

The United Parish
ECHO

April 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



Easter, The Sunday of the Resurrection

Table of Contents

Pastor's Desktop.....	3
Parish Board Meeting.....	4
UPW.....	9
Christian Education.....	11
Grape Vine.....	13
Turkey Mourned as Model Member.....	13
Calendar.....	insert

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 – Rufus DeZeeuw
6 – David Junker
6 – Daniel Junker
8 – Susan Sudtelgte
9 – James Stuefen
11 – Shanon White
23 – Alice Kinner
24 – Jerry Styf
24 – Les Langner
24 – Daren Junker
26 – Tim Goldammer
26 – Bev Lytle
29 – Gertrude DeZeeuw

Anniversaries

6 – Jo & Susan Sudtelgte
6 – Greg & Carol Jensen
16 – Jack & Bev Lytle

Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Beth Holm
 Bruce Holm
Acolyte: Michael Junker

Liturgists

1 – LaRee Farnham
8 – <vacant>
15 – Georgi Jensen
22 – Beth Holm
29 – Dawn Boltjes

Pastor's Desktop

Ordinarily reconciliation is difficult. After forgiving, which can be done without the other person even being aware of it, reconciliation requires loving communication directly with the offender. If there has been abuse, this becomes almost impossible. Yet, impossible is exactly what God specializes in. We, as a whole race, and as individuals, have rebelled against God and separate ourselves from the source of life and all that is good. How do you fix that? It's impossible for us to do. God did it already though. And calls us to have hearts that do the same.

Last month's article about penitence covers how to begin reconciliation. It starts with admission of wrongdoing, usually by each party involved, though sometimes by just one. Each person that has done something wrong and wishes they had not can repent of it by choosing a new direction. By God's own example, we see that forgiveness is possible even before such repentance takes place. If the one wronged has already laid aside the valid complaint and chosen to forgive, then repentance is a large step toward reconciliation. Forgiveness on the one side clears the path by removing anger and bitterness. Repentance on the other side clears the path by removing stubborn pride and reducing the risk of further harm.

The step that is often hardest in reconciliation is next – talking directly to one another, and keeping it open, humble and honest without creating new hurt feelings. This is why some sort of mediation often works for reconciliation. A neutral person can watch for the negative impact of old patterns being repeated, or for the barriers of defensiveness, and guide the two parties reconciling to stay on the path of lov-

ing communication. Not so much referee in a competition as a guide up a difficult mountain, the mediator simply helps everyone involved get to where they want to be. Forgiveness and repentance open the possibility of making the climb together despite the past.

Reconciliation starts a new relationship when an old one has failed. Even more than a new relationship, this takes time. Extra time is needed because of the pains that threaten to flare up at any moment and because both people are learning completely new ways of relating, not ones based on the past (which lead to the problem in the first place). This new relationship between humans is a very close parallel to our new relationship with God through Christ.

“The worldly man treats certain people kindly because he 'likes' them : the Christian, trying to treat every one kindly, finds himself liking more and more people as he goes on -- including people he could not even have imagined himself liking at the beginning.” C.S. Lewis in Christian Behaviour.

In Christ's service
Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

The March 20, 2007 parish board meeting was called to order by Pres Bev Buller. Pastor Daren led us in prayer. Officers in attendance were Bev Buller, Donna Magnus, and Dawn Boltjes. Secretary Carrie Thompson was absent and Linda Kampmann took minutes in her absence. Others attending were Carol Styf, Virginia Fixsen, Ed and Marsha Timm and Pastor Daren. After opening Pastor Daren left to

attend the Christian Ed meeting being held upstairs at the church.

February minutes were read. . There were corrections to the treasurer's report: the ending balance in Feb was actually \$3205.06 and there were no corrections to check # 3864 as reported. The minutes were approved with those corrections.

Treasurers Report. Dawn presented the income and expenses for the month. There was one less Sunday offering due to the cancellation of church during the storm. Dawn reported a gain of \$148.11 in the Building funds. The report was approved as printed.

Beginning balance	\$3205.06
Feb Income	+ 3263.00
Feb expenses	- 4521.37
Bal on 2-28-07	\$1946.69

Financial Secretary report. There was only a gain of \$56.06 in interest in the accounts.

Committee reports.

PPR. No report

Trustee: repairs are being done as they are found in the Honey Do box located in the back of the church. It was pointed out that there are nails protruding from some of the

front pews and a light in the basement needs replacing. Gene was called to look at the furnace again and replaced a gas valve.

Christian Ed. The group was meeting on March 20, 2007

Worship. Usher and acolyte duties have been assigned.

