



The United Parish

ECHO



November 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



Oh, Give Thanks to the Lord!

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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:.....	pastor@elktonunitedparish.org
Echo Editor email:.....	echo@elktonunitedparish.org
Calender updates:.....	glov0053@umn.edu

Birthdays

1 – Dennis Kampmann
3 – Trevan Farnham
6 – David Timm
8 – Tim Anderson
10 – Lori Hart
13 – Carol Jensen
15 – Dana Brown
17 – Virginia Kurtz
20 – Austin DeZeeuw
20 – Dakota Anderson
20 – Tanya Anderson
20 – Steve Jensen
22 – Greg Jensen
24 – Karla Anderson
25 – Johnny Boltjes
27 – Taylor White
28 – Cassidy Hart
30 – Nette Anderson

Anniversaries

2 – Gordon & Marlene Bruening

Church Cleaning Crew:

Linda Kampmann
Ed & Marsha Timm

Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Karla Anderson
 Tim Anderson
Acolyte: Justin Sudtelgte

Liturgists

4 –
11 – Ed Timm
18 – Beth Holm
25 –

Pastor's Desktop

What if?

I would guess that several people are wondering, "What if United Parish cannot..." and fill in whatever your fear is.

What if, we look at it from a different angle?

What if, we ask not what can we do, but what God can do through us?

What if every member set their own will aside, all the hopes and fears, all the wishes and regrets, all the anger and pain?

What if every member looked only for what God is doing, only for what God has purposed for United Parish, only for God's will?

What if we just focused on applying God's grace, mercy and love, and leave the justice to the only just Judge?

What if each one worked on removing her/his own log – applying God's will first to self?

What would United Parish be like then?

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

This passage is in the context of God having judged Judah and already having sent them into exile despite all the smooth-talking false prophets promising 'peace, peace'. It would have been a pretty hopeless situation with a lot of disillusionment. God was reminding the exiles to return to and keep trusting God's plans. It does take a turning. Look at how the passage continues:

"Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when

you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity.

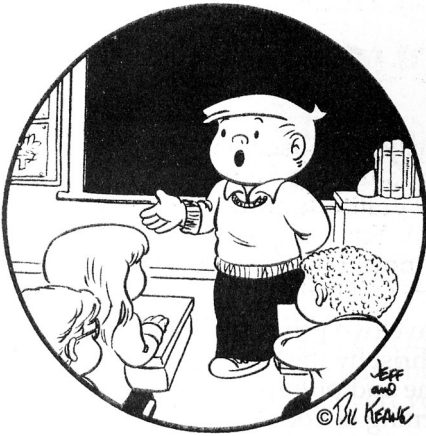
What if every member calls upon God?

What if every member prays?

What if every member seeks God with all their heart?

In Christ's service,
Pastor Daren

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"The Pilgrims wore black and white because that was their football team's colors."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

No matter how much you nurse a grudge it won't get better. – unknown

"I can forgive, but I cannot forget," is only another way of saying, "I will not forgive." Forgiveness ought to be like a cancelled note, torn in two and burned up so that it can never be shown against one. – Henry Ward Beecher

Parish Board Meeting

The Parish Board meeting was called to order at 7pm by President Bev Buller. Officers in attendance were President Bev Buller, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, Financial Secretary Donna Magnus and Secretary Carrie Thompson. Others in

attendance were Carol Styf, Linda Kampmann, and Pastor Daren Junker. Pastor Daren started the meeting by leading us in prayer. The minutes from the September meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report was given and approved.

Beginning Balance 8-31-07	<719.27>
September Income	\$5536.51
September Expenses	<6131.11>
Ending Balance 9-30-07	<1313.72>

Building Fund (checking)	\$54,000.00
Building Fund (money market)	\$57,315.00

The Financial Secretary's Report was given and approved.

Passbook Savings

Building Fund	\$6452.31
Memorial Fund	1225.94
General Fund	2513.42 – 1500.00 that will transfer

Building Fund CD's \$66,218.62

Total Funds \$76,410.29

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PPR – no report

Trustees – Grass seed has been purchased. They are waiting for Brownlee to bring the dirt. All the rain has slowed things for them too. We may end up Spring seeding instead

of this Fall. Still trying to get things dried out under the sinks.

Christian Ed – There will be 3 young people involved in Confirmation this year. It was decided to have a 13 session mentor program for the 1st year and a classroom type program led by Pastor Daren the 2nd year. Release Time started Oct 3rd with 13 kids signed up and 12 attending.

Worship – We still need ushers for the month of December.

