

The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead | Established in 1872 | July 2009

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY



The Fourth of July has always marked the beginning of the real summer. The weather, especially this year, generally has not yet reach into the hot territory, the water temperature in area lakes hasn't warmed to a point were the less adventuresome of us will go swimming with comfort and most people have their summer vacations ahead of them. That does not mean that all activities at first church are about to go on hiatus. Join with members and friends in the upcoming activities

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Inserts

July Calendar
August Calendar
Word Search

- July 2 Picnic at Nancy's (Youth grades 8-12 + graduates)
- July 8 Trip to Thunder road (grades (5-7)
- July 12 Praise Band – Clay county fair
- July 16 Trollwood Theater
- August 6 Red Hawks baseball
- August 25 Church Picnic

Thursday's noon – Yarn club

Summer office / Nancy's Vacation Schedule

Office hours (July) Tuesday – Friday 9am – Noon
 July 16-25 Nancy Vacation
 July 26-31 Nancy Continuing Education
 August 10-16 Nancy Vacation

The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

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Our mission is to be a caring community of God's people who live by Christ's teachings, reach out to others to share the love of God, and celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, thought, and action.

CAPITAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS FALLING BEHIND

S-O-S FROM THE CHURCH TREASURER

A cash-flow problem has arisen in relation to the Capital Fund. Contributions have lagged to the point that we're having trouble meeting the regular monthly loan payments. We ask you to take a close look at your Capital Fund pledge, and keep it up to date. If you can spare an increase to the amount you pledged (for three years, this being the last year of that pledge), our church budget will benefit from that action. Thank you on behalf of all of us on the Financial/Stewardship Committee.

Tom Dowdell (701-526-3485 e-mail: tomphyl@cablone.net)



Pastor Nancy's Summer Schedule

During July and August Pastor Nancy will be taking some vacation and continuing education time. She will be gone the following dates:

July 16-25 Vacation
July 26-31 Continuing Education
Aug 10-16 Vacation

If a pastoral emergency arises during these times, please contact the church office (233-1192), an elder or deacon, or contact Rev. Matt Stith of Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo (282-4135).

Youth Summer Events

for youth in grades 8-12 (as of fall '09) plus our recent graduates --

Join us for games & supper & s'mores

Thursday, July 2

6:00 - 8:00 pm

at Pastor Nancy's house, 823 22nd Ave. South, Moorhead

for youth in grades 5-7 (as of fall '09) --

Join us for some summer fun at Thunder Road

Wednesday, July 8

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Please meet at the church by 6 pm. We will then head out for a fun evening at Thunder Road.

Please bring \$5. Friends are welcome.

Parent drivers are needed - call Barb at 236-0889 or email to bgmw54@aol.com

Thank you doesn't begin to cover it...

We want to express our appreciation to Jess and Bill Lenarz and Matt Osborne for their volunteer leadership of our youth groups over the past several years. Due to life demands these three outstanding role models and caring individuals have decided they need to give up their leadership roles in our youth ministry. We have been blessed to have Matt, Jess and Bill sharing their time, energy, insight and faith with our youth. Jess and Bill plan to lead the older youth church school class this fall. The CE Committee is in the process of searching for new leaders for our two youth groups. Please continue to support our efforts with your prayers -- and/or suggestions.

Summer Nursery

Child care for little ones during the 10:30 am worship service is an important part of our church's hospitality to families attending worship, both members and visitors. Please consider taking a turn providing care for children in the nursery during the summer. If you are able to help with this aspect of our church's ministry please sign-up on the bulletin board outside the nursery or contact Barb Worman at 236-0889 or by email at bgmw54@aol.com Caregivers should plan arrive at 10:15 am. Thank you!

Flood Relief Update June 22, 2009

A Presbyterian Disaster Relief grant of \$1,500 has been requested from the denomination for expenses related to preparing for the 2009 flood. Thanks go out to the presbytery's Flood Relief Task Force for forwarding our request on to the denomination.

