



The United Parish

ECHO

August 2006



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

Growing Together in Christ



THANK GOD FOR SUMMER
MEMORIES WORTH KEEPING

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Anniversaries and Birthdays.....	1
From the Pastor's Desktop.....	2
United Parish Board Meeting.....	4
UPW.....	8
The Grape Vine.....	12
Calendar.....	Center

United Parish Board Members

Bev Buller-Chairman.....	542-3611
Ed Timm-PPR Chair.....	542-2241
Financial Secretary-Donna Magnus.....	542-3241
Treasurer-Dawn Boltjes.....	548-2051
Secretary- Carrie Thompson.....	542-8051
Pastor Daren Junker	
Church.....	542-7101
cell phone.....	605-929-5957
email:.....	pastor@elktonunitedparish.org

Birthdays

2 – James Anderson
3 – David Lynn
4 – Rufus A. DeZeeuw
6 – Blake Hanson
6 – Beth Holm
8 – Bruce Holm
9 – Janii White
12 – Donna Lynn
20 – Troy Wiskur
21 – Merlin Thompson
23 – Patty DeZeeuw
28 – John Boltjes
31 – Michael Junker

Anniversaries

12 – Don & Donna Magnus (50!!)
23 – Blake & Dawn Hanson

Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Carrie Thompson
Justin Thompson
Acolyte: Taylor White

Liturgists

(we didn't pass the sign up list
around yet, so the liturgists will be
determined)

I heard the following this past
week, paraphrased from the
famous saying from Pres.
Kennedy:

*"It is not what your church can
do for you, but what you can do
for your church."*

Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair, and a three-piece suit. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he's going to do.

How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor?

It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy.

The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Bill and worships with him so he won't be alone.

Everyone chokes up with emotion. When the minister gains control, he says, "What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget."

"Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read!"

So, would you be that deacon?? Or do you just agree that it is a cool story... if it were true. Take a week to really think about that. Would you be that deacon?

Would you be that deacon??

His name is Bill. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans, and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college.

He is brilliant. Kind of profound and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Bill decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt, and wild hair. The service has already started and so Bill starts down the aisle looking for a seat.

The church is completely packed and he can't find a seat. By now, people are really looking a bit uncomfortable, but no one says anything.

Bill gets closer and closer and closer to the pulpit, and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet.

By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick.

About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Bill.

Pastor's Desktop

What is the purpose of the Church?

Seems everyone in certain circles is still talking about 'purpose-driven' everything. While it may be a helpful and more up-to-date way to refer to mission or vision, it can lead one to speculation not only about your own life purpose, or a local congregation's focus in ministry, but also to guessing what the whole church thing is about at all. At least, it can. Many churches exist for no biblical purpose any longer. Such churches should be examined closely.

Is United Parish one of those?

If we allow ourselves to congregate only for social purposes, or only out of habit, then we are. If we gather together to worship the only true God and to encourage one another to follow that God ever closer in our individual lives, then we are not. It is a choice we make collectively. If we choose to be challenged by biblical principles and by the guiding Spirit of Christ, we can not be content to have only a form of godliness, but will live out God's love and grace in our lives and in our church.

But, my opening question had 'church' capitalized. That means that I was asking about the whole church throughout time and in all places. Partly, I asked it because that is exactly what many who are not involved in any church will actually be asking. They often don't see any point to the whole 'church thing'. They can come this conclusion because so many churches are no longer living out their biblical purpose, but only cultural purposes. There are biblical purposes clearly given. They are not always the splashy ones being promoted in popular materials.

The primary purpose of the Church, always holding up any other purpose, is to glorify God. Yes, we are to encourage one another. Yes, we are to equip the saints. Yes, we are to spread the good news. Yes, we are to seek the lost. But why? To glorify God. The Church is to be presented to Christ as a holy bride, purified and beautified by God's grace and love.

Now why would it need to be purified?

Because every one of us in it are impure on our own. It is only through turning away from our way of approaching life, no matter how purpose-driven, and accepting the absolute necessity of returning to obedience to God. It is not a matter of works saving a person, but it is a matter of salvation changing what a person does. And when a person stumbles for those who are more spiritual to humbly and lovingly bring them to repentance again, so that the Church is purified. Throughout the ages many well-intentioned people have thought that the only way to purify the church was to drive out the impure. Of course, then no one would be left in it. Sadly, our modern way of thinking is not necessarily any better. These days we tend to allow everything, never correcting in love, never confronting false teaching, never naming something as sin.

