

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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PLEASE NOTE!

**On Sunday,
September 7th,
Sunday School
for all ages will resume
at 9:00 a.m. Worship
services will start at
10:00 a.m.**

In this issue

Page

Children's Worship Time	3
Fall Bazaar	4
Floral Arrangements	6
From the Pastor's Pen	1
In Gratitude	2
Let's Celebrate	5
September Calendar	10
September Dates	3
Session Notes	7
Teen Moms	9
Thank You	6
Video Library	4
Virtual CPC	6
West Fest Parade	5
Youth Program	4

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN...



Of the many things, mostly agreeable and occasionally onerous, that have absorbed my time and attention since coming to serve as your pastor, none have seemed to me as urgent as getting to know you, individually and as a congregation, and of letting you get to know me in return. In aid of this effort, in the next couple of newsletters I will offer a brief introduction of myself. Some of you have heard most of this before, while others have not. In any case, I hope that these scribblings will help you understand a little bit more about me and the things that have led me to where, and who, I am today.

I grew up in West Lafayette, Indiana, the home of Purdue University. My maternal grandparents moved to Purdue in the early 1960s from Kadoka, South Dakota, so that my grandfather, who had been a storekeeper in Kadoka, served in World War II, and attended college on the GI Bill, could complete his Master's degree. My grandparents both ended up working at Purdue, my Mom and her two brothers all went there for college, and so our family **(Continued on Page 2)**

have been Boilermakers to the core ever since. My Dad grew up in southern Indiana, and was also a student at Purdue. He and my Mom met on campus, got married, and in October of 1971, I arrived. When I was born, we lived in Purdue's married student housing. I grew up in an environment rich in opportunities and respect for education.

Upon moving to West Lafayette, my grandparents also became charter members of a new Presbyterian church on the outskirts of town, where my Grandad, a Presbyterian elder of the old school, served as Clerk of Session and my Gran directed the choir. Faith Presbyterian Church was an enormous part of my environment while growing up, and the lessons I learned (many of them without even realizing it) from the two pastors who have served that church during my lifetime, Dr. "Scoti" Old and Dr. Stuart Robertson, have had and will continue to have a profound impact on who I am as a person, a Christian, and a pastor. I come, clearly of a deeply Presbyterian heritage, with both grandparents, both parents, one uncle, and my brother-in-law all serving as elders, another uncle serving as a Minister of Word and Sacrament (in Rolla/St. John, ND!), and my sister serving as a deacon.

I attended Purdue (naturally), and graduated in December 1993 with a B.S. in Mathematics, emphasis on education. It was in education courses at Purdue that Toni and I met, and we were married in the summer of 1994. Our first year of married life was spent in West Lafayette. We were both teaching,

I high school math, she middle school social studies and reading. We expected to live that way for quite some time, enjoying the work with young people and, especially, coaching track and cross country, as well as our familiar community. God, however, had other plans, and, much to our surprise, things came together in rapid succession in the spring of 1995 to call me to begin studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, in distant New Jersey, the next fall.

Next month: To Princeton...and beyond

IN GRATITUDE

Major thanks to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School possible this summer.



In addition to teaching Veggie Town Family Values, this VBS was a special opportunity for our church to build friendships amongst Christian believers, young and old, and to reach out to those in the community. We had almost 40 children in attendance every evening with a sanctuary full of families and fellowship on the last day. Smiles could be seen all around.

This project took much effort by as many as forty participants which is why an extra pat on the back should be given to all teachers, actors, helpers, and persons who donated funds or items. Special thanks to Nancy and David Stedman who donated dilly bars from Dairy Queen for all the families and staff on the last day.

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



SEPTEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 9-1 Andrea Corneliussen
- 9-3 Clyde Van Cleve
- 9-4 Ryan Bastle
- 9-9 Edith Peterson
John Wilkinson
- 9-11 Jenna Barenthsen
- 9-12 Gordy Pederson
- 9-13 Ann Chale
- 9-15 Danielle Swart
- 9-16 Dale Matzke
- 9-16 Vicky Whitcomb
- 9-17 Lee Dobrinz
Cheryl Saari
Ed Sheeley
- 9-18 Paula Wilkinson
- 9-19 Debbie Matzke
- 9-21 Everett Paulsen
- 9-23 Uneva Dobrinz
Jason Saari
- 9-24 Verdie Roberts
- 9-25 Joan Hall
Louise Johnson
Ted Martin
Jerad Wilkinson
- 9-26 Kenneth Willis
- 9-27 Billie Jo Hayes

ANNIVERSARIES

- 9-3-49 – Roy and Louise Johnson
- 9-7-63 – Delbert and Donna Jenner
- 9-10-60 – Jim and Marlys Martin
- 9-18-54 – Dale and Gail Matzke
- 9-22-79 – Bob and Deb Olson
- 9-25-93 – Brent and Carolyn Talley
- 9-29-79 – Veril and Dawn Larson



TOM DEJONG BENEFIT

The Tom DeJong Benefit was a huge success. There were 27 golfers and over 270 people served at the spaghetti dinner. When all the tallying is done, the figures will be reported. Thanks for all the support.

