

# COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith  
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## EASTER PROGRAMS

Join us on Maundy Thursday, April 1, when we will gather together at 7 p.m. for a Tenebrae service including the observance of the Lord's Supper.

The church will be filled with activity on Easter, April 4, starting with a Sunrise service sponsored by Soul Train at 8:00 a.m., followed by breakfast served in the fellowship hall. Worshipers are encouraged to stay for the 10:00 a.m. service where we will rejoice in God's victory over sin and death and celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

## SAY CHEESE!

Smile time is here! We will be taking photographs for a new pictorial directory at the following dates and times at the church:

Sunday, April 18, 2010  
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Monday, April 19, 2010  
2:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 21, 2010  
2:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

Please take a moment to make an appointment downstairs after church. Or contact Sue Hanna, Yvonne Hummel, or Jackie Petik with any questions.



## PASTOR'S PEN

A little while back, a colleague of mine who serves a church in another state asked me if I would mind doing a little bit of research for him. Now, asking a Ph.D. like me if he'd mind doing research is sort of like asking an avid golfer if she'd mind getting in 18 holes on a beautiful Saturday morning, so I dug right in. The subject was the use of "Amen" in worship, specifically at the end of hymns, and I was, as far as I know, able to provide the information my colleague needed to address the questions of his congregation. I was a little bit surprised, though, to discover some things that I had either forgotten or never known, and to find that I was inclined to change some of my long-established habits in response to



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what I learned. That's the risk you take, I guess, when you start digging around in the library! Anyway, I want to share a bit of what I discovered, and point out some ways that this new information might lead us to tweak our own practices in worship.

"Amen" is, in origin, a Hebrew word that means something like "so be it," or "that's true," and it has been used as part of the worship of God's people from earliest times. But the specifics of how and when it is used have varied from place to place, from tradition to tradition, and over time. Among Christians, the original and still primary use of the word was as a mark of affirmation or ratification, spoken by the congregation to show that they agree with or second what has been spoken (or sung) by a leader or other individual. Thus, when Paul or John or any of the other apostolic leaders finished preaching, their audience would have said "Amen" to show their agreement. On the other hand, "Amen" would not have been used, originally, at the close of any song, prayer, or recitation that the whole congregation had sung or spoken together, because there was no need for it—the people's agreement was already shown by their participation.

I must admit that, while I was aware of the origins of "Amen," I had never really thought the matter through before, and the exercise got me thinking about my own practices (I don't know if anyone noticed, but it was at this time that I stopped saying "Amen" at the end of my sermons). Among other things, I finally understood why, way back when, my pastor told us that it was the congrega-

tion's job to say "Amen" at the end of the Benediction—it was so that we could concur in the request that God would bless us as we went forth from worship.

Now, if we were going to be fussy and 100% consistent about all of this, I suppose we'd have to stop saying "Amen" at the end of the Lord's Prayer, and all sorts of things that would go against "the way we've always done it." But I don't think anything like that is necessary in order for us to add a couple of good ideas from the fathers and mothers of the church to the way we use "Amen" while we worship together. For example, I invite you to say "Amen" at the end of the Benediction, to show that you also desire God's blessing in the days to come. If you find yourself in agreement with the sermon, or moved by the music offered by our choirs or soloists, show it—give an "Amen" there, too. It won't hurt (I promise!), and no one will look at you funny or anything. After all, you'll be in good company—the company of all God's people from the Temple in Jerusalem on down. Can I get an "Amen?"

# AMEN!

## WEST FARGO'S RING AND SING



Get ready to hear some beautiful music! At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 25, at the Lutheran Church of the Cross will be the Annual West Fargo Ministerial Association's Christian Music Festival.

Prepare to hear selections featuring piano, keyboard, bells, and vocalists. Watch out for some Community Presbyterian musicians as well. It should be a great time to celebrate our Lord with the West Fargo community.



## MARCH CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on Wednesday, March. 17, 2010, at 7:00 pm. All except Vicki

Riedinger were present.

