A PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA. ORGANIZED APRIL 1, 1928

COMMUNITY CALL

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



FOCUS ON MISSION

CPC'S mission focus for August is the Emergency Food Pantry. For over 40 years, the Emergency Food

Pantry has been located in the Fargo-Moorhead community to help feed the citizens of Cass and Clay counties in times of crisis, unemployment, fire, family violence, medical problems, and other difficult situations. The Pantry provides hungry families and individuals with wholesome food to tide them over during these times of emergency.

How can we help? CPC will be collecting non-perishables during the month of August. Needed items include canned tuna, peanut butter, canned fruit, rice, pasta/noodles, toilet paper, and bar soap.

If you are a gardener, you may be able to help by sharing your vegetable harvest. Emergency Food Pantry will park in our parking lot during designated days during August. They will accept donations of surplus garden produce from you and others in the West Fargo and Fargo area so it is available to people who normally do not receive fresh produce. Look for details in upcoming announcements.

Thank you, in advance, for sharing your funds, non-perishable items, and surplus garden produce with the hungry in our community.

For more information on The Emergency Food Pantry or on how you can help, go to:

http://www.emergencyfoodpantry.com/



PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR CATHIE

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:7b)

Here we are with the August newsletter! The last time we had a newsletter it was for June and July; it was spring and now we are deep within the summer season. We appreciate the changing of the seasons, perhaps even more because we live in area of four seasons.

Paul and I had an opportunity to spend four days in Medora during July. We attended a class on "Contemplative Photography." As we were preparing for our class experience, we were given a list of books to read. The two books I read were: Spirituality in Photography: Taking Pictures with Deeper Vision by Philip J. Richter and God Is at Eye Level: Photography as a Healing Art by Jan Phillips.

I classify myself as a "wanna be" pho(Continued on page 2)

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tographer. One of the most significant things I learned was that there is more to photography than just getting our settings correct. The purpose of this particular class was to focus on the word "contemplative." My Thesaurus suggests

these words have similar meanings to contemplative: thoughtful, meditative, pensive, reflective, and musing. It can also be a form of prayer.

In our humanness, we do not always take time to be contemplative; even our prayers are often hurried. There is a quote by

Merton,

Thomas

struck me as summing up the concept of being contemplative. "Stop looking and...begin seeing! Because looking means that you already have something in mind for your eye to find: you've set out in search of your desired object and have closed off everything else presenting itself along the way. But seeing is being open and receptive to what comes to the eye."

that

Thinking about opening our eyes reminds me that during worship on July 7 we sang the hymn, "Open My Eyes, that I May See." The words reflect Merton's description of "seeing means being open and receptive." If we do not take some time to be reflective, we miss truly appreciating God's creation. When we get so caught up in being busy, it gets in the way of our communication with God.

I learned that I really can't see God's creation when I am preoccupied with my own world. Even a pastor has to learn to slow down so that we can see. One needs to be open and receptive to God so that our lives on earth reflect "seeing" rather than simply "looking" and missing the beauty and meaning of our lives.

One of the pictures I took in the Theodore Roosevelt Park was of tall grasses

overlooking a ravine. It was wonderful, and I really thought it was pretty cool. Then, as I pondered this picture, I realized there were three purple cone flowers nestled within the green grasses. Later, I discovered that there were a lot of purple cone flowers I hadn't noticed

before. The other thing I hadn't noticed was that they were all in clusters of three. AHA! I have would totally missed seeing had I not taken the time to ponder. As I pondered those clusters of three, I was reminded of God, the Son, and the Holv Spirit. What started as simply taking pictures, moved to a time of

prayer and meditation.

Think about it. How would you describe the difference between looking and seeing? Let yourself take time for contemplation, opening your eyes to truly see what God has put before you.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Cathie



2019 CPC SOFTBALL SEASON COMPLETION

Congratulations to CPC's softball team for yet another year of team play. Players faithfully played a heartfelt game weekly and were able to participate in the playoffs. Audiences enjoyed watching the games. Thanks to the team for representing CPC in a great summer pastime.

