

Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

July 2008

Prayer Concerns

Cori Kaufmann, Parish Nurse for LAKE REGION PRES. PARISH (Devils Lake, Minneukan, Webster and Bdecan) and the wife of CLP Kevin Kaufmann, is doing well and her doctors are pleased with her progress. Please keep Cori in your prayers during this time of recovery.

We cannot begin to express in words, our heartfelt thanks to the people of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains for all that you have done for us during this most difficult time of Cori's illness. Your prayers, phone calls, e-mails, flowers, cards of encouragement and support, messages of love and support on the Caringbridge Website have all been very much appreciated. We will cherish your continued prayers for Cori's continued healing and recovery and for patience and strength for Kