



The United Parish

*ECHO*



January 2007

---

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**AND A UNITED**  
**2007**

# Table of Contents

Pastor's Desktop.....	3
Parish Board Meeting, December 27, 2006.....	4
Note to congregation from Parish Board.....	8
UPW.....	9
Christian Education.....	10
Grape Vine.....	10
Calendar.....	insert

## 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.....	605-929-4892
Church email:.....	<a href="mailto:pastor@elktonunitedparish.org">pastor@elktonunitedparish.org</a>

## Birthdays

4 – Thelma Brandt  
6 – Shirley Brown  
6 – Denise Lange  
7 – Nancy Wiskur  
14 – Ethan Timm  
16 – Christopher Bauman  
16 – Elizabeth Erickson  
16 – Zach Tolk  
19 – Jeremy Lundgren  
19 – Carol Janssen  
31 – Trudy Andersson

## Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Bud Janssen  
          Jean Janssen  
Acolyte: Dana Junker &  
          Abbi Sudtelgte

## Liturgists

7 -  
14 – Dawn Boltjes  
21 – Beth Holm  
28 – Bev Buller

## Anniversaries

5 - Arlyne & Milton Janssen

## Pastor's Desktop

The book of Jude in the New Testament is about the hindrance to the growth of the body of Christ caused by rebellion. It warns of the wasted energy and time, as well as the frustration and burnout, that comes from people who are more interested in looking good than in a real change of heart. Out of self-concern, they often lead from the background - not wanting to be in the spotlight, but wanting to influence. Jude tells us that rebels will find fault and grumble about things, but flatter openly those whom they want to impress. This leads to division rather than spiritual growth. Many in United Parish have felt the burnout and frustration. Most likely you already know it, but simply have never seen or heard it expressed plainly. There is a 'spirit' of rebellion in United Parish that is preventing healthy spiritual growth. By 'spirit' I don't necessarily mean a demon, nor an individual, but more of a tendency or inclination.

Every person will have some rebellious tendencies. We are human, even after we are redeemed. This is the reason each of us has to remain vigilant and guard against our own natural inclinations. This is also the reason we have to bear one another up, restoring each other when one stumbles. So one of the things for those who desire prosperity for United Parish to do is simply guard against selfish thought and speech. Another is to gently correct others when you hear them grumble, and encourage them to look at what should be built up instead.

There is also the possibility of one or two individuals remaining stuck in fallen human thinking. These people will have a pattern of continually being in the middle of controversy. While everyone gets caught in a controversy once in a

while, it is a pattern of continual conflict that signals trouble. What is needed in such a situation is a recognition that such a person is not actually following Christ, even if it is painful to think so. This will free you up to witness of Christ's love to them and present them the opportunity to be changed from the inside. For as Paul wrote to the Romans, that is where conflict starts, and only the Spirit of Christ can change the heart of a person. Anyone stuck in rebelliousness should not be followed in the church, even informally, but should be led to obedience in Christ. Only while they choose to not submit to Christ would they be able to stir up dissension. And only when we do not watch for it, but allow ourselves to be blinded by human skills and persuasion, can they succeed in doing so.

For Christ's sake, let's open our eyes to Truth and allow real growth to begin.

### **Parish Board Meeting, December 27, 2006**

The United Parish Board meeting was called to order at 7pm in the church basement by President Bev Buller. Other officers present were Lay Leader Ed Timm, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, and Secretary Carri Thompson. Also in attendance were Carol Styf, Linda Kampmann, and Pastor Daren Junker. Pastor Daren gave opening prayer. The minutes were read and approved.

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

Beginning Balance 10-31-06	\$ 127.56
November Income	<u>\$5,336.82</u>
	\$5,464.38
November Expenses	<u>\$4,434.36</u>
Ending Balance 11-30-06	\$1,030.20
Landscaping Account	\$ 871.96
Building Fund Checking account	\$54,000.00

Financial Secretary Report: Donna was not present. The information she sent to the meeting was that there had not been any changes.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

PPR: Haven't met yet. Will meet soon.

Trustees: Ottertail has come and checked the outside lines and found no problems. Trustees will check inside circuits to see if any extra usage is coming from within. Back speaker seems to be working and the light upstairs has been changed. We have a new thermostat. A thank-you will be sent to Gene Boltjes for replacing it and doing some work on his days off.

Christian Ed: Very nice Christmas Program again. No report.

Worship: Discussed who would be lighting Advent Candles and taking care of the Christmas decorations.

Missions: Patty and Linda delivered the Angel Tree gifts on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

UPW: Christmas Party was a success with 31 adults and 4 young people in attendance. Everyone shared past Christmas memories and shared a nice meal. January 3<sup>rd</sup> the new officers will take over. Bev gave the update in membership number to Pastor Daren for his statistical report to be sent in.

Historian: no report.

Building Committee: Ed Langen has hired an attorney to help straighten out the problems with getting clear titles to the small strip of railroad land on our new property. The lawyer will start in 2007.

Membership: The pamphlets are being made that will be given to the new people coming to our community.

