

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S FALL BAZAAR AND BAKED POTATO LUNCHEON

The Presbyterian Women's Bazaar and Baked Potato Luncheon is scheduled for October 31st and November 1st. Ladies, be thinking about what you can bring for the bazaar. For instance, craft items, sewing projects, baked items, canned items, jellies, and pickles are always big sellers.

We will have the Baked Potato Luncheon on both Saturday and Sunday. Plan to have lunch with us on November 1st after church. Like last year, \$5.50 will buy a baked potato *or* a hot dog, variety of toppings, beverage, and dessert.

This is the biggest money raising project that Presbyterian Women has during the year. We use the proceeds from this event to help youth go to Bible camp or the Spring Retreat at Jamestown. We also support many projects of the Mission Committee. Please help us make it a great success so that we can continue to help those in need.

PASTOR'S PEN

One of the things that I end up doing every autumn, as we shift back into "regular season" mode as a church, start up Sunday School, and so forth, is deciding what book of the Bible will serve as the focus of my preaching for the next several weeks (sometimes months). This is a process that I approach with a combination of keen anticipation, like a kid waiting to see what's in the packages under the Christmas tree, and looming dread, as I worry about choosing the wrong book, missing the perfect time to take up something else, and so forth. Ultimately, though, it comes down neither to my choosing something that I will enjoy studying and working with for



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an extended period of time, nor to my somehow knowing exactly what I think you need to hear. Instead, this annual decision is made, finally, by simply turning over the possibilities and praying for guidance until the Holy Spirit seems to nudge me in a particular direction, so that one possibility keeps coming back to the top of the list more and more regularly.

This season, the choice is to continue with the book of Acts. We worked our way through most of the first six chapters of Acts back in 2004 (though it hardly seems possible that it was so long ago!), in which the stories of the very first days of the church are told. As we rejoin the story, I think it might be useful to learn a couple of things about the book as a whole.

Acts is actually the second volume of a larger work, the first volume of which is our Gospel of Luke. They were both written in the first century, and aimed, like the other gospels, to tell the story of Jesus' life and ministry in such a way as to encourage the faithful and to engage potential converts. Luke-Acts (as scholars often call it) is unique, though, in that it views the story of the church's early years as a direct continuation of the Gospel story, the direct continuation of the story of Jesus. Think about that for a minute: The continuing life of the church is seen not as a separate (and presumably less important) story from that of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord, but rather as the same story. The Good News continues to unfold in the stories of Peter, Paul, and the others that we find in Acts. What's more, a good case can be made that it continues to unfold in the stories that



we are living together right now!

Why do I say this? Well, most students of Luke-Acts would agree that Acts is arranged in a particular pattern that corresponds to the final instruction of Jesus to the disciples in Acts 1:8: "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, all Judaea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Accordingly, chapters 2 through 7 of Acts focus on the church in Jerusalem, 8 through 12 take place out in the surrounding regions of Judaea and Samaria, and 13 through 28 follow Paul and his various companions as they carry the Gospel out into the rest of the Mediterranean world, aiming for "the end of the earth."

But Paul, as we will see, doesn't quite make it to the ends of the earth. In fact, he only gets as far as Rome by the end of the book. The completion of the mission, as it were, is left hanging. I believe that this is intentional, and that the readers are intended to feel themselves called to pick up the torch and continue the work.

That's where we come in. As we read and study Acts together, we will learn a lot about how the church lived and believed and struggled in that earliest period of her life. We will have the opportunity to understand more about what it means to truly be the church—what it takes to be effective followers of Jesus and witnesses to the Good News. And I firmly believe that if we allow our own life and practice as the church to be informed by what we learned in Acts, we will be empowered to make a great contribution to the job that we, along with all our brothers and sisters, have inherited: to be Christ's witnesses to the end of the earth.



SEPTEMBER CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

All except Carrie Leopold, Larry Peihl, and Kent Vail were present. Also present were the confirmands and their mentors: Erica Bahls and Bonnie Thompson, Kailyn Ohm and Linda Bishop, Dustin Richard and Dean Hall, Amber Swart and Mary Jo Moorhead, Evan Thostenson and Steve Hanna.

The confirmands talked with Session about the confirmation process. Session thanks all the mentors for their hard work with the confirmands. Session approved the confirmands to be confirmed on Sunday, October 4, 2009.

Session approved a prayer time to be held either weekly or monthly. This will be a time when people can come in and pray together for the church, the world, and/or other prayer concerns.

Carolyn Meester, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report. It was noted that a large contribution had been donated to the building fund. The church still owes \$6000 for per capita for this year. Session approved the financial report. Session also approved moving the bank accounts to Western State Bank from Alerus Financial.

Carolyn Koerselman was approved as a member by transfer from Lawrence Presbyterian Church, Wendell, MN.

Session approved a request by Halftime by Sherri to hold a potato bake on January 9, 2010 in our church.

Session approved Curtis Brophy's application from inquirer to candidate in his ministerial pursuit. He goes before Presbytery of the Northern Plains in Bismarck on October 2. Support for Curt is asked as he continues in seminary.

Session approved letting Bob Wenzloff sell produce in the church parking lot.

Vicki Riedinger was approved as the delegate to the presbytery meeting in October.

Session approved the request of Lee and Lia Dobrinz to have their son Ezra Larry baptized on September 13, 2009. Carrie Leopold and Vicky Whitcomb will visit with them regarding baptism.

Service and Fellowship Committee members reported that they are still looking for a head usher for the month of March.

Deacons reported that Clyde Van Cleve had been in the hospital and was back home. Ted Martin was now in a nursing home in Ottertail, MN and that his wife Evelyn was still in her home with church people taking turns helping her. Her phone number is 532-0321 for anyone wanting to help. Elinor Meyer will be moving to Bethany Towers in October. Leroy Bowman will be having knee surgery, and Becky DeJong will help his wife Esther while Leroy is laid up. Jim Bjorklund will give Leroy rides for his therapy afterwards.

Session approved holding the first bi-monthly birthday party on Saturday, October 3 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the narthex for all church members having birthdays in September and October.

Missions Committee is gathering supplies for Path for the month of September. It has taken the responsibility of serving lunch at the Salvation Army Saturday every third Saturday to relieve the regulars who are struggling with issues associated with aging. They are waiting to hear from Sharon Secor as to the possibility of sponsoring a teacher in Kenya. They are also looking at doing something for the Tokio church near

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Devils Lake.

Christian Education Committee mentioned that Sunday school started last Sunday and that everything seemed to go well.

The Stewardship Committee thanks everyone on Session for making phone calls about the canvassing meetings. Most of the congregation mentioned they would try to attend one of the meetings.

Trustees has hung four hand sanitizers dispensers in various parts of the church. People have been using them.

There was no report from the Nominations, Personnel, or Worship committees.

Some Stewardship Committee and Session members planned to go to the question and answer meeting in Casselton with Walter Olker, the regional representative of the Presbyterian Foundation, on Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

Pastor Matt also mentioned that in late October, Veronica, President of the Women's Guild of the Presbyterian Church in East Africa, plans to be visiting the Presbytery of the Northern Plains. Stay tuned for opportunities to hear her speak. Also, there will be a chance to host other visitors from Kenya in October, 2010. In addition, plans are in the works for a group from Presbytery of the Northern Plain to visit Kenya in 2011 to do a mission project.

The clerk will be attending the annual review of church records at the Casselton Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 19.

A memorial service for John Sanders, father of Susan Gross, was held here on August 29. 61 people were served communion on Sunday, September 6.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Vicky Whitcomb at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Vicki Peihl

Clerk of Session

PRAYER CHAIN

Sharing our needs and concerns in prayer with our church family brings us closer to one another and lightens our load. If you have a prayer concern for any person or a need, please call Carol Sterup at 293-6603 or e-mail Gayle Thostenson at atgtet@far.midco.net.



Also, it's never too late to join the prayer chain. Just let us know.

**FOOD,
GLORIOUS
FOOD!!!**

Soul Train has recently begun, and an important part of our evening is our meal. We meet on Sunday nights at 6:30 and usually eat at 6:45. Between the MS, HS and youth directors we serve about 25-30 people. If you can help us out by serving a meal we would greatly appreciate it.

