



The United Parish

# *ECHO*



June 2005

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Growing Together in Christ



# FATHER'S DAY

## **Pastor's Desktop**

The first thing on my mind this month is thanking everyone for the membership updates I have been getting. This is all very helpful. I do find it necessary to make sure two points are completely clear, though. First, I am not trying to remove any members, only to remove outdated information from the membership list. So every bit of information I get from you helps a lot, keep it coming. The second point is that the Member Status information is often what is incorrect, so no one should make any assumptions about someone's participation (nor take offense) based on what is on the list. I didn't want to make any assumptions, which is why I sent it out for correction. So again, thank you to everyone who has already sent me updated information. If you haven't already sent me anything, please do so even now. I use the list to make sure everyone gets contacted about things that are going on, and also prioritize some mailings to manage costs.

The second thing on my mind is all the great things happening in United Parish. We have new outreach activities that clearly show more spiritual life than even one year ago. This is tremendous growth and very encouraging. As we grow and have new ideas, there will be opportunities for moving completely outside your comfort zone. Sometimes this might threaten to cause conflict, but we are also doing well on learning to communicate and pull together as a team. I am confident that the future of United Parish is bright. More faithfulness to Christ and more focus on Kingdom work will always produce life. As we learn to look at things through God's eyes, we will see more and more that is good. In order for us to stay on track, we need prayer – lot's of prayer. Please pray for the leaders of the church, the pastor, the president, chairpersons of each committee, teachers, and anyone else active in 'making it happen'. Pray that our church finds God's plan and that we follow it. Pray that as we do this, we grow to be more like Christ and less like abandoned children. Pray that inactive members find growth in their relationship to God. Pray that members find rest at church, instead of additional burdens in an already too-busy life. Pray that members-to-be are safely led and that when they arrive they find a loving body of Christ, ready to warmly receive them, no matter how needy they may seem. Pray that we learn the goodness of God's will.

Finally, if you haven't been able to make it to church in a while, please come. It is for your benefit, and you are certainly welcome no matter what has happened in the past. In the next few weeks, the sermons are focusing on relationships. Examining our relationship with God and with each other in comparison to the standard held up in the Scriptures AND then learning how to apply God's love, grace, and forgiveness in healthy ways. On this note, I would like to see all the men associated with United Parish attend on Father's Day, June 19th. The message is on "How to Be a Real Man". You may be surprised, and will be challenged. Of course, if you are afraid to come, I'll understand. Life is easier without challenges.

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Daren

### **Parish Board Meeting**

The United Parish Board met on May 11, 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, Carol Styf, and Virginia Fixsen. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed. Ed asked for a silent prayer for the Carpenter family. Pastor Daren gave a prayer.

The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved.

Dawn presented the monthly treasurer report and was approved.

3/31/05 balance	\$1,147.60
April Income	<u>3,321.81</u>
	\$ 4,469.41
April expenses	<u>4,499.83</u>
4/30/05 balance	(\$ 30.42)

Donna presented the Finance report and was approved.

Committee reports were given.

PPR Committee: Nothing new

Trustees: Bushes and trees were cleaned up at the parsonage. The entryway at the parsonage needs repair and should be done this summer.

Christian Ed: Awards Sunday is on May 15th. Confirmation Sunday is May 22 with cake & refreshments served after church. LaRee reported that VBS will be held July 24-26 at St. Mary's. A sign up sheet will be passed around at church for volunteers. Contact LaRee Farnham if you can help even just for 1 night.

Worship: Nothing new.

Mission: Linda said they are doing a lot of promoting and have events planned for several months. One way to show "outreach to people", an idea was shared to see if the Harvest Festival Committee would have extra food (sandwiches, etc) to share with the carnival crew the night of setting up. The crew last year shared with us.