Pastor Report: He has led Community Thanksgiving Service, delivered the food collected for the Bread Basket, done 2 hospital visits, 1 home visit, and 2 longer term care visits. He has done the Cozy Corner Services, Confirmation classes, prepared and given Sunday Services, given support to the Bible Study group, attended the worship Committee Meeting, driven and helped with 2 Release Time classes and printed the bulletins. He has solved the copier and toner problems we've been having and filled out the survey for the National Congregational Ministries in Health and Healing

and sent it in. He is on call to the church and to the school 24/7. he prepares the music and liturgical prayers, has written article for the Echo and helped with the publication of the Echo.

## CORRESPONDANCES

We received information from the North American Baptist Seminary offering some classes on “Perspectives on the World”. The fee is \$300 and is non-refundable.

## OLD BUSINESS

We discussed the concerns about someone helping Donna count the Sunday offering. Pastor will address these concerns and they may be discussed at the Annual Meeting in January.

## NEW BUSINESS

The 2007 Budget was gone through and Ed Timm made motion to approve and Linda Kampmann seconded. The 2007 Budget was approved. Those on the Nominating Committee are Secretary Carrie Thompson, Norma Krogmann, and Audrey Thompson. The offices that are up for nomination are Lay Leader and Treasurer. Nominees will be picked by the next meeting. The Annual Meeting is to be January 28<sup>th</sup>. That Sunday the Children will have Sunday School at 9:30am and church services will be at 10:30 with the Annual Meeting following. Sandwiches and bars will be provided. Committee reports will be due in to Linda Kampmann by the 14<sup>th</sup>. The next Parish Board meeting will be

January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7pm. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Carrie Thompson, Secretary.

### **Note to congregation from Parish Board**

There has been some concern expressed about confidentiality while having two people count the Sunday donations. The Parish Board discussed this at the last meeting and want to help everyone understand what is involved.

First, the reason for two counters has nothing to do with distrust of current members or officers, but is to protect everyone. Having two people count the collection is not only the normal practice in essentially every congregation, it is also required by the United Methodist Book of Discipline (BoD). In fact, the BoD requires the two unrelated people to not include the Financial Secretary. In light of stricter insurance requirements, like needing two unrelated adults at any children's or youth activity, it only is sensible to apply the general accepted accounting principle of two money counters.

Secondly, the Board shares the concern about safeguarding confidentiality. In addition to the requirement for those counting the money to keep individual giving confidential, there are two giving options that United Parish offers that are more confidential than a personal check. Electronic giving is extremely confidential since it only appears on the bank statements. Also cash placed in your numbered giving

envelopes would not identify the donor to the counters, but only to the Financial Secretary through the envelope number. In all cases, we hope that all donors are giving cheerfully, from the heart, and in full awareness that we are each accountable before God for our hearts much more than we are before humans for our money.

## **UPW**

The UPW's annual Christmas Potluck was held on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the church dining room.

Invitations were sent out to all the women of the church. It was nice to see so many new faces.

Linda started the evening with a Welcome Prayer. 31 guests/members and 4 children enjoyed a delicious meal. Linda thanked everyone for all the mittens etc donated for the mitten tree and for all the items for the food pantry in Flandreau.

Following the meal, Patty presented the program; a poem was read by Johnny Boltjes and we sang several Christmas carols. The evening ended with a gift exchange.

Hostesses, executive committee.

Our next meeting will be January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm.

Secretary, Beverly A. Buller

## **Christian Education**

Huge thank-you to all who were involved with the Christmas Program. It was very special and without your commitment it would not have happened.

Please note the following change: because of the Annual Meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup>, Sunday School will be at 9:30.

### **Grape Vine**

Remember: Annual Meeting is on Sunday, January 28. Sunday School will be at 9:30, Church Service at 10:30 followed by the Annual Meeting. Light lunch will be provided. Please make every effort to be there.

There will be an open house Baby Shower for Jenny Nordmeyer and baby Riley on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm in the church basement.

#### **Angel Tree 2006:**

The Prison Fellowship Angel Tree went up the Sunday after Thanksgiving and nearly the first day most of the Angels were taken. We provided gifts for 8 children this year. Also many envelopes were removed and returned with money in them for grocery gift cards for the care givers. This year the gift cards were for \$25.00 each . The people receiving the gifts and cards always express such appreciation and many say over and over " Thank you so much". And the Mission Committee says thank you so much to the United Parish congregation for making this possible year after year. If memory serves we started this in about 1993 and with the

exception of possibly two years we have delivered visible signs of God's love for all of these families. As the literature from the Angel Tree program says" the children of prisoners are the unseen victims". We are so fortunate and blessed to be able to reach out in this small way to make a difference. So again, thank you for caring .

## **January Echo Sponsor**

I am typing this during the holiday season and can't help but wonder if the rest of you are as thankful as I am for our wonderful weather. God is being very nice to us this winter. And the truth be told, I really, really, would like to see piles and piles of snow. The Christmas lights are so pretty with a backdrop of white. I understand Liberty Thompson is with me on this snow thing, although for a different reason.

The sponsors of the January mailing of our Echo are Duane and Irma Ellis. Thank you so much! The members who are shut in or unable to attend for other reasons, appreciate your generosity.

If you would like to help with the cost of mailing our Echo, please contact me at 548-2051.

A Happy and Blessed New Year!

Dawn Boltjes