



The United Parish

ECHO



January 2008

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.....	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
Online Calender Updates	glov0053@umn.edu

December Birthdays

- 6 Shirley Brown
 Denise Lange
- 7 Nancy Wiskur
- 14 Ethan Timm
- 16 Elizabeth Erickson
 Christopher Bauman
- 19 Jeremy Lundgren
 Carol Janssen
- 20 Trudy Anderson

Church Cleaning Crew:

Ushers & Acolyte

- Ushers (6) Leroy and Kate Brown
- (13) Leroy and Kate Brown
- (20) Troy & Melissa Wiskur
- (27) Kate & Leroy Brown
- Acolyte: Shelby Kampmann

Liturgists

- 6 –
- 13
- 20
- 27

Anniversaries

Pastor's Desktop

As we start a new calendar year, many people instinctively assess the past year and set goals for the coming year. If you reflect carefully, and compare the various years of the past, you may find certain patterns or themes repeating. This leads many people to conclude that resolutions don't work. That conclusion is true. Educational psychology built on scientific studies supports that conclusion as well. It just simply is not how human beings work. Change does not occur just by declaring it. Lasting change comes from within and has to have a strong drive. The strength for a successful drive to change comes from something powerful, such as a life-threatening experience or an encounter with the Holy Spirit, not from putting up a new calendar.

Sometimes, even though a pattern might be uncomfortable or has effects we don't like, we may not be able to change it. This can be just true for organizations as it is for individuals. When we don't like a side effect of a pattern, but remain unable to change it, a lot of discomfort builds up. Since the only way to truly eliminate the discomfort is to change the pattern, which we often cannot do, the natural human response is to look for someone to blame. Since no one likes to blame themselves and add to the 'bad' feelings inside, most often people will look for a scapegoat - someone outside themselves, and usually having little, if any, ability to change the habits that led to the discomfort to start with.

Individuals who continually scapegoat are easy to identify. It is obvious to everyone around them that nothing will change until they stop blaming others, accept what their role in their troubles is, and then open themselves to change. As I wrote just a bit earlier, it often takes a serious event, such as 'tough love' or a health threat, to open them up to such things. The only other way I know of is the working of the Holy Spirit, which is exactly why prayer can be the most effective weapon against self-undermining patterns.

What about an organization that habitually scapegoats? Just like an individual, it will be clear to everyone outside of it what needs to change: the internal dynamics. One thing that is slightly different is the selection of scapegoat. Like an individual, the organization might blame external things like economy. Unlike an individual, the organization has potential scapegoats inside: leaders. One of the surest signs that an organization is scapegoating instead of making real changes in old patterns is that leaders are pressured until they leave or fail. This cycle keeps going until there are no more leaders left. In ideal circumstances this can be the crisis that precipitates honest self-reflection and lasting positive change. Otherwise, it is just the decline of the organization.

Jesus came as a perfect sacrifice, revealing the pointlessness of scapegoating. When we choose to follow Christ, we surrender our pride to God's perfect grace and let God's scapegoat take the place of ourselves and all scapegoats we would otherwise use. In Christ there is no longer a need for a scapegoat. Love and forgiveness free us to accept our responsibility without shame. This enables change to happen through the working of the Holy Spirit. There is no need to blame, no need to shame, no need to bring a crisis, just the need to confess, repent, and begin living in grace.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

The Parish Board meeting was called to order on Dec 19 2007 at 7pm by President Bev Buller. Officer in attendance were President Bev Buller, Financial Sec Donna Magnus, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes, and Sec Carrie Thompson. Others in attendance were Pastor Daren Junker, and Carol Styf. Pastor Daren led the meeting in prayer.

Minutes from the November meeting were read with the following corrections: the Total funds amount of the Financial Secretary's report should have read \$183,391.77.

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

Beginning balance 10-31-07	\$16.92
November Income	3884.23
November Transfers	2893.00

	<hr/>
	\$6464.15
November Expenses	<7434.53>
	<hr/>
Ending balance	<637.38>

Since there are still overages happening in the budget, Dawn made a motion to allow the Treasurer to over budget no more than \$75.00 for electricity and phone and by no more than \$600 for church insurance to finish out 2007. The motion was 2nd by Donna Magnus. All were in favor and it passed.

