



The United Parish

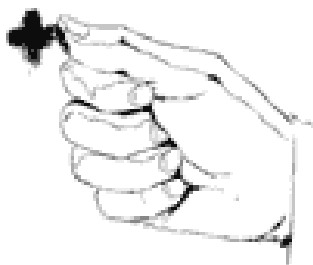
ECHO



March 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



***Healing starts with forgiveness and forgiveness starts
with repentance and repentance starts with Christ in
your heart***

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United Parish Board Members

| | |
|--|--|
| President: Beverly Buller..... | 542-3611 |
| PPR Chair: Shirley Hegerfeld..... | 605-692-7370 |
| 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 |
| Church email:..... | pastor@elktonunitedparish.org |

Birthdays

- 5 – Linda Kampmann
- 6 – David Mueller
- 11 – Connie Styf
- 15 – Gordon Bruenning
- 16 – Bev Buller
- 17 – Joe Sudtelgte
- 21 – Walter Mueller
- 22 – Evelyn Mueller
- 23 – Chelsey Knutson
- 26 – Irene Koch

Ushers & Acolyte

- Ushers: Dawn Boltjes
Karen-Marie Bryanne
- Acolyte: John Boltjes

Liturgists

- 4 – Virginia Fixsen
- 11 – Nancy Wiskur
- 18 – Beverly Buller
- 25 – Marsha Timm

Anniversaries

- 5 – John & Dawn Boltjes
- 9 – Bob & Nancy Wiskur
- 16 – LeRoy & Kathrine Brown

Pastor's Desktop

If Lent is about being penitent, **what is being penitent about?** What is being penitent anyway?

Being penitent is being sorry enough about the wrong done do be **motivated to repair** the damage, or atone in some way. It comes from the Latin word for repent, and being penitent and repentant are basically the same thing. Penitent also gets used as a noun, meaning a repentant person who wishes to make things right again. Such a person is **not only regretful** but also motivated.

But what good does repentance do, if the wrong cannot be righted? As an example, if someone carelessly spilled water all over the photo of my great-grandmother, I cannot get another one. It is irredeemably damaged. There is nothing to be done to fix the situation and we all know how empty the words, "I'm sorry" sound at such a time. Yet, between good friends, a genuine sorry is all that is needed. Even though the sorrow of the loss may linger, knowing that a friend is just as bothered by what happened keeps the friendship intact.

The **state of the heart** matters in friendship and friendship is exactly what God has offered us through the cross of Christ. *Luke 5:20 – Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you."* We, who keep wrecking things out of selfish motives, have already been forgiven. The atonement is already done. *Romans 5:8 – But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

But, the repentance needed is a true, from the heart, repentance, just like the 'sorry' of a friend. This is why salvation starts with faith. **First, there must be trust that God's offer is a real, no-strings-attached, offer.** Then we will be free to

admit how much damage we have done. *John 8:31-32 – So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

This freedom allows us to **confess** not just the fact of what we have done, but the wrongness of it as well. Confessing a thing that you still believe to be right is not repentance, but just acknowledgment. Admitting the wrongness is included when the Bible tells us that it is 'sin' that we are to confess. Have faith that in our relationship with God the **forgiveness** is **already** guaranteed to be **available**. *1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

This is all well and good when dealing with God, but what about our **relationships with one another**? *John 13:34 – "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. How often have we broken this commandment? In order for the love of one another to be **real** and not just a facade, there will have to be the same type of forgiveness as God gives. It is how he loved us. Matthew 18:21-22 – Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven. Notice that this forgiveness happens **before** there is any repentance, just like the forgiveness God gives us. This makes no sense to the natural mind. 1 Corinthians 1:18 – For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

Forgiveness is **forgoing the right to prosecute** a wrong. If no wrong has been done, no forgiveness is necessary. Real forgiveness **does not store away** the wrong for future parades either. Again, God has set this standard by his forgiveness of us. *Psalm 103:12 – As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.* What can be confusing is that while forgiveness is a responsibility of God's children, it is **not a right, or privilege**, of the wrongdoer. In other words, we cannot demand another's forgiveness any more than we can demand God's forgiveness. The sinner is completely at the **mercy** of the one wronged. This is the source of joy for the forgiven. *Luke 7:47 – "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little."*

Forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation. Forgiveness is unilateral, i.e. one person does it regardless of what the other does. Reconciliation is bilateral. Reconciliation is only possible when there is repentance and one is willing to be a penitent. This is why salvation begins only after we accept God's gift. *2 Corinthians 5:20 – therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

We are also to reconcile with one another. *Matthew 5:23-24 – "Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering. **This is part of loving one another.**"*

In Christ's service
Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

The Feb 20, 2007 United Parish Board opened at 7pm with Pastor Daren offering a prayer of guidance for our meeting. Board members in attendance were President Bev Buller, Financial Sec Donna Magnus, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, absent was Secretary Carrie Thompson. Others in attendance were Carol Styf, Daren Junker, Karen-Marie Bryanne, Linda Kampmann, Ed and Marsha Timm, Virginia Fixsen and Bonnie Junker.

Linda Kampmann served as acting secretary in Carrie's absent and read the minutes of the last meeting. They were approved with the correction of Jenny Nordman to Jenny Nordmeyer.

Dawn gave the following treasurers report. There will be change to check # 3864, it was written out for the wrong amount.

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Beginning Bal 13-31-2006 | \$1307.83 |
| January Income | 7053.50 J |
| January Expenses | (5156.27) |
| Ending balance 1-31-07 | \$ 3203.06 |

Financial Secretary report was given and approved.

Committee Reports

PPR: No report

Trustees: Honey Do Box is ready in the back of the church. An article of explanation will be in the Echo.

Christian Ed: No report

Worship: No report

Missions: No report

UPW: Plans are under way for a Soup and Sandwich supper on Feb 25 from 5-7. This will be a fund raiser for camperships. UPW will serve the 3rd Thursday supper on March 15. Love Packages were distributed. A baby shower is being planned for Georgi and Maya Jensen for March 17 at the church.

Historian: No report

Membership committee: No report, but it was suggested they meet monthly and work on getting an accurate membership listing to include both spouses and also recent confirmands. Bev will contact the committee.

Pastor's report: 1 phone/office visit, 1 hospital visit and 1 attempted hospital visit, 3 home visits and 3 attempted home visits, 2 long term care visits, 1 Brookings van trip, 2 release time drive/assist, annual report (discern and write), 0 release time teaching, Annual meeting (prep and attend), 3 UPW love gifts delivered, Ash Wednesday planning, Lenten services preliminary planning, Bible Study report, Cozy Corner worship, Confirmation class, Plan Sunday wor-

ship, Prepare Sermon, Prepare worship elements (praise song, liturgical prayers, MP3), Print Sunday bulletins, conduct Sunday Worship, Assist in Echo publication, Write Echo article, 24 hour availability for crises (church members and school),

Building Committee: No report

Correspondence: received a request from the Elkton Post Prom committee. Motion made and seconded to send \$20.00 to help with Post Prom expenses.

A letter of concern was read addressing possibility that our constitution and by laws are not being followed. The constitution needs to be studied and suggestions brought back to the board. A committee is being formed.

Old Business: Dawn is still working on the resolution from the bank about who is authorized to sign for the church and what they are authorized to sign. This was tabled until the March meeting.

Standing committee's were formed and will be listed on a separate page in this Echo so that you may remove the page and keep in a handy place. All committees are open to new members at any time.

New Business: there was no new business.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 7pm in the church basement.

The meeting adjourned with all praying The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Kampmann

Acting Secretary.

We know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 8:28

Standing Committees for 2007

Christian Education

Georgi Jensen, Nikki Glover, Laree Farnham, Sherry Bauman, Melissa Wiskur

Missions

Patty DeZeeuw, Linda Kampmann, Beth Holm, Virginia Fixsen

Pastor- Parish Relations

Shirley Hegerfeld(Chair), Ed Timm, Carrie Thompson, Virginia Fixsen,

Stewardship and Finance

Dawn Boltjes, Bruce Kinner, Donna Magnus.

Trustees

Donna Magnus, Dawn Boltjes, Dennis Lundgren, Troy Wiskur, Nancy Wiskur, Rufus C DeZeeuw

Worship

Nancy Wiskur, Virginia Fixsen, Carrie Thompson, Cassandra Timm, Marsha Timm

Membership

Nancy Wiskur, Virginia Fixsen, Janaii White

Harvest Festival

Carrie Thompson, Shirley Hegerfeld, Nancy Wiskur, Virginia Fixsen, Norma Krogman, Susan Sudtelgte.

