

The First Epistle



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

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Easter Sunday

We will not have regular church school classes on Sunday, April 4th. Join us for fellowship and children's activities beginning at 9:30 am. Easter worship will be at 10:30 am.

Cherry Pie Supper Successful!

375 pounds of ham
144 homemade cherry pies
10 roasters of our special potato mix
11 pails of ice cream
90 dozen rolls
4 cases of green beans
20 gallons of cole slaw

Combine with the help of volunteers filling over 117 different job positions and what do you end up with? Another successful and profitable Cherry Pie Supper. We served just under 500 individuals which is about the same as 2009. Thank you to everyone who helped this year.

Overheard at the Cherry Pie Supper, how wonderful it was to see people from Baker/Downer Presbyterian Church working side by side with Moorhead Presbyterians.

Put the last Friday in October on your calendar now to attend and work at Baker Fish Fry!

Give a little...give a lot!

You know that our Session has urged each of us to increase our giving to the Church, has even asked us to revise our pledges to show an increase of at least 10% for this year, 2010. This was announced at the Annual Meeting on January 31. To date

we have received 13 revised pledges (out of 60 pledging units, 21.7%) indicating an increased amount of \$6596, or 5.2%. That indicates that we have a long way to go to avoid cutting staff, cutting programs or further cuts in Mission Giving.

We look to not only

pledged giving but also free contributions from you members and friends of First Presbyterian who don't pledge on a regular basis. Jump in and contribute...a little...or a lot.

Tom Dowdell,
Treasurer

The First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead

2900 Fifth Street South, Moorhead MN 56560

<http://www.firstpresmhd.org>

218 233-1192

E-mail addresses

Church - fpresbyterian@integraonline.com

Pastor Nancy - nancy68emerson@hotmail.com

Church Secretary - fpresbyterian@integraonline.com

Barb Worman - BGMW54@aol.com

Newsletter articles - firstepistle@integra.net

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.

★ Thank You! ★
★ THANK YOU! ★

Does the newsletter look a little different? After years at the helm of The First Epistle, Erik Swee has stepped down. Thank you Erik for your service putting our newsletter together. It is much appreciated.

Taking over for Erik is me, Melissa Selders-Ortez. I hope that I can do as good of a job as Erik, but I can't do it without your help. If you have news you would like to see in The First Epistle, feedback on the layout/design of the newsletter, or any other information, please let me know. You can contact me at firstepistle@integra.net.



**Daylight-Saving Time
begins March 14, 2010**

Adult Topics Class - new study!

"Amos & Hosea: Boundaries, Tough Love, Amazing Grace" is a new 8 session study that the adult topics class will begin on March 14th. Here is the publisher's description of the study: "This study challenges us to join Amos and Hosea in crossing the boundary between religion and politics, between 'us' and 'them.' The prophets' message about God's tough love and amazing grace extended to a people even though they often broke the divine heart, is surely relevant for today's society divided on issues of theology, politics, economics, government and morality."

The Adult Topics class meets on Sundays at 9:15 am in room 4. If you would like a copy of the study guide or more information on this study, contact Walt Worman.

Worship Announcements

Holy Week April March 28-April 4

Palm/Passion Sunday

Christian Education 9:15 a.m.

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Worship 7 p.m.

We will begin with a gathering of singing in the Fellowship Hall and the sharing of the Lord's Supper.

We will then process to the sanctuary and look toward the cross of Christ through Scripture, prayer and reflection.

Easter Sunday

Hallelujah! Christ is Risen!

Fellowship and Children's' Activities 9:30 a.m.

Celebratory Worship 10:30 a.m.



One Great Hour of Sharing

Fish Banks are Back!! During the season of Lent we encourage children, youth, adults and families to use a fish bank to collect their donations to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Our donations will help support three aid & support ministries: Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and

Self-Development of People. During church school we will share information about OGHS with the children and youth and we will encourage them to find creative ways to earn funds for their fish banks. Watch the bulletin for more information about OGHS. Talk about these ministries at home with your family. Last year our children and youth generously

donated \$84.00 to One Great Hour of Sharing. Fish banks are available at church school and on the table in the narthex. Please bring banks back to the church on Easter -- Sunday, April 4th.

