



The United Parish
ECHO



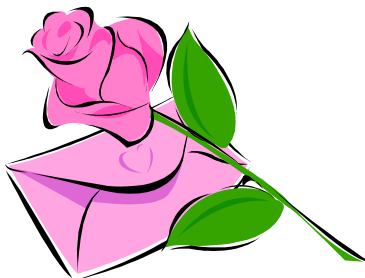
May 2008

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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Happy Mothers Day



Good Luck 2008 Seniors

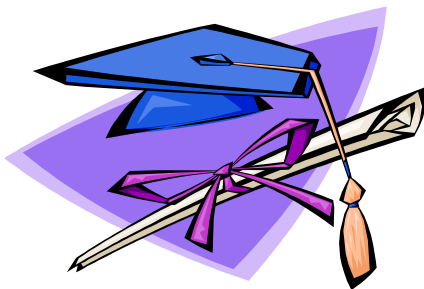


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<u>United Parish Board Members</u>	
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Financial Secretary: Donna Magnus.....	605-542-3241
Treasurer: Dawn Boltjes.....	507-548-2051
Secretary: Carrie Thompson.....	605-542-8051
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Happy Birthday to :

May Birthdays

- 4 Bonnie Junker
- 9 Audrey Thompson
- 12 Don Bauman
- 12 Shelby Kampmann
- 13 Abilene Sudtelgte
- 19 Don Koch
- 20 Justin Bauman
- 23 Alex Hegefled
- 27 Virginia Holmlund
- 27 Shirley Lundgren

May Anniversaries

- 17 Daren and Bonnie Junker

Church Cleaning Crew:

- Thelma Brandt
- Evelyn Mueller

Ushers & Acolyte

- May Ushers
- Steve and Georgi Jensen

Acolyte:

Liturgists

- 4 Dennis Lundgren
- 11
- 18 Dawn Boltjes
- 25 Linda Kampmann

Pastor's Desktop

Is the End Near?

(I wouldn't bet on it - nor against it)

As the news is filled with a housing credit crisis, and as every one of us feels the slowly tightening pinch of rising gas and food prices, as the news continues to report of the dangers of war in the world, and the threat of more, as more and more of these things seem to be coming together at the same time, some people are beginning to wonder if the end really is near. It may be. Or it may be 2000 more years down the road.

I have seen and read some non-Christian sources that seem to think that 2012 is a key year. Again, it may be. Or not. Jesus did tell us that "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father," but also told his disciples in Matthew 24 what signs to watch for, so the day and hour not being known may just be literally that, and it is possible the year can be known. I kind of doubt it though. Because of several Scriptures, I suspect we will have to remain vigilant, but I also believe that it may be close.

Why did he tell his disciples what to watch for and then through the Holy Spirit inspire them to record it for future generations? Because it will be so severe that any Christian alive at the time is going to need to be sure that God knew about it ahead of time in order to not think that they have gotten everything horribly wrong. This is nasty enough that it is worth being up front about what the Bible tells us. The ones believing in a 'pre-tribulation rapture' are going to be seriously disillusioned when they find out that Jesus would not have said for no reason to his disciples, "But pray that your flight will not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath." This is not a message for non-believers 'left behind', this is for the followers of Christ, who would be praying such a thing. As the prophet Amos wrote, "Alas, you who are longing for the day of the LORD, For what purpose will the day of the LORD be to you? It will be darkness and not light;"

One thing is for sure, there is still an unfulfilled prophecy about massive destruction on earth. Some theologians have tried to claim earlier disasters have partly fulfilled it and therefore we don't need to do anything about it. These would be the foolish virgins without extra oil in the parable of the ten virgins waiting for the groom. For we surely have not yet lived through this: "For then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will. Unless those days had been cut short, no life would have been saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short."