There is a middle way.

Jesus called on his disciples to be holy as God is holy. This is only accomplished by continually admitting what is wrong and turning away from it and toward God – both in our individual lives and in our corporate life. By God's grace we continue to grow in holiness as we love one another into repentance.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Daren

Thank you so much Dawn for you input. I hope this will encourage others to share with each other why you come to United Parish on Sunday morning.

INNOCENCE IS PRICELESS

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque.

"Pastor, what is this?" he asked the pastor.

The pastor said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear,

asked, "Which service, the 8:30 or the 10:45?"

Dawn Boltjes, Jennifer Kampmann, Melissa Bleeker, Susan Sudtelgte, Carrie Thompson, Georgie Jensen, Pastor Daren, and Sherry Bauman. Let's not forget our youth who volunteered their evenings to come and help the younger kids as crew leaders or just helping out: Dana Junker, Cassidy Hart, Annelise Sudtelgte, Abbi Sudtelgte, and Michael Junker.

We will be having a **Bridal Shower** for Melissa Bleeker, bride to be of Troy Wiskur, on August 26. Time and details and still to be worked out.

Why do I come to United Parish on Sunday morning?

I asked this question a few months ago and so far only one person has given their input. Here is it:

“You would think this would be a simple question to answer. It is not. My first response to the question, in fact it popped into my head instantly, was because I don't want to miss anything. It is the plain, unvarnished truth. My second though was just how shallow that sounded. Is this only reason I drag myself out of bed on the absolutely only day of the week that I could sleep in? What do I think I will miss? And that “I” -it sounds so self-centered. Yet, instead of becoming depressed over my obvious lack of....well, my lack of whatever, I then realized that what I didn't want to miss was hearing if anyone needed my prayers of finding out if anyone had a joy that I could help them feel good about. It's all about caring for all of you.
Dawn Boltjes”

Parish Board Meeting

Parish Board Minutes July 12, 2006

The Parish Board was called to order at 7pm by President Bev Buller. Pastor Daren offered a prayer for our meeting. Officers in attendance were Bev Buller, Dawn Boltjes, Donna Magnus and Ed Timm. Others in attendance were Carol Styf and Linda Kampmann. Linda took the minutes as Carrie Thompson was on vacation.

Dawn Boltjes read the minutes from the May meeting. They were approved as read with the correction to the spelling of Styf.

Financial reports.

Treasurer Dawn Boltjes read the report from the hand-out.

Beginning balance 5-31-06	\$561.05
June income	\$8127.01
June expenses	\$8224.01
Ending balance 6-30-06	\$ 463.55

Landscaping account : \$869.72

The income and expenses do reflect the Harvest Festival. Final totals on that are not ready at this time. The report was approved as printed.

Donna Magnus reported on the CD's and passbook savings. The total funds on deposit in savings are \$ 173,050.87. This reflects an increase due to interest paid of about \$830.00. There was some discussion concerning the per cent of interest paid on these accounts.

PPR: Ed Timm reported that they plan to meet after church on July 16,2006.

Trustees: Dawn reported that the youth group had done some weeding out in front of the church and that it is looking much better. Linda is to send a thank you for their efforts. There was discussion that at some point the rocks need to be removed and new plastic put down and the rocks replaced. Bev Buller reported that a window in the far north corner of the basement is very rotten around the wood framing. Daylight can be seen thru the framing. It needs to be fixed before winter.

Christian Ed: Bonnie submitted a written report stating they had met in May and welcomed several new members. They went over the responsibilities of the Christian Ed and upcoming events. Currently they are busy with VBS with St Mary's. It will be July 23-25. They plan to meet again in August and begin working on several things that were discussed in May, such as a Bible study, camp awareness, and Confirmation and Sunday school kickoff.

Mission: Linda read a thank you from the Tree of Life Ministry regarding the box the received with the Undies. They were very grateful and extend a heartfelt thank you

worry about is where will be get the money to mail the Echo to those who are unable to pick them up in Church. A big thank you to Thelma Brandt who is sponsoring the August postage in memory of her husband, Lloyd. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

God Bless,
Dawn Boltjes, Treasurer
548-2051

THANK YOU to all who came out and helped **paint the basement**, made new curtains, shared great new ideas, and supported in other ways by bringing bars and goodies. We had a great time while working hard and it really paid off.

