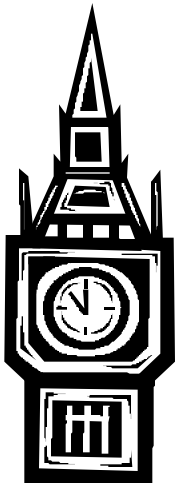


COMMUNITY CALL

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: CPChurchWF@msn.com Web: <http://cpcwf.org>



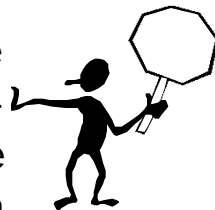
NEW TIMES

With the arrival of a new school year, our hours change. Beginning September 12th, Community Presbyterian Church will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. for Sunday School and at 10:00 a.m. for worship.

Come, share the moments with us as we worship and learn more about our most awesome God!

CAUTION: CHANGES AHEAD

Please note that the church's e-mail addresses have changed. Bulletin items may now be submitted to the church office by Tuesday noon at office@cpcwf.org. Pastor Stith can be reached at mattstith@cpcwf.org.



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN



The last column I wrote was in advance of the 216th General Assembly, the latest meeting of the highest governing body of our denomination. Due to the summer hiatus of the *Community Call*, I am just now getting around to writing in response to the GA meeting. In particular, one action of the Assembly seems to have excited a particularly vocal response in the national press and, based on com-

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ments and questions I have heard, in our own congregation. I refer here to the resolution that the GA passed regarding the situation in Israel and Palestine.

National commentators in papers like the *Wall Street Journal* (<http://www.opinionjournal.com/taste/?id=110005424>) and the *Los Angeles Times* (The *Times'* Alan Dershowitz wrote the column that appeared in the *Forum* and was read by a good many of you. It is now available for purchase only at the *Times* website) reacted to the resolution vehemently, accusing the PC(USA) of being anti-Israel, anti-Semitic, and even pro-terrorist, principally because the resolution calls for instructing the Mission Responsibility Through Investment committee to "initiate a process of phased selective divestment in multinational corporations operating in Israel, in accordance to General Assembly policy on social investing, and to make appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly Council for action." In other words, the GA instructed the appropriate committee to start figuring out which companies operating in Israel the PC(USA) and its Board of Pensions should get rid of its stock in.

By way of response, both the moderator and the stated clerk of the PC(USA) have published statements that attempt to "explain" the GA action. Moderator Uffod-Chase's response is available at <http://www.pcusa.org/israelandjewishrelations/moderator.htm>, and Stated Clerk Kirkpatrick's at <http://www.pcusa.org/oga/newsstories/israel.htm>. On a quick reading, these each sound rather defensive, painting the GA action as an expression of social concern for the humanitarian plight of

the Palestinians without any anti-Israeli or anti-Semitic intent whatsoever.

The issues in play here are vastly complex, and far beyond what I can or would wish to deal with here. In light, however, of the negative attention being paid to our denomination over this matter, I do want to respond, even if only briefly.

First, I encourage any of you who are interested to read the resolution itself at <http://www.pcusa.org/interfaith/pdf/ovt04-32.pdf>. The material outlined in purple is the actual passed statement. I will offer a few observations on the whole situation:

The resolution itself is neither so draconian as the *WSJ* and Dershowitz pieces would suggest, nor so benign to Israel as the officials of the PC(USA) make it out to be. The divestment process as it exists in our denomination would not, as Kirkpatrick rightly points out, amount to a blanket boycott of businesses in Israel, but would target those companies that are, in the judgment of the MRTI committee and the General Assembly Council, profiting from the abuse of human rights. On the other hand, much of the supporting language in the resolution is highly problematic and legitimately anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian (more on this below), and the statements of the moderator and clerk ignore this fact.

The most difficult item in the resolution for me to swallow is the blasé statement that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza has "has proven to be at the root of evil acts committee

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against innocent people on both sides of the conflict." This statement is historically indefensible, in my judgment. The occupation, dating from 1967, is only one phase of a conflicted history with roots stretching back at least to the era of the Crusades. To say what the resolution says here is to place the blame for the current situation squarely and exclusively on Israel, which is unjust. There is more than enough responsibility to go around.

