

# COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith  
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## WATCH OUT FOR NEW TIMES!



Beginning on Sunday, September 11, Sunday School, from ages 3 years and up (That means children, parents, AND grandparents are welcome!), will recommence at 9:00 a.m. followed by worship at 10:00 a.m.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S FALL BAZAAR AND BAKED POTATO LUNCHEON

It may not feel like Fall is just around the corner, but it's not too soon to be thinking about the Fall Bazaar. It's time to put the finishing touches on craft projects, fill a couple of extra jars when you are canning or look through your favorite recipes for something you would really like to bake. The Bazaar and Baked Potato Bar will be Saturday, October 15, and Sunday, October 16.

This will be a time of unique shopping, great food and warm fellowship with friends and neighbors. Mark your calendars and plan to be there!



## PASTOR'S PEN

### Sunny, With Clouds on the Horizon



It is with mixed emotions that I take up again my "Pastor's Pen." The good news (corresponding to the "sunny" in my headline) is that we Stiths have returned safe and sound from our wonderful sabbatical, and are excited to once again pick up the threads of our lives here in West Fargo, rested and energized. We look forward to sharing more details (and plenty of pictures) from our adventure after worship on Sunday, September 11, which will be a big day with the opening of Sunday School and the return to our 10:00 worship time, along with our talk. I have also taken great pleasure in returning to the pulpit, preaching both at Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo

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(CPC) and at the ordination and installation of Curt Brophy, our former Youth Director, as Associate Pastor at Knox Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, Kansas—both on the same Sunday! I learned many things about our Protestant forebears on my trip, but I now have managed one preaching accomplishment that even Calvin never did: I preached two sermons on the same day from pulpits over 600 miles apart. In every way, it is a great blessing to be back here among the church family and community that we love.

There are, however, storm clouds on the horizon. Our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), has now officially passed and enacted several critically important changes to our constitution, rewriting the rules for how the denomination and its churches operate. You may already have heard about the changes to our ordination standards, that it is no longer required for ministerial, elder or deacon candidates to live in either fidelity within marriage or chastity in singleness. This is only one of the many controversial changes that have been made, and there will be, beyond doubt, turmoil and division in the church as a result.

The leadership of CPC is taking steps to craft a response to these changes. I will be attending a gathering called the Fellowship of Presbyterians in Minneapolis from August 25-27. At this gathering, nearly 2000 Presbyterians from all over the country will talk about the changes that have taken place, and explore faithful options for responding to them. Session of CPC is studying and praying in

preparation for a special Session meeting on September 12 at which these issues, along with any insights and possibilities from the Fellowship gathering, will be considered.



There is no established timeline for our response, and the congregation will certainly have an opportunity to participate in the discussion in the days ahead. For now, those who are interested may contact me for more information about the issues, including reading material, and I urge each and every one of you to keep our denomination, our presbytery, our church, our Session, me and the Fellowship gathering firmly in your prayers. There are tough times ahead, but they shall pass. There are tough times ahead, but God is faithful and sure. The future of our earthly churches is always unknown, but his one, universal church will stand forever, pure and untarnished, because it is founded on his steadfast love in Jesus Christ.

**AFTERNOON CIRCLE**

Afternoon Circle Bible Study will resume on September 13th at 12:30 p.m. We will be meeting in the church narthex rather than at the TNT Cafe this year. The topic for the year is "Confessing the Beatitudes". If you do not have a book they are available from Delores Horn. The cost of the book is \$8.80.

Members may bring sack lunches if they wish and there will be coffee provided. Any questions please call Carolyn Korselman or Delores Horn.

All ladies of the church are welcome to attend this Bible Study. One need not be a member of the church to attend.



## JULY CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of the Session was held on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the church conference room. Elders present were Kevin Galt, Steve Hanna, Carrie Leopold, Brent Montgomery, Jack Smith, Andrew Thostenson, and Bonnie Thompson. Absent were Carolyn Meester and Vicki Riedinger

The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Nancy Emerson.

The financial report was presented. There is money to make the mortgage payment through September. The operating loan is almost double compared to last year. At the end of the year it was at \$11,885.00 and we have had to advance \$3,700.00. We have not had any excess dollars this year to pay toward lowering the balance. General giving at the end of June was down \$1300.00 compared to last year.

A request was made to have the Schwab family information transferred to the Methodist church in Hazen, ND.

Discussion was held regarding the increase in softball annual dues and the remaining balance left to be paid.

Carrie Leopold made a motion at approve paying Samantha Herman one-quarter of her regular wage on a monthly basis as services are performed. This assumes only one event per month.

