



The United Parish  
*ECHO*



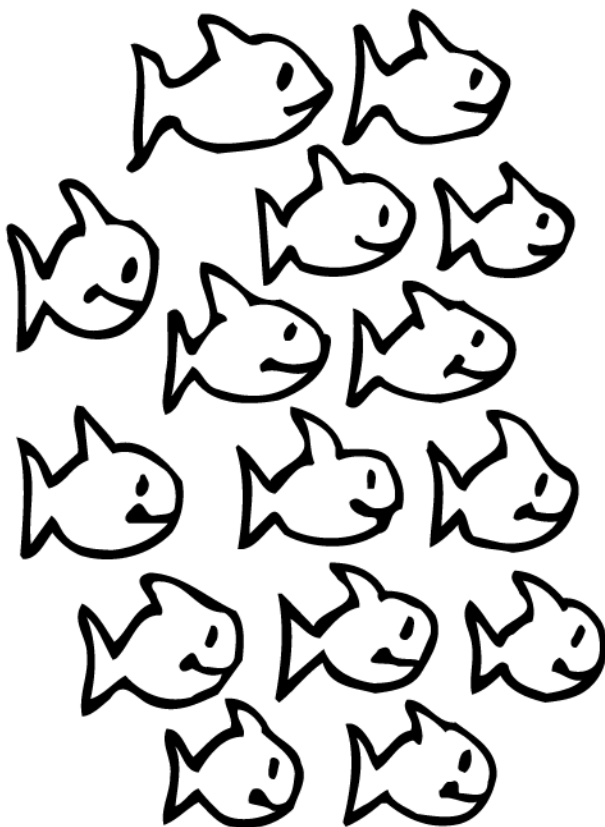
September 2007

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Elkton United Parish Church 605-542-7101  
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website: [Http://www.elktonunitedparish.org](http://www.elktonunitedparish.org)

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United with Christ



(It's school)

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## United Parish Board Members

President: Beverly Buller.....	605-542-3611
PPR Chair: Shirley Hegerfeld.....	605-692-7370
Financial Secretary: Donna Magnus.....	605-542-3241
Treasurer: Dawn Boltjes.....	507-548-2051
Secretary: Carrie Thompson.....	605-542-8051
Pastor: Rev. Daren Junker	
Church phone.....	605-542-7101
Personal cell phone.....	605-929-4892
Pastor's email:.....	<a href="mailto:pastor@elktonunitedparish.org">pastor@elktonunitedparish.org</a>
Echo Editor email:.....	<a href="mailto:echo@elktonunitedparish.org">echo@elktonunitedparish.org</a>

## Birthdays

10 – Virginia Fixsen  
11 – Jack Lytle  
12 – Don Lytle  
13 – Annelise Sudtelgte  
16 – Ara Sudtelgte  
17 – Lisa Kuehl  
18 – Malinda Bessler  
27 – Dana Junker  
29 – Darrek Andersson

## Anniversaries

10 – Jim & Trudy Anderson  
24 – Verle & Audrey Thompson

## Church Cleaning Crew:

## Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Malinda Bessler  
          Donna Magnus  
Acolyte: tbd

## Pastor's Viewpoint

The Roman government crucified the most dangerous criminals, usually it took someone on the order of what we call a terrorist today to get crucified. The two 'thieves' on the cross? - the Greek word is most accurately translated 'brig-and' rather than thief, and in the Greek the key element was the violent nature of the person more than whether something was stolen or not – people too dangerous to simply be housed in a prison. The crucifixions were, in every Roman city, held in a rather public place on a main highway into town to serve as a warning to any troublemakers arriving.

If Jesus had been born about 34 years ago, we probably would not have heard much more about him than maybe one blurb in the mainstream media about a 'faith healer' that was drawing quite a following. In that article, the reporters would certainly have reminded us that faith healing is highly doubtful and most likely a placebo effect, if not outright quackery. That report might have come out a year or two ago, but would have been mostly forgotten by the public by now. Today's report might have been how some big name religious leader that every knows (pick one, there are several) had turned that so-called 'faith healer' in as a terrorist and that Homeland Security had in fact been monitoring his suspicious activities for some time. It is even more likely that there would not have been any mention of him, but perhaps just that a terrorist plot had been thwarted, while Jesus was shipped off to Guantanamo to await a military tribunal, or maybe be spirited away by the CIA and never seen again.

This is the way world systems work. It is the way they have always worked. It is the way future ones will work, until Christ returns and fulfills the vision Daniel had of the boulder demolishing the entire statue in chapter two. One

thing this means is that if you follow Christ, you do not always follow the world's system.

