

COMMUNITY CALL

Ministers: The People of God; Pastor: Rev. D. Matthew Stith
702 Sheyenne St., P.O. 546, West Fargo, ND 58078 701-282-4135 E-mail: office@cpcwf.org Web: <http://cpcwf.org>



**COMMUNITY
Presbyterian Church**

Sunday Schedule

- Christian Education 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
- Worship 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
- Coffee Fellowship 11:00 a.m.

Worship Service is Broadcast
Live at: <http://cpcwf.org>

Reverend Doctor D. Matthew Stith, Pastor



702 Sheyenne Street Telephone: 701-282-4135

WATCH OUT FOR NEW TIMES!

Beginning on Sunday, September 13, Sunday School for all ages (That means babies, children, parents, AND grandparents are welcome!) will recommence at 9:00 a.m. followed by worship at 10:00 a.m.

WEST FEST ACTIVITIES

On Saturday, September 19, during West Fargo's West Fest, don't forget to stop by Community Presbyterian Church. In the parking lot, there will be a brats, hot dogs, chips, beverages, and treats for sale. All proceeds will go to music education.

If you can donate bars or other items, please contact Dawn Larson (281-1174) or Carrie Leopold (notuffda@aol.com or 799-5623) for details.



PASTOR'S PEN



In this space, I often reflect on whatever topic, idea, or issue I've been thinking about in recent days, hoping to share with you some of whatever is piquing my interest at the time. This month, though, my topic is more one of necessity than of whim. It's not so much what I want to talk about, as something that we need to talk about—We need to talk about money.

I have heard various expressions of concern: that the church is completely out of money, that we can no longer purchase supplies, and even that we are going to close our doors at the end of the month. I am happy to be able to assure you that none of these things are true. However, that is not to say that the church's financial picture is perfectly rosy. The funds that have so generously been given to

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support the expansion of our building (Project Open Door and P.O.D. II) were placed in a separate account and used to pay for the construction and to make payments on the mortgage. As of this writing, these will be used up in making September's mortgage payment. At that point, the monthly mortgage payment of \$3,146.54 will have to be paid out of our general fund, and while the Session, Treasurer, and Stewardship Committee have worked very hard to make the most out of our resources, we simply don't have that much extra money per month lying around. The bottom line is that we need to substantially increase our income in order to meet the commitments we, as a church, have made to the service of God and the spread of the Gospel in our community and in the world.

Of course, just announcing that we need more income doesn't make it happen. There are no magic tricks for this purpose, nor has a money tree sprouted behind the parking lot. The church is dependent upon the generosity, the joyful giving, of her members. And I am fully confident that that generosity will see us clear of our current situation.

The oldest stewardship joke in the book goes like this: The pastor stood up one day before his congregation and said, "I've got good news and bad news. The good news is that there is plenty of money to fund all of the church's missions and programs, to meet all our obligations, and to pay all the bills. The bad news is that it's still in our pockets" (I said it was old, not that it was all that funny!). I would suggest that this minister is only half right: both of those things he mentions are actually good

news!

It is good news that God has blessed us so generously. We are, by the standards of the world and of history, among the richest people ever to walk the earth. It is also good news that we have the opportunity to put more of those gifts to use in God's direct service through this church that we love. We are invited to be important, tangible participants in the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Gospel of God's boundless love and mercy. How awesome is that?

Now I know that the details of our finances vary from person to person, family to family, and even from month to month. I know that sometimes it seems like there just isn't another cent so spare for anything. But I also know that God has promised us that he will provide, and that he is committed to his church, so that we can and will support and even expand our support for our ministry.

In the coming months, each member and regular adherent of CPC will be contacted as part of an Every Member Canvass, which is being planned by the Stewardship Committee at the direction of the Session. In these contacts, we will learn more about the fiscal side of the church's operation, celebrate what we are already giving for the service of the Kingdom, and be given the opportunity to commit to a new level of financial participation in the ministry of CPC. I look forward to seeing our generosity shine forth once more!

THEN SINGS MY SOUL!

Choir Practice begins at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 17th. Join us. We look forward to singing God's praises with you.



