



The United Parish

ECHO



April 2005

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

Growing Together in Christ



United Parish Board Members

Ed Timm-Chairman..... 542-2241
Beverly Buller-PPR Chair..... 542-3611
Financial Secretary-Donna Magnus..... 542-3241
Treasurer-Dawn Boltjes..... 548-2051
Secretary- LaRee Farnham..... 542-7131
Pastor Daren Junker
Church..... 542-7101
cell phone..... 605-929-4892
email:..... pastor@elktonunitedparish.org

Birthdays

5 – Rufus DeZeeuw
6 – David and Daniel Junker
8 – Susan Sudtelgte
9 – James Stuefen
11 – Shanon White
23 – Alice Kinner
24 – Jerry Stijf
24 – Les Langner
24 – Daren Junker
26 – Tim Goldammer
26 – Bev Lytle
29 – Gertude DeZeeuw

Anniversaries

6 – Jo & Susan Sudtelgte
6 – Greg & Carol Jensen
16 – Jack & Bev Lytle

Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Bruce Kinner
Alice Kinner
Acolyte: Dana Junker

Liturgists

3 – Joan Hegerfeld
10 – LaRee Farnham
17 – Shirley Hegerfeld
24 – Dennis Lundgren

*“If you can truly say “Our Father”
on Sundays, don't go around the
rest of the week acting like an
orphan”*

Pastor's Desktop "Moccunimation"

What in the world is 'moccunimation'? It is the word 'communication', but all twisted around, which is exactly what happens a lot. Garbled communication almost always lies near the heart of any conflict. Clear communication opens the door for restoring health to all sorts of relationships. Let's take a look at just a couple of things that can help us communicate more clearly.

Communication seems like such a simple thing, doesn't it? Especially when we are speaking the same language, we assume that the hearer/reader knows exactly what we mean with the words we choose. This assumption is already the first opportunity for things to go wrong. Even if we come from the same area of the country, Midwest in our case, sometimes words take a different tone or significance because of our family history. An excellent example is the way the color black has gotten associated with derogatory things, such as 'a black mark on your record'. Growing up in a Midwest that was entirely filled with white people, I had no way of knowing how abrasive that can be for someone who has a darker shade of skin. My first reaction was, quite naturally, that 'they' are overreacting. Time taught me better. By now most of you are probably tired of some category of joke – blond, dumb men, *itchy women, fat, whatever. Any common word can become a hot-button depending on experience. Recent examples include taking the word tsunami more seriously, a special significance to '9-11' and NO one joking about 'Hi Jack' at the airport. Since every person had a slightly different role in each of those events, the words have slightly different impacts on each of us as well. So, while we know some words are somewhat vague, what can catch us off guard is that any word may have a different significance to someone. What are we to do about it? Just be alert to it. If a person is not reacting the way you expect, ask them about it.

Another trouble spot is indirect communication. Remember the game with passing the message around the circle? Even though almost everyone has played that game, we don't often apply its lesson. Triangulation is the most classic example of indirect communication. Person A is

mad about something Person B did and vents their frustration to Person C. Person C wanting to be helpful tells Person B about it. Now Person B doesn't feel comfortable talking directly to Person A and soon the whole town is talking, but Persons A and B have yet to say a single word to each other. Especially when the issue may be about something assumed to be mutually understood, but is in reality not shared, the whole conflict might have been entirely avoided by direct communication. This often happens with neighbors. One assumes the other shares the same standards of what makes a good neighbor, but this is very often not true. Some people warned me that I had one 'difficult' neighbor, but this person has turned out to be an excellent neighbor because he/she always communicates clearly and leaves nothing to assumption.

When you talk to a person directly and try to use clear words, it still turns into a big fight sometimes. Usually, this happens when the disagreement turns into personal attacks instead of staying focused on the concrete/observable issue. How many times haven't one of our kids come to us and complained, 'He/She did such-and-such on purpose!' or 'She/He is just being mean!' I'm sure we annoy our kids when we continually point out that they cannot know whether it was done on purpose or to be mean. We get them to focus on the specific action that upset them. But it works. There has yet to be an argument or squabble that could not be settled by refocusing on the actual problem statement or behavior instead of just fueling anger at the person.

One last note on communication in our church. No single means of communication works completely. Recently, I applied the same standard to announcing an additional Beta Course session that we use for announcing congregational meetings. I announced two Sundays in a row and published it in the bulletin both weeks. Even though the Beta Course is attended by some of our most regular church attenders, only half of them got the word. Times that I have tried calling around to people, I again reach about half if I include answering machines. When I personally delivered notices for an important congregational meeting, some of the notices were lost, removed, or not discovered in time. Word-of-mouth only reaches into the cliques and does not reach out.

All put together it looks like this. When we have important issues, whether in our church, or our family, or anywhere, we need to take a comprehensive approach to communicating. Focus on facts, not persons. Communicate as directly as possible. Realize that words with a clear, specific meaning to you, might not mean exactly the same thing to the other person. And, for church-wide communication, use all means possible.

Isaiah 32:4 (New Living Translation) “Even the hotheads among them will be full of sense and understanding. Those who stammer in uncertainty will speak out plainly.”

