



The United Parish

ECHO



May 2005

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

Growing Together in Christ



Picking Your Friends

I bet all of you have heard the saying, “You can pick your friends, but you can't pick your relatives.” You may not have heard “Mitake Oyasin.”

“Mitake Oyasin” is an expression well-known throughout the traditional Native American community which is directly translated as “all my relations”. Similar to Hebrew, the 'being' verb is left out, and the more complete translation of the expression is, “All are my relations”, or as some people say it, “We are all related.” It is often added as reminder that all people should be respected because of our common heritage as part of God's creation. This means all people, white, black, red, yellow – any color, any national origin, any religion. It is part of the reason the first white settlers in America were given so much assistance by several tribes. The newcomers from Europe were welcomed as distant relatives who had finally arrived.

Based on the biblical accounts you are already familiar with, it certainly must be true. If only one family, Noah's, survived the great deluge, then we can all trace our ancestry back to that one family. Additionally, the writers of the New Testament books point to Adam as a common heritage for all of us. From this point of shared origin, the early Apostles showed our common need to allow ourselves be reformed by the work of Christ. Through the selfless love that Jesus taught and demonstrated, we are called to love one another the same way. Accepting the work of God's Spirit directly in ourselves we become able to love each other even more closely than the 'cousins' relationship based on our physical heritage. In Christ, we are brought to the closeness of brothers and sisters.

At this point some of you are remembering the saying, “You can pick your friends, but you can't pick your relatives,” because it was said as a consolation for being stuck with the relatives you have – often a brother or a sister. In difficult situations you may have found yourself wishing to have none, but in times of need there may be no one more reliable than a sibling. If yours have let you down, it only proves that the expectation of what it means to be a brother or sister is still intact.

After weathering bad times, brothers and sisters can restore the love in the relationship by forgiving and 'letting bygones be bygones'.

Well, we still have the luxury of picking good friends, don't we? Well....

Remember that bit about all of us being relations? Even before Christ brings us to the closeness of siblings, we are related. So just as Jesus taught, we must love everyone, not just those we like or can help us. Christ shows us very clearly the need to befriend the friendless and love the unlovely. This is one of the 'costs' of being part of the family. Sometimes this will be inconvenient, or even harder, but it is not optional and applies to every single person we meet.

So when 'picking' your friends, or picking who to offer kindness, just remember "Mitake Oyasin."

In Christ' service, Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

The United Parish Board met on April 13, 2005 at 7:30 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, and Gert DeZeeuw. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed and prayer given by Pastor Daren. First Dan Assid from Sioux Falls with Lifetouch was there and gave a presentation on pictorial church directories.

The minutes of the April meeting were read. Dawn had a correction about the liability insurance that she is checking with Lisa at the bank. We are comparing insurance coverage on our already purchased blue church van, not the Kurtz van. Minutes approved.

Dawn presented the monthly treasurer report and was approved.

Feb 28 th balance	\$3,365.65
March deposits	<u>3,254.90</u>
	\$7,120.55
March expenses	<u>5,972.95</u>
Feb. 28 th balance	\$1,147.60

Dawn has given the information that Lisa at the bank needed for insurance comparison. We haven't received a bill from Ula with the UCC Insurance Board that we currently have the church van covered with, but Dawn has been assured that we have insurance coverage.

Donna presented the Finance report and said we had a gain over \$600 in interest from last month.

Committee reports were given.

PPR Committee; Nothing new

Trustees: Ann Aaker and Donna Magnus have a plan to rearrange the front of the church so to keep the old organ. Saturday, April 30th is planned to have all people (men, women, and children) to clean the church. Donna suggested that Dawn being the treasurer and writing the checks should be on the Trustees committee. The By-laws read that the financial secretaiy shall be a member of the Trustees committee. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any duly called congregational meeting by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members present and voting. Nancy Wiskur's name was added to the Trustees committee.