If you want some idea of how much 'tribulation', take a look at the account in Isaiah 24. "Behold, the LORD lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants. And the people will be like the priest, the servant like his master, the maid like her mistress, the buyer like the seller, the lender like the borrower, the creditor like the debtor. The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the LORD has spoken this word. The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left."

Now what is the point of writing all these scary things?

Matthew 24:42 "Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming."

At the same time, those who are alert and do not take their focus from Christ will be the ones rejoicing afterward: "Like heat in drought, You subdue the uproar of aliens; Like heat by the shadow of a cloud, the song of the ruthless is silenced. The LORD of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; A banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, And refined, aged wine. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken." (Isaiah 25:5-8)

The need and reward for watchfulness was recorded in Jesus' own words in Matthew 24:45-47 "Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions."

You may want to read your Bible.

In Christ's service,
Pastor Daren

Parish Board Meeting

Parish Board Minutes- April 9th,2008

The United Parish Board met on April 9th,2008 at 7pm in the church basement. Officers in attendance were President Ed Timm, Financial Secretary Donna Magnus, Treasurer Dawn Boltjes and Secretary Carrie Thompson. Others in attendance were Linda Kampmann, Carol Styf, Virginia Fixsen and Pastor Daren Junker. Pastor gave opening prayer. Ed called the meeting to order and the minutes were read from the March meeting and were approved.

Dawn gave the Treasurer's Report and made a motion to raise the budget amount on the Postage/Office portion of the budget to \$1500 from \$500. It was discussed and 2nd by Linda Kampmann. All were in favor and the motion was carried. The report was approved.

Beginning Balance 2-29-08	\$693.29
March Income	5890.36
March Expenses	<6471.76>
	<hr/>
Ending Balance 3-31-08	\$111.89

Donna gave the Financial Secretary's Report and made a correction to the March General Savings amount. It read \$1018.35 and should have been \$1014.10. The report was approved.

Passbook Savings

Building Fund-	\$6062.24
Memorial Fund-	\$1231.69
General Savings-	\$1014.10
Building Fund CD's-	\$67,283.20
Money Market-	\$66,468.46
Total Funds-	\$142,060.41
Gain -	\$466.03

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PPR- no report

Trustees- Denny arranged to have the back speaker fixed in the church. Sam Bebensee will be coming to the parsonage to take care of 2 faucets, look at a drain and check the water heater.

Christian Ed- They will be scheduling a meeting. They handed in a quarterly report:

Balance on Hand 12/10/07	\$255.61
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Income

UPW Offering	\$300.00
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SS Offering	\$38.29
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Gift	\$50.00
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\$643.90

Expenses

Release Time	-
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SS Supplies-Curriculum	\$183.40
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Balance on Hand 3/10/08- \$460.50

Missions- nothing new

UPW- "Finals Packages" for the college students will be put together and given before finals begin.

Building Committee- nothing new

Pastor's Report- He has had 2 LTC/ Home visits, 1 Brookings van trip, has taught Release Time and assisted with 2 Release Times. He gave Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services as well as the regular planning and giving of Sunday Services, with which he prepared sermons and worship elements and printed Sunday bulletins. He gave aid to a stranded person and also arranged traveler assistance to another family passing through. He wrote article for the Echo and gave 24hour availability for crisis for church members and school.

OLD BUSINESS

The ABC's of Natural Church Development was discussed and it was agreed that there hadn't been much feedback from the congregation. It is assumed that there is a lack of interest in this program.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed received the forms from the Methodist Annual Conference that is scheduled for June 4th – 7th in Fargo North Dakota. It will be held at the Holiday Inn and the forms must be postmarked no later than May 20th. You will need to bring the packet to the conference with you.

The new committees are as follows: (**Clip and save**)

Christian Education- Melissa Wiskur, LaRee Farnham, and Georgi Jensen.

Missions- Linda Kampmann, Beth Holm, Deanna Lundgren, Georgi Jensen, and Virginia Fixsen, Abbi Sudtelgte.