Most of the founders of the United States of America, and the writers of the constitution, took this very seriously and tried to limit the power of the federal government. The last several decades have seen a continuous erosion of those safeguards, through various actions by presidents of both parties, the Congress, and the Supreme Court. This concerns me as both an American and as a Christian. The American ideals I was taught include civil disobedience and that God's law is above any human law. The Spirit of Christ in me affirms that worldly government often turns against God (even though it is ordained by God for civil administration) and that when it does so, it is subject to judgment, perhaps as a natural consequence of its actions.

So back to the question of a modern day Jesus – if you pause to think about it, would you actually be crying at the foot of the cross? Jesus was a revolutionary from the world's perspective. He started a revolution two thousand years ago. Are you part of it? Or are you part of the world system?

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Daren

## **Parish Board Meeting**

The Parish Board meeting was called to order by President Bev Buller. Officers in attendance were President Bev Buller, Lay Leader Shirley Hegerfeld, Financial Secretary Donna Magnus, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, and Secretary Carrie Thompson. Others in attendance were Pastor Daren Junker, Karen-Marie Bryanne, Virginia Fixsen, and Carol

Styf. Pastor Daren gave opening prayer. The minutes from the Emergency Meeting in July and the July Board Meeting minutes were read and approved.

Dawn gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Beginning Balance 6-30-07	<1084.13>
July Income	6587.31
July Expenses	<5164.39>
Balance 7-31-07	338.79

We received our \$1000.00 HyVee Receipt Refund. We are actually on tract with our budget. We had an overage of \$6.74 for Pulpit Supply. Carrie Thompson made a motion to approve the overage and it was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Magnus. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Donna gave the Financial Secretary's report and it was approved.

Building Fund	\$6,196.41
Memorial Fund	\$1,222.89
General Fund	\$2,498.84 (carpet money)
Building Fund CD's	<u>\$65,695.65</u>
Total Funds	\$75,613.79

The Landscape account was closed out. The small balance was put into the checkbook.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

PPR – Paster Lew Christensen, that filled in for Pastor Daren July 29<sup>th</sup> was very enjoyable.

TRUSTEES – Jenny and Dave Nordmeyer have volunteered to fix the faucet in the church kitchen. It's been too

hot to fill in the hole at the Peace Lot but it will be done before the outdoor service August 26<sup>th</sup>. The bulletin boards in the back room will be gone before Sunday School starts. Gene Boltjes fixed the washing machine at the Parsonage again. The washing machine will need to be replaced. The estimates for the new furnace from Lynn's Heating and Air were as follows: a Payne \$5632.00, Ruud \$5896.00, and Carrier \$6539.00. Cenex was not interested in giving us an estimate for a new furnace. They are too busy. It was suggested that we also get an estimate from Ekern Home Heating. Dawn will check into it.

CHRISTIAN ED – LaRee Farnham turned in the quarterly report.

Balance on hand 4-10-07	\$273.50
UPW and SS offering	<u>267.48</u>
	\$540.98
Expenses:	
Confirmation	\$128.72
Pin/Awards	4.87
Mother's Day/Teacher Gifts	157.47
Misc.(copies@library)	<u>42.00</u>
	\$333.06
Balance on hand 6-10-07	\$207.92

Vacation Bible School was a success with 35 kids attending. Sunday School starts September 9<sup>th</sup>. This year's teachers are as follows:

Preschool/Kindergarten – Sherry Bauman and LaRee Farnham  
 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> – Linda Kampmann

5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> – Annalise Sudtelgte

7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> – STILL NEED SOMEONE!!

Music – Melissa Wiskur

Teaching Helpers – Johnny Boltjes and Shelby Kampmann

Outdoor service and Sunday School kickoff will be August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Peace Lot. Potluck following the service at the park. Dinnerware and beverage will be provided. There will be games for the kids at the park.

This year's Release Time is scheduled to begin October 3<sup>rd</sup> thru April 17<sup>th</sup>. Our Christmas Program is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup> with practice beginning October 14<sup>th</sup>.

WORSHIP – no report

MISSIONS – It was reported that it is time to start collecting school supplies for August/September missions project. Abby Sudtelgte will be going over the specific things that are needed, and discuss it further.

UPW – The ladies had their “Guest Night” at the August meeting. Their theme was “When Your Well Runs Dry”. There were approximately 57 that attended. There were readings, music, prizes and lots of GREAT food!!! VERY NICE!!!

There was an awesome response to the need of help to make school bags for the Ingathering! Many, many thanks!!

HISTORIAN – no report

PASTOR REPORT – He has had 2 office/phone visits, 2 hospital and 1 home visit. He has made 1 Brookings van trip but because of how the schedule landed this month, he had no Cozy Corner Chapel. He prepared and [conducted] the funeral service[s] for Dennis Kampmann. He attended the

Christian Ed meeting and prepared, planned, and performed Sunday Services. He also prepared [some of] the music and worship for these services. He wrote articles and published the Echo, printed the Sunday bulletins, and was available 24/7 for crisis for members of the church and to anyone in need in the community.

