



The United Parish

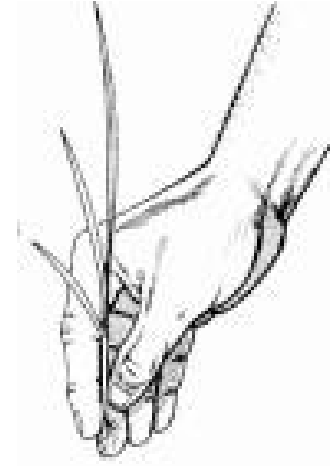
ECHO

June 2006



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

Growing Together in Christ



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- CarrieThompson.....	542-8051
Pastor Daren Junker	
Church.....	542-7101
cell phone.....	605-929-5957
email:.....	pastor@elktonunitedparish.org

Birthdays

4 – Skylar Thomas	27 – Lynda & Bob Russell
7 – John Lytle, jr.	27 – Mark & Jannii White
8 – Cal Stein	29 – David & Diane DeMartelaer
10 – Scott Lundgren	30 – Steve & Georgianna Jensen
15 – Stephen Holm	
16 – Ed Timm	
17 – Donna Magnus	<u>Ushers & Acolyte</u>
23 – Danny Brown	Ushers: name1
23 – Roween Cameron	name2
26 – Kristi Palecek	Acolyte: name
26 – Dawn Hansen	
29 – Mike Thomas	<u>Liturgists</u>

Anniversaries

6 – Marshal & Jean Janssen
13 – Bruce & Beth Holm
14 – Dennis & Deanna Lundgren
21 – Tal & LaRee Farnham
22 – Bert & Lisa Kuehl
24 – Lance & Kristi Palecek

Due to this special program there was no business meeting.

Our next meeting “Member's Night Out” will be held on Monday, June 12th. We will be attending the Brookings Christian Women's “After 5” at the Staurolite Inn.

Grape Vine

Reminder UPW: June 19th will be our *member's night out* at the Staurolite Inn, Brookings, at 6:45 pm. Come join us for “Christian Women's After Five Meeting”. We have a wonderful program lined up, so make sure you make your reservations with Linda Kampmann by June 15th!! The cost of the supper is \$8.00 and you will be responsible to pay for each meal you reserve. If you are interested, we will car pool from the church at 6:00pm.

Why do I come to United Parish on Sunday Morning??

Last month I asked this question in the Echo and asked you to reply to me with why you go to church on Sunday morning and specifically why United Parish. I already had a wonderful reply to this from one person, but I had a little trouble with the computer and e-mail, so you will have to wait until next month. PLEASE think about this question and give me your input. I can easily print more than one reply (provided my e-mail cooperates :-)).

Ed will be making arrangements for someone to fill in at Sunday Service while Pastor Daren is gone. Harvest Festival is June 12th and 13th. Committee will be meeting soon to make plans.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next board meeting will be June 21st. The meeting is one week later to have a break after the Harvest Festival.

Carrie Thompson, Secretary

The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?" "No sir," little Johnny replies, "I don't have to. My mom is a good cook."

UPW

The UPW's annual Mother's Day/Memorial program was held on May 3rd at 7:30pm in the church sanctuary. 19 members and 11 guests helped honor all mothers and those of our congregation that have passed away during the past year. (Larry Boltjes, Irvin & Evelyn Stuefen, Alice McMahan, Robert Lundgren, and Lester Risch).

The program was presented by Gertrude DeZeeuw and Sherry Bauman. Lunch was served in the church dining room by Linda Kampmann and Virginia Fixsen.

Pastor's Desktop

A word from a Da Vinci coach:

The Destination Imagination team that I coached won the Da Vinci award this year. Since they only thought of first and second place as winning, we spent some time looking into Leonardo Da Vinci. He was a fantastically inventive, scientific, and artistic person in 15th century Italy. Born in the late 1400's and living into the early 1500's, his curiosity about the natural world risked conflict with the official church views of the day. This was the same time period that the Spanish Inquisition began. He also worked for the church in several instances. So, to protect himself from possible trouble he quite smartly kept a lot of his research and ideas in coded notebooks. This provided Dan Brown a wonderful setting for a story about secrets being passed on.

The book and movie, *The Da Vinci Code* is what is called historical fiction. This means that even though some real historical people or events are in the story, it is not all fact, some of it is simply made up as in any work of fiction. Dan Brown picked a perfect time to write his novel and a perfect setting for it. What makes this a perfect time to write such a book is the meeting of two trends. A lot of distrust of institutions has grown into a time in which conspiracy theories thrive and people are hungry for secrets that have been hidden from them. That a book based on a secret hidden by one of the largest institutions in all of history should come shortly after that organization has been embarrassed by trying to cover up the child abuse scandals is a recipe for success. The second factor is that we are more and more a split society in

which controversies abound. A controversial conspiracy theory is about the best marketing vehicle available.

While the book was written to draw out the suspense, you may find the movie disappointing. Of course, fictional works are intended to entertain, and by being entertaining to make a lot of money for the people involved in selling it. The reviews of the movie from the entertainment viewpoint are consistently saying that it comes up short, so it was certainly a bit of brilliant marketing to make sure the movie became controversial. The two extremes that have formed over *The Da Vinci Code* are those offended by it and those who change their beliefs based on it. As is usually the case, both extremes could use some correction. Both can be overcome by remembering that it is actually just a movie based on a novel, not based on historical fact. There are only enough facts to keep the fictional story believable. If it wasn't believable, it would not be a well-written story.

