



The United Parish
ECHO



December 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, Come let us Adore Him.

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United Parish Board Members

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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
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December Birthdays

- 1 Sherry Bauman
- 2 Ann Aaker
- 3 Matt Timm
- 4 Georgie Jensen
Katie Holm
Kristin Brown
- 5 Karen-Marie Bryanne
- 16 Jean Janssen
- 17 Hailey Timm
- 19 Dawn Boltjes
- 21 Marshall Janssen Jr
- 23 Carol Styf
Adam DeZeeuw
- 24 Nicole Langner
- 27 Nikki Glover

Anniversaries

- 30 Dec – Marshall & Carol Janssen
31 Dec- Dick and Bev Buller

Church Cleaning Crew:

Carrie Thompson

Ushers & Acolyte

Ushers: Bauman Family
Acolyte: Johnny Boljtes

Liturgists

- 2 – Nancy Wiskur
9
16 Georgie Jensen
23 Susan Sudtelgte
30 Carrie Thompson

Pastor's Desktop

Who is the most important person in the church?

Improper question, isn't it? I can almost feel the objections, but if you set those aside a moment and dare to ask it, who do you come up with? Is it a person who does a lot of the work? Is it a person who donates a lot? Is it the pastor because of position or education? Is it a person with a lot of clout in the community? Who did you think of?

If your first thought was any of those I just listed, may I gently suggest that the world's way of thinking is still influencing you more than you may want?

The most (and in a way, only) important person in the church is Christ. As Paul wrote to the Colossians about Christ, 'He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.' There is only one head, and it is not anyone physically present. The rest of us are all just parts of the body, just as Paul wrote to the Corinthians. 'The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.' Further on, he reminds us that we have equal need for one another and therefore no one is really above or below another. (1 Corinthians 12:17-23) 'If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor.'

At this point you may be thinking, "Yeah, okay, I already get that. What's your point?"

Beneath the surface, in private conversations, there seems to be growing contention within United Parish based on who gets to say or do what, and who gets their way. Well, that is simply un-Christlike rubbish. In order to be 'conformed to the likeness of his Son' (Romans 8:29) we can only look to the head for direction. All of us in the body are one team. This is the only way to have warm, loving agreement

(as Paul urges in 1 Corinthians) instead of cold, distant detente. This is only possible through spiritually submitting to the Lordship of Christ in all things, and in church matters is where we get to practice doing that until it becomes natural. It is only in spiritual growth that we will ever find unity and live up to the name, "United Parish". Growth comes by building up, rather than tearing down, even if it takes a little pride swallowing.

The only important person in the church is Christ.

In Christ's service,

Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

The Parish Board meeting was called to order on Nov 17, 2007 at 7pm by Lay Leader Shirley Hegerfeld. Officer in attendance were Lay Leader Shirley Hegerfeld, Financial Secretary Donna Magnus, Treasurer Dawn Boljtes and Secretary Carrie Thompson. Others in attendance were Pastor Daren Junker, Carol Styf, Linda Kampmann and Marsha Timm.

Minutes from the October meeting were read with the following corrections: The Building Fund CD's should have read \$66,181.62 and the Release time attendance has been 13 children. Concerning the attending of the Two Rivers Association Fall Meeting in Mitchell , someone from the board is encouraged to go with Pastor Daren but it was not required.

Treasurer's report was given by Dawn Boljtes and it was approved.

Beginning balance 9-30-07	(1313.72)
October Income	4,872.44
October Transfers	4,500.00
	<hr/>
	8,058.72
October Expenses	8,041.80
	<hr/>
	16.92

Financial Secretary's report was given by Donna Magnus and it was approved .

Passbook Savings

Building Fund \$6,452.21

Memorial Fund \$ 1,225.94

General Savings \$1,031.42

Building Fund CD's \$ 66,181.62

Money Market \$108,513.48

Credit Union \$ 5.00

Total Funds \$181,891.77

Committee Reports

PPR Met Nov 13 and did the Pastor Evaluation and decided we would like to keep him another year. Under ideal conditions committee would recommend giving a raise. Discussed issues of service time length, visiting with our shut-ins etc and came up with more ideas.