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

Passbook Savings

Building Fund	\$6,486.31
Memorial Fund	\$ 1,225.94
General Savings	\$1,014.68

Building Fund CD's \$ 66,234.25

Money Market \$56,921.90

Credit Union \$ 5.00

Total Funds \$131,888.08 (this is the balance after taking out \$59686 for the furnace and \$49,000 for the land to build on.)

Committee Reports

Trustees: The leak has been fixed under the sink. Troy Wiskur has changed the bulb upstairs, the furnace has been installed and it has been arranged with Ron Claussen to pile snow from our snow removal on his property across the street.

Christian Ed The Christmas program was GREAT!!! Everyone did a super job. There will no Sunday School on Dec 23rd and Dec 30th. Sunday school resumes on Jan 6th,2008. The confirmation group is still waiting for their books. Nikki has been in contact with the publishing company.

Worship There will be a regular church service held Dec 23rd at 9:30am, the Christmas Eve service on Monday the 24th at 7pm and there will be NO Christmas services held.

Missions They are still working on the Heaters and Tea project.

UPW They had their Christmas party potluck and has about 26-27 that attended. It was a very nice time. They are still looking for a president.

Historian no 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 5 phone/office visits, 2 LTC visits, /home visits. He has made 2 Brookings van trips and did 1 Cozy Corner Chapel. For the community Thanksgiving Service he created the service, invited and coordinated with the other clergy He has prepared the readings for the lighting of the Advent Candles during Sunday services. He has planned Sunday worship, prepared sermons and liturgies for the Sunday Services. He has printed the Sunday bulletins and conducted Sunday Worship. He has assisted in the publication by email of the Echo and written an article for it. He has been available 20/7 for crisis for church members and school. He has been in attendance at the Membership committee, Finance and Stewardship meeting and scheduled the visit of Rev Hoffman for the NCD presentation. He has discussed and shown the van to interested parties. It was also discussed as to how he decided who and when he visit with those in the hospital.

Building Committee: Nancy gave a report in church about the railroad being stinkers with the 5 acres it turns out they own. The daughters of Ed Langin are still trying to deal with them and will turn the land over to us if the can make a deal with the railroad. Originally the deal with Ed was for us to buy the 10acres as long as we agreed to take this approximate 5 acres as well. So, the money we have recently paid to them is for the original 10 acres we agreed on.

Membership: Met after church and went over the membership list. Each person at the meeting took the names of 3 inactive members and will plan to meet with by the end of January This will be 10 to 12 families.

Constitution : No report.

Old Business Pastor has arranged for Bill Hoffman to come January 27th. 2008 around 12.00. We will have our Annual Meeting that day so Sunday school will be first and then regular service from 10:30-11:30. We will have a lunch following the service and before the meeting. Someone will contact Dennis Lundgren about sending out the postcard invitations to the Annual Meeting to everyone. There are still no takers on the van. There has been 1 very serious looker. The Nominating Committee has been contacting people

for the officer positions that are coming up for vote at the Annual Meeting. There has been only one interested parties so far. There was another named suggest to contact. We will keep trying.

New Business : Melissa Wiskur called Bev to see if they could get 3 tables and 24 chairs on Saturday for over Christmas. It was approved.

Dawn went over the rough draft of the new budget and it was discussed. Dawn made a motion to raise the Pastor salary according to the Social Security cost of living index. The motion was 2nd by Donna. The motion was carried. Final figures will be in by the next board meeting to be turned in for the Annual Meeting Report.

It was brought to the attention of the Board that there were some rather revolting artwork attached to Pastor Daren's "My Space" page that he was unaware of. When this was brought to his attention, he immediately began closing down the site so that it cannot be accessed anymore. This topic was further discussed at the meeting and we discovered that it is not uncommon for these type of things to happen to innocent people on the "My Space" sites. There just isn't enough security with this sit. Anyone noticing any disturbing attachments with our church of any from should contact Pastor Daren or the Board right away. We discussed in detail some of the things listed on the page and we are quite positive that our pastor is not a "Goth Member" or that is not satanic. Thank Goodness!!

The next meeting will be Jan 16th, 2008 at 7pm. We adjourned the meeting with the Lord's prayer.

