



The United Parish  
*ECHO*



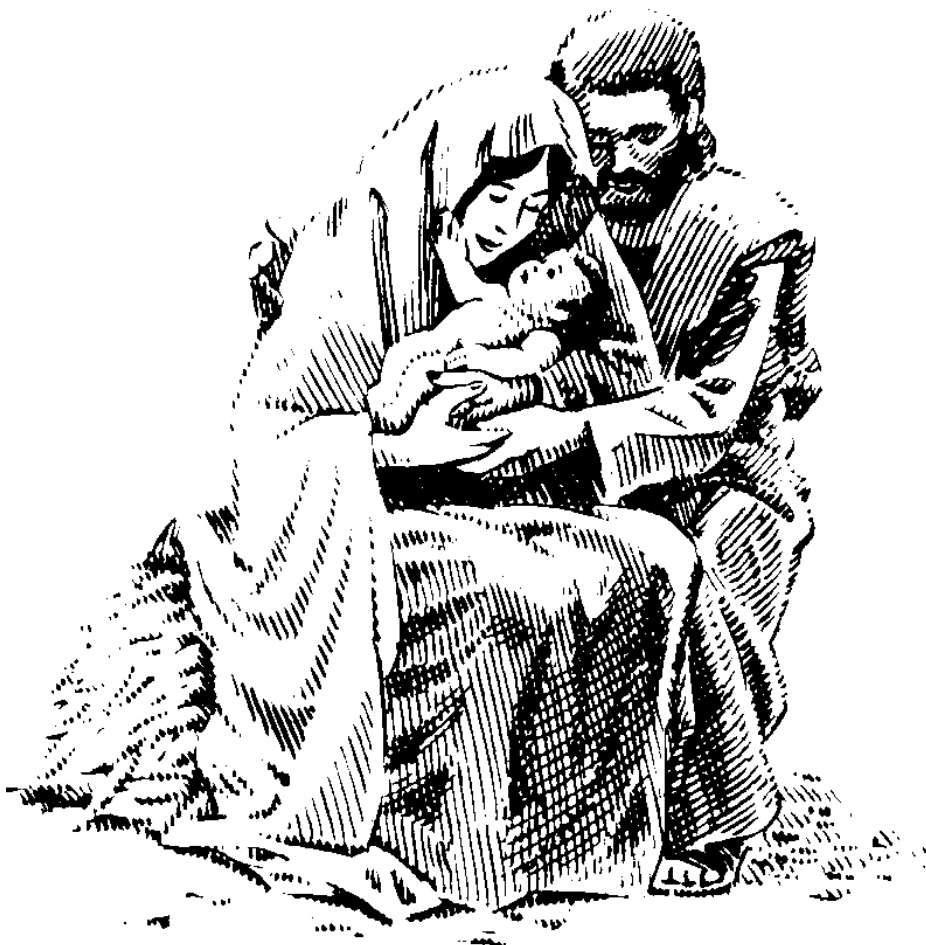
December 2006

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website: [Http://www.elktonunitedparish.org](http://www.elktonunitedparish.org)

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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.....	542-8051
Pastor: Rev. Daren Junker	
Church.....	542-7101
Personal cell phone.....	605-929-5957
Church email:.....	<a href="mailto:pastor@elktonunitedparish.org">pastor@elktonunitedparish.org</a>

## Birthdays

1 – Sherry Bauman  
2 – Ann Aaker  
3 – Matt Timm  
4 – Georgianna Janssen  
4 – Katie Holm  
4 – Kristin Brown  
5 – Karen-Marie Bryanne  
10 – Norbert Lorenzen  
16 – Jean Janssen  
19 – Dawn Boltjes  
21 – Marshal Janssen Jr.  
23 – Adam DeZeeuw  
23 – Carol Styf  
24 – Nicole Langner  
26 – Barbara Anderson  
27 – Nicki Glover

## Anniversaries

25 – Don & Norma Krogman  
30 – Marshal & Carrol Janssen  
31 – Dick & Bev Buller

## Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Thelma Brandt  
          Linda Kampmann  
Acolyte: Nick Tolk

## Liturgists

3 – Beverly Buller  
10 – Linda Kampmann  
17 – Dennis Lundgren  
24 – (need one)  
31 – (need one)

## Pastor's Desktop

House churches have become popular in several areas over the last few years. If you haven't heard about house churches, just a few sentences will explain them. People who want a close daily walk with Christ find that joining like-minded people is strengthening and encouraging, but don't always experience that in modern-day institutional churches. Similar to the pioneer days, when population was widely scattered, some people have formed small groups to share worship in a more intimate setting. This has many advantages, and also some disadvantages, compared to 'traditional' church worship. Rather than spend a lot of space on going into those details, let's move on to applying the lessons learned from house churches.

You might have heard of 'small group ministry'. This was one of the first attempts to get the benefits of house church into traditional church. It has had some success in some places, mostly larger communities where the sense of community is lacking in daily life. Another application is the 'cell church' idea used in some mega-churches, where the whole church is essentially a collection of smaller church groups.

