

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God Pastor: Mark R. Tilly

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YOUNGER YOUTH PROGRAM LAUNCHED!

A youth group is being formed for kindergarten through sixth-graders. Monthly activities will be announced in advance throughout the year.

The next event will be bowling on January 27th at West Acres Bowl. Participants should meet at 3:00 p.m. inside the front door. Bowling is \$2.25 per game. Shoes are included.

A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. If you have any questions, please call Debbie Matzke at 282-9463.

SPECIAL NOTICE

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
CONGREGATION WILL CONVENE
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER
WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JANUARY
13, 2002**

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

1-5 Evan Thostenson
1-8 Wayne Radebaugh
1-8 Craig Pederson
1-8 Ross Montgomery
1-9 Dede Tilly
1-10 Elizabeth Meyer
1-11 Kristina Sterup
1-12 Richard Whitcomb
1-18 Grace Moorhead
1-19 Donna Gertz
1-21 Jenna Olson
1-23 Austin Montgomery
1-24 Nancy Stedman
1-24 Dennis Colliton
1-26 Gail Matzke
1-28 Brenda Bjorklund
1-28 Brian Matzke
1-29 Kaylee Jo Sharbono
1-30 Pat Langfitt

ANNIVERSARIES

1-4-49 – Robert and Dolores Meyer
1-9-82 – Brent and Boots Montgomery
1-19-57 – Edwin and Harriet Diede

In this issue

	Page
Younger Youth Program	1
December Dates to Remember	1
Sanctuary Stewards	2
Session Notes	2
Presbyterian Women News	3
2002 Head Ushers List	3
Sunday School Schedule	3
Women's Bible Study Schedule	3
Summary of Financial Report	4
Youth News	5
Our Daily Bread	5
Calendar	6
Lights for the Northern Plains	7

GOSPEL MUSIC CELEBRATION

Come on out Sunday, January 13TH, for a morning of great old time gospel music lead by the talented Fargo/Moorhead musical group, "*Homespun Gospel*". You don't want to miss this. The service will begin at 10:00 a.m.



SANCTUARY STEWARDS

Have you ever wondered who prepares the Communion Meal on Communion Sunday and clears it away after the service? Or who changes the colorful parments (banners) on the Communion Table and pulpit? Also seeing that the Baptismal Font is ready for baptisms?

There is a group of six women who are the Sanctuary Stewards and they are responsible for seeing that these things are done. The members are Irene Martin, Audrey Binger, Gloria Ruhnke, Harriett Diede, Ann Chale and Delores Horn.

This is just one way that members of the church can help to make services run more smoothly.

THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WAS GREAT!

A heartfelt "thank-you" to all that were involved with the Sunday School Christmas program. A special thanks and recognition to Cheryl Montgomery and Dawn Larson for all the heart and soul that you both put into the programs.

God Bless you all!
The Session and Trustees

DECEMBER SESSION NOTES

The Session met on December 19, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. The custodian reported that the snowblower will need to be replaced before long.

The Session voted to send a thank you message to those people involved in the wonderful Christmas Program.

Dixie Kertscher and Craig Peterson's request to use the church for their wedding in April 2002 was approved. Dick Belisle's request to transfer to First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck was approved.

Andrew Thostenson made a report on membership. He will give a more detailed report at the January meeting.

James Martin presented a request by some mothers to sponsor an activity each month for children in Grades 1 thru 6. Permission was given.

A lengthy discussion regarding our operating finances was undertaken. It resulted in Todd Montgomery being authorized to seek appropriate financing to meet cash needs after the new year. The Session also requested Pastor Tilly to write a letter to the members outlining the need for an extra gift this month.

Delores Horn, Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

The Candy and Bake Sale was a huge success. A total of \$348.00 was received. The organizers of this sale would like to thank all those who brought goodies to sell and all those who bought goodies. Thank you so much. We appreciate the willingness of our members to help with our projects.

The Mitten Basket is still in the Narthex and we hope to take the mittens to one of the elementary schools after the Christmas holidays.

