

COMMUNITY CALL

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WATCH OUT FOR NEW TIMES!

With the arrival of September, comes the beginning of new schedules. Beginning on Sunday, September 10, Sunday School for all ages will recommence at 9 a.m. followed by worship at 10 a.m.

Check this newsletter and calendar for more information on other fall changes.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER MEETING

Attention all Sunday School teachers and staff! On Wednesday, September 6, at 6 p.m., there will be a orientation meeting for our new year of Sunday School. If you are unable to attend, please contact Melanie Hansen at 526-3317.

2006-2007

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

| | |
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| Sept. 10 | First Day of Sunday School |
| Oct. 8 | Memorization Sunday |
| Nov. 12 | Memorization Sunday |
| Nov. 26 | Thanksgiving Sunday School activities |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas-No Sunday School |
| Dec. 31 | New Year's Eve No Sunday School |
| Jan. 28 | Memorization Sunday |
| Mar. 4 | Memorization Sunday |
| April 8 | Easter-No Sunday School |
| May 13 | Memorization Sunday |
| May 20 | Last Day of Sunday School |

PASTOR'S PEN

Well, it's been quite a summer! Between my trip to Kenya, a family vacation, and all of the many things that have been going on here at CPC, the months since school ended have just flown by for me, and, lo and behold, here I am again, looking at the start of another school year (and, at least unofficially, the start of another church year). There's certainly a lot to look forward to in our church family this year—Sunday School, the planned completion of our building project, new ministries and programs to launch (watch this space!) and more. But, before we launch wholesale into the Fall, I feel compelled to write about just a couple of things that might have slipped under your radar this summer.



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In early July, while I was off in Africa, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), our highest governing body, had its biennial meeting in Alabama. While, as always, the Assembly accomplished many things, and while, as always, those things accomplished seem to me to be a mix of good things and bad, there is one decision that stands out, in terms of the publicity it has received, the intensity with which it was debated, and the potential it has to dramatically impact our denomination and our church over the years to come. I refer here to the Assembly's decision to approve the recommendations of the task force that prepared the so-called "Peace, Unity, and Purity" report. The most controversial of these recommendations, which have now become official church policy, has to do with the standards that are set by the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions for those who wish to be ordained as ministers, elders, or deacons in the PC(USA). To be specific, the Assembly issued an "Authoritative Interpretation" that leaves it in the hands of each presbytery (for ministers) or each congregation (for elders and deacons) to decide which of the requirements for ordination, as given in our Constitution, are "essential" and which can be disregarded.

The impetus for this decision was the desire to end the fighting in the denomination over the ordination of practicing homosexuals. The constitutional standards of the church require candidates for ordination to practice either fidelity in marriage or chastity in singleness, a provision that disqualifies practicing homosexuals. The idea of the GA's action



was to compromise by leaving all of the standards in place, but to allow any church or presbytery to declare such a requirement "inessential" in the case of any particular individual. Thus, if a person fails to meet the "fidelity and chastity" requirement (or any other), the presbytery or congregation can now declare that requirement to be "inessential," and allow ordination anyway. Predictably, this "compromise" does not appear to have satisfied much of anybody, and the fighting will no doubt continue [for more on this issue, see the Pastor's Pen from February of this year].

My intention is not to rehash this issue here, or to criticize the GA's action (though I opposed it strongly). Rather, I want to look at the question, "What do we do now?" Many good and faithful Presbyterians have decided that enough is enough, that the GA's actions reject the clear teachings of Scripture, and that the PC(USA) is beyond redemption. Many such folk are leaving the denomination, either as individuals or as whole congregations. But, while I see their point, and agree with many of their concerns, I refuse to leave. I am convinced that God is not done with the PC(USA) yet, that, while we may have erred badly here, we are not beyond redemption.

Why do I believe this? There are many reasons, more than I have room to mention in this space. But one very compelling reason to remain in the communion to which we have been called is best illustrated by something else that happened this Summer.

