Pastor: Rev. Catherine Bishop; Ministers: The People of God 702 Sheyenne St., P.O. 546, West Fargo, ND 58078; 701-282-4135; Pastor cell: 712-490-8333; E-mail: office@cpcwf.org; Web: www.cpcwf.org


## WATCH OUT FOR NEW TIMES AND RALLY SUNDAY!

Beginning on Sunday, September 10, Sunday School for all ages (That means children, youth, AND adults, are welcome!) will recommence at 9:00 a.m., followed by worship at 10:00 a.m.


Make a morning of it! Fun, fellowship, and food. Join your kids for a fun group activity. Continue the learning at worship, followed with food at a potluck downstairs in the fellowship hall.

## WEST FEST <br> IS SEPTEMBER 16

West Fest is just around the corner (Saturday, September 16th). As in the recent past, we
 would like to share with the community. We will be hosting a food stand in the parking lot free of charge. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Churches United for the Homeless.
Will you help us? Sign up to donate or volunteer on the West Fest sheet in the narthex.
For more information, to donate or volunteer, contact Steve Hanna (701-793-5109 or sehanna05@aol.com).

## PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR CATHIE

Grace and peace to you, my friends and family of Community Presbyterian church of West Fargo. May we practice Psalm 150:6, "Let everything that breathes, praise the Lord!"
As human beings, we don't always feel like praising the Lord. There are days that we feel sad, frustrated, beat down, overwhelmed-insert the words for you-and the last thing we think of is praising God. Yet, as faithful followers of Jesus Christ, no matter how bad things feel at the moment, there is something we can praise God for in our lives or the lives of others.
This morning I opened my brief case and found a cricket staring up at me! In the scope of life, the cricket was not a big deal. It surprised me. Why? Because I have never found a cricket in my brief case before. It was new. It
(Continued on page 2)


## (Continued from page 1)

was unexpected. It also distracted me from what I was supposed to be doing. I found myself irritated and frustrated. All of this because of one cricket! Praise the Lord for the cricket, it breathes because God gave it breath!
As you are reading, think about the various ways you get distracted from what you are doing. In our world, it is not hard to get sidetracked. What is difficult for us, is staying focused.
Not staying focused was a major issue for the people of Israel. Throughout the last 5 weeks we journeyed through the Book of Hosea. Time and time again, the people went off on their own, they just could not stay focused on God. They struggled; they were not faithful to God. Hosea preached to them, and told them what the consequences would be because God was so frustrated with them. God lamented and struggled about what to do with their self-centeredness. God is compassionate and loves all the people. During the sermons we have asked ourselves, "What does it mean to be faithful to God?" We have been given homework, to continue asking ourselves what it means for us as individuals and as a community of Christians, to be faithful to God.
Being faithful to God is a daily focus for all of us. Some days, it is easier than others. What does your "cricket" day look like? How do you get back on track when you lose your focus on being a faithful Christian?
On September 3, 10, and 17 we will move our focus to the Book of Joel, another of the minor prophets of the Old Testament. There is a story about a crisis that runs through Joel, a story that needs to be shared with others, told and retold over time. On Sunday, September 24, we will spend with the prophet, Obadiah, the shortest of the Old Testament books. Within this book, we will learn
about oppressors and the oppressed and bystanders, through his fascinating use of rhetorical techniques! The messages from Joel and Obadiah are amazingly relevant to us!
It is September, and time to return to the routine of Fall. On September 10, we will have "Rally Day" which brings us back to Sunday School. There are classes for children and adults, so bring the family, there are learning opportunities for all!
A New Member's class will begin in September. Please let me know if you would like to join Community Presbyterian Church.
We are hosting a West Fest food stand on September 16. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board. It is a great opportunity for fellowship and mission.
Get involved. Let's "BE" the church together. Praise God!
Blessings,
Pastor Cathie

## SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURES FOR WORSHIP

September 3-22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 With Communion Book Series: Joel 1: 1-20
Sept 10-23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Book Series: Joel 2: 1-29
Sept 17-24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Book Series: Joel 3: 1-21
Sept 24-25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Book Series: Obadiah 1: 1-21


## PRESBYTERY NEWS

A copy of the monthly newsletter published by our Presbytery of the Northern Plains is posted on the west bulletin board in the old narthex. You can access your own copy of Lights of the Northern Plains under Publications on its website: http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com/

## JULY CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of Session was held on Tuesday, July 18,2017 , at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. Elders present were Lise Alves, Cathy Birrenkott, Lee Dobrinz, Terry Meester, Adam Montgomery, Mary Jo Moorhead, and Andrew Thostenson. Moderator Cathie Bishop, Clerk Becky DeJong, and Treasurer Carolyn Meester were present. Sue Hanna and Dawn Larson were absent.
The meeting was opened with prayer by Carolyn Meester.
Session discussed the third unit in the Facing Racism study: PC(USA) and Racial Reconciliation.
Consent Agenda:
a. approval of the minutes of June 20, 2017
b. next Session meeting - Tuesday, August 15, 2017
c. Soul Train mission trip to the cities July 21-23 - approved via e-mail
Moderator's report:

- Newsletter articles written and submitted for July/August newsletter.
- Visited LeRoy Bowman (surgery June 21,2017 ) at Sanford on 6/23, 25, and 28; moved to Bethany on Uni-versity-visited on July 1.
- A Casselton member that I had been visiting, Stuart Keller, died on Thursday, June 22. Met with funeral home/ family on Friday, June 23; Prayer Service at Casselton on Sunday afternoon, June 25; Funeral for Stuart at Casselton on Monday, June 26.
- Meetings with Samilia Norman and William Wright ( $6 / 27,7 / 5$, and $7 / 18$ ) in preparation for their marriage on August 12.
- I was present for the delivery of stoves from Rigel's on Thursday, June 29.
- Email and phone conversations with the guest speaker in preparation for worship on July 9.
- Visits with Doug Swenson (Dawn Larson's father) at Essentia/Sanford on June 30, July 2 and 5.
- Took communion to Casselton members, Arnie and Roy, at Bethany on 42nd, with deacons Harvey Morken and his wife, on Sunday, July 2.
- Visit with Karen Steele at Sanford on July 12, follow-up with Bruce via email.
- Met with Melissa Van Cleve and John Engebretson on Wednesday, July 12, as part of pre-marital counseling.
- Participated in Presbytery of the Northern Plains Committee On Ministry conference call on Thursday, July 13.
- Prepared services/preached on June 25 , July 2 including communion, and July 16. Worked with guest speaker for July 9 service.
Clerk's report - 40 served communion on Sunday, July 2, 2017.
Elders to serve communion on August 6, 2017 will be Adam Montgomery, Mary Jo Moorhead, Andrew Thostenson, and Lise Alves or Terry Meester.
The financial report was discussed. Contribution reports will be sent out in August.
The Deacons and Service \& Fellowship will collaborate to develop a plan to welcome visitors, maintain communication with new members, and build new membership.
Pastor Cathie and Andrew Thostenson will offer a new members class in August.
Mission \& Evangelism Outreach Committee: The food pantry truck will be using the parking lot on Monday evenings for the collection of fresh produce as soon as fresh produce is available.
Personnel Committee: Applications continue to be accepted for the secretarial position.
Trustees: The stoves and microwave were installed. The issues with the sump pumps have been resolved, in-
(Continued on page 4)


## (Continued from page 3)

cluding buying a new pump. Greg Sterup has been in contact with Chuck Richard to schedule scraping and painting of the fascia.
No Reports: Christian Education, Deacons, Nominating, Service and Fellowship, Stewardship, Worship committees.
Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Cathie at 9:02 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Becky DeJong