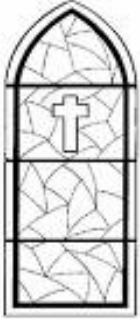
The nights that are available are: November 22; December 6, 13, and 20.

On December 20, we hope to have our Progressive Dinner. For this evening, the MS kids (about 15) would come to your home for a course of our meal. We would like to have drinks, appetizers, main course (Marlys?) and dessert (how does this work for you, Marj and Carolyn?).

Of course, there will be more dates after Christmas but that is a little too far away to plan.

Thanks for thinking of our tummies!

Becky 281-8122; Lisa 282-5308



COMMENTS FROM CURT

Greetings one and all!

Seminary is just finishing its third week, and already I am really busy. So, you will all have to bear with me, as I will just give a small update right now and try to get another full newsletter out hopefully for November.

The big news is on October 2nd I will be going in front of CPM (Committee on Preparation of Ministry) at Presbytery of the Northern Plains to ask for their recommendation to become a candidate within the PC(USA). For those of you who may be unfamiliar with this event, this is the second phase one needs to take to become an ordained minister within the PC(USA). With CPM's recommendation the presbytery will most likely vote me as a candidate. I will then be a candidate for the remainder of my time at seminary until I pass my ordination exams and then receive a call (job offer) from a church when I graduate. This is a big step for me in this process, one in which I have been praying about and thinking over for some time. Please be praying for this process and discernment throughout as I continue on in this process.

As for classes, they are good, but I am busy. I am studying for a Hebrew quiz this week, as I will be every week, and just finished taking a quiz on Luke. The Luke class is an exegesis class in which we translate large parts of Luke from the Greek to English while we look at the context in which Luke was written and why. I also have a Christian Theology class, one of four pastor training type classes, and a class that explores using imagination within the ministry.

Kadra has been working a lot, but is do-

ing well. She was able to visit family a few weeks back in Fargo. They did some painting in her mom's house and went camping. Although she will not be traveling with me all the way to presbytery, when we come, she will be coming to see family. We hope to get a chance to see a lot of our Fargo friends, but, as usual, it will be a quick trip in which we probably will not have nearly as much time as we might like.

Until next time, may God bless and watch over each of you. I thank you for your continued prayers for my family and me. They have been well heard. For those of you who might be curious, my Dad has made a close to full recovery from his accident. My mom tells me almost every time I talk to her that his ear is almost completely healed. God is good...All the time...God is good.

Curtis and Kadra Brophy
brocur@yahoo.com

OCTOBER HIGH SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



Oct. 4 - 5:30-7:30 - Basketball competition. It will be OUTSIDE weather permitting.

Oct. 11th - 6:30-8:30 - Team games at the church. Bring friends!!

Oct. 18th - 6:30 p.m. to about 9:00 p.m. -the annual Haunted Thingy happens!! We are meeting at the church. No dinner at this event. We are asking that you sign-up in advance to get the number of drivers down and a group rate set. Cost will be about \$10 each. Adult volunteers to drive are welcome.

Oct. 25th - HS meeting at the church at 6:30 p.m. We'll discuss fundraisers for the year, and games.



THEOLOGY IN THE BIG APPLE

by Blair Moorhead

How much newsletter space do I get to tell you about my first few weeks at Union Theological Seminary? However much it is, it is not enough. Getting settled into any new school is an exciting time, and Union - with its location in New York City - is no exception. Union Seminary has been a hotbed of religious discussion and social action since it opened in 1836 and has been home to professors like Reinhold Niebuhr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Paul Tillich. The school continues their tradition today, with students greatly engaged in issues of social justice alongside their Church History homework.

Union is not a Presbyterian seminary, but I have made great connections at the Presbyterian institution housed in the same building called Auburn Theological Seminary. Auburn is extremely welcoming and has already set me down to talk about Presbyterian study requirements. The reason I chose Union was because of its strong program in psychology religion - along with everything I just mentioned - supported by a dual degree program with Columbia University's School of Social Work. I have not yet entered the social work program, and you'll know if I stay on that track of study based on whether these updates last three years (no social work school) or four years (social work school).