JUNE CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of Session was held on Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the

conference room. Elders present were Lise Alves, Melanie Hansen, Bob Kozojed, Adam Montgomery, Mary Jo Moorhead, and Chad Nelson. Moderator - Cathie Bishop, Clerk of Session - Becky DeJong, and Treasurer - Carolyn Meester were present. Lee Dobrinz, Laurie Elhard, and Mike Misheski were absent.

The meeting was opened with devotions by Pastor Cathie and Chad Nelson.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of the minutes of May 15, 2019
- b. Next Session meeting Wednesday, July 17, 2019
- c. Amanda and Kirby Keller would like to have their daughter, Brooklyn Jean Keller, baptized on Sunday, June 9, 2019. Brent Montgomery will be the presenting elder.
- d. Due to damage caused by a large truck, the east parking lot will need to be repaired. Hubert Oye & Sons will repair it at a cost of \$2,900.00.

e. Fall Bazaar, Saturday, September 28, with a meal served to the congregation on Sunday, September 29.

f. The Worship committee would like to have an outdoor worship service on Sunday, July 21.

Clerk's report

- i. 58 served communion on Sunday, June 9, 2019.
- ii. Brooklyn Jean Keller was baptized on Sunday, June 9, 2019. Her parents are Amanda and Kirby Keller.
- iii. Mary DeJong and Michael Hickman were married on June 8, 2019.

Elders to serve communion on Sunday, July 7, 2019, by intinction will be Bob Kozojed and Mary Jo Moorhead.

The financial report was read, discussed, and received.

Keith and Jessica Sebelius would like to

have their daughter, Maevis Sebelius, baptized on Sunday, July 21, 2019. Pastor Cathie and Mary Jo Moorhead will meet with the parents to discuss the responsibilities of baptism. Carolyn Meester will be the presenting elder.

Christian Education: Vacation Bible School will be held on July 14-16 in the evening. Please volunteer your time and talents.

Deacons: Communion and home visits are being done.

Mission Committee: CPC continues to sponsor a Kenyan student.

Personnel Committee: Mary Gross is our new church secretary. Her office hours are M-W 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Service and Fellowship Committee: A Per Capita Potluck is being planned for October.

Trustees: Eight security cameras were installed in the church. After the exterior doors are re-keyed, fobs will be issued to those needing to gain entry into the church. Bids are being obtained for the painting of the sanctuary. Chuck Thompson re-striped the parking lots. Thank you, Chuck.

No reports: Nominating, Stewardship, Worship committees.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Cathie at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Becky DeJong

JULY CLERK'S CORNER

The regular meeting of Session was held on Wednesday, July 17, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at Fargo Moorhead Community Theatre. Elders present were Lise Alves, Laurie Elhard, Melanie Hansen, Bob Kozojed, Mike Misheski, Adam Montgomery, and Mary Jo Moorhead. Moderator - Cathie Bishop, Clerk of Session - Becky DeJong, and Treasurer - Carolyn Meester were present. Lee Dobrinz and Chad Nelson were absent.

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The meeting was opened with devotions by Becky DeJong.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of the minutes of June 19, 2019
- b. Next Session meeting Wednesday, August 21, 2019
- c. A memorial service for Henry Yokom will be held at CPC on July 25, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. with bars and coffee served.
- d. Moderator's report May-June 19:
- Provided articles for the June/July newsletter.
- Thursday, May 16. Attended Presbytery Leadership meeting as a representative for the Personnel Committee.
- Friday, May 17. Met with Jenae Meske from Great Plains Food Bank regarding the summer lunch program.
- Monday, May 20. Zoom conference call with Care for Congregations Pod.
- May 21 through June 2. Travel days and attendance to Doctor of Ministry class at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. Included 2 days of leave from the pulpit (May 26 and June 2) for continuing education.
- Monday, June 3. Met with Kristi and Kevin regarding preparation for their wedding, December 27, 2019.
- Beginning Monday, June 3, Mary Gross began as our office administrator. Worked with her on getting to know Community Presbyterian Church, the preparation for bulletins and other tasks.
- Summer Food Program: Week of June 3 – Summer food program began. Personally, worked the lunch program June 3, 4, 5, & 7. Week of June 10—personally worked June 11, 12, 13, & 14. Week of June 17 personally worked June 17, 18, & 19. Meals served to children from June 3 through June 19: 306 meals plus 69 weekend backpack meals give out.
- Tuesday, June 4. Met with Kirby and Amanda Keller along with Lise Alves