Equally problematic is the rather buried endorsement of "the rights of refugees to return to their homeland." This relatively innocuous phrase, in the context of Israeli-Palestinian relations, is actually a "hot button" issue, referring to the Palestinian argument that millions of Palestinian families who left the area now known as Israel at or after its establishment in 1948 should be allowed to return, transforming the Jewish state into an Arab one. Regardless of where one stands on this issue, the GA's statement places it squarely in opposition to Israeli policy and interests on one of the most dearly held issues of them all. At this point, the negative reaction of pro-Israeli voices is no surprise whatsoever.

Space forbids a more satisfying and lengthy discussion, but I will be happy to talk further to anyone with interest. In closing, I think that the GA statement was largely well-intentioned, but poorly executed, and I would have opposed it. But wherever you fall in this debate, please join me in carrying out the call of

Psalm 122:6: "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem."

All documents referenced in this column except the Dershowitz column are available in the church library.

**WANTED:
CHILDREN'S CHURCH
TEACHERS &
YOUTH
HELPERS**



The Children's Church program is designed to teach children in kindergarten through second grade about the worship service and other facets of church life. This curriculum is specifically designed to teach about Presbyterian worship. Lessons are varied, including crafts, games, music, or dramas.

Beginning on September 12th, each week the program will be held in a downstairs classroom immediately after the children's message. Parents will pick up their kids from the classroom after the worship service.

Teachers are needed to lead this program on a rotating basis. Typically, the teachers will lead the program for two consecutive Sundays. Usually, there is a one to two month break between teaching commitments. The curriculum is easy to follow and the director is available for help with planning, etc.

Youth helpers are also needed to assist the teachers each week. These youth (in grades six or higher) typically help with snacks, supplies, teaching, and clean up.

If you are interested in helping with the Children's Church program as a teacher or a youth helper, please contact Toni Stith (email: tonistith@yahoo.com, phone: 282-2715).



**HEAR YE!
HEAR YE!**

Everyone is invited to an all church picnic on September 26th at Chuck and Bonnie Thompson's home. The picnic will begin right after church and continue through the afternoon.

There will be room to sit, to play, and to visit. Details are being worked out to include a family hay ride in the day's activities.

Sign up sheets for attendance and needs will be put up after Labor Day. So come one and come all.

Chuck and Bonnie Thompson

A CAREGIVER'S WORD

Don't say, "Someone else will take care of it." Listen to God calling all of our members of church to be part of the family!

At 7 you can play games and visit older people.

At 17 you can clean and cook and visit and baby-sit.

At 27 you can call on the phone or help baby-sit.

At 37 you can be there for the younger people.

At 47 you can assist all needs.

At 57 you can give rides or visit as needed.

At 67 you can give rides or call.

At 77 you can call others who are home-bound.

At any age you can pray. Pray now for guidance as to where you can help our church family the most. Our church family needs us all to help one another. Can you give 1- 2 hours a month for someone else's needs?

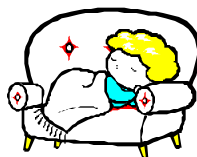
PRAYER CHAIN

It has come to our attention that the telephone is not always the most efficient means of communicating our prayer chain requests. For this reason, we are adding an e-mail branch to our calling chain.



Electronic mail will allow us to send one request to all on the e-mail list at once. It will also allow those not home during the day or out of town for a season to share other's burdens in prayer. For those without computer access, a phone branch will remain intact.

Sharing our needs and concerns in prayer with our church family brings us closer to one another and lightens our load. If you would like to be a part of our prayer chain (e-mail or telephone) or have a prayer concern for any person or need, please contact Carol Sterup at 293-6603 or at g.d.sterup@juno.com.



THANK YOU !!!

The following was sent to CPC's Quilters by Kathy Suedel of Cass County:

On behalf of the staff at Cass County Social Services and the children and families we serve, I would like to thank you and the other members of Community Presbyterian Church for generous donation of cuddle-ups to our agency.

On Thursday we gave cuddle-ups to 5 young children going into out of home placement that day. The smiles on their faces indicated to us that the cuddle-ups were appreciated and hopefully helped make the transition to foster care a bit easier.

We are truly thankful for the time and effort taken on your part to help the children in Cass County.



FALL BAZAAR

The Annual Fall Bazaar, Bake Sale, and White Elephant Sale will be held on Saturday, November 6th this year. Due to conflicts in October it is scheduled in November.