Pastor-Parish Relations- Shirley Hegerfeld, Virginia Fixsen, and Carrie Thompson.

Stewardship and Finance- Donna Magnus, Dawn Boltjes and Bruce Kinner.

Trustees Committee- Dawn Boltjes, Dennis Lundgren, Justin Thompson, Troy Wiskur, Nancy Wiskur.

Worship- Carrie Thompson, Nancy Wiskur and Ann Aaker.

Membership Committee- Nancy Wiskur and Melissa Wiskur

Harvest Festival- Shirley Hegerfeld, Susan Sudtelgte, Nancy Wiskur, Norma Krogman, and Virginia Fixsen.

The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held May 14th, 2008 at 7pm.

Secretary, Carrie Thompson

Notes from Christian Ed:

All that came to the One Great Hour of Sharing had a good time playing games at the carnival and bingo held Sunday April 6. Thanks to Beth and youth members that provided rolls, juice, and coffee.

All the proceeds, donations, and money raised from the silent auction totaled \$126.50 and goes to this event sponsored by UCC church.

Thanks to everyone who helped put it on and those participating

in the events!!

Upcoming events:

May 4 - last day of Sunday School

May 11 - Sunday School Awards Day and Mother's Day

July 20-22 - tentative for VBS

LaRee Farnham

Chairman

UPW

The United Parish Women met on April 2nd at 7pm. Marsha Timm began the meeting with the Call to Prayer & Self-Denial program.

It focused on the specific needs of young girls world-wide and their need to learn for a life time.

Georgianna Jensen called the meeting to order with a devotional reading from Chicken Soup for the Mothers of Preschoolers. Fourteen members answered the roll call of paper products for the Flandreau Food Pantry.

The secretary's report was read with no additions or corrections.

Linda presented the treasurer's report. We have a balance on hand of \$2088.22. Ann Aaker made a motion to give \$350.00 to the Community Center from our Third Thursday Supper. Virginia seconded the motion and the motion passed. There were no bills presented.

There was no correspondence.

Standing Committee reports:

Gifts & Cards: a get well card was sent to Troy Wiskur.

Funerals: none to report.

Reading Program: Marsha was unable to pick up the new books, so she will have to order them.

Missions: Prayer Quilt Ministries will meet April 12th at 2pm. Cozy Corner Bingo will be April 23 & 30.

Old Business:

The Spring Focus Day will be April 19th at the Gary Methodist Church. There was discussion on the Soup & Sandwich Supper. Ann Aaker made a motion to accept donations in place of the supper. Nikki seconded the motion and the motion passed.

New Business:

Linda asked for her name to be taken off the committee for Senior Luncheon. Thelma Brandt, Gertrude DeZeeuw and Alice Kinner will be added. Senior Luncheon will be May 7th.

Items are needed for College Care Packages which will be sent to the following students: Adam DeZeeuw, Amber Anderson, Cassie Timm, Nikki Glover, Tom Hegerfeld, and Paul Langner. There will be a deposit box at the back of the church.

The Sunday School will be hosting a carnival, bingo and silent auction, for One Great Hour of Sharing. Items are needed for the silent auction. Youth Group will provide rolls and coffee.

2nd Sunday Coffee will be April 13th. Linda did mention that the Elkton Firemen will also be having a breakfast at the community center that morning.

The Elkton Locker and Grocery will be opening on Monday, April 7th.

Marsha reminded us that our budget allows a \$5.00 gift-to-mission donation in honor of each graduate. United Parish will have 5 graduating this year: Justin Bauman, Austin DeZeeuw, Alex Glover, Rebecca Holm and Annalise Sudtelgte.

April birthdays are: Gertrude DeZeeuw, Daren Junker and Laura Tjernagel. Anniversaries are Carol and Greg Jensen.