UPW: A lot of people helped throughout the day for the All Church People Clean Day on April 30th. They had a good turnout at the Mother's Day Memorial program; 22 regular and 13 guests. 33 seniors attended the Sr. Luncheon. Next month is ladies day out. July 31st is Women's Sunday.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion on Lifetouch directory; July 19-20 from 3:00 to 8:30 p.m. each day is planned for the pictures. On June 21st at 6 p.m. there will be a meeting with Dan with Lifetouch to make plans. A sign up list for volunteers to help with the process before, during, and afterwards will be passed around at church. Discussion held on having the treasurer being on the Trustees Committee.

NEW BUSINESS: Dawn paid \$20 to the newspaper for listing UPC as a sponsor for the layout of senior graduation pictures. Ed read "Thoughts about a Standardized 'Personal Use Policy' from Daren.

The motion reads “any full member in good standing may use church property for personal, but not business, use by obtaining permission from the President of the Board, who will coordinate with the primary ministry user before granting the request. Any damage to church property from personal use must be remedied by the member that used it.” Bev made a motion to approve the policy and Dawn seconded it; Motion approved. Daren passed out a letter and membership list that will be handed out at church and the rest delivered. The purpose is to update the list, fill in the gaps, and ensure everyone connected with our church gets the fullest communication possible, especially as we are approaching some significant discussions in the near future. Discussion was held and Daren will make a few changes before handing them out at church.

Meeting adjourned with everyone saying The Lord’s Prayer. The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 7th at 7:00 p.m. instead of Wed. June 8th as Daren will be attending the UMC Conference.

Sec. LaRee Farnham

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A NEW DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE NEXT PARISH BOARD  
MEETING: MONDAY, JUNE 6TH, AT 7:00 PM.  
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### **UPW**

The UPW annual Mother's Day/Memorial Program was held May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the church sanctuary. 22 members and 13 guests helped honor all mothers and those of our congregation that have passed away during the past year (Ruth Klosterman, Elizabeth Monk, Robert Holmlund, Leonard Reinke, Mark Duin, Louise Duin, Adah Meyers, Ruby Kroeger, and Gladys Gageby).

The program was presented by Marsha Timm, Gertrude DeZeeuw, and Dawn Boltjes with additional reading by Cassie Timm and Linda

Kampmann. Lunch was served in the church dining room by Evelyn Mueller and Thelma Brandt.

Due to the program there was no business meeting, but Linda did remind us of the two invitations we had received. One on Wednesday, May 11 at 7:30pm in Esteline and the other at the Flandreau UMC on May 12<sup>th</sup> at noon. We needed to know how many would be going so that we could let them know how many to plan for and to line up transportation.

Our next meeting "Members Night Out" will be on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We will meet at 6:30 pm at the Old West Diner.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Buller

## **REAL GEMS**

At the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash.

At the gun, they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with a relish to run the race to the finish and win. All, that is, except one little boy who stumbled on the asphalt, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry.

They slowed down and looked back. Then they all turned around and went back..... every one of them. One girl with Down's Syndrome bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood, the cheering went on for several minutes.

People who were there are still telling the story... Why? Because deep down we know this one thing:

What matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What matters in this life is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course.

"A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle"

So, what ya gonna do?

### Prayer Quilt Ministry

We met on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> in the church basement. Six ladies were there putting together quilts. We have now 2 adult lap quilts ready to be tied and we have permission for our first quilt and two more people lined up.



Our first quilt will be tied with prayers on the first Sunday in June. The quilts will be displayed in the front of the church and then later will be available at the back on a table. More information about who the quilts and prayers are for will follow.

We are still in need of fabric, batting, ironing board, iron, sewing machine and any other supplies on the list, but this is foremost a prayer ministry, so remember the ministry and the quilt recipients in your prayers daily.

We will meet again as usual on the second Saturday on the month, this is this time June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm in the church basement. We will also need to meet once before June 5<sup>th</sup> to finish the quilt. If you can



meet either on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> or sometime during the week, please call Bev at 542-3611.

