

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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INTRODUCING...

We are delighted to introduce Curtis Brophy, Community Presbyterian Church's new youth director. Curtis has worked with youth groups in the past and comes to us from Bethel University with a B.A. in Bible Theology. Some of you may have met him this summer when he was the crew leader for one of the groups at Vacation Bible School.

Curtis will be working with our senior high students, occasionally coordinating activities with Becky DeJong and Lisa Steffen who will continue to direct the middle school part of Soul Train.

Please give Curtis, and his soon-to-be-wife, Kadra, a warm welcome when you see them and include Curtis in your prayers and support as he enters into this expanded ministry of our church.

In this issue

	<u>Page</u>
August Dates	6
August Mission Goals	6
Generosity Abounds	5
Handbell Camp with Style	5
July Dates	4
July Mission Goals	5
Mid-Summer Calendar	8
Presbytery Visit to Kenya	3
Project Open Door Report	7
Travelogue with Pie	7

PASTOR'S PEN

When you have a life-changing experience, I think it is reasonable to assume two things: (1) People will want to hear about it very soon, and (2) It is all but impossible to say anything coherent about the experience right away. My recent trip to Kenya certainly meets both of these criteria.

I am anxious to talk about the trip, as those of you who have asked me about it already have found out—maybe too anxious, since I have a hard time doing anything but babbling on for half an hour about Kenya at the slightest provocation. What I am not quite ready to do yet is to speak intelligibly on the impact, the essence of the trip, the way that it will affect me and my ministry here among you in the days and years to come.

Delores Horn has suggested that I prepare a presentation for the congregation, to be given in conjunction with a pie-and-ice cream social, and so I am in the process of putting together such a show. [Editor's note: See article on p. 7.]

In the meantime, though, I want to

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

share a few of what I'll call snapshots of the trip, moments that hit me particularly hard, or that really opened my eyes to something new. These are just sketches, really, but they might give you a bit of a taste of what I and the rest of the team experienced in Kenya.

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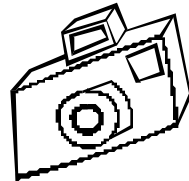
For all the talking and worrying we did about malaria before the trip (take your meds every day, make sure to use mosquito repellent, sleep under a net whenever possible, etc.), I was totally unprepared to come face to face with this disease that kills millions in Africa, mostly young kids and old folks. When we walked into the children's ward at the Chogoria hospital and saw kids, and even babies, with glassy-eyed stares and feverish tremors, gripped by malaria and pneumonia for want of sufficient pesticides or netting in their homes, it was like a punch to the stomach.

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Almost everyone we met in churches, schools, and the hospital would introduce themselves in a similar way. They would, when called upon, give their name, and then, before telling about their position or any other detail, they would add "and I am saved," or "and Jesus is my Savior," or the like. For these brothers and sisters of ours, their status as Christians is so central, so essential to who they are, that it is proclaimed along with their names as a basic piece of identification. I wonder how many of us carry our Christianity that close to the center of who we are?

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It doesn't matter how many I see, I will never get tired of elephants.



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It is very strange to feel like a celebrity. But more than that, it was tremendously humbling to see how truly joyful and excited the people we met were to see us, and to have us share their lives, even when it was only for a few minutes.

In school after school, kids of all ages crowded around our team to ask questions about America, about our lives here, and about our impressions of Kenya. To realize that you are an ambassador for your country, for your culture, and for your church is a pretty powerful thing, and it raised, for me at least, some serious questions about what makes a person worthy to do such a thing.

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As the exhausted members of our team sprawled around the lounge area in the Amsterdam airport on the way home, I couldn't help but notice the contrast between the people I was with at that moment and the same people, two weeks earlier, as we gathered in the same airport. The young people who had been uncertain of each other, nervous, and inclined to travel in small groups based on their home church or previous associations were now truly teammates, having shared experiences that would mark them and bind them forever. This was, I am certain, not the work of Sharon and I as group leaders, nor even of our hosts and friends in Kenya. This was, unmistakably, the work of the Holy Spirit, the One who binds us all, one to another, in creating the community of believers that we call the church. It remains to be seen what God will do with these wonderful, talented people, but Kenya will be a part of it in some way. I can't wait to see the picture continue to develop.