JULY CLERK'S CORNER

Session met on Wednesday, July 22, 2009, at 7:00 pm.

All except Vicki Riedinger, Carrie Leopold, and Carolyn Meester were present.

Matt presented the financial report for Carolyn Meester, Treasurer. It was noted that there are only funds in the treasury for the August mortgage payment. Discussion was held on what the next step should be in order to keep from borrowing on the mortgage. Ideas included asking each family to give \$30 more each month or doing a canvas of all the church's families regarding the needs of the treasury. A motion was approved to plan a canvas of all the families.

Session approved a request from Delores Horn and Gloria Ruhnke to hold a bridal shower for Amy Grossman on August 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Service and Fellowship are in need of a new head usher for the month of March due to the resignation of one of the head ushers.

The deacons have visited with Judy McLeod. She has asked for communion to be brought to her. There have been no requests for meals or rides at this time. The birthday party for this fall are still being planned.

The Stewardship Committee had nothing new to report.

The Worship Committee would like to thank Dixon Moorhead for filling in while Matt was on vacation in June.

The Mission Committee plans to do a food drive for the Salvation Army for the month of August.

The trustees are in the process of replacing ballasts in the lights in the older

part of the church. They also have the final design for the church sign. It will be put up this month.

There were no reports from Personnel or Christian Education committees.

Pastor Stith reported that the special offering funds for Kenya were now in Kenya and being put to good use. He plans to use a vacation day on August 14 and to take Oct. 21 – Oct 27 off for his last week of vacation. He also asked for study leave November 20-25 to attend the Society of Biblical Literature annual meeting in New Orleans.

The clerk reported 64 people were served communion on Sunday, July 5.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Vicki Peihl at 7:30 p.m.

Vicki Peihl, Clerk of Session

AUGUST CLERK'S CORNER



Session met at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 19, 2009. All except Vicki Whitcomb and Melissa Eiter were present.

Carolyn Meester, treasurer, presented the financial report. It was noted that there are not enough funds in the treasury for the September mortgage payment at this time. There was a large contribution given to Adopt an Expense in August.

Session approved a request from Carol Sterup and Dawn Larson to hold a bridal shower for Jenna Barentsen on Sept. 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Pastor Matt mentioned that the Presbyterian Church in Casselton had invited Walter Olker, the regional representative of Presbytery of the Northern Plains, to their church for a question and answer meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009,

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and had invited our congregation to come out to the meeting.

Matt reported that a church member had asked about the possibility of a non-profit group using the kitchen to do a potato bake. Questions arose about needing a deposit fee, the date of the event, and whether the group understands that food must be prepared off-site. Matt will find out more information before a decision will be made.

Session approved a request from Dawn Larson and Carrie Leopold to sell brats during West Fest and to use the profits for the music fund.

The trustees have replaced half the ballasts in the lights in the older part of the church and plan to replace others as the need arises. The new church sign has been installed outside the building.

Worship Committee had several names of congregational members that could fill in the pulpit when Pastor Matt is gone. They also discussed what to do with the threat of swine flu. The trustees will purchase several hand sanitizers to place in the nursery, kitchen, and narthex.

The deacons would like to start to host birthday parties in September and hold one every other month. Discussion was held as to when the best day of the week would be. It was felt that a weekend day would be better attended than a weekday.

Christian Education Committee reported about VBS: they had 30 participants this year. Changes that could occur for next year were also discussed. Further attention was given as to how Sunday school classes would be divided this year and scheduling music to the last 15 minutes of Sunday School. The youth

group will have their first official gathering on Sept. 27 with a hayride. Confirmation Sunday will be on Oct. 4.

Approval to switch to the fall schedule on Sept. 13 was given by Session.

Pastor Stith will be meeting with the Stewardship Committee on Friday, August 21, to begin plans for the all church member canvassing.

There were no reports from the Nominations, Personnel, Service & Fellowship, or Missions Committees.

Pastor Stith mentioned that there will be a special meeting of the presbytery on August 26. He is also working on another grant proposal. At the September Session meeting, the confirmation class will be attending with their mentors.