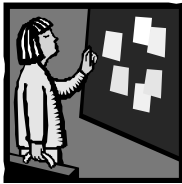
Several items were sold on Sunday the 16th from the Bazaar. This brings our total for the Bazaar to \$1800. Thanks to everyone.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Jan. 6 – Sunday School resumes

Jan. 13- Sunday School attendance awards during worship service

Jan. 20- Third grade Bibles will be presented during worship service



THANKS BULLETIN

You may not notice them every time you pass them, but chances are when you've had a moment of pause, you've noticed our sometimes thought provoking and often newsworthy bulletin boards. These creative works are compliments of Becky DeJong. Thanks for the great work, Becky!

HEAD USHERS FOR 2002

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



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

The Women's Bible Study meets on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. The theme for the next three months focuses on Old Testament Characters. The specific lessons for January are as follows:

January 8	Jonah: Running from God Jonah 1:1 - 3:3
January 15	Hannah: Praying in Pain 1 Samuel 1
January 22	Samuel: Hearing God's Voice 1 Samuel 3
January 29	Abraham: Following God's Call Genesis 12

Please feel welcome to join us for a time of fellowship and study on Tuesdays at 811 12th Avenue East, West Fargo.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Total giving by congregational members and friends set another record this year reaching \$140,000. Our unrestricted giving of over \$109,000 also set a new record.

During 2001 we completed a number of capital projects including completion of the Master Planning exercise, construction of a new parking lot, and installation of pew cushions. We also improved outdoor lighting and sanctuary air handling. All of this was paid from designated gifts given this year or from designated gifts given in 2000 and held in reserve for use this year. We succeeded in a "pay as you go strategy" for our major projects.

During 2000 and 2001 we also incurred additional operating costs, principally from the addition of a Youth Director and a Music Director to the staff. During 2000 unrestricted giving declined marginally precipitating an increase in our accumulated deficit

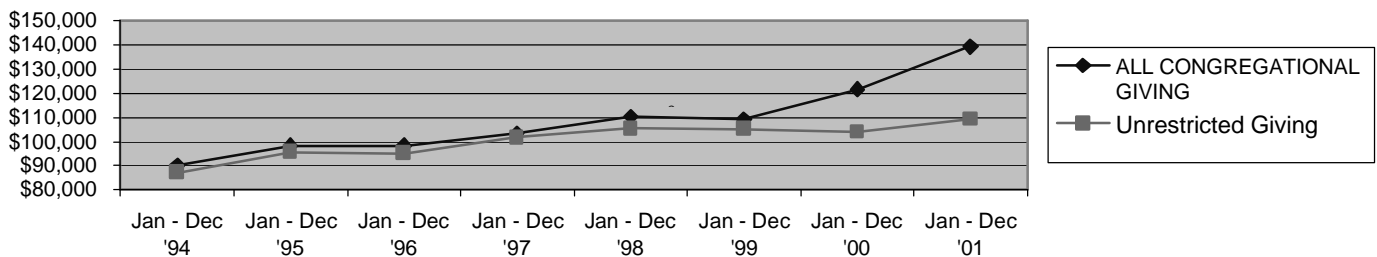
and associated debt. This was offset by an extraordinary insurance payment of \$6000. During 2001 we increased our unrestricted giving by \$5,000, but we also experienced other cost increases and no extraordinary income such as insurance payments. Hence we added about \$9,600 to our accumulated deficit. (Second Chart Below)

The Annual Report which will be published at the Annual Meeting Sunday, Jan 13th, will provide a more detailed presentation.

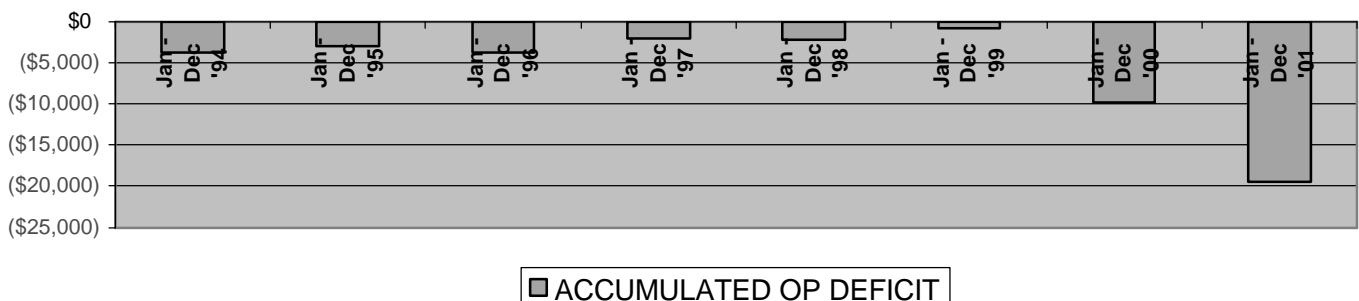
A principal task for 2002 will be restoring the operating balance which we had enjoyed up through 1999.

