



The United Parish

# *ECHO*



March 2005

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Elkton United Parish Church 605-542-7102  
PO Box 218 Elkton SD 57026  
website: <http://www.elktonunitedparish.org>

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Growing Together in Christ



## Pastor's Desktop

After completing the last step for ordination, I can't think of a better article than this one, already written. I hope that it will give you a glimpse into the heart of your pastor. It is long, but worth it.

### The Prayer of a Minor Prophet by A. W. Tozer

#### The covenant and prayer of a preacher

This is the prayer of a man called to be a witness to the nations. This is what he said to his Lord on the day of his ordination. After the elders and ministers had prayed and laid their hands on him he withdrew to meet his Savior in the secret place and in the silence, farther in than his well-meaning brethren could take him.

And he said: O Lord, I have heard Thy voice and was afraid. Thou has called me to an awesome task in a grave and perilous hour. Thou art about to shake all nations and the earth and also heaven, that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. O Lord, my Lord, Thou has stooped to honor me to be Thy servant. No man taketh this honor upon himself save he that is called of God as was Aaron. Thou has ordained me Thy messenger to them that are stubborn of heart and hard of hearing. They have rejected Thee, the Master, and it is not to be expected that they will receive me, the servant.

My God, I shall not waste time deploring my weakness nor my unfitness for the work. The responsibility is not mine, but Thine. Thou has said, "I knew thee - I ordained thee - I sanctified thee," and Thou hast also said, "Thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak." Who am I to argue with Thee or to call into question Thy sovereign choice? The decision is not mine but Thine. So be it, Lord. Thy will, not mine, be done.

Well do I know, Thou God of the prophets and the apostles, that as long as I honor Thee Thou will honor me. Help me therefore to take this solemn vow to honor Thee in all my future life and labors, whether

by gain or by loss, by life or by death, and then to keep that vow unbroken while I live.

It is time, O God, for Thee to work, for the enemy has entered into Thy pastures and the sheep are torn and scattered. And false shepherds abound who deny the danger and laugh at the perils which surround Thy flock. The sheep are deceived by these hirelings and follow them with touching loyalty while the wolf closes in to kill and destroy. I beseech Thee, give me sharp eyes to detect the presence of the enemy; give me understanding to see and courage to report what I see faithfully. Make my voice so like Thine own that even the sick sheep will recognize it and follow Thee.

Lord Jesus, I come to Thee for spiritual preparation. Lay Thy hand upon me. Anoint me with the oil of the New Testament prophet. Forbid that I should become a religious scribe and thus lose my prophetic calling. Save me from the curse that lies dark across the modern clergy, the curse of compromise, of imitation, of professionalism. Save me from the error of judging a church by its size, its popularity or the amount of its yearly offering. Help me to remember that I am a prophet - not a promoter, not a religious manager, but a prophet. Let me never become a slave to crowds. Heal my soul of carnal ambitions and deliver me from the itch for publicity. Save me from bondage to things. Let me not waste my days puttering around the house. Lay Thy terror upon me, O God, and drive me to the place of prayer where I may wrestle with principalities and powers and the rulers of the darkness of this world. Deliver me from overeating and late sleeping. Teach me self-discipline that I may be a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

I accept hard work and small rewards in this life. I ask for no easy place. I shall try to be blind to the little ways that could make life easier. If others seek the smoother path I shall try to take the hard way without judging them too harshly. I shall expect opposition and try to take it quietly when it comes. Or if, as sometimes it falleth out to Thy servants, I should have grateful gifts pressed upon me by Thy kindly people, stand by me then and save me from the blight that often follows. Teach me to use whatever I receive in such manner that will not injure my soul nor diminish my spiritual power. And if in Thy permis-

sive providence honor should come to me from Thy church, let me not forget in that hour that I am unworthy of the least of Thy mercies, and that if men knew me as intimately as I know myself they would withhold their honors or bestow them upon others more worthy to receive them.

And now, O Lord of heaven and earth, I consecrate my remaining days to Thee; let them be many or few, as Thou wilt. Let me stand before the great or minister to the poor and lowly; that choice is not mine, and I would not influence it if I could. I am Thy servant to do Thy will, and that will is sweeter to me than position or riches or fame and I choose it above all things on earth or in heaven.

Though I am chosen of Thee and honored by a high and holy calling, let me never forget that I am but a man of dust and ashes, a man with all the natural faults and passions that plague the race of men. I pray Thee, therefore, my Lord and Redeemer, save me from myself and from all the injuries I may do myself while trying to be a blessing to others. Fill me with Thy power by the Holy Spirit, and I will go in Thy strength and tell of Thy righteousness, even Thine only. I will spread abroad the message of redeeming love while my normal powers endure.

Then, dear Lord, when I am old and weary and too tired to go on, have a place ready for me above, and make me to be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting. Amen. AMEN.

Written in 1950, this chapter has been reprinted many times and widely circulated.

### **PARISH BOARD MEETING**

The United Parish Board met on February 1, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Officers in attendance were Chairman Ed Timm, Financial Secretary Donna Magnus, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, Lay Leader Bev Buller, and Secretary LaRee Farnham. Also attending were Pastor Daren, Linda Kampmann, Marsha Timm, Carol Styf, Eve-

lyn Stuefen, and Gert DeZeeuw. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed. Pastor Daren gave the opening prayer.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and approved.