It is not too early to start planning your crafts for this event! A work day is going to be held this fall to make door stops. An announcement as to when it will be held will be made later. If you have an idea for a craft that a group can make please contact Marlys Martin or Delores Horn.

We plan to serve baked potatoes with toppings again this year. This has been a popular menu. We will also be serving rolls and coffee earlier in the day.

QUILTING UPDATE

The quilters have certainly had a busy spring and summer. In April they presented a crazy quilt on Youth Sunday for the youth room in the church basement. A wedding quilt was given to Seth and Alicia Whitcomb. They were married on May 29th. Wedding quilts were also presented to Melissa Gross and Gwen Sterup during their bridal showers in June. Congratulations! If there's a wedding in your future, please contact Carol Sterup. Long engagements are appreciated!!

Currently the quilters are working on a Christmas quilt. They will sell chances on the quilt during the annual Christmas Bake Sale in December.

We are a small group, but a busy one. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 at the church. You do not need to be a sewer to help out. If you can tie a knot, you can tie a quilt. All our welcome. Any questions, contact Carol Sterup (293-6603).

SEPTEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

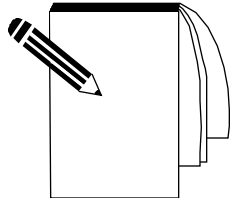


BIRTHDAYS

- 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
Vicky Whitcomb
- 9-17 Lee Dobrinz
Cheryl Saari
Ed Sheeley
Shelly VanCleve
- 9-18 Paula Wilkinson
- 9-19 Debbie Matzke
- 9-21 Everett Paulsen
- 9-23 Uneva Dobrinz
- 9-23 Jason Saari
- 9-24 Verdie Roberts
- 9-25 Joan Hall
Louise Johnson
Ted Martin
Jerad Wilkinson
- 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
- 9-23-89 - Kevin and Connie Bruse
- 9-25-93 – Brent and Carolyn Talley
- 9-26-97 - Derek and Carrie Leopold
- 9-29-79 – Veril and Dawn Larson



CLERK'S SUMMER NOTES

This is a summary of the actions of your Session from June 23rd through August 18.

The trustees reported that the carpet was installed and the bill was paid with money contributed by church members. Chuck Traylor, Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of the Northern Plains, was a guest at the meeting and introduced the idea of developing relationships with smaller churches in the area.

The names of Beth Buchin Montgomery, Jon Buchin, and Mary Richards Buchin were removed from the inactive list. Duane Ohm was removed from the roll of members as he has joined another church.

The church will be receiving the following publications: Renew, Presbyterian Today, and Presbyterian Outlook. The Sooper Stop Station was given permission to allow their employees to park in the church lot until the EPA gets their lot cleared of debris.

An audit of the 2003 church records was conducted and everything was found to be in order. Matt Stith was granted October 10, 2004 as a vacation day.

The old glass communion cups were donated to First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks to be sent to Presbyterian churches in Cameroon. 88 persons were served communion on June 6th.

The trustees were informed of a diseased elm tree on the church lot and they will see that it is removed and disposed.

Approval was given to paint the upstairs hallways as well as the stairways leading to the basement and to solicit funds from members on an individual basis.

Our church will join the Welcome Fargo-Moorhead brochure program. This group distributes brochures to new residents and gives each member a list of new residents in the area including their religious preference. We will have our church included in the Church Directory in the Forum this coming year and also have it included in the Sunday School announcements.

Dixon Moorhead has arranged to have 10 seats for the matinee performance of the Concordia Christmas Concert reserved for residents of the Hi-Rise. Payment arrangements will be made later.

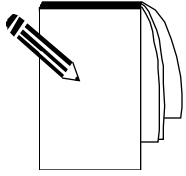
Pastor Stith reported that approximately \$1,400 has been used for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund since September 2003. This is for vouchers to help people in need of food, gas, etc.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY



The Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study group will resume meetings on Tuesday, September 14th, at 12:30 p.m. at Jiggs Restaurant. The lesson for that day is Lesson Six in the 2003-2004 Horizon Bible Study Book. Linda Bass, Teen Mom representative, will be our guest at the meeting and preliminary plans for the Fall Bazaar will be discussed.

We cordially invite any of the women of the church to attend. We usually have lunch together and then have Bible Study. Extra study books are available from Delores Horn.



CLERK'S CORNER

The Session and Trustees met at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 18th.