Secretary, Carrie Thompson

December Financial Information

December 21, 2007

<i>Checkbook Balance 11-30-07</i>	<i>-637.38</i>
12-02-07 Sunday Donations	967.93
12-09-07 Sunday Donations	<u>1,029.12</u>
<i>Balance</i>	<i>1,359.67</i>

Paid	Payroll	1,303.43
	City	90.44
	Otter Tail	91.93
	ITC-Church Phone	<u>39.59</u>
	Balance	-165.72
	12-16-07 Sunday Donations	<u>1,671.13</u>
	Balance	1,505.41
Paid	Zurich-Van Insurance	31.58
	BC/BS-Pastor Health Insurance	1,581.30
	UCCIB-Church Insurance	<u>646.00</u>
	Needed 12/23	-753.47
Due 12-31-07		
	Cenex-Propane Budget	550.00
	Cenex-Furnace Regulator	42.35
	Payroll	1,303.43
	Parsonage Phone	20.00
	Health Savings Account	144.20
	Pastor Pension	417.09
	Upper Room	11.10
	Dakotas Conf-Match UCC	179.50
	Zero Out Echo Donations	<u>78.00</u>
	Needed by EOM	-3,499.14

Financial data provided weekly for the church bulletin
By Dawn Boltjes, Treasurer

UPW

United Parish Women

Twenty-two members and their guests shared a night of fellowship on December 5th, for the annual UPW Christmas Party. Everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck meal, games, a gift exchange, and cookie exchange. Members brought items for the Mitten Tree and the Food Pantry.

Submitted by Sherry Bauman, Secretary

Christian Education

This year's Christmas program was a cute story called "Mouse Tale" and was directed by Melissa Wiskur. Not only was this put on by our Sunday School kids, but our youth group was involved. Old Granny mouse was played by Ann Aaker. Thanks to you all!

It is nice to have so many ages that can take part in it and put this on for our congregation and family. Not only did Melissa do a wonderful job putting this together but she also entertained us by singing "Christmas Shoes". A lot of people helped to put this on. Thanks to Melissa,

the Christian Ed Committee, the Sunday School teachers, the parents for getting their kids to program practice, and Troy and Tal for your help.

Thank you to those that provided food along with Beth Holm and the youth group for serving ice cream sundaes and goodies after the program.

LaRee Farnham
Chairman

Missions

We are just finishing up another successful year of worthwhile mission projects. We have had several projects that we worked on all year and they were gladly received by the Tree of Life Mission out in Western South Dakota.

This month was our Prison Fellowship Angel Tree project. This has been an annual project for our church since about 1993. As usual we provided 2 gifts each for 10 children who have a parent in a prison. This year we

served 5 families. Patty DeZeeuw and I delivered the packages just before Christmas and we walked away from each home with big smiles. We received many hugs and witnessed the children welcome the gifts we brought knowing they were from their missing parent, at least in spirit. At one home the mother introduced us to her children as “Daddy's Angels”. That is a very humbling moment. At another home a 6 year old greeted us at the door and asked “ did you bring me these presents from my Daddy”?

Due to the wonderful generosity of this church family we were also able to purchase 5 grocery gift cards and we already received a thank you from one grandmother telling us what a blessing this grocery gift card was.

So the mission committee brings back the hugs, the smiles, and the love we felt from these people to all of you who make this possible year after year.

Linda Kampmann
Patty DeZeeuw
Virginia Fixsen
Beth Holm
Abby Sudtelgte

Grape Vine

January *Echo Sponsor*

Good morning everyone! We hope each and every one of you had a wonderful Christmas. The only thing that would have made it even more special would have been an extra foot of new snow. The kids would have loved it! Oh, well. Maybe next year.

Our January sponsor of the Echo (for postage or printing costs) is anonymous this month. Whoever you are, we certainly appreciate your donation as does just about anyone who receives the Echo. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

God Bless all of you,

Dawn Boltjes, Treasurer

Christian One Liners

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

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Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

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Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

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The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

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People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

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Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

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Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

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God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

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Peace starts with a smile

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We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

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Be ye fishers of men. You catch them - He'll clean them.

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Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

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God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

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God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage

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He who angers you, controls you!

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If God is your Co-pilot - swap seats!

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Prayer:

Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

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**The Will of God never takes you to
where the Grace of God will not protect you.**

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We don't change the message, the message changes us.

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**You can tell how big a person
is by what it takes to.....discourage him.**

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The best mathematical equation I have ever seen:

1 cross + 3 nails= 4 given.

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