## AUGUST CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of Session was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room. Elders present were Lise Alves (phone), Dawn Larson, Terry Meester, Adam Montgomery, Mary Jo Moorhead, and Andrew Thostenson. Moderator Cathie Bishop, Clerk Becky DeJong, and Treasurer Carolyn Meester were present. Cathy Birrenkott, Lee Dobrinz, and Sue Hanna were absent.
The meeting was opened with prayer by Andrew Thostenson.
Session discussed the fourth unit in the Facing Racism study: Racism 101.
Consent Agenda:
a. approval of the minutes of July 18, 2017
b. next Session meeting - Wednesday, September 20, 2017
c. Ray and Bev Christopherson requested to be removed from the rolls of CPC.
d. Christian Education Committee requested the use of the narthex for a shower for Melissa VanCleve at September 23 from 9:00 a.m. to noon with the shower to occur at 10:00.
Moderator's report -

- Gayle Thostenson and I visited Hazel Yokum on Thursday, July 20; visited again on August 13 when we also brought communion for her.
- Met with Rick Raum on July 21 re-
garding transition of Presbytery Personnel leadership from me to him in October. Worked with Synod Finance and Presbytery to find new 2018 costs for presbytery staff benefits.
- Interviewed candidate for Office Assistant position on July 21, along with Adam Montgomery and Carolyn Meester. Position is still open.
- Attended Synod School July 24-28.
- Visited Vickie Grossnickle at Sanford on July 29, took Delores Horn to Palliative Care to sit with Vickie on August 3; was called early on Saturday, August 5 to sit with Vickie along with Kristie and Delores for several hours. Vickie died early afternoon about 1:35 that afternoon. Met with West Funeral Home along with Kristie and Delores on Sunday, August 6; prayer service on Wednesday, August 9, and funeral at the church on Thursday, August 10.
- Visited with Michelle and Donna Jenner on August 29th as "prep" to their appointment at Mayo on July 31.
- Helped serve Salvation Army dinner on Sunday, July 30, from 4:30-6:15 p.m.
- Presbytery COM Conference call at 9:00 a.m. on July 31.
- Met with group to brainstorm ideas for new members/community marketing on July 31, met again on Monday, August 14.
- Attended Presbytery leadership retreat at FPC Jamestown on August 1.
- Meeting with Samilia Norman and William Wright on August 2 regarding August 12 wedding. Randy Keller, organist/pianist met with us about music. Rehearsal was Friday, August 11, at 3:00 p.m. and wedding was Saturday afternoon, August 12, at 2:00.
- Visited with LeRoy Bowman at Essentia Hospital on his birthday on August 4; and visited him again on Sunday, August 6, at Essentia; LeRoy died Saturday evening, August 12. Talked with his son, Stewart on Sunday af-
(Continued on page 5)
(Continued from page 4)
ternoon, will meet with Stewart and His sister, Susan, at West Funeral Home on Tuesday, August 15, at 1:00 p.m. Funeral will be Thursday, August 17, at 10:00 a.m. at West Funeral Home.
- Guest preacher for Touchmark at Harwood Groves on Tuesday, August 8, at 4:00 p.m.
- Conversations/visits with Michelle Jenner, Donna Jenner, and family members on August 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 when Michelle was hospitalized at Sanford. She is scheduled to go home Monday or Tuesday this week (August 14 or 15) with Home Health care. Brought communion to Michelle and family ( 7 were served communion), with Gayle Thostenson on Sunday, August 13.
- Prepared and preached at CPCWF on July 23, 30, August 6 with communion, and August 13.
- Along with Carolyn Meester, have been preparing bulletins and liturgist scripts for worship.
Clerk's report - 62 served communion on Sunday, August 6, 2017. Vickie Grossnickle passed away on Saturday, August 5, 2017. Her funeral was held at CPC on August 10, and she will be buried at Sunset Memorial. Leroy Bowman passed away on August 12, 2017. His funeral will be at CPC on August 17, and he will be buried at the Veteran's Cemetery in Mandan, ND. Per request, Ray and Bev Christopherson were removed from the rolls.
Elders to serve communion by intinction on September 3, 2017 will be Mary Jo Moorhead and Andrew Thostenson.
The financial report was discussed. The Engagement Nerds is a new group formed to find ways to greet and engage visitors and new members. They will pay close attention to visitors and follow up with them through phone calls, postcards, and visits. They are considering after school programs for area children,
ice cream socials, Rally Days, potlucks (yum)... If you are interested in joining them or have involvement ideas please contact Lise Alves, Cathie Bishop, Sue Hanna, Carrie Leopold, or Bonnie Thompson.
Christian Education Committee: Sunday school options were discussed and Sunday School will continue to be held on Sunday mornings. A shower will be held for Melissa VanCleve on Saturday, September 23, at 10:00 a.m. New recruits are needed to serve on this committee.
Personnel Committee: Applications continue to be accepted for the secretarial position.
Trustees: The painting of the fascia is done except for the top of the back peak. The window in the narthex is not dirty; the seal is broken. Estimates are being obtained for the cleaning of fellowship hall and the basement hall.
Worship Committee: A lamp for the organ was installed. Lighting above the organ has been improved. There is an on-line signup sheet for the pianist/ organists. Dawn Larson and Kevin Galt attended the music expo two weeks ago and continue to look for new music opportunities.
No Reports: Deacons, Mission, Nominating, Service and Fellowship, and Stewardship Committees.
Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Cathie at 8:35 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Becky DeJong