It was decided to send out statements to the members showing how much they had indicated that they would contribute to the General Fund of the church for the year and also show how much they have contributed to date. The statements will go out the beginning of October.

Arlyn Rice Meyer was received into membership, transferring from First Presbyterian of Tower City. Arlyn was ordained as an elder in 1992. Approval was given to Shelly Van Cleve to hold Girls Scout meetings in a downstairs classroom Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. beginning on September 7th and running through May 17th.

Approval for a Jamestown Presbyterian Church member to hold her wedding in our sanctuary was approved. Due to the serious illness of one of her family members, the date of the wedding had to be moved up and relocated closer to Fargo. The date will be available later. Approval was also given for the Beginning Experience Support Group to use the fellowship hall for a one day workshop on either October 2nd or 9th. This is a bereavement support group. They will pay the custodian's fee.

Persons on the lists received from the Welcome Fargo-Moorhead group will be contacted by letter and a personal visit if they have indicated that they are Presbyterian or non-denominational. Church brochures will be sent to all names on the list who live in southwest Fargo and West Fargo.

The Session approved the date of Octo-

ber 2nd for the annual Session retreat. It will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. The main topic will be missions. If you have a mission project for something to do outside our own church please let Dave Ruhnke know so that it can be presented along with others and a choice will be made for the project that it is felt to be one that the church would be interested in supporting not only with money but with time and effort.

Approval was given to request Relief of Conscience status in regard to Pension Fund Dues for Medical Insurance. This would mean that although we pay for the insurance, we would request that none of our premium be used to pay for abortions. Instead, a proportional amount of our premiums would be devoted to the medical claims of adoptive families. Although no objections were raised to paying for abortions to save the life of the mother, this was not an option under the policy. The Session felt that this was the best way to show our dissatisfaction with paying for abortions on demand. The Presbytery will act on this request during its September meeting.

Prairie Fire, a group from the area, is planning a Billy Graham style crusade for October 17th. Dave Ruhnke will be our representative to the group. If anyone is interested in this, please contact him.

West Fest was discussed, and it was agreed that we would have some activities in the parking lot. Bonnie Thompson will ask for someone to be in charge.

The quilters will have a quilt at the Christmas Cookie & Candy Sale. Donations will be accepted and a drawing will be held to determine a winner of a quilt,

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handmade by the Quilters.

Charles House will fill the pulpit on October 10th while Matt is on vacation. Matt also took a day of vacation on August 20th.

We are still in need of an organist. If anyone knows of someone looking for a position please contact Lowell Wiese or Pastor Matt.



**ATTENTION ALL
CURRENT AND
FUTURE
CHOIR MEMBERS:**

The Worship Committee recently discussed making changes with our choir in an effort to increase its numbers. The first big change will be switching choir practice from Wednesday evenings to Thursday. This should help with session and trustee members that would like to sing.

We have heard, "When my kids get older, then I'd like to sing," so child-care will be available in the church nursery. Also sitting in the choir loft is not required. If you have young children and wish to sit in the pews, that's OK too.

There are members that sang in the choir many years ago; we want you back. You may fly south for part of the winter, but come and join in the fun this fall.

We've also heard, "I love to sing, but I don't read music." (Did you know that a third of our choir doesn't read music?) We practice most songs for 3 or 4 weeks before presenting it to the congregation.

Come and make a joyful noise on Thursday, Sept. 16th, at 7:00 pm.

CUDDLE UP MISSION FUND

We recently received a call from Cass Co. Social Services, letting us know that their Cuddle Up shelves were in need of restocking. On 8-25-04 we donated 55 more Cuddle Ups for the children. Since we began this mission program in Dec. '02, we have donated 232 Cuddle Ups for the foster care program.

The average Cuddle Up costs \$5.00. The quilting group is always on the look-out for clearance fleece panels. The only way we can continue to provide this service to our community is through our congregations donations.

Many times the children go into foster care homes with the clothes on their backs and one of our Cuddle Ups. Every child deserves to have a soft blanket to cuddle up with. So, when you make your church donations to the General Fund, consider making an additional donation to our Cuddle Up Fund. You can use the white envelopes in the church pews, simply write 'Cuddle Up' on it.

So far we have made a difference in 232 young lives...one Cuddle Up at a time. Let's keep this mission going for many years to come. If you have any questions, contact Carol Sterup at 293-6603.

**CHURCH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Casselton celebrated their 125th anniversary on Saturday, July 17. 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.