



The United Parish
ECHO



May 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



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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.....	542-8051
Pastor: Rev. Daren Junker	
Church.....	542-7101
Personal cell phone.....	605-929-4892
Church email:.....	pastor@elktonunitedparish.org

Birthdays

- 1 – Jordan Anderson
- 4 – Bonnie Junker
- 9 – Andrew Thompson
- 12 – Don Bauman
- 13 – Drew Hansen
- 13 – Abbi Sudtelgte
- 19 – Don Koch
- 20 – Justin Bauman
- 23 – Alex Hegerfeld
- 27 – Virginia Holmlund
- 27 – Shirley Lundgren
- 30 – Don Magnus

Anniversaries

- 17 – Daren & Bonnie Junker

Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Liturgists

- 6 – Nancy Wiskur
- 13 – Linda Kampmann
- 20 – Nancy Wiskur
- 27 – Ed Timm

Pastor's Desktop

This message rambles a little, but follow the white rabbit and you may discover some things about yourself along the meandering path.

Luke 6:38b records Jesus teaching, “for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.” I find this to be a very sobering lesson, coming from the Son of God. Because it means that this is how God operates. Some questions it makes me ask are: “Do my actions take this into account?” “Do I make choices that reflect it?” “Does it affect my thoughts?”

Whenever the Bible challenges my way of living or thinking, I do just like most everyone else. I first try to explain it away by finding another way of looking at it. It is when I catch myself doing this that I know that I must change.

What can be so challenging about the passage? After all, we know from other passages that God is merciful and full of love, quick to forgive and patient with our stumbling. The trouble starts, when we admit that Jesus also taught that if we love God, we will obey Him. And what did He command? “Love one another.” But the word 'love' gets so misused, doesn't it? We end up thinking along the lines of, 'Be nice to one another;' 'Never disagree,' or 'Accept everyone's behavior.' It does not mean any of these things. Sometimes, the Christlike thing to do is not nice. Sometimes, it makes no sense to worldly thinking because of how nice it is. The reason for this is that 'nice' is not related to it at all. Sometimes it means taking a stand and disagreeing even at the risk of losing a friend. Sometimes it means holding your tongue even though you are thoroughly convinced that you are

right. Again, it has nothing to do with agreeing or not, but with what God does in such situations.

Often we humans know what we want from God, but lose sight of this when facing one of our own kind. If I am dead wrong about something, but certain that I am right, I want to be treated with gentle correction rather than hostility or argument. And yet what is my natural reaction when I know that someone else is dead wrong? Well, to argue the point of course. Growing in Christ means learning to withhold argument when I am right and finding gentle ways of presenting the truth.

So often, Bible verses become platitudes that are disconnected from our daily life because we do not stop to look at what they really say. Or, when we hear what they are telling us, we cover our ears and try to ignore them. Remember, it is God's Word that can take root, grow, and produce fruit, not our will. It is our will that makes the Word confusing or pushes it aside and lets it gather the dust of 'irrelevance'.

In **all** of our interactions and our thoughts:

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." Luke 6:36-38

This connects very well with generosity and not worrying about tomorrow, but those ramblings will have to wait until another day.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

The Parish Board was called to order. Officers in attendance were President Bev Buller, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, Financial Secretary Donna Magnus and Secretary Carrie Thompson. Also attending were Pastor Daren Junker, viginia Fixsen, Carol Styf, Linda Kampmann, and Karen-Marie Bryanne. Pastor Daren gave an opening prayer. The minutes from the March meeting were read with the following corrections. Under the New Business there was mention of a new credit card but it is in fact a replacement card for the original one we've had. The minutes were approved.

Dawn gave the Treasurer's Report and it was approved. Several insurances had to be paid this time.

Beginning Balance 2-28-07	\$1,946.69
March income	<u>\$4,920.39</u>
	\$6,867.08
March expenses	<u>\$6,583.05</u>
Ending Balance 3-31-07	<u>\$ 284.03</u>

Donna gave the Financial Secretary's Report and it was approved. There was a total gain of \$436.12.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastor-Parish Relations: no report

Trustees: Light bulbs have been purchased and will be replaced. The office downstairs needs to be cleaned out. Extra bulletin boards will be stored in the library upstairs.

Christian Ed: The main focus was on the upcoming confirmation. New Sunday School Superintendent position will be shared between Nikki Glover and Melissa Wiskur. The Chairperson is LaRee Farnham. Bev reported that confirma-

tion went well. May 6th will be the last Sunday School until fall. Vacation Bible School will be talked about. May 13th will be Awards Sunday and will have a special thanks given.

Worship: no report

UPW: The college care packages for the 7 students we have in our church was discussed. The soup and sandwich supper went well. They collected \$190 for camperships. May 9th at 11:30 am will be the Senior Luncheon.

