

# COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith  
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## HANDBELL FESTIVAL

Join us for a fun spring concert of great West Fargo music on Sunday, May 3, at 3:00 p.m. Community Presbyterian Church, Lutheran Church of the Cross, and DirectoRing plan to celebrate spring with bells, piano, and song. Music forms will include that of traditional worship and "fun" concert pieces. Treats will follow the service.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us on May 17th for a full morning of fun, worship, celebration, and fellowship. During Sunday School, children will celebrate their last day. During the worship service, attendance awards will be distributed to Sunday School students.

Following the service, there will be a potluck along with a time honoring our graduating seniors. This year we will be recognizing Sam Barentsen, Jordan Birrenkott, Emma DeJong, Jenna Olson, Stephani Steffen, and Kayla Videen.

## NEW TIMES

With the ending of Sunday School and arrival of summer (we hope!) comes a change of timing for Community Presbyterian Church. Beginning on May 24, worship services will be held on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.



## PASTOR'S PEN



I write this in the interval between two meetings, one of a committee of the Presbytery and one of the Presbytery as a whole. You may have heard my joke about how Presbyterianism is defined as a series of meetings occasionally interrupted by a worship service, and it does sometimes seem like life in the church is too much taken up by meetings, but I think that, on the whole, our habit of meeting together to make decisions is a good thing—indeed, when you think about it, it gets to the heart of what we believe, and what it means for us to be Presbyterian.

We Presbyterians have not chosen to name ourselves after a particular leader, like the Lutherans. We have not chosen to name ourselves based

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on some point of doctrine or practice, like the Baptists or Methodists. Instead, we identify ourselves by our way of organizing and governing ourselves—by presbyters, or elders.

The essence of Presbyterianism is that the church chooses presbyters—including both elders and ministers—to lead and represent them in the continuing effort to discern God's will. Accordingly, the local church is led by the Session, a body of elders chosen and ordained to oversee all the ministries of the church and the well-being of the congregation. Similarly, the churches also elect presbyters to represent them at the higher levels of church organization, the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. This is a very important aspect of our Presbyterian identity: we recognize that the church is larger than just our congregation, that our ministry and calling extend beyond the reach of just our own members, and that we are part of the body of Christ together with brothers and sisters from many places, called to work together for the spreading of the gospel and the reconciliation of the world. We are what is called a "connectional" church—and that connection is made visible and real first and foremost in the work of the Presbytery.

What does the Presbytery do? Well, a better question would be "What do we do as a Presbytery?", but nevertheless, there are a number of exciting ways that the Presbytery allows us to extend the reach of our ministry. For example,

- The Presbytery enables and coordinates our relationship with the church in Kenya. All of the visits and contacts that members of our congregation have had with Kenyan friends, all of the ex-

pansion of our horizons and new understandings of God's work in the world that have resulted from these relationships, were made possible because of our membership in the Presbytery.

- The Presbytery also provides leadership and support for pastors and congregations in carrying out their various ministries. In recent years, we have enjoyed Presbytery support for our 75th anniversary celebration, our move to internet broadcast ministry, and more. In times between pastors, congregations are provided with pastoral leadership and Session moderators through the offices of the Presbytery, too.

- The Presbytery contributes to the future of the church by overseeing the training and preparation of inquirers and candidates for ministry, like our own Curt Brophy and Blair Moorhead, as well as equipping and training Commissioned and Certified Lay Pastors, like Dixon Moorhead, who often fill pulpits and serve churches who cannot support a full-time pastor

- The Presbytery also provides us with a means to be involved with the discussions and debates that are shaping the larger church. This weekend, we will be debating and voting on some amendments to the Book of Order, part of the Constitution of our church, and through the medium of the Presbytery, our voice will be heard on a national level.

This really only scratches the surface of all that our connectional, Presbyterian church has to offer. If it piques your interest, and you'd like to know more, please let me know, or take a look at the Presbytery web site, [www.northernplainspresbytery.com](http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com).





## APRIL CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Session approved a request to allow the Quilters to sell extra quilts they have made with the proceeds raised to go back to the church and use as needed.

Session approved reinstating Jessica (Peihl) Hill to active membership in our church.

The total received for One Great Hour of Sharing is \$2181.56 at this date.

Worship committee mentioned that teacher appreciation day will be held in May. <Editor's note: See Sunday School Schedule page 7.>

The deacons have elected Linda Bishop to be chairman of the deacons and Carla Vail to be secretary. They are in need of more people to take out communion. Hazel and Hank Yokom have asked to receive communion at their home.

Service and Fellowship said the church softball team will need \$500 for the league. The church will supply \$250 while the team will raise the other half.

Personnel Committee will do some checking on what would be needed to have an intern for the youth group next fall.

Christian Education said Vacation Bible School will be held August 2-6 in the evening. They are still looking for someone to coordinate Bible school.

Trustees are checking into getting a backup sump pump. There have been some minor water seepage issues that have been taken care of as they arise. Also, there will be an unusually high snow removal expense bill due to the

amount of snow that fell in the March snowstorms.