The clerk reported 86 people were served communion on Sunday, Aug. 2.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Chuck Richard at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vicki Peihl, Clerk of Session

PRAYER CHAIN

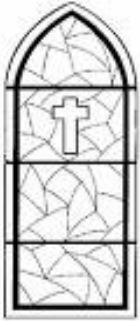
Sharing our needs and concerns in prayer with our church family brings us closer to one another and lightens our load. If you have a prayer concern for any person or a need, please call Carol Sterup at 293-6603 or e-mail Gayle Thostenson at atgtet@far.midco.net.



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

AFTERNOON CIRCLE

Afternoon Circle will recommence meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at TNT Cafe on September 8th at 12:30. Our new book, entitled Joshua, A Journey of Faith, a Horizon Bible study, will be dispersed at that time.



COMMENTS FROM CURT

August 16, 2009

UDTS: Round Two

Summer Time Blues

I would like to tell you all that I have had a great summer, am rejuvenated, and am ready for my second year of seminary. But, if I were honest, I couldn't be more burned out. I am on the heels of my summer chaplaincy and find myself worn out, ready for a break. Yet, the break is about over, year two is about to begin, and I feel completely unprepared. At the same time, according to a bunch of veterans here at the seminary, year two and three are more interesting, less specific, and they begin to form us as pastors. So, here's to the forming process, however painful it may be.

Most Recent Updates

Is it really August already? Is it really even about the end of August? I have no idea where the summer went, or the months in between my last newsletter. I thought I would take a break, but my break turned into quite the coma between these newsletters. So, as for updates, here is the quick and the easy. Chaplaincy came and went and I am left reeling. Kadra is working a lot; the NICU is still very busy, and it seems like we never see each other. New people are moving in left and right here at the seminary, and I tend to be horrible at names. And finally, I am getting very involved here at the seminary helping with anything from Chapel setup, to sound, to welcoming new students, as well as being a peer guide. All in all, we are busy.

The Round up

This summer has been a time of forma-

tion. The Bible talks about the wheat and the chaff, separating the fruit out of our lives and getting rid of the nonsense—so do I wonder if this summer has not been exactly this. With chaplaincy in the back of my mind, I went out to visit Colorado and family. The first day I was there, my grandpa was in the ER for bleeding in his stool and throwing up in reaction to a test he had done a couple days before. He ended up going home, but is still recovering. My brother-in-law then found himself in the same ER with a kidney stone being in some of the worst pain a male can feel. Kidney stones are the one thing doctors compare to child birth for a male. Then, and most recently, my dad was involved in an accident in which a six axel truck collided with his two ton pickup. The pickup is totaled, but somehow he only came out on the other end with cuts, bruises, a partially severed ear, and no memory of the events directly before, during, and after the accident. The first thing he remembers is the paramedics speaking to him while he was being removed from the vehicle. Thankfully, he is alright. I thank you for your prayers.

I realize that this newsletter is a bit depressing. This summer has been a pain, those times where life is difficult. I do not pretend to be satisfied, but I do continually focus on the ever faithfulness of our Lord; even, if at times, I and we are not faithful in return. Still, in the Dark Knight we are told that the night is darkest just before the dawn. It was in the morning hours we hear that Jesus' grave was found empty. It is then in the dawn that we find salvation....Amen.

Curtis and Kadra Brophy

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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>
8/16/09	\$105,186	\$88,232

As summer comes to an end and we reflect on the financials of the church, let us prayerfully consider our contributions to the ministries of the church in order for us to successfully serve the Lord our God.

After the September mortgage payment is made, the money pledged and collected that was put in the building fund will be all used. In order to continue to make our mortgage payments, the money will need to come from the general fund. The mortgage payment is \$3,146.54.

Adopt-an-Expense contributions to date total \$6,207.00 to pay toward our loan of \$11,141.00 from 2008. The current loan at the bank is at \$11,000.00 for 2009.

If you have questions about this financial information, please contact the treasurer (Carolyn Meester) or any of the Stewardship Com. members (Kent Vail, Andrew Thostenson, or Steve Hanna).

YOU ARE INVITED!



Please join us for a BRIDAL SHOWER for Jenna Barenthsen, which will be held at our church on Wednesday, September 23, at 7:00 p.m.! Jenna will wed Ryan Kahly on October 24th.

