

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
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EASTER EGG EXTRAVAGANZA

Hop one, hop all for the Easter Egg Extravaganza. Hop on over to the church on Sunday, April 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. for stories, games, crafts and fun. Anyone in preschool through fifth grade is welcome to join in the fun! Sign up in the narthex to let us know that you will be joining us.

Attention Wannabe Bunnies: we need wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Extravaganza. The candy can be dropped off in the narthex any time before April 5th.

BRING OUT YOUR RUMMAGE!



One person's junk is another's treasure. We'll sell you an electric trolling motor even if you don't own a boat!

Presbyterian Men will meet for a short planning meeting on April 2 at 6:30 p.m. to work out the logistics for the April 18th sale at the Veteran's Arena.

If you have rummage to donate, call or e-mail: Andrew Thostenson (701-492-0630 or atgtet@far.midco.net) or Jim Bjorklund (701-282-4942 or Jbjork@l29.net).

PASTOR'S PEN



As I set (virtual) pen to paper this month, it is with my thoughts dominated by water. But, perhaps to your surprise, not first and foremost the considerable surplus of water that we are experiencing right now in the F-M region. Certainly, the impending flooding is a big deal for us, and a serious business. Even the lesser manifestations of the spring melt, like seeping water in basements and half-frozen ponds in the backyard, can be an awful nuisance. But what is most on my mind is, in fact, a disastrous—and potentially tragic—lack of water in Kenya. That nation, so close to our hearts because of our partnership with the Chogoria presbyteries and because of all the connections that we have built

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as so many of our people have visited Kenya over the past few years, is in the grip of a horrible famine, brought on in part by drought. At last estimate, over 10 million people are in imminent danger of starvation in Kenya.

The scale of this threat is mind-boggling. Here, in the words of some of our friends from Chogoria, are some descriptions of how this situation is playing out there:

"We had rains for two days but it is again very hot and dry. The Famine is looming in all parts of Kenya. This is due to crop failure due to insufficient rains in November and December. The Government has declared it a Natural Disaster. We thank God that we can still survive although some parts of the country life has been lost."

*Festes Nkonge
Chogoria Central Presbytery
Jan. 29, 2009*

"The drought which has caused famine is being experience all over but not very bad at Chogoria where there is food though a bit expensive. The feeding programmes in schools are becoming very hard for the parents are not expecting to pay extra money though prices of maize and beans have almost doubled.

Tharaka area is most affected. On Saturday I have plans of visiting Makengi and Iruri Primary Schools which are at the border of our district and Tharaka but worse even more than Tharaka. Last time we were there Millicent had taken bananas to them and I had some materials for the nursery class. I have a few old clothes to give the children and hope to solicit for some food to take to them. Millicent is working with Pamela, a health worker there to take care of health issues since they have to travel a

long distance to Kajiampau for treatment."

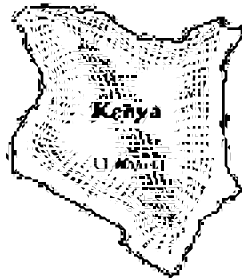
David Mbae, Jan. 1, 2009

"Water levels have gone down and it is quite dry. We sent some clothes left by the Jamestown student nurses to Tharaka on Saturday. On 15th April Chogoria Gideon's Camp will visit an IDP Camp (Internally Displaced Persons) at Mai Mahiu in Naivasha. The churches around have started donating items and we have several bags of old clothing."

*David Mbae
March 15, 2009*

As you can see, our partners in Chogoria are reaching out to help as many people as they can, despite the challenges of drought, government corruption, and the continuing displacement of tens of thousands of people after the election violence of January 2008. The question is, are we going to do anything about it?

At the presbytery meeting of April 24-25, our Chogoria Partnership Ministry Team is going to propose an immediate, presbytery-wide effort to raise funds for famine relief, to be sent to our partners to support and expand their efforts. They know where needy people are, what they need, and how to get it. They can be our hands, putting our resources to work in helping to meet this crisis. More details will be forthcoming. Until we have those details worked out, contributions may be made to the church, with "Kenya famine relief" in the memo line or on the envelope. But, in the meantime, I call on you to pray for Kenya, for our partners, and most of all for those afflicted by the crisis. May God grant us all the will and the way to help relieve the suffering of his children in Kenya.





MARCH CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on Wednesday, March. 18, 2009.

Session approved a request for Bonnie Thompson to hold a movie night on March 28. The movie is Treasure Blind.

Session approved removing Joan Sebelius Levin and Anita Meester Flatt Sunden from the church's roster. Both have joined other churches.