As I mentioned before, the student body is so excited to be here. They are coming from all across the country, from all Christian perspectives, from all age groups and previous professions. There

are three lawyers in my class! I am just settling down to joining extracurricular activities, one of the most exciting of which is the Interfaith Caucus. Union is housed right across the street from Jewish Theological Seminary, so there is a real opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from students of other faiths.

My classes this semester are all required courses, some required by Union and some by the PC (USA). Yet, all of them are courses I would have loved to sign up for regardless. I think this is a sign that I'm in the right place. I am extremely excited for the years ahead and for the theological challenges that await. As always, I look forward to sharing this new journey with you.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budgeted 2009 giving:
\$165,747.79 / 52 weeks =
\$3,187.46 per week



<u>Week</u>	<u>Budgeted Giving to Date</u>	<u>Actual Giving to Date</u>
9/13/09	\$117,936	\$97,703.

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

The balance of the operating fund loan at this time is \$9,800.00.

We are enabled to give because of who God is and what He has done for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). We can love "because He first loved us (1 John 4:19) As recipients of God's grace and love, we are empowered to share God's gifts with Him and others.

MS SOUL TRAIN 2009-2010



Sports have started; school has started; Sunday school has started, and since it begins with an "S", Soul Train has started too. Traditionally, we have started with a picnic at Matzke's house, so that is what we have done. We have several other exciting events on our calendar so far - some are new and some we do every year.

Soul Train is usually held at the church Sundays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We have dinner with the high school, but the rest of our evening includes activities with just the middle school. We will have short devotionals, meaningful activities, thought-provoking discussions...OK - this is Becky and Lisa-the best we can promise is to not embarrass you too much!

We like it when our group is just the middle school, but several of our beginning activities will include everyone. How can we beat the HS at basketball if they don't join us? How can we watch them scream at the Haunted Farm if they aren't there?

The following is a very tentative schedule so be prepared to be flexible!!

Oct. 4 - 5:30- 7:30 - basketball competition - watch out HS!!! We are starting a little early to make use of daylight. Dinner will be served.

Oct. 11th - Getting to Know You..-This is a game night to get to know each other a little bit better - nothing embarrassing will happen- I promise (fingers crossed; hee,hee).Dinner will be served.

Oct. 18th - Extreme Scream. We are meeting at the church. No dinner at this event. We are asking that you sign-up, in advance to get the number of drivers down and a group rate set. Cost will be

about \$10 each. Adult volunteers to drive are welcome.

Oct. 25th - NDEA - no meeting

Nov. 1st - 6:30 - 8:30 - cookie/soup jar fundraiser - with dinner.

Nov. 8th - 6:30 - 8:30 - interview questions and other stuff - and dinner.

Nov. 15th - 6:30 - 8:30 - presentation from Dave Thompson about his trip to Israel. We will invite other area churches to listen. This should be very entertaining. The dinner thing is on!

Nov. 22nd - 6:30 - 8:30 - Bible Trivia with the Thostensons and dinner.

Nov. 29th - Thanksgiving break- no meeting

Dec. 6th - Wii games with Carey Talley- dinner will be served.

Dec. 20th - Progressive dinner?

April 11th - The Jamestown Retreat - put this on your calendar NOW! You have plenty of warning. Make this a priority!!!

Becky - 281-8122; Lisa - 282-5308.

PW ACTIVITIES

In addition to the Annual Bazaar and Luncheon (see page 1), Fall brings many opportunities for the women of Community Presbyterian to become involved with Presbyterian Women.

Ladies Circle has met once, but there is still plenty of time to join in this year's study of Joshua. Circle meets the second Tuesday at 12:30 at TNT's Diner.

The PW of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains is meeting Saturday, October 10, in Jamestown. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the meeting will run from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$12.00 payable at the door. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Mary Jo Moorhead at 277-1414 by October 1st.

INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN: JEAN SHEELEY

Personal Information

Birth date - November 24
 Birth place - Fargo, ND
 High school - graduated from
 Fargo Central High School
 Occupation - worked in a grocery
 store and a cook at Maple-
 ton School
 Joined Community Presbyterian
 Church - June of 1951,
 Mapleton, ND
 Children - Mike, Beth, Jim, Linda,
 Clifford and Patty
 16 grandchildren

Favorites

Smell - lilacs
 Animal - dog
 Athlete - Dan Marino
 Sound - voices
 Historical Figure - Thomas Jeffer-
 son

Would You Rather

How well do you know Jean? Try to guess which answer she chose for each of the following questions. Her answers will be at the end of the interview.