INTERESTED
IN A NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS?
We have been talking about a new member class this summer, and it is really going to happen this Fall! Please let Pastor Cathie know if you are interested and what time(s) during the week you are available (email: pastorcathie@cpcwf.org).
WATCH the bulletin for more details!


## SYNOD SCHOOL SETS PARTICIPATION RECORD

By Duane Sweep
Director of Communications Synod of Lakes and Prairies STORM LAKE, Iowa
The well-known midsummer ministry of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies - Synod School - drew a record 686 participants to the Buena Vista University campus here this week.
Synod School takes place every year during the last full week in July. It is the only remaining Synod School of its type within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This year Synod School took place July 23-28 with the theme, "Let Justice Flow."
With the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, stated clerk of the General Assembly of
the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), serving as convocation speaker, and Cláudio Carvalhaes, a well-known worship leader, and professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, leading evening worship, Synod School attendees had no shortage of inspirational activities.
This year's event saw first time a stated clerk of the General Assembly has served as convocation speaker. Carvalhaes was the convocation speaker several years ago.
And in addition to those leaders, Rachel Corpus, director of child and family ministries at Plymouth United Church of Christ in Des Moines, Iowa, and Erin Kaye, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Camden, Ark., led morning prayers.
Beyond the convocation speakers and worship leaders, there were more than 70 classes listed in this year's Synod School catalog. Classes ranged from the serious to the more light hearted "Praying and Living the Psalms," but also "From Gutenberg to Google" and "Sheldon Cooper and the 10 Commandments."
There's even an artist in residence. Susan Coyle, who has explored art in many expressions, uses colored pencils, paints and watercolors to explore mandalas, a spiritual symbol for a diagram that represents the cosmos.
Synod School is coordinated by a committee of nine members, and Katie Estes, co-pastor of First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul, Minn., served as dean of this year's experience. The committee is staffed by Deb De Meester, director of leadership development for the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.
For those who may be Facebook users, Synod School has one of the more unusual names for a group on the social networking site: "Synod School: 'Is this heaven? No, it's Iowa.'" The open group has more than 500 members. There also was an active Twitter hashtag at \#SynodSchool.

## 2017-2018 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Children and Youth Sunday School schedule will be coordinated, for the most part, with the West Fargo Public School schedule. So, if there is no school scheduled on a Friday or Monday, there may be no youth Sunday School scheduled for that day.
Dates CPC youth Sunday School will NOT be meeting are: September 24, October 22, November 12, and 26, December 24 and 31, January 14, February 18, March 11, April 1 and April 22. The last day of Sunday School will be May 20.