United Campus Ministry to Visit

On Sunday, March 21, we will be joined in worship by a team from United Campus Ministry. Their choir, the United Singers, will share some music with us and a message for the day.

United Campus Ministry is a Christian community for college students in Fargo-Moorhead sponsored by the United Methodist, United Church of Christ, Presbyterian USA, Moravian, Episcopal, and American Baptist Churches in Minnesota and North Dakota. The students are looking forward to being with us and sharing how God is working in their lives.

*Diane Wray Williams for the
Worship Committee*

News and Events

Are you ready for summer?

It's time to start planning for some summer fun! Check out the camp and retreat opportunities at Clearwater Forest. There are programs for all ages -- elementary, junior high, senior high, families, adults, grandparents. And all types of activities - sailing, kayaking, arts, hiking, high ropes, mountain biking, canoeing, archery, swimming, drama & dance, international games and more. For more info and registration --- go to www.clearwaterforest.org or pick up a Clearwater Forest Program Catalog in Fellowship Hall.

*Presbyterian
Clearwater Forest*

New Life presents Theater Night

You are invited to attend "Barely Heirs" being performed March 19, 7:30 at the Harwood Prairie Playhouse located on the grounds of Bonanzaville in West Fargo.

Written by David Lasig and directed by Troy Brewster "Barely Heirs", is an original Comical farce. The cost is only \$10; Invite your friends and join us. Sign up sheets are located in fellowship hall or contact Gerry VanAmburg.



Dorothy Day Food Pantry

We will serve MONDAY, MARCH 22 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 Marilyn Woods at 236-9917.



Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Make plans now to attend Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery spring gathering at East Grand Forks April 17. Join other women of the presbytery as we hear Marilyn Stone of Milwaukee, currently Mission Committee Chair of Synod of Lakes and Prairies PW and activist share her story and adventures. Cost is \$15 and includes lunch and workshops. Sign up on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board or see Lisa Mark or Elizabeth Swee. Deadline for signup is April 8.

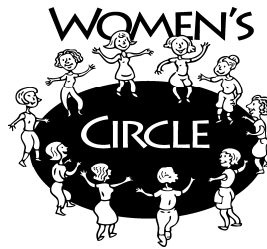
News and Events

Circle Notes

Circle Two emptied its treasury and found a unique way to double its money collected. Stymied by the generosity of the congregation in the Giving Tree program in that there were no names to choose to give a gift at Christmas, the circle pondered what to do with its monthly offering. The \$71 was able to be

matched in the Give Back Impact program of Dakota Medical Foundation and \$142 was sent to Dorothy Day House.

Circles one and two also collect the Offer-



ing of the Least Coin, which is dedicated in the spring. The least coin of the realm is put aside each time these groups meet, and women's groups around the world meet, and used to further mission world-wide.

Member-Sewn Bags Donated to Dorothy Day Food Pantry

The sewing group at First Presbyterian has generously donated 20 cloth bags they made to the Dorothy Day Food Pantry. The bags will be given to clients of the food pantry to fill with food much like the Hornbachers' reusable bags. A note was included in

each bag stating that the bags were made by the women of First Presbyterian Moorhead and listing our address and hours of worship. A big thank you to the sewing group for this very useful donation.

We are also collecting plastic

shopping bags in the bin in Fellowship Hall.

These will also be given to the clients of the Dorothy Day Food Pantry. We encourage church members to recycle their shopping bags for the good of the earth and to help the food pantry.

Minnesota Food Share Month

March is the month for the Minnesota Food Share campaign. In 2009, visits to Minnesota food shelves increased more than 25%. More than 1 million Minnesotans are struggling to put food on the table. The goal for Minnesota Food Share this year is to

raise 12 million pounds and dollars.

People are encouraged to donate food or cash to local food shelves/pantries. With a cash donation the dollars get stretched because of the food shelves' access to discount products and programs. The more

money raised for food shelves the more money they receive from a Minnesota Food Share fund created by corporate and individual donors.

Let's take care of our neighbor and give generously.

