

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God

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Please
mark your
calendars
and join us

for our church's annual meeting on February 2nd with Dr. Charles House moderating the meeting.

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A 'HAPPENIN' SUNDAY

Come one and all! Join the Sunday School kids for a "HAPPENIN' Sunday on February 23rd during the worship service.



Our Sunday School kids will be doing the entire service with the puppets in charge of the sermon. Bonnie Thompson and crew are working hard to make this Sunday service enjoyable for young and old. See you there!

CHURCH OFFICE HELP



The church has hired a new part time secretary. Her name is Opal Grunewald. She will be working on Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. and when necessary on Saturday mornings.

If you come to the church or call, please identify yourself as a member so that she will be able to help you.

We will still need people to sit in the church to answer the door and the telephone during the week. If you wish to volunteer please let Delores Horn know.



FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 2-5 Cody Matzke
Tina Willis
- 2-6 David Misheski
- 2-7 Tom Birrenkott
- 2-8 Ann Corneliussen
Jack Smith
- 2-9 Dean Hall
Blair Moorhead
- 2-12 Gwen Sterup
- 2-14 Randy Meyer
- 2-16 Stephanie Barenthsen
- 2-17 Kevin Galt
- 2-18 James Binger
- 2-19 Esther Hemm
Alex Talley
- 2-20 Clarence Bastle
- 2-21 Scott Meyer
- 2-24 Lia Dobrinz
- 2-25 Tom DeJong
Lisa Osborne

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2-6-32 – Tom and Julia Pederson
- 2-19-81 – Dixon and Mary Jo Moorhead
- 2-24-79 – Scott and Vickie Meyer

ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

A red and denim quilt has taken residence in the church building for the last couple years. For the last year, it has rested in the church library. If you own or know the owner of this find, please notify someone in the church office. If no owner is identified, it will be added to the church's quilting mission project.

HEAD USHERS LIST FOR 2003

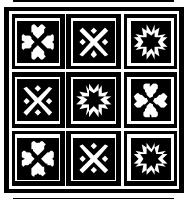
MONTH	NAME
January	Dwight Steffen
February	Duane Ohm
March	Bob Gross
April	Dave Ruhnke
May	Brent Montgomery
June	Larry Piehl
July	Bob Gross
August	Dave Ruhnke
September	Dwight Steffen
October	Larry Peihl
November	LeRoy Bowman
December	Jim Martin

NURSERY NEWS FOR 2002



The following church families welcomed new members to their families in 2002: Ashley Chase was born May 22nd to Rick and Dawn Vail Chase. Cedric Brooks was born July 2nd to Brian Brooks and Teresa Tilly. He joins brother Waylon. Cami Birrenkott was born July 16th to Tom and Cathy Birrenkott. She has two brothers, Jordan and Taylor. Kelcy Pella was born September 30th to Tim and Annette Pella. She has a big brother, Anthony. Naomi Grace Osborne was born November 3rd. Her proud parents are Rich and Lisa Osborne. Jacob Edward Witt was born November 27th. His parents are Gary and Brenda Witt. He joins Kayla, Justin, and Brandon.

We welcome all of you. By God's grace, may we nurture and guide these little ones into the fellowship of our church.



THANKS GIVEN TO QUILTERS

Editor's note: The following is a letter addressed to Carol Sterup regarding lap quilts received from "quilters" of Community Presbyterian Church.

Dear Carol:

On behalf of Cass County Social Services I wish to thank you and the other members of the Community Presbyterian Church for your generous gift of blankets. Some have already been given to children in our care.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity. Your kindness will certainly help children in need to feel warmer and more secure.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Kathy Suedel



PEANUT BUTTER PANTRY

Please donate peanut butter to the Salvation Army. Bring your jars to the church by Sunday, February 2nd and they will be delivered to the Fargo affiliate.

The Salvation Army appreciates peanut butter because of its nutritional value and shelf life. In addition, it doesn't require refrigeration or cooking.