Discussion was held regarding support for a church family. Planning meetings will be held in August to implement fundraising plans.

Christian Education Committee stated that Camp In-A-Van will be held Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to

noon. The high school will have an activity on Tuesday evening, and there will be a potluck on Thursday evening.

Stewardship Committee reported that the annual mid-year statement will go out during the first week in August.

Trustees have placed new lights in the hallway. The back entryway will be relit in the next week or two. All alarms and sprinklers have been checked.

The mission project for July and August will be the United Way School Supplies. The Kenyan Famine Relief Fund brought in \$625.00. The Kenyan Instructor Fund had enough money to pay for one year.

Deacons, Service and Fellowship, Nominating, Personnel, and Worship Committees had no reports.

Moderator's Report: The Presbytery applied for and received a grant for \$10,000. This money will be used to reach out and give community care. It can support the efforts of organized community efforts but not be given to a single individual. A task force has been formed to decide how the monies will be spent.

Clerk's report: 74 people were served communion on Sunday, July 3.

Meeting closed with prayer by Andrew Thostenson at 8:10p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Becky DeJong, Recording Clerk  
Vicki Peihl, Stated Clerk

## WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

The Stewardship Committee needs more members. It meets monthly to consult about the finances and gifts of the church.

If you are interested in joining or feel that God is calling you, please contact Steve Hanna at 282-8946.



## AUGUST CLERK'S CORNER



The regular meeting of Session was held on Wednesday, August 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the church conference room. Elders present were Kevin Galt, Steve Hanna, Carrie Leopold, Carolyn Meester, Vicki Riedinger and Andrew Thostenson. Absent were Brent Montgomery, Jack Smith, and Bonnie Thompson.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Moderator Matt Stith.

Carolyn Meester presented the financial report. \$3500.00 was borrowed on the loan to make payroll and bill payments. The operating loan is at \$19,085; \$10,000 higher than last year at this time. General giving at the end of July was down \$2550.00 compared to last year. Financial statements will be mailed as soon as available.

Session discussed the issue of texting during worship. Also discussed was the issue of perfume use at church. No further action will be taken.

Session had approved spending \$85.00 to cover the remaining softball dues but only paid \$35.00 because of a donation.

An ad in the Welcome Fargo/ Moorhead brochure will cost \$350.00. The church is given a monthly list of new residents in the community. Sending a letter of invitation along with a current newsletter to new residents was discussed. This suggestion was sent to the Mission Committee.

The quilters have offered to send a quilt to Curt Brophy as congratulations on his recent ordination.

The Presbyterian churches will be sending a bus to help with flood relief on Saturday, September 10, 2011.

The moderator called a special meeting of Session to be held on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. for the sole purpose of discussing a response to the recent actions of Presbyterian Church (USA). <For more information, see flyers on the old narthex east bulletin board.>

Pastor Stith requested that his final allotted vacation time be used on October 22-27. He will arrange pulpit supply and pastoral care.

A meeting was held, in conjunction with the high school cross country and track team and their coaches, to discuss a benefit for Ian Alves. The benefit will be on Sunday, October 30th. The track team will work on finding a facility and the church will set up the financial accounts. Many future planning meetings have been set.

Technology update: there will be a weekly posting of the church service in video on the web – available in archive.

Christian Education Committee reported that Sunday School will start on September 11 at 9:30 a.m. Camp In-A-Van had 21 kids every day, 14 youth at teen night, and 49 people who attended the potluck. Enough money was raised to pay for the meals. Metro Youth night will be held on Sunday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 at United Campus Ministries on the North Dakota State University campus. October 15-16, the High School youth group will be participating in Homeless and Hungry, and the Middle School youth group will be hosting a youth group from Canada.

Mission Committee: The Kenyan Famine Relief Fund money is still in the bank waiting on a way to properly be dispersed. The Kenyan Instructor Fund

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has enough money to pay for one year. Pictures and biographies of the instructors will be displayed.

Trustees: Lights will be placed in the west stairway. There was toilet overflow problem in the upstairs women's bathroom with damage resulting.

Stewardship Committee: Discussions are continuing on how to motivate congregational giving.

Deacons, Service and Fellowship, Nominating, Personnel, and Worship Committees had no reports.

Moderator's Report: The new form of government passed. Pastor Stith will be attending the Fellowship of Presbyterians Conference in Minneapolis on August 25. Over 2000 registrations have been received. The Stith family will report on their sabbatical adventures after worship on September 11. The next Presbytery meeting will be in Mandan on September 24.

