



The United Parish
ECHO



June 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

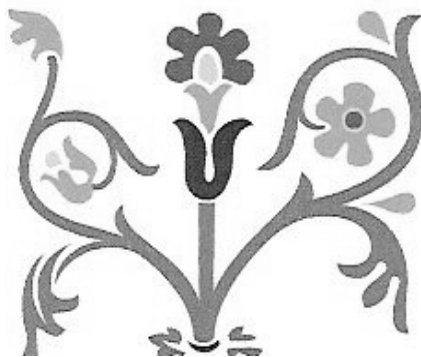


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United Parish Board Members

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.....	542-7131
Pastor: Rev. Daren Junker	
Church.....	542-7101
Personal cell phone.....	605-929-4892
Church email:.....	pastor@elktonunitedparish.org

Birthdays

- 4 – Skylar Thomas
- 7 – John Lytle, jr.
- 10 – Scott Lundgren
- 15 – Stephen Holm
- 16 – Ed Timm
- 17 – Donna Magnus
- 23 – Danny Brown
- 23 – Roween Cameron
- 26 – Dawn Hansen
- 29 – Mike Thomas

Anniversaries

- 6 – Marshal & Jean Janssen
- 13 – Bruce & Beth Holm
- 14 – Dennis & Deanna Lundgren
- 21 – Tal & LaRee Farnham
- 22 – Bert & Lisa Kuehl
- 27 – Mark & Jannii White
- 29 – David & Diane DeMarteleare
- 30 – Steve & Georgianna Jensen

Liturgists

- 3 – Dennis Lundgren
- 10 – Ann Aaker
- 17 – Abbi Sudtelgte
- 24 – <vacant>

Pastor's Desktop

As I see it...

United Parish is at a decision point. There are two possibilities for our future. One option is to focus on preserving what we have by settling into the ministries of what is called a family church. The other option is to focus on expanding what we have by promoting ministries in the way of what is called a pastoral church. Both are Godly roles for a church to fill and it is vital that we discern together what it is that God would have us do, because either choice can be a dead end if God is not in it. I will lay out a bit more of what each would look like.

A family church is called so, not because it feels like a family, but because it is run primarily by one family. In a church this size, the ministry focus is on what may be termed chaplain services. A minister is hired to perform the rites of baptism, marriage, and to conduct funerals. The church members are all connected in some way outside of the church and so church is only needed for worship, not for socialization. The maximum average attendance at such a church is typically 35-50 people. It is difficult for a church this size to maintain a full time minister on their own and often end up sharing the minister with at least one other church, hiring a retired pastor, or finding one who earns most of his/her income from other work. The family church, by focusing on its own needs, tends to miss opportunities for greater involvement with God's work, remains vulnerable to outside social/economic forces, and sees as many people leave as come.

A pastoral church is called so, not because the focus is on the pastor, but because the ministries of the church as a

whole tend to be pastoral in nature. In a church this size, the ministry focus is on spiritual growth and discipleship. A minister is hired to not only perform rites, but also to promote growth in the lay leaders. While most of the members will know each other outside the church, many will also only meet one another at church events. The average attendance at such a church is typically 50-200 people. It is easy for a church this size to maintain a full time minister and part time secretary on their own, and at the upper range of attendance may have an additional part time minister as well. The pastoral church, by focusing on discipleship, finds unexpected ministry opportunities and can often tend to its members despite outside factors. In a vibrant pastoral church, there will be periods of growth that lead to spawning new groups in some way.

While God is able to accomplish eternal purposes in both church sizes, I believe United Parish is poised to be a pastoral church. Go ahead and dream a little. What would it be like to find 70-80 people in every worship service? What would it be like to be able to rotate in and out of leadership positions without just changing hats with someone else? What would it be like to offer more ministry and outreach activities that positively impact our community? What would it be like to have more opportunities for ministry so that more people find meaningful involvement? If these things seem appealing, then pray that God opens your eyes and helps you clearly see how to prepare the way. If it sounds like pipe dreams and pie in the sky, then pray that God opens your eyes and helps you clearly see what the future should be instead.

One key element to remember is that a small step of growth does not take anything away. The church will still be

a family, but one that is strong enough to make a difference in lives. Another key thing to remember is that lack of growth is not the same as death. It is possible to just focus solely on internal needs, just not to grow while doing so. In either case, active participation is going to be essential. Actively share your perspective. Actively seek God's will. Actively promote what you firmly believe God wants to happen.

Right now, we are teetering on the edge. Which way will we go?

In Christ's service,
Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

The Parish board met Wed, May 16, 2007 in the church basement. Officers in attendance were President Bev Buller, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, and Financial Sec. Donna Magnus. Sec. Carrie Thompson was at work so Linda Kampmann took the minutes. Others in attendance were Pastor Daren, Carol Styf and Virginia Fixsen. Pastor Daren opened the meeting with a prayer for guidance.

The minutes from the April meeting were read and approved.

Dawn gave the treasurers report and it was approved.

Beginning Balance: \$284.03

April Income \$5627.40

April Expenses \$5277.98

Ending Balance \$633.45

The Financial Secretaries report was approved as read. There was a gain of \$71.48 on the deposits in the bank. The money market account showed a gain of \$157.89.