Historian: no report

Pastoral Report: Pastor Daren reported that he'd had 3 home visits, and 2 longterm care visits. He has had a van trip drive and a Release time drive. He has taught Release Time and been to the constitution committee meeting as well as the UPW meeting. He planned, prepared, and lead Lenten Services and also Holy Week services. He has prepared and conducted confirmation and gave Bible study support. He has prepared and given Sunday worship and sermons, prepared the worship elements, printed the Sunday bulletins and written Echo article. Pastor has assisted in the publication of the Echo which was probably late due to the absent minded secretary not getting the minutes turned in promptly enough. As always, Pastor Daren is always available for crisis to all members of the church and school.

Building Committee: At the meeting all were given jobs to check into. They are still waiting for the old railroad piece to clear title.

Membership: Bev called Nancy about the Membership List before the Annual Meeting. They will meet after church this week. The new list has been worked on. They have had some GREAT ideas for welcome gifts for the new people in town.

Constitution Committee: They met and read through and discussed collecting what changes and ideas need to be made. They will be having another meeting.

Missions: They will be meeting to discuss new ideas for summer. Abbi Sudtelgte will be joining the Missions committee!!

Correspondence: Annual Conference Registration to be held in Sioux Falls. The UMC is being held at the Ramkota June 6-9. The UCC is also being held June 8-10. Pastor will be driving each day to attend.

OLD BUSINESS

Signing at the bank was discussed and will be tabled again until the next meeting. "Successful Church Plants" is a handout that was discussed. The ten common factors that prove to be the best predictors for higher worship attendance. These were discussed in detail with lots of brainstorming. The ten factors are location, reaching children, promotion of the church, training new members, mandatory church covenant for new members, intentional financial stewardship, the staff factor, not just focusing on their own needs, building leadership, and the achievement factor.

NEW BUSINESS

A group inside the UCC sent info titled the Lexington Confession from Hedrick's Grove UCC in Lexington NC. This will be read and discussed.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next Parish Board meeting will be held May 16th, 2007 at 7:00pm.

Secretary, Carrie Thompson

UPW

The United Parish Women met on Wednesday, April 4, 2007. Patty DeZeeuw gave the Lent/Easter program entitled "Rise & Shine for Christ is Risen." It was meant to make us think of how we can be a blessing to those in need and how to let our light shine for God in times of darkness.

Patty called the meeting to order with 16 members reciting the UPW purpose. Food pantry items for this month were non-perishable foods for Easter dinner, while items for sewing kits were the UMCOR donations.

The secretary's report was read and approved with no corrections or additions. The treasurer's report was read. We have a balance of \$2111.38. There were no corrections or additions to the treasurer's report. Linda reported an income of \$466.17 from the Third Thursday Supper in March. Ann Aaker made a motion to pay \$450.00 to the Community Center. Gertrude DeZeeuw seconded the motion which passed unanimously. There were no bills presented.

A thank you was read from the family of Cal Steen. It expressed their gratitude for serving Cal's funeral, for his prayer quilt, and for the many kindnesses shown him over the years.

Patty shared a letter from the Watertown First United Methodist Church. They are inviting churches to the April 21st Focus Day. Cost is \$6.00 per person and daycare is available. Anyone interested in attending should contact Patty or Sherry before April 17th.

Standing Committee Reports was next.

Donna Magnus sent a sympathy card to the Lundgren family and a get well card to Robert Groth.

Gertrude reported on Cal Steen's funeral.

Marsha reminded everyone to just read.

Bev passed around the names of shut-ins to be drawn by members.

Under Old Business, Linda reported the Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser took in \$190.00 with no expenses. This means the entire amount will go toward paying camperships. Thank you to everyone for their donations!

New Business was next. Patty reminded us of Focus Day coming up and also that School of Christian Mission will be in July. She also reminded everyone to pass the word that Early Bird registration for any camps is April 28th.

Marsha reported that the Senior Luncheon will be on Wednesday, May 9th at 11:30am. It was pointed out that our church has been serving a special luncheon for the graduating seniors for close to 50 years.

Patty brought up an idea for a new mission project: Care Packages for college students as they study for finals. Anyone would be able to donate items such as: food coupons, snack foods, encouraging notes and cards. Dawn made a motion to begin this mission project immediately. Marsha seconded and the motion passed. The packages will be sent on April 29th, so see Patty or Bonnie immediately if you wish to donate or have the name of a student from our church.

There were quite a few members on hand for March Bingo at Cozy Corner. A good time is always had by all!

Dawn gave a nominating committee report. We need to add Donna Magnus to the nominating committee list in our program books. Also, after extensive calling, no one would accept the UPW presidency. Patty then agreed to finish out the 2007 year as president. Linda will serve as Vice President as well as Treasurer. Thank you ladies!

Our next meeting will be May 2nd with the Mother's Day/Memorial Day program given by Linda and Sherry. Hostesses will be Marsha and Nancy.

Patty reminded everyone to keep filling their Thank Offering boxes.

The meeting adjourned with members holding hands while saying the Lord's Prayer. Table grace was sung and then a scrumptious lunch was served by Gertrude and Donna.

Secretary Bauman

Christian Education

May 6th is the last day of Sunday School

May 13th is Awards Sunday/Mother's Day

Thanks to all our teachers/helpers for a great year!

Be watching for dates for Vacation Bible School!