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20 MEMBERS OF PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTHERN PLAINS EXPERIENCE LIFE AND FAITH IN KENYA

By Blair Moorhead

This amazing trip across the globe began with 20 travelers busily labeling boxes of school and medical supplies in the ticketing area of Hector airport. It ended several yards from that spot as participants greeted their families and said goodbye to newly made friends. What happened in between was a trip that changed lives and forever opened all of our eyes.

On June 21, we set out to Nairobi via Amsterdam (about 17 hours of plane rides) to begin a trip to visit our sister congregations and their many projects throughout Kenya. We were greeted in Nairobi by Fredrick Ngige, Eliud Muringi, and Reverend Edwin Mwirabua. The warm welcome from these men and the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) guest house in our first hours in Africa was a preview of the incredible hospitality we would experience throughout the trip.

From Nairobi we traveled to Chogoria, where the PCEA has established three schools, a nursing college, a hospital, and a computer center (which CPC helped fund). We visited all of these institutions, getting a chance to meet students from age 3-18, learn about the presbytery's functioning in Kenya, and deliver Cuddle-Ups to children in the Chogoria Hospital. These blankets were received with great gratitude, as it is winter in the southern hemisphere, and the temperature is approaching – on the coldest days – 60 degrees. Needless to say, we Northerners appreciated the weather and were glad we didn't have to experience the sweltering summer heat.

Rev. Matt Stith and I left Chogoria to meet our sister congregation in Kajiam-pau, to worship with them and several other congregations in one of the poorer, drier regions of Kenya. Our sister congregation is comprised mainly of subsistence farmers, people who grow enough to survive in the dry climate. These crops also make up part of the offering in church, and are then sold in an auction called a "harambee" in which the profits go straight to the church. Worship was a joyful experience, with lots of dancing and singing. It was exciting to hear familiar hymns sung in Swahili and see such active faith.

Our last visits of the trip included an AIDS orphanage, where HIV+ children live with hope even after the prevalent virus has taken their parents. We also visited a community center in one of the poorest neighborhoods in Nairobi, where we brought some of the 10 pounds of chalk donated by members of this congregation to play with young children in the school and saw how the center sustained itself while teaching its students valuable life skills and trades.

After visiting such extraordinary programs sponsored by the PCEA, we got a chance to relax and see the country. We took a day hike up Mount Kenya (some of our group got further up the mountain than others) and then went on safari. We visited two different game parks, where the accommodations were fit for kings and the animals were plentiful. Among the wildlife spotted were lions, hippos, gazelles, cheetahs, wildebeest, elephants, chimpanzees, impala, giraffes, zebras, monkeys, and an array of birds – and bugs. Oh, and how could I forget the black rhino we got to pet!

From watching the sun set on Kenyan savannah to watching the look of hope
(Continued to page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

on children's faces as they prepare for the future, this trip was a wonderful chance for all involved to really see another part of the world. Kenya is a nation still developing in many ways, and this trip afforded us a glimpse of this development and of the role of the church in providing services for the nation. Community Presbyterian Church can also make a difference by keeping our sister congregation in our prayers. We can also continue to watch the progress of a nation which is thousands of miles away, but connected closely to us by faith.

DON'T RELAX YET!

Summer's here. We had a great school year, and it's time to relax. But before you get too comfortable with your lemonade and easy chair, why not take a look at what exciting opportunities are available this fall.



Next year we will need Sunday School teachers for:

Kindergarten-First grade
Fourth/fifth grade
Middle school
Senior high school

Each class will have the same teacher or team of teachers for the entire year. Memorization Sunday for the elementary grades will continue next year allowing for teachers to take a monthly break. Hurry and sign up for the one position you wish to teach before it gets taken.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all treasure seekers who helped by donating time, money, food, or loot in order to make CPC's

Treasure Cove VBS something to treasure!