Christian Ed: LaRee reported the last day of Sunday School will be May 8th with Awards Sunday on May 15th. Soon plans will be made for Vacation Bible School. If any families are interested in going to Valley Fair on June 25th let LaRee or Tal know. The FCA group at school is getting discounted tickets if purchased by the end of April. Daren said Confirmation Sunday will be May 22nd.

Worship & Mission.' Nothing new.

UPW: Linda mentioned the AII Church People Clean Day on April 30th starting at 9:00 a.m. with a potluck lunch at Noon. \$400 was given to the Community Center from the profits of the Third Thursday Supper. On April 20th at the church, there will be a craft for anyone that wants to participate as part of the monthly get together Christian Life Team. At the May meeting, they will have the Mother's Day Memorial program. Bev said progress is being made with the prayer quilts; 6 ladies came and cut fabric.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Ed received a letter from the 2005 Hiller Lectureship North America Baptist Seminary. They have several activities planned for April 26th in Sioux Falls. Ed also received a flyer from the UCC Cornerstone fund regarding investment opportunities and interest rates. Dawn will keep the flyer for the future.

Daren asked if it was ok to take out some of the bushes and trees at the parsonage. They would like to do some landscaping with smaller bushes and other trees. No one objected.

Discussion held on doing the Lifetouch church directory. It was decided to table it for now, but will let people know in church on April 17th when giving the board minutes of the possibility of doing this. We need input as to whether it is better to have this in the summer or wait till fall. Ed will call a short meeting after church on April 24th to discuss a date. The photographer would be here 2 days to take family pictures with no fee. Dan from Lifetouch said that if we wanted a Friday and Saturday in June, the 24th & 25th is open right now. You would receive a free 8x10 portrait along with a free directory. You then would have the option to buy more portraits with no pressure to buy anything. Bev Buller will be our contact person with Dan at Lifetouch.

Daren said that he was told that the blue van is in need of steering repairs sometime. This should get done before a long trip is planned.

Daren will be attending the UMC Conference on June 8-11th. The UCC Conference is on June 10-12 so he hopes that someone can go to that one.

Meeting adjourned with everyone saying The Lord's Prayer. The next board meeting will be on Wed, May 11th at 7:30 p.m.

Sec. LaRee Farnham

I could see this happening with a couple of my children!

A visiting minister offered the opening prayer:

"Dear Lord," he began with arms extended and a rapturous look on his upturned face, "without you we are but dust..."

He would have continued, but at that silent, awkward moment when he paused for a breath, one very obedient young girl (who was listening carefully) leaned over to her mother and asked quite audibly in her shrill little voice "Mommy, WHAT is butt dust?"

Church was pretty much over at that point...

UPW

The UPW met April 6th at 7:30 pm in the church dining room.

The evening began with the program "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" presented by Marsha Timm.

Pres. Linda called the meeting to order and read "I Learned" for the devotional.

The purpose was read. 17 members answered the roll call with a favorite "mother" memory.

The secretary's report was read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved. The balance at the end of March was \$2,462.63. There were no bills.

Correspondance: The Spring Focus Day will be April 23rd at the Arlington Methodist Church. Registration beginning at 8:30 am. A \$6 registration fee includes the noon meal. We also received another entertaining letter from Karen-Marie.

Get-well cards were sent to Roween Cameron, Donna Lynn, Alice McMahan, and Cal Steen.

Gert reported that 86 were served at the Leonard Reinke funeral.

For the reading program Marsha said JUST READ!

Walter & Evelyn Mueller and Carol Stijf helped with bingo at the Cozy Corner.

We were able to donate \$400 to the Community Center after serving the 3rd Thursday Supper.

Bev gave a report on the Prayer Quilt Ministry. We will be meeting the 2nd Saturday of each month at 2pm. This time we will be cutting squares.

Ann handed out donation envelopes for the Saladless Supper. They can be handed in next month.

Linda sent the information about our UPW to our sister unit in Tuttle, ND. As yet, they have not responded.

Our Shepherdess will be coming to our July meeting. A form was sent around – there is a need of people for prospective leadership in the district.