- regarding baptism of Brooklyn on Sunday, June 9.
- Thursday, June 6. Met with Mary DeJong and Michael Hickman regarding wedding preparation.
- Friday, June 7. Rehearsal at CPC for DeJong/Hickman wedding.
- Saturday, June 8. Officiated at the wedding of Mary DeJong and Michael Hickman.
- Sunday, June 9. Visited Michelle Jenner at Sanford Orthopedic, South University. Michelle fell and broke her leg that morning.
- Tuesday, June 11. Provided early morning prayers before Michelle's surgery on her leg. Visited her again on Thursday, June 20.
- Wednesday, June 12. Met with Worship Committee.
- Wednesday, June 19. Attended Christian Education Committee meeting and Moderated Session.
- Worship/Sermons prepared from May 16-June 19: Sunday, May 19, June 9 with baptism and communion, and June 16.

June – July 17:

- Thursday, June 20, 2019. Led worship/Communion for Park View in Moorhead.
- Tuesday, June 25, 2019. Met with DMin Committee regarding time at UDTS and discussed thesis options.
- Wednesday, June 26, 2019. Participated in monthly Care for Congregations Pod Zoom meeting.
- Thursday, June 27, 2019. Met with Deacons.
- Saturday, June 29, 2019. Hosted, along with Andrew Thostenson, the Generosity Group at CPCWF.
- Summer Food Program. Continue to coordinate volunteers and serve as liaison with Great Plains Food Pantry regarding count of meals served and supplies needed. I personally served lunch 5 times during this time period.
- Friday, July 5, 2019. Met with Craig Olson of West Funeral Home regarding ideas for DMin Thesis.

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- Sunday, July 7 visited Michelle Jenner at Rosewood.
- Took 4 days of vacation from July 9 through July 12 to attend "Contemplative Photography" workshop in Medora.
- Saturday, July 13, 2019. Visited Michelle Jenner at Sanford.
- Sunday, July 14, and Tuesday, July 16, assisted with VBS.
- Monday, July 15, 2019. Met with Session of Mendenhall at East Grand Forks.
- Wednesday, July 17, 2019, will moderate Session.
- During this period, prepared 4 worship services, including preaching: June 23 & 39; July 7 with communion, and July 14.
- d. Clerk's report -
- i. 56 served communion on Sunday, July 7, 2019.ii. Henry Yokom died in Colorado on
- ii. Henry Yokom died in Colorado on July 9, 2019. His memorial service will be July 25, 2019 at CPC.

Elders to serve communion on Sunday, August 4, 2019, will be Adam Montgomery, Dixon Moorhead, Mary Jo Moorhead, and one more to be determined.

The financial report was read, discussed, and received.

Alex Misheski would like to use the CPC Facebook page to create awareness of the community garden and promote volunteerism. The Misheski family will monitor the Facebook site. Check it out and like it!

Christian Education Committee: Vacation Bible School was be held on July 14 through 16 in the evening. 17 kids and all adults enjoyed their time spent together learning about God.

Deacons: Emergency hospital care packages are being assembled.

Mission Committee: Collected clothes and money will be delivered to the Bdecean Church. The Emergency Food Pantry will be the mission focus for July and August.