Because the line between fact and fiction is supposed to be blurred in well-written historical fiction, I would like to briefly list a few of the factual and fictional bits in the story. It is true that Da Vinci coded a lot of his work. It is true that Jesus had a special relationship with many of the core disciples, including Mary Magdalene. It is true that the Council of Nicaea discussed many doctrines. It is true that many gnostic writings were rejected.

It is not true that there was a secret church organization called "Priory of Sion". It was a social club created by a Frenchman in 1956, more than 400 years after Leonardo's death. One of its founding members was convicted of fraud. It is not true that there has been an organized effort to conceal heirs of Jesus. Even if such heirs existed, they would be irrelevant since, as Jesus himself

gram. Honored were Evelyn and Stub Stuefen, Alice McMahon, Lester Risch, Robert Lundgren, and Larry Boltjes. Roses were given to the family members. An Oreck commercial vacuum was purchased. The women's outing this year will be on Monday June 12th and the will be attending the Brookings Christian Women's Group.

Historian: Marsha keeps updating records every month.

Building Committee: They met and are still looking at sites. A few more suggestions were brought to their attention and they are waiting for more information.

Membership: no report

There have been no new correspondences received.

OLD BUSINESS

Branches at the Peace Lot are still planning to be removed. The contact for Affiliated Foods project finally responded back to Dawn and stated that he was no longer with that program.

NEW BUSINESS

A \$50 check was received for the church rental. The UCC Annual Conference is coming up in June. Pastor will be leaving June 7th and coming back on June 12th.

Financial Report: Donna gave the Financial Report and it was approved. She received a \$500 donation in the name of Lester Risch and it was put into the money market Building Fund. She also received a \$100 Memorial donation in Alice McMahon's name.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastor-Parish Relations: Nothing to report.

Trustees: Dawn was asked about maybe getting estimates for the churches propane from Ramsdell's in Flan-dreau. Trustees had met and discussed the issue of more holders for the pews so there aren't books laying in the pews. It was suggested that they check to see which is cheaper the holders or new hymnals that would have a combination of both hymnals in it. Landscaping issues were discussed. Gravel for the driveway at the Parson-age is scheduled to arrive soon.

Christian Ed: Have been many scheduling conflicts to meet. The last day of Sunday School is May14th. Sun-day School Awards Sunday is May 21st.

Worship: Reported a successful Lenten season!!

Mission: Donna reported from Linda Kampmann that "Undie Sunday" will go all of May.

UPW: Linda Kampmann's notes reported that they had about 28 for the Mother's Day Memorial Day Pro-

taught the disciples even at his betrayal, 'my kingdom is not of this world'. It is not true that Opus Dei suppressed truth by killing or torture. It is a program 'to spread the message that work and the circumstances of everyday life are occasions for growing closer to God, for serving others, and for improving society.' It is not true that the deity of Jesus rested on a close vote of the Council of Nicaea, but that the Council recognized it's reality by a landslide (318 to 2) and carbon dated texts from 100-200 years older than the Council meeting already stated it. It is not true that the Council meeting referred to in *The Da Vinci Code* determined which books were recognized as the New Testament. That had been mostly done about 200 years earlier, again supported by carbon dated texts, but wasn't officially finalized until after the meeting of 325 A.D. The few (not thousands) gnostic gospels were already identified as not authentic, except by a handful of, essentially, cult leaders. The Apostle Paul himself addressed several of the heretical ideas that became known as gnosticism centuries before Constantine was born.

There is more, but I hope that by now all will realize how important it is that *The Da Vinci Code* was originally written as a novel, in other words acknowledged as fiction. Specifically it is historical fiction, which must have enough fact to make it believable in order for the story to work at all. Unfortunately, in order to sell more books and movie tickets, the author, publisher, and producers, have embraced the conspiracy theory as real. As a sales gimmick, that has worked flawlessly.

So, if you want to enjoy an entertaining story, go ahead. I think you may find the book to be better quality than the movie. If you want to stay away from it in order to discourage the promotion of a fake conspiracy as real,

all the better. But whatever you do, please don't confuse fact and fiction, or at least research it.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Daren

After the christening of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That priest said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"

Sponsoring The Echo

Good morning everyone! As I type this, the sun is shining, a slight breeze is cleansing the air and the temperature is just right. God does a wonderful job, doesn't he? We are able to mail the Echo this month to those who are unable to pick them up in Church due to the generosity of Gordon & Marlene Bruening. A big thank you goes out to both of you! We need sponsors for August, October, November and December to finish out 2006. If you would like to be a sponsor just let me know.

*God Bless,
Dawn Boltjes
548-2051*

Parish Board Meeting

The United Parish Board met on May 10th, 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 Carol Styf, Virginia Fixsen, and Pastor Daren. The meeting was called to order by the chairperson. Pastor Daren gave the opening prayer. The minutes of the April meeting were read with the following corrections: It was stated in the last reported minutes that "It was decided that for non_members a possible \$75-\$100 donation to 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." It should have read that "for a non-member it was recommended that a \$75-\$100 donation be set for the Pastor."

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

Beginning Balance	3/31/06	\$ 15.72
April Income		\$5475.32
		<hr/>
		\$5,491.04
April Expenses		<4687.95>
		<hr/>
Ending Balance	4/30/06	\$ 803.09
Landscaping Account		\$1,055.42