Dawn presented the monthly treasurer report and was approved.

Dec 31st balance	\$ - 54.50
Jan. deposits	5,089.29
Transfers	\$ 8,522.80
	\$ 13,557.29
Jan. expenses	11,201.85
Jan. 31st balance	\$ 2,355.74

Donna presented the Finance report and was approved.

Committee reports were given.

PPR Committee: Bev was welcomed as the new Lay Leader.

Trustees: Pastor Daren reported that an electrician looked at the sound system this morning, but didn't get a chance to talk to him.

Worship: Resource booklets to be put in the pews are almost finished.

Christian Ed: Nothing new.

Mission: Nothing new.

UPW: They will be meeting Feb 2nd and work on valentines and putting packages together for shut-ins.

OLD BUSINESS: We will continue to use Ron Clausen's services to clean off the snow from sidewalk & parking lot at church.

NEW BUSINESS: Ed received a letter from the Post Prom Committee asking for donation for the event held after prom. Linda made a motion to send \$20; Donna seconded it; motion carried. Ed received a

newsletter from SALT (SE Lakes Area Laity Team). Their next meeting date is Feb. 13 at 2:00 in Madison. Discussion held on appointments of committees. It was decided to pass out a sign up sheet at church. Dawn read a note from Yula Weber advising us of our insurance coverage bound for church, parsonage, and liability as of 1/10/05. Policy will follow. Dawn received an advance order form for the Children Worship bulletins. Decided to hold til later to decide to renew since it is not due til October 2005. Raymond Kurtz talked to Ed about Raymond giving his old mini van to the church. We need to check into getting insurance on it first. Lenten services start on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. with the first one on Feb 9th.

The next board meeting will be on Wed, March 9 approximately 8:00 p.m. after Lenten Service.

Sec. LaRee Farnham

### UPW

The UPW met Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. at 7:30 pm in the church dining room.

Our meeting began with the program Lent/Easter "In God we are one" given by Joan Hegerfeld.

The meeting was called to order by President Linda.

The Purpose was read, 23 members answered roll call bringing a home made valentine.

The secretaries report was read and approved. The treasurers report was read and approved. The balance at the end of Jan. was \$2,382.04. There were no bills.

We received a thank you card from Sherri Bauman and a Christmas card from Karen-Marie. Virginia thanked everyone for the cards she got when she was ill.

Get well cards were sent to David Junker and Sherri Bauman and Bev was called. A sympathy card was sent to the family of Gladys Gageby.

52 were served at the funeral for Gladys Gageby.

Linda said she hasn't mailed the picture and booklet to our sister unit in Tuttle, SD, yet.

Marsha reported she has received some good comments about the books in the church library.

We made 13 love packages and they were delivered to Milt & Arlyne Janssen, Cal Steen, Bob & Virginia Holmlund, Stub Stuefen, Elizabeth Monk, Alice McMahan, Don Krogman, Leonard Rienke, Edith Deters, Ellen Mae Evans, Don Myers, John Gosbee and Harold Lee.

Valentine cards were signed to be sent to our servicemen & women and Karen-Marie.

Gert reminded us of the Second Wind Ministry to Women to be held Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Prairie Winds Baptist Church.

Gert reported that we will be serving the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Supper on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Gert, Linda, and Bev are on the committee. A menu of Meatloaf, potatoes, salad and dessert was suggested.

Bonnie suggested that the UPW give a full campership to a child outside our church; a child that might not attend a church – maybe a child that attends release time. It was also suggested that it could be given to a single mom & child. Dawn Boltjes made the motion to provide the full campership, Donna Magnus seconded the motion, motion carried. Linda Kampmann appointed Bonnie as the contact person for ideas who to give the campership to.

Gert read a short reading titled “What?”.

Happy Birthday was sung to Lil Anderson, Joan Hegerfeld, and Deanna Lundgren. Feb. anniversaries are Dennis & Linda Kampmann, Robert & Shirley Lundgren, Walter & Evelyn Mueller, and Jason & Becky Thomas.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm.

Hostesses were Beth Holm and Patty DeZeeuw.

Secretary, Beverly Buller.

***Going to church doesn't mean you are a Christian, any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile.***

***Seven days without prayer makes one weak.***

## GRAPE VINE

HELP!! We are still looking for a home for these items in church. If not claimed by one month from now, they will be disposed of.....

- cake pan
- small cookie sheet
- stainless steel bowl
- white plastic bowl
- Christmas Cookie Box
- Black Coffee Thermos
- Pie plate. glass – labeled A.K.
- 2 pick up tie straps
- blue sweatshirt
- brown – black plaid winter jacket

If you regularly receive your issue of the ECHO by mail and have e-mail available, please let us know so we can send your issue by e-mail. This will save us both printing costs and postage. If you are in the area and want your copy by e-mail, please let me know. You can contact me at [bonnie@aquazelle.com](mailto:bonnie@aquazelle.com). If you have missed a Sunday and wish to have a copy of the Bulletin, we can e-mail you a pdf file as well.

Several people have requested me to print the addresses of both John Gosbee and Karen-Marie Bryanne so they can write to them. Here they are:

- |                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| - John Gosbee             | Karen-Marie Bryanne |
| 3905 31 <sup>st</sup> Ave | c/o McKinney        |
| Mandan, ND 58554          | 2006 Barnhill Rd    |
|                           | Jonesboro, AR 72401 |