Lisa Steffen

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TIME

Beginning on Sept. 7th, children in grades K-2 are invited to participate in the Gateways program. The program will be held during the worship service, beginning after the Children's Time and concluding when the service does. The program will run through May.

Gateways to Worship is a collection of worship activities designed to help children grow as worshipers and to prepare them to participate in the worship service. This program is not traditional Sunday school. It is exclusively focused on worship.

The leaders for this program are Toni Stith (coordinator), Roger & Jenna Barenthsen, Lia Dobrinz, and Janine Steele. The youth volunteers are Emma DeJong, Amy Matzke, Tiffany Peihl, Stephani Steffen, and Sam Barenthsen. If you have any questions about this exciting program, please call 282-2715.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

The Community Presbyterian Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:00 p.m., continuing on subsequent Wednesdays. The choir will be playing a large role in the 75th anniversary celebration on September 20th, so please join us—even if you've never sung in the choir before!





**ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR,
BAKE SALE, AND
WHITE ELEPHANT SALE**

The Presbyterian Church Women have scheduled the annual Fall Bazaar, Bake Sale and White Elephant Sale for October 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

It is planned to have baked potatoes and toppings for lunch. We also plan to have the jewelry sale of donated costume jewelry.

If you have jewelry or white elephant items please save them for this event.

If you haven't started on your craft items for this event please do so. More information will be available in the October newsletter.

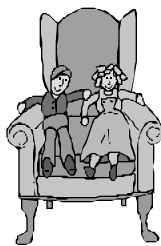
YOUTH PROGRAM TO BEGIN?

ATTENTION: youth in grades 7-12 and their parents.

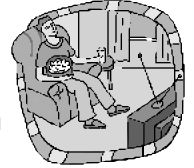
The church would like to start a youth program for the members of our congregation in grades 7 through 12. We will be holding a meeting on Sunday, September 14 following the service (11:15ish). The purpose of the meeting is to get input from both parents and kids as to what they would like in the program. Please come with an open mind, ideas from your church youth experiences, and some new and exciting ideas. If you have any questions, call Becky DeJong - 281-8122.

TIME TO GET COMFY

Do you need a break? Would you like to kick back and relax? Is it time to put your feet up? Well, head on downstairs and get comfortable in our new casual classroom. We are looking for donations of comfortably used chairs and a love seat to help complete the room. Yawn, talk to Becky when she wakes up from her nap zzzzzz 281-8122



**WHAT'S NEW WITH THE
VIDEO LIBRARY**



Check out the newest addition to our ever-growing video collection:

Good Sports Gang - Episode 1 - Elliot the Invincible

If you'd like to make a donation, please let Becky DeJong know so that she can label it and add it to the church list. Below is the complete list of church videos - Have fun watching!!!

Church Video Library

3-2-1 Penguins:

- Trouble on Planet Wait-Your-Turn
- The Cheating Scales of Bullamanka
- The Amazing Carnival of Complaining

Adventures in Odyssey:

- Electric Christmas
- A Fine Feathered Frenzy
- A Flight to the Finish
- The Knight Travellers (2)
- Shadow of a Doubt
- Someone to Watch Over Me

Barney:

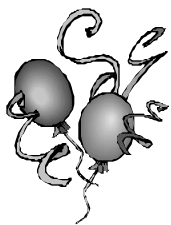
- Barney's Birthday
- Barney's Manners
- Rock with Barney

McGee and Me!:

- Back to the Drawing Board
- Beauty in the Least
- In the Nick of Time
- Skate Expectations
- Twister and Shout

Quigley's Village:

- Bubba's Big Banana Cream Crime
- The Great Treehouse Disaster
- Spike and the Terrible Tripped-Up Tap Dance
- Spike and the Silly, Mixed-Up Sleep-over
- Spike's Big Blue Bubble Babble Balloon Machine
- The Super Shoot-for-the Stars Space ship



LET'S CELEBRATE!!!

Community Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. We are planning a party to invite the community to meet us and help us celebrate.