... kiss a jellyfish or step on a crab?
 ... own a ski lodge or a surf camp?
 ... meet the president of the U.S. or Billy Graham?
 ... always have to say everything on your mind or never speak again?
 ... have an ugly, loyal dog or a prize-winning, snobby cat?

~~~~~

Who is Jean Sheeley? Jean Sheeley is a wonderful woman who we all should get to know. Jean is at the tender age of 80. She has lived through many historical events, such as the Great Depres-  
 sion.

As Jean  
 w a s  
 g r o w -  
 i n g u p  
 s h e  
 a n d h e r  
 b r o t h -  
 e r s  
 w o u l d  
 a l w a y s  
 p l a y  
 b o a r d



games such as checkers and monopoly. She had six brothers so there was always someone to play with. On the rare occasions when she was alone, she did have a couple of favorite toys that she enjoyed.

Jean is a sports fan. When she was in high school she played basketball - although the game was a little different back then! Her favorite sport to watch now is football.

I asked Jean if she could live anywhere in the world where would it be. She didn't give the normal answer like California, Hawaii, or Florida. She said she would live right here because it is safer and she already knows most of the people.

Jean's hobbies are baking and ceramics. Her favorite foods are coleslaw and just about any kind of hot dish. She started ceramics after her husband died and their house burned down. For two hours on Monday nights she could escape and forget it all.

Jean is easy to get along with but her biggest pet peeve is when people don't return their grocery carts to the right place at the store. So, put your cart away or stay away from Jean.

Jean as seen it all - the good and the bad. She was definitely the right person

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for me to interview.

Interviewed by:  
Patrick Talley  
8th grade  
March 8, 2009

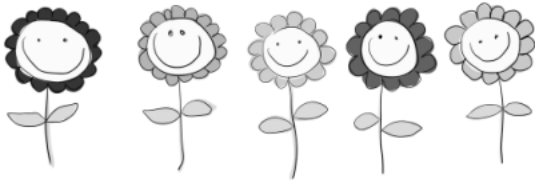
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(Would You Rather answers: crab, ski lodge, Billy Graham, say everything, dog)

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION**



The deacons are sponsoring a birthday party for those who have birthdays in September and October. The party will be held on Saturday, October 3, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the church. Everyone is welcome.



**YOUNGER CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITY BAGS**

The Presbyterian Women have assembled activities for the young children of our church family to be used during worship. They include a book, coloring pages, and crayons plus other various items. They are to be used during church and, then, left on the pew in the back of the sanctuary.

**The
November
Community Call
deadline will be
Thursday,
October 22**

OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 10-2 Delores Horn
- 10-4 Stephanie Corneliussen
- 10-5 Chuck Richard
- 10-6 Sue Hanna
- 10-6 Sonda Pederson
Matt Stith
- 10-7 Jon Carlson
- 10-8 Denny Braaten
- 10-9 David Stedman
Brenda Witt
- 10-11 Rick Chase
- 10-12 Roger Barentsen
- 10-13 Curt Brophy
- 10-13 Carol Braaten
Thomas Pederson
- 10-14 Melissa Kellerman
- 10-15 Esther Nitschke
Virginia Ruff
- 10-16 Rae Irene Kercher
Tom Pederson
- 10-17 Jenni Hummel
Brad Sterup
- 10-18 Michael Richard
- 10-23 Jason Swart
- 10-26 Ron LaCoe
- 10-28 Melissa Kassman
- 10-29 Cody LaCoe
Larry Peihl



ANNIVERSARIES

- 10-4-86 – Lee and Stephanie
Corneliussen
- 10-5-96 – Jeff and Jennifer Jaszkwia
- 10-7-89 - Chuck and Kristen Richard
- 10-9-47 – Tom and Joy Taffe
- 10-13-73 – Lynn and Yvonne Hummel
- 10-14-95 – Ryan and Melissa Kellerman
- 10-23-04 - Wil and Jackie Petik