UNITED PARISH ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 28th, 2007

The Annual Meeting opening at 12:00pm in the church basement with 24 attendees and Chairperson Bev Buller calling the meeting to order. Pastor Daren gave opening prayer.

The Secretary Carrie Thompson read the minutes from the 2006 Annual Meeting and they were approved. Treasurer's

Report was given by Dawn Boltjes. Dawn handed out the 2006 Annual Report and 2007 Narrative Budget and it was approved.

The Financial Secretary's Report was given by Donna Magnus. Donna stated that all funds are designated once again and that we have 12 separate CD's in the Building Fund CD's. The report was approved.

Committee Reports were given and were published in detail and in the Annual Report that was handed out.

Chairperson Report – by Bev Buller

Pastor Parish Report – by Ed Timm

Trustees, Membership and New Building – by Nancy Wiskur

Christian Education – by Sherry Bauman and Bonnie Junker

Worship – by Marsha Timm

Missions – by Linda Kampmann

Youth group – by Beth Holm

UPW – by Bev Buller

EPW Financial Report – by Ann Aaker

Historian Report – by Marsha Timm

Pastor's Report – by Daren Junker

OLD BUSINESS

We are still ongoing with the program to see a van video and sign the necessary forms requested by the insurance company to be able to drive the church van.

NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Daren reported that prior to our annual meeting he had sent out about 45 to 49 letters to households that don't often come to church. The letter was read. It was an invitation to them. He wants to challenge our group to see what we can come up with for ideas to make it easier for those who struggle with work schedule conflicts and such. Maybe more than our usual Sunday service in the daytime or even a different day perhaps. He was interested in ideas that may get those who do not struggle with schedule conflicts interested in coming as well.

Nancy brought up concerns about having a second person count Sunday offering with Donna. There were concerns that this is an unnecessary burden on someone else and also that it is looked at by some as an offensive to the financial Secretary as a mistrust. There was discussion about how it is a legal safety net for future Financial Secretaries. A motion was made to vote and seconded. Vote was held with 10 in favor of having no one help and 11 against. Motion was carried that there will be a second person to help the Financial Secretary count the Sunday offerings and that it will

only be one of the five board members that will do this to keep with the privacy issues.

We went over the 2006 Expenses and 2007 Budget. There was a question about where the Landscaping Account had come from and what it was for. The money was donated specifically for landscaping on any church ground. There were questions on what the Parsonage Allowance was. Dawn explained that it is something that the IRS allows to be listed for any office expenses and that any leftover money is considered to be income. This seems to be a standard amount for many other churches as well. Motion was made to pass and was 2nd. All in favor was carried with one opposing.

Election for Officers was held for Lay Leader and Treasurer. There was a nomination by the nomination committee for Lay Leader to be Shirley Hegerfeld. Committee also nominated Dawn Boltjes for another term as Treasurer. Chairperson asked for nominations from the floor with no response. Nominations ceased and motion was made to accept and carried. Many thanks were offered to Ed Timm for all his years of service to our church and committees. A motion was made to close our meeting and was 2nd. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Secretary, Carrie Thompson.

UPW

The United Parish Women met on February 5th at 7:30pm. The evening began with the pledge service presented by Linda Kampmann. The program focused on the connection between money and mission, and how we as Christians know that everything we have is truly from God.

President Bonnie read a devotional from a book entitled “Lord I Want to Know You” by Kay Arthur. Her reading focused on going to God in times of need.

The purpose was read by 17 members.

Roll call items were chocolate chips for the food pantry and/or school supplies for UMCOR kits. Bonnie reminded everyone that there is a plastic tub inside the church’s main entrance for food pantry and UMCOR donations which can be left at any time.

The secretary’s report was read. Eva Williams and Don Krogman were added to the list of Love Package recipients.

The treasurer’s report was next. Linda reported our February 1 balance on hand is \$1385.25. There were no bills submitted at the meeting.

The next item of business was correspondence. President Bonnie shared a letter from Gloria Pike, our district shepherdess. Gloria said she is available to come to one of our meetings and speak about district and conference events.

Bonnie will contact her to discuss a good time to come for a visit.

Standing committee reports were next.

-Get Well cards were sent to Arlyne Janssen, Shirley Lundgren, Justin Bauman and Carol Styf.

-There were no funerals last month.

