



The United Parish

ECHO



July 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



Birthdays

1 – Aaron Thompson
3 – Dick Buller
4 – Ralph Lynn
7 – Danielle Brown
12 – Bud Janssen
17 – Justin Sudtelgte
20 – Jennifer Nordmeyer
21 – Tal Farnham
 LaRee Farnham
26 – Abbey Hegerfeld

Anniversaries

? – Raymond & Virginia Kurtz

11 – Glenn & Mary Lang
21 – Rudy & Gertrude DeZeeuw

Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Linda Kampmann
 tbd
Acolyte: Shelby Kampmann

Liturgists

1 – Carrie Thompson
8 – Dawn Boltjes
15 – no one yet
22 – no one yet
29 – no one yet

Pastor's Desktop

Diversity – Unity

Do those look like opposites to you?

They are not. And in the light of the Gospel, they certainly are not. Perhaps no image shows it more clearly than the analogy of a body that Paul uses a few places, such as in his first letter to the Corinthians and his letter to the Romans. There are other references as well, but 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12 make it very clear that in the unity of the body of Christ there is at the same time great diversity.

If our church desires growth, whether that is to be measured by internal quality only, or anticipates increased attendance as well, we will have to learn to accept healthy diversity. This kind of diversity may relate to ethnicity or it may relate to political views. It may relate to background or it may relate to levels of understanding. One thing healthy diversity will not be is 'anything goes'. That is not what Paul envisioned, nor what I intend with the word. There are spiritually and emotionally healthy boundaries to observe. Within those limits there is complete freedom, and those edges are quite wide so that there is no need to feel confined.

The very best way to learn about God's wonderful diversity, as well as the needed borders, is in community. Small groups that focus on Bible study and mutual support under mature leadership have proven to be fruitful in nearly all cases. With a guiding hand that practices grace, a diverse range of viewpoints can be brought together and enlighten each other so that everyone walks away with a clearer understanding of God's nature and Word.

If we limit ourselves to the ungodly boundaries of only those who think like us, we will find a continually shrinking group that becomes more and more dissatisfied even as it closes more and more to the change that comes with growth.

On the other hand, widening our perspective to God's design opens new vistas full of possibility. There is the opportunity to gain in all areas of life: spiritual, mental, physical, social, emotional. To experience this each person must become open to hearing another's point of view, learn to listen in a new way, and share what builds up rather than tearing down through judgment, even while calling out warnings to those who have crossed into dangerous territory.

I would like to see United Parish be a whole church, with all its parts intact and working. At present, it seems to me that we have many parts that have been cast aside or have atrophied through lack of use. Perhaps the time is right for something like physical therapy, maybe we can call it spiritual therapy. In any body of believers, there will be spiritual gifts given by God for the express purpose of building the body up, just like mentioned in Romans. If our body is limping along, then it is time to look at what spiritual gifts are present, which ones seem to be absent, and which are underdeveloped. In any case, there will have to a growing openness to differing viewpoints, differing skills, and at times even differing attitudes.

If we approach church with love for Christ, then anything will be possible, even unified diversity.

In Christ's service
Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

The United Parish Board met June 20th, 2007 at 7pm in the church basement. Those in attendance were President Bev Buller, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, Financial Secretary Donna Magnus, Secretary Carrie Thompson, Pastor Daren Junker, Carol Styf, and Don Meyers

. The meeting opened with Pastor leading in prayer and was called to order.

A correction to May meeting minutes was made; instead of North American Baptist Seminary, should have read American Baptist.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Dawn and approved.

Beginning balance 4-30-07	\$ 633.45
May income	<u>3,255.45</u>
	\$3,888.90
May Expenses	<u>\$3,747.09</u>
Ending Balance 5-31-07	\$ 141.81

The Financial Secretary's Report was given by Donna and approved. There were no changes for now.

Committee Reports

PPR – Shirley had reported to Bev that they had filled pulpit for Pastor Daren's absence.

TRUSTEES – Dawn reported that the mowing on the Peace lot by Michael Junker was a great job! Gert mentioned a seeping faucet in the kitchen. Estimate from Sam Bebensee was \$20 - \$50. It was decided to see if someone from the church could do the work.

CHRISTIAN ED – They met on May 31st. Sherry Bauman turned over her Sunday School Superintendent books to Melissa Wiskur and Nikki Glover. Vacation Bible School is planned for July 16, 17, and 18. They met on June 14th and will meet again June 24th.

WORSHIP – no report

MISSIONS – There is no new news. Still continuing with summer projects

UPW – In June they had guest night and filled 2 tables. There was a great speaker.

HISTORIAN – no report

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor Daren reported that he had done 1 phone/office visit, 1 hospital, 1 long term care visit, and 2 home visits. He had 1 Cozy Corner chapel time, a Brookings van trip, attended harvest Festival Committee meeting, a Christian Ed meeting, VBS meeting, UMC Annual Conference, and a Spiritual retreat at Enoch Farm. He prepared sermons, and planned for Sunday Worship, and Don Magnus' funeral. Pastor reset the sound system so we could use again and worked at the Harvest Festival. He printed Sunday bulletins and wrote article for the Echo. He

assisted in the publication of the Echo and was available 24/7 for crisis for church members and townsmen and schools as always.

