
The First Epistle



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established in 1872 • August 2010

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Christian Education Committee

Due to vacation schedules, the CE Committee has moved their August meeting to Tuesday, August 24th at 7 p.m.

The date has been set for the Alternative Gift Market. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 20.

Interim Pastor Hired

Reverend John Anderson was hired as our interim pastor by session on July 20th. We are looking forward to fellowship, worship and growing in the next year with John and his family.

John and his wife Lorraine are originally from this area and have three children ages 21, 17 and 10. John attended United Seminary in St. Paul and has currently been serving in three churches in the Lisbon, ND area.

Many of our congregation might have met John when he led our worship on July 11th. We are pleased to welcome John and his family to First Presbyterian.



Gifts for Nancy Emerson

As Nancy Emerson leaves the service of our church, First Presbyterian is giving her two gifts. The first is a tree for her garden, with the planting to be done by our church youth. The second gift will be a contribution from First Presbyterian Moorhead to the scholarship fund that has been set up in her father's name at St. Catherine University.

These in fact will both be true gifts, paid for by whatever funds the congregation wishes to give, rather than paid from the church budget.



With Gratitude

You may contribute in a couple of ways, by cash or check. Cash donations may be placed in an envelope marked "Nancy's gift," or bring it to LaVonne Langord in the church office on weekday mornings. Checks should be written to First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, with a note on the memo line that says

"Nancy's gift," or directly to the "David E. Emerson Achievement Award Fund,"

Donations will first go towards her gift of a tree, and then any remaining amount will go as part of our gift to the scholarship fund. On behalf of Session, thank you for whatever you would like to add to these funds.

The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

2900 Fifth Street South, Moorhead MN 56560

<http://www.firstpresmhd.org>

218-233-1192

E-mail addresses

Pastor John Anderson, interim blibbers@aol.com
Church admin@firstpresmhd.org
Barb Worman: BGMW54@aol.com
Newsletter articles: bugandtim@msn.com

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.

Dorothy Day Food Pantry

We will serve MONDAY, AUGUST 23 AT 6:15 P.M. Please consider serving the 4th Monday of each month with your church congregation. It is great fellowship and helps out the pantry in a very important mission. We cannot do it without you!

If you have any questions, please contact Marilynn Woods at 236-9917.



August Birthdays

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Elise Nelson | Aug. 3 |
| Kenneth Covey | Aug. 4 |
| Jan Turner | Aug. 5 |
| Richard Pemble | Aug. 6 |
| Mary Rosenfeldt | Aug. 7 |
| Srdjana Alijaj | Aug. 8 |
| Larry Alderlink | Aug. 12 |
| Margaret Martin | Aug. 12 |
| Hannah McKaig | Aug. 12 |
| Mitchell McKaig | Aug. 13 |
| Delores Johnson | Aug. 14 |
| Trygve Rorvig | Aug. 19 |
| Sydney Mjoen | Aug. 20 |
| Terry McGillivray | Aug. 21 |
| LaRae McGillivray | Aug. 23 |
| Greg Akason | Aug. 24 |
| Dzeljana Alijaj | Aug. 24 |
| Brayden McLean | Aug. 26 |
| Judith Ortez | Aug. 26 |
| Walter Worman | Aug. 26 |
| Zenepa Alijaj | Aug. 29 |
| Larry MacLeod | Aug. 29 |

Summer Nursery

We are in need of caregivers to staff the nursery during worship in August and Labor Day weekend. We've had two or three little ones in the nursery most weeks this summer. Please consider helping provide this service for parents of young children. You may sign up on the sheet posted outside the nursery or call Cheri Martin (701-261-6360) to volunteer. Thank you!

Road Construction

Street reconstruction will be occurring in the neighborhood of the church over the next couple of months. Access to the church at times will be "tricky"! BUT we will not be deterred and we will be OPEN! The first portion of the street project will involve Brook Avenue and will cut off our north parking lot. If you can't use the north parking lot, use the south parking lot. There is a door "bell" on the brick wall at both entrances. Ring that during office hours and someone from the office will open the door for you. 5th Street will be done in August. 30th Avenue will be done in sections. Please be patient with this project. Brook Avenue will be open when 5th Street is redone and we will have access to the North parking lot. Drive carefully and see you in church. Maps of the reconstruction project are posted.