The Chicken Supper will be on September 27th. There will this year again be a Country Store. Please consider bringing items to the store. Some items that seems to sell really well are:

- Home baked goods, please remember to seal them well and make sure they transport easily.
- Craft items
- Home grown items from the garden

We ask that you do not bring any plants please. If you have any questions or want to help, please contact Bev Buller at 542-3611.

VBS is already done for this year! It came and went so fast and 39 kids had a great time learning about God's truths. VBS cannot happen if people aren't willing to serve and many gave their time again this year. **THANK YOU** to Laura Tjernagel, Bev Buller, Linda Kampmann,

Automatic Withdrawals:

A couple months ago we mailed forms for automatic withdrawal of contributions. A couple members returned their forms but we were unable to honor their request because they did not bank with BankStar Financial.

Automatic withdrawal is a free process if both the Church and the member maintain their accounts in the same financial institution, in this case, BankStar Financial. Should a member bank at a different institution the church would be charged a fee for each withdrawal. This is not beneficial to either the Church or the member.

We will still offer the automatic withdrawal of contributions to our members, but we must stipulate that the member account needs to be with BankStar Financial.

If you are in need of a form, please contact the Treasurer, Dawn Boltjes, at 507-548-2051 and she will be more than happy to help you.

2005 Church Directories:

We currently have seven families that have not picked up their beautiful Church Directories. The directories are provided to you for free so we would rather not start mailing any out. It is a wonderful opportunity for the members listed in it to come and visit, fellowship and worship.

If picking up your directory just isn't possible, please contact Pastor Daren Junker at 542-7101.

Sponsoring The Echo:

Good morning everyone! It is very warm and very humid outside. Our crops and lawns could use a good rain but I am not complaining. In other parts of the state conditions are even worse. One thing we don't have to

from the tribe. Also the application for this year Angel Tree has been submitted.

UPW.: Discussed our upcoming Guest Night which is Tuesday, August 1 at 6pm. Also made plans for painting the church basement on July 14 and 15. A date has now been set for Chicken Supper. It is Sept 27,2006.

Historian: There was no news to report.

Building committee: Dawn reported they will meet after church on Sunday July 16,2006.

Membership: No report.

Stewardship: Dawn reported they are meeting sometime during the week of July 17th.

Old business : The correct officer listing is now in the Echo. No one volunteered for the janitorial position. For the time being Bev Buller is doing the work with the help of Bonnie Junker, Karen-Marie and Laura Tjernagel. A schedule is being worked on for a monthly volunteer list. Bonnie Junker gave a wonderful talk on her Lilies of the Field project in church on Sunday, July 9th. Dawn suggested that when she gives her presentation perhaps she could display some of the wonderful dresses and things that she had made over or perhaps have a vase of lilies for effect.

New Business: A new Bible study will start in Sept and run the same months as the kids are in Sunday school. This Bible study will meet the 2nd and 4th Wed

of each month. The parish board agreed to move their meeting to the 3rd Wednesday of each month beginning in Sept.

Michael Junker spoke before the board requesting permission to hang a tire swing from one of the strong trees located on the Peace church property. Since this swing will be very accessible to the public it was discussed they we need to check on our liability insurance. Dawn made a motion to approve his request with the contingency it is covered under our insurance policy. Donna Magnus seconded the request and all approved.

Cenex had sent the budget amount for heating fuel for the church and parsonage. We had a credit of \$1028.00 left from last year so we could make a smaller payment using some of the credit to make up the difference. It was agreed to leave the credit and lower our payments to \$ 420.00 a month from July through April.

Daren reported that there are two windows in the parsonage that need to be replaced before winter.

Next meeting will be August 9,2006 at 7pm. The meeting was adjourned with all praying the Lord's prayer

Respectfully submitted

Linda Kampmann
Acting Secretary

Grape Vine

The annual **Ingathering** is coming up on *September 23rd!!* That may seem like a long time from now, but if you plan on making something for it, now is the time to start if you haven't already. As usual we can make items for the auctions as well as the different Kits. In 2005 the following kits were donated:

7,323 Health Kits
4,187 School Kits
927 Layettees
522 Sewing Kits
99 Clean Up Kits

This is wonderful and it can be done again. All together the donations in 2005 brought in a cash equivalent of \$265,995.82!!

Some of the items that go on the silent auction are: smaller items that should be handcrafted, home grown, or a special item from a Volunteer in Mission trip etc.

Some items for the auctions can be: quilts, banners, wood crafted items, paintings, stained glass, etc.

They request no store purchase items please. Queen size, hand quilted, and color coordinated quilts bring the highest bids.

