

Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

August 2011

PRAYER CONCERNS/JOYS

Please pray for those displaced by the floods, those who lost loved ones, and those who will work to offer spiritual and emotional care or help with recovery efforts when the waters recede.

Regions throughout the United States continue to be buffeted by a series of storms, tornadoes, floods and wildfires that have caused loss of life and severe damage to homes and property. Please pray that people affected by these events know God is with them.

Please hold our Chogoria partners in your prayers.

MINOT AREA RECOVERY COORDINATION CENTER & ALL HANDS VOLUNTEERS

By: *The Rev. Nancy Emerson, Co-Chair of the Flood Task Force*

The time has come to invite volunteers to help the greater Minot area in its recovery efforts. The city of Minot has founded the Minot Area Recovery Coordination Center to facilitate the volunteer response in the recovery effort. The international relief group All Hands Volunteers has been contracted by the city to coordinate this effort. For more information about All Hands Volunteers see their website at www.hands.org. Volunteer groups can register online by going to www.minotnd.org and clicking on the left icon of the helping hands. This will take the reader to a page about the Minot area recovery.

The greatest obstacle to volunteering is the lack of temporary housing and portable showers. All Hands Volunteers does have an ability to house 40-60 volunteers. Groups staying with them do not have to pay anything for accommodations or meals. However, groups need to register now to ensure availability. Once you register your availability to work through www.minotnd.org or by calling the number above, your group will need to request housing. Send a separate email to Katherine Clements at projectminot@hands.org to inquire about accommodations. All Hands Volunteers has committed to the clean-up effort until the onset of winter. In their eyes that means the end of September.

Nancy Emerson of the Presbytery's Flood Relief Task Force has done some of the groundwork for local Presbyterians seeking to donate a single day of service. Groups within the Presbytery of Northern Plains who have the means to drive in for a day of volunteering should call Jen Ballard at 1-701-347-1727. When prompted, ask for Jen. Be sure to tell Jen that you are with the Presbyterian Church and be ready to provide the day of your service and the number of volunteers (including the number of youth between the ages of 13-17). Below is a suggestion of things to bring to ensure proper attire and tools that will be needed on the job site.

Safety:

- Safety Goggles
- Work Gloves
- N95 Mask
- Work Boots
- Long Pants and T-shirts (willing to throw away)*
*The Minot church has tyvek suits and masks that have been provided by PDA
- A current tetanus vaccination is required of every on-site volunteer

Suggested Tools:

All Hands Volunteers has a limited tool bank available for volunteers and would appreciate it if you are able to bring any of the following

- Sledge Hammer
- Pry Bar
- Grizzly Bar
- Flat End Shovel
- Utility Knife
- Hammer
- Floor Chisel

Hydration and Meals

- Water or Gatorade
- Packed lunch



Upon arriving in Minot, groups will first register at the Minot Municipal Auditorium at 420 3rd Ave SW. Work assignments will be made at that time. Large groups should expect to be divided into smaller work teams serving separate locations. There must be at least one adult for each five youth under the age of 18. The minimum age to volunteer is 13.

Worried that the amount of time it takes to travel to Minot will outweigh the benefit of the volunteer hours? Not a chance. Even if you put in two hours of travel for every hour of on-site volunteer work, that is still one hour of labor that is desperately needed. PDA's motto is "Out of Chaos, Hope." Every volunteer breaches chaos with hope no matter how long it takes us to get there.



MINOT CHURCH TO HOST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By: *The Rev. Nancy Emerson, Co-Chair of the Flood Task Force*

There has been significant coverage regarding residential damage caused by the Souris River flood. Additionally two schools suffered catastrophic damage in the neighborhood near First Presbyterian of Minot. One is Lincoln Elementary and the other is Ramstad Middle School. In the days following the flood, the city approached First Presbyterian and an agreement was approved for the church to host Lincoln Elementary for the coming school year. The school will utilize seven classrooms, a room for an office, the kitchen, gym and stage area and utilize the youth room as a teachers' lounge during the week. Lincoln Elementary expects approximately 150 students and 28 staff to begin in the Fall. Cleaning and modifications are well underway. For children already displaced from their homes, a change in schools can add significantly to their stress. We applaud the Minot church for its service to the community and the stable facility they are providing to the children, staff and teachers of Lincoln Elementary.

SUMMER PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By: *Elder Michael Lochow, Presbytery Stated Clerk*

The 102nd meeting of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains was held on June 20 and was hosted by Westminster Presbyterian Church of Casselton, North Dakota.

The highlight of the meeting was the examination for ordination of Brenna Lea Nickel. Brenna has received a call to the St. Paul's International Pastoral Charge of Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada. This includes the First Presbyterian Church of Portal, North Dakota. Brenna was approved by the Presbytery for ordination and installation. She will be ordained by Newton Presbytery, her presbytery of care, and later installed to begin her ministry.



