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# *The First Epistle*



First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead • Established in 1872 • October 2011

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## Invigorating Exhaustion

What difference can fifteen volunteers make? Plenty!

On Saturday, September 10, fifteen volunteers from Fargo, Moorhead, Baker-Downer and West Fargo converged on Minot for a one-day blitz of flood recovery. We left West Fargo by coach bus at 4:30 a.m. and arrived at our worksite in Minot at 10 a.m. By quitting time (which varied by volunteer) we had logged 105 hours of volunteer labor gutting a house damaged by the summer floods. At the end of the day, we had removed 70% of the rotten & molding drywall, carpet, plaster, appliances, shelves and other remnants. The studs and base flooring remained with the opportunity to air out and dry to acceptable moisture content before winter. The organizing recovery team, All Hands Volunteers, expected to return the next day with their three site coordinators to finish the remaining work.

What did it cost us to go and do the work? The coach bus rental was \$1,500 but hiring them allowed us to work as hard as we could for an entire day while safely returning to the F/M area. We did not require the increasingly hard-to-find overnight accommodation in Minot and we brought our own sack lunches and bottled water to the work site. In addition we purchased hand tools, air masks and safety glasses for approximately \$300. Was it worth it? Absolutely. Of the supplies, everything except the used air masks can be used another day and they were left for other work groups. Furthermore, every volunteer hour on-site is counted by the city of Minot toward its required 10% contribution toward recovery costs. Valued at \$21 per hour, we provided the city with \$2,200 of sweat equity. Exhaustion never felt so good.

The best part of the day? It was a tie. A neighbor across the street brought out ice-pops late in the afternoon. The sugary frozen treats never tasted so good! The hospitality of the Minot Presbyterian church that provided our evening meal was second to none. We were treated to a feast of Salisbury steak, green beans & bacon bits (real bacon bits), potatoes, fresh fruit salad and a dessert of brownies and ice-cream. A day's worth of labor was worth the price to be on the receiving end of such gracious hospitality.

If you know of a group interested in volunteering in the Minot area, please give Nancy Emerson a call. She can provide more insights from what we learned and put you in contact with the volunteer organizations helping in the Minot and surrounding areas flood recovery.

LaRae McGillivray and Rich Martin from our church participated in this work day in Minot. Ask them to share their experiences.

*By: The Rev. Nancy Emerson, Co-Chair of the Flood Task Force . This article is reprinted from the "Light of the Northern Plains," a monthly publication of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.*



# 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.*

## Stewardship 2012

### Faith, Families, Fun

### What Can I Do?

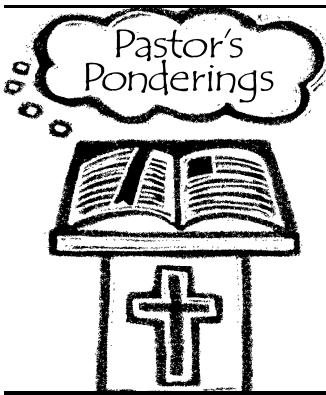
- Participate in Worship, join in special classes, enjoy food and fellowship.
- Increase General Fund contributions.
- Contribute to Capital Fund on sustaining level to enable basic maintenance, to complete church roof repair, to cover costs associated with property enhancement, including resurfacing of the south Parking Lot.

Watch for further details.

*Stewardship/Finance Committee,  
Tom Dowdell*



Isaac Nelson	Oct. 7
Lynn Bale	Oct. 8
Marcella MacLeod	Oct. 10
Laurie Mjoen	Oct. 11
Isabella Hestbeck	Oct. 14
Meskavanh Phonethep	Oct. 14
Dagne Forbes	Oct. 15
Kevin Kaufmann	Oct. 15
Vernon Bancroft	Oct. 16
Bill Herman	Oct. 16
Samantha Herman	Oct. 18
Myrna Beattie	Oct. 19
Ronald Hagemann	Oct. 21
Chelsie Ellingson	Oct. 29
LuAnn Buehre	Oct. 30
Amity Cook	Oct. 31



What does the color blue taste like? What does the smell of fresh cookies sound like? How does one of Chopin's nocturnes look? Of course an able poet could write that the color blue "tastes" like icy mint; fresh baked cookies "sound" like children giggling. Poetic language gets us close to some of life's deepest mysteries. But we know that we really don't taste colors with our tongues; we see them with our eyes. We don't hear aromas with our ears; we smell them with our noses. We rely on our senses to help us experience the world. Our senses help us interpret and measure reality. The school of philosophy known as "empiricism" claims that the only reality that is true is the one that we can perceive through our senses. That is why many empiricists do not believe in God. God cannot be perceived through our senses. Since God cannot be measured and quantified under a microscope or at the end of a telescope God must not exist. Right?