Missions – They will be collecting the rest of the school supplies and getting them into the mail. Patty is working on getting the next project going. It involves heating and teas! After that, the project will be the Angel Tree!

UPW – The Chicken Supper served around 420 and all went well. There was a special recognition to Bev Lytle.

Historian – All the history records they've been asking about have been found!! Records for the United Methodist are at Gert's and the UCC records are in a box in the church. Thursday Bev and Gert will be going through the records looking for the information requested by Wendy Fischbach. It was suggested that copies should be made of those records and placed somewhere safe in case of fire or other tragedy.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Daren reported having 2 phone/office visits, 3 hospital visits and 1 Brookings van trip. He set up online ads for the van and helped host the Chicken Supper. He attended the Christian Ed meeting, Con-

stitution meeting, emergency Board meeting and assisted with 2 Release Time classes. He has planned, prepared and conducted Sunday worship services and prepared some of the worship elements. He has helped with publication of the Echo, written an article for it and printed the Sunday bulletins. He has been available for crisis to the town, church members, and school 24/7.

Building – Nancy will be visiting with Ed Langen to see how things are progressing. It has been decided to close the Building Fund checking and transfer the money back into a money market account to make some interest on it while we wait for the land deal to get settled.

Membership – They will be taking packages around again in December. They will be working on the membership list.

Constitution – They have met and decided they need to bring 2 options or viewpoints to the congregation for consideration concerning the membership issues.

CORRESPONDENCE

Bev received a letter from the 1st Methodist Church in Huron wanting everyone to make resolutions concerning issues of homosexuality and memberships in churches. It was decided that this was not something that was our fight. Another letter from the Two Rivers Association concerning their Fall Meeting coming up October 28th at the Mitchell Congregational UCC. Any church attending will need to bring 2 delegates. Pastor Daren is planning to attend. Someone from the Board will need to go.

OLD BUSINESS

Pastor Daren has checked into whether our church is still eligible for the mentoring and coaching opportunities offered in the ABC's of Natural Church Development program. He spoke with Bill Hoffman, the mentor and coach for our area. Bill said it take about an hour and is willing to come and speak to us. We are going to check his schedule and see if he would be free for the Sunday after Thanksgiving. There is no Sunday School scheduled for that Sunday. If he can't we will take whatever is available.

The nominating committee will be meeting soon to start discussing the offices that are open for election this year. There was a suggestion made to provide a gift certificate out of appreciation to John France for the work and faucets at the church. The motion was made by Linda and 2nd by Donna. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

NEW BUSINESS

It was discussed to make up some extra brochures for new membership and give them to the Vision Expandable Group so they can hand them out as the new housing is filled. It was suggested that we list Nikki's email address in the front of the Echo so that anyone having calendar events to give to her will be able to find it easily.

Since there were some new concerns about whether the Board or Trustees are able to decide to sell the van, it was looked into further and found that the Trustees maintain the property but that the Board is able to sell the van. The discussion furthered as to whether there were any other options that had been brought up or that we may have overlooked,

but it was again decided that the selling of the van had the least impact.

There were concerns brought up as to whether the furnace could be paid for out of the Building Fund or was this designated money only for building of a structure. After much discussion, the Board decided that it was not willing to use designated gifts by the donor for anything but the donor's purpose. Luckily, some of the money in this fund was not designated by the donor and was then able to be designated by the Board to be used in building related issues such as things like a new furnace.

The next meeting will be held November 14th, 2007 at 7pm. The Board is hoping that anyone with questions, concerns and ideas will attend to help in our discussions. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Carrie Thompson
Secretary

A Penny Thought
(received in an email)

You always hear the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, etc. This is the first time I have ever heard this twist on the story. Gives you something to think about.

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than her house. The first day

and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live. The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again so was enjoying herself immensely.

As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment.

Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it." He said. "Read what it says."

She read the words "United States of America".

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?"

"Yes!"