UPW rescheduled soup and sandwich supper to March 25 from 5-7pm. The church served approximately 144 at the Third Thursday supper.

Mission. Plan to meet in the near future.

Historian: recording events as they happen

Pastors report:

2 phone/office visits

0 hospital visits

2 home visits + attempted

2 Long term care visits

Brookings van trip

2 release time drive and assist

1 release time teach

worked on membership/constitution issue

Cal Steen funeral

Ash Wed service

Lenten services

Cozy Corner worship

Bible study support

Confirmation class

Plan Sunday worship

Prepare sermon
Prepare worship elements
Print Sunday bulletins
Conduct Sunday worship
Assist in Echo publications
Write Echo article
24 hour availability for crises (church and school)

Building committee: Met on Mar 15. Discussed letting current farmer who rents the land we recently purchased continued to rent it this year. Brained storm ideas but nothing decided on until all legal is completed on the land. Austin DeZeeuw has agreed to serve as the youth member on the building committee.

Membership: No report. Bev Buller will contact them about getting current membership list.

Old business: a committee has been formed to reread and update our constitution. Those members are Marsha Timm, Chair, Dennis Lundgren, Dick Buller, Nikkie Glover and Melissa Wiskur. Daren has delivered copies of the current constitution to these committee members.

Correspondence: a flyer about a School of Congregation Development was received. It will be in the back of the church if any one is interested.

Signing approval at the bank is tabled.

New business:

The size of our offering envelopes have changed. They offered two examples. We chose to use the one that is only slightly larger than our current envelopes.

There was discussion on whether all bills should be approved before paying. It was decided to pay bills already approved in the budget as usual and bring any non budgeted type bills before the board before paying.

The church is getting a new credit card. Pastor often orders from the internet and has to pay with a credit card. IRS requests that payments are made directly rather than Pastor paying on his own and getting reimbursed

A printout of Successful Church Plants was handed out. The church plants are referring to new churches or churches needing new growth. Discussion was held on the various points to see if some of them could be implemented at United Parish. Many of the suggestions were already being used here. Everyone was to take the hand out home and study it and bring back any ideas or suggestions to the next parish board.

The meeting was adjourned with all saying the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is April 18 at 7pm. We will be back to meeting on Wed at that time.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Kampmann
Acting Secretary

UPW

The March 6, 2007 meeting of the United Parish Women was called to order at 7:30pm by President Bonnie Junker. There was no program for the month. Bonnie read the "Daily Walk" for our opening devotion. Next Bonnie read a letter stating due to the questions concerning who is eligible to hold office as stated in our church constitution she will be stepping down. Patty DeZeeuw as vice president is automatically changed to president. Patty has asked the nominating committee to look for a new nominee. A round of hearty applause was given Bonnie for her willingness to serve as our president. Fifteen members answered the roll call of pancake mix or syrup for the food pantry and items for a baby layette for the UMCOR kits. Secretary Bauman was absent due to illness so Linda Kampmann was acting secretary. The secretary report was read and approved with no corrections. The treasurer's report was read. We have a balance on hand of \$ 1509.36. There were no corrections to the treasurers' reports. Bills were submitted for paper plates and also for stamps.

A thank you was read from Dave and Jenny Nordmeyer for the baptism gift for Riley Nordmeyer. Also a thank you was read from Virginia Holmlund. Many verbal thank yous were shared from other recipients of the Love Packages. Patty reported she had visited with Mary Clarin and Mary would love to have visits from her friends here in Elkton.

Donna Magnus reported she had sent get well cards to Taylor Timm, Cal Steen, Shirley Hegerfeld and Shirley

Lundgren. Be sure to let Donna know of anyone who is sick or hospitalized.

There were no funerals to report for Feb but Gert DeZeeuw reported on the plans for lunch for the funeral of Cal Steen.

Marsha said many wonderful books are available and JUST READ.

The shut in basket was passed around for those who could to take a name. Patty reminded us that even if we are unable to visit we could pray for our shut in.

Old business: Bingo players at Cozy Corner reported. The soup and sandwich supper was postponed due to the weather. It has been rescheduled for March 28, 2007 from 5-7 pm. Everyone was asked to help and also spread the word. It will be a free will offering with the proceeds to benefit the campership program.

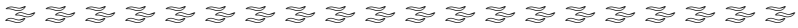
Linda reported on the plans for 3rd Thursday supper were completed and also that the baby shower for Georgie Jensen and baby Maya will be March 17, 2007.

New business. Discussion was held concerning coffee time during Lenten services. Due to lack of interest the discussion was dropped. Bev Buller and Bonnie Junker will host the before church coffee on March 11. In April the coffee will fall on Easter so no one is hosting that since the youth generally have breakfast. For the summer months it

was discussed about taking turns each month with the youth, UPW and Christian Ed.