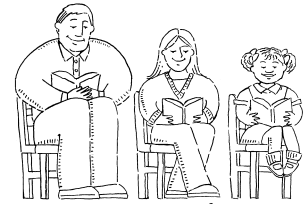
Youth Triennium

On Sunday, July 18 we commissioned Ehrin McKaig and Molly Ecker to represent our church at the Youth Triennium. They returned to Moorhead on July 26. Hopefully they will give us a full report in our next newsletter.

Church School

Mark your calendar! Our fall schedule of church school classes for all ages will resume on Sunday, September 12th. We hope to see you at church school at 9:15 am on the 12th!

The Christian Education committee is currently seeking adults who feel called to share their time, energy and faith with the children and youth of the church. Age groups for church school this year will be: Preschool/Kindergarten, grades 1-3, grades 4-7, grades 8-12. Jess and Bill Lenarz are taking a break from church school teaching this year so we are also seeking need new leadership for the grades 8-12 class. Thank you, Jess and Bill, for your many years of working with our older youth!



There's a Class for You!

There will also be several adult class opportunities this fall:

- The adult Bible study will begin the year with the theme: "The Inescapable God." This study will shed a spotlight on a relentless, loving God as seen in the experiences of Moses and the Hebrews and their covenantal relationship with God.
- The Topics class will explore the life of the church's earliest mission efforts as they examine the personalities and actions found in "The Acts of the Apostles" and discover their message to the church today.
- The Timely Topics group will meet to discuss and share reflections on a variety of topics and issues.

Consider making time in your week to join one of these groups and explore your faith more deeply. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 12th.

Thank You For Your Support!

From the Dorothy Day House: We at the Dorothy Day House would like to thank you for your gift of \$75. It is contributions and community support such as this that allows us to continue our mission of serving the hungry and homeless.

Thanks – Guests and Staff

This gift was from the children's Church School offerings.

From the Village Family Center: Thank you for your part in choosing to positively impact the lives of children and families in our community. Through your gift of \$121, received on June 8th, 2010, in support of Nokomis Child Care Centers, you are playing an instrumental role in shaping the organization and providing for its longevity. We value your support.

Gary Wolsky, President & CEO

Jane Greminger, Program Director

This gift was from the Pentecost offering.

Summer Produce Sales

Thanks to the Martin family and the youth group, garden produce will be available for purchase starting in the next few weeks. Sweet corn, beans, beets will be ready in August, winter squash later in the season. To place an order, please sign up in fellowship hall or call the church office. First come, first served. Supplies will be limited (our corn crop didn't germinate as we had hoped). Funds raised will support youth ministry at First Presbyterian of Moorhead. Thank you!

Thanks for the Donation of Flowers

A huge thank you goes to Richard & Beverly Biever for their donation of the beautiful flowers at the entryways of the church.

News and Events

Pastoral Search

The session has met with Presbytery people and a member of the Committee on Ministry. Decisions facing session at this point are:

- 1) A mission self study will be done: this is a visioning process and we look to our church members for input in this endeavor. The goal is to complete this mission self study by October.
- 2) The Pastor Nominating Committee selection will be starting soon. If you think you would be interested in serving, contact Walt Worman
- 3) A congregation meeting will be called when we have nominees for the Pastor Nominating Committee - they must be elected by the congregation.

So we have a lot of work to do in the next few months. Please be patient. It is a long process to discern who will be called to be our next pastor.

Youth Leader Position Open

Community Presbyterian Church has an opening for a Youth Leader, starting in August 2010. The individual applying for this position should have:

- *A genuine commitment to Christ*
- *A good familiarity with the Bible*
- *An ability to articulate Christian faith*
- *Respect for teenagers and familiarity with youth culture*
- *The ability to communicate effectively with youth, and*
- *Public speaking abilities*

The position is salaried with the expectation of 5-7 hours/week commitment (likely Sunday evenings). To apply, please email a letter and resume to Vicki Riedinger at riedinvi@mnstate.edu, or mail a resume with cover letter to the church at:

Community Presbyterian Church
702 Sheyenne St.
West Fargo, ND 58078

Stewardship and Finance

Contribution Income sagged a bit during June, but is still positive in relation to the budget to date. Income is 5.6% ahead of budget, an amount of \$8307. Expenses are right at 50% of the yearly budget; so right on track. Pay ahead on your pledges. It helps down the line.

Capital Budget needs our help. Only half of the monthly payments were received in June. Pledge payments and gifts to the Capital Account are needed now.

KEEP IT COMING!

Tom Dowdell, Treasurer

Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide

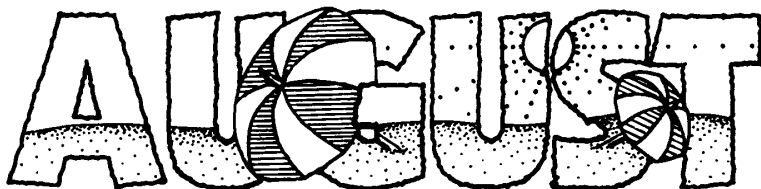
The Assembly voted to renew for two more years a denomination-wide church growth emphasis titled "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide." The emphasis was first adopted by the 2008 General Assembly and encourages congregations to grow in four areas:

Grow in Evangelism: Share the good news of Jesus Christ. Invite persons to join in the church's worship and fellowship. Baptize children and adults.

Grow in Discipleship: Rediscover Scripture, including daily reading and study. Nurture relationships with Jesus Christ in the context of our Reformed heritage.

Grow in Servanthood: Stand alongside the wider community to promote the well-being and love of neighbor. Embrace stewardship in all of life.

Grow in Diversity: Welcome everyone. Learn from others. Reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of God's peoples in the world.



General Assembly 2010 in Brief

Below are some of the major highlights of the General Assembly held in Minneapolis.

1. Action to approve the new Form of Government:

What happened? What changed?

The General Assembly voted to recommend a revised Form of Government to the presbyteries by a vote of 468 in favor, 204 against, and 6 abstentions — a 70%-30% margin. The new Form of Government includes:

- Foundations of Presbyterian Polity — the principles that are foundational to government, worship, and discipline for the PC(USA) — preserves the vast majority of the material in the first four chapters of the current Form of Government.
- Form of Government — in six chapters, which spells out the constitutional framework for government of the PC(USA) as it seeks to respond to God's call to life in mission.
- Advisory Handbook for Councils for the Development of Policies and Procedures — required by the Form of Government as an aid to councils (governing bodies) of the church for developing the policies and procedures to carry out their mission.

Nothing has changed until a majority of presbyteries vote to approve this new Form of Government. Voting must be completed by July 10, 2011, and if affirmative, the new Book of Order would take effect the next day.

What does it mean?

The current Form of Government has served the church ably over the past quarter century. The bedrock historic principles of Presbyterian governance will continue to order our lives together today and into the future, just as they have guided those who witnessed before us. At the same time, the world in which we as 21st-century Presbyterians proclaim the gospel is not the world of the 1950s, or even the 1980s. The proposed Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and Form of Government are intended to help the church better meet the needs of mission in the 21st century. The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity gathers together in three succinct chapters the historical and theological provisions that have defined, and continue to define, our church life together. Placing this bedrock material into a separate section of the *Book of Order* provides an excellent teaching tool to explain who and what we are. The current Form of Government has evolved over the years from a Constitution into a regulatory manual that attempts to provide a "one size fits all" answer to every situation faced by congregations and presbyteries. The problem with this regulatory approach is that the diverse, multicultural environment in which we do mission no longer permits a "one size fits all" approach if we are to do mission effectively. The proposed new Form of Government lifts up the constitutional standards that are essential to our life together, while at the same time empowering councils (governing bodies) at all levels to respond more effectively to the ministry and mission needs that each faces.

What's next?

The revised Form of Government must now be considered, and approved by a majority of presbyteries, before July 10, 2011, in order to replace the existing Form of Government.

Where can I learn more?