BUILDING COMMITTEE – Titles are now held up in the Treasurer's Office at the Brookings Co. Courthouse. Ed Langen's daughters had asked if we would be interested in paying for the land that was clear titled but it was decided we would not do that.

MEMBERSHIP – They were to meet after church but did not have a quorum. Meeting was postponed until later.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – nothing new.

HARVEST FESTIVAL COMMITTEE – Monday night was slower than usual. Tuesday night wasn't too bad, but attendance was still down. The figures are not in yet. Many people came to help tear down. It was great! An extra thank you will be extended to Travis Noble for hauling things to and from clean up. Much appreciated!

CORRESPONDENCE – Received a nice thank you from Cassie Timm for her graduation gift. Bev received a letter from a Wendy J. Fishbach from Warner, SD concern information on baptismal records for 4 family members in the late 1800's. We're not sure if our church or Trinity Lutheran hold these records. Membership Committee may be requesting help in the Echo from anyone who may know where these records may be.

OLD BUSINESS – The UMC conference discussed it's

usual financial issues. They also discussed some resolutions similar to the ones we've been going over; abuse protection issues, discrimination as far as membership and the leaving of the war in a responsible manner, not just pulling out. Went over the paper at the bank for signing of bank document for church matters. Dawn will type this and officers will sign it. The credit union acct. paper was signed by Donna and will be sent.

NEW BUSINESS – It was mentioned that there is interest in the recorded music being played while entering church on Sunday, even if we have a person playing. It was discussed that other will need to know how the sound system works as well. Pastor reminded us that when we receive an anonymous letter or question to advise those giving it to go directly to the source or offer to help find the proper source with them to address the issues. Otherwise this can be a damaging form of communication within a church. Pastor introduced a booklet called the “The ABC's of Natural Church Development”. He thought it may benefit our church. All board members will have a chance to read it and discuss in the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is July 18th, 2007 at 7pm.

Secretary, Carrie Thompson

UPW

The ladies greatly enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Pheasant in Brookings. We were treated to a very interesting and humorous presentation about a year of daily missionary life in Africa by a delightful young lady. If you weren't there, you really missed something. Huge THANK YOU to Patty DeZeeuw for arranging everything and lining up the guest speaker.

Make sure you come to the next UPW meeting, July 11th, at 7:30pm in the church basement. Hostesses are Deanna Lundgren and Georgie Jensen. The program will be provided by Ann Aaker. If you wish to bring anything for the Food Pantry Project, we are in July suggesting Peanut Butter and Jelly. If you wish to bring anything for the UMCOR kits, we are in July suggesting items for the school kits.

The UPW is a wonderful group of ladies with many opportunities for you to fit in and serve if you so wish. Come out and see for your self and enjoy an evening of spiritual food and (who could forget) the always delicious earthly food ☺.

(the very unofficial minutes, Bonnie Junker)

Christian Education

Christian Ed met on May 31st. Attending was Sherry Bauman, Melissa Wiskur, Georgia Jensen, Nikki Glover, Paster Daren, and myself. Sherry Bauman had handouts of

the Sunday School Superintendent duties and time line. Sherry has done a wonderful job and her handout was very detailed and informational. Her duties are being passed on to Melissa Wiskur and Nikki Glover sharing the responsibilities. It was suggested that the chairman maintain the checkbook and pay all the Christen Ed associated bills. No one had a problem with that.

The next subject was plans for Vacation Bible School which will be held on July 16-18, 2007 at St Mary's. Our theme this year is Avalanche Ranch - A Wild Ride Through God's Word. The Swanson family from Canton will be helping us this year as they will do a cowboy educational program "Swanson Cowboyography".

We met again on June 14 with the Catholic committee members. A sign up volunteer list for helpers will be at the church along with an offering jar for the Swanson family.

We are excited about this theme and appreciate help from anyone. So please sign up or call me at 542-7131. If you can't help any of these days, there are other ways to help, like providing food/snacks/money.

Thank you!

LaRee Farnham

VBS NOTES:

- VBS is July 16, 17, and 18
- This year VBS is provided by a family who does not receive any payment for their work. It would help this family of 6 (!) tremendously if you could bring any food items to help out defer the cost. Just bring the to the

catholic church or contact LaRee for information. Make sure you label it is for the Swanson family.

- There is a change jar in the back of the church. This is also for the Swanson family to help assist with fuel expenses. They hope to receive a dollar/mile towards expenses.

July Echo Sponsors

Well, I put away my snow shovel and ice pick. Finally. There are still a couple winter coats hanging in the porch but I can live with those.

Johnny and I have mowed the yard several times this season and I can honestly say that I am already sick of the job. After viewing the devastation from floods and fire in other parts of the country I should be thankful that I have a yard with green grass that needs mowing, however, being human I would rather assume that there must be someone living in one of those devastated areas that is thankful that at least they don't have to mow.

I am truly thankful for the sponsors of the July mailing and printing of the Echo - Duane & Irma Ellis! 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