Session approved a request from Blair Moorhead to be brought under the care of Session with the highest recommendation to the presbytery that Blair be enrolled as an Inquirer as she will be attending seminary in the fall.

The trustees reported that they were looking at doing some painting in the kitchen and downstairs hallways and some minor repairs in the downstairs hallway. There has not been any more water issues from the melting snow for now.

Missions Committee reported that One Great Hour of Sharing would run through mid-April for missions.

Worship Committee said there is a possibility that the Sweet Adelines may come to perform on April 19.

Christian Education Committee reported that Soul Train will hold the Easter Egg Extravaganza on April 5 from 2-4 p.m.

Pastor Matt Stith mentioned the conditions in Kenya were extremely discouraging with possibly ten million dying of hunger in the next year. At the next presbytery meeting, organizers hope to raise funds quickly for Kenya for aid. He also wondered if the new Daily Prayer Book by John Bailey was being used and

liked.

The clerk reported that 88 persons were served communion on March 1st. Jack Smith and Kent Vail were ordained and installed as elders on Feb. 22. Also ordained and installed was Carla Vail as deacon.

Vicki Peihl
Clerk of Session

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE

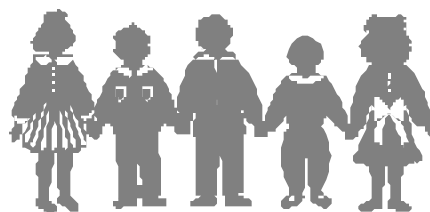


- April 5 – Easter Egg Extravaganza – time TBA
- 12 – Easter Sunrise Service – breakfast
- 17-19 – Jamestown Retreat – ***Our goal is to get every 6th-12th grade student to go.***
- 26 - 30 Hour Famine - Craig Holden
- May 3 -?-dinner served by Marj Meester
- 10 - ?
- 17 - outing with the Thostensons

Please let Becky (281-8122) know if you can help lead on May 3 or 10 or if you can serve dinner on May 10. Thank you very much.

2009 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| April 5 | Palm Sunday |
| April 12 | Easter |
| | No Sunday School |
| May 12 | Teacher Recognition |
| May 17 | Last Day of Sunday School |
| | Senior Recognition |
| | Potluck |



**APRIL DATES
TO
REMEMBER**

BIRTHDAYS

- 4-1 Susan Gross
4-2 Becky DeJong
Molly Nelson
4-4 Ryder Matzke
4-5 Veril Larson
4-6 Kadra Brophy
Josh Corneliusen
Brent Talley
4-8 Hazel Yokom
4-10 Dustin Richard
4-13 Jon Whitcomb
Krista Whitcomb
Leah Whitcomb
4-14 Cathy Birrenkott
4-16 Bryan Riedinger
4-18 Kathy LaCoe
Chris Shone
4-19 Beverly Montgomery
Mandi Montgomery
4-20 Lynn Hummel
4-22 Kaylee VanCleve
4-23 Zaryn Hansen
4-24 Alex Misheski
4-25 Audrey Binger
4-26 Deb Olson
4-27 Emma DeJong
Jack Gellner
Gabriel Steele
Andrew Thostenson
4-28 Lorna Wilkinson
4-30 Delbert Jenner
Carolyn Talley

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4-2-77 – Greg and Carol Sterup
4-3-54 – Bill and Beverly Montgomery
4-9-88 – Dwight and Lisa Steffen
4-13-68 – Denny and Carol Braaten
4-21-79 – Larry and Vicki Peihl
4-30-66 – Larry and Uneva Dobrinz



We're still looking and praying. We'll be calling soon.....

**CAN YOU HEAR GOD'S
CALL?**



Is God calling you to be Sunday School superintendent? As the superintendent, you would have input on all decisions regarding education, work closely with the Christian Education Committee, and receive full and active support from the committee in carrying out your responsibilities. Plus, you'll get to know the many wonderful youth of our church without the obligation of teaching.

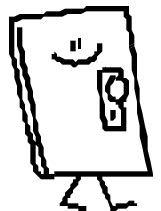
Ask yourself and ask God if He is calling you for this rewarding challenge.

Please call any committee member if you are interested or have questions. They are:

Carrie Leopold, Session Committee Chair	282-9213
Becky DeJong	281-8122
Debbie Matzke	282-9463
Boots Misheski	282-5429
Lisa Steffen	282-5308
Toni Stith	282-2715
Gayle Thostenson	492-0630

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

The opportunity for you to become Vacation Bible School coordinator is at hand. Open this door of opportunity to meet new friends in our community, build friendships within our church, use your God-given talents, spend time with the youth for a day or a whole week, to share the Good News.