Committee Reports

PPR: no report

Trustees: Dawn reported that some light bulbs had been changed and no one had showed an interest in the excess bulletin boards so they will be removed. Michael Junker is mowing the Peace lot and the church will pay him \$15.00 for each mowing. He needs to keep a record and turn in a bill each month. No one is sure who mowed around the church but it has been mowed and looks very nice. Dennis Lundgren had done it in the past.

Christian Ed: LaRee Farnham reported to Bev Buller that they will meet the end of May to discuss Vacation Bible School. It has tentatively been set for July 23-25. Sherry

submitted a financial statement showing a balance on hand as of April 1, 2007 to be \$273.50. Income from Sunday school and UPW totaled \$267.48. Expenses including confirmation, Pins and awards and Mothers Day/Teacher gifts and misc. totaled \$293.06 leaving the balance of \$247.92 on May 11, 2007.

Worship: No report

Mission: Linda reported on the various mission projects they would be introducing over the summer months. There will be information on each new project in the bulletins and the Echo.

UPW: Our May meeting was our Mothers Day/Memorial Day program. We honored Cal Steen in our Memorial portion of the program. College exam care packages were assembled for Adam DeZeeuw, Tom Hegerfeld, Amber Anderson, Nikkie Glover and Paul Langner. In June we will have our Members Night Out.

Historian: No report

Pastor's Report: 2 phone/office visits, 1 hospital visit, 5 home visits and 1 attempted home visit, 2 Brookings van trips, mission committee meeting, prepare/conduct baptism, met with denominational leaders from UCC, UMC and North American Baptist seminary, last Bible study support, plan Sunday worship, prepare sermons, prepare worship elements (praise song, liturgical prayers, MP3 player), print Sunday bulletins, conduct Sunday worship, write Echo article, 24 hour availability for church members and school.

Building committee: committee members are working on assigned tasks.

Membership committee: met on May 12 to put together plates of goodies to be distributed to new members to the community. In these goodie plates they included crochet pot holders with labels saying they were from the United Parish and the new member pamphlets. Even after the goodies are gone they will have these pot holders from the United Parish. Kate Brown and Arlyne Janssen made the pot holders. They will meet monthly to distribute these gifts and meet the new members of the community.

Constitution Committee: they have met once.

Harvest Festival: committee will meet on May 23 at 9:30a.m. to begin plans for 2007 Harvest Festival. This year committee members are Nancy Wiskur, Susan Sudtelgte, Virginia Fixsen, Shirley Hegerfeld, Dawn Boltjes, Carrie Thompson and Norma Krogman.

There was no correspondence.

Old Business: Reminder of the Annual meetings being held in Sioux Falls. The Timm's have reserved the basement for Cassie Timm's graduation open house.

Bank Signature Card form: Dawn will fill out and bring to next parish board for approval.

New Business: Authorization was given to Patty DeZeeuw to purchase graduation gifts for seniors Cassie Timm and Cody Anderson from the church.

Denny Lundgren has lost his keys to the church. They were left in the door some time ago. If anyone found any extra keys please contact Denny.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm with all reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Kampmann
Acting Secretary.

Grape Vine

For the past year a business folder has been passed around amongst certain United Parish Church members who just might possibly have reason to drive our Church van. It has been so long since I have seen the folder that I couldn't even tell you what color it was. It used to be kept in the Church office but it has not been there for months. The last family to have the folder can't remember whom they gave it to. It has been that long.

I am almost embarrassed to admit to putting this on the back burner for so many months. Almost.

Would those of you who may have been on the list please check around for a business folder containing sign off sheets

and a video? Just give me a call at 548-2051. I would be ever so grateful.

Once the circuit has been complete we will be submitting documentation to our insurance company. Last I knew there were only three individuals left on the list.

Thank You – Dawn Boltjes

June Echo Sponsors

I don't know about the rest of you but it seems to take me longer and longer each year to get in sync with whatever season it happens to be. Take summer. Why do I still have our winter coats handy? Why is the snow shovel and ice chipper still poised for action outside the front door? With the weather the way it has been you would think I would look at those things (and there's more, believe me) and say to myself, "Well, time to put those away. I won't need them for a few months." Hopefully I can get them moved to their "off-season" storage places by Independence Day. Just don't hold your breath.

The sponsors of the June mailing of the Echo is Gordon & Marlene Bruening. Thank you so much! We appreciate your generosity more than you can ever know.

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

What a week it has been. I was looking for some filler for the Echo, and yet nothing suitable came to me. No matter what I found or saw, it did not match this past week. This week has been a week of news; I learned about two very dear families who received some really difficult news. I also heard about parents who, for lack of more “politically correct” phrasing, threw a temper tantrum when they got the news that their kid didn't get something they had hoped for. Two extremes and we have to somehow deal appropriately with both. My heart aches for the families who received the bad news. I just want to wrap my arms around you and pray with you, lift up your burden to the only One who can relieve your pain. Your courage and demeanor how you face the future is remarkable.

So, to the people who get so upset about relatively minor things, my hearts go out to you too. I pray you will find peace and joy so that life's minor downs don't get to derail you anymore.

So, this month I am not going to look for “fluffy” filling for this page; rather this page is dedicated to all who hurt from either recent news or old, unhealed hurts. I pray that you will feel God's loving arms around you and be able to find relief in Him for all your pain.