To put things in perspective, our average Sunday offering for 2001 was \$2103.00 or about \$7.00 / week for each of 300 members. It would have taken an additional \$185.00 per Sunday or about an additional \$ 00.62 (62 cents) per week per member to cover our uncovered cost during 2001. This seems like a challenge which we can meet!

Community Presbyterian - Congregational Giving



ACCUMULATED OP DEFICIT



YOUTH NEWS

On January 27th there will be an etiquette dinner. All junior high, senior high, and college-age students are invited to participate. Stacey from the Academie Agencie will again be teaching the class. The program will be from 5-6:30 p.m. at Luigi's. Friends are welcome! Sign up in the narthex. Everyone is responsible for the cost of their own meal plus tip.

On February 3rd there will be an odds 'n' ends etiquette class, also taught by Stacey, at Basie's from 4-5:30 p.m. This class will cover all sorts of interesting topics such as guest etiquette, tipping, phone conversations, reception etiquette, thank yous, and much more. Friends are welcome. Registration cost is \$5 per person plus the cost of your beverage, dessert, and tip (about \$10). Sign up in the narthex.

Please remember for the etiquette classes to dress appropriately (ex. no jeans!).

Mark your calendars! There will be a ski trip on February 23rd to Andes Tower Hills. Sign up will begin in February. Costs are as follows: Downhill skiing for adults...\$18 lift ticket & \$14 rental, Downhill skiing for 11 years and younger...\$14 lift ticket & \$12 rental, Snowboard...\$25 rental + credit card deposit, Cross country skiing...\$5 rental & \$5 trail fee. If you are interested in driving, please let Jessica know.

Anyone interested in helping to set up a family fishing trip, please contact Jessica @ 730-5293. Leave a message if I'm unavailable and I'll call you back ASAP. I hope everyone has a wonderful January and God bless.



OUR DAILY BREAD

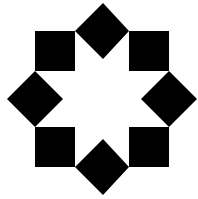
For many years the daily devotional "Our Daily Bread" has been available in the church lobby. The publishers of "Our Daily Bread" have made a change in the way they provide this ministry to people.

The dated version of the study which was received and distributed by the church every quarter will no longer be distributed to churches. The publisher now sends 90 day undated studies to churches for distribution. The dated studies with which all are so familiar will now only be available directly from the publisher.

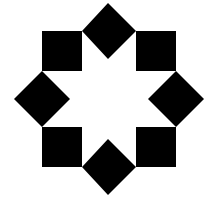
The good news is that the dated version is very easy to get if you want it. If you would like to have the dated version of "Our Daily Bread" sent directly to your home all you have to do is pick up one of the undated booklets from the church lobby, mail the request card directly to the publisher, and you will receive the new dated copy at your home every quarter.

THANKS! TO THE SALVATION ARMY
BELL RINGERS!

Thanks to the following people for "Ring the Bells" for the Salvation Army this month: Marlys Martin and grandchildren, Carolyn Talley, Gary and Carol Duggan, Allen and Arlyn Meyer, Evelyn and Ted Martin, the DeJong family, Bonnie Thompson, and the Moorhead family. Our church volunteers each December for this activity. Keep this in mind for next year. We need you!