The Rev. Brenna Lea Nickel with Presbytery Moderator, Elder Lorelee Rude



The Rev. Emery Roy celebrated his 60th anniversary of his ordination.

The Rev. Emery Roy was recognized on the 60th anniversary of his ordination. Cake and, of course, coffee were served during the break as a celebration.

The Committee on Ministry reported on a number of other items:

- Rev. Sam Hobson has been called as interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church - Fargo
- Rev. Steve Shive has been dismissed to the Presbytery of Wyoming where he is serving as interim executive
- Approved the transfer of membership of Rev. David Reiter, interim at Jamestown, to Northern Plains
- Approved the call of Rev. Adam Copeland to work with the ELCA to become Mission Developer for Project FM.
- Commissioned the following CLPs for a three-year period: Tom Potter (Red Lake Falls), Lorelee Rude (Baker-Downer), Don Casmey (Argyle) and Rick Larson (Dilworth).
- Moderatorial appointments of Keri Shelton (Hallock, MN) and Darrel Cory (Watford City)
- Commissioned Barb Ault to various duties at Walhalla, Langdon and Hallock.
- A first year call was extended by Tri County Parish to an ELCA candidate to serve as associate pastor with Rev. Jessica Merchant, with installation on July 10.
- Approved the contracting of Rev. Darrel Cory for interim ministry with the ELCA in Edinburg, ND.
- Annual reviews were completed for CLPs: Cathy Bliss, Don Casmey, Casey Chapman, Mark Frueh, Kevin Kaufmann, Donna Marsland, Tom Potter, Lorelee Rude and Marv Wierenga.

The Presbyterians for Earth Care presented a video. The question was asked "How does your faith influence your environmental practice?" Churches were challenged to look for ways to be more environmentally aware.

Presbytery Council presented a position description for a Transitional Executive Presbyter. The application process will remain open until the position is filled.

The stated clerk reported on the conclusion of the judicial matter that was referred to the Presbytery in February of 2010. The investigating committee was dismissed with the thanks of the Presbytery for their work on this matter. He also reported the case involving the Rev. Steve Minnema and the Presbytery had been concluded by agreement of the parties.

The stated clerk met with a number of clerks of session over the lunch hour where questions about how the passage of nFOG with effect their work and other procedural questions.

The Presbytery received a report from the Flood Task Force. Their focus will be on Devils Lake and the western part of the Presbytery in Minot and Bismarck/Mandan.

The next meeting of the Presbytery will be Saturday, September 24, 2011, at First Presbyterian Church, Mandan, ND.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM) ACTIONS

By: Elder Dale Shook, Chair of the Committee on Ministry

Four types of mailings from the presbytery office and COM are occurring. Copies of all are available upon request as well through the presbytery office. COM appreciates Laurie's support of the committee through the presbytery office in keeping track of information as well as keeping lines of communication open for the presbytery.

1. Pulpit Supply List – it has been updated, last minute changes are being made, and it will be sent to all sessions.
2. Salary Reporting Forms – all pastors please complete these forms and return them to the presbytery office so information can be compiled for reporting at the September presbytery meeting. If you have misplaced the forms, please request another because we do need the information as soon as possible.
3. Continuing Education Forms – all pastors please complete these forms as well and return them to the presbytery office so the information can be compiled for reporting at the September presbytery meeting.
4. Minimum Compensation – new calculations for 2012 have occurred, based upon the presbytery policy and median salary level published from the Board of Pensions. Information has been sent to all sessions and pastors.

Pastor Nominating Committees remain active in Moorhead, Jamestown, Hallock, and Watford City. All are progressing in their searches with our hopes and prayers for successful conclusions.

COM has been in contact with others about transitioning under the new form of government and appreciates Council's approach of using the former form of government as a guideline at this point except where the new form of government is specific.

COM joins with many others in prayerful and active responses to the devastating flood concerns and we are so appreciative of the major response you all providing now and into the future.

As always, COM thanks you for your friendship and support. If there are any questions, please ask; if there are ways COM can help you, please let us know.

SAVE MONEY BY ORDERING 2012 MYB & 2011-2013 BOOK OF ORDER

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains will be bulk ordering both the 2012 Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study (\$11.50 per copy) and the 2011-2013 Book of Order (\$8.80 per copy). By ordering in bulk the Presbytery receives a discount which then can be passed on to you. In addition, the office still has copies of the Presbyterian Planning Calendar available for purchase (\$9.35 per copy).

The Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study inspires thousands of Presbyterians daily as they uphold the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in intercessory prayer. This everyday practice helps encourage new relationships and enhances those already established between presbyteries and partners overseas. Synod and presbytery maps and mission-partner maps show mission locations around the world.