-Marsha stated the reading program books are here and ready to be read! She explained that we need to read just one book from each category listed on pg. 7 of our program books.

-The missions committee continues with Bingo at Cozy Corner, visits to shut-ins and Love Packages for our shut-ins.

Old business was next.

Items for the love packages are ready to assemble and be distributed Valentine's week. Marsha gave a report on the Spiritual retreat in Aberdeen. She encouraged us to do a retreat of our own and reminded us she would be able to lead the retreat.

Bonnie and Karen-Marie will provide the coffee before church on February 11.

The soup and sandwich supper will be Sunday, February 25 from 5-7pm. Money raised will go to pay camper fees for children of our church.

Prayer Quilt Ministries will meet on February 10 at 2pm.

Bingo at Cozy Corner will be on February 28th.

New business:

A committee was formed for a baby shower for Georgianna Jensen and Maya Renae. Linda will contact Georgi for a convenient date and time. Committee members are Linda, Bev, Sherry, Melissa and Marsha. Anyone interested in helping can contact Linda.

United Parish will be serving the Third Thursday supper on March 15. Linda will chair the committee. Other members will be Bev, Virginia and Nancy. Once the committee meets, they will let people know what to bring.

February birthday: Lil Anderson, Deanna Lundgren and Joan Hegerfeld. Anniversaries: Linda and Dennis Kampmann, and Evelyn and Walter Mueller.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 6 at 7:30pm. Hostesses will be Bonnie Junker and Bev Buller. Beth Holm will do the program.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Lunch was served by Karen-Marie Bryanne, Patty DeZeeuw, and Virginia Fixsen.

Food pantry items for next month are pancake mix and syrup and UMCOR items will be layette items.

Secretary Bauman

Grape Vine

“Meek is Weak” says the world. We are taught in this world to show people “Don't mess with me”. But, we are taught by God to be meek, be humble, turn the other cheek when someone hurts you. That is a hard lesson. It takes more courage and strength to be meek than to retaliate. But, it is God's way and if we claim to belong to Him, we need to follow His instructions. Meekness is a trusting attitude that looks beyond man to the sovereign God. From that description it is obvious that meekness is not the natural disposition of sinful man nor is true meekness possible apart from the Spirit of God. Meekness is a grace of the soul and therefore only possible when Jesus Christ lives within. It is our Lord who is meek and lowly in heart, and my Lord is definitely not weak. *“Pursue peace with all men and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.”*

Hebrews 12:14-15

I wish you and myself peace.

Bonnie Junker

There will be a baby shower for Georgie Jensen on March 17th at

Third Thursday Supper will be March 15th.

TO DO LISTS

Most of us have a list of jobs we need to do, eventually. These lists are either written down or floating in the back of our heads. Either way, they are a reminder of repairs that should be tackled or special cleaning projects.

Along the lines of a honey-do-list, your faithful trustees have placed a small, colorful cigar box in the back of the church. In the box you will find a notebook and a pen. If you notice anything that should be repaired, replaced or spruced up, please write it down in the notebook.

The trustees will do their best to check that box on a weekly basis and will see that the jobs get done, eventually. If something arises that should be seen to immediately, please contact one of the trustees on the list below.

If you see something that you are confident you can fix, feel free. After all, the church belongs to all God's children and as such, we all have a responsibility to keep it up.

2007 Trustees

Dennis Lundgren 542-2221

Rufus DeZeeuw 542-7541

Nancy Wiskur 542-5591

Troy Wiskur 548-4682

Dawn Boltjes 548-2051

February & March Echo Sponsors

A great idea was brought up at our Board meeting. Besides covering the cost of postage to mail the Echo, we hope there are members out there who would be willing to help with printing costs.

Cost of the toner cartridges to print the Echo, the weekly bulletin and other miscellaneous forms and letters runs about

\$1000 a year. The monthly average would be \$83.33.

If you would care to help with our church printing costs, any amount will be appreciated. Just let me know.

The sponsors of the February mailing of our Echo were Tal & LaRee Farnham. Lester Oppelt is sponsoring the March postage. 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 the Echo or church printing, please contact me at 548-2051.

God Bless All of You,

Dawn Boltjes

HIDDEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

The names of sixteen books of the English Bible are hidden in the text of the following paragraph. Can you find all sixteen of them?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu. Kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. One little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there are really sixteen names of books of the Bible in this story.