## JOIN US <br> FOR ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL!

 We will be gathering on Rally Sunday, September 10, about 8:45 a.m. in the narthex for fresh brewed Starbucks, Sandy's Donuts, and we will begin a dive into the Epistles of Peter about 9:00 a.m. until 9:45. Do not think you are not smart enough, righteous enough, old enough, or joining people who know it all. We learn from one another and especially through the Spirit. The Word is refreshing, inspiring, and profitable for all.Peter's letters to the young church helps us understand how to live in a culture that treats Christians as kooks, nuts, or worse, subversives to be persecuted. He also helps us be discerning about false prophets, fads, and how evil can easily turn us away from the Gospel. Join us this Fall, even if you cannot make it EVERY Sunday. Often you can easily pick up a tidbit to help you grow in faith.
After Rally Sunday, we will meet in the upstairs conference room about 9:00 am. There is always coffee, comradery, and God's gift of the Bible. If you have questions, you can direct them to Andrew Thostenson, 701-492-0630 or atgtet@far.midco.net.

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY RECOMMENCES

Beginning September 13, all are welcome to join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 in the
 sunny narthex as Bonnie Thompson leads us through a new Bible study series. We will be studying Heaven by Randy Alcorn.


PRESBYTERIAN SQUARES \# \# BIBLE STUDY AND POTLUCK Ladies, it's time to resume our study of the original 12 disciples. We will meet at 6:05 p.m. at the church on Wednesday, September 13. Bring an appetizer or dish to share and your own beverage. I will furnish plates and silverware. We will spend time sharing our summer fun stories and then learn more about one of the disciples. Hope to see you there! Even if you haven't come before or for awhile, there's still room for you. Address any questions to Vicki Peihl.

## LADIES CIRCLE RESUMES

Ladies, join us for Tuesday afternoon Ladies Circle. It will recommence September 12th in the church narthex. If you like, bring a sack lunch and have fellowship at 12:30 p.m. Bible study for all will begin at 1:00 p.m. The study this year is Cloud of Witnesses: the Community of Christ in Hebrews.


## THERE IS ROOM FOR YOU

There is room at the table to join the folks making cards! Our Card Group gathers on Thursdays from 1 to 4 p.m. for fellowship and an opportunity to recycle and create cards for sale at Community Presbyterian Church. Proceeds from the cards are used for various church projects from supporting children who attend Summer Bible Camp to purchasing items for the kitchen. Plus, they always seem to have sweet treats for a mid-afternoon break. Interested? Just show up on Thursdays at 1 p.m. The group will welcome you and show you how to make cards!


## YEAR-TO-DATE

 GIVING UPDATEFor 8/15/2017
General Operating budget 2017: \$151,229.52 / 52 weeks $=\$ 2,908.26$ per week.
Budgeted Exp. to date: \$ 95,972.58
Actual giving \$65,164.42
Actual expenses \$ 80,221.45
Net income to date $\$ 10,282.03-$
This does not include the mortgage payment of $\$ 3,146.54$. The balance in the building fund account is $\$ .00$. Presbyterian Women donated $\$ 1,000.00$ to make the July payment and Presbyterian Men donated $\$ 575.00$ to make the August payment. Please consider a donation to the building fund so we will have funds to make the mortgage payments and we will not need to use money from the general fund.
Per capita amount for 2017 is $\$ 44.00$ for each confirmed member. The unpaid balance at the end of the year is paid out of the church general fund. Please mark on your check or envelope per capita.
We sometimes think of stewardship as an administrative task to meet the needs of the church. In fact, it is a spiritual exercise through which each of us grows in faith by assessing the many blessings of our lives and considering our need to give as an expression of our gratitude to God.

## BRIDAL SHOWER

You are invited to a bridal shower in honor of Melissa VanCleve at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 23, in
 the church narthex.
Melissa and John Engebretson will be married in October at CPC. They are registered at Target and Bed Bath \& Beyond.
We welcome all to join us at this special event for Melissa.

