



The United Parish
ECHO



October 2006

Elkton United Parish Church 605-542-7101
PO Box 218 Elkton SD 57026
website: [Http://www.elktonunitedparish.org](http://www.elktonunitedparish.org)

United with Christ

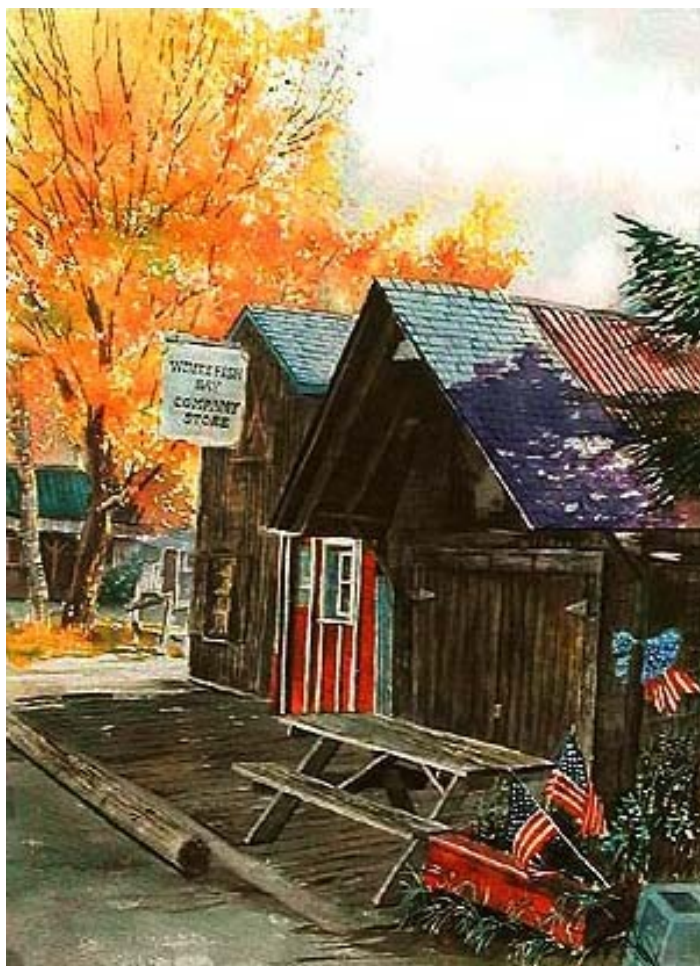


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United Parish Board Members

President: Beverly Buller.....	542-3611
PPR Chair: Ed Timm.....	542-2241
Financial Secretary: Donna Magnus.....	542-3241
Treasurer: Dawn Boltjes.....	548-2051
Secretary: Carrie Thompson.....	542-7131
Pastor: Rev. Daren Junker Church.....	542-7101
Personal cell phone.....	605-929-4892

Birthdays

3 – Cassandra Timm
3 – Ryan Magnus
6 – Shirley Hegelfeld
10 – LeRoy Brown
21 – Edith Deters
25 – Katherine Brown
27 – Robert Wiskur
31 – Marlene Bruening

Liturgists

1 – Ed Timm
8 – Carrie Thompson
15 – Bonnie Junker
22 – Marsha Timm
29 – Dennis Lundgren

Anniversaries

10 – Loyd & Laura Tjernagel (50!!)
12 – Don & Sherry Bauman
17 – Ralph & Donna Lynn
20 – Ed & Marsha Timm
25 – Bruce & Alice Kinner

The Echo is this month sponsored in honor of Loyd & Laura Tjernagel's 50th anniversary.

Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Austin DeZeeuw
Rufus DeZeeuw
Acolyte: John Boltjes

Pastor's Desktop

There is a commonly used acronym in computer user and programmer circles: GIGO. It stands for “Garbage In, Garbage Out”. In computing it means that if the data you put into the system is no good, no matter how much computing you do, you cannot get any good data out of it – kind of like having a bad egg in a cake mix.

In explaining a parable, Jesus told his disciples, “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.” (Matthew 15:18-20) While his parable showed that food going in was not the concern, he did indicate that what is in the heart certainly is. In some of the later New Testament books, the disciples showed that they had gotten the message when they told others about how important it was that God knows what is in the human heart. (e.g. Acts 15:8 and Romans 8:27) It is the importance of a clean heart that prompted Jesus to recommend cleaning the inside of the 'cup' (Matthew 23:25-28). The issue becomes, then, how do you clean the heart?