Carolyn Meester, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report. Giving was about the same as last year. The note on the bank had gone up mostly due to the large snow removal bills. So far \$2,440 was paid out this year for snow removal. Fewer than half of all per capita fees have been paid by members. This is less than what was collected last year at this time.

Bonnie Thompson will be the new liaison for Blair Moorhead, one of two seminary students sponsored by our church.

Session approved the request to baptize Emmalee Lynn Babb, daughter of Heidi and Brian Babb, on April 18, 2010.

Session approved letting the Northern Sky Cub Scout District use the fellowship hall and classrooms on April 17, 2010, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for scout leader training. Matt Stith will be at the meeting.

Session approved letting the Kenya Team Mission ask our congregation to help in the funding of airline tickets for delegates from Chogoria so that they will be able to attend the Chogoria Partnership Board meetings this fall.

Session approved the request from the Presbyterian Squares to hold a Spring Brunch on Saturday, April 24, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Trustees have finished installing the countertops in the kitchen. The small water heater under the sink has been repaired. A new vacuum cleaner has

been purchased for \$600. Thanks to work done by Kevin Galt, the main sump pump is now being monitored through the fire alarm. Trustees are watching the basement for water issues from the melting snow.

Worship Committee acknowledged the gift of a grand piano from the Montgomery family. Session instructed the Trustees to construct a platform that will allow the piano to be moved forward as needed to preserve the flexibility of the chancel space for our worship needs.

Stewardship mentioned that the all church canvassing is moving slowly due to the small number of canvassers.

Deacons have set a vase of roses in the narthex with tags for members to record births of babies. There will be prayer chain request cards in the pews that people can fill out and leave in the offering plate. They still need people to sign up for the training to take communion to shut-ins.

Mission Committee is still waiting to hear what is needed to support a teacher in Kenya for a year. One Great Hour of Sharing is about 1/3 of the way to their goal of \$3,000. The mission after Easter will be Clearwater Forest Bible Camp – perhaps sponsoring a “special” student from a different country. Matt mentioned that Youth for Christ/ Teen Moms is in particular financial need.

Service & Fellowship will have a meeting soon. Bonnie Thompson has been updated by Delores Horn.

Christian Education reported the Jamestown Retreat is April 9-11, and most of the youth group will be going. There will be a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday at 8:00 a.m. with breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Session approved the Easter Eggstrava-

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ganza on Palm Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The committee is working with Personnel Committee regarding the position of youth director. On May 23, there will be a potluck and senior recognition.

There were no reports from Personnel or Nominating Committees.

Moderator Matt Stith mentioned that the next Session meeting will include a thirty minute discussion on what is expected from our presbytery and the best way for presbytery to function. He is busy getting information for the General Assembly meeting in Minneapolis on July 3-10. He and Nancy Emerson are discussing the possibility of renting a charter bus to go to see the Dead Sea Scrolls in Minneapolis this summer. The issue of yearly elder training was also discussed. Session approved vacation time for Matt from July 26 to August 4, 2010.

The Clerk reported that there were 123 persons served Communion on Sunday, March 7. Pictorial directory sign-ups for time have started. There is a request from George Buchin, former pastor of CPC, to surprise his wife Lois with a shower of birthday cards for her 80th birthday on March 20.

Meeting closed with prayer by Kevin Galt at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicki Peihl, Clerk of Session

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Relay for Life

\*\*\*Friday, July 30\*\*\*

Stay tuned for more information.

Questions? Contact Brianne Montgomery



## 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 Corneliussen  
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



## THEOLOGY IN THE BIG APPLE

by Blair Moorhead

All Masters of Divinity students at Union take a pair of required courses called Christianity in the City and Religions in the City. This semester I'm taking the second of the two, in which my classmates and I learn about other faiths and visit places of worship to learn about religious practices. Last month we visited a Hindu temple in Queens. The experience was a lively one; many practitioners came to the vibrant temple, and we were able to tour the temple while learning about Hindu gods and worship.

This month's unit focuses on Buddhism, and our first introductory lecture covered the history and tenets of Buddhism. We also delved into the development and rituals of several traditions in Buddhist practice, including a practice called Engaged Buddhism that makes social justice its goal.

