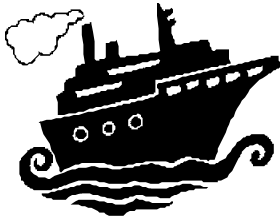


COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God
702 Sheyenne St., West Fargo, ND 58078 701-282-4135 E-mail: CPChurchWF@msn.com Web: <http://cpcwf.org>



THE GOOD NEWS CHRISTMAS CRUISE

Celebrate Christmas at sea as you listen to the Sunday School Christmas Program during worship on December 15th.

Join Captain I.B. Steering and his crew as he sails us through the wonderful story of God's miraculous plan for our salvation. This Christmas we will celebrate the birth of our Savior in a fun and exciting musical with a Caribbean flair. Come enjoy a cruise on board the S.S. Good News!

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DECEMBER SERVICES

While we have been without a pastor since the end of August, we have not been without uplifting and thought-provoking services. Among our speakers have been some of our very own such as David Ruhnke, Dixon Moorhead, and Andrew Thostenson along with an assortment of exceptional guest preachers and musical groups. Don't miss the chance to worship our Lord at Community Presbyterian this next month. We are featuring:

December 1—Dr. Charles House
December 8—Choir's cantata
December 15—Children's Program
December 22—Rev. Arabella
Meadows-Rogers
December 29—Jenna Barenthsen

CHURCH OFFICE HELP

We will be needing members to sit in the office during December to answer the telephone and help anyone who comes to the church. Please call Delores Horn or leave a message on the church telephone if you can help. Thank you to all who have been helping with this ministry.





DECEMBER 2002



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Hanging of the Green @ Worship 10:00 am Pastor Nom. Com. 7 pm	2	3	4 Choir 6:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm	5 Choir 6:30 pm	6	7 Choir 9 am Children's program practice 1-3 pm
8 Sunday School 9:00 am Choir Cantata @ Worship 10:00 am Pastor Nom. Com. 7 pm	9	10 Afternoon Circle @ Jiggs 12:30	11 Pizza & Bonhoeffer film @ Confirmation 6-8 pm	12 Session 7 pm	13	14 Salvation  Army Service Sat. Children's program practice 10 am-noon
15 S. School 9:00 am Sunday School Program @ Worship 10:00 am Potluck after service Pastor Nom. Com. 7 pm	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Worship 10:00 am	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm	25  Christmas	26	27	28
29 Worship 10:00 am	30	31				

****Head usher December: Jim Martin; January: Dwight Steffen; February: Bob Gross**



DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

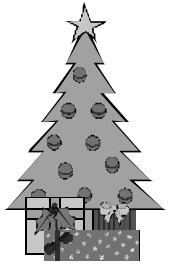
- 12-2 Amber Swart
- 12-5 Terry Meester
- 12-6 Kailyn Ohm
- 12-8 Casey Larson
- 12-9 Arletta Geiss
- 12-10 Brady Bahls
- 12-11 Madison Kellerman
- 12-12 Jim Martens
- 12-13 Brooke Bellamy
Bo Sheeley
- 12-15 Anneus Meester
- 12-19 Mike Moe
- 12-21 Gail Sheeley
- 12-23 Erin Thostenson
- 12-25 Ray Christopherson
Todd Montgomery
- 12-26 Boots Montgomery
- 12-28 Gary Duggan
- 12-31 Sophia Dobrinz
Shane Saari

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12-12-70 – Jack and Dixie Smith
- 12-19-86 – Ron and Kathy LaCoe
- 12-18-82 – Andrew and Gayle
Thostenson
- 12-29-77 – Phil and MaryJane Martens

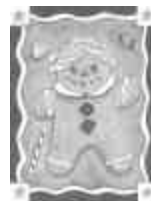
GIVING TREE

The gift of giving is the greatest gift of all. Our giving tree will be decorated with many ornaments. Please take one and buy a special present for a child. These presents need to be unwrapped and under the tree by December 15. Help make a child's Christmas a little merrier.



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you are changing your address or telephone number please notify the church. When we send out mailings, we must pay for those that are returned with wrong addresses. You can call the church and leave a message on the answering machine or put a note in the offering plate.



COOKIE & CANDY SALE

The Annual Cookie and Candy Sale will be held on December 8th and 15th in the church narthex. Please bring goodies to sell and then check out what we have for sale after church. We have some great cooks in the congregation and always have a nice selection of goodies for sale.

NEW HOLIDAY HIT!

Presenting: VeggieTales: The Star of Christmas. This is a hilarious, action-packed adventure which teaches that its the true story of God's love that shows us how to love one another - at Christmas time and throughout the year! ***Check out our newest addition to our video library.***

NOVEMBER SESSION NOTES



The Session and Trustees met on November 14 with Rev. Kari Jutila as Moderator.

The trustees reported that the new boiler has been installed and is functioning. Feel free to look in the boiler room and see the improvement there.

Dixon Moorhead was elected as Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Annual Meeting date was tentatively set for January 12th, 19th or 26th depending upon getting an appropriate person to moderate the meeting. An ordained Presbyterian pastor is normally required.

Andrew Thostenson reported that no one from the church had applied for the secretarial position. One outside application was received and the Personnel Committee will follow up on that.