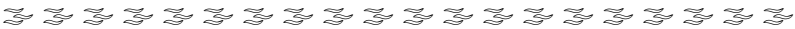
The meeting was then adjourned with all joining hands and reciting the Lord's Prayer. A delightful St Patty's Day lunch was served by Bonnie Junker and Bev Buller. Next months meeting is Tuesday April 3rd at 7:30. Program will be Patty DeZeeuw and hostesses are Gertrude DeZeeuw and Donna Magnus.

Submitted by
Linda Kampmann
Acting Secretary



Celebrate Easter!! Without Easter,

Why don't you finish this one at home with your family. See what you think. Why do we celebrate Christmas far more than Easter, yet without Easter.....



Christian Education

The Christian Ed committee met at the church on March 20th. Attendees were Sherry Bauman, Melissa Wiskur, Nikki Glover, Georgianna Jensen, Pastor Daren, and LaRee Farnham.

We discussed plans for Confirmation Sunday on April 15th. The confirmands will be honored during the church service with cake and coffee afterwards. There will be no Sunday School that day and also on April 8th (Easter). Looking ahead: May 6th is the last day of Sunday School for the school year. May 13th is Awards Sunday/Mother's Day. Be watching later for dates for summer Vacation Bible School.

As previously known, Sherry Bauman is stepping down from Superintendent at the end of the school year. Melissa Wiskur and Nikki Glover will take on the position and share the responsibility. LaRee Farnham will be the new chairman of Christian Ed.

Submitted by:
LaRee Farnham

April Echo Sponsors

As I type this, the sun is shining and the temperature may reach 75. What a wonderful spring day! We can surely thank our Holy Father for allowing us a little bit of heaven here on earth.

The sponsors of the April mailing of the Echo is Dick and Bev Buller. 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 or printing of the Echo please contact me at 548-2051.

God Bless All of You,
Dawn Boltjes

Grape Vine

Youth or young at heart out there!! Your skills and interests are needed and wanted. We started about two years ago a web site to meet the information needs of the current generations and had hoped some of our younger members would be interested in developing and updating it. That opportunity is still there, so if you have skills and interest in web sites, talk to Pastor Daren.

3rd Thursday Supper. The United Parish served supper on March 17,2007 at the Community Center. Over 144 adults and children enjoyed a meal of homemade lasagna, lettuce salad, buttered bread sticks , coffee, juice and an ocean of great desserts. Thanks so much for all who helped or donated . We will be able to donate a sizable amount to the Community Center fund.

WOW..... just dropping the change from your pocket into the jar on the back table of the church counts up . It was recently emptied again and deposited into the UPW fund for camperships. The total of the deposit was \$62.41. That is great, so please keep lightning your pockets by dropping your change into the change and Help Change a Child's Life.

Turkey Mourned as Model Member

Lamb's United Methodist Church, Wales Township, Michigan, held a moment of silence last week to honor one of their model members — a wild turkey. The Rev. James Huff, pastor of the church, said the turkey regularly attended Sunday services and greeted people as they arrived. "He

would kind of wait for me to come in," Huff told the Times Herald of Port Huron. "He knew when I got there. Service was about to begin, and then he would sit on one lady's car until we were done."

Area residents reported that the turkey died last week after it was hit by a car on a road near the St. Clair County church. Congregation members immediately noticed that the fowl was absent, since he never missed a service.

TWO LITTLE BOYS'

A couple had two little boys, ages 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. The two were always getting into trouble and their parents could be assured that if any mischief occurred in their town their two young sons were in some way involved.

The parents were at their wits end as to what to do about their sons' behavior. The mother had heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children in the past, so she asked her husband if he thought they should send the boys to speak with the clergyman.

The husband said, 'We might as well. We need to do something before I really lose my temper!' The clergyman agreed to speak with the boys, but asked to see them individually. The 8 year old went to meet with him first. The clergyman sat the boy down and asked him sternly, 'Where is God?'

The boy made no response, so the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, 'Where is God?' Again the

boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face, 'WHERE IS GOD?'

At that the boy bolted from the room and ran directly home, slamming himself in the closet. His older brother followed him into the closet and asked what had happened. The younger brother replied, 'We are in BIG trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it.'

16 Books of the Bible

Last month I printed a little challenge for you; finding 16 books of the Bible in a paragraph. How did you do? Did you find them all? I heard from one lady she had at that point found all but one and was determined to find the rest. Here is the solution to your quest:

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name 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. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.