

# Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

January 2011

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please hold in your prayers the members of the Chogoria team who will be traveling to Kenya. And pray for the partnership that the training and the planning will, in all ways, glorify God and build up God's kingdom on earth.

Please pray for our congregations in transformation and congregations that are in need of healing.

Elaine Hazard, mother of Brian Hazard, pastor at Sibley Trails Parish (Buffalo/Tower City), passed away after a brief battle with acute leukemia. Please keep Brian and his whole family in your prayers.

Please hold Deb Burger, Pastor at United Parish in Bottineau, in your prayers. Deb will be having surgery in January to remove two benign tumors.

Please hold Hilda Garcia, Elder at Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Tokio, in your prayers. Hilda had heart valve replacement surgery on Dec 16, 2010.

## CALL FOR THE FEBRUARY PRESBYTERY MEETING

By: the Rev. Mary Holtey (Fargo), Moderator of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains



The one-hundred-first meeting of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains will be held on Friday and Saturday, February 4 and 5, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Mendenhall Presbyterian Church in East Grand Forks.

We welcome Joan Gray, Moderator of the 217<sup>th</sup> General

Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and author of *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers*. She will be preaching twice at presbytery and leading a workshop. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to come together and learn from one of our denomination's great spiritual leaders. For more information about Joan's upcoming events, go to [www.northernplainspresbytery.com](http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com).

In addition we will begin the voting process on the proposed constitutional amendments. There are three amendments (the new Form of Government, the Belhar Confession and ordination standards) that have become the ones getting the most attention and controversy. We will be spending time in the meeting learning about these amendments. These three will be voted on at a special presbytery meeting on Saturday, March 19 at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. Ideally, we encourage you to send the same elder commissioners to both of these meetings, so they may carry out the voting process from beginning to end.

At the Friday evening worship service, we will remember and recall with thanksgiving and love those who have died this past year. The necrology report has been mailed out to each congregation last week and should be returned to the Presbytery office no later than January 24<sup>th</sup> for names to be included during this service. During the Committee on Ministry report, we will be commissioning Nancy Legerski as a Commissioned Lay Pastor to service three Bismarck nursing homes as a Chaplain.

Our winter meeting will conclude with the installation of new officers as we say, "Thank you" to those whose terms are now complete.

Presbytery meeting materials will be posted and available on the Presbytery website at [www.northernplainspresbytery.com](http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com) by noon on Friday, January 21, 2011, for congregations/individuals to download. For congregations that do not have internet access, packets can be mailed out to them. **If your congregation needs a packet, you must contact the Presbytery office by 9:00 a.m. on January 28, 2011 to ensure you receive the packet in time.**

Child Care will be provided for preschool children of minister members or elder commissioners, at no cost to users. Attendees who need child care must contact the Presbytery office no later than January 21, 2011 if they wish to use this service.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or toll free at 1-800-243-3532, or by email at [pnpoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pnpoffice@gmail.com).



## TRIP TO KENYA SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS MONTH

By: Sharon Secor, Co-Leader of the Chogoria Partnership Ministry Team

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Rev. Matt Stith, Dixon Moorhead and Sharon Secor will depart for Kenya where they will spend ten days with our Chogoria Presbyteries partners. They will be involved in leadership training events. This will include a three-day retreat for pastors lead by Matt, Dixon and PC(USA) Mission person in Kenya, the Rev. Brenda Harcourt.

There will also be a day of elder training at each of the three presbyteries, and Sharon will join the others in leading those three workshops. The topics will include expectations of elders by the church, effective District meetings, caring for the flock after they make a commitment to the church, and understanding and utilizing the gifts of the individuals in the district.

Sharon will also travel to Tharaka to meet with the community leaders and agriculturalist. They will continue discussing and planning the water and crop development projects being undertaken by the four Presbyteries.

You may send greetings to your sister congregations by emailing them to Sharon Secor at [sjssecor1@aol.com](mailto:sjssecor1@aol.com). She will print them and put them in an envelope and deliver them for you. These greetings bring great encouragement to our partners, so please consider writing them. The email needs to be received by Sharon on or before January 17<sup>th</sup>. If you attach photos, she will print them and deliver them also.

Please keep this group in your prayers as they travel. And pray for the partnership that the training and the planning will, in all ways, glorify God and build up God's kingdom on earth.

## PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN PLAINS/SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

By: Diane Wray Williams, Moderator of the Presbytery's Self-Development of People



During the year 2010 the Self-Development of People committee was pleased to host Dianne Kareha, a representative from the national SDOP group, to bring us up to date and to fulfill our training requirement. The training was held at the Moorhead church with 9 present, including 2 new members of the committee.

Two grants were awarded this year:

\$2,000 to the Kurdish Youth of America and

\$1,246 to the IMP Entrepreneurial Training.