JULY DATES TO REMEMBER**BIRTHDAYS**

7-3 Tiffany Peihl
7-4 Carly Hager
7-5 Bob Olson
7-6 Logan Jaszkwiaak
7-7 Leann Montgomery
7-8 Taylor Birrenkott
Curtis Hemm
Dolores Meyer
7-9 Michelle Jenner
Dixie Pederson
Kristen Richard
7-10 Justin Hill
7-14 Alicia Whitcomb
7-16 Cami Birrenkott
7-16 Shane Clennon
7-17 Roy Johnson
Marj Meester
7-19 Boots Misheski
7-20 Don Rehling
7-22 Tammy Bahls
7-24 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

YOUR PRODUCE IS NEEDED!

The Handbell Choir will be hosting a fundraiser in order to purchase hand chimes. They will be asking you to help by donating your vegetable and flower bounties of the year. Watch for when and where you can help CPC make more joyful music to the Lord in upcoming bulletins and the Community Call.



GENOROSITY ABOUNDS IN CHURCH MISSION PROJECTS

You have been wonderful in supporting our monthly mission projects! Here are some totals of how much you all gave. Thanks for your continued support!

One Great Hour of Sharing (March) - Donations by envelopes came to \$1484.00, and from the fish boxes we took in \$226.84.

Cuddle-ups (April) - The baked goods sale for Cuddle-ups brought in \$195.45, and donations from the congregation took in \$185.00. By the way, many of the Cuddle-up blankets went to Africa with Matt and Blair!

Clearwater Forest (May) - We easily could buy 10 life preservers. In fact we could get twenty at \$20 each with the donations you gave of \$405! Wow! That was great to double the total we had hoped for!

Food Pantry (June) - We had asked for ten each of six major items of which they need the most. We received: juice - 6 bottles, peanut butter - 15 jars, toilet paper - 28 packages, soup - 18 cans, soap - 53 bars, and macaroni and cheese - 45 boxes. So, thanks to you and the Vacation Bible School givers, we went way over the goal with most of the items!

Some of the confirmation class helped Vicki Peihl gather up food and take over to the Food Pantry. They have quite an operation there that is worth seeing. It is unbelievable how fast the food comes in and goes out. They had just gotten a shipment of supplies from Super Valu, so

the girls spent time helping to unload that and put stuff away (in 90 degree heat). They can use volunteers any weekday between 1-4 pm if you are interested. It is set up in an old fire station at 1438 10 St. N. in Fargo.

Again, thanks so much for your continued generosity! Look for the article on the mission projects needed for July and August. Praise be to God for guiding us in missions!



SCHOOL SUPPLIES IN JULY?

Yes, we are looking for school supplies this month. The United Way gives away the backpacks full of school supplies in mid-August. The school stuff should be out by mid-July in the stores and we need them by July 31st!

Let's see if our church can get 10 backpacks to give, and 20 each of the following: pencils, loose paper, notebooks, red pens, scissors, glue, markers, crayons (24 count is best), and folders!

HANDBELL CAMP WITH STYLE

Get ready for some great musical fun! We will have our first ever Music Camp on August 14 through 17. These evenings will include song, rhythm, and handbells for those entering kindergarten to those who are 110 years old. The three different groups of K-3rd grades, 4th grade to senior high schoolers, and adults will rotate through different stations to challenge and enhance their musical talents. No musical skills are required.

So why not join us? Sign up now on the list in the narthex. Or call Carrie Leopold at 282-9213.



AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

- 8-1 Gayle Thostenson
- 8-3 Goodie Paulsen
- 8-4 LeRoy Bowman
- 8-6 Christian Steffen
- 8-7 Brandon Witt
- 8-8 McKenna Ohm
Brandon Smith
- 8-9 Donna Jenner
- 8-11 David Hemm
Judy McLeod
- 8-12 Paige Pederson
- 8-15 Carol Sterup
Chuck Thompson
- 8-18 Dixie Smith
Mayim Stith
- 8-23 Arlyn Meyer
- 8-23 Paula Sebelius
- 8-24 Tara Sheeley
- 8-25 Brett Colliton
Greta Rehling
Tona Sweeney
- 8-28 Stephani Steffen
- 8-30 Marlys Martin
Erica Bahls
- 8-31 Esther Bowman
Nancy Kassman
Lisa Steffen