Clerk's Report: 86 people were served communion on Sunday, August 7. The Session review will be held in Casselton on September 10th and 17th with the clerks attending on the 17th.

Meeting closed with prayer by Kevin Galt at 9:22p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Becky DeJong, Recording Clerk  
Vicki Peihl, Stated Clerk

**MS SOUL TRAIN**

Middle School Soul Train will be starting on Sunday, September 11th. We will meet in the fellowship hall from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m., with dinner at 6:30p.m. Parents of middle schoolers will be updated by e-mail. A sign-up sheet for meals can be found in the narthex. As always, address any questions to Samantha Herman.

**DEACONS CORNER**

Do you know of a need in our congregation? Are you aware of someone who may need some help but you aren't sure who or what group to go to? The Deacons of our congregation may be just the group that can help. Please feel free to contact any of the current Deacons with need requests:

Linda Bishop  
(lindabishop@far.midco.net; 282-8515)

Marj Meester  
(anneusmeester@yahoo.com; 282-8297)

Carolyn Koerselman (281-2683)

Karen Steele  
(klsteele@far.midco.net; 261-6432)

Becky Dejong  
(tbdejong@cableone.net; 281-8122)

Sue Hanna  
(srhanna@aol.com; 282-8946)

**IAN ALVES BENEFIT PLANNING**

A benefit for Ian Alves is being coordinated by Ian's Packer Cross Country Team and Community Presbyterian Church. The event is scheduled to occur on the afternoon of Sunday, October 30, from 3 to 7. Location will be announced later.

Planning sessions for all interested are scheduled at 7:00 p.m. at the church on September 6th and 20th, October 4th, 10th, 18th, 25th, and 29th.

For more information regarding Ian's current health status, visit his Caring Bridge site at:

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/ianalves>





**SEPTEMBER  
DATES  
TO REMEMBER**

**BIRTHDAYS**



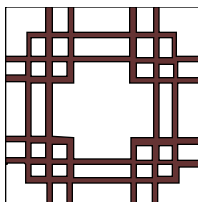
- 9-1 Andrea Corneliussen
- 9-3 Clyde Van Cleve
- 9-6 Meghan Hanna  
Bruce Steele
- 9-9 John Wilkinson
- 9-11 Jenna Kahly
- 9-12 Gordy Pederson
- 9-13 Ann Chale  
Parker Nelson
- 9-15 Danielle Swart
- 9-16 Dale Matzke  
Vicky Whitcomb
- 9-17 Lee Dobrinz  
Shelly VanCleve
- 9-19 Debbie Matzke
- 9-23 Uneva Dobrinz
- 9-25 Joan Hall  
Louise Johnson  
Ted Martin

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9-7-63 – Delbert and Donna Jenner
- 9-10-60 – Jim and Marlys Martin
- 9-18-54 – Dale and Gail Matzke
- 9-25-93 – Brent and Carolyn Talley
- 9-26-97 - Derek and Carrie Leopold
- 9-29-79 – Veril and Dawn Larson

**PRESBYTERIAN  
SQUARES**

Presbyterian Squares will meet Wednesday, September 14.



Doesn't every mother want to see her child reach the top? This month we will learn about Salome, the mother of the disciples, James and John, who dared to ask Jesus for special treatment for her sons. Come join us at 6:00 p.m. for a light supper and a fun, interesting Bible study after that.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Budgeted 2011 giving:  
\$162,496.42 / 52 weeks =  
\$3,125.00 per week

	Budgeted	Actual
	Giving	Giving
<u>Week</u>	<u>to Date</u>	<u>to Date</u>
8/14/11	\$103,125.00	\$88,854.08

This does not include the mortgage payment of \$3,146.54. We have funds designated to pay the mortgage through October.

The per capita assessment for 2011 is \$12,505.60. So far we have collected \$5,754.35

The balance of the operating fund loan at this time is \$19,085.00.

Actual giving is significantly less than the budgeted amount. We still owe over \$6,000.00 for the per capita assessment for 2011 and we will need funds to make the mortgage payments. Our operating fund loan balance is higher than it has been in years.

Please pray for the generosity of the members of this congregation that we will be able to continue our mission and serve the members of this church and the community. May God bless.

**CONFIRMATION IS COMING!**

Ninth through twelfth grade students who are interested in participating in confirmation classes this year should get in touch with Pastor Matt Stith right away. We are also in need of mentors to serve with this year's class, so any members who are interested in learning more about the mentoring process should also contact Matt immediately.

**The October Community Call  
deadline will be  
Friday, September 23**