



The United Parish

*ECHO*



August 2005

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Growing Together in Christ



# CHURCH FAMILY PICNIC

## Pastor's Desktop

In construction, a supervisor directs the workers to complete the plan of the architect. A lot of construction is simply hard work. There can be obstacles to be removed or worked around. There are things that have to be done a certain way in order for the construction to last and there are things that can be done any of several right ways. If the supervisor misunderstands the architect's plan, or if the workers misunderstand the supervisor, the whole project may be in jeopardy, or more often, it simply means more work later as the error has to be corrected – sometimes at the great cost of tearing down much of what has already been built.

Putting two churches with drastically divergent approaches is a very large project for anyone to tackle. It can only succeed if God's plan is followed well. By now, I may sound like a stuck record to those attending Sunday worship services. By continually pointing to scripture and prayer, I am basically saying that the only way we will succeed is to continually look at the blueprint and ask the architect what it means. Any other approach is just patchwork – baling wire and chewing gum.

As we review the Constitution and By-Laws of United Parish, let's continually be in prayer and attentive to the lessons of the Bible. When the Hebrew tribe went up against Jericho it succeeded so well, they charged on to Ai without consulting God. They were beaten pretty badly. With many other examples we could look at, a clear principle found throughout the Bible is that God's people need to seek God's guidance – which the Holy Spirit brings after we have been immersed in scripture and prayer. Following our own plan cannot bring long term success.

Our constitution and by-laws are supposed to instruct anyone who follows in our footsteps, what we have learned of how to apply the master blueprint to being Christ's church in Elkton. It had better have nothing to do with being Methodist, UCC, or Baptist. It must have something to do with following Christ's lead. This is our opportunity to set the next generation on the right path. Let's do it well.

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Daren

## **Parish Board Meeting**

The United Parish Board met on July 13, 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 Darren, Linda Kampmann, Marsha Timm, Evelyn Stuefen, Nancy Wiskur, Carol Styf, and Virginia Fixsen. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ed. Pastor Daren gave a reflection and prayer.

The minutes of the June meeting were read and approved.

Dawn presented the monthly treasurer report. Results from the Harvest Festival are a profit of \$3,046.61 which is \$882.14 more than last year. Report approved.

Donna presented the financial secretary report and was approved.

Committee reports were given.

PPR : Bev reported that they have met and discussed the results of the questionnaire regarding defining the level of participation. Consensus is that there should not be a constituent rating; that it doesn't matter if a member is active or non-active; if you're a member, then you have all rights as a member. Bev recommended having a congregation meeting to vote on amending the Constitution and By-Laws to reflect these changes. PPR will look at all articles in both reports. Everyone on a committee should review the duties as there may be changes to that also. When to have this meeting will be determined at next board meeting.

Trustees: Eve spouts are in bad shape as well as the roof on the church and parsonage entries. Travis Noble of Elkton has looked at the parsonage roof and will be giving an estimate. Motion by Linda to repair both entries and hire Travis to do the work along with help from the church; seconded by Virginia, motion carried. Eve spouts will more than likely be taken down. Trustees will see about planning to get the east side of the church painted.

Christian Ed: LaRee reported that VBS meetings have been held and this year's event will be held July 24-26 at St. Mary's. Invitations are going out soon.

Worship: Nothing new. Darren did comment that he would continue using the kid's bulletin from the Church Secretary Today.

Mission: They are busy making their fourth quilt. Bev is looking for containers to put their supplies in. They used some of the \$150 donated money for a new iron and ironing board.

UPW: July 31st is Women's Sunday. Guest night is in August. They are working on ingathering kits. Marsha read from the Methodist Internet newsletter that they are in desperate need for health kits for the fire fighters in Western SD. On behalf of the campers, LaRee thanked the UPW for their support for sending kids to camp at Lake Poinsett last week.

OLD BUSINESS: Dawn said that she is sending out notification cards of the appointments for the Lifetouch pictorial directory. Dawn got insurance quotes for the church van, but she needs to call the bank to confirm their quote as it was quoted earlier this year. Right now it looks like the bank is less than UCCIB. Evelyn bought in the box of old UCC membership records that she has been storing at her house. It will be temporarily be kept at the church, but it should be stored somewhere else where they could stay in storage clean and dry.