Already in the Old Testament, God's faithful followers knew that only God can clean a heart. Proverbs 20:9 implies that no one can say, "I have made my heart clean; I am pure from my sin" and in Psalm 51:10 the writer turns to the only source of cleansing with the plea, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” So when the prophet Jeremiah urges the people to wash their hearts clean of wickedness it makes sense that it is in the middle of a cry to return to God. And yet, it is not just a pas-

sive reception of cleansing that Jeremiah suggests. So what is the active part?

In both the Old and New Testament, although God is the one who does the cleansing, we must go to Him in our dirty state in order to get it. The church was never meant to be a place for perfect, holy people to gather and celebrate how wonderful they are – that was precisely what Jesus criticized the Pharisees for doing. The church is more like an Alcoholics Anonymous group, perhaps we should call it Sinners Anonymous. A person doesn't have to stop drinking to begin participating in AA, but the AA group can help them stop and stay stopped. This is also a purpose of the church. It is not a place come after you are good enough, but a place to learn to become spiritually clean and how to stay clean.

What the church offers is a place to get good stuff for your soul rather than garbage. There is plenty of garbage available elsewhere. In fact, it seems that there is so much that it comes to you instead of you needing to go to it. It comes in advertising, in the entertainment industries, and even in workplaces. But just like in the Old and New Testament, God has sent the invitations – it is up to us to respond. So if you truly want to be a good person, or a good Christian, come get the good stuff. While it is true that just attending church doesn't clean you, it is where the soap is stored. GIGO

In Christ's service,
Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

The Parish Board meeting was called to order at 7pm on September 20th, 2006 by President Bev Buller. Pastor Daren gave opening prayer. Officers in attendance were President Bev Buller, Lay Leader Ed Timm, Financial Secretary Donna Magnus, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, and Secretary Carrie Thompson. Also in attendance were Marsha Timm, Linda Kampmann, Virginia Fixsen, and Pastor Daren Junker.

The secretary read the minutes with corrections being made to the August report that there was no direct mention of President Bev Buller being an officer in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer Report: Dawn read her report and it was approved.

Beginning Balance 7-31-06	\$ 80.20
August income	<u>4,510.84</u>
	\$4,591.04
August Expenses	<u>4,066.56</u>
Ending Balance 8-30-06	<u>\$ 524.48</u>
Landscaping Account	\$ 869.72
Interest received	<u>2.24</u>
Total	<u>\$ 871.96</u>

Financial Secretary Report: Donna reported that the total amount with interest and donations in \$174,066.53. Report was approved.

PPR Report: There was nothing to report.

Trustees Report: Still need to find someone to do snow removal for the church this winter. It was mentioned that there is a nail sticking up in one of the pews that has already been attended to.

Christian Ed Report: They met the 15th of August. Bonnie will have a separate report in the Echo to give the information.

Worship Report: Nothing to report.

Missions Report: The ladies received lots of kits they will be taking to the Ingathering in Mitchell. Great response. Linda has not received the info on the Angel Tree yet.

UPW Report: Election of Officers will be in October.

Historian Report: Troy and Melissa Wiskur's recent marriage on September 9th will be added to the records.

Building Committee Report: There will be a Congregational Meeting next Sunday to discuss a new tract of land being looked at.

Membership/Welcoming Report: Have not met yet. Anyone that know of newcomers to the community please contact a committee member.

CORRESPONDENCE

Bev received more information about the Abuse Liability Coverage that went with the info about “Making Our Churches Safe for All”. This liability agreement needs to be tailored to fit the needs of our church and be in place by November. Dawn, Pastor Daren, Linda, and Marsha will work on this and present to the Board at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There is still a need for a youth representative to be on the Committees. Everyone please keep working on this. Very important to have their inputs and views.

NEW BUSINESS

Concerns on the moral and political issues that are being voiced upon by the Organization by Pastor Daren. He has received correspondences from the denominations wondering about our church's views on homosexuality and abortion. Pastor Daren intends to write something in response. It is important that we make know our own standing on these issues.

It was also mentioned that the color photos in the Echo are a very nice addition. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer. The next meeting will be held on October 18th at 7pm.

Congregational Meeting

Members of Elkton United Parish met for a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 24, 2006, at 11:30 a.m.

Parish Board Chairman Bev Buller called the meeting to order.

Pastor Daren provided a prayer.

Chairman Buller turned the meeting over to the Building Committee. Committee member Nancy Wiskur took the floor.