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8-2-68 Gordy and Judy Pederson
- 8-7-50 – LeRoy and Esther Bowman
- 8-9-59 – Dean and Joan Hall
- 8-14-81 – Roger and Melissa Barenthsen
- 8-11-62 – Anneus and Marj Meester
- 8-15-00 – Allen and Arlyn Meyer
- 8-18-73 – Bob and Susan Gross
- 8-18-90 - Steve and Sue
Hanna
- 8-20-66 – Rae and Edsel
Kercher
- 8-21-60 – Jim and Brenda
Bjorklund



AUGUST MISSION: CHURCHES UNITED FOR THE HOMELESS

A spiritual setting for shelter and support - Churches United in Moorhead is the place. They also are a good place to bring the extra food you might have left from family gatherings when you over-estimated what the crowd would eat. (Vicki Peihl knows this from experience of her daughter's wedding!) They have many needs from food to clothing.

Any of the following would be great to donate:

Food - cans or bags. If you want to give fresh, frozen, or ready-to-eat (which is greatly needed), take it over to Churches United at 1901 1st Ave. North, Moorhead.

Hygiene - the usual shampoos etc. Plus they need feminine hygiene items, incontinence products, diapers, and medical supplies like band-aids.

Bedding - all sizes

Clothing - especially larger men's sizes of jeans, t-shirts, socks, underwear, and work boots. Coats and other cold weather items are needed also.

This is quite a list, so we're not asking for any certain number of items, but just open up your heart and let God guide you. You can also volunteer your time to prepare meals or sort clothes. The possibilities are endless. Call 236-0372 Ext. 223 to find out more!

THANK YOU!

An anonymous donor has contributed the funds necessary to replace the pew Bibles and the one for the pulpit. These will be ordered and replaced soon. Thank you very much!

PROJECT OPEN DOOR UPDATE



At the time of this writing, the framing is beginning. The drainage, foundation, and concrete flooring work is nearing completion. Passage ways for new doorways are being cut through the old foundation and demolition of the stairway and small closets along the SE corner of the fellowship hall are underway. We are under construction and we are hip deep in it now or neck deep (depending on whether you are Lee Dobrinz or Goodie Paulson).

But seriously, as we look at the pace of construction, we are about two to three weeks behind where we had hoped to be. Most of that time lag can be attributed to the delays associated with managing our heating fuel oil contamination problem and dealing with unstable soil fill on the east end of the new addition. The fuel oil issue caused us to dig deeper than we wanted, which necessitated new fill being brought in and additional concrete having to be poured. As for the unstable fill, this had to be excavated as well with additional replacement fill being brought in, and of course, more concrete work had to be done. All of this, plus actually having to dispose of the contaminated soil, has set us behind. It has also increased our costs. (At the time of this writing, we anticipate this costing an additional \$19,000 to \$21,000.)

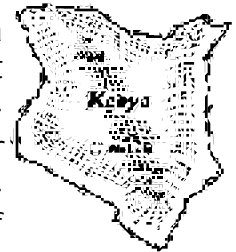
On the flip side of the coin, several timely and expected gifts arrived over the past month which have allowed us to not borrow funds from the PCUSA. We expect that will change by the middle of August. Further, we have confirmed member loan commitments of

\$20,000. (Please note: we have not called for these funds. However, it is good to know that they are available if we need them.)

Many issues will need to be settled over the next several months, but we know we can turn to God for wisdom and perseverance. Keep praying and let us rejoice in the certain knowledge that the Ultimate Builder will be showing us the way.

TRAVELOGUE WITH PIE

Have you ever had a yearning to travel, but didn't want to pack or experience jet lag? Or maybe you have an appetite for homemade pie. If so, we have an event meant just for you.



On the evening of Sunday, August 13, Pastor Matthew Stith will be presenting a review of Presbytery of the Northern Plains representatives' recent travels to Kenya. [Editor's note: See Pastor's Pen on p. 1.] There will be slides, artifacts, and time to hear and ask about the group's many adventures and experiences as they visited the Presbyterian Church of East Africa, our sister church in Kajiampau, and the sights and sounds of Kenya.

If you are a baker or cook, we are asking that you help us make this event a great success by bringing your culinary masterpieces on that evening. Watch for more information on this event in upcoming bulletins. Please call Delores Horn at 282-4501 if you are able to bring a pie for this event. A free-will offering will be taken for Project Open Door.