The KYA (Kurdish Youth of America) is a non-profit organization serving our Kurdish community as a resource center providing assistance in the following areas: permit and driver's license, legal status, American Dream Project, higher education, Project Pay, community organizing, business training and the KYA Center.

People of the local Kurdish community are in the underserved category, many facing poverty. "We need resources to seek opportunities that will significantly change our lives. The KYA was established to assure members the availability of resources which exist in the larger community but are leaving out parts of the population who are hampered by lack of adequate language skills, access to transportation, and cultural barriers. By working with individuals in our community we can help them address the issues of low paying jobs, credit problems, lack of business knowledge, and other needs of the Kurdish community."

The Immigrant Development Center is in the midst of developing The International Market Plaza. Crucial to this project is preparing individuals to run their own business, thus Entrepreneurial Training.

The goal is to prepare low income new immigrants to run their own business and raise their standard of living to be self-sufficient. The training will equip individuals to become a "tenant" in the Market Plaza.

Our committee also applied for, and received, \$360 for our expenses for the year.

### SDOP's Mission

Self-Development of People is a ministry that affirms God's concern for humankind. We are Presbyterians and ecumenical partners, dissatisfied with poverty and oppression, united in faith and action through sharing, confronting and enabling. We participate in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people who are seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression and injustice.

## FAR MORE THAN WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE: CONVERSATIONS WITH JOAN GRAY ON SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

The Presbytery will be holding a four-day event featuring the Reverend Joan Gray. Joan was the moderator of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2008) and during her term made a stop in our presbytery. We are delighted that she is able to be with us at the February Presbytery meeting at Mendenhall Presbyterian Church in East Grand Forks. **All events are free and open to the public.**

Here is a list of the events scheduled:

### **Authorizing and Empowering Spiritual Leaders in the Church**

February 3, 2011, 7 p.m. at Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo. Unable to attend in person, join us online at:

<http://media10.cqservers.com/cpcwf-live>

Presbyterian polity is structured so that elders have an essential part to play in the mission and health of any congregation. For this reason no Presbyterian church will ever rise above the level of spiritual leadership of its elders. This training will explore the important facets of spiritual leadership and how elders and pastors can function together as a team of spiritual leaders.

### **Friday Evening Worship at Presbytery**

February 4, 2011, 7 p.m. at Mendenhall Presbyterian Church of East Grand Forks

One of the reasons churches are languishing is that we really don't expect much of God. Eugene Petersen coined the phrase "functional atheist" to describe a person who confesses orthodox doctrine but whose daily life shows little or no sign of the active presence of a living God. The sermon will explore two stories of God's people under threat and listen for how God may speak direction and give power to us in our own challenges.

### **Saturday Morning Worship and Education at Presbytery**

February 5, 2011, 9 a.m. at Mendenhall Presbyterian Church of East Grand Forks

The sermon will explore how we can be more the vital church Christ intended us to be. After worship Joan will lead a time of education and conversation focusing on moving from practicing "do-it-yourself religion" to truly being God-powered Christians in a God-directed church.

### **Sunday Morning Education & Worship at Mendenhall Church**

February 6, 2011, 9:30 a.m. Adult Ed; 10:30 a.m. Worship, Mendenhall Presbyterian Church of East Grand Forks

During the church school hour, Joan will speak and answer questions on the topic "Why church as we know it today will not exist fifty years from now." The topic of her sermon will be "Evangelism for Presbyterians."

Joan S. Gray was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 1978. Since then she has served eight congregations in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. She is the co-author of *Presbyterian Polity for Church Officers*, and the author of *Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers* both published by Geneva Press. Joan grew up in South Carolina, as did her husband, Bill Gray. Bill is a Presbyterian elder and works in Atlanta as an attorney.

For additional information, please go to the Presbytery website, [www.northernplainspresbytery.com](http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com) to download a brochure or contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 to have a copy mailed.

**All events are free and open to the public.**

## RESOURCES

### **99 Ways To Raise Spiritually Healthy Children (Book)**

By: Bostrom, Kathleen

*99 Things . . .* offers fun, practical, and thought-provoking ideas for nurturing the spiritual lives of children, parents, and families. Each of the 99 entries includes a Scripture passage, a theoretical or practical suggestion for weaving together faith and daily life, and a provocative challenge that encourages readers to spend some time contemplating the lessons. Bostrom, author of the popular *99 Things to Do Between Here and Heaven*, offers fun and practical advice for nurturing the spiritual lives of our children and families. Each of the 99 ways includes a Scripture passage, suggestions for family activities and interaction, interesting facts and quotes, and practical steps for adapting the suggestions for a broad range of family situations.