Dixon Moorhead presented the Task Force Mission Statement and the PNC Mission Statement. After discussion the statement was approved. For a full reading of the statement, see page five in the newsletter.

A starting point for the new pastor's salary was agreed upon and this information will be presented to the congregation in the near future when the Church Information Form is complete.

Letters have been sent to members who have left the community informing them that if they do not notify us otherwise they will be placed on the inactive list.

Todd Montgomery, Andrew Thostenson

and David Ruhnke will make the decision of whether or not to conduct worship services in case of bad weather.

A request from Tona Vistad to transfer from Cavalier Presbyterian Church to our church was approved. Several other transfers are in process of being completed. Nancy Nagle's request to be transferred to the Zion Lutheran Church at Oslo, MN was approved. A request from Dawn Vail Chase to have her daughter baptized was approved. A date will be set later.

The Session voted to run an ad in the Forum for the Christmas Eve Service.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session



SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL <i>Thanksgiving weekend</i> Hanging of the Greens	December 1st
Christmas Program Potluck	December 15th
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL <i>Christmas Break</i>	December 22 & December 29
Sun. School Resumes <i>Palm Sunday</i>	January 5th April 13th
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL <i>Easter Sunday</i>	April 20th
Confirmation	May 4th
Senior Recognition Potluck	May 18th
Last day of Sunday School	

THE SEARCH FOR A NEW PASTOR

For two months the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting weekly. Between meetings, they have been researching and compiling information. Often the work has been tedious, but mostly it is uplifting and exciting. From the outside this seems like a very slow process. But finding a new spiritual leader for our church simply takes time.

Happily, the first phase of the search is drawing to a close and a new phase is about to begin. Over the past months we have put together information for our church's recruitment document called: the Church Information Form (CIF). This is a very comprehensive document that asks:

- What is the mission of the church?
- What are the church's program's and accomplishments?
- What are the special gifts the church has?
- What are the key theological issues of the church?
- What are the primary responsibilities for the pastor?
- What are the traits in a pastor that the church believes is essential?
- Plus, it asks for a myriad of statistical data, references for the church, and of course salary issues need to be determined.

At the time of publishing this newsletter, a preliminary draft should be complete. This draft will be reviewed by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM), then the Session must review it and approve it, and finally the

COM must endorse it. The goal is to have all these approvals complete by Christmas.

Once our CIF is finished, it will be posted on the Presbyterian Church USA's website, and the recruitment phase will begin. We want to start the hunt right after the New Year.

We need to keep in mind that perhaps the easy part is behind us. We know what we want, but can we find it? How long will that take?

We know that the competition out there is stiff. The number of churches nationwide that are looking for ministers are three or four to one. Plus, while we find North Dakota a great place to live, the national perception does not view us as paradise. Still, we have many strengths and they far outweigh our shortcomings. The challenge will be to effectively convey that fact.

Another issue that we should all keep in mind is that tithing needs to be generous. You might think that statement is a bit odd since we are not now having to pay a pastor's salary, but we need to appreciate that recruitment will not come on the cheap. Advertisements will have to be purchased, phone bills will mount, and copying and printing expenses will increase. Once we have a solid lead we will have to pay travel expenses, salary adjustments may need to be considered, and finally, moving expenses will have to be thrown in. In short, we need to marshal our funds while we can, and be prepared use them when needed.

Since Mark tendered his resignation in
(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

June, the church has rallied around one another like no other time in recent memory. For this we need to be grateful to God. Further, we must pray earnestly that the church remains united and enthusiastic. Throughout this time, it is clear that God has been at the table as we discuss the future of the church. Let us continue to welcome His wise counsel and strength.

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

What were the sounds of the first Christmas? What are the sounds of Christmas today? Do we hear what they heard that night long ago in Bethlehem? Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph were listening and heard the news... angels, shepherds, then wise men heard the news of the birth of a Savior...and followed.

Listen to the Spirit of Christmas with us during worship on Sunday, December 8th as the adult choir performs this musical by Mark Brymer and Susan Naylor Callaway.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

December 1
Melissa and Roger Barentsen Family
December 8
Becky and Tom DeJong Family
December 15
Carol and Greg Sterup Family
December 22
Mary Jo and Dixon Moorhead Family

SHUT IN MEMBERS

If you would like someone to deliver your new Offering Box please call the church and leave a message. We will be happy to deliver them.

OUR CHURCH'S MISSION

A mission statement identifies who we are as a church, and defines what we are about in response to God's saving grace. All our church tasks are filtered through our mission statement. To this end, three groups in the church: Session, PNC, and a group basically affiliated with neither hammered out our new mission statement.

Each group came at our mission statement from a different point of view: our church member group (thanks to Marlys Martin, Carol Sterup, Kathy Moe, Roy and Louise Johnson, Al and Arlyn Meyer) sought to describe what we do in terms we all could understand. The PNC added vital theological perspective that should attract a minister who would fit in with the essence of Community Presbyterian Church. The Session blended these two articulate positions into our new Mission Statement.

It reads:

We are saved solely by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

The mission of Community Presbyterian Church is to nurture individual spiritual growth through the Bible, the inspired Word of God. We seek to embrace the hearts and minds of all individuals through worship, fellowship, and service.

We care for one another and we equip our members to reach out to the community in word and service.