If you are interested in ordering any of these resources, send a check to: Presbytery of the Northern Plains, 5555 South Washington Street Suite A, Grand

Forks, ND 58201. The office must receive orders for the Mission Book by August 15, 2011 to be included in the bulk order.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Church: _____

Mission Yearbooks _____ X \$ 11.50 = _____

Book or Orders _____ X \$ 8.80 = _____

Calendars _____ X \$ 9.35 = _____

Mail orders to:

**Presbytery of the Northern Plains
5555 South Washington Drive Suite A
Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201**

RESOURCES

Tweet if You [love] Jesus: Practicing Church in the Digital Reformation (book)

By: Drescher, Elizabeth.

Churches everywhere are scrambling to get linked with Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. But are they ready for the Digital Reformation: the dramatic global shift in the nature of faith, social consciousness and relationship that these digital social media have ushered in? Tweet if You [love] Jesus brings the wisdom of ancient and medieval Christianity into conversation with contemporary theories of cultural change and the realities of social media, all to help churches navigate a landscape where faith, leadership and community have taken on new meanings

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

The staff will gladly reserve resources 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/>

The **Resource Center for Churches** will be closed from June 30th through August 2 for their traditional summer break.



FALL PRESBYTERY MEETING

The Fall Presbytery Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at First Presbyterian Church of Mandan. More information will be sent out in late August.

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

Starting September 6th, the Presbytery office will be back to the regular office hours of 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 sometimes unavailable during office hours. Please call before stopping by to make sure someone will be at the office.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

By: *the Rev. Darrel Cory, Chair of the Committee on Nominations*



The time has come to elect an alternate elder commissioner and minister and alternate minister commissioners for the 2012 meeting of General Assembly. According to Presbytery's policy, P-6.0104 III C 1-4 this is a self-referral to the nominating committee requiring a written statement that describes the desire, qualifications

and sense of being called to serve the Presbytery as a commissioner; listing of service in the Presbytery and other governing bodies, and the nominee's availability to report to Presbytery. Please send all information to: Rev. Darrel Cory, Nominating Committee chair, at 1122 Reeves Dr., Grand Forks, ND 58201.

The election of these commissioners will be held at the winter meeting.

SESSION RECORD REVIEW DATES AND LOCATIONS SET

Session minutes and church register records of all congregations are required to be reviewed annually. The Session Record Committee has made arrangements for reading opportunities within the presbytery as follows:

- Northwest: **August 28 or October 2** at First Presbyterian Church of Minot at 9:30 a.m. Worship service at 8:30 a.m. followed by session records review in library
- Northeast: **October 2** at Mendenhall Presbyterian Ch. of East Grand Fork at 2:00 p.m.
- Southeast: **September 10 or 17** at Westminster Presbyterian Ch. of Casselton at 9:00 a.m.
- Central: **September 10** at Westminster Presbyterian Ch. of Devils Lake at 10:00 a.m.
September 17 at United Presbyterian Ch. of Jamestown at 10:00 a.m.

Letters and email were sent out to all clerks and moderators of session regarding these opportunities; if you should have received notification, but did not, please contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or pnppoffice@gmail.com

Presbytery's Calendar

- Aug 2 Committee on Ministry at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Devils Lake
- Aug 8 Agenda, Bylaws & Structure (ABS) CC
- Aug 8 Nominating Committee CC
- Aug 10 Flood Task Force CC
- Aug 10 Planning Process Group Mtg at First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks
- Aug 11 Council Mtg at United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown
- Aug 28 Session Records Reading @ First Pres. Minot
- Sept 5 Labor Day – office closed
- Sept 10 Session Records Reading @ Westminster Pres Casselton or Devils Lake
- Sept 17 Session Records Reading @ United Pres Jamestown or Westminster Pres Casselton
- Sept 24 Fall Presbytery Meeting at First Pres. Ch of Mandan
- Oct 2 Session Records Reading @ First Pres. Minot or Mendenhall Pres EGF

CC = Conference Call
GTM= GoToMeeting
VCS = Video Conferencing Sites

PNP vision statement:

“A vibrant, informed, Presbyterian community which nourishes ministry and joins in Christ’s mission.”

Would you like to receive the Light of the Northern Plains electronically? You can by signing up for the paperless edition. It costs nothing. To sign up, simply email pnppoffice@gmail.com and request to be put on the electronic newsletter list.

Light of the Northern Plains is published under the Council of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

Contributors: Michael Lochow, Nancy Emerson, Darrel Cory and Laurie Elhard

Copy deadline for the Light is the twenty-fifth of the month. Items may be sent to:
Laurie Elhard
Presbytery of the Northern Plains
5555 South Washington Street Suite A
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-772-0783
pnppoffice@gmail.com