BUILDING COMMITTEE – no updates

MEMBERSHIP – A meeting will be held after church on Sunday. They will be putting together care packages and distributing them.

CONSTITUTION – nothing new

CORRESPONDENCES

We received a leaflet from UCC on “New Ideas for new Churches”.

OLD BUSINESS

“The ABC's of Natural Church Development” booklet discussion will be tabled until next month so everyone gets a chance to read it.

Pastor Daren will be putting out an article in the Echo on the discussion we've had the last 2 meetings about what kind of church we need to work at being. There may also be a questionnaire sent out to all members so we get input from everyone about our needs.

NEW BUSINESS

Our Board was asked if we could get new carpet for our church with the carpet fund. We will check into and estimate. We need everyone's input on this matter.

The meeting was adjourned with the “Lord's Prayer”. The next meeting will be held September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Secretary, Carrie Thompson

## **UPW**

The last meeting was Guest Night, which has no minutes.

### **Christian Education**

We met on August 13 at the church. In attendance was Melissa Wiskur &, Nikki Glover (Co- superintendents), Sherry Bauman, Bev Buller, Georgie Jensen, Pastor Daren, and LaRee Farnham. The main topic was Sunday School which starts Sept 9 with a start time of 10:45 til 11:45. (NOTICE THE TIME CHANGE) August 26th is the kick-off for Sunday School with an outdoor church service at the parsonage at 9:30. A potluck at Shean Park will follow afterwards. Melissa has been making phone calls for teachers. Preschool, K, and 1st grades will be taught by Sherry and LaRee, 2-4th grades by Linda Kampmann, 5 & 6th grades by Annalise Sudtelgte. Melissa is still looking for teachers for the 7 & 8th graders. Discussion was held about Release Time which starts Oct. 3rd. Melissa and Nikki will look for material. A sign up sheet for volunteers for teachers and snacks will be passed around during church service in Sept. Last we discussed events for the year and a list will be made up by the time Sunday School starts.

LaRee Farnham  
Chairman

## Harvest Festival 2007

First off let me apologize for being so slow with this report. Time really got away from me! [ed. note: it does from everyone, no apology needed]

A million “thank you's” to all of you for helping us make this another successful year. Just to let you know that it takes all of us to make this work I am showing you how many workers were on each shift.

Saturday morning potato salad – 9

Sunday night setup – 50 people

Monday (1:00-5:00) – 13

Monday (4:30-8:30) – 14

Monday (8:00-closing) – 13

Tuesday (2:00-6:00) – 9

Tuesday (5:30-9:30) – 22

Tuesday (teardown) – 24

Wednesday morning – 11

You can see why we all need to work so hard to make this all come together.

Also here are the totals for the last five years so you can see how our hard work pays off:

2003      \$1896.83

2004      \$2164.47

2005      \$3037.61 [Pastor's note: 1<sup>st</sup> yr we gave tickets]

2006      \$3165.75

2007      \$3109.87

If you have any suggestions to get it done any easier please let us know. Thanks again to you all!!

# THE CHECKBOOK

We are including the August financial sheet which was updated each week in the Church bulletin. As of August 21 we still needed \$1559.87 to meet our obligations. If you have any suggestions or comments, please contact any board member.

## **AUGUST FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Checkbook balance 7-31-07** **338.79**

<b>Paid 8/4</b>	Sunday School	250.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>88.79</b>

<b>Income</b>	<b>8/5 Sunday Donations</b>	<b>840.13</b>
	8/5 Close Landscaping	41.60
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>970.52</b>

<b>Paid 8/10</b>	Otter Tail	215.63
	City of Elkton	144.44
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>610.45</b>

<b>Income</b>	8/12 Sunday Donations	738.12
	8/12 Reimbursement	50.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,398.57</b>

<b>Paid 8/15</b>	Payroll	1,303.41
	ITC	35.94
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>59.22</b>

<b>Income</b>	8/19 Sunday Donations	1,213.12
	8/19 UPW	375.00
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,647.34</b>

<b>Paid 8/20</b>	VISA-Printer Cartridges	422.24
	Van Insurance	62.66
	<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,162.44</b>

Due 8/10	Cenex-Van	80.61
Due 8/10	Cenex-Propane Budget	550.00
Due 8/20	Echo Inserts	45.00
Due 8/26	Pastor Pension	417.09
Due 8/31	Special Church Music	101.00
Due 8/31	Payroll	1,303.41
Due 8/31	Parish Phone	20.00
Due 8/31	Health Savings Account	144.20
Due 8/31	Mowing - Estimate	45.00
Due 8/31	Musicians - Estimate	16.00

<b>Needed This Week</b>	<b>-1,559.87</b>
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## Two Paths

The Parish Board wants to present a more detailed summary of the discussions we have had regarding growth, because this will likely be a topic at a congregational meeting.