Christian Ed Confirmation starts Nov-April and will be a 13 session mentor program. They intended to meet on the 4th with kids and parents to pick mentors but due to the books not arriving on time this has postponed things. They discussed looking for a confirmation camp for next year.

Worship Meeting was held Nov 6th. They discussed the upcoming Thanksgiving Service. This will be held on Monday, November 19,2007 at 7pm at the Community Center. Pastor Daren is working with the other clergymen to organize. Everyone is encourage to attend.

The Bauman family will usher and Johnny Boltjes will light candles for December worship helpers. Christmas decorating is scheduled for Nov 28 at 6:30pm. Cider and snacks will follow. Marsha checked with the DeZeeuw's on the condition of the Nativity set for outdoors. Patty said that some of the pieces could use some work. The commit-

tee doesn't wish to put up something that wouldn't reflect well on the parish. Any suggestions are very welcome!!

Discussion was held on ideas for the lighting of the Advent candles this year. They decided to ask multi-generational families to light the wreath. Pastor Daren will find appropriate readings. Families have been confirmed.

Discussion was held about the Christmas worship service. There will be regular Sunday worship on Dec 23rd. There will be Christmas Eve Service at 7pm on the 24th. There will be NO Christmas Day Services. If anyone has strong feelings about this please contact Marsha Timm.

Since Cassie Timm is away at college, she has been trying to recruit a new youth member to serve on the Worship committee. Nothing definite yet. They have also began plans for 2008. Throughout the month of Dec they will pass the sign up sheets for ushers and candlelighters. Meeting should be held in Jan. to discuss Lenten Service, Holy week and Easter plans.

Missions Quick project of Christmas decorations collection that will be needed by the weekend of Thanksgiving. This is for the Hermosa area that flooded. The Heat and Tea project will be getting started .Money for small space heaters (\$20.) donation) and boxes of herbal teas will be collected.

UPW They are still looking for someone to be President. The UPW Christmas Party plans are underway. All United Parish Women will be invited.

Historian nothing new to report

Building Funds are earning interest for the project and land issues are at a stand still.

Membership They will meet after Sunday service on the 18th to discuss members list.

Constitution no new report

Pastor's Report Pastor Daren reported that this month he has had 2 phone/office visits, 1 hospital visit, 4 LTC visits, and 2 home visits. He has made 2 Brookings van trips and held a Cozy Corner Chapel. There seems to be an interest again!!! He has been to PPR, Christian Ed, Worship Committee and helped with Release Time classes. He has planned and given Sunday worship elements and song, and printed the Sunday bulletins. He has written article for the Echo and done Echo publication. He is always available 24/7 for crisis to the church and school members.

Correspondence We received a thank you from Troy, Melissa and Dayton Wiskur for the cross stitch picture that hangs in his room.

Old Business Pastor Daren has still not received any response from Bill Hoffman concerning the coaching and mentor program. He will keep trying. Van is being advertised in 2 newspapers and online. There has been 6 inquires but no one has come to look. Nomination committee has not met.

New Business The question was asked if there had been visits made to absent members to find out why they don't come. It was decided that we should do this along with the membership group to visit these people and let them know that we miss them and the we do care they are absent. The visitors would be open to hear concerns and complaints as to what we do not offer for them as well. Visits will start soon. These will not be money related visits.

The Annual Meeting date has been set for January 27th, 2008. The next Parish Board meeting will be Dec 19,2007 at 7pm.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary's , Carrie Thompson

UPW

The United Parish Women met on November 7th at 7:30pm in the church basement. Linda Kampmann presented the thank-offering program, "Sustainer's of Life." We need remember those who have nurtured us to grow in Christ's love, and for us to become nurturers ourselves, as well.

Acting president, Linda Kampmann, called the meeting to order with a devotional reading based on Psalm 46:10. The phrase "Be still and know that I am God" reminds us to slow down and recognize our blessings when they come our way, so that we don't miss them.

14 members and one guest read the purpose and answered the roll call of non-perishable food items for a Thanksgiving dinner for the Food Pantry.

The secretary's report was approved as read.

Linda presented the treasurer's report. She stated our current balance is \$2304.43. There were no bills presented. There was no correspondence.