FROM THE DEACONS:



Once again the Deacons want to say "Thank You" to all of you who have provided meals to members of our congregation over the past few weeks. Not only are Presbyterians good cooks but they have a generous spirit as well! If you or someone you know is in a situation where having some meals brought to their home would be helpful, please contact Karen Steele or Shirlene Johnson to make a request. If you happen to know any diet restrictions or particular likes/dislikes, that information would also be beneficial. As always, if you would like to be on the list of people who are willing to provide meals, you can do so by contacting any one of the Deacons.



PW FALL BAZAAR AND BAKED POTATO LUNCHEON

The PW Bazaar and Baked Potato Luncheon is scheduled for October 31 and November 1. 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. As last year, \$5.50 will buy a baked potato *or* hot dog, a variety of toppings, beverage, and dessert.

This is the biggest money raising project that the PW has during the year and we use our money to help youth go to Bible camp, Spring retreat at Jamestown, and support the projects of the Mission Committee. Please help us make it a great success so that we can have the money to help those in need.

INTERVIEWS BY MS SOUL TRAIN: CHUCK RICHARD

Personal Information

Birth date - October 5, 1956
 Birth place - Moorhead, MN
 High school - graduated from
 Fargo Shanley High School
 College - NDSU - 2 years
 Joined Community Presbyterian
 Church - 2003
 Occupation - works for the Fargo
 Forum
 Married - Kristen in Fargo in 1989
 Children - Pat (16 - junior)
 Dusty (14 - freshman),
 Michael (11 - 5th grade)

Favorites

Athlete - Wayne Gretzky
 Restaurant - Buffalo Wild Wings/
 pizza places
 Sport - Hockey
 TV Show - Paperchase, CSI
 Smell - fresh baked apple pie

Would You Rather

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

... have 1 song playing in your head forever or have to say "like" before every sentence?

... be a deep sea diver or an astronaut?

... publish your diary or make a movie about your most embarrassing moment?

... meet an alien visitor or travel to outer space?

... be able to hear one conversation or take back one thing you said?

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Hi, I am Kaylee and I interviewed Chuck

Richard. When he was a kid he hung out at school and the playground. He remembers there being a lot of kids hanging around and playing basketball.



When I interviewed Chuck he told me some of his pet peeves. Chuck's pet peeves are litter, his kids not doing what they are told, and being unorganized.

When he was a kid he was always late, then, when he got older he started to never be late, and when he was 27, he was always early.

When he was in school his favorite subjects were Life Science and Biology. When Chuck was in school he did not like math.

Chuck has had many different jobs. He worked as a bus boy, painted houses, worked at the fair, and he was a soldier in the army. Chuck's worst job was hoeing yards. He got that job from Job Services. It was so terrible because of the long hours in sun.

Chuck's first car was a 1969 Ford pickup. He got it from an ad in a newspaper. He bought the car from the money from his jobs. He eventually ended up selling it.

When he had his birthday parties they just had cake and ice cream with his siblings. His hobbies are that he likes lots of sports. The most energizing mo-

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ment is when the work sergeant sent him on a wild goose hunt.

Interviewed by:

Kaylee Van Cleve

7th grade

March 8, 2009

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(Would You Rather answers: 'like', astronaut, diary, alien visitor, take back one thing)

**FOCUS ON MISSION**

So far this year, our mission projects have been very successful, thanks to a very caring and generous congregation. We were able to give Linda Bass and the Teen Moms \$586. The One Great Hour of Sharing campaign brought in donations totaling \$2707. When the area flooded in March and April, a special collection and other donations for the Salvation Army totaled over \$800. The suffering of our sister congregations in Kenya due to drought and famine touched the hearts of our congregation and others in the Presbytery. Community Presbyterian Church led the way in helping them by giving \$1550. The blue and purple totes overflowed with food for the Food Pantry, backpacks and school supplies for the United Way, and food/hygiene items for the Salvation Army. THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Mission projects coming up in the next few months include PATH and the New Life Center. The Youth for Christ banquet takes place in late October.