"And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things, I cannot change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

No matter what happens, somebody will find a way to take it too seriously. – unknown

You know your god is man-made when he hates all the same people you do.
– unknown

October Financial Information

Checkbook balance 9-30-07		-1,313.72
	Transfer From Carpet Fund	1,500.00
	10/07 Donations	1,013.37
	Balance 10/8	1,199.65
Paid 10/15	Overdraft Charge	22.00
	Otter Tail	215.89
	Payroll	1,303.43
	City - Estimate	95.84
	Dental Insurance	332.70
	Church Phone - Estimate	37.91
	Balance	-808.12
	10/14 Donations	863.12
	10/16 Music Donation	102.00
	10/21 Donations	1,688.33
	Balance	1,845.33
Paid 10/22	VISA - Office Expense	7.80
	Cenex - Van Gas	73.91
	Cenes - Late Charge	1.15
	Balance	1,762.47
Due 10/10	Cenex - Propane Budget	550.00
	Upper Room	11.10
Due 10/31	Van Insurance	31.58
	Payroll	1,303.43
	Parsonage Phone	20.00
	Health Savings Account	144.20
	Pension	417.09
	Mowing - Estimate	45.00
	Echo Postage	130.00
	Faith By Hearing	50.00
	Music Repair	404.87
	Needed for Remainder of October Bills	-1,344.80

Data provided by Dawn Boltjes, Treasurer

Grape Vine

WANTED: Worship helpers are needed for the month of December. No experience needed. Please contact either Pastor Daren or Marsha Timm.

Lost Church Records

Church member Carol Janssen spent several days this month telephoning other members, and even prior pastors, in a gallant attempt to locate our complete church records.

We are happy to report that because of her efforts, we have located all the missing records. Some of the old records were being stored at the church in a location none of us thought to look in – namely the worship storage area through the doorway to the south of the lectern.

Thank you Carol and everyone else who put forth their personal time and effort to finding these valuable papers.

Submitted by Dawn Boltjes

Looking Back – By Dawn Boltjes

I found the following article in the October 16, 1932 Elkton Record and thought some of you might find it interesting.

Interesting Vote As To Favorite Hymn

Seth Parker, of Jonesport, Maine, and his homely, appealing Sunday night radio hour, centered a lot of interest recently upon the nations favorite hymns. His group sings them beautifully, and they have taken a poll of radio listeners, in which people were asked to list their favorite hymn. The ten ranking highest are of interest, and they are listed below with the number of votes each received:

1. The Old Rugged Cross, 26,671; 2. Nearer My God To Thee, 20,688; 3. Abide With Me, 20,316; 4. Lead, Kindly Light, 19,935; 5. Rock Of Ages, 16,885; 6. Jesus, Lover Of My Soul, 15,235; 7. In The Garden, 14,728; 8. Onward Christian Soldiers, 13,779; 9. Church In The Wildwood, 11,274; 10. Let The Lower Lights Be Burning, 9,784.

Clean Clothes

Within the past few months the washer at the Parsonage has needed repairs on a seemingly regular basis. Finally, the repairman said enough is enough. The washer was on its last spin, so to speak.

The call went out to the Trustee committee to keep their eyes open for a good washer on sale somewhere, anywhere. This was not a task we were looking forward to considering the sad state the checkbook was in.

By coincidence, Dick and Beverly Buller were beginning to remodel their kitchen and laundry area and part of the plan called to replace their one-year old side by side washer and dryer for a stacking set. So God tapped them on their shoulders and told what to do.

They arranged to have the wonderful set trucked over to the Parsonage, the old set taken out and the new pair completely installed.

We cannot begin to express our gratitude. And we are sure that Bonnie is equally ecstatic.

Dick and Bev - thank you, thank you, and thank you!

Submitted by Dawn Boltjes for the Trustees

Pastor Daren and family add our thanks as well. The newer washer and dryer take less space while holding larger loads. And they get the clothes 'squeaky' clean. (heehee)

Thank You For The Music

On Sunday, October 14, Bev Buller, Linda Kampmann, Carrie Thompson and Dawn Boltjes served coffee and goodies before church. There was coffee cake, pumpkin bread, banana bread, and all kinds of muffins. Kinda makes your mouth water, doesn't it?

The funds from the free will offering taken during the breakfast was put aside to help pay for the special up-to-date music we grew rather accustomed to on Sundays.

Between the coffee and donations received after the service we still did not have the full \$101 needed. However, God provided the difference with a gift from Lilies of the Field.

Special thanks goes to all of you for helping us bring this music back. As soon as Pastor Daren receives confirmation, we can enjoy the songs once again.

Submitted by Dawn Boltjes

November Echo Sponsors

The November Echo sponsors are Shirley Hegerfeld and the late Marvin “Shorty” Hegerfeld.

The sponsorship is, “In memory of our parents Harry and Hilda Bessler and Fred and Anna Hegerfeld.”

Thank 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

May your stuffing be tasty,
May your turkey be plump,
May your potatoes and gravy
Have nary a lump.
May your yams be delicious,
May your pies take the prize.
May your holiday meals
Stay off your thighs.