But what if there is a part of us that CAN perceive God? It might not be an organ like a nose or ear or tongue (actually, these organs function as a team quite often). And this part of us certainly cannot measure and quantify God. As one wise person once said, "A God who can be proven and measured isn't very impressive." Perhaps there is a part of humanity that is able to perceive a deeper reality, a divine Presence dwelling among us. Maybe when we are like the empiricists we are trying to perceive God with the wrong set of "organs." Sages, mystics, prophets, shamans and "ordinary" people of faith throughout the centuries believe that God can be sensed. Call it the soul, the spirit, a hunch, your gut, your heart...it doesn't matter. This Presence that many of us sense in our lives is just as real as the color blue or the smell of cookies.

It seems that this sense is better developed in some people than others. A life of prayer, compassion, love, service, and gratitude is probably the best way to develop this unique sense. It is no coincidence that those who genuinely live such a life often feel the closest to God. It isn't always easy. And our perception of the deeper Presence in, and beyond, our world is often cloudy. Even a spiritual giant like Saint Paul knew that we usually only see in a glass dimly (1 Corinthians 13:12). A life of compassion, a life that some holy persons call the "universal religion," is the best way to sense this deeper reality. It's the best way to be in union with the divine Presence. It's the best way to be in community with one another. No, we can't "prove" that God is real. Probably a good thing. That God wouldn't be very impressive.

Love,  
John

### **Thank You**

Thank you...for your gift of \$278 to the Peacemaking Offering. Your gift supports peacemaking ministries in Christ's name throughout the Presbyterian Church (USA). As Christians, we long for a more just and peaceful world. We are inspired and thankful for the ministries of peace and justice you and other Presbyterians are doing through your congregations, presbyteries, and synods. May Christ's peace be with you as you continue your good work as his faithful followers – Margaret Hall Boone, General Assembly Mission Council, PCUSA

Knitting Club members, thank you so much for the hats and scarves! The students at Ellen Hopkins are so happy for a cap and scarf to keep them warm during the winter! Many families struggle financially and some children simply have a hard time keeping track of their winter stuff! The hat and scarves will be used and loved by many children. Thank you for your time and effort!

Joni Lordeman

# Youth News

We've had a successful start to the school year with fun trips to the Red River Zoo, Thunder Road and the Great Plains Food Bank. And we are blessed to have our two wonderful leaders back: Cortez Galmore with the older youth, Scott Ecker with the younger youth.

## Younger Youth - grades 4-7

The younger youth group for kids in grades 4 through 7 generally meets twice per month on Sunday afternoons from 4:00 - 5:30 pm. We are also asking for parent support as chaperones and drivers for events and for snack donations. Please contact Barb Worman to volunteer (236-0889 or bgmw54@aol.com)

### **Sunday, October 9th – 4:00- 5:30 pm**

Join us for an afternoon of fun and games at the church - outdoors if the weather cooperates. Invite a friend!

### **Sunday, October 23 -- 4:00 - 5:30 pm**

We'll head over to the Sunset Lanes for bowling fun! Please bring \$5 toward expenses. Friends are welcome!

## **Thank you**

- We truly appreciate the generous donations to our church school snack cupboard! We will enjoy all the yummy treats.
- To the CE Committee members (Kim Kelsh, Cheri Martin, Walt Worman and Barb Worman) who worked a cumulative total of about 30 person-hours cleaning and organizing the classrooms before the start of church school.



## Older Youth - grades 8-12

The older youth meet on Wednesdays at 7:00 - 8:15 pm following Midweek Supper at 6:30 pm. Join us for supper! Invite a friend!