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 20, 2003

TIME: 9AM TO 4PM

WHERE: CHURCH PARKING LOT

HOSTS: ALL MEMBERS OF CPC

ACTIVITIES:

- We are serving Brats, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Pop
- Float in the parade
- Family activities
- Puppets
- Music

T-Shirts will be available for all members of the church to wear to the party. A donation is optional to defray the cost, which is about \$6 per shirt. They will be available September 7, hopefully!

We will be inviting some special people, including the governor of ND, mayor of West Fargo, and past ministers, and members. If you know of someone that you would like to especially invite, please let us know. The proceeds from the picnic lunch will be donated to a charity.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:

- Special church service
- Potluck following church
- Pictures and reminiscing

Please mark your calendars and come help celebrate our 75 years. We would like to reach out to the community and let them know who we are. If you have any questions, you can call Boots Misheski at 280-5429 or Marlys Martin at 282-3740.

REMEMBERING WHEN...

Do you have interesting stories about the past history of Community Presbyterian church that you would like to share for our 75th anniversary celebration? If so, we'd like to talk to you. Call Joan Hall (282-0786) or Uneva Dobrinz (282-3937).

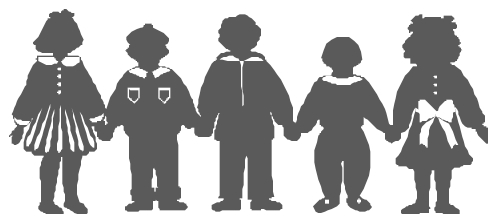


WEST FEST PARADE

We are having a youth float in the West Fest parade again. Our theme is Community Presbyterian Church's 75th anniversary. We will wear our 75th anniversary t-shirts and decorate the float with streamers and balloons. We will need candy for the kids to throw.

There are lots of ways you can help in this venture. If you would like to donate wrapped candy, please bring it to church. There will be a box for it in the narthex. Also, there will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for those who would like to be on the float. If anyone would like to make business cards with our church information on them, the kids could pass them out along with the candy. Also, if anyone is good at making signs, we'll need some signs to hang on the float.

Please call Debbie Matzke at 282-9463 if you would like to help with this. Thank you.



FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Every Sunday the flower committee has fresh flowers for the church service. We rely on fresh cut flowers from our gardens for the summer, but we would like some help. If you have flowers and would like to bring flowers to church please call Donna Gertz. We will have a calendar and you can sign up for the Sunday on which you would like to bring flowers. We have vases in the kitchen that can be used if you do not have one.

Also, we would love to start displaying commemorative flowers. We will print your name in the bulletin and who/what the flowers honor. You can take the flowers home with you after church or donate them to the church to use for the following Sundays. Please call Donna Gertz for scheduling.

If you have any questions please call a member of the flower committee.

Donna Gertz 282-4730
Goodie Paulsen 282-3104
Debbie Matzke 282-9463

We are looking for one more member to be on our committee. Please contact one of the above members if you are interested. Thank you.



SUNDAY SCHOOL 2003-2004

Teaching positions are filling up fast. Don't miss your chance to get to know the children of your church. We need four (4) teachers every month.

Teachers needed:

September	Sorry, filled
October	Sorry, filled
November	Sorry, filled
January	> 2
February	> 1
March	> 3
April	> 4



THANK YOU

THANK YOU - God has blessed us with many, many friends and family. It touched our hearts to see everyone gathered to show their support and love. Tom and I can't begin to express our gratitude and appreciation for all of the hard work and time that was put into the benefit. Words don't seem enough but we would like to say "thank you" to all who helped and made our day special.

In God's name and with a humble heart we accept your generous gifts.

The DeJongs,

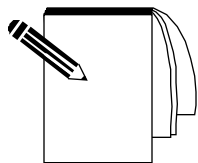
Tom, Becky, Emma, Mary, and Claire

VIRTUAL CPC



It was a busy, busy summer, and for many of us there were times spent away from home.

This may have meant missing some of the exciting events which happened at Community Presbyterian this summer. Yet, there is hope for you, my friend. For now you can relive a few of those events via the church's website. Link up to <http://cpcwf.org> and you can see photographs from VBS or listen to Rev. D. Matthew Stith's candidate and installation services. Happy surfing!



SUMMER SESSION NOTES

At the June 18th meeting: the Session approved the request for the church to hold a Benefit Spaghetti Feed and Silent Auction on August 9th with the proceeds going to the Tom DeJong family to help with medical expenses in his battle with cancer. (This was held and was a big success.)