Parish Board Meeting

The United Parish Board met on Mach 9, 2005 at 8:00 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, Virginia Fixsen, and Bonnie Junker. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed. The minutes of the February meeting were read. Dawn had a correction to the balance before the Jan. expenses were taken out. Amount should be \$13,557.59 instead of \$13,557.29. Ending balanced didn't change. Minutes approved.

Bonnie informed us of the new group formed called Christian Life Team. There was interest at the last planning meeting in April to have new and fun activities held each month for everyone to attend. Sherry Bauman and Bonnie are looking for another person to join the team to plan fellowship activities.

Dawn presented the monthly treasurer report and was approved.

Jan 31st balance	\$ 2,355.74
Feb. deposits	5.602.41
	\$ 7,958.15

Feb. expenses	4.092.50
Feb. 28st balance	\$ 3,865.65

Dawn has talked to Lisa at the Bank about liability insurance cost on the Kurtz van. Dawn needs to give Lisa names, addresses, and driver license numbers of possible drivers of the van.

Donna presented the Finance report and was approved.

Committee reports were given.

PPR Committee: Bev said they met and they need to send in the pastor report evaluation. Bev just got the reports from Rufus.

Trustees: Discussion held on the grounding of the sound system. It was suggested to take the old electric organ out to allow for more room as it gets cluster especially during funerals. It will be put in the Echo and Bulletin to get feedback from the congregation about selling it. Ed will announce it when giving the church minutes and will also talk to Nancy Wiskur from the committee.

Christian Ed: Daren said confirmation letters will be sent out to the parents.

Mission: Linda will call meeting with the people who signed up to be on the committee.

UPW: Third supper will still be held even though a lot of people will be gone because of the State B Tournament. Bev said she knows of 2 requests for the prayer quilt.

OLD BUSINESS: The committee sign up list that was passed around was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS: By his choice, Daren bought sticker seals in honor of the UPC 10th Anniversary and put them on the last Echo. Motion by Donna and seconded by Dawn to reimburse Daren the expense of the seals as we feel it is important to recognize our 10th Anniversary.

Motion carried. There is plenty of stickers to be used for several months on the Echo plus for other mailings too. Daren received a sample book in the mail Devotions for Moms with the option of buying more copies. Also offered was a book for Dads. Decided not to buy at this time. The free copy will be put in the church library. Easter services include Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 7:00 pm each night. Also Daren has permission to publicly show the movie "Passion of the Christ" which may be held on Friday night too. Sunday services will include Sunrise Service at 7:30 a.m. with the youth group serving breakfast afterwards. Easter Service will be at 9:30 a.m.

The next board meeting will be on Wed, April 13th at 7:00 p.m.

Sec. LaRee Farnham

UPW

The UPW met March 1st at 7:30 pm in the church dining room.

Pres. Linda called the meeting to order.

The program "Praying with the Bible" was given by Pastor Daren.

Linda gave a reading from the Upper Room titled "Bread of Life".

The purpose was read. 13 members answered the roll call with "What I enjoy reading".

The secretaries report was read and approved. The balance at the end of February was \$1,912.17. There were no bills.

We receive a thank you from the family of Nancy Elizabeth Monk and also a thank you and \$50 from Lorna Burke – the oldest daughter of Nancy Monk. We also received a very enjoyable letter from Karen-Marie.

There were 2 funerals: 99 people were served at the Robert Holmlund funeral and 99 were served at the Nancy Monk funeral.

Get well cards were sent to Duane Ellis, Betty De Martelaere, Donna Lynn, and Jasmine Strom. Sympathy cards were sent to the families of Robert Holmlund and Nancy Monk and also to Dick & Bev Buller for the loss of his sister.

We will be serving the 3rd Thursday Supper on March 17th. The menu will be meatloaf, baked potatoes, salads & relishes, rolls, and bread pudding with caramel sauce. Linda asked for volunteers to donate salads & relish trays and towork.

Linda also checked to make sure all of the Love Packages had been delivered.

Pastor Daren suggested that we find a different place to put the reading program library to make it more accessible.

Bev explained the Prayers & Squares Quilt Ministry in hope that we would be willing to undertake the project. Sherri made the motion to start the project, it was seconded by Dawn; motion carried. Bev was put in charge.

March birthdays are Linda Kampmann, Bev Buller, and Evelyn Mueller. March anniversaries are John & Dawn Boltjes, Bob & Nancy Wisker, and LeRoy & Kate Brown.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Our next meeting will be April 6th at 7:30pm.

Hostesses were Sherri Bauman & Nancy Wiskur.

Secretary Bev Buller

PS A thank you was sent to Lorna Burke for the \$50 donation following her mother's funeral (Nancy Elizabeth Monk).