NEW BUSINESS: John Knutson who has open property for sale on the corner of Beaver and 1st Street has approached us; two lots for

\$31,000, which has sewage & water. We need to look at all open sites that are available. Apportionments for the UCC Association are due; Dawn last paid it in 2003. Mowing needs to be done where the Peace Church was. Carol said she could do it and will be paid \$10 for mowing it. The outdoor church service and picnic will be held Sunday August 28 at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Darren asked our thoughts of providing rides to those who can't get to Brookings. With our grocery store closing soon, this would be a good outreach to those who need it. Discussion was held and wondered if this could be coordinated with the other churches.

Donna had items displayed to look at from the 2nd time capsule from the UCC church. Meeting adjourned. The next board meeting will be on Wed. August 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Sec. LaRee Farnham

### **UPW**

The UPW met on July 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm in the church dining room.

The evening began with the program "Praying Women" by Linda Kampmann. (ASAP – always say a prayer).

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Linda. For devotional she read a reading by Mother Tessa titled "Anyway".

The purpose was read and 16 members answered to roll call with a 4<sup>th</sup> of July memory.

The secretary's reports for April, May, and June were read and approved.

The treasurer's reports for April, May, and June were read and approved. The balance at the end of June was \$2,044.72. Marsha reminded that we need to send in the money for the Call to Prayer and Self Denial. There were no bills.

The Second Wind Ministry to women will be July 11<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Prairie Winds Baptist Church. Donna thanked all those who helped in anyway with her Dad's sale. She also gave us a \$100 donation.

In April thinking-of-you cards were sent to Donna Lynn and Virginia Holmlund and a sympathy card to the Groth family. In May get-well-cards were sent to Lynn Duin, Audrey Thompson and Ann Aaker. In June get-well-cards were sent to Arlyne Janssen and Walter Mueller.

There were no funerals.

Reading Program: Marsha needs to send a report in by August 15<sup>th</sup>. Please let her know what you have read. Marsha also wanted to know how much money she had to spend on books. It was decided \$100 - \$125,

For Missions Dawn reported that we need to publicize the jar "Change for a child's life" in the back of the church and that they are looking into other projects. Bonnie reported that we did sponsor a child to camp. It was a great success and very rewarding.

Approximately \$286 was collected at the Leonard Reinke sale. Because we used the leftovers from the Harvest Festival stand the money was put into the general fund.

Bev gave a report on the Prayer Quilt Ministry. We will be meeting July 9<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the church basement. Linda will be sending in an application for the UMC Love Ribbon Grant for the Prayer Quilt Ministry.

Linda asked about painting the basement. Motion was made by Dawn, seconded by Virginia and the motion carried. Linda will look into getting the paint and setting up a work day.

We were reminded to turn in the Saladless Supper envelopes.

Linda still hasn't heard anything from our sister unit in Tuttle, ND.

On Father's Day key chains were given to all the fathers.

The Ingathering will be in September. Linda had challenged us to supply 50 kits. If you haven't already done so we will need them soon. The greatest demand is for the health kits and then the school kits.

Womens Sunday will be July 31<sup>st</sup>. Linda sent a clip board around asking for volunteers to do different jobs.

Guest Night/Area Churches will be held August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm. Bonnie, Ann, and Sherrie will have the program. Everyone is asked to bring a large salad. Bev will send out the invitations.

It is time to start thinking about the Chicken Supper. Dawn will check at the Community Center for a date.

Jerry Wiskur will be getting married on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Nancy asked if we would supply workers to serve the meal at the Legion in Lake Benton. It was decided to serve – Dawn, Donna, Gert, Virginia, Thelma, Linda, and Bev volunteered to help.

On July 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a layout meeting for the church directory. If you have any pictures or ideas please come. Your help will be appreciated.

Birthdays for July – Arlyne Janssen.

Anniversaries for July – Gert & Rudy (62 years).

Nominations for Mission Recognition was tabled until September.

School of Christian Missions @ Mitchell will be held July 8-10 and July 11-14.