The PNC reported that the congregation voted to accept D. Matthew Stith as the incoming pastor of our church. To be compliant with Presbytery policy, it was agreed that 4 weeks of vacation time would be included in the terms of call for Pastor Stith. Pastor Stith was scheduled to be installed as pastor on August 3rd at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments were to be served following the installation.

The Session thanked the PNC for their diligent and excellent work in securing a pastor.

The Session approved a proposal from Andrew Thostenson to purchase a laptop computer for the pastor to use at a cost of \$1,670. A grant proposal to Synod requesting \$250, an anonymous gift of \$710, and \$710 the Session voted towards the purchase will meet the computer expenses. A grant proposal to the Presbytery for \$2,500 was also approved with the money to be used for evangelism and worship enhancement, signage for the church, hymnals, and brochures to be distributed to new residents of the area.

Twelve Mission Yearbooks for Session members and three for youth were ordered. Dixon Moorhead offered to pay the cost of these. A memorial gift of \$200 was received from the Lucien Barnes family.

The Session thanked Moderator Kari Jutila for her work this past year.

At the July Meeting: The trustees reported that the tile in the bathrooms would be replaced. They are looking into getting new furniture and storage units for the secretary's office. These would cost approximately \$2,500.

Session approved a request from Moderator Stith to hold a Session retreat on August 23 at the First Presbyterian Church in Fargo to familiarize him with what we do here, to get a handle on how we really work, discuss what committees are doing, and set some short and long term goals for the church.

A master calendar was approved and will be kept in the conference room. It was decided that only the pastor, the clerk of Session, the secretary, and the president of the Board of Trustees will be able to place items on this calendar so that there will be less chance of conflicts between events. No major events will be allowed without prior approval of the Session. This has not been a problem in the past but with more activity in the church, it could become one.

A Pastor's Discretionary Fund of \$500 was approved for Pastor Stith to use for helping persons in need.

The Session voted to purchase a fax machine and to look into installing an independent internet system which would enable someone to use the telephone and computer simultaneously

A gift certificate of \$50 was approved for Rev. Charles House in appreciation for all the help he has been this year. Also flowers were approved for Mrs. House. A coffee hour will be held in their honor on August 10. It was also

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approved to give Kari Jutila a gift certificate of \$50 for her work as Moderator of the Session for the past year.

Plans are moving ahead on the 75th Anniversary Celebration, and it will be combined with the West Fest Activities.

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains held a special meeting here on July 22 to act on two items.

At the August meeting: The trustees reported that the basement carpet will be replaced and installed by the original installer at his cost. This will be done as soon as arrangements can be made. The carpet was not defective, but was installed improperly which caused problems.

A request from Melissa Gross and Joseph Eiter to hold their wedding here on July 17, 2004 was approved. The Presbyterian Women's request to hold the Annual Fall Bazaar, Bake Sale, and White Elephant Sale on October 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. was approved.

The request from Dawn and Rick Chase to have their daughter baptized was approved pending approval from Pastor Stith after he meets with them. The date will be set later.

The 75th Anniversary & West Fest Committee reports that they are ordering T-Shirts for all church members free of charge (donations will be received gladly). There will be hot dogs and brats to be sold along with pop. (Again donations will be gladly accepted). The money realized from this will be given to a mission project. Costs of the event are expected to be paid for by money from a grant. It was stated that a tent will be set up in case of wet weather. There will be music,

clowns, puppets, and a float. Members are asked to please volunteer to help with the work. A sign up sheet will be put up in narthex shortly. A separate article on this appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Approval was given to install an independent internet system at a cost of \$35 per month.

Due to there only being one or two students for the Confirmation Class and the material geared to at least four, it was approved to not offer confirmation class this year and to hold a joint class next year. This action will be followed whenever needed in the future.

Red River Music Together, a music instruction class for youngsters was given permission to use the Fellowship hall on Tues. evenings from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. providing the logistics can be worked out with the preschool. A fee of \$25 was approved for the first semester. Red River Music Together will waive the registration for any child of a church member.

An advertisement will be run in the Fargo Forum on Sept 3rd and Sept 6th announcing the beginning of this year's Sunday School. REMEMBER THAT SUNDAY SCHOOL IS AT 9:00 A.M. AND CHURCH AT 10:00 A.M. BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 7TH.

At the Special Meeting on August 23: the Session voted to continue or establish the following committees and appointing elders to chair each of them: Worship, Christian Education, Mission/Outreach and Evangelism, Fellowship, Congregational Care, Stewardship, Nominating and Personnel. The Session will also designate an elder to work as a liaison with the Trustees.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session