



The United Parish

ECHO

May 2006



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

Growing Together in Christ

“Be still, and know that I am God”

Psalm 46: 10a



United Parish
301 West 2nd St
P.O. Box 218
Elkton, SD 57026

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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

1 – Jordan Anderson
4 – Bonnie Junker
9 – Andrew Thompson
12 – Don Bauman
13 – Drew Hansen
13 – Abbi Sudtelgte
19 – Don Koch
20 – Justin Bauman
23 – Alex Hegerfeld
27 – Virginia Holmlund
27 – Shirley Lundgren
30 – Don Magnus

Liturgists

7 – Carrie Thompson
14 -
21 -
28 – Susan Sudtelgte

SPONSORS OF THIS MONTH'S ISSUE ARE:

BEV & DICK BULLER

Anniversaries

17 – Daren & Bonnie Junker

Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Sherry Bauman
Nancy Wiskur

Acolyte: Nick Tolck

Quotes from "Famous" Mothers

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S MOTHER:

"Again with the stovepipe hat, Abe? Can't you just wear a baseball cap like the other kids?"

BATMAN'S MOTHER:

"It's a nice car, Bruce, but do you realize how much the insurance will be!"

ALBERT EINSTEIN'S MOTHER:

"But, Albert, it's your senior picture. Can't you do something about your hair? Styling gel, mousse, something....?"

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MOTHER:

"The next time I catch you throwing money across the Potomac, you can kiss your allowance good-bye!"

JONAH'S MOTHER:

"That's a nice story, but now tell me where you've really been for the past 3 days!"

SUPERMAN'S MOTHER:

"Clark, your father and I have discussed it, and we've decided you can have your own telephone line. Now will you quit spending so much time in all those phone booths!"

THOMAS EDISON'S MOTHER:

"Of course I'm proud that you invented the electric light bulb, dear. Now turn off that light and get to bed!"

About two weeks ago I had a really interesting conversation with a lady about why coming to church. Her brother claims to be a Christian but does not see the need for being in church to be a believer. She asked me for advice what to tell him; it seemed so simple to her why to be in church if you truly are a believer, but yet so hard to explain. Kind of like explaining how to make your heart beat; it either does or doesn't. It made me wonder why others come to church. So, I are starting a new section in the Echo: **Why do you come to United Parish on Sunday morning?** Please let me hear from you. In one of the early Christian writings we are advised to *“Consider the works of the evil way. Do not withdraw yourselves from others as if you were already justified, but coming all together into one place, inquire what is agreeable to and profitable for the beloved of God. For the Scriptures says “Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes; and prudent in their sight.”* (from the early Christian writings of Barnabas). So, why are you here on Sunday morning? Since God is omnipresent, we know we can find Him anywhere. I can pray to Him at home on the couch. Granted, some of our younger members are here because mom and dad made them and until they reach more maturity in their Christian walk, that will for them be the reason. So, how about you? I really want to hear from you and print your reason for being here.

Oh, what a time of year! May brings so much life and so many changes. With such a mild winter, spring has a great start already, and now Mother's Day, Graduation, and the end of the school year are upon us. As everyone gets involved with outdoor activities that have had to wait, it is easier than ever to skip church. I just hope you don't skip God. Our shepherd is always ready to lead us to green pastures, if we are ready to follow.

A couple of years ago, I wrote that attending church is not the most important thing, but that genuine faith is what matters most. That is just as true today as when I wrote it, and yet it does need to be balanced with 'not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together' because that is how we can grow the most and encourage one another the most to stay on the true path. Outdoor activities give me the greatest opportunity to be out in the world God has made instead of the indoor world that humankind has made. I, for one, certainly have experienced God's presence most closely when out in nature rather than closed into a church building. Some of you may relate to that. It was quite a personal struggle for me to become willing to lead worship services, and yet I have found that it really is in the gathering together that we can goad each other on to love more and to open our hearts ever more fully to God. This has let those opportunities to meet my Creator and Savior out in the rest of the world become even deeper. The 'green pastures' weren't what I expected them to be. They were not communing with nature in order to get closer to God. They were

gathering with people, which brought me closer to God and this, in turn, made nature even more meaningful.

So, the green pastures God has for you may not be what you expect them to be. They will be something that brings you eternal growth in your soul by bringing you closer to God. They will probably be something you don't want at first. I encourage you to find the things God wants you to do that you resist – and do them. You will be amazed at the improvements that come into the deepest parts of your life and well up to energize all the rest of it. God is not supposed to be part of your life. God is to be the center of your life.