### **Does our nursery rhyme?**

United Parish provides nursery for ages 1-7. I will go up to Children's Time with the kids and when it is done I'll take them downstairs in the basement where the toys are.

For June I have several fun crafts planned and of course always a little snack.

If you would like your child in the nursery, you can let me know before church. Please pick up your child right after church is done.

Dana Junker

### **Grape Vine**

Harvest Festival: Would the person who offered the refrigerator to the Harvest Festival please contact Nancy Wiskur as soon as possible as we would like to be able to make use of it this year already.

VBS: Vacation Bible School is already in the planning and the dates have this year been set for July 24-26. Please call LaRee Farnham if you can help or have any questions.

Pictorial Directory: Pictures are scheduled to be taken on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00pm – 8:30 pm.

### **Said so many and not enough times**

I knelt to pray but not for long,  
I had too much to do.  
I had to hurry and get to work  
For bills would soon be due.  
So! I knelt and said a hurried prayer,  
And jumped up off my knees.  
My Christian duty was now done  
My soul could rest at ease.....  
All day long I had no time  
To spread a word of cheer  
No time to speak of Christ to friends,  
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.  
No time, no time, too much to do,  
That was my constant cry,  
No time to give to souls in need  
But at last the time, the time to die.  
I went before the Lord,  
I came, I stood with downcast eyes.  
For in his hands God held a book;  
It was the book of life.  
God looked into his book and said  
"Your name I cannot find  
I once was going to write it down...  
But never found the time"

Rev. 20:12 *“And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.”*

## **CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING**

All the high school coaches in Boise, Idaho, went to a coaches' retreat. To save money, they had to room together.

No one wanted to room with Coach Darryl because he snored so bad. They decide it's not fair to make one of them stay with him the whole time, so they vote to take turns. The first coach sleeps with Darryl and comes to breakfast next morning with his hair a mess, eyes allblood-shot. They say, "Man, what happened to you?"

He said, "Man, that Darryl snored so loud, I watched him all night"

The next night it was a different coach's turn. In the morning, same thing -- hair all standing up, eyes all bloodshot. They say, "Man, what happened to you? You look awful!"

He said, "Man, that Darryl shakes the roof. I watched him all night."

The third night was Frank's turn. Frank was a big burly ex-football player-looking type of man's man. Next morning, he comes to breakfast bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, "Good morning." They can't believe it! They say, "Man, what happened?"

He said, "Well, we got ready for bed. I went and tucked Darryl into bed and kissed him good night. He watched me all night long."

## **BASEBALL**

Two ninety year old men, Moe and Sam, have been friends all their lives. It seems that Sam is dying of cancer, and Moe comes to visit him every day.

"Sam," says Moe, "You know how we have both loved baseball all our lives, and how we played minor league ball together for so many years. Sam, you have to do me one favor. When you get to Heaven, and I know you will go to Heaven, somehow you've got to let me know if there's baseball in Heaven."

Sam looks up at Moe from his death bed, and says, "Moe, you've been my best friend many years. This favor, if it is at all possible, I'll do for you. And shortly after that, Sam passes on.

It is midnight a couple of nights later. Moe is sound asleep when he is awakened by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calls out to him, "Moe.... Moe...."

"Who is it?" says Moe sitting up suddenly. "Who is it?" "Moe, it's me, Sam."

"Come on. You're not Sam. Sam just died."

"I'm telling you," insists the voice. "It's me, Sam!" "Sam? Is that you? Where are you?"

"I'm in heaven," says Sam, "and I've got to tell you, I've got really good news and a little bad news."

"So, tell me the good news first," says Moe.

"The good news," says Sam "is that there is baseball in heaven. Better yet, all our old buddies who've gone before us are there. Better yet, we're all young men again. Better yet, it's always spring time and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play baseball all we want, and we never get tired!

"Really?" says Moe, "That is fantastic, wonderful beyond my wildest dreams! But, what's the bad news?"

"You're pitching next Tuesday