Standing Committee reports was next.

-Gifts & Cards: Get well cards were sent to Malinda Bessler, Shirley Hegerfeld, Ella Mae Evans, Carrie Thompson, Brenda Weisberger(Kinner), Dennis Lundgren and Roween Cameron. Sympathy cards were sent to Gordon Bruening and Dick Oppelt. Please remember these people in your prayers!

-Funerals: none to report

-Reading program: Marsha Timm said the list of new titles has just been released, so she will be able to order soon.

-Missions: everyone drew names for shut-ins.

Old Business was next.

Marsha reported on the UMW Annual Conference. They collected measuring cups and spoons for a mission project in Haiti.

Linda thanked Bonnie for putting a basket together from UPW for the

FCCLA Tour of Tables.

Donna Magnus represented the Nominating Committee. They were turned down by everyone for the office of President for 2008. Patty DeZeeuw accepted the office of 2008 Vice President. Linda Kampmann will be the new member of the Nominating Committee. Linda encouraged everyone to step out of their comfort zone and listen to God's voice asking for someone to be UPW President. Marsha did mention that some units have co-chairs, which is something to think about. The election will carry over to next month.

Virginia thanked everyone for the cards and visits when she was ill.

New Business:

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be November 19th at 7pm at the Community Center. Linda, Ann and Virginia will each bring a pan of bars for the lunch after the service.

The Before Church Coffee for November 11th will be sponsored by the Prayer Quilt Ministries. Bev Buller and the Junker family signed up to provide food, but others are welcome.

Prayer Quilt Ministries will not be meeting this month.

Bev Buller reported they will be decorating the church for Christmas on Wednesday, November 28th at 6:30pm. Cider and bars will be provided. Anyone is welcome to come and help. Church services for the Christmas season will be as follows: Sunday, December 23rd- regular morning service but no Sunday School; Monday, December 24th- Christmas Eve Service at 7pm. No Christmas morning service is planned at this time, but if anyone is interested in attending, they need to contact Bev or Pastor Daren.

Ann brought up the UPW Christmas Potluck for next month. We will have a Cookie Exchange again this year. Anyone wishing to participate in the exchange needs to bring 3 dozen cookies, of any kind. Please mark your name on your cookie container. We will also have a gift exchange, so if you wish to participate, please bring a \$5-\$7 gift.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

November birthdays: Carol Jensen (No November anniversaries)
Thelma Brandt and Evelyn Mueller served lunch with lovely fall decorations.

Next month's meeting will be December 5th at 6:30pm. ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED! Anyone wishing to may bring any or all of the following: a dish to pass for the potluck, 3 doz. cookies for the Cookie Exchange, a \$5-\$7 gift to exchange, mittens for the Mitten Tree, and a non-perishable (Christmas dinner) item for the Food Pantry in Flandreau.

Sherry Bauman, UPW Secretary

UPW minutes for October: *(better late than never?! I apologize for not getting the minutes in to the Echo on time!)*

The United Parish Women met on October 3rd at 7:30pm in the church basement. Georgi Jensen presented the program entitled "Shine, Shine, Shine" and encouraged us to reflect on how God's gracious love and light shine through us. President Patty called the meeting to order and 18 members and 2 guests read the purpose. Roll call was storage bags for the Food Pantry.

The secretary's report was read, amended and approved.

The treasurer's report was read. The balance on hand is \$2330.35.

Linda reported about 420 people were served for the Annual Chicken Supper. There were no bills submitted.

Correspondence was next. The Elkton UPW received 2 certificates for recognition for the Reading Program, a certificate stating we are a 3-Flame Unit, and a certificate for Marsha Timm for attending the District Annual Meeting in September.

Standing Committee Reports:

Gifts and Cards: Get Well cards were sent to Ralph Lynn, Audrey Thompson, Gertrude DeZeeuw, and Cassandra Timm.

Funerals: none to report.

Reading Program: no report

Missions: We drew names for shut-ins.

Old Business:

The baby shower for Melissa and Dayton Wiskur is set for October 6th at 10:00am.

New Business:

-Our area shepherdess, Gloria Pike, was on hand, and spoke briefly to our group and praised us for being such an active unit.