Stewardship Committee: A Generosity meeting was held at CPC. This ongoing group discusses and shares different ways of congregational giving.

Trustees: Large trucks driving through our front parking lot is a problem. Discussion was held on ways to prevent this from continuing. Damaged tree limbs will be removed. The doorbells will be labeled. The sanctuary walls will be cleaned and re-painted. Consider donating to this project.

Worship Committee: The pew register books will be removed and replaced with a guest book in the narthex. The outdoor worship service will be held on Sunday, July 21, with a picnic potluck to follow.

No reports: Nominating, Personnel, Service and Fellowship committees.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Cathie at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Becky DeJong

LINDA BASS FROM RRYFC MOVES ON



Our church has listened to Linda Bass talk about her job working with Teen Moms (now Parent Life) times. Linda has appreciated all our church does for her program. Now after 25 years of ministry, Linda has moved to Oregon to be closer to her daughter Jessica, her family, and of course, the grandkids. Red River Youth for Christ is excited for this new chapter for her, but it is also left with a big hole. Please keep RRYFC in your prayers as it works to best fill the available Parent Life position. It will require a special person who feels called to what God is doing in YFC, and it requires the generous giving of God's people. Also, keep Linda and her family in your prayers as she looks for a new position in Oregon.

AUGUST DATES TO REMEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- 8-1 Gayle Thostenson
- 8-7 Brandon Witt
- 8-8 McKenna Ohm
- 8-9 Donna Jenner
- 8-11 David Hemm
- 8-14 Chuck Thompson
- 8-15 Carol Sterup
- 8-18 Dixie Smith
- 8-27 Phyllis Hofsommer Colton Misheski
- 8-28 Stephani Krueger
- 8-30 Erica Truhlicka
- 8-31 Nancy Kassman Lisa Steffen

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8-9-14 Brandon and Kayla Hauge
- 8-18-73 Bob and Susan Gross
- 8-18-90 Steve and Sue Hanna
- 8-20-66 Rae and Edsel Kercher
- 8-31-96 Brian and Laurie Elhard

PRESBYTERIAN SQUARES BIBLE STUDY

Thankfully, we are finally getting some real summer weather. Due to the late start

with summer, there is hope that our fall will also be delayed. This fall, we will not start our Presbyterian Squares Bible study until October 2. We will not meet in September to let everyone get settled back into their fall schedule and to enjoy every bit of the sunshine we can! Watch the next newsletter and the announcements for more details on our women's Bible study!

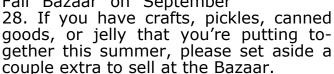
LADIES CIRCLE RESUMES EARLY

Ladies, join us for Tuesday Afternoon Ladies Circle. It will recommence August 13th in the church narthex. If you like, bring a sack lunch and have fellowship at 12:30 p.m. Otherwise, come ready to begin Bible study at 1:00 p.m. Coffee and treats will be shared later.

The study this year is Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments by Eugenia Ann Gamble.

CAUTION: GOOD FOOD & CRAFTS AHEAD!

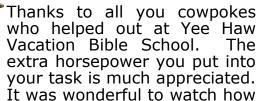
The Presbyterian Women would like your help in preparation for its annual Fall Bazaar on September



Questions? Contact Nancy Kassman, Gloria Ruhnke, Mary Jo Moorhead, Carolyn Meester, Rae Kercher, Mary Bastle, or Sue Hanna.

Thank you in advance for your help!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



God provided the people and resources we needed to make this a special, enjoyable, learning experience for all involved. God truly gives good gifts. Yee Haw! (That's western speak for "Praise God!")

TIME TO DONATE BLOOD

Monday, September 30, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CPC will be sponsoring a Blood Drive. Blood Drive manager Vitalant requires that we sign up in advance to predict the event's feasibility. So, please sign up in in the narthex to ensure that we all can give and that you can save your spot.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

With the return of autumn comes the beginning of Sunday School for ages 3 and beyond. Rally Day is Sunday, September 8.