Nancy explained to those present that the committee has looked over 8 to 9 different locations for church construction during the past year. Most of the owners were uninterested in selling and the remaining properties were not quite right for our needs. The issue was creating frustration with committee members until they began to look at the property owned by Ed Langin to the south of the tree bank and west of the Nelson addition. (The legal descriptions are: Block 4 5.28 acres Langin Railroad Addition and PT. SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ W. of BLK. 4 Langins RR Addn., OL "H" of Replat of Farmland 10.25 acres.)

When first approached Mr. Langin refused to sell just two or so acres off the total lot. He has repeatedly turned down other parties requesting just a portion of the land. However, Nancy then asked Mr. Langin if he would be willing to sell the whole lot to the church and Mr. Langin said that he would.

The lot consists of about 15 acres of which around 5 acres is railroad land. Mr. Langin would consent to sell us the land as 10 acres [we would still receive the entire 15 acre lot] at \$5,000 per acre for a total cost of \$50,000.

The extra land could be used for various projects. Talk of a new parsonage was mentioned, a park, rent it out, and others.

A church member asked if the committee was unanimous towards purchase of the Langin land. Nancy replied that yes, they were.

Another member wanted to know about water and sewer. Verle Thompson offered that the main sewer line runs right through the property.

Mention was made that land is a good investment. The price of land only goes up.

A member wanted to know what would happen to the Peace lot. Nancy was quick to state that it would still remain in our possession until further decisions could be made.

Financial Secretary Donna Magnus informed the congregation that we have about \$174,000 in committed building funds to draw from so we would only need to write a check.

Ann Aaker spoke up with, "It's now or never!"

Ed Timm moved that we purchase this lot for the \$50,000 as has been proposed. Virginia Fixsen seconded the motion.

Chairman Bev Buller led the vote. Final tally was 19 for and 3 opposed. The Building Committee will go forward with the purchase of the land from Ed Langin.

Nancy Wiskur motioned to adjourn. Sherry Baumann seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Substitute Secretary, Dawn Boltjes

UPW

The UPW met on Sept. 6th, at 7:30 pm in the church dining room.

We began with the program “Creator, a Child's Tower of Peace” presented by Sherry Bauman.

Pres. Linda called the meeting to order and for devotion she read an e-mail titled “Does God Exist”.

16 members read the purpose – cans of tuna were brought for the Food Pantry.

The secretary's reports for July and Aug. were read and approved after the following correction. The balance on hand June 30th was 2,082.76 not 2,087.76 and the work day in Huron met at the 1st UMC but was put on by the Glacial lakes District.

The treasurer's report for June, July, and August were read and approved. The balance Aug. 31st was \$2,016.76. There were no bills.

We received Thank-You's from the Food Pantry in Flaudreau for the donation following our guest night, from Lois Rijkhus and Lucy Boll for the guest night and from the Banquet in Sioux Falls for the monetary donation.

For the Ingathering pie sale Sherry Bauman made a motion to donate \$50 rather than making the pies; Gert seconded the motion; motion carried.

Get well cards were sent to Eva Williams, Cal Steen, Katie Timm, Jason Thomas and Jack Lytle. A card was brought for us to sign for Carol Styf who is in the hospital. A sympathy card was sent to Bruce Kinner.

There were no funerals.

Marsha reported the library will be moved to a more accessible area and that she has purchased some new books. There was a close-out on books so she was able to get them for \$2/each.

We were asked to take the name of a shit-in and to remember them during the next month.

Old business. The painting of the basement is done; the bridal shower for Melissa Bleeker went well and guest night was fun.

Bible Study will begin on September 13th at 7:30pm. The study books will be handed out and there will be an introduction to the study. Due to the Chicken Supper we will not meet again until October 11th.

Sign up sheets for jobs at the Chicken Supper were sent out and we were asked to pick a job.

Linda reminded us about the Ingathering kits. The Ingathering will be September 23rd.

Marsha will be attending the Glacial District meeting "A New Beginning" in Clark on Sat. Sept. 9th. She also attended the Mission Encounter in Huron and told us about her day at the Food Pantry.

Happy Birthday was sung to Virginia Fixsen. The other birthdays and anniversaries for September were acknowledged.

Our next meeting will be Oct. 4th at 7:30pm. This will be election of officers for 2007 so the nominating committee needs to meet.

Gert reminded us of Aurora's Methodist Church Chicken Supper on Sept. 7th.