-There was brief discussion on the 2007 FCCLA Tour of Tables. Linda made a motion to approve \$30 for Bonnie to spend to put together a basket from our UPW. Virginia seconded the motion and the motion passed.

-The UMN Annual Conference will be held October 12 & 13 at Pierre.

-The Nominating Committee needs to meet to find candidates for President and Vice President for 2008. They will need to present their slate of officers at the November meeting.

-Prayer Quilt Ministries will meet on October 13th at 2:00pm.

-October birthdays: Kate Brown, Shirley Hegerfeld, Marsha Timm and Cassandra Timm. October anniversaries: Don & Sherry Bauman, Ralph & Donna Lynn and Ed & Marsha Timm.

The next meeting will be November 7th at 7:30pm with Patty presenting the program. Hostesses will be Evelyn Mueller and Thelma Brandt.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Table grace was sung, and a delicious lunch was served by Beth Holm and Ann Aaker.

Sherry Bauman, UPW Secretary

Christian Education

Christmas Program will be Dec 16,2007 at 7pm followed by refreshments served by the Youth Group.

Grape Vine

Hi, this is a note from your new Echo editor. Since this is my first attempt at being an “ editor” I want to ask you to bear with me thru the learning stages. I will “try” very hard to have the Echo out by the last Sunday of the month whenever possible. So, for that reason I am asking that you have all your reports and articles to me by the Monday prior to the last Sunday of the month.

You can email me at dlkamp@itctel.com or at echo@united-parish.org.

Linda Kampmann

Angel Tree. The Angel Tree is up and full of Angels. These gifts need to be back to church by the 16 of December so that they can be delivered.

Another mission project that is also going on is the heat and teabag project for the Tree of Life mission in Rosebud, SD. They are asking for small portable electric heaters that you can purchase at WalMart for under \$20.00 or a cash donation so that the Tree of Life can purchase these heaters. With the rising cost of LP and fuel oil this is at least a way they can heat a small portion of their homes. You can contact Patty DeZeeuw or Linda Kampmann with any questions.

Banquet Project The Banquet in Sioux Falls wants to “Wrap our guest with love”. For Christmas they are wanting to provide towel sets to the

people who need them. If you want to provide a set, they want bath towel, wash cloth and hand towel. Roll them up and tie with a Christmas ribbon. DO NOT WRAP THEM. You can deliver these to the Banquet in Sioux Falls or you can send money for them to buy towel sets to hand out. They would like the towel sets or money by Dec 14, 2007. You would be doing this project on your own, not thru the church .We are just providing the

information. The address is 900 East 8th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

December Echo Sponsors

As I type this, the wind is blowing, the temperature is dropping and there is absolutely no snow on the ground. I don't think any white stuff is predicted in the near future, either. So sad.

What isn't sad is the fact that we continue to get financial support for postage and printing of our monthly Echo. The December sponsors are our friends from Lake Benton, Ray and Gen Sportel. Thank you for your generosity. Your donation benefits many.

If you would like to help with the cost of mailing or printing of the Echo please contact me at 548-2051.

Mitten Tree

The United Parish Women's group is again sponsoring a Mitten Tree during the Elkton Festival of Trees at the Community Center. It is called a Mitten Tree because it is decorated in new winter paraphernalia – hats, scarves, mitten, gloves, stocking caps, etc., in all sizes. These items will be donated to the Elkton School and other area organizations for distribution after the holidays. You are invited to participate in this warm and fuzzy event. Bring your items to the Community Center and hang or lay them under the Mitten Tree. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by many.

If you are unable to get down to the Community Center during their hours of operation (Monday-Friday until 7 p.m.) you can give them to Linda Kampmann or Dawn Boltjes and they will make sure they get to the tree.

And The Heat Is On....

If you were a regular Sunday service attendee last year you know that our ancient furnace at the church was not the most dependable. Well, don't let that hold you back this year.

Lynn's Heating & Air Conditioning installed a brand new dual furnace before Thanksgiving. There should be no reason for us to be anything but nice and toasty warm at any time.

Life is good.

If you see Kevin Lynn, thank him for the hard work.

Submitted by Trustees

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