We have been blessed with many volunteers who share the duties of teaching classes. A specific need this year is for a high school teacher. Please See Melanie Hansen if you are able to help.

A. no. th

As taken from the July newsletter of Presbytery of the Northern Plains written by it's Executive Leader, Rev. Marjy Ackerman

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

If you saw the last newsletter, you may have noticed

that by the time there was one article for each of my five focus areas (relationships, finances, training, spirituality, preparation), the newsletter itself was pretty long. Since I didn't get much response from the last few articles, I came to the conclusion that few people made it to the very end.

So - the next idea is rotate through the five areas one article at a time and see how that goes instead. This is the first attempt at that with an article about my relationship with the PC(USA) and how it all began. I hope you enjoy it.

When I was first asked to serve as an elder in the Presbyterian Church, I had no idea what I was getting into. I had served as the church secretary for a couple of years and had been a very active Christian Ed volunteer for a few years after that, but had only 'officially' joined the church a few months before.

One of the session members had resigned and I was asked to step in to fill the rest of his term. That was it - there was no further explanation. I was then asked if I'd be at church the following Sunday.

I had never seen an officer installation service before - and I had absolutely no idea what was happening when the pastor called me up in front of the entire congregation and started asking me a bunch of questions. The 'laying on of hands' - what was that!? A bunch of people I barely knew suddenly putting their sweaty hands across my shoulders - what was that all about? When it was finally over, I went back to my seat and the little old man in the pew behind me said, "Congratulations - that's a pretty big deal." I had no idea that I'd just

been ordained.

Immediately after the service, I followed the pastor into his office and demanded, "What did I just agree to?" He laughed, shook his head, handed me a book of order and said, "Relax - it's all in here." End of conversation.

Of course, he didn't bother to tell me where I would find the questions I'd just agreed to - he just expected me to read the book and figure it out for myself. After a lot of skimming and jumping around, I did eventually find what I was looking for: the constitutional ques-At the time, a few stood out above all the others. First, there were the ones about being guided by the Since I had no book of confessions. idea what they were or what they said, I figured I should probably take a class on that if I could find one. Second, there was a question about following the church's polity. I figured it would be good to find out what 'polity' is, since I'd never heard that word before but had already agreed to follow it.

After more skimming and more jumping around, I found a section that talked about the responsibilities of elders - and how they could be called on to preach. Surprise - I should probably learn how to do that too. Elders are expected to do visits? No one told me that either. I've never done that before - what's that all about?

Finally, I found a section that talked about something called a commissioned lay pastor - and it listed all of the classes that were required in order to be one. There was a class on the book of order, another on the book of confessions - iackpot! I could finally learn whatever it was I needed to know in order to serve as an elder. There was one on preaching, one for pastoral care those would be helpful too, since apparently that's what elders are supposed to be ready to do. There was one on Christian Ed, the old testament, the new testament, worship and sacraments -

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those would certainly help with the work I'd been doing with CE for the past several years, so I decided to take those too. By the time I'd gotten through all the classes that explained what I was already doing, I'd nearly completed all of the requirements for the program. Since it seemed pretty stupid to be that far into the program and not finish it, I finally contacted CPM, explained the situation, and asked what else I had to do to become a commissioned lay pastor. I think they were just as surprised as I was.

The whole time I was taking those classes, I just thought, "This is what people do if they want to be a good elder." I had no idea what I'd stepped into. When it came time to be commissioned, people started asking me what I'd like to focus on in my new ministry, which I thought was an odd question. In my mind, my 'new ministry' was simply being an elder.

At the time, I was also leading a number of small groups and adult bible studies. The only thing I really wanted to do was to wrap up each of those studies with a communion service. I had no idea that being a commissioned lay pascould lead to so much more. I've since come to the conclusion that God must really love clueless peo-Even in our complete ignorance, ple. God calls us and leads us in ways we Simply going could never imagine. through seemingly 'normal' activities, God can use those experiences for purbeyond our understanding. poses May we always be open to the adventure that God has placed before us. - Marji

CALLING ALL LITURGISTS & MUSICIANS

Having another voice read the liturgy or share music enhances everyone's worship experience. Please prayerfully consider assisting in worship as liturgist or musician.