**October 5<sup>th</sup>** -- Swim Night at the motel next door. Bring a swimsuit, towel, water toys – and a friend!

**October 12<sup>th</sup>** – We'll spend the evening playing games and hanging out together at church

**October 19<sup>th</sup>** -- Movie Night: there is no school on Thursday the 20th so we can stay later and enjoy a feature length movie. **Plan to stay until 9:30 p.m.**

**October 26<sup>th</sup>** -- Games & Service. Right after supper we'll head up to Moorhead Manor to play games and chat with the residents there.

We are also working on rescheduling our climbing event at the YMCA for a Sunday afternoon in October or November. Watch for information in emails and in the bulletin.

## Confirmation Class

Confirmation class for youth in grades 9 and 10 will meet at 5:15 through October 12th. Confirmation Class participants will meet with members of the Session on Wednesday, October 5th. Confirmation Sunday will be October 16<sup>th</sup> and will include a reception following worship.

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Mark your calendar – the youth are planning to go to Presbyterian Clearwater Forest Camp near Brainerd, MN for the Snow Camp Retreat on January 27-29, 2012. More details to follow!

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# News and Events

## News from Membership Development

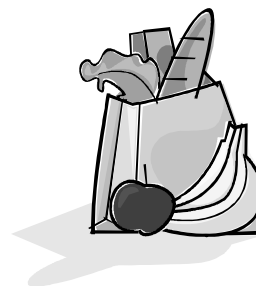
A new flag pole is about to become a reality! Thanks to Doug Buehre and Ron Johnson we will soon have a spot to display our denominational logo flag near the cornerstone garden. Presbyterians will find it a warm and welcoming beacon to our faith community.

We are considering ways to 'advertize' our existence as a congregation. Do you have an opinion on what media would work best for us? Let us know –Diane Wray Williams, Ron Johnson, Mary Larson, Mary Skalet, Kathy Giddings, Marilyn Woods.

## Dorothy Day Food Pantry

We will serve Monday, June 27 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.



## Midweek

You are invited to join fellow church family members for supper each Wednesday. A family-style supper is served at 6:30 pm. The food is delicious and the cost is reasonable, the same as last year (\$5.00 per adult/older youth; \$2.50 per child).

October 5 Sloppy Joe on a bun, tater tots, carrots & celery, mixed fruit, milk

October 12 Chicken rice bake, steamed broccoli, apple crisp, milk

October 19 Potluck - please bring a main dish, side dish, salad or dessert to share. Beverages provided.

October 26 Ghoulish (spaghetti bake), Witch's Mix (green salad), Bony Fingers (bread sticks), Spooky Treats, Ghost Blood (milk).

For this school year Mary Larson has agreed to offer her talents and expertise as our menu planner and shopper, as well as occasional cook. Kathy McKaig will again be back in the kitchen. Thank you, Mary and Kathy! Since both of these talented and generous women work full-time the Midweek program will need the support and assistance of many church members to help it run smoothly. This help could include setting tables, preparation of side dishes, serving food at supper time, washing dishes, cleaning up the kitchen, or being the main cook, as needed. We will be asking for volunteers at our first few weeks in October. Thank you for your support of this ministry of our church community!

## Midweek Schedule

5:15 pm	confirmation class for grades 9/10 (only meets through October 12)
5:30 pm	child care - supper preparation
6:30 pm	family style supper
7:00 pm	youth group (grades 8-12)
7:00 pm	chancel choir rehearsal



# News and Events

## Preemie Project

Did you know that every year, more than half a million babies are born prematurely in the United States. I am currently working on my Girl Scout Gold Award project which involves planning and carrying out a community service project. My project addresses the need for Preemie outfits in the NICU at Essentia Health in Fargo, ND.

Through my high school Health Careers class I learned about premature babies and the struggles that they face. Parents are often caught unaware by a premature birth and they are not prepared with appropriate clothing. My project involves providing a new outfit which will relieve some of the families stress. I hope to obtain many different outfits so when the children are ready to leave the NICU the nurses will be able to send each family home with a new outfit. The outfits will be given to the NICU staff at a baby shower I am hosting in November.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about my project or is willing to help by donating a preemie outfit please let me know.