What does this have to do with a small church in Elkton that doesn't even want to grow? (Please set aside your argument about that for now, we can discuss it another time.)

The core concept behind all of these movements – house churches, small group ministries, and cell churches – is that there does not have to be control, but connection. The most important connection is to God, through the Holy Spirit. The connection of the Holy Spirit is only possible through discipleship in Christ, which takes significant commitment to

prayer and Bible study combined with living it out. Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, any group, even a large, traditional church or entire denomination can go astray.

The next most important connection is to Christian peers, mainly for accountability. Staying in touch with a larger group lets you check the soundness of your theology, the emotional health of your group interactions, and can provide resources and opportunities that are simply not possible with only a few people. This peer connection is found for traditional churches in denominational affiliation. In smaller groups, such as the house churches, it is a loose association centered in one town, kind of like the first churches we read about in the New Testament. Small group ministries and cell churches keep their connection through an institutional church, sometimes non-denominational, sometimes one affiliated with a denomination.

Connectedness is the only way the lack of central control works for healthy building up of the body of Christ, instead of turning into chaos and dissolution. It is for this reason that my heart aches for the members who do not maintain any more connection than just being on the membership list. I, personally, want for each of you a healthy, vibrant life in Christ. This is why I have written in the past that church attendance is not the issue. It isn't. Your spiritual health is. If congregational worship doesn't provide what you need for spiritual growth, talk to me. Let's find out what does. Let's find out how our church can aid the development of ALL of it's members. We don't need control, but we do need connectedness.

## **Parish Board Meeting**

(Because of the hectic holiday schedule, the minutes of the Parish Board meeting are on a separate insert.)

### **UPW**

The UPW met on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm in the church dining room.

The evening began with the program “Thank Offering – Showing Your Thankfulness” presented by Bonnie Junker.

Our Thank Offering were collected. If you forgot yours, please bring it to the December meeting.

President Linda called the meeting to order and for devotion she read “A Message from God”.

19 members read the purpose. For the food pantry we were to bring non-perishable food items for a Thanksgiving dinner.

The secretary's report was read and approved.

The treasurer's report was read and approved. The balance at the end of Oct. was \$3,370.38. There were no bills.

Linda thought it would be nice if we could donate some extra money to the general fund of the church as it is really short of funds right now. Ann reported that we still have to pay the last \$375 that is in our budget. Gert made a motion to donate an additional \$1000 to the general fund; Sherry seconded the motion; motion carried.

We have been invited to Trinity Lutheran Church on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7pm for “Advent by Candlelight” Please RSVP to Jerelyn Kramer.

Deanna thanked everyone for prayers, cards, and visits for Cal and Donna did the same for Don.

Get well cards were sent to Don Magnus and Cal Steen. A sympathy card was sent to Dick Buller.

There were no funerals.

For missions Patty told us of a doll that can be made for Tree of Life – Rosebud Reservation. She has the pattern and is checking on the fabric. On the back of each doll they request that they be marked who made the doll, the date, and the name of the the church.

The before church coffee will be served by Shirley Hegerfeld and Thelma Brandt. We still need someone for December.

A meal of soup, sandwiched, bars, and beverage, two electric roasters, plastic containers and kitchen items were taken to the Newdale Colony following the fire that destroyed their dining hall.

It was suggested that we donate the extra bell from the Peace Church to the colony. This is something that has to be brought before the Parish Board. Donna said we should keep the bell.

We were asked to donate a basket for the FCCLA Tour of Tables. Dawn made a motion to donate a basket (\$30); Beth seconded the motion; motion carried.

The all town Thanksgiving Service will be held Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Community Center. We were asked to bring 3 pans of bars.

Arlyne Janssen, Carol Styf, Lil Anderson, and Evelyn Mueller helped with Bingo at Cozy Corner.

We were asked to sign up to hostess for 2007.

Marsha gave a report on the UMW Annual Conference at Bismark (Oct. 13-14).

Our December meeting will be the Christmas Potluck. Bring a gift \$5 - \$7 for a gift exchange. We will also be sponsoring the mitten tree at the Community Center so bring mittens, hats, scarfs, etc. to help decorate the tree. These items will be donated when the tree is taken down.

The Quilt Ministry will meet on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the church basement.

Birthdays/Anniversaries for November were acknowledged.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and table grace was sung.

Hostesses were Dawn Boltjes and Marsha Timm.  
Secretary, Beverly Buller.

## **Christian Education**

Sunday School Christmas Program: The Sunday School will be presenting "Operation Baby King" on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the church. Practices will be held until noon on December 3, 10, and 17 and there will be an extra practice on Saturday, December 16 from 9am-11am. Thank you to Melissa Wiskur for directing the program this year! **COS-TUMES NEEDED:** We need 3 overcoats/trench coats 3 fedora type hats (dark colored), one regular sized trumpet, and 3 shepherd staffs. If anyone has any of these items that we could borrow, please contact Sherry at 542-3041.