The document, as amended by the Assembly, is available now at the [PC-Biz website](#). A formatted version will be developed and made available online and in hard copy.

2. Actions on issues of civil union and Christian marriage:

What did the General Assembly do? What has changed?

General Assembly 2010 in Brief

(Continued from page 5)

The General Assembly approved both the final report and the minority report of the Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage and ordered they be sent out for study by the wider church. The vote was 439 in favor, 208 against, with 6 abstentions. By this action (sending both reports for study) the Assembly maintained the definition of marriage as between “a man and a woman.” With the action to send the reports for study, no change has occurred, or is pending.

What does it mean?

The special committee report provides descriptive material on the historical and theological aspects of marriage, as well as a look at current laws on same-gender partnerships and their children, and the place of same-gender covenanted relationships in the Christian community. They commend to the church their covenant, “Those Whom God Has Joined, Let No One Separate” as a guide for Presbyterians to come together to discuss difficult issues when there is disagreement. The minority report, also approved for study by the Assembly, concludes that Scripture is clear that marriage is between a man and a woman only and does not support any kind of sexual behavior outside heterosexual marriage. The minority report also contains a covenant for the wider church to use.

What next?

The special committee report and the minority report will be prepared for distribution as one document to the wider church. By sending both reports to the wider church, it is the hope of the Assembly that Presbyterians will find helpful background information on civil unions and marriage, as well as material to help individuals and groups remain together as they work through these difficult issues.

3. Actions on Middle East peace issues:

What did the Assembly do?

The General Assembly approved a comprehensive report on the Middle East — its first since 1997. The General Assembly also approved the report of the Mission Responsibility through Investment (MRTI) committee.

What does this mean?

Coming into the 219th General Assembly (2010), few thought that agreement on issues relating to the Middle East would be possible. Diverse perspectives divided Presbyterians from each other, and from the Jewish community. However, during the committee deliberations and again in the plenary session, through God’s grace, a place of broad consensus was found — common ground for continued peacemaking work in Israel/Palestine.

The General Assembly rejected immediate divestment from Caterpillar in favor of continued corporate engagement with Caterpillar and other companies profiting from the sale and use of their products for non-peaceful purposes and/or the violation of human rights.

What’s next?

A Monitoring Group for the Middle East will be formed to assist the appropriate General Assembly Mission Council offices and the Middle East staff team in monitoring progress and guiding actions to ensure adequate implementation of policy directions approved by this General Assembly. MRTI will continue to engage Caterpillar, and other companies, in relation to particular actions whereby the company profits from “non-peaceful action” of their products.

Where can I find out more?

<http://www.pcusa.org/middleeastpeace>

<http://www.pcusa.org/mrti>

Please replace the front page of your latest Church Directory with the updated information on the following page:

First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead – Information

ADDRESS

2900 5th St. S., Moorhead, MN 56560

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Church Secretary | 218-233-1192 |
| Pastor John Anderson, Interim | (cell) 701-540-7705 |
| Barb Worman – Christian Education Director | 218-236-0889 |
| | (cell) 701-367-9498 |
| Cortez Galmore – Youth Director (Gr. 8-12) | (cell) 773-864-0687 |
| Scott Ecker – Youth Director (Gr. 4-7) | (cell) 701-730-0687 |
| Diane Wray-Williams – Music Director | 218-236-5663 |
| Martha Wheeler – Chime Choir | 218-233-6461 |
| Joni Lordeman – Organist | (cell) 701-730-6118 |

EMAIL ADDRESSES

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Church | admin@firstpresmhd.org |
| Newsletter Articles | bugandtim@msn.com |
| Pastor John Anderson, interim | blibbers@aol.com |
| Barb Worman | bgmw54@aol.com |
| Cortez Galmore | CJGalmor@cord.edu |
| | Galmore@hotmail.com |
| Scott Ecker | eckersc@mnstate.edu |

Websites

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Church | www.firstpresmhd.org |
| Presbytery of the Northern Plains | www.northernplainspresbytery.com |
| Synod of Lakes and Prairies | www.lakesandprairies.org |
| PCUSA | www.pcusa.org |

First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead
2900 Fifth Street South
Moorhead, MN 56560

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