Third Thursday Supper Update

On March 17, 2005 the United Parish hosted the monthly Third Thursday Supper. There was much discussion because it fell on St Patrick's Day and also the Elkton Elks were headed to the State B Tournament. However, we were asked to please continue with the tradition of Third Thursday and we agreed. The evening turned out very well for all concerned. We were able to feed over 100 people which isn't much under the normal amount of participations on any given Third Thursday. They dined on a great meal of meat loaf, baked potatoes, acres of wonderful salads and fruit and veggie trays, plus homemade bread pudding with warm caramel sauce and cool whip. The bread pudding was a success and many were stopping by the kitchen to ask for the recipe. So the committee wants to sincerely thank all who

helped cook, donated salads and relish trays or worked any part of the event. And if you were just able to join us for the meal many thanks to you also. When all I bills are paid we plan to donate at least \$ 400.00 to the community center and none of it would be possible with out everyone helping as they were asked. A sincere thank you from the committee, Gert DeZeeuw, Donna Magnus, Bev Buller and Linda Kampmann (ps.. Before you know it it will be Chicken Supper time)

UNITED PARISH COMMITTEES

PASTOR-PARISH

RELATIONS:

Bev Buller, chair
Virginia Fixsen
Rufus DeZeeuw

WORSHIP:

Gertrude DeZeeuw
Marsha Timm
Nancy Wiskur

MISSIONS:

Linda Kampmann
Beth Holm
Ann Aaker
Marsha Timm
Shirley Hegerfeld
Virginia Fixsen
Rufus DeZeeuw

HARVEST FESTIVAL:

Shirley Hegerfeld
Norma Krogman
Shirley Lundgren
Thelma Brandt
Susan Sudtelgte
Nancy Wiskur
Virginia Fixsen
Dawn Boltjes

TRUSTEES:

Donna Magnus
Dennis Lundgren
Tal Farnham
Troy Wiskur

MEMBERSHIP/

WELCOME:

Susan Sudtelgte
Beth Holm
Nancy Wiskur
Tal Farnham

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

Sherry Bauman
LaRee Farnham
Linda Kampmann
Nikki Glover

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE:

Dawn Boltjes
Donna Magnus
Bruce Kinner

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

The UPW has decided to start a Prayer Quilt Ministry in our church. The Prayer Quilt Ministry is a simple idea with powerful results, but our Prayer Quilts will be more than just colorful, comforting blankets. The warmth they bring will come from the prayers that are tied into each knot.

The idea behind these prayer quilts is simple. A heavy thread is used to take stitches through the quilt and the ends are left free to be tied with a square knot. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is said for the person in special need, who then receives the finished quilt.

Each knot represents a prayer. Through the Prayer Quilt Ministry many quilts will be distributed, each a special gift of love. They are made for sick babies, for cancer and AIDS patients, for adults and children facing surgery, each for someone in special need of prayer.

We ask for your prayers and support.

You can participate in any way you are able, either sewing, cutting, assembling, PRAYING, or supplying materials.

If you have any questions about this ministry or how you can participate, just ask Bev Buller, phone # 542-3611.

God does not need Master Quilters, just Praying Hearts.

Materials needed are the following:

- scraps of material to make tops
- quilt backing
- polyester batting
- #1 safety pins (curved pins designed for basting quilts work the best)
- at least 50 pins
- #5 pearl cotton – 2 to 3 skeins
- #20 Crewel Embroidery needles
- blunt tipped scissors

We already have a possible need for two quilts.

We will meet in the church basement every second Saturday of the month and sew, cut, pray, fellowship, talk, have coffee, and so also minister to each other. There is room for EVERYBODY in this ministry, experienced sewers or not, men and women. You can come every time we meet or whenever your schedule allows.

CHRISTIAN LIFE TEAM

At the planning meeting in April last year there was clear interest for some more fun activities in church. Based on that information we have started the Christian Life Team and are planning all kinds of fun activities (like the Hay Ride this past fall). If you have any ideas or wishes you want to share, just let us know. So far the team is Sherri Bauman (dsbauman@itctel.com) and Bonnie Junker. We are planning a once-a-month activity where somebody shares or demonstrates a skill or activity. If you think you would be willing to share something you know how to do, please let us know.

“Never be afraid of giving of your best – God will give you of His better.”

Grape Vine

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS: Last day of Sunday School will be on Mother's Day, May 8th. Awards Sunday for our Sunday School Students will be May 15th during the Worship Service.

NURSERY: Dana is starting nursery again for all kids ages 1 – 6 downstairs after the Children's Time. We are a church that welcomes all children to attend the whole Church Service but if you prefer to let your child go down for a little snack and play time, just let Dana know. Dana will stay with your child until you pick him/her up, so please make sure you pick up your child right after the service so Dana can get to Sunday School on time.

OK, I thought this was so funny. Pastor Daren has gotten hold of an old 18th century book called “The Compleate Housewife Encyclopedia of Eighteenth Century Cookery and Medicine”. The fact that we have survived this should be enough proof of God's protection over us. Try these ones (well, not literally, please)

“For the Green Sickness take an ounce of the filings of steel, or rusty iron beaten to powder, and mix it with two ounces of flour of brimstone, then mix it up into an electuary with treacle, the party must take the quantity of a nutmeg in the morning fasting, and at four in the afternoon, continuing it till cured.”

or how about

“For a violent bleeding at the nose, let the party put their feet in warm water and if that does not do, let them sit higher it in.”

.....and some people still doubt the power of prayer.