SD District will be redistricting. We will be in the Glacial Lakes District.

Lil, Evelyn M., Carol S., and Arlyne helped with bingo at the Cozy Corner.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm. This will be our Guest Night/Area Churches.

Hostesses were Bonnie Junker and Deanna Lundgren.

Secretary

Beverly Buller

## **PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY**

The Prayer Quilt Ministry has this month been able to distribute 4 quilts. We have received several thank-you's with a heart felt message of gratitude for the prayer quilt and continued prayers.

We meet every second Saturday of the month, this time August 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in the church basement.

We have received wonderful donations of fabrics and batting and most recently we have been able to purchase an ironing board and iron

with money donated to the ministry. ALSO, a sewing machine has just been donated. THANK YOU so much for these items.

If you can, come out and enjoy a nice afternoon. You can cut, sew, piece, have coffee, and/or just visit. All are welcome.

## **VBS**

We had a wonderful turn-out again this year exploring “Serengeti Trek”. The kids learned about knowing God, talking to God, and telling about God.

THANK YOU to all who volunteered their time and dedication to these young hearts. These kids are the future; it is so important to instill in them now the values we believe in.

## **HARVEST FESTIVAL**

A HUGE “thank you” is extended to all of you who helped in any way with this year's Harvest Festival stand. It takes a lot of people and many hours of work to make our stand a success and this year we surpassed our usual profit!

Our stand made \$3,037.61 this year which is about \$800 more than previous year.

We also did a little extra “giving” this year. Each carnical worker and their families were invited to our stand for a free dinner meal on Monday night. 46 of the 52 tickets given out were used and very much appreciated.

Pat yourselves of the back everyone. You all did a great job!!!

Thanks,

The Committee

## Grape Vine

Just a heads-up: first day of Sunday School will be September 11<sup>th</sup>. Plans are in the making for the Sunday School Kick-Off.

Donna Magnus received this thank you after the last UPW meeting and preferred not to delay until the September meeting to share this thank you: “I want to thank you for serving lunch at our dad's auction. My sister is very blessed to have friends like you and may God bless you abundantly. Also, thank you to anyone who helped in any way at the auction. God Bless, and Thank you, Bev Cucci (Reinke)”.

The United Parish Women are hosting their annual guest night on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30pm. If you are able, please bring a large salad and come for a fun evening.

The White United Methodist Church, White, SD, is hosting a BAR-B-Q, PIE, and ICE CREAM Social on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm. Proceeds will go to Mission Projects of the White United Methodist Women.

WANTED!! We currently have a box of UCC membership books at the church. This box needs to be stored elsewhere before humidity and temperature extremes begin to destroy these historic documents. If you would be willing to keep this box at your home until such time as permanent facilities are available, contact any Board members

OK, this one came to me through the mail and I really had to laugh.  
“The Revenend's Wife tells about her day:

The other day I went to the local religious bookstore where I saw a “HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS” bumper sticker. I bought it and put it on the back bumper of my car and I'm really glad I did. What an uplifting experience followed.

I was stopped at the light of a busy intersection. Just lost in thought about the Lord and didn't notice that the light had changed. That bumper sticker really worked. I found lots of people who love Jesus: Why, the guy behind me started to honk like crazy. He must really love the Lord, because pretty soon he leaned out his window and yelled "Jesus Christ!!!" as loud as he could. It was like a football game, with him shouting "Go, Jesus Christ, Go!" Everyone else started honking too, so I leaned out of my window and waved and smiled to all those loving people. There must have been a guy from Florida back there because I could hear him yelling something about a sunny beach and I saw him waving in a funny way, with only his middle finger stuck up in the air. I had recently asked my two kids what that meant. They kind of squirmed, looked at each other, giggle and told me that it was the Hawaiian good luck sign, so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign back.

A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and were walking towards me. I bet they wanted to pray, but just then I noticed that the light had changed and I stepped on the gas. It is a good thing, because I was the only car to get across the intersection. I looked back and saw them standing there. I leaned out the window, gave them a big smile and the Hawaiian good luck sign as I drove away.

Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks."