
The First Epistle



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

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There will be no July newsletter.
The deadline for the August
newsletter is July 23.



Pastor Nancy Emerson Resigns

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with mixed emotions that I write this letter to you today. Last night (May 11) I announced to Session my intention to resign as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead.

As most of you know, my father was recently hospitalized with acute kidney failure. While he is now home and has responded well to treatment, we are learning that the root cause may be a non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Tests to-date have been inconclusive but if cancer it is treatable, and that is very good news. He is the third family member in just the past year to experience a traumatic illness. As I have found my way through the wilderness in all of this (sometime leaning heavily on God and sometimes having very difficult conversations with God), one thing has become very clear; I need to make a significant life-change in order to spend the quantity and quality of time with my family that we all desire to have with each other.

I am not going far away. In fact, I will continue to reside at my home in Moorhead, and I have accepted a permanent teaching position at North Dakota State University. Even though I will be nearby, I will not be able to continue in any pastoral role with the members of the congregation.

It has been a joy to be your pastor for nearly seven years. You have been extremely gracious and kind. Thank you for opening your hearts to my family, especially to my parents who feel as at home here as they do in their own congregation.

We will have several more weeks together. I expect that my last Sunday will be June 27 and my last day of work with you June 30. A pastor's leave can often invoke anxiety. The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry will be with you every step of the way as you go through the process of calling your next pastor. In the meantime, begin praying for that person, whomever it may be, and pray for yourselves as well.

I will leave First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead trusting that God will be with you in every moment of every day. Again, thank you for your gracious love and care.

With love in Christ,

Pastor Nancy

*At the May 23 congregational meeting, members voted to sever the pastoral call.

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.

Needs for Vacation Church School

Speaking of the sea, we are in need of some supplies to borrow to enhance our High Seas Adventure activities.

- rope or cording (white)
- lanterns (old fashioned type)
- nautical décor (buoys, large shells, life-saving ring, etc)
- fishing net (ring type with handle)
- metal buckets
- hanging wire basket
- toy fish or other sea creatures

We will return these to you. Here are some items we could use for crafts, if you have any tucked away in your "stuff":

- sea shell
- jewels or mosaic tiles (with flat backs),
- clear plastic plates or platters (with smooth flat centers)
- old white bed sheets
- sand
- lemonade mix
- honey nut cheerios
- raisins
- M&M
- mini-marshmallows
- napkins,
- bagels (mini size)
- fish crackers
- bananas, apples, oranges.

Please sign up for a specific donation on the clipboard on the table outside the sanctuary or contact Cheri Martin. Thank you for your support of Vacation Church School!

Dorothy Day Food Pantry

We will serve Monday, June 28 and July 26 at 6:15 pm. 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.



Discover the Creative Spirit!

A special presbytery meeting has been called for Fri. June 11th & Sat. June 12th at Jamestown College. Many things are planned that promise to make this time both an important presbytery meeting and an opportunity to “discover the creative spirit” and see where that leads us!

Our agenda includes prayer time, Rev. Sue Coller, as a keynote speaker, several different workshops, lunch both days and a barbecue in the Courtyard on Friday evening. Cost is \$40 for meals and housing, or \$20 for meals only. We will begin at 11 a.m. on Friday and adjourn at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday. Registration deadline is June 4th. For more information or to register go to www.northernplainspresbytery.com, or contact Laurie Elhard at 701-772-0783

June and July Birthdays



Youth

Congratulations to our Graduates!

- **Brock Ellingson** from Fargo South on May 30th. Brock is the son of Tracy Ellingson & Dean Ellingson and grandson of Milt Olson. Brock will attend Iowa Central Community College on a golf scholarship to study business.
- **Hannah McKaig** from Moorhead High on June 6th. Hannah is the daughter of Mitchell & Kathy McKaig and granddaughter of Jim & Myrna Beattie. Hannah will attend the University of Minnesota in the Twin Cities to study biochemistry.
- **Nick Wheeler** from Moorhead High on June 6th. Nick is the son David & Martha Wheeler and grandson of Kathryn Schnaidt. Nick will attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to student musical theatre.
- **Kathryn Gilroy** from high school in Lawrence, KS. Kathryn is the granddaughter of Jim & Marlys Winter.
- **Andrew Hohncke** from Hillcrest Academy High School in Fergus Falls. Andrew is the grandson of Ross & Ruth Matthews.
- **Cameron Nelson** from high school in Creede, CO. Cameron is the son of Craig & Trish Nelson.
- **Matthew Cole** from MSUM in Biology on May 14th. Matt is the grandson of Tom & Diane Wray-Williams and the son of Cindy Wray Lowe.
- **Dana Erickson** from the University of Minnesota in Mortuary Science on May 14th. Dana is the daughter of Jay & Bonnie Erickson.
- **Samantha Herman** from Jamestown College in Nursing on May 8th. Samantha is the daughter of Nancy & Bill Herman.
- **Matthew Langager** from St. Cloud College. Matthew is the grandson of Arlene Langager.
- **Jesse Turner** from MSUM in Construction Management on May 14th. Jesse is the son of Farrell & Jan Turner and grandson of Dick & Jacque From.
- **Ross Preston** from Grinnell College. Ross is the grandson of Tom & Phyllis Dowdell.
- **Tyza Anderson** from Minnesota State Community & Technical College in Moorhead in Business Management. Tyza is the granddaughter of Vern & Liz Bancroft.