JANUARY 2002



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Confirmation Class 6:30 pm	3	4	5
6 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	7	8 Women's Bible Study @ Tilly's 7 pm	9 Confirmation Class 6:30 pm Session 7:30 pm	10	11	12
13 Sunday School 9 am SS Perfect Attendance Recognition & Gospel Celebration @ Worship 10 am Annual Meeting following service	14	15 Women's Bible Study @ Tilly's 7 pm	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 9 am Bibles to be presented to 3rd graders during Worship 10 am	21	22 Women's Bible Study @ Tilly's 7 pm	23 Confirmation Class 6:30 pm	24	25	26
27 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am Younger youth to West Acres Bowl 3 pm Etiquette Dinner 5 pm	28	29 Women's Bible Study @ Tilly's 7 pm	30 Confirmation Class 6:30 pm	31		

****Head usher for January: Dwight Steffen; February: Bob Gross; March: Dave Ruhnke**

Light for the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

January 2002

INFO WORTH
REPEATING...
UPCOMING EVENTS

"Growing Christians" A Leadership Development Event sponsored by the Presbytery for pastors, educators, elders, CLP's, or any disciple of Christ .. Jan 31-Feb 1, Maryvale Retreat Center ND. Keynote speaker is **Dr. Gary Watts**, Presbyterian Minister and Professor of Christian Ethics at Jamestown College. Separate meetings will be held for CLP's and educators. \$20 cost per participant. This covers all meals, snacks and lodging for Thursday night. A mileage subsidy will be offered. Come be a part of this well planned event. Let Presbytery Office know as soon as possible .. call 1-800-243-3532.

Small Church Conference, April 26-28, sponsored by the Synod at Clearwater Forest. Choose from 18 workshops: designing a year-round stewardship program, developing a parish nurse ministry; youth ministry without paid staff.

"God's Living Waters" National Small Church Celebration; April 13-16, Austin, Texas.

Churchwide Redevelopment Conference, January 10-13, 2002. Mesa, AZ. Those from this Presbytery who have attended this annual conference have wonderful things to say about it

Confirmation Class retreat at Clearwater Forest, Nov 9-11.

"Living Grateful Lives"; churchwide stewardship conference. March 13-15, Portland, Oregon

You can find out more about all these workshops and how to go to them by calling the Presbytery office. Funding is available.

NORTHERN PLAINS PARTNERS WITH LUTHERAN RURAL RESPONSE

In a move that spans the boundaries of denominations, the Presbytery of Northern Plains has announced its support of Lutheran Rural Response (LRR). This cooperation includes financial support and promotion of the programs of LRR.

"Presbyterians have always worked ecumenically, and the rich resources of Lutheran Rural Response offer a new opportunity to reach people in need", said **Arabella Meadows Rogers**, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Northern Plains. Lutheran Rural Response helps farmers, ranchers and rural communities identify the stresses and challenges of rural life, which are especially acute now during this time of rural crisis. LRR works directly with individuals and families to address their needs and explore resources.

LRR also provides workshops, retreats and training in the community. It is one of the many programs offered by Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota. As part of this new collaboration, our Presbytery will emphasize to our congregations the services that are available through LRR. Together, the Presbytery and Lutheran Rural Response can make a difference in the lives of those living the rural crisis in North Dakota.

For more information about the work of Lutheran Rural Response, call **Bonnie Turner**, LRR, 1-800-950-2901 or Presbytery Office at 1-800-243-3532.

How do you find spirituality in films? **Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat**, authors of [Spiritual Literacy](http://www.spiritualityhealth.com/news/items/home/item_216.html), share their thoughts at http://www.spiritualityhealth.com/news/items/home/item_216.html. On this page you'll also find links to a review and study guide for Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, perhaps a helpful tool for a Sunday school class or youth group gathering over the holidays.

A SHARED COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING

The churches of Milton and Osnabrock ND have joined together for five years now coming together in praise and thanksgiving the Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving Day. They alternate between the two communities. It is advertised as an interdenominational service and the communities meet at Milton Senior Center or the Osnabrock Barley Hall. The offering each year goes to help support the work of the local senior citizens groups. Churches participating are Milton Presbyterian Church, Milton Lutheran Church, Milton Catholic Church, Osnabrock Assembly of God Church, Osnabrock Lutheran Church .. Also there is special music presented from the Osnabrock Good Samaritan Home and special music presented by the churches participating. A time of fellowship follows each service. This year everyone met in Milton and there were 82 worshippers.