If you want more life in your days, just try it.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Daren



Happy Mother's Day

Sunday School information:

May 14: Mother's Day*

Last day of Sunday School

*The Sunday school kids will be handing out bedding plants to all mothers right after the church service

May 21: Awards Sunday*

EHS Graduation

Awards will be given to all students participating in Sunday school (and release time) during the church service.

Be watching the ECHO to Vacation Bible School info.
HAVE A GREAT SUMMER.

On Sunday, May 21st we are in for a real treat: "Sound of the Trumpet" by Joel Finnesgard. Come for a time of worship and reflection of our Lord and Savior in this unique setting of instrumental music.

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast to her brunette hair. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?" Her mother replied "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turns white." The little girl thought about this revelation for a while and then asked, "Momma, how come all of grandma's hairs are white?"

The mission committee has launched a new project called **Undie Sunday**. It first came to our attention thru a flyer we got in the mail from the Tree of Life Ministries that serves the reservation areas in western SD. At first just the name intrigued me and I showed the article to Patty DeZeeuw and Virginia Fixsen and they also thought it was a fun name for a very serious project. In the article it pointed out the severe poverty on the reservations with the average income being about \$7300. Many are even less. Unbelievable isn't ?? So something that we don't probably give a second thought like having enough underwear is a big problem on the reservation. So churches are being asked to donate new undergarments. Anything from socks, to briefs, T shirts and panties we will collect during the month of May and then we will send them over to the Tree of Life Ministries. The age group is from the very tiny to the very elderly and everyone in between. There will be a container in the church foyer for a drop off point. Hope everyone can participate in Undie Sunday project. Many thanks from Linda , Patty and Virginia.

As summer is getting closer and we are starting to shed our winter coats, it is often also necessary to shed something more than just the coat. I have already through out our church heard the initial grumblings and rumors of weight loss and diets in order to get ready for the summer. This is my solution: Weigh yourself correctly!!!



Parish Board Meeting

The United Parish Board met on April 12th, 2006 at 7pm in the church fellowship hall. Officers in attendance were Chairperson Bev Buller, Lay Leader Ed Timm, Financial Secretary Donna Magnus, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, and Secretary Carrie Thompson. Also in attendance were Virginia Fixsen, Pastor Daren, Linda Kampmann, Carol Styf, and Justin Thompson. The meeting was called to order by the chairperson. Pastor Daren gave an opening prayer. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved with no corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Dawn presented the monthly report and it was approved.

Beginning balance 2/28/06	\$3,075.93	
March Income	3,620.75	
		\$6,696.68
March Expenses	< 6,680.96 >	
Ending Balance 3/31/06		\$15.72
Landscaping Account 2/28/06	\$1,053.47	
Interest earned	1.95	
3/31/06		\$1,055.42

The church insurance and also the health insurance were paid. As of 3/31/06 we have received 23% of the needed income for basic operating expenses in 2006.

2006 Budget	\$65,191.00
Income received through 3/31/06	14,725.11
	<hr/>
Still needed	\$50,465.89
	Divided by 9 months
	<hr/>
Equals the amount needed	\$ 5,607.32 / mo.

Financial Secretary: Donna reported that the Building Fund is \$168,857.44.

We've received a donation of \$1770.00 towards the Building Fund from the Stuefen Family. It has been put into the money market account. The report was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

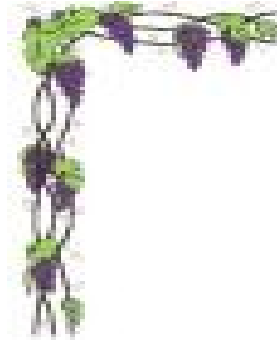
Pastor-Parish Relations: nothing to report

Trustees: Troy Wiskur will be coming with a flatbed and chainsaw to take care of the branches laying around. Aaron Thompson came and fixed the closet light at the Parsonage.

Christian Ed: Final figures aren't in yet for the "One Great Hour of Sharing" carnival.

Worship: nothing new to report.

After putting her children to bed, a mother changed into old slacks and a worn out blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her tolerance grew thin. At last she put a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with severe warnings. While leaving the room, she overheard her three-year-old say with a shaky voice, "Who was 'that'?"



Grape Vine

Remember the **HyVee receipts** you have been bringing for a while now? Well, as of 18 April we are now up to \$36,980.96!!!! And there were still receipts that came in afterwards that have not been added to this total yet. Keep bringing them in and put them in the box. As you can see, we are well on our way to reach the goal. THANK YOU Gert and Rudy for taking care of adding them all up.

The Pictorial Directories are in!!!! Everybody who sat for a portrait or submitted a photo (so anyone with their picture in the directory) are entitled to a free a free copy. There are a handful of extra copies available for \$10 each. Be sure to come to church to pick it up.

Beth and Janii have agreed to be co-members of the Food Pantry board in Flandreau.