Most of you are aware that Todd Montgomery, our church Treasurer, passed

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away a few weeks ago. Many of you offered your support to Cheryl and the rest of Todd's family by attending the funeral service at First Presbyterian Church downtown. But what you may not realize is how much effort was put into making that sanctuary, which we needed both because of our own construction and because of the size of the congregation for the service, available. Rev. Steve Shive, pastor of First Presbyterian, put in hours on the phone and meeting with his staff to work out the details of our interruption of their routine. What's more, he did this even though I hit him with our request just hours after he returned from his vacation, and the night before he was to preach. He went, I would say, above and beyond the call of duty. But when I mentioned this to him, and thanked him, his response to me was "Well, that's why we're a connectional church." Isn't that wonderful? Steve thought nothing of what he did for us, because we are each a part of the same communion, the same extended church family, the Presbyterian Church. It's the same reason that I served at a funeral service in Moorhead while the pastor of First Presbyterian or Moorhead was away—we are all part of the same family, called by God and put in the places we are for his service. That is why I'm not going anywhere. That is why I believe there is still hope for the PC(USA), tortured and confused as it may be right now. God isn't done with us yet.

**OLD BIBLES**

Anyone wishing to have one of the old bibles should let our secretary, Sandra Keller, Pastor Matt, or Delores Horn know. All bibles left after that will be offered to the New Life Center and/or the Salvation Army.

**SEPTEMBER DATES
TO REMEMBER****BIRTHDAYS**

- 9-1 Andrea Corneliusen
- 9-3 Clyde Van Cleve
- 9-4 Ryan Bastle
- 9-6 Meghan Hanna
Bruce Steele
- 9-9 John Wilkinson
- 9-11 Jenna Barenthsen
- 9-12 Gordy Pederson
- 9-13 Ann Chale
Parker Nelson
- 9-15 Danielle Swart
- 9-16 Dale Matzke
Vicky Whitcomb
- 9-17 Lee Dobrinz
Ed Sheeley
Shelly VanCleve
- 9-18 Paula Wilkinson
- 9-19 Debbie Matzke
- 9-21 Jordan Faircloth
- 9-23 Uneva Dobrinz
- 9-24 Verdie Roberts
- 9-25 Joan Hall
Louise Johnson
Ted Martin
Jerad Wilkinson

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9-3-49 – Roy and Louise Johnson
- 9-7-63 – Delbert and Donna Jenner
- 9-10-60 – Jim and Marlys Martin
- 9-17-05 - Justin and Jessie Hill
- 9-18-54 – Dale and Gail Matzke
- 9-21-96 - Ken and Julie Faircloth
- 9-22-79 – Bob and Deb Olson
- 9-25-93 – Brent and Carolyn Talley
- 9-26-97 - Derek and Carrie Leopold
- 9-29-79 – Veril and Dawn Larson



CLERK'S CORNER

The Session met on August 16th in the church conference room. They approved the Mission Initiative Grant Application and voted to commit to the project. This project will enable Community Presbyterian Church to offer a live video stream of worship services, special events, and educational content via the internet. It relates directly to the public witness of the church as the project would permit us to extend the worship of God, the fellowship of the body of Christ, and the teaching ministry of the church to those who might otherwise not be able to access these vital resources.

The old hymnals that remain at the church will be given to the presbytery who are aware of a need for them in the area. The old Bibles are being offered to members of the church. Anyone desiring one should let the secretary, Pastor Matt, or Delores Horn know. Any remaining bibles will be offered to the New Life Center or the Salvation Army.

The Personnel Committee's evaluation forms for employees of the church were reviewed, and it was determined that they need more work before they can be used to evaluate the employees.

PW was given permission to hold the Annual Fall Bazaar on October 28th in the fellowship hall and to take part in the Moorhead Center Mall Church Bazaar on November 11 and 12. No canned goods other than jams and jellies can be sold at the Moorhead Bazaar.

The confirmation class will meet with the Session on September 20 to be evaluated and received into membership. Public recognition will be held during Worship on Sunday, October 1st.

The Session approved the purchasing of a new stove for the kitchen. The Mis-

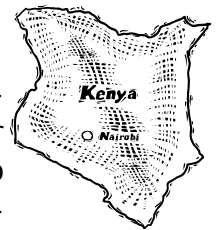
sion and Evangelism Committee will be updating the web page in the near future. Boots Misheski and Mary Jo Moorhead have been working on the church library to make it more accessible to members. The Christian Education Committee reported that they still need Sunday School teachers. The Stewardship Committee is working on the stewardship campaign for the coming year.

The Clerk reported that 75 members were served communion on August 13th. She also reported that a memorial service for Tom DeJong was held in our church on July 25th and that Todd Montgomery's funeral was held on August 15 in the First Presbyterian Church of Fargo with Pastor Matt officiating. Members from our church helped set up, serve, and clean up at the luncheon.

Delores Horn, Clerk

KENYA PRESENTATION

Anyone missing the presentation made by Pastor Matt about the trip to Kenya missed a very entertaining and informative evening. A total of \$48 was received in the free will offering for Project Open Door.



A heartfelt thank you to those who brought pies for the Pie and Ice Cream Social prior and during the presentation. We have some very good cooks in our church.

The West Fargo Pioneer did a full page story with pictures describing the trip and explaining the connection between our church and our sister congregation in Kenya. We all learned that we need to be thankful for the fact that we live in the United States and that we have very comfortable lives compared to those in Kenya.

2007 TRIENNIUM YOUTH CONFERENCE

Dear Presbytery Friends,

Our denomination is hosting its huge Triennium Youth Conference next summer at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, from July 17-22, 2007. Our Presbytery is looking forward to retuning to this gathering that draws about 6,000 youth from around the entire globe. As a Presbytery, we are able to take 26 youth and adults to this great conference that is only offered every three years.

Due to our quota of 26 participants, we have to limit the number of youth represented from each church in our presbytery. Please submit any names of kids (who will be between the age of 15-19 on July 17, 2007) who would like to go. We will place the names on a list and then see how many would like to attend. If needed, we will then pare down the list, giving opportunities for all churches in our Presbytery to be represented.

Adult chaperons must be at least 21 years of age. Those between the ages of 19-21 can apply to be part of the "work crew." These volunteers work behind the scenes to keep the event functioning. Work crew participants pay the full registration fee and travel with our delegation.

Here is some important information about the trip:

1. Dates: We will leave from North Dakota on the morning of Monday, July 16, 2007. We will arrive at Purdue University in the afternoon of July 17.

We will leave from Purdue University on Sunday, July 22 and return home on the evening of July 24. We will stop at the Sears Tower in Chicago on the 22nd and

will spend the 23rd at Noah's Ark Water Park in Wisconsin Dells, WI.

2. Cost: Registration for Triennium will cost \$399 per person. This includes room (in dormitories/double occupancy), board, and program fees. Our Presbytery will cover the cost of transportation (the Jamestown College bus) and will pay 1/2 for each of the adult chaperones who plan to attend. We are asking that each of the youth pay \$150 and their respective churches pay \$249 for the registration fee. Let family, friends, and church members know of your trip to help raise the needed funds. Financial help from our Presbytery might be available upon request. Each participant will be asked to buy their food in route to and from Purdue, the admission fee to Noah's Ark (approx. \$30), and any souvenirs. We will be staying at Presbyterian churches along the way.

3. To register: I will be keeping a list of kids and chaperones that have an interest in going. I look forward once again to a great trip to Triennium. I attended in 2004 and found it to be an experience that I will never forget. More information will be coming. I just wanted to begin to get the word out to those who work with and have a love for the youth of our congregations.

Please let me know if I can be of any other assistance! I look forward to another great trip!! Please get this e-mail out to any potential traveler.

In Christ, Pastor Dave Thompson
Youth Connection Council Chair
Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church
in Jamestown, ND

Presbytery
of the
Northern
Plains
(701)
252-1748





SEPTEMBER MISSION PROJECT-

Welcome Baskets for PATH

Welcome back - back to school and Sunday school and getting back into a regular schedule from the freedom of summer - so this month's mission seems very appropriate. PATH is an accredited private, nonprofit agency that provides treatment foster care to children and families. At age 18, PATH youth are able to go out on their own, but they need help with this big transition in their lives.

What are Welcome Baskets? They are laundry baskets filled with basic household needs for those young people leaving foster care and moving out on their own for the first time. Our challenge this month is to try to fill two welcome baskets for PATH.

Here is how we will do it. There will be slips of paper at the church listing different items that are needed. Please take a slip (or 2 or 3), buy the item(s) and return the item and slip to the church before the end of September. Examples of some of the items are new pots and pans, dishes, glasses, toaster, laundry soap, shower curtain and rings, cleaning supplies, towels, gift cards to grocery stores etc. The stores are clearing out many of these items that were on sale for all the college kids, so it is a good time to pick up the items.

If you would like to help further by sponsoring a youth please call Bobbi at PATH(766-9321). Other questions may be directed to Vicki Peihl at 356-0458. Thank you for helping our church fill up "Welcome Baskets" this month!

P.S. A big thank you to the confirmation youth who have helped take mission items to Food Pantry and United Way!

WEST FEST ACTIVITIES



On Saturday, September 16, there will much happening at Community Presbyterian Church. We will be entering a float for our younger youth in the parade. In the parking lot, there will be a barbecue with some games. All proceeds will go to Soul Train. To get in on the action, check the narthex or contact Lee Dobrinz, Becky DeJong, Lisa Steffen, or Curtis Brophy for details.

A PERSONAL NOTE

To Our Wonderful Church Family,

Thank you is not enough to say to those of you who have helped our children and grandchildren during their time of great turmoil. Delores Horn, Ann Chale, Brenda Bjorklund, and Gayle Thostenson who helped clean up after the fire and also took laundry and washed it. To Becky DeJong and Lisa Steffen who brought food during clean up. Thanks. Thank you to Larry and Vicki Piehl who also brought cookies, bread, and took dishes to clean. To Carol Sterup for calling and helping out. Thanks go to the church members who also donated money to help them get thru this trying time in their lives. A very special thanks to Gayle Thostenson for taking Ella to the zoo in order to give grandma a little, but much needed, break. Thanks to Cathy Birrenkott and Carrie Leopold for the clothes they donated to Ella and Jaden. If I have forgotten anyone who has helped our kids, please forgive me. It warms my heart to know we have such a wonderful, loving and giving church family. Again thanks so much.

God Bless you all.
Karen Steele



PROJECT OPEN DOOR UPDATE

The framing is complete; the roof is on the addition, and by the time this article goes to press, the windows will be in place. In the existing building, new fire suppression pipes are being installed in the basement, the electrical system is being changed over, and air conditioning ducts are being installed. September's goals are to weatherproof and climate control the entire structure so work can continue regardless of the weather. Construction schedule anticipates completion in December.

The real challenge over the next several months will be to conduct the day to day operations of the church (and the preschool). In the short run, this will mean a few less classrooms, less space in the pantry off the kitchen, no accessibility to the boiler room for janitor supplies, and of course the buzz, dust, and mess associated with construction. In other words, chaos will reign.

Other hurdles before the weather sets in are to: get the new roof on the sanctuary, patch the east parking lot (as per our contractual agreement with MinKo—our general contractor), prepare the ground to extend the west parking lot (as per the City of West Fargo mandate), and finally, do some landscaping to slope the ground on the southwest corner of our lot so that the runoff from the new and existing building will flow towards the river.

On the financial front, pledges continue to come in as expected. Better still, memorials, fundraisers, and other unexpected contributions have appeared. So, to date, we have not had to borrow any funds from the PCUSA. When we were estimating our cash flow (many months ago), we planned to borrow in July. But, good cash flow from our building campaign, along with slower contract invoic-

ing, has worked to our advantage. As a result, we estimate (unless a large, unanticipated gift occurs in the impending future) that we won't be borrowing funds until mid-September.

As for expenses, we have not incurred any new change orders (cost overruns) since the last POD report. We are still waiting on some invoices associated with our soil contamination problem. Having said that, the good news is, that the most expensive part is behind us, and we do not have any new issues on the horizon.

We ask that all members and friends keep POD in your prayers. This is a tremendous undertaking that sometimes seems difficult and inconvenient; it is nonetheless a calling that we should embrace with determination and optimism. Further, we need to not only build the church, but we need to build up one another. We will need a full measure of God's patience and perseverance to get through this enterprise, but ultimately our efforts will be rewarded. It will be a joy to see our members and friends benefit from the new facility. It will also be marvelous to open our doors to the community without being embarrassed by having to show them the stairs or the door out.



FALL BAZAAR

The annual fall bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 28. We need all of you to be thinking of craft projects, so they will be ready in time for the bazaar. This year we will not be having a white elephant sale, but will continue to sell costume jewelry. Mouth-watering baked items for snacks will be featured throughout the bazaar with the delicious potato bar to be opened for lunch.

Remember to circle October 28th on your calendar and join us for this event!