Please remember the young missionary family, Andy, Kari, Elizabeth, and Josiah Downer, in Cameroon. The Mission Committee and our congregation have been supporting their work at the Hopital de Mesquine in Cameroon. They spent

eight months in France learning the French and Fulfulde languages and arrived in Cameroon in February, 2009. They plan to be there for three years and rely on contributions from sponsoring churches, friends, and family for their support. If you want to make a donation to Andy and Kari, use the pew envelopes and designate it to the Downers.

The Mission Committee has taken on the responsibility of serving lunch at the Salvation Army on the third Saturday of each month. We can always use more help! If you want to be a part of this important mission, let us know. Members of the committee include Kevin Galt, Dave Ruhnke, Mary Jo Moorhead, Carrie Leopold, Bonnie Thompson, and Vicky Whitcomb. Come and help out on September 19, October 17, November 21, and Christmas Eve.

**RELAY FOR LIFE A SUCCESS!**

This year's Cass County Relay For Life was a huge success. We got off to a rainy start, but we stuck it out!! Relay raised over \$76,000!!! Money is still coming in, so the exact total is not yet known. Thank you to everyone who participated, gave money, made luminaria bags, and provided entertainment. CPC had many members play music, sing, and even perform with dowel rods! We are very excited to see what next year's Relay brings!

Brenda and Brianne

**BIBLE STUDY**

On Wednesday, September 9, all are welcome to meet with us in church conference room at 10:00 a.m. for an hour of Bible Study and fellowship. We'll be looking at the book of Daniel in a study by Chuck Swindoll.

## SUMMER TRUSTEE TALK



The trustees focused on three main projects this past summer. Two were planned, and the third was in response to a potentially disastrous situation with regards to some of our older lighting (from the 1960's). In July, one of the ballasts in a fluorescent light fixture in the nursery ruptured, and the heat was so intense that it had the potential to start a fire. (This was the fourth ballast to fail in the past year.) Subsequent inspections throughout the rest of the building found several other ballast that were overheating as well. The good news is that the trustees were able to replace them without incident. We are also planning to replace the rest of the old ballasts (the ones that are still functioning normally, but are nearly 50 years old) over the next year.

In May and June, the trustees sprayed weeds and seeded grass into the area near the dumpster. (It is located where the old dike was worked down last fall.) The seedlings are off to a good start, and we are mowing weeds weekly and will spray the broadleaf weeds again this fall. We should have a nice grass stand by next spring.

This past fall, the trustees began planning to replace the reader sign near the northeast corner of the church. Thanks to a gift, we were able to commission Sign Pro of West Fargo to put together a new sign. We installed it in early August. (See a photo of new sign on page 1.)

This fall the trustees are planning on doing some work in the kitchen. More on this in future issues of the Community Call.

## SEPTEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

- 9-1 Andrea Comeliussen
- 9-3 Clyde Van Cleve
- 9-4 Ryan Bastle
- 9-6 Meghan Hanna
- 9-6 Bruce Steele
- 9-9 John Wilkinson
- 9-11 Jenna Barentsen
- 9-12 Gordy Pederson
- 9-13 Ann Chale  
Parker Nelson
- 9-15- Danielle Swart
- 9-16 Dale Matzke  
Vicky Whitcomb
- 9-17 Lee Dobrinz  
Ed Sheeley  
Shelly VanCleve
- 9-18 Paula Wilkinson
- 9-19 Debbie Matzke
- 9-21 Jordan Faircloth
- 9-23 Uneva Dobrinz
- 9-25- Joan Hall  
Louise Johnson  
Ted Martin  
Jerad Wilkinson



### ANNIVERSARIES

- 9-3-49 – Roy and Louise Johnson
- 9-7-63 – Delbert and Donna Jenner
- 9-10-60 – Jim and Marlys Martin
- 9-17-05 - Justin and Jessie Hill
- 9-18-54 – Dale and Gail Matzke
- 9-21-96 - Ken and Julie Faircloth
- 9-22-79 – Bob and Deb Olson
- 9-25-93 – Brent and Carolyn Talley
- 9-26-97 - Derek and Carrie Leopold
- 9-29-79 – Veril and Dawn Larson

**The  
October  
Community Call  
deadline will be  
Thursday,  
September 24**