Our next meeting will be on May 7th with our Mother's Day/Memorial Day program with Deanna Lundgren, Georgi Jensen, Gertrude DeZeeuw, and Marsha Timm presenting. Hostesses are Bonnie Junker, Beth Holm, and Karen-Marie Bryane.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Lunch was provided by Sherry Bauman and Marsha Timm.

Submitted by

Sherry Bauman, UPW Secretary

Annual Conferences

The UMC Annual Conference this year is June 4-7 in fabulous Fargo. Pastor Daren will be attending the UCC Annual Conference June 13-15 in Yankton, so it would be wonderful if a lay person (translated that means you) could attend the UMC conference. If you are interested in going to either one, registration forms need to be in by May 19 for

UCC and May 20 for UMC. Please contact Pastor Daren (542-7101) to register for the UCC Conference and Dawn Boltjes (548-2051) for the UMC Conference.

Grape Vine

Just a reminder about the Prayer Quilt ministries. We want to be able to donate a prayer quilt to **anyone** that may need one. If you have a friend, loved one, co-worker or anyone facing a serious crisis in their life, whether it be health or otherwise you just need to let the quilt ministry team know about it. It is a very personal event, so we do ask that you get the persons permission. We don't always know who needs a prayer quilt and we will rely on the congregation to keep us informed. Please feel free to let us know anytime you feel someone needs a prayer quilt. We never again want to miss someone who may have needed our prayers.

Reprint (In part) from Daniel Carlson, Gideon who visited our church in April.

Thank you for the gracious reception extended to me on Sunday when I was privileged to present the Gideon ministry in your church. It was a joy to be a part of your worship service.

On behalf of the Gideons of Brookings and the Gideons International, I want to express my sincere thanks to your church for the support of the Gideons. The offering which was given in the amount of \$113.00 is tangible evidence of the love your congregation has for making the Word of God available to those who otherwise may not have a copy. This will enable 22 Bibles or 89 Testaments to be purchased and placed. We can pray that many precious souls will come to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as a result of these Scriptures being distributed.

May Echo Sponsor

Spring must be here. The grass is starting to green up. The tulips are coming out of the ground and lawn mowers are out. Lawn mowers? Yes, Johnny and I have seen one in action. Crazy. That is a job I will put off as long as I can because it doesn't stop until fall.

Duane and Irma Ellis have answered the call and generously donated to the cost of mailing our Echo for the month of May. Our gratitude extend far beyond these pages. Thank you. Since we started having the Echo printed elsewhere the cost has gone down somewhat. We still need to provide stamps but the actual printing cost is very reasonable. Pastor Daren continues to print other documents from home, such as the weekly church bulletin. In April we had to pay \$470.55 for our portion of the cost

of replacement ink cartridges. Granted, these should last a few months, hopefully, but it took a direct hit on the checkbook. Anyone wishing to help out as far as these types of expenses are concerned can do so by contacting me or any Board member. Anything to make my job easier is like a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day. While I am whining and asking you to fork over, I might as well go all out. It appears we are unable to find a buyer for the church van. This means that we must repay the amount we transferred out of the carpet fund of \$1,500. Your help is needed. Ideas for fund raisers, signing over your life savings, etc., can be directed to any board member.

It might be time to maybe think about trading in the van for a small, fuel efficient car for the Pastor to use. The van is nice but we all know it is a gas hog and with fuel at an all time high we need to look at this expense just as we would at home. Is the van being used enough to justify it's existence? Put your thoughts in writing and give them to any Board member to be brought up at our next meeting. Even better, show up at the meeting and give us your insights in person. Keep in mind the insurance is currently close to \$400 per year and to fill it up takes around \$80. That doesn't take into account the occasional repairs needed on an older vehicle.

Well, I think that is it. I can't think of anything else to complain about.

Have a wonderful spring

God Bless all of you, Dawn Boltjes, Treasurer

Congratulations 2008 EHS Seniors

Justin Bauman

Austin DeZeeuw

Alex Glover

Rebecca Holm

Annalise Sudtelgte



United Parish
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