Youth

Mark your calendar --- Presbytery Retreat

Friday through Sunday, April 9 - 11

for youth in grades 6 - 12

at Crystal Springs Camp, west of Jamestown, ND

We should be getting the registration flyers from Pastor Dave soon.

Younger Youth group (grades 4 - 7)

We usually meet twice a month on Sundays. Here are our plans for the rest of the school year:

Sunday, March 7th - 4:00 - 5:30 pm ~~ swimming fun at the AmericInn motel next door to the church. Bring a swimsuit & towel. Invite a friend to join us!

Sunday, March 28th - 4:00 - 5:30 pm ~~ we'll do some service projects at the church and then play games & have snacks

Sunday, April 11th ~~ tentative plans are to go to the climbing wall at Y West after worship & a quick lunch. Invite a friend! Please bring \$5 toward expenses.

Sunday, April 25th - 4:00 pm ~~Bike ride to a local park (weather permitting) Bring your bike & helmet. Friends welcome!

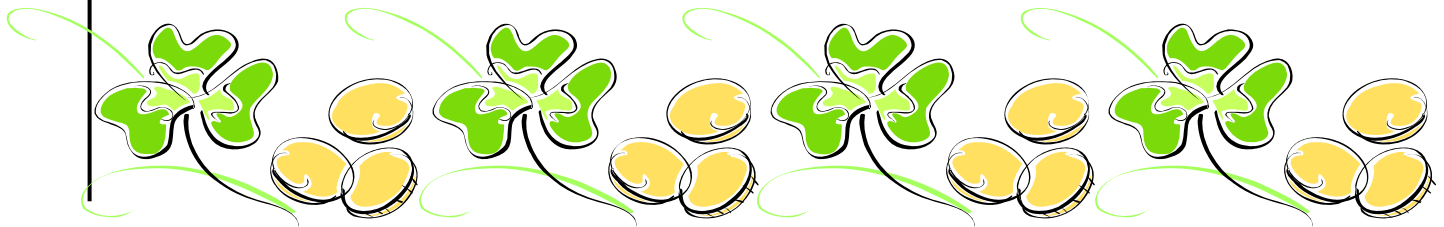
Sunday, May 16th - 4:00 pm ~~ last meeting time for the school year. Picnic & games at Pastor Nancy's.

Older Youth (grades 8- 12)

We meet on Wednesdays at 7 - 8:15 p.m.

Camp Fire Great Days Out

Camp Fire will be hosting two free activity day here at the church during the Moorhead school vacation days on March 17 & 18 (Wednesday & Thursday). Great Days Out meets from 12:30 – 5:30 pm. These activity days are for elementary aged children. Call Camp Fire at 236-1090 to register.



Youth

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thanks to your kindness and generosity our youth were able to donate \$216.12 and 55 pounds of food to the Dorothy Day Food Pantry in Moorhead. As of February 22nd, \$8,018,244 has been collected throughout the U.S. by 8,988 groups and given to programs that feed the hungry. No donations are sent to the national Souper Bowl organization - everything is used locally in the community where it is collected.

Sun Mart Receipts

Moorhead High School is collecting Sun Mart receipts as part of their fundraising efforts. The store will make a donation to the school based on the dollar value of receipts submitted. Save your Sun Mart receipts and bring them to the collection jar on the table in the Narthex.

Thank You!

Church School

This year the children have explored various aspects of worship. We just finished a unit on the Lord's Prayer and are starting to learn about elements of worship including the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This spring we will also study some of the affirmations of faith and then end the school year with sessions on Pentecost & the new church community.

150 Ways to Show Kids You Care Numbers 91-100

Here at First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, we're counting down 150 ways to show kids you care. Each month in the newsletter we will print ten of the ways as promoted by the Search Institute and Metro Youth Partnership.

How will you show kids you care today? It's easier than one might realize!

- 100. Give them immediate feedback.
- 99. Wave and honk when you drive by them.
- 98. Notice when they grow.
- 97. Let them make mistakes.
- 96. Delight in their uniqueness.
- 95. Be flexible.
- 94. Nurture them with good food, good words, and good fun.
- 93. Believe in them.
- 92. Tell them stories in which they are the hero.
- 91. Chaperone a dance.