### **Book of Faith Lenten Journey: Seven Wonders of the Word (Book)**

By: Kleinhans, Kathryn A.

Explore how God's Word creates, calls, commands, saves, sustains, shapes, and sends you and the church. Take this journey on your own or invite a friend or small group to join you. You can also use the weekly worship helps to share the journey with your congregation.

### **Numbers and Deuteronomy for Everyone (Book)**

By: Goldingay, John

The fourth volume in the Old Testament for Everyone series, this book focuses on the biblical books of Numbers and Deuteronomy. With the publication of this volume, the Pentateuch is complete.

To borrow this or a different resource, contact the **Resource Center for Churches** at (888) 293-9901 (toll free) or [info@resourcesforthejourney.org](mailto:info@resourcesforthejourney.org).

The staff will gladly reserve one of these or another resource for you. The center has books, DVDs, reference works, choir anthems, and even a labyrinth available for loan. For a complete listing of resources, go to:

<http://resourcesforthejourney.org/>

## BDECAN TEAM UPDATE

By: the Rev. Paul Henschen (Ellendale) - Communicator Bdecan Ministry Team



The Bdecan Ministry Team met at Ft. Totten with the Tribal Council of the Spirit Lake Nation on October 28, 2010. The Tribal Council shared some of the struggles of the reservation, the foremost being issues resulting from the flood waters at Spirit Lake. Over two hundred homes now have serious

mold problems and FEMA is currently assessing how many other homes need help. School children have been getting sick and missing school because of the mold. This exacerbates a tendency of children to miss school. There is a shortage of housing to begin with, and this makes matters much worse. Also, because of the flooding, children have to spend more time on buses going around the flooded areas and so they have no free time. Because of the stress of the flooding on residents and support personnel, the number of mental health cases has risen, but there are not enough counselors. The holidays are particularly difficult for youth. Other continuing issues on the reservation are unemployment and affordable daycare.

On a more positive note, Prayer or Talking Circles are being held one night a week to provide support for people on the reservation. The food pantry and clothes closet are being used heavily. The food pantry tends to run out before the end of the month. Walkers and wheelchairs are greatly needed. The UMC is moving the food pantry to their mission site so that in the future only the clothes closet will be at the Bdecan Church.

The Bdecan Ministry Team decided its future goals would be to:

1. Continue to develop good relations and trust with the Bdecan congregation and Spirit Lake people.
2. Help with the coordination of mission work groups through Pastor Kauffman.
3. Support children's needs by possibly supporting the funding for a Youth Director, and finding ways to provide adult mentoring.

The team decided to meet next at Spirit Lake Nation in the spring, 2011, the day and time to be announced.

## 2011 IRS MILEAGE RATES

"IRS released . . . the standard mileage rates for use in 2011 (Notice 2010-88). The optional standard mileage rates can be used by taxpayers to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile.

For business use of an automobile after Dec 31, 2010, the rate is 51 cents a mile; for medical or moving expenses, 19 cents a mile; and for service to charitable organizations, 14 cents a mile. For tax year 2010, the rates were 50 cents, 16.5 cents and 14 cents, respectively."

## NEW OFFICE HOURS

The Presbytery office will be open Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 2:50 p.m. If you call and no one is available, please leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. However, please remember that due to meeting schedules and office projects, staff are sometime unavailable during office hours. So please call before stopping by to make sure someone will be at the office.

If you have any concerns about this change, please contact the Rev. Donna Monteith, Personnel Chair, at 701-484-5515 or email her at [grpresby1@midconetwork.com](mailto:grpresby1@midconetwork.com)

## Presbytery's Calendar

Jan 10	Budget & Finance Mtg
Jan 10	Staff Mtg by VCS
Jan 14&15	Committee on Ministry Mtg
Jan 21 & 22	Seminary on the Prairie at Red Willow Bible Camp
Jan 24	Necrology Report Due
Jan 28	Personnel Mtg
Jan 30	Elaine Bidgood Sweet installation service
Jan 30	Hope Korean Lay Pastor Recognition
Feb 3-6	Joan Gray Event (see page 3)
Feb 4&5	Winter Presbytery Mtg at Mendenhall Presbyterian Church of EGF
Feb 5	Staff Mtg by VCS
Feb 10	Council CC
Feb 24	Council Mtg
Mar 19	Special Presbytery Mtg at First Presbyterian Church of Fargo
April 3 & 4	CLP/Clergy Retreat with Donald McKim
June 20	Presbytery Mtg at First Presbyterian Church of Mandan

CC = Conference Call

VCS = Video Conferencing Sites

PNP vision statement:

**"A vibrant, informed, Presbyterian community which nourishes ministry and joins in Christ's mission."**

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Copy deadline for the Light is the twenty-fifth of the month. Items may be sent to:

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