Traveling across New York City to visit temples is an adventure in itself. I love leaving campus to explore a new area of the city. Our visit to Queens last month found 30 seminarians trying to locate our bus on a raining and bustling Queens street. I can only imagine what people who lived in the neighborhood thought. Who are all these grad students huddled under umbrellas at our bus stop?

We recently traveled to Chinatown to a Buddhist temple for our second temple visit. Our conversation with the monk at the temple ranged from the difference between the practice of a religion and the study of a religion (a challenging thing for a seminarian to keep in mind) to the way in which the temple engaged

and served its community.

Before I conclude, I have to tell you the story of how we arrived back at seminary after the trip to the Buddhist temple. About half of our class went out to dinner following the lecture at the temple. As we were walking back to the subway, one of our classmates near the back of our group yelled out for us to stop. We turned around, and he had managed to find a stretch limousine that would take all 16 of us back uptown, about 125 blocks north. It was my first and, I would imagine, last time in a limo in Manhattan. Even with multiple elbows in my ribs from my squished classmates, it was a pretty phenomenal ride.

So the adventures continue inside the classroom and out. This semester I am also taking Hebrew, Medieval/Reformation Church History, a Psychology and Religion course, and New Testament. I look forward to seeing where in the city and where in my seminary journey they take me!

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE



April 4th - Easter Sunrise service - TBA

April 9th-11th - \* ***Jamestown Retreat*** \*

April 18th - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Bible Fun with the Thostensons, dinner with Becky and Lisa.

April 25 - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - TAG, dinner with Boots Misheski

May 2nd - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Bowling with the Thompsons. Meet and eat at the Bowler.

May 9th - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Mother's Day activities with Lisa and Becky, dinner by Cary Talley.

May 16th - 6:30-8:30 p.m. - dinner by the Thostensons



## CALLING ALL HEROES

The CPC Blood Drive went so well last year, that they are asking us to do it again!

We had 23 out of 26 slots filled, which is almost unheard of!

LET'S DO IT!

Our Blood Drive is scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. The bloodmobile 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 701-367-4977 or [brianne\\_montgomery@cargill.com](mailto:brianne_montgomery@cargill.com).

Save a life, be a HERO.

## A NOTE FROM THE DEACONS



Spring is often thought of as the time to celebrate new life but at CPC we celebrate new life, babies that is, all year long by placing a rose at the front of the church. In the past, the Deacons have been responsible for seeing to it that the rose is proudly displayed shortly after a baby is born but there have been occasions when we haven't heard about a birth. It gets missed, and for that we apologize.

In an effort to ensure no little one is missed, we have placed a bouquet of roses in the narthex. Attached to each rose is a card that can be filled out with all of the baby's information, including the names of the proud parents. Please feel free to complete the card on one of the roses and display it at the front of the church when you are celebrating the birth of a baby. Bud vases are available and will be behind the bouquet. The rose can then be given to the proud family as a keepsake.

## BRING OUT THE RUMMAGE!



It's Spring, and that means it's time for the Presbyterian Men's Annual Rummage Sale. Proceeds from the sale provide financial assistance wherever it is needed within the church. We rely on many men and women to carry out this enterprise and now here comes your part: we once again need donations of every kind from our church family to make this a success.

We will and have gladly taken almost any rummage. Please look in the garage, basement, and attic for those items that are no longer of use and donate them to the cause. Basically, if it will go through the door, we'll take it!

The sale will be held on Saturday, the 10th of April, from 7:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Arena. We have the large "Community Room" once again which is so handy for dropping off articles. We will be setting up on Friday, April 9th. Items may be dropped off that afternoon and evening on the north side of the Veteran's Memorial Arena. Be sure to enter on 10th Ave., at the delivery entrance of the high school.

A brief (60 minutes or less) organizational meeting of the Presbyterian Men will be held at the church on Monday April 5th at 7:00 p.m. to work through the logistics for the event.

If you have any questions, require assistance bringing in your rummage, and/or want to know how you can volunteer, call on Andrew Thostenson at 492-0630 ([atgtet@far.midco.net](mailto:atgtet@far.midco.net)) or Jim Bjorklund at 282-4942 ([jbjork@i29.net](mailto:jbjork@i29.net)).