Anything you can give to our peanut butter pantry will be appreciated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

<i>Palm Sunday</i>	April 13th
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL <i>Easter Sunday</i>	April 20th
Confirmation Sunday	May 4th
Senior Recognition Potluck	May 18th
Last day of Sunday School	

FEBRUARY SERVICES

The month of February's featured preachers are as follows:

February 2—Dr. Charles House
February 9—Dr. Shelly Wiley
February 16—Dave Ruhnke
February 23—Youth Sunday

ALL CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Start cleaning out your attics, closets, and garages. The church will be having an All-Church Rummage Sale again this spring. It will be held on April 5th at the Veterans Memorial Arena during the All City Sale. We will have the same big room we had last year, so will have room for most anything.

Jim Bjorklund will soon be marshaling the troops to organize this sale. Last year's sale brought in nearly \$1,400 which was used for the carpet in the basement. Plans are to use the proceeds this year for the recently created New Hymnal Fund. The new books are estimated to cost about \$3,000. The women plan to sell raffle tickets on a hand made quilt at the sale also.

JANUARY SESSION NOTES



The Session met on Thursday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. with Rev. Kari Jutila as moderator. The following people were placed on the Inactive List at their request: Nicholas Peihl, Jessica Peihl, and Jan Roesler.

A wedding request from Tona Vistad and John Sweeney for November 1, 2003 was approved.

Two baptisms were approved with the date of baptism to be set after elders have visited with the parents and reviewed the Sacrament of Baptism and the meaning of the vows the parents and the congregation make. Dawn Vail Chase and Rick Chase's daughter, Ashley Elizabeth, and Brenda Ruhnke Witt and Gary Witt's son, Jacob, are to be baptized. A special meeting of the Session will be held on February 9 following worship to set the date for the baptisms.

The Music and Worship Committee reported that organist Anne Morris has resigned effective following services on February 2nd. On the recommendation of the Committee the Session approved Dawn Larson as first substitute organist until we can find someone new. Also on the recommendation of the Committee, the Session instructed them to hire Dawn Larson as Music Director at a salary in line with the guidelines that were set up earlier this year. The Session approved a thank you gift of \$250 to Dawn Larson for the work she did with the Christmas cantata, children's Christmas program, and the Christmas Eve service.

The Martin family has presented a \$550

memorial in memory of Marge Martin and wishes that it be used to buy new hymnals. The Session approved setting up a fund to raise money for buying new hymnals.

An All-Church Rummage Sale by the Presbyterian Women was approved for early April if the logistics of space can be worked out. Money from this would be put into the New Hymnal Fund.

The PNC was given authority to spend up to \$5,000 on expenses for searching for a new pastor.

The Nominating Committee report was received and approved. Members nominated for elder are: Greg Sterup, Beulah (Boots) Misheski, and Susan Gross. Trustee nominations are: Troy Montgomery and Martin Matzke. Nominations for the Nominating Committee for 2003 Officers are: Andrew Thostenson, Brenda Bjorklund, and Vicky Whitcomb. Ordination and installation of officers will take place on February 9th.

The Session approved the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to hire Opal Grunewald as part time secretary for the church. She will work Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings when necessary. She will be paid \$7.50 an hour to start. The Personnel Committee also recommended that the custodial staff be given a \$0.50 an hour raise. The Session concurred.

Katie Fletcher Peterson from the Mapleton Presbyterian Church was accepted into membership contingent upon receiving papers from the Presbytery office. The Annual Statistical Report has been sent to the Presbytery showing that we now have 289 members and an average of 125 at Sunday worship.

UNDERSTANDING PER CAPITA IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

What is Per Capita?

Per Capita is the designated dollar amount that is asked of each member of the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a yearly voluntary contribution. Per Capita is collected by the Presbyteries.

How is Per Capita used?

Per Capita is used to pay for the essential administrative operation of the three governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA): Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

Who determines and approves how much money is needed to run the governing bodies?

The elected Councils of the three governing bodies determine the amount of money needed to run their own regional office for the given year, and these amounts are authorized by each governing body's constituency.

How is the Per Capita figure calculated?