Pastor Matt Stith mentioned that he will be gone the weekend of April 19 and that Dixon Moorhead will be preaching. Matt did not plan to leave until Friday evening due to the funeral on Friday morning for Arlyn Meyer. He also mentioned that he will be taking vacation possibly June 7 and for sure June 14. He had met with Brent Montgomery for a couple of hours to discuss the possibility of a sabbatical next year, perhaps a pilgrimage that would take him back to the Reformation time – to see to important sites in the history of the Reformed tradition in Europe, for a program of renewal, study, and prayer.

The Clerk reported there were 155 persons served Communion on Palm Sunday, April 5; 83 persons on Maundy Thursday, April 9; 125 persons on Easter Sunday, April 12. Rev. David Faulkner was invited to preach in worship at Community Presbyterian Church on March 29.

Peggy Rosenkranz passed away on March 27, 2009. The funeral for her was held at the church on April 3rd. Burial will be at Sunset Memorial Gardens at a later date.

Session approved by e-mail the request by Carol Sterup and Delores Horn that a special offering be taken after the worship service on Sunday, March 29, for flood fighting assistance (possibly to help with the cost of feeding volunteers). \$786.00 was raised at this special offering.

Meeting closed with prayer by Carolyn Meester at 8:40 pm.

Vicky Peihl  
Clerk of Session

**MAY DATES  
TO REMEMBER**

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 5-1 Lee Corneliussen
- 5-2 Tom Kassman
- 5-3 Gloria Ruhnke  
Dwight Steffen
- 5-4 Dawn Chase
- 5-5 Faye Pyle  
Henry Yokom
- 5-6 Steve Hanna  
Marty Matzke
- 5-8 Jane Leben
- 5-9 Carolyn Meester
- 5-9 Cheryl Montgomery
- 5-10 Scott Hansen  
Justin Videen
- 5-13 Larry Dobrinz  
Don VanCleve
- 5-14 Skylar Pederson
- 5-16 Brady Kellerman
- 5-17 Edsel Kercher
- 5-18 Len Misheski
- 5-20 Greg Sterup
- 5-22 Ashley Chase  
Olivia Dobrinz  
Amy Leopold  
Olivia Wilkinson
- 5-23 Melissa Eiter
- 5-24 Bev Christopherson  
Andrew Steele
- 5-25 Barb Grossman  
Mary Jo Moorhead
- 5-26 Reed Montgomery
- 5-27 Vickie Meyer
- 5-28 Cole Chase
- 5-29 Melissa Barenthsen  
Zarissa Hansen
- 5-30 Thomas Meyer

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 5-12-00 - Bob and Violet Galt
- 5-24-03 - Tim and Carly Hager
- 5-29-66 - Len and Boots Misheski
- 5-29-93 - Jason and Jill Swart
- 5-29-04 - Seth and Alicia Whitcomb



**BEAUTIFUL  
RAVISHING  
AUDACIOUS SOCIETY:  
THE NEXT EVENT**



Who can resist 7-up? We will be drinking it and playing it at the next BRA meeting. Come and enjoy the thirst-quenching atmosphere on Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 at Carol Sterup's house.

Please sign up in the narthex.

**FARGO MARATHON**



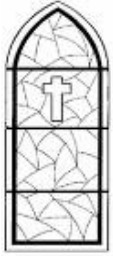
On May 9th from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Community Presbyterian Church will again be running its infamous Aid Station in the Fargo Marathon. With the marathon rerouted due to flood issues, we will be simultaneously aiding at Mile 3, 10, 16, and 23—all in one spot. Our exact location is in front of the Fargo Theater. 100 strong, we will be busy working both sides of the street with Dawson Insurance, KVLV, and the Red Hat Society.

Be prepared to see runners coming, going, coming and going again. We will need many volunteers who will get the much sought after and collectable T-shirt.

In the past, 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



## COMMENTS FROM CURT

April 18, 2009

### Ending the First Year

#### How the time flies...

It seems like we move too quickly. We never look back. We always are thinking about tomorrow. Just like that, tomorrow is already here. Tomorrow: the end of the first year of seminary. Seems like it was only yesterday I was leaving Fargo to come out here to chase a calling, yet it was only yesterday. It was just yesterday that Kadra and I found ourselves in Dubuque, and tomorrow we might find something completely different. Yet, we need not worry about tomorrow. Because just as God supplies the birds and the trees, so also he will provide for each and every one of us. So by all means, here's to tomorrow.

#### Most Recent Updates

We have found that being so far away from family, at times, can be hard. We have been praying for family and friends in Fargo, as they continue to fight off high waters. We have been praying for our family and friends in Colorado, where my uncle just went into rehab in enduring a hard divorce and continually trying to get over drug addictions. Still, here we are in Dubuque, where we are enjoying warmer temperatures and beginning to say goodbyes to the seniors and their families here at seminary. Kadra continues to work in the NICU and is getting over strep throat. I have two full weeks left of the semester, then finals; then will start my chaplaincy internship. The world keeps spinning, and we keep praying.