Similar to what Pastor Daren wrote in a previous Echo article, there seem to be only two paths for our future - growth or 'retirement'. United Parish has in the past been primarily a family church, with future members being the younger generation of existing families. With so many members today having grown children that have moved away, this is not happening any longer. A brutally honest appraisal of our situation shows that we have many of the younger generation that is going to be active already active, there is no significant growth potential there, but rather a core group that can carry us into the next phase of our church's life.

In the discussions at the last couple of board meetings, we have seen that one option is to allow United Parish to 'go into retirement' and simply focus on pastoral care of existing members. This will eventually lead to the closing of the church years from now. Although our present membership numbers would be able to continue to support a full time minister for a while, this would soon have to become a part-time position or shared with another church. If we still want to build a one-level church, this would allow more members to continue to participate as aging brings more mobility challenges. The care of widows and the ill are valid Christian ministries that could continue in such a 'retirement' phase until the church closes.

The other option is to completely change where we look for church members. United Parish is a welcoming church, so we do get visitors who come a few times rather than just

once. The only way visitors stay longer than a few visits is if they become assimilated, in others if they feel 'at home' and not just like company. Here we run into a problem that has been faced, and overcome, by other churches in the Midwest. Our church is based on rural culture. The people moving into the Elkton area now, as the town adjusts to allow growth as a bedroom community, do not have the rural culture any longer, even if they grew up in the Midwest. The economy and culture have changed, and the people who visit are from a suburban culture for the most part. This culture gap prevents the visitors who feel welcome from feeling at home. An approach that has worked for other churches in our region is to 'adopt' a new generation by hosting a separate worship service, and essentially a second congregation, like a church plant within our own church. The second congregation can be mentored by us and will certainly treasure the legacy of a church that reaches out to truly adopt a new generation of essentially a different culture.

Since United Parish fills a unique place in the Christian churches of Elkton, the Parish Board believes it is essential to find a way for us to continue in a way that reaches out to the community. In our discussions, two main ideas of groups to host have been discussed, basically divided along language: the Spanish-speaking community, and the English-speaking newcomers. Either group is made of mostly young families and many are without a church home if they do not fit into the relatively narrow profiles of the other churches in town. To enable this to work, some of us will have to work outside our comfort zones and promote active outreach and evangelization, in order to create a new congregation within our own walls. Since this is not an external group, naturally all resources are shared. At first it will feel like paying for a

baby, but as our current church membership transitions to church 'retirement', there will be a new generation to carry on the important work of holding up the banner of grace in Elkton, and our work will continue through them even as they can support ministry to us in the golden years.

The Parish Board would like to explore ways to implement this already tried and proven method of continuing our church's life, and Pastor Daren will bring in the resources through the denominations that can help us if we choose as a congregation to do so.

## **Grape Vine**

**Release time** will be starting before we are ready (Oct. 3), just like everything else does! If you can lead one Wednesday a month, or even just one Wednesday, it makes a HUGE difference in the quality of ministry we can provide these kids, most of whom do not attend our Sunday School. We have found that teaching once a month is very easy and keeps all the teachers in a positive mindset.

Also snacks – the kids love to see what snacks have been brought, and they work well as a reward for good behavior. If you can bring snacks one or two times, that spreads that around a lot, too.

## **September Echo Sponsors**

School has begun. Fall is just around the corner. Where did the summer go? Thank goodness, Dennis and Deanna Lundgren slowed down long enough to generously give from the heart to insure that we all receive an Echo this

month. We are truly thankful for your thoughtfulness on our behalf. God bless you!

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

We are still waiting for you to call Pastor Daren (542-7101) and offer to take the job of **publishing the Echo** off his hands. We are endeavoring to make the process easy for you. The lion's share of articles come in via email and all you have to do is pop them into the template. We are putting together a team to print, fold, address and mail the Echo's so all you have to do is put it together. We can even install the necessary programs onto your computer free! Call now!

## **HELP FOUND!**

Last month we were looking for a handyman to fix a faucet in the Church kitchen. God directed Dave Nordmeyer to get the job done. As soon as the new hardware is purchased Dave will get it installed. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

We were also asking for someone to take over the Hy-Vee register receipts from Gertrude DeZeeuw. Lo and behold we had more than one volunteer! The lucky individual taking on the task is Norma Krogman. Thank you Norma!

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