Jan 18-25, 2002, is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, a celebration of the whole Christian church. A packet of materials is available in the Presbytery office.

SPIRITUALITY IN FILMS

From the EP . .

Dear Friends,

Some information about Per Capita: General Assembly describes per capita this way: "it is an opportunity for all communicant members of the PCUSA to participate equally, responsibly and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordinating and evaluating mission .. of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a reformed church, while strengthening the community among all Christians."

Our total per capita for 2002 is \$22.03. \$12.60 of that supports the Presbytery's required functions, i.e., all the work the Committee on Ministry does to visit with, support churches, teach non-Presbyterians the intricacies of our polity; the work of the Stated Clerk helping local clerks understand how to do their office; Presbytery meetings and all that goes on there.

\$4.18 goes to the Synod. That supports Synod School, training for various groups like Committee on Ministry, the Judicial Commission, pastors for new immigrant groups. General Assembly receives \$5.25. Through that contribution we participate in the work of the whole church in being church--our gatherings, our mailings, our staff. What happens when a church decides not to pay its share? Presbytery still must pay that portion to Synod and GA. That means the funds have to come from somewhere else within Presbytery, and that cuts down on other program area funding. Your per capita payments are due the end of January. Thank you for your per capita support.

...Arabella

Our Presbytery website will have

A message board ... visit www.northernplainspresbytery.com and see the newest addition to the website

SPIRITUALITY: A RETREAT EXPERIENCE...

We are excited to offer this weekend exploration of two vast

and interlocking topics. Through a variety of prayer and meditation practices, discussion times, and group interaction; we will share our ideas and experiences of health, disease, and spirituality. A unique aspect of this weekend is that there will be less emphasis on "experts" and more on group sharing and a "co-creation" of ideas and experiences. The retreat will be at Mount St. Benedict's in Crookston MN on Jan 11-13, 2002. The cost is: \$85 for room and board or \$55 board (commuter option). To register or for more information call: **Daniel Wolpert** at 218-281-4853 or 218-281-2477. Space is limited to the first 20 people, so call soon!

This retreat experience is created by: **Dr. Debra Bell**-physician; **Sr Anne Marie Geray**-educator; **Sr. Marietta Geray**- ethicist/educator; **Sr. Lenore Paschke**- chaplain, pastoral care; **Rev Daniel Wolpert**-pastor-clinical psychologist.

COUNCIL NEWS

The Council of the Northern Plains Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks, ND, on Dec 4, 2001. Some of the recommendations that will be presented to the January 24-25 Presbytery include: Changing of the Kenya Task Force to a committee of Presbytery; Allowing Clearwater Forest to solicit funds directly from congregations; Changing the Presbytery bylaws and structure of the Manual of Administrative Operations; Recommendations for action on proposed amendments C, D & G to the PCUSA Constitution.

The Africa partners group will make an hour presentation on their trip the Kenya last year. During the next year the Council will meet with representatives from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies to assist them in their mission review. The Moderator of the 213th General Assembly, **Jack Rogers**, will speak to Presbytery at the April 2002 meeting.

Council has approved a process to evaluate the current Presbytery structure and to complete the 5-year review of the executive

presbyter. A number of members of Presbytery who have held leadership positions will be contacted for their comments during the review process. Your cooperation during the review will be appreciated.

REMINDER: The annual statistical reporting forms will be mailed to each church during the month of December. Please look for them in the mail and give them your attention so that the 100% response we achieved last year can be repeated.

Calendar

12/24-1/1 Holiday Office Closed
Jan 4 Last day for Mission Money for 2001

Jan 10 COM Carrington
Jan 17-20 Rural Plunge
Jan 18-19 Clearwater Forest
Jan 20-22 Synod Mtg

Jan 24-25 Presbytery Meeting, Moorhead

Jan 31-Feb 1 LD Retreat, Maryvale

JOB OPENING

Nine month, half time position at the University of Minnesota Crookston as Director of Campus Ministry beginning mid-August. Prefer bachelors' degree with campus ministry experience. Deadline for applying January 7, 2002, inquiries or resumes:

Pam Holsinger-Fuchs

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University of Minnesota Crookston,
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218-281-8505

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Copy deadline for the LIGHT is the fifth of the month.

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