to this project. While this is most of the needed amount, more is still needed to completely pay the bill.

This is your church. Please contribute and be a part of the needed upgrades.



## WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR OUR KIDS?

We are already looking forward to next year and have made some exciting changes. Classes will be offered specifically for preschoolers, elementary, intermediate, and young adults.

At this point we have filled teacher positions for all but January through April of the elementary class and the entire year of the intermediate class. 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 are posted in the narthex.

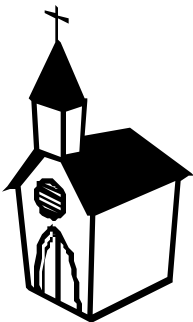
We have formed a Christian Education Committee. The members include Boots Misheski, Toni Stith, Becky DeJong, Lisa Steffen, Gayle Thostenson, Debbie Matzke, and our new Sunday School Superintendent, Melanie Hansen. We are working together to teach the word of God to our children.

Please ask any Christian Education Committee member if you have questions.

Thank you,  
The Christian Education Committee

## CHURCH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Casselton will celebrate their 125th anniversary on Saturday, July 17 with an open house from 2-4 p.m. A special worship service is planned on Sunday, September 12 with Rev. Dr. Charles Traylor, Executive Presbyter of the Northern Plains Presbytery delivering the message. Former pastors will be attending and a reunion choir will sing.



## JULY DATES TO REMEMBER



### BIRTHDAYS

- 7-2 Jo Radebaugh
- 7-3 Tiffany Peihl
- 7-4 Carly Meyer
- 7-5 Mark Hayes  
Robert (Bob) Olson
- 7-6 Logan Jaskowiak
- 7-7 Leann Montgomery
- 7-8 Taylor Birrenkott  
Curtis Hemm  
Dolores Meyer
- 7-9 Michelle Jenner  
Dixie Pederson
- 7-17 Roy Johnson  
Maryjane Martens  
Marj Meester
- 7-19 Boots Misheski
- 7-20 Don Rehling
- 7-22 Tammy Bahls
- 7-24 Duane Ohm  
Judy Pederson
- 7-27 Jim Bjorklund
- 7-28 Nick Peihl
- 7-30 Yvonne Hummel



### ANNIVERSARIES

- 7-2-60 – Gary and Carol Duggan
- 7-20-68 – Dave and Gloria Ruhnke
- 7-23-94 – Matt and Toni Stith
- 7-27-52 – Don and Greta Rehling
- 7-27-02 - Andrew and Janine Steele