Enjoy your summer break!

LaRee Farnham

Chairman

Mission News

Your mission committee met recently to discuss some upcoming mission projects for the United Parish church. There were several interesting projects and thru the course of the meeting we decided to try several of them (ok, all of them). They are all easy, fun and yet very valuable projects and we hope you will enjoy participating in them as they are introduced throughout this upcoming year. Most of the projects will benefit the Tree of Life Ministry located in Mission, SD. This mission area is an ecumental mission supported by many different churches. The needs are varied, simple and an excellent way to show God's love for his people. This area is the poorest in the nation and it is located nearly in our back yard. So again, we hope that you will find these projects something that you can contribute to. We are excited to offer you these great opportunities. So every few months we will tell you about a new project.

There is a saying that goes:

“To whom much is given, much is expected.” After reading about the living conditions of these fellow South Dakotan's, esp. the children, I am not afraid to say the United Parish congregation is among those who have been given much and God is expecting much from us. This will be exciting and rewarding for all of us involved.

So put this little paper in your purse or wallet and it will be handy whenever you are someplace where you can get the need items. Our first project is for spring. We chose two.

1.Clean Sweep; During the spring when we think of spring house cleaning, perhaps we could donate packages of sponges, scrubbies, scouring pads, dish cloths, tea towels or any other household cleaning items.

2.All Dolled Up: Look thru your old jewelry and if there some that you no longer wear bring it to church to donate. It could be necklaces, rings, bracelets, hair barrettes or pretty combs for long hair. These items do not need to be new but they do need to be in good condition. Every one likes to look nice and a little piece of jewelry could just make a women or young girl feel very pretty.

There will be a designated area for any of these items and we will collect for this project thru May. We will be mailing these items so if you are not into shopping or don't really have any jewelry you could part with; perhaps you would like to donate money to be used for postage.

Linda Kampmann, Patty DeZeeuw, Beth Holm, Virginia Fixsen and Abbey Sudtelgte
Bev Buller and Pastor Daren.

Grape Vine

St. Mary's & Elkton School Holding Benefit For Bauer Family: [note: even though this is now past, you can still donate, a fund is available through BankStar]

I was asked to slip in a little something regarding the benefit being held for the Jim & Tammy Bauer family on Sunday, May 6 at St. Mary's Hall. As many of you know their home was partially destroyed by fire on April 18. St. Mary's is holding a breakfast benefit on the 6th from 8:00 am to 12 pm. They will be serving French toast, pancakes, sausage, eggs and a beverage. All for a free will donation that will be given to the Bauer family. In addition, the Elkton School staff will be taking "Fire Shower" gifts for the family. If you wish to pick up kitchen, bedding or bath items that would be useful to the family you can bring them to the breakfast. School staff will deliver the items for you.

Submitted by Dawn Boltjes

Sunday School Bulletin Boards

It has come to the attention of the Trustee committee that the old Sunday School bulletin boards, currently stored in the basement church office, need to be moved.

As you will recall, these boards came down last summer when the basement was repainted. They were shoved into the office and never came out.

The boards make it impossible to get to the file cabinets and are very much in the way when Sunday School is in session in the room.

The Trustees have decided to offer these boards to anyone willing to remove them from the premises. Any boards left after May 15 will be taken from the building permanently.

If you have any questions you may contact Nancy Wiskur or Dawn Boltjes.

May Echo Sponsors

Last month I wrote that the sun was shining and it was a warm and beautiful spring day. Those of you forced to receive your Echo in your mailbox probably had to shovel several inches of wet snow before you could reach the mailbox. I will not jinx things again this month by mentioning the weather.

The sponsors of the May mailing of the Echo is Jack & Beverly Lytle. 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

MOTHER'S DAY

So, it is Mother's Day again. I was going to write something soupy and mooshy and find a cute picture to go with it. So, I started by searching the internet for stories and pictures of Mother's Day traditions around the world. Most of them were about all the same: flowers, dinner, more flowers, bla bla bla. But, this one caught my attention. Just out of some curiosity I searched for Mother's Day gifts or traditions in Denmark and this picture came up:



I know I have been gone from Denmark for a while now, but.....is there something I missed???

Anyway, back to Mother's Day. Here is my standpoint: Mother's Day is not a day for my kids to have to remember to “officially” say thank you for all the fabulous things I do, and how much I care, etc etc etc and bla bla bla. Rather, Mother's Day is a day for me to say thank you. Thank you to my kids for the person you allowed me to become, thank you for teaching me the value of a bouquet of flowers from the back yard (even when the flowers were the strawberry flowers!), thank you for showing me again the beauty of a rock, for teaching me the art work in two stick figures and a three colored rainbow. Thank your for showing me the impatience in myself and the self centered attitude and for showing me how to move on when I make a mistake and fall down. Thank you for teaching me about forgiving friends and family and for giving me the courage to go ice skating after 24 years. Thank you for all the laughter I have had with silly jokes and stories. Thank for letting me be a hero for a moment, a day, a week, or even year. Thank you for the love I have experienced from the moment I knew you would be a part of my life forever.