Church Officers for 2010

Elders

Tom Dowdell
 Ron Hagemann
 Joni Lordeman
 Gayle Mostad
 Rich Martin
 George O'Neill
 Tim Nelson
 Jim Postema
 Melissa Selders-Ortez
 Gerry VanAmburg
 Jim Winter
 Walt Worman

Deacons

Marion DeJong
 Bonnie Erickson, moderator
 Juneve Giver, co-coordinator funerals
 Nancy Herman, secretary
 Judy Ortez
 Mary Skalet
 Jeanne Walker, co-coordinator funerals
 Marlys Winter
 Bill Woods, treasurer

The deacons have a variety of responsibilities especially as they relate to the care of congregation members. Each deacon visits members and friends of the church who are hospitalized, in nursing care, or are otherwise in need of regular visits. They prepare the communion elements for Sunday worship and deliver home communion on a rotating basis. The deacons provide a cradle-cross for each infant or child baptized that they might have a symbol to remember that they are claimed by God. It is also the deacons who provide the hospitality for families and friends during funerals and memorial services.

Committees of the Session

While the Session is primarily responsible for the work of the church, the activities are delegated among several committees. Listed below are the various committee rosters indicating committee moderators, additional elders and committee members.

Action Ministry: George O'Neill (moderator, elder), Rich Martin (elder), Dale Gronhovd, Bonnie Erickson, Lisa Mark, Elizabeth Swee

Buildings & Grounds: Jim Winter (moderator, elder), Don DeJong, Jerry Munighan, Milt Wilkinson, Dick Wickie

Christian Education: Walt Worman (moderator, elder), Ron Hagemann (elder), Cheri Martin, Jane Lobitz, Barb Worman.

New Life: Gerry VanAmburg (moderator, elder), Gayle Mostad (elder), Carolyn Ballard, Mary Skalet, Erik Swee

Stewardship & Finance: Tom Dowdell (moderator, elder), Melissa Selders-Ortez (elder), Bob Ballard, Terry McGillivray, Diane Wray-Williams

Personnel: Jim Postema (moderator, elder), Kathy McKaig. After losing two members who each served 1-2 years (Norm Mark's term as elder expired and Paul Schmidt got a job in Red Wing), we are in the process of bringing the committee back up to full strength. Clarence Smerud and Diane Wray Williams served recently on the task force to hire a new Office Administrator.

Worship: Joni Lordeman (moderator, elder), Tim Nelson (elder), Sandy Gronhovd, LaRae McGillivray, Maggie Sambo, Carole Smerud, Diane Wray-Williams, Grace Covey (flowers), Elizabeth Swee (visual arts)

Clerk of Session: LuAnn Buehre

Treasurer: Tom Dowdell

Midweek

Wednesday evenings at church are a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and delicious meals at a great price. Mary & Kathy have planned these great meals for March:

March 3: Pot Roast, Biscuits, Coleslaw, Minister's Delight, Milk

March 10: Barbecued Spare Ribs, Baked Potato, Sauerkraut, Salad, Strawberry Shortcake, Milk

March 17: St Patrick's Day! Irish Stew, Biscuits/Breads, Pea Salad, Shamrock Cookies & Ice Cream, Milk

March 24: Pot Luck - please bring a main dish, salad, side dish or dessert to share.

March 31: Chicken Alfredo, Green Beans, Salad, Breads, Sherbet, Milk

Supper is served at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per adult/youth and \$2.50 per child. Reservations are not needed. We hope to see you at Midweek!

March Birthdays

Elenore Adair	Mar 2
Joel Kerbaugh	Mar 2
Lonny Eggiman	Mar 3
Arlene Langager	Mar 4
Loretta Wickie	Mar 5
Helen Pemble	Mar 6
Kaitlyn Johnson	Mar 8
Reene Akason	Mar 11
Barbara Bale	Mar 12
Robert Ballard	Mar 12
Kathy Fletcher	Mar 14
Johnathon Larson	Mar 15
Lauren McLean	Mar 16
Ana Nelson	Mar 17
Robert Long	Mar 19
Audrey Hawkins	Mar 20
Henry Danielson	Mar 23
Janet VanAmburg	Mar 24
Hannah Phonethep	Mar 25
Luc Mjoen	Mar 26
Curtis Martin	Mar 29
Jeneve Givers	Mar 30