The total budgeted amount for each of the three governing bodies is divided by the number of members in that governing body's domain. Those sums are then added together.

What does our Presbytery's share of Per Capita pay for?

Expenses for Committee on Preparation for Ministry and Committee on Ministry, legal resources, communications and office operations, salaries of selected staff in their work with committees, the office, and congregations.

What does the Synod's share of the Per Capita pay for?

Per Capita supports the Office of the Synod Executive/Stated Clerk, Adminis-

trative Staff, the costs of the annual Synod Assembly, Ecclesiastical committees, Synod Council and the five ministry committees as well as the building and office overhead costs.

What does the General Assembly's share of Per Capita pay for?

Costs of annual meeting of the GA (travel, housing and meals for commissioners), moderator expenses, committee and commission expenses, membership and participation in national and international ecumenical groups, administrative and personnel expenses in Office of GA, Stated Clerk and support staff, General Assembly Council staff, committee and task force staffs, and building operations.

Is Per Capita the same as mission giving?

No, Per Capita is not mission giving. It is distinguished from mission giving in that it is operational money needed to keep the three governing bodies of our church functional. However, Per Capita does under gird our mission outreach by providing the infrastructure and basis of operation for staff involved in mission work.

PER CAPITA RECEIPTS

Since the first of the year our church has received \$2,067.86 for Per Capita. The total due for Per Capita is \$7,709.44, so if you have not paid your Per Capita (\$24.32 per member) yet, please do so as soon as you are able. In this way we will be able to pay our obligations without using General Fund monies.

If you feel that your usual contribution to the church includes your Per Capita payment, please indicate that on your check so that it can be properly credited to the Per Capita fund. Thank you.

PASTOR RECRUITMENT UPDATE

We are now fully engaged in the recruitment phase of our search. Some high points of this last month's activities are listed below:

- In early January our Church Information Form (CIF) was submitted to the national denomination (PCUSA) head office in Louisville, Kentucky. Approvals soon followed.
- We have secured spending authority from the Session to aid in the recruitment process. These funds will pay for phone calls, purchasing publications and advertisements, and lastly and most importantly it will pay for candidate travel expenses.
- Thanks to the efforts of several key members of the church, we have and are still updating our web site so that candidates who visit it will be able to accurately discover who we are.
- We are developing a brochure that will give a thumbnail description of our church. We plan to distribute this to candidates and also use it for visitors to our church.
- We have been collecting information about West Fargo and the Fargo Metro Area, so when candidates ask, we can send them brochures and pamphlets about the area.
- We have identified members of the PNC who will make initial contacts with candidates, and we have tentatively set up a system of contacting, following up, and interviewing candidates.

- We have been exploring interview questions which will allow us to judge candidate qualifications.
- At the time of this writing, the PNC is actively reviewing Pastor Information Forms, seminary candidate descriptions, and we have sent off our CIF directly to several others who have verbally expressed interest in our church.

To date, much has been done. However, much more needs to be done in order to find a new minister for our church. We are aggressively seeking.

In the meanwhile, please keep the members of the PNC in your prayers. Pray that they will have God's wisdom. Pray that they will not tire or become discouraged. Pray that they will be successful in their efforts. And, finally, pray that we as a congregation will remain a community of believers. Let us continue to demonstrate solidarity and encouragement towards one another.

NEW HYMNALS FUND ESTABLISHED

A gift from the Martin Family in memory of Marge Martin was received with the request that it be used to purchase new hymnals for the church. The Session agreed and decided to set up a New Hymnal Fund which would be open to anyone who wishes to contribute.

The hymnals we now use are very old and some are nearly falling apart. Also they do not include many of the newer hymns that we use during the worship service.



CHURCH FAMILY MEMBERS

It 's time to update our records. If you haven 't already or if you 've new information, please fill out this form and put it in the offering plate or give it to Becky DeJong or Lisa Steffen.



Birthdays: **example** **Claire DeJong March 10, 1996**

(of all family members) _____

***year is optional**

Anniversaries: **example**

(please include year)

Tom & Becky DeJong

November 29, 1986