Thanks!  
Molly Ecker

## New Book in the Library

"A People's History of Christianity: The Other Side of the Story" by Diana Butler Bass is now available in our church library. For too long, the history of Christianity has been told as the triumph of orthodox doctrine imposed through power. Now, historian Diana Butler Bass sheds new light on the surprising ways that many Christians have refused to conform to a rigid church hierarchy and sought to recapture the radical implications of Jesus' life and message.

The Christian Century says "For spiritual seekers – whether inside the church or not – and for believers who feel disconnected from their roots, Butler Bass points the way toward important spiritual resources that have the potential to transform lives, churches and the world."

## Kurdish Youth Association

The Kurdish Youth Association of Moorhead (one of our Self Development of People grant recipients) sent us this request. Can you help? Bring donations to the church, labeled for KYA.

We have many new members that are in our community. They are newly arrived refugees. Most of them do not have the financial resources to buy household items. Our members are in need of; couches, beds, TV stands, coffee tables, kitchen utensils and dressers. If your church members have some of these things that they would like to give away please let us know. Thank you and God bless.



## Work Smarter, Not Harder Class

If you are overworked, overtired, overcommitted & overstressed, come to this two-hour class & learn how to get things working better for you at home.

Loretta Wickie will present her class "Work Smarter, Not Harder" on Monday Oct. 17th from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. at the church. Please register by call the church office to insure there will be enough materials for everyone.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rest & Rejuv For Mothers of Children with Special Needs

To be held at Hope Lutheran Church, 2900 N Broadway, Fargo, Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Registration is 8:30- 9:30am, program & brunch - 9 am to 1 pm. There is no cost, but space is limited. RSVP by October 8<sup>th</sup> to Karen (218)287-4448 or [gkurlacher@yahoo.com](mailto:gkurlacher@yahoo.com).

# News and Events

## Church School

Join us on Sundays at 9:15-10:15 a.m. for great fellowship and challenging educational opportunities for all ages.

## Children and Youth -

Preschool and Kindergarten ---- room 9 - 10

Grades 1 through 3 --- room 2

Grades 4 through 7 ---- room 3

Grades 8 through 12 --- youth room (room 7 - 8)

Nursery care for infants and children through age 3 years of age will be offered throughout the morning from 9:15 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Contact Kathy McKaig if you'd like to take a turn watching our youngest ones on Sunday mornings!

Our Children's Worship program for children age 3 through grade 2 meets during the 10:30 am worship service. Children are dismissed from the sanctuary following the children's message to participate in age appropriate worship experiences. Children's Worship meets in room 2.

## **Sunday Morning Adult Class Options - there's room for you!**

**Topics Class** ---- The Topics class is will be starting a new 14 part Kerygma study: "That You May Believe: The Gospel of John." You are invited to join the discussion each Sunday in room 4.

**Adult Bible Study** --- The adult Bible study is continuing their exploration of the topic of "Tradition and Wisdom" as found in the wisdom messages in Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon. We'd love to see more folks join this great study opportunity! You are invited to join this group in room 5.

**Timely Topics** --- This is a lively and challenging group conversation that explores various topics of the day. Stop by Fellowship Hall to join the conversation.

## Peacemaking Offering

The PC(USA) has suggested that our Peacemaking Offering be taken on World Communion Sunday. Therefore, on October 2nd we will collect our church's contribution. These monies are used in a variety of peacemaking efforts at all levels of the PC(USA). In addition, 25% of what we collect will be kept locally and this year's donation will go to the Salvation Army.

Thank you once again for your generosity to a cause that every compassionate human being can support - a more just and peaceful world!

Lisa Mark  
Action Ministry

## United Campus Ministry

The third annual fundraiser is approaching to help support the UCM ministry of Fargo-Moorhead. It will be at Calvary United Methodist Church in Fargo on October 16 at 5 p.m. this year. There will be a silent auction followed by dinner and worship.

Please join us to celebrate this growing ministry as well as show our support. This past year the ministry has developed a presence on MSUM campus meeting every Thursday afternoon for fellowship and discussion. In addition, there is a meal served at the neighborhood Methodist Church each week for students from MSUM.

If you would like more information, please contact Lisa Mark. Also, if you are interested in attending contact by October 1st for a reservation. Thanks for your consideration and prayerful support of this vibrant college ministry!