## **Youth News**

Our group met at 6:30pm on November 19<sup>th</sup> with 6 members present. We discussed special holiday memories and what the holidays mean to us. We also explored ways we could help others less fortunate during the holiday season. Thanks to the Farnhams and Andersons for the delicious pizza, pop, and bars.

We invite everyone to the “Youths” annual Ice Cream Social following the Christmas Program, Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>. Each “youth” family is asked to bring a dozen bars or cookies to be enjoyed at this celebration.

Merry Christmas to all!!

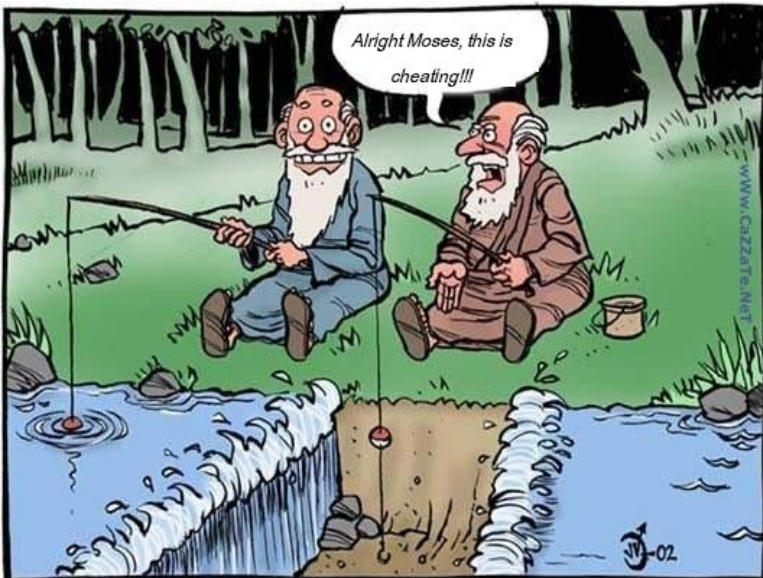
Beth Holm.

## **Grape Vine**

Alright, so who what happened the the November issue of the Echo?? Why did some receive it .....2 weeks late? Well, it's like this; .....I ....eh....procrastinated and on Saturday evening (again around 11:00pm) I was slightly over halfway done printing the Echo out when the printer gave the first warning of low toner. No problem,...normally. After the first warning we can normally print out several bulletins and maybe even a simple Echo. That's the time we order more toner. But no. Not this time. Something was goofy and it did not want to print one single page anymore. If I had only

had any idea this would have happened I would have printed out the issues for the people I regularly see in church and then later for the ones we mail out anyway, but unfortunately it turned out that the half I had already printed was mostly the ones we mail out. So, there is it; I had to face a very patient but unhappy pastor (and I don't get to forget about him after the Sunday morning worship!!) for having another Echo oops. The moral of the story is: procrastination only gains you trouble.

Do you hear God whispering in your ear to help our children? We will need a Sunday School teacher after December. If anyone is interested in co-teaching a class from January to May, please contact Sherry.



Before you load your MP3 with new music, stop and think at these Biblical Theme Songs:

Noah: "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head"

Adam and Eve: "Strangers in Paradise"

Lazarus: "The Second Time Around"

Esther: "I Feel Pretty"

Job: "I've Got a Right to Sing the Blues"

Moses: "The Wanderer"

Jezebel: "The Lady is a Tramp"

Samson: "Hair" Salome: "I Could Have Danced All Night"

Daniel: "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"

Esau: "Born To Be Wild"

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "Great Balls of Fire!"

The Three Kings: "When You Wish Upon a Star"

Jonah: "Got a Whale of a Tale"

Elijah: "Up, Up, and Away"

Methuselah: "Stayin' Alive"

Nebuchadnezzar: "Crazy"

Ok, so after the bloopers I have made with the Echo, these suddenly seem appropriate:

-If you choose to heave during the Postlude, please do so quietly.

-Newsletters are not being sent to absentees because of their weight.

-Diana and Don request your presents at their wedding. (*the Church secretary actually wrote this at our wedding!!*)

-Lent is that period for preparing for Holy Weed and Easter.

-This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of this church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

-Evening massage - 6 p. m.

- The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- The senior pastor will be away for two weeks. The staff members during his absence you will find pinned to the church notice board.
- Ushers will eat latecomers.
- Mr. Bradford was elected and has accepted the office of head deacon. We could not get a better man
- Don't let worry kill you - let the church help.
- Thursday night - Potluck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- 8 new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- The sermon this morning: WOMEN IN THE CHURCH.  
The closing song: RISE UP, O MEN OF GOD
- During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when A. B. Doe supplied our pulpit.
- The Church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. Shirley Green who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The Pastor will then speak on, "It's a Terrible Experience".
- The concert held in the Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the Minister's daughter who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

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