For our shut-in program we drew names for someone to remember, pray for and/or visit in April.

100 were served at the 3rd Thursday Supper with proceeds of \$286.36. Dawn made a motion to donate \$300 to the Community Center; Marsha seconded the motion, motion carried.

Beth will check on a date for the Senior Luncheon.

Our May meeting will be the Mother's Day/Memorial Program. Gert and Sherry are in charge of the program. On April 8th at 1 pm there will be a bridal shower for Amber Doop.

Shirley Hegerfeld will be in charge of the Sunday morning coffee on April 9th.

Amber & Dusty's wedding will be on May 6th. Amber asked if 3 ladies could help serve at the reception. Linda and Dawn volunteered and they will find a third person.

Amber suggested that as a fund raiser we sponsor a rummage sale on the first weekend in June when they have the city wide rummage sales. Linda will turn the idea over to Nancy.

Marsha reminded that we need to send in a Gift to Mission for our graduate Steven Holm and a gift in Memory for Evelyn Stuefen. Marsha said she has the cards at home.

Happy Birthday was sung to Gert. The other April birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged.

Our next meeting will be May 3rd, at 7:30 pm.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer. Hostesses were Gert DeZeeuw and Donna Magnus.

Secretary

Beverly Buller

Missions: April 23rd the "Undie Sunday" plans will be revealed!!!

UPW: Thank-yous arrived from the "Tree of Life Ministries" and the "Banquet" for the donations and the crocheted pieces. Will be working on the Mother's Day Memorial Program next. May 10th is the Senior Luncheon. Bev was contacted by someone wanting to use the church basement to sell for commercial use.

It was decided not to allow for commercial use. Price was discussed for a non-member seeking to use the church for private use. It will be a \$50 fee. It used to be \$25. Also discussed was a payment to the Pastor for weddings etc. It was decided that for non-members a possible \$75-\$100 donation be set for the Pastor to be able to keep. As for members, any donation that was made would be added to the Building Fund.

Historian: no report

Building Committee: Still looking at sites. Rufus will be talking to Dale Lynn about a piece he owns. There is a piece east of the Tree Bank that the Catholic's own. Also, Bob Rochel has property kitty-corner from Bullers.

Membership: no report

Stewardship: Committee will be meeting soon.

Correspondences: We've received a letter from Dakotas Conference United Methodist Church asking about the 2005 apportionments. A letter from Frieden's Re-

formed Church of Christ of Tripp, SD voicing their concerns with the equal marriage rights for all and the proposal they are taking to Conference concerning this matter. We also received a letter from Jackie Diedrich asking for support with the Post Prom Event for 2006. A motion was made by Virginia Fixsen to donate \$20 and it was seconded by Linda Kampmann and Donna Magnus.

OLD BUSINESS: As an update with the Affiliated educational non-profit organizations, Dawn has faxed a letter to their contact but hasn't received a response. The pictorial CD is still in progress.

NEW BUSINESS: Kampmann's were contacted about selling their shed. The church has been using this shed for storage. In any agreement, if the shed were sold, the church would still be allowed to use it for storage.

Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer. The next board meeting will be on Wednesday, May 10th at 7pm.
Secretary Carrie Thompson

Can people predict the future with cards?

My mother can.

Really?

Yes, she takes one look at my report card and tells me what will happen when my father gets back home.

UPW

The UPW met on April 6th at 7:30 pm in the church dining room. The program Earth Day Celebration was presented by Ann Aaker. The meeting was called to order and for devotions Linda read "Power of Prayer" from the Devotional Guide Dakota Conference UMW.

The purpose was read by 12 members and 1 guest, Amber Doop.

For the Food Pantry Project we were to bring Easter dinner non-perishable food items.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer's report for February and March were read and approved. The balance on hand March 31st was \$2,356.14. There were no bills.

We received thank-yous from the SF Banquet for the quilt blocks, from the 3rd Thursday Supper coordinator for serving in March and from The Tree of Life Ministry for our donations for the laundry equipment.

The UMC of Brookings invited us to help celebrate their purpose on May 11 at 7:00 pm. The National Guard will present a program on Iraq and the hurricanes.

Focus Day will be held at the Methodist Church in Madison on April 29th beginning at 8:30 am. There will be a \$6 cost for lunch. We need to respond by April 20th. Please let Linda know if you want to go.

Get Well cards were sent to Milt Janssen, Irvin Stuefen and Lester Risch. Sympathy cards were sent to the Stuefen and McMahon families.

There were 2 funerals. 96 were served at the Stuefen funeral and 89 served at the McMahon funeral.

Marsha has ordered new books for the church library. The reading program was explained to Amber.