Putting on a New Self, Together

*By: The Rev. Dr. Steve Minnema,
Interim Executive Presbyter*

You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, . . . to be renewed in the spirit of your minds and to put on the new self, created according to the likeness of God

(Ephesians 4:22-24)

It was a beautiful scene to look out on, last Friday at Presbyter commissioners huddled in small groups for sometimes earnest but often quite lively discussions about our various ministries and the ways in which our life together in the Presbytery might better serve and support them . and us. I was reminded, for some reason, of the verses quoted above and thus given a strong sense that what we are really about, as a Presbytery in transition, is putting off an old self and putting on a new identity and way of being.

I have always felt that there is a strange tension at the heart of such an enterprise and that the author of Ephesians understood this quite well. On the one hand, the new self is a gift, created by God in Christ and offered to us as a gracious possibility we never could have accessed on our own. But, on the other hand, it appears to be a gift that can be refused or embraced. We have some say in whether this

gift will be accepted and appreciated or rejected and spurned.

But there is another point in the wisdom of Ephesians that is also worth pondering: the .putting on. of the new self requires the .putting away. of the old. (4:22) The new identity is not a window dressing applied to an old way of being; it is a fundamental transformation in who we are and how we then live.

So what must we as a presbytery .put away. before we can .put on. our collective new self? In the weeks and months ahead, as we collate the results of our discussion at presbytery about our priorities and seek to extend that discussion into our sessions and congregations, we will, with the guidance of the Spirit, come to greater clarity about that very question. But one possible and important answer seems, to me at least, already to be appearing.

I heard it loudly and clearly in the presentations made by the four speakers we asked to reflect on our vision statement. One of their powerful messages was that we need to be in closer and more supportive community with one another. And a corollary of that . which all of us and all of our congregations might well ponder long and hard! . is that none of us, none of our minis-

tries and none of our congregations is self-sufficient. We have to put away such a pride-filled illusion so that we can put on the grace-filled community we have been created in Christ to be.

There were lots of ideas about how such a beloved community might take shape among us and we will be exploring many of them in the months ahead. But before we can determine such important questions as how often - or where - we need to meet and how technology is going to serve us, we must first, collectively, put away the old habit we've had of .going it alone. and recognize with a new sense of humility and gratitude just how much we need and depend upon our connections with one another in the Body of Christ.

As our conversations continue in this time of transition, I urge all of us to keep on listening for that word of grace and guidance which scripture always supplies in abundance and which, alone, can lead us where we need to go.

-originally printed in the newsletter for the Presbytery of the Northern Plains, February 2010

BE AN OBSERVER OF OUR PC(USA) NATIONAL CHURCH

Biennial Meeting of our Church's General Assembly in Twin Cities

July 3 to 10, 2010

By Tom Dowdell

Phyllis and I attended the 213th General Assembly in 1999 in Fort Worth, Texas. I was an official Delegate and we both were impressed by the people we met and dealt with, and with the Worship Services opening and closing the meetings. This will be a rare opportunity for the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church – Moorhead to see the Church

at work and be a witness to two outstanding ceremonies, the "Opening and Closing Worship Services.

The theme of the Meeting: "Out of the believer's heart shall flow 'Rivers of Living Water.'" (We know a lot about "Rivers of Red water") John 7: 38. Take a different look at "Living Waters."



Minneapolis Convention Center

Hosted by the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area with the support of the Presbytery of Minnesota Valleys and the Presbytery of Northern Waters.

Sunday, July 4, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Opening Worship and Service of Communion; Bruce Reyes-Chow, Moderator of the 218th General Assembly (2008) will preach.

Evening

A free evening, featuring the reception for the newly elected Moderator of the 219th General Assembly, sponsored by the Committee on Local Arrangements. The location is Nicollet Island, at the north end of downtown, the perfect venue for viewing the city's 4th of July fireworks.

Saturday, July 10

9:00 a.m.

Last plenary meeting of the General Assembly

11:00 a.m.

Closing Worship and adjournment

More information at www.pcusaorg/ga219/.