We expect to hear from you soon.

Becky, Carrie, Deb, Boots,
Lisa, Toni, and Gayle



FINANCIAL REPORT

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

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>NEEDED GIVING TO DATE</u>	<u>ACTUAL GIVING TO DATE</u>
3/15/09	\$35,062	\$29,113

As of Mar 15, 2009, the year to date actual giving to CPC's general fund is \$29,113 compared to the \$35,062 budgeted for the same time period.

These figures do not include the mortgage payments, which are funded from the building fund money market (Project Open Door giving). Currently we have funds available in the building fund money market to make mortgage payments through June.

Adopt an Expense contributions to date total \$1965.00 to pay toward our loan of \$11,141.00 from 2008.

Please prayerfully consider your contributions for 2009 in order for the church to meet it's financial obligations for this year.

MAY BLOOD DRIVE

Find the HERO in you....

Our May Blood Drive is set for May 5th, from 5-8pm. The blood mobile will be in our EAST parking lot at this time. If you have questions, or would like to sign up for a time slot, please contact Brianne Montgomery at: brianne_montgomery@cargill.com or 701-367-4977. Save a life, be a HERO.



HOW CAN I HELP WITH THE CHURCH FINANCES?

We are ever aware of the financial needs of our church. The costs in the budget can seem insurmountable. Yet, there are tangible ways each one of us is able help out simply by using the gifts that God has given us. You can help by...

..volunteering. Do you have a skill or talent that could help the church? Or time and an able body? In the past and present people have painted, balanced the checkbook, cleaned, did electrical work, fixed the computers, published and folded newsletters, or even maintained the furnaces as a volunteer service to the church. If you have a particular talent or profession which could be useful to the church or in cutting its costs, please contact an elder or trustee.

...giving a little, faithfully. Sometimes a person is blessed with an overflowing checkbook at which time s/he is able to be generous with much. While most of us do not fit such a profile, we can still give a little from week to week, month to month, and it can make a difference. Remember, giving just ten dollars more a month in your general giving to the church is the same as giving one gift of one hundred twenty dollars.

...signing up to use direct deposit. While direct deposits would not necessarily increase your giving, it would allow the church bookkeeper to be able to depend on funds for church bills and, sometimes, avoid the need for borrowing against our cds at the bank. If you already give a certain amount to the church on a regular basis, or you plan to, you would be a candidate for using direct deposit. If you'd like to do this, forms are available in the church office.



March 2009

teen moms

Linda Bass, Director

65 North 3rd Street, Fargo ND 58102 • 701-237-6682

teen
MoMe

Dear Friends,

This is such an exciting time of year for me as I watch with anticipation for the first signs of spring; a robin, buds on the trees, blades of green grass poking through - any signs of new life. This time of year fills me with hope and I am blessed and excited to be able to share this message of hope, the resurrected Lord, with the teen/young moms I work with.

This is an exciting time for the Teen Moms/Young Moms program also. We have been growing rapidly! The pregnancy rate hasn't increased much, it's just more and more people are becoming aware of our program and making referrals. We had ten pregnant teens referred just this past week! We now have four groups that are meeting weekly. We have groups that meet in West Fargo High School and WF Community School and two other groups that meet in the community. Please keep all of these teens in your prayers.

I have been meeting weekly with a group of teen moms who are here from Africa. Many of them have seen and experienced things that we can't even imagine. Most of these teens didn't have the opportunity to go to school in Africa (couldn't afford the tuition and uniform) so they arrived here not knowing how to read or write. All of them share the same goal of finishing school and being able to read, write, and speak English really well so they can help their children to succeed. These teen moms are such an inspiration to me. To see life through their eyes is amazing! Things we take for granted (education, freedom, food and water) they see as blessings and they are grateful for all they have.

Thank you so much for being a part of our team. This ministry would not be possible without your financial support, prayers, time, and encouragement. You make it possible for the staff of YFC to continue to reach young people for Christ. We are facing a challenge. With the increase in referrals and the decrease in donations, we are in need of financial support. Our director, Greg, has asked each staff to try to raise 100% of their salary and all of their program expenses. At this point I need to bring in \$2000 more a month! I truly believe the Lord has been blessing this ministry. He continues to open the doors of schools and sends referrals because these young people need the Lord. I know financial times are tough for everyone. I am asking you to please, prayerfully consider how you can help us to continue to reach out to teen/young moms who need the Lord. Thank you again for being a part of our team and your desire to see young people know the Lord. God bless you.

Love in Christ,

Praise the Lord - beautiful healthy baby girl born last week!