## INTERVIEWS BY MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN: DON VAN CLEVE

### Personal Information

Birth date - May 13, 1963  
 Birth place - Alexandria, MN  
 High school - graduated from  
     Casselton High School, ND  
 College - Detroit Lakes, MN  
 Occupation - Mechanical Designer  
 Married - Shelley in Casselton on  
     June 20, 1987  
 Children - Melissa (16- junior),  
     Kaylee (12 - 7th grade)  
 Joined Community Presbyterian  
     Church - 2003

### Favorites

Sport team - Twins  
 Restaurant - Chinese - Lo mein  
 Sport - Baseball  
 Music - light rock  
 Actor - Bruce Willis

### Would You Rather

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

... be a dog named Killer or a cat named Fluffy?

... be saved by Superman or meet Winnie the Pooh?

... always lose or never play?

... have half days everyday or no homework forever?

... be stranded on a desert island alone or with someone you hate?

~~~~~

Don VanCleve is a very interesting person. My family and I are friends with his family and him. Through this interview I learned some new things, and I hope you will too. One thing I learned was that the most unusual thing he has ever eaten was a rattlesnake. He said



his friends brought it over, so they grilled it up. There are more things to learn about Don so keep reading!

Some interesting 'firsts' have happened in Don's life. His first car was a '66 Chevy Impala. The first place he lived after he moved away from home was a dingy basement. The first piece of furniture he bought was a bed.

Growing up, birthdays were usually celebrated with a dinner with the family. When Don was 13, he got to have a bunch of friends come over, so that was special. When Don was a child, his cousins from next door scared him. Fortunately, it's okay now.

Here are some other facts you may want to know about Don:

\*He does not like it when the family sits down for dinner and there are interruptions.

\*He has always been early. This way, people can depend on him.

\*Don has never played a musical instrument, but his daughters certainly make up for that.

\*Unfortunately, Don has never had an embarrassing moment.

(yah right! J)

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\*Don has always wanted to move to New Mexico because it's warmer there.

Don is a really cool guy and I hope everyone gets a chance to meet this awesome dude!!

Interviewed by:  
Amy Leopold  
7th grade  
March 8, 2009

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(Would You Rather answers: dog, Superman, always lose, no homework, someone you hate)



**FARGO MARATHON**

The Fargo Marathon is slated to begin on Saturday, May 22, and CPC Helping Hands will be aiding at Mile 23 once again.

We have gained the reputation of bringing warm encouragement to all—regardless of their speed and distance. Brats, cookies, donuts, and fruit have no doubt started this, but our Community spirit has as well. This is a way to share God's love to many—all in one day.

All people who enjoy hilarious chaos are welcome. Let me know.

Kindest Regards, Dixon Moorhead

**PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT**

It is Community Presbyterian Church's obligation to pay \$41.95 per capita assessment per member (that is, \$12,794.75 for the entire church) to Presbytery of the Northern Plains. Each member is responsible for their own per capita assessment. Each family is responsible for their children once confirmed as well.



If members do not pay their assessment, it must come out of the General Fund! Please pay your own per capita.

**SPRING BRUNCH**



Bring your mothers and sisters and daughters to the Spring Brunch hosted by the Presbyterian Squares at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 24th. We will be looking back and remembering the 50 years we have been in our present building. Plan to join us to share good food, good fellowship, and good memories on April 24th.



**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Budgeted 2010 giving:  
\$167,892.97 / 52 weeks =  
\$3,228.71 per week

	Budgeted Giving	Actual Giving
<u>Week</u>	<u>to Date</u>	<u>to Date</u>
3/14/10	\$35,515.81	\$35,256.56

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

The balance of the operating fund loan at this time is \$8,500.00.

The per capita assessment for 2010 is \$12,794.75. So far we have collected \$5,129.95.

Due to the abundant snowfall this year, we had additional snow removal costs. Hopefully spring is here!

Thank you everyone for your continued contributions to support our church and our mission.

**May's  
Community Call  
deadline will be  
Wednesday, April 21**