A new project this year is the Shoebox Christmas for 2006. There are further details on the list of Kits enclosed in this months Echo.

Prayer Quilt Ministry

It is not a patch of squares or a ritual of tying knots that makes the difference; it is the prayers. Prayer is a powerful tool we have received; prayers are used for intercession for someone who is going through a difficult time and at the same time helps us build our relationship with our heavenly Father.

The quilt also becomes a representation of God's loving arms wrapping Himself around the recipient and reminding them that He will always be with them and care about them no matter what they are going through.

The Prayer Quilt Ministry has now been active for a year and we have already been able to give quilts. The feedback is always very humbling; "Thank you so much, it means so much to me, I use it so often."

We are not star quilters practicing for the annual quilt show, we are just some women (men are actually welcome!!) who have a heart for the ministry. Some of us cut squares, some sew tops together, some put together the tops, batting, and backing, and some come to keep us company.

We meet every second Saturday of the month at 2:00pm in the church basement. You need no prior knowledge of quilting for God to use you.

Come one month and try it. You can come every month or whenever you can. And as always, please pray!!

UPW

The UPW met on July 5th at 7:30pm in the church dining room.

The evening began with the program "Building a Culture of Peace, Living God's Shalom" given by Bev Buller

Pres. Linda called the meeting to order and for devotion she read "Hold your Horses".

The purpose was read by 15 members.

Rolls of paper towels and boxes of jello were brought for the Food Pantry.

The secretaries 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 on June 30th was \$2,087.76. There were no bills.

Thank you's were received from Elizabeth Blankenfeld for the Senior Luncheon and from the Moody County Food Pantry for our donation.

The Huron 1st United Methodist Church is having a work day on Monday, August 14th to do cleaning at the Salvation Army and the Women's Violence Center. If you would like to go – check with Linda for details.

The Banquet in Sioux Falls sent out a request for a monetary donation. There are many expenses moving into their new building. Gert made a motion to donate \$50, Patty seconded the motion; motion carried.

Gert thanked everyone for all the cards and well wishes for both her and Rudy and also for the roses she received on Women's Sunday.

Donna reported that get well cards were sent to Rudy DeZeeuw, Gert DeZeeuw, and Cal Steen. Sympathy

cards were sent to the families of Lester Risch and Bud Lundgren and also to Mary Clarin at the loss of her son.

Gert reported that 150 were served at the Lester Risch funeral and between 85-90 were served at the Bud Lundgren funeral.

Linda reported that there are some new books in the church library.

Those helping with Bingo at the Cozy Corner were Walter & Evelyn Mueller, Carol Styf, Arlyne Janssen, Lil Anderson, and Virginia Fixsen.

Linda reported that the Senior Luncheon was a success; coffee after church July 9th will be served by Bev & Linda, we will be needing someone for August 13th; and that VBS will be held July 23-25 at St. Mary.

The Prayer Quilt Ministry will be meeting Saturday July 8th at 2pm in the church basement. We are in need of a different sewing machine; Linda found 2 at Walmart for about \$100 each. We have \$62.50 in our account. Patty moved that we pay the difference of whatever we need to purchase the machine; it was seconded by Evelyn; motion carried. Linda will get the machine before our next meeting on Saturday.

We will be painting the basement on the 14th & 15th of July starting at 9am. Patty & Bonnie will get the paint. Please come and help whenever you can and bring your own brushes, rollers, etc.

Each year Linda fills out the Missions Today Report. This year we filled it out as a group so that we would all know what we need to do to earn the achievement awards.

Ann reminded us not to forget our pledges.

The Ingathering will be held on September 23rd. Linda passed out updated information on the kits.

Our Guest Night/Local Churches will be held Tuesday, August 1st at 6pm. All the ladies of the church are asked to bring a large salad and we will be asking everyone to bring a Food Pantry item.

Recognition pin nominees were tabled until in September.

We will be hosting a bridal shower for Melissa Bleeker, bride to be of Troy Wiskur, sometime in August. Volunteers for the committee are Linda, Ann, Bonnie, Deanna, Virginia, and Bev.

Linda told us about a Bible Study starting in September and going thru May. There were several Bible Study books and she asked for our opinions of what we would like to study.

The Chicken Supper/Country Store will be here before we know it. Bev is chair person - if you would like to help, please let her know.

July birthdays and anniversaries were acknowledged. Gert & Rudy will be celebrating 63 years together.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The table grace was sung.

Hostesses were Bonnie Junker and Patty DeZeeuw.

Secretary

Beverly Buller