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOMES MARY JEAN GROSS

In June, CPC hired Mary Jean Gross as its office

administrator. Please take a moment to read Mary's introduction and stop to meet her any Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday to bid her welcome.

I'm happy to introduce myself as the Community Presbyterian Church's new office personnel. My name is Mary Jean (Boese) Gross. I grew up on a farm in the Elizabeth/Fergus Falls area with my parents and three older brothers. I have had a long career in the office and bookkeeping fields at a variety of businesses including Gross Disposal Service, Otter Tail Co., OT nursing & group homes, OTVR railroad and Lake Region Arts Council. As volunteer treasurer at the Faith Lutheran Church and Lakes Area Community Center, I set up computer accounting software.

After downsizing from a three-story, 125 -year-old home on a twenty acre hobby farm in Otter Tail County, my husband and I moved to the South Shore Landing Apartments in Moorhead, where our 18-year-old granddaughter, Alexandra, and a feisty cat, named Luna, live with us. It has been an exciting experience to go from always living on the lake or in the country to now being a city dweller.

My greatest joy in life is spending time with our daughter, Tina, son-in-law Juan, son Clint, and his daughter Alexandra.

I also enjoy keeping in touch with extended family and friends via social media, reading, belonging to a book group, walking in the beautiful park by our apartment building, going to museums, visiting state parks, and attending music performances and other art events.

YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING UPDATE

6-30-2019

General Operating budget

2019: \$149,928.50

Weekly funds needed to meet

budget: \$2,883.24

Actual giving to date \$ 59,403.40 Actual expenses to date \$ 66,998.82 Net income to date \$ -7,595.42

This does not include the mortgage payment of \$3,146.54. There are funds in the building fund account to cover the mortgage payment through December.

Per Capita amount for 2019 is \$46.00 for each confirmed member. The assessed amount for 2019 is \$8,326.00. So far \$2,469.00 has been designated to our per capita assessment. Please mark on your check or envelope funds you are contributing to Per Capita.

God wants us; He wants the givers, not just the gifts from the givers. He doesn't need our gifts, but we have a need to give. God wants us to honor Him through our faithful and generous giving. When we make giving a priority week after week, He is honored.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM 2019

On June 3, we began our second year of serving lunch to children at the playground

across the street from South Elementary School.

Our hours of serving are slightly different from last year. We serve from 12:10 p.m. to 12:40 p.m. Adding time to set up and clean-up, two persons will be needed from about 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Our last day for serving is Friday, August 16.

Thanks to all who have kept this project running. New folks are always welcome to help. To help, please sign up on the narthex bulletin board.

BUILDING PAINTING PLANNED

The Worship Committee and Trustees are excited

to let you know that Session has approved the painting of the sanctuary. Due to the height of the walls and issues with soot, a professional painter will be hired to complete this project. The walls will be cleaned, primed, and painted within the next couple of months. The cost to have this done is \$3,900.

A special fund will be set up for individuals who would like to make a donation towards the cost of this project. To make a donation, please make out your checks to Community Presbyterian Church or fill out a pew envelope clearly indicating it is for "Painting."

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Bob Kozojed, Trustee Liaison, or Laurie Elhard, Worship Committee Liaison.

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.

Linda Bishop	[H] 701-282-8515
Boots Montgomery	[C] 701-200-1818 701-281-0028
Dixon Moorhead	[H] 701-277-1414
Gayle Thostenson	[C] 701-200-9709 [H] 701-492-0630
Vicky Whitcomb	[H] 701-282-9292
	[C] 701-809-2483

Lise Alves, Session Liaison

701-412-8689

September's Community Call deadline will be Thursday, August 22