May 11th will be the Senior Luncheon. 34 have been invited.

Our Mother's Day/Memorial Day program will take the place of our May meeting.

Members Night Out will be held in June. Ann made the motion to eat at the Old West Diner; Gert seconded the motion; motion carried. We will meeting at the diner at 6:30 pm, Linda will make the reservation.

July 31st will be Woman's Sunday – we will be responsible for the Church Service. Linda asked if someone would be willing to do the sermon.

Saturday – April 30th was set for the cleaning of the church. We will begin at 9am – there will be a potluck lunch at noon.

We were reminded of the Second Wind Ministry for Woman to be held April 11th at 7pm at the Prairie Winds Baptist Church.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for April were read.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting will be May 4th at 7:30pm. Hostesses were Gertrude DeZeeuw and Donna Magnus.

Secretary Bev Buller

- totes for carrying
- iron/ironing board
- sewing machine (doesn't have to be new)
- machine thread

We 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.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation will this year be on Sunday, May 22nd. Our confirmands are:

- *Taylor Anderson*
- *Justin Bauman*
- *Austin DeZeeuw*
- *Abby Helgerfeld*
- *Rebecca Holm*
- *Annalise Sudtelgte*
- *Justin Thompson*

Please remember these young members in your prayers as they commit their lives to Christ and encourage them in their Christian walk. We set the example by word and deed.

CHRISTIAN LIFE TEAM

The Christian Life team met this month and discussed several great ideas for upcoming events.

We would also like to thank Linda Kampmann for her wonderful presentation Wednesday, April 20. We had such a fun evening and

Linda taught us a neat new craft. This was the first evening in what we hope will be a long row of fun nights/afternoon when we can get together and share something we know.

Because of the already full schedule in May, we decided to wait a month with further activities, so keep your eyes open for June.

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Sherry Bauman or Bonnie Junker.

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 started nursery 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.

OPEN HOUSE: In honor of Adam DeZeeuw graduating, there will be an open house on Saturday, May 14th at Rufus & Patty DeZeeuw. Open House will be from 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Huge thank you to the trustees and all who came out to the parsonage and removed the old shrubs and trees. We can't wait for the weather to warm up to we can plant the new trees etc. Thank you Troy for arranging the loader and hauling off the branches.

Did you notice??? Our church building is in much better condition again thanks to a great group of people who came out yesterday to clean the whole church and do some minor repairs.

Done already !!!. This past Wednesday was the last day for Release Time for this year. It doesn't seem possible that it is done already. We have had a great year with 27 kids and we now have hope in God's promise that His word will not return void (Isaiah 55:11). SUPER thank-you to all who participated from lesson planning, driving, lunch, clean up, and any other support.

SAY YOUR PRAYERS..... The National Day of Prayer, May 5th this year, is a nationwide campaign to raise awareness about how much we need to pray for our country. This year's theme is "God Shed His Grace on Thee". More information is available at www.nationaldayof-prayer.org.

The Global Day of Prayer is a campaign to encourage Christians from almost every country to unite in prayer for Christ's glory and the transformation of the nations. It is estimated that more than 200 million people will participate by praying on May 15th. More information is available at www.gdopusa.com.

SMILE!! United Parish Board met briefly on Sunday, April 24th to discuss the pictorial directory. It was decided to schedule a July date so there would be no interference with the upcoming FCA trip to Valley Fair (June 25th). Pictures for our directory will be taken July 19th & 20th. More detailed information will follow.

(taken with permission from "The Joyful Noiseletter")

A man called a church office and said, "Can I please speak to the head hog at the trough?" Highly offended, the church secretary replied, "If you mean the pastor, then you may refer to him as 'Pastor' or 'Reverend', but you may certainly not refer to him as the 'head hog at the trough!'"

"Well, I'm sorry, ma'am," the man said, "I was planning on giving \$10,000 to your church's building fund, but..."

"Hold on," the secretary quickly replied, "Porky just walked in."

-Columnist Smiley Anderson