Thanks to much work by Jim Winter, an application was made first through FEMA and then through the Small Business Administration for a disaster related loan to help with parking lot repairs. At the writing of this article, we have not yet heard back from the SBA regarding our application.

As most of you are aware, our parking lot was already fragile to begin with this spring. On March 25th, the city of Moorhead used our lot as a staging area for semis loaded with sandbags for the neighborhood. Throughout the morning these semis came into the lot, turned around and waited to be dispatched. At any single time there were as many as five semis parked in the lot. This was more than the fragile asphalt could bear, and we are now left with significant breaks and an increased number of potholes. We have heard many comments from congregation members regarding the increased damage that can be seen (and felt) as one drives in the south lot.

Bids to replace the lot at this time range from \$125,000 to \$135,000. Both Buildings & Grounds and Stewardship & Finance are working on a plan to address the issues, and we will keep the congregation informed of our progress.



DOROTHY DAY FOOD PANTRY

Due to the request of the DDFPantry, our church will be volunteering on Monday evenings instead of on Thursdays. For the month of June, please consider donating some time on either June 22 or June 29 beginning at 6:30 p.m. It is only necessary to have a total of six volunteers at a time so if we divide our volunteers in to a couple of days that will be very helpful to them.

Summer time is a very busy time for the F-M shelters and DDFPantry. So our help is as important as ever. Please consider helping us out one day a month, if possible.

Our dates for July will be July 6 and July 27, so mark those dates as well. However, I will keep you abreast of upcoming dates in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions, please give Lisa Mark a call at 588-4380. Thank you very much.

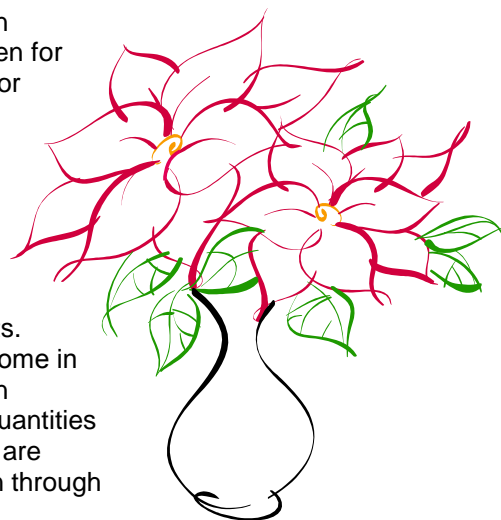


Flower Ministry

Are you aware that our church has a Flower Ministry? Ken Covey has been heading this Outreach Ministry of our church for years. We want to thank Ken for his many years of hard work on this. (We also want to thank Grace Covey for her many hours of hard work with Ken on the Flower Ministry.) Ken is stepping down, and Nancy Herman & Mary Skalet are stepping up.

The Flower Ministry is an important Outreach Ministry of our church. Flower Arrangements arrive at the church from families who have used Wright Funeral Home & Cremation Service and Korsmo Funeral Service, both of Moorhead. The large floral arrangements are broken down into small bud vases, totaling approximately 110 arrangements.

These vases are then taken to Nelson's Retirement Home in Moorhead, Evergreen in Moorhead, Fairmont East in Moorhead, Eventide in Moorhead, and others as quantities allow. The used vases, which the staff keeps for us, are collected and brought back to the church. They are run through the dishwasher, and stored for the next time.



Nancy and Mary are trying to get a list of people who would be willing to drive from the church to a nursing home, drop off the flowers, pick up used vases, and return the vases to the church. This may happen once a month, twice a month, or more. You would not have to drive every time if we get enough people willing to donate time. Even if you can only help once in awhile, that would be appreciated. Don DeJong made carrying cases for these bud vases, so transporting them into the building will not be a problem.