Marsha will pick up the new program book for 2007.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Hostesses were Thelma Brandt and Evelyn Mueller.

Secretary, Beverly Buller

Christian Education

Christian Ed met on August 15th. First item on the agenda was Sunday School. Sunday School will start on September 10th and the Kick-Off will be August 27th in combination with the Church Picnic. The Sunday School kids have this year been divided into three groups; preschool through Kindergarten, first through third, and fourth through seventh. In order to aid the Sunday School teachers to meet the needs of the different grades, the materials for the different grades will be available to the teachers so they can adjust their classes accordingly. The three groups will have their own meeting area in order to reduce the distraction from other groups. The preschool-kindergarten will meet by the steps, the first through third in the office, which will be rearranged, and the fourth through seventh will be in the main area.

Confirmation will meet during Sunday School hours and the Post Confirmation Group will meet upstairs in the back area.

All Sunday School materials will be moved out to the metal filing cabinets so they are more organized and easily available to all teachers.

Teachers so far are Linda Kampmann for the preschool – Kindergarten class, with Bonnie Junker helping/subbing. Cassie Timm is willing to be a helper for the first through third grade class. We will find teachers/helpers/substitutes for the remaining classes.

A Sunday School workshop is in the making for possibly September 3rd, being put on by Deanna Lundgren and Georgie

Jensen. We are still waiting for a definite answer.

Confirmation

Pastor Daren is ready to start confirmation classes and will be sending letters out to the different students. He will then meet with the confirmands and their parents to discuss the rules and expectations.

Youth

We would like to invite one of the members of the youth group to be on the Christian Ed committee. Beth Holm will be asked to bring it up at the next youth group meeting so they can appoint one person.

Christmas Program

The Christmas Program will this year be December 17th. We wish to start practices earlier this year, so we will have the final program picked out October 1st to we can practice the music October, November, and December and will add the spoken parts and practices for that as we go along.

Melissa Bleeker will be working with the kids again this year on the music, so she will be selecting several options for a Christmas Program. Sherry Bauman will talk to her after the wedding so we can meet tentatively on September 21st to pick out the final program and have time to start the music beginning October.

Special Music

It was suggested that the Sunday School kids supply Special Music once a month during the worship service.

Release Time

Release Time will start about October 4th. A final date will come from the school. We will finish the materials from “God’s Big

Picture”. The feedback from the kids and teachers was that it was OK. They definitely like “Mr. Henry’s Workshop” better and we will start than one again when we have completed “God’s Big Picture”.

We will continue to look for new materials than seem to have the same quality as Mr. Henry’s Workshop. Pastor Daren will “window shop” from time to time to check for any new materials.

We will have a sign-up sheet going around in church for teachers and helper during the second part of September.

Outdoor Service

The general theme for this year’s outdoor service is Camp. The Christian Ed committee would like to take the opportunity to promote camp. We will have a little skit put on by Bonnie, Cassie, and Pastor Daren to raise awareness not only for the familiar camps, but also the camps during the school year such as family camps, skiing camp, confirmation camp and others.

We will look into further awareness and camp promotion for in the spring.

Sunday School Fundraiser

The Christian Ed committee will provide the coffee and snacks for the Coffee Hour on September 10th. We will have an announcement in both the Echo and the weekly bulletin.

MEMBER COMMITTEE

If you know of anybody new moving in to our community, please notify the membership committee so we can welcome them. The members are: Nancy Wiskur, Amber Doop, Susan Sudtelgte, Tal or LaRee Farnham.

Grape Vine

Our Bible Study is starting on October 11th at 7:30pm. You will receive your book and an introduction at this first meeting. We will be meeting every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

We are going to the Country Apple Orchard on October 7th!! We will be leaving from the church at 9:00pm. Younger children will need to have a parent accompany them.

The Hay Ride is on!!!! We will be meeting on October 22nd at 5:00 pm at Rufus & Patty DeZeeuw's place. Come out for a fun time ending with a bonfire. Please bring your own drinks and a bag of chips. We will be having hot dogs and chips and roasting marshmallows.

The kids will this Sunday start practicing the songs for the Christmas program. It may seem early, but Christmas will be here before we know it. Please encourage them to come and practice their songs.

On October 28th at 4pm we will have a Fall Ball potluck for both kids and adults. Please come in costume if you can and enjoy a fun afternoon. More details will follow in the church bulletin but start planning your costume.

Several people have commented on how nice the new songs are. Thanks to everyone who has enriched our worship with the addition of the current music.