Vacation Church School – June 7-10

In just two more weeks (Monday, June 7) it will be time to set sail on our High Seas Expedition. Be sure your kids & grandkids are registered to be a member of the crew! Invite a friend or neighbor to join the adventure! Registration forms are available on the table outside the sanctuary. Please return the registration forms to the church office by June 1st.

Get ready for a swashbuckling adventure through God's Word, and discover that God shows his powerful love through Scripture!



News and Events

The Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit at the Science Museum of Minnesota June 29th

"Tour guides" Rev. Dr. Matthew Stith and Rev. Nancy Emerson will be leading a one-day excursion to the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit. We will take a coach bus from West Fargo and Moorhead to St. Paul for this one day adventure. The cost is \$55 for transportation and the entrance fees to the museum and exhibit. (Meals not included).

A word about the Scrolls:

After their initial discovery by a shepherd in caves along the shores of Israel's Dead Sea near the ancient settlement of Qumran, archaeologists have excavated and pieced together thousands of scroll fragments into more than 900 separate



documents - from biblical manuscripts and commentary to religious legal writings. These ancient Hebrew writing fragments are now archived and conserved by the Israel Antiquities Authority and, on rare occasion, are put on public display at world-class museums. (*Science Museum of MN Press*)

Release)

In addition to the one-day trip to see these ancient writings, we will host an orientation to learn more about these scrolls prior to our excursion.

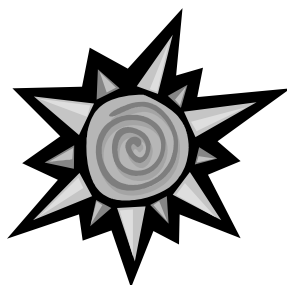
Call First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead (218-233-1192) or email fpresbyterian@integra.net to sign up. If no one is available in the office, please leave a message for the office administrator. Friends and family are welcome. Sign-ups will be on a first-come first-serve basis.

Cost: \$55 per person

When: Tuesday, June 29th
(leaving at 7am)

Asian Market-First Presbyterian Connection

Keena Wong-Prak and her husband have opened an Asian Market on 28th and Main in Fargo. Keena is the daughter of the Cambodian couple First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead sponsored. Keena also offers cooking classes on Saturdays if you are interesting in learning about Asian cuisine.



Be A Mentor!

Please consider becoming a Big Brother or a Big Sister. Right now there is a huge need for **male volunteers**. Boys added to the list today will have to wait months for a Big Brother. Call Big Brothers Big Sisters of The Village Family Service Center at 701-451-4877 for more information or to volunteer. You can make a huge difference in the life of a child.

Register Today for the 18th Annual Habitat 500

Don't miss your chance to represent Lake Agassiz Habitat for Humanity and join bicyclists from around the Midwest for Minnesota's Habitat 500, a pledged, fully sponsored bicycle ride that covers 500 miles over seven days. Dates for this year's ride are July 11-17, 2010. This year's route will take bikers through Sandstone, Isle, Hill City, Grand Rapids, Hibbing and Esko. To register or for more information visit: www.habitat500.org.

The Organ Story

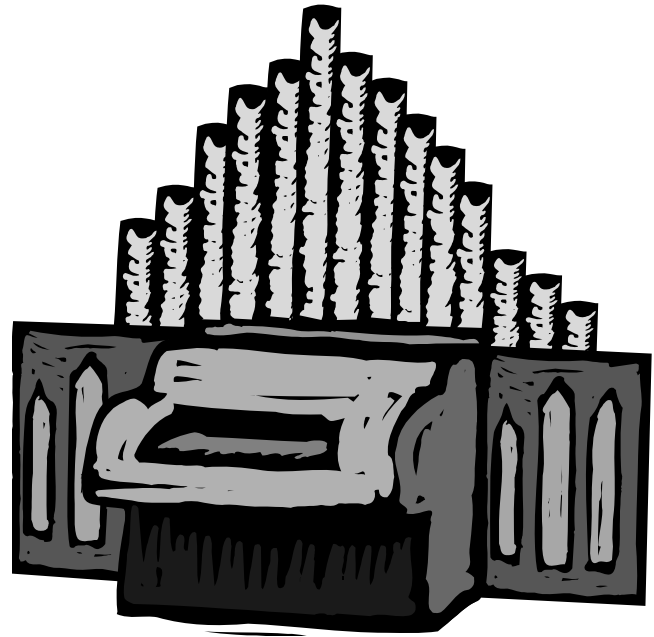
Early one Sunday morning in March I came to church to organize music and practice with the choir. However, there was a big problem! The organ wouldn't turn on! When I pressed the start button there was a sound like a bad battery! Many people tried to troubleshoot, but nothing worked. That was the first Sunday that I played piano for the entire service. The next day I called Mike Nelson, from the Nelson Organ, who rebuilt, installed and tunes the organ and asked him to check out the organ.

Mike checked out the organ and returned my call with expensive news. The motor/ starter was broken, curtain valve was damaged and the blower wasn't working properly.

Even though I play the organ, I'm not really sure of all the specific mechanics...

Basically, when the motor/starter is working and an organ key is pressed. The curtain valve, pipes and blower work together to make the organ sounds we hear.

The organ is 100 years old and has been in our church for more than 10 years and this has been the first big major repair! His repair estimate for the blower, motor/starter and curtain was \$5,000 to \$10,000! Yikes! The church was in the middle of a leaky roof repair situation and now an organ repair! The whole



situation needed to be discussed!

A joint Building and Grounds/Worship committee meeting was scheduled in April to decide the next right step. I've been playing piano for worship services ever since!

At the worship meeting Jim Winter and Bob Ballard attended along with Mike Nelson as special guest! Mike shared photos and detailed mechanical information about the organ! I took careful notes because I don't speak "mechanical" talk, but Jim and Bob both understood the details! It was exciting and inspiring to see the repair solution evolve! Jim, Bob and Mike worked out a plan to get a new motor/starter with help from Ross Mathews. Mike graciously offered to work as a consultant on an hourly rate while Jim and Bob volunteered their

time. Mike would replace/fix the curtain valve and the blower was able to be repaired for the time being. The immediate repair plan will cost between \$1,000 and \$1,500! For the future and long term planning, the blower will eventually have to be replaced which will cost \$3,000.00. Lets hope it holds together a little longer!!!!

The repair plan was brought to the April Session meeting and after discussion the plan was accepted. Memorial money specifically designated for music will be used to fund \$1,000.00 of the repair. Currently, repairs are being made!

Extend a special thanks to Jim Winter, Bob Ballard, Ross Mathews and Mike Nelson!

by Joni Lordeman

*On May 23, the organ was running and sounding beautiful.

David E. Emerson celebrates 30 years of Teaching at St. Catherine's University

On May 14th, David Emerson received recognition for his 30 years of teaching and service to the St. Kate's community. To honor David's years of dedication to his students and to the University, his wife and daughters established the David E. Emerson Achievement Award. Each year the award will give recognition, financial support and encouragement to a Business Administration student who has demonstrated commitment, fortitude and determination in her studies. David has always believed that when given the opportunity, women who put their hearts and minds to a goal can achieve it.

David is currently Associate Professor of Business Administration for undergraduate and graduate students. His passion to teaching is second only to his love of family. (Golf is a close third.)

You are invited to join his family in honoring David, and you are also invited to consider making a gift, in any amount, to the scholarship fund. It is our hope that the list of donors will reflect both the esteem in which David is held by his colleagues and students and the love of those who know him as friend and family. He encouraged his wife Sara to pursue her career in nursing. Together they raised two daughters, Cheryl and Nancy, who pursued careers in geology, teaching, accounting and ministry.

To make a contribution to the award fund, you may give by mail, by phone or online.

Mail: Please make your check payable to St. Catherine University, and either write in the memo line of the check or include a short note indicating that the donation is for the David E. Emerson Achievement Award. Mail to the following address:

St. Catherine University
Attn: Tribute Gifts, Box F-12
2004 Randolph Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105-1789

Phone: Donors may call (651) 690-6516 or toll-free (800) 945-4599 x6516 to give by credit card number.

Online: Donors may go to www.stkate.edu/giveonline to make a secure gift online. When choosing the gift designation (after the "Please use my donation for"), please choose "Other" and list the "David E. Emerson Achievement Award" in the box to the right

HOW ARE WE DOING

A review of the April 2010 Statement of Activities shows that Contribution Income is 9% ahead of budget, an amount of \$13,212. That indicates that our members are increasing their contributions and paying them forward. That's a very good attitude toward our needs. Please keep that process going...more and earlier.

Per Capita payments are currently ahead of budget also.

Remember that Per Capita contribution is approximately \$84 per member for the year. Please pay that if you haven't already done so.

Continue to contribute to the Capital Budget. This will be the last year of your three-year pledge. We need to receive \$3,000 each month to keep up with the necessary payments.

The roof is fixed and has (pardon)

weathered a rainstorm test. We are paying the bill (prox. \$16,000 with \$8,254 from the Roof Fund contributions and a short term loan for the rest. Please help us retire that money with more contributions (Mark: Roof Fund).

GOOD WORK EVERYONE...
KEEP IT UP!

Tom Dowdell