## WALK TO FIGHT SUICIDE

Suicide prevention starts with YOU. Join others on Sunday, September 10th at the SHAC at NDSU (Sanford Health Ath-
 letic Complex) to walk to fight suicide and raise awareness about mental health. Be part of the movement turning hope into action, and create a culture that is smart about mental health. Funds raised at the walk will benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Registration is at 1:00-1:50 p.m.; Opening Ceremony is at 2:00 p.m.; Walk Begins at 2:30 p.m. with Closing on the Lawn at 4:00 p.m. Sign up and learn more at www.afsp.org/Fargo

## UPDATED DIRECTORY COMING SOON

A-Z A digital version CPC'S Directory of Members and Friends was sent out mid-July. A paper version is set to be made available in the Fall. Please keep the church office up-to-date with your latest home address, phone number, cell phone number, and e-mail address, so the directory is accurate and useful to all. Also, if you did not receive a copy of the digital directory and would like to, please contact Gayle Thostenson at atgtet@far.midco.net.

## DEACONS

If anyone in the congregation is hospitalized or needs a visit, contact the Deacons.
If anyone in the congregation would like home communion service please contact Lise Alves.

| Sue Larson | 701 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Deb Matzke | 701-282-9 |
| Boots Mishesk | 701-388-716 |
| Lisa Steffen | 701-282-530 |
| Caroline Talley | 701-282-3 |
| Boots Montgomery | 701-281- |
| Lise Alves, Session Liaison | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ison } \\ & 701 \end{aligned}$ |
|  | nity Call be nber 21 |

Community Presbyterian Church
702 Sheyenne St, PO Box 546
West Fargo, ND 58078

| Community Presbyterian Church Committees <br> Building \& Grounds Trustees <br> Nominating |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mary Jo Moorhead, | aison | Terry Meester, Liaison |
| Steve Hanna | Larry Peihl | Steve Hanna Dave Ruhnke |
| Marty Matzke | Dwight Steffen | Jackie Petik Jack Smith |
| Reed Montgomery | Greg Sterup | Personnel |
| Christian Education |  | Lia Dobrinz Brent Montgomery |
| Cathy Birrenkott, Lia |  | Carolyn Meester Bruce Steele |
| Lia Dobrinz | Tammy Nelson | Sanctuary |
| Melanie Hansen | LeAnn Tenderholt | Mary Bastle Marj Meester |
| Samantha Herman | Gayle Thostenson | Carol Duggan Dixie Smith |
| Deacons |  | Mitzi Hager Vicky Whitcomb |
| Lise Alves, Liaison |  | Nancy Kassman |
| Sue Larson | Boots Montgomery | Service \& Fellowship |
| Deb Matzke | Lisa Steffen | Sue Hanna, Liaison Carolyn Meester Stewardship |
| Boots Misheski | Carolyn Talley | Andrew Thostenson, Liaison |
| Mission/Outreach \& Evangelism |  | Carolyn Meester |
| Lee Dobrinz, Liaison |  | Worship |
| Kevin Galt | Dave Ruhnke | Dawn Larson, Liaison |
| Boots Misheski | Bonnie Thompson | Mary Bastle Nancy Kassman |
| Mary Jo Moorhead |  | Carrie Leopold Carol Sterup |
|  |  | Adam Montgomery |

Sunday
Worship Hours:

| 9:30 a.m. |
| :---: |
| Worship Service |

The Session of
Clerk of Session: Becky DeJong
Moderator: Rev. Catherine B. Bishop
Treasurer: Carolyn Meester
Lise Alves
Cathy Birrenkott
Lee Dobrinz
Sue Hanna
Dawn Larson
Terry Meester
Adam Montgomery
Mary Jo Moorhead
Andrew Thostenson

OUR MISSION IS TO KNOW GOD; TO BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT; TO SHARE CHRIST.