Nancy and Mary ask that you pray about this, and really consider helping out by putting your name on the driving list. Ken has always done this part mostly by himself, and we would appreciate other from the church stepping up and helping out. Please give Nancy a call on her cell phone at 763-258-4967, or Mary at her home phone of 218-235-5559 to let them know that you can help out.

This job can be anytime during the week. Funerals have no set time or day, so it will usually be last minute.

Another way you can help is to spread the word to families that you know are going through this time of mourning in their lives. Having a place to send the flowers, and not having them at their homes, is a way to go on with the grieving process. The people, who see these flowers in the nursing homes, are people who usually don't get flowers. What a wonderful thing these families are doing by celebrating their loved one in the sharing of these floral arrangements!

The Deacons want to see this Flower Ministry continue. Please pray about it even if you can't drive. Your prayers will help those of us working in this Outreach Ministry.

Nancy Herman

Mary Skalet

Excerpts of a Letter Received from Rev. Kirimi

Regarding the Drought in Kenya

The Rev. Joseph Kirimi sent the following letter to Sharon Secor in response to our Presbytery's desire to raise some funds for famine relief in the Chogoria communities. Our particular sister church is Kajiunduthi located in Chogoria South Presbytery. Please be in prayer for our sister congregation as well as all the people of Kenya

Pastor Nancy:

Dear Sharon (Co-Moderator of the Chogoria Partnership Ministry Team of the Presbytery of N. Plains),

I greet in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am indeed very sorry for taking a very long time to reply to your email. We were very excited to learn that you are fine and more so you have been praying for us. The rain came and stopped just when the beans were maturing and we had to solemnly watch as the maize started withering. It is yet another difficult time a head of us. At least we have some beans and we thank God for this. Learning institutions are hard hit too.

We need to start planting again in September for the rains to start in October for the beans to mature around January 2010 and maize April 2010. Please continue praying for us...

In the North Presbytery we have very badly affected areas like Kaare, Makengi and Iruri where some children had left school due to famine. In Central we have areas such as Kajiampau and in the South we have Mumbuni. The way to make every presbytery feel satisfied is share the amount equally and for sub committees to make sure that the money goes to the needy in those areas. All the marginal areas will be in great need for planting materials soon and some children will need support to go back to school.

May the Good Lord Bless you mightily.

Rev. Joseph Kirimi Mwarania
Moderator Chogoria North presbytery
Chairman- Partnership Board

The Flower Ministry of the church is in need of your help.

We need people to sign up as drivers. You will be called when we need to transport flower bud vases from church to Moorhead Nursing Homes. Nancy Herman & Mary Skalet are the ones to call. Please give Nancy a call on her cell phone at 763-258-4967, or Mary at her home phone of 218-235-5559 to let them know that you can help out. This job can be anytime during the week. Funerals have no set time or day, so it will usually be last minute. You would not have to drive every time if we get enough people willing to donate time. Thank you for your help. ☺



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

Peterson, Dillon	1
Kelsh, Jacqueline	3
Lundquist, Jack	7
Jefferson, Leola	10
Cook, Andrew	11
Rath, Lyle	11
Peterson, Tyler	12
Hawkins, Alex	14
Hawkins, Garrett	19
Evenson, Gabriel	21
Dowdell, Tom	22

Pettus, Carolina	22
Rosenfeldt, Austin	22
Winter, Marlys	22
Turner, Jesse	24
Conrad, Sara	27
Ellingson, Tracy	29
Long, Mary	29
Larry, Myah	31

Anniversaries

Bancroft, Vern & Elizabeth	8
McKaig, Mitchell and Kathy	16



Red Hawks Game August 6

Invite a friend and join other members of
First Presbyterian for an evening at the
Ball park.

Contact Mary Skalet for information
and
Ticket reservation

Reverend Michael Burns accepts new Call

Former pastor Rev. Dr. Michael Burns has accepted a new call as Pastor and Head of Staff at Providence Presbyterian in Fairfax, Va. Reverend Burns will first fill the pulpit on July 12 and has been a pastor at Northbrook Presbyterian for seven years.