#### The Round up

For Easter, Kadra and I had the opportunity to take a bit of a break, and head up to Kim and Chuck's (Kadra's Aunt

and Uncle) house in the Twin Cities. Trips are always fun and exhausting, but like always, it is good to see Kadra's family



and catch up. The picture is from left to right Kadra, Emily (sister), Karen (mother), Curtis, then Kaley (younger on Emily's lap), and Madeline (very front). The front two are Karen's foster children that she has had for a couple months now. Like most foster children, they can be a lot of work. Yet, I find it interesting in light of Easter. In complete darkness, Jesus sprung forth in new life. Much in the same way, these children have been from house to house and experienced much darkness, yet, like Jesus, a stable household can spring forth new life. Kaley and Madey are two very cute kids and take a lot of work, but they are worth it. They are two of all of humankind that has taken a lot of work, yet, God sees us as worth it.

Seminary, in many ways, has been challenging. Faith shouldn't waiver, but there are times where I find myself in doubt and look to the cross for redemption. At Easter, we found ourselves once again at the foot of the cross, then to the grave, but Jesus wasn't there. He was on his way to meet up with the disciples, and even though many of the disciple's faith had waived, it was at this time that Jesus brought redemption. We are challenged a lot, but from the ashes, there is always life.

Curtis and Kadra Brophy  
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## INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN: CATHY BIRRENKOTT

### Personal Information

Birth date - April 14  
 Birth place - Fargo, ND  
 High school - graduated from  
 West Fargo High School  
 College - MSUM  
 Occupation - teacher  
 Married - Tom in Fargo, ND on  
 June 4, 1988  
 Children -  
 Jordan (17 - senior)  
 Taylor (15 - sophomore)  
 Cami (6 - 1st grade)  
 Joined Community Presbyterian  
 Church - confirmed in high  
 school

### Favorites

Season - Summer (summers off!)  
 Music - country and 80's music  
 Favorite household chore - putting  
 away the dishes  
 Least favorite household chore -  
 cleaning my room  
 Restaurant - any seafood espe-  
 cially shrimp

### Would You Rather

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

- ... find true love or \$1 million?
- ... get first dibs or the last laugh?
- ... eat a bar of soap or drink a bottle of dishwashing liquid?
- ... have a pie-eating contest or a wheelbarrow race?
- ... snowboard in the winter or swim in the summer?

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I interviewed Cathy Birrenkott. I asked Cathy what her least favorite job was that she ever had. She told me that when she was a kid she had to hoe the



trees with her dad. She said it was bad because there were a lot of weeds to hoe!

I wondered what school was like for Cathy. On Cathy's first day of school she said she was afraid but more nervous. She told me that she took the bus. She had two older sisters who went to her school so that probably helped make her a little more comfortable.

On her birthdays she had homemade cake and her mother would make her what she wanted for dinner – which was usually pizza! On her 16th birthday she woke up and there was a big banner for her. Some other interesting things that I learned about Cathy were:

- Her most embarrassing moment was when she was teaching. She tripped over a cord and all her students laughed at her!
- Cathy went to England. She got to have dinner in a castle! She said that she had turtle soup and a lot of really bad food. It was the worst thing that she had ever had.
- Her uncle taught her how to drive at a really young age because she grew up on a farm.
- She used to play the piano. She doesn't anymore because she never got very good at it.
- In high school, her hang out spot was at the Hardees. All the people in her grade would go there after the game. She said sometimes there would be 100 people in there at one time!

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Cathy is a really nice person and fun to talk to. If you don't know her I would recommend getting to know her!

Interviewed by:  
Brandon Hanna  
8th grade  
March 8, 2009

(Would You Rather answers: true love, last laugh, bar of soap, wheelbarrow race, swim in the summer)

**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> |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4/12/09     | \$47,812                       | \$40,106                     |

As of Apr 12, 2009, the shortfall is \$7,706.

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 for May, June and part of July.

Adopt-an-Expense contributions to date total \$2307.00 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.

**2009 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR**

- May 10 Teacher Recognition
- May 17 Last Day of Sunday School
- Senior Recognition
- Potluck



**MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUL TRAIN SCHEDULE**

May 3 - 6:30 - 8:30 -

Meeting with Moorhead - don't forget to bring your Box Lunch!

May 10 - 6:30-8:30 - Dinner and Bingo - bring three wrapped presents from home - do not buy anything from the store.

\*\*\*\*Anyone from the church that would like to play Bingo is welcome to join us. We will start playing at 7:00 - don't forget to bring three white elephant presents!\*\*\*\*

May 17 - outing with the Thostensons

**VBS IS COMING!**



It's now official, Vacation Bible School will be coming to Community Presbyterian Church the evenings of Sunday through Thursday, **August 2 through 6**. We want everyone to have a chance to participate, to share in the fun, to spend special times with young and old of our church along with some neighborhood youngsters, so mark your calendars now before it's too late.

In addition, we ask that you prayerfully consider your role in helping with VBS. Watch for lists in the narthex this month to sign up. If you forget to sign up then, be prepared for a call from the Christian Education Committee in June.

Help us make this a special time for the youth and others to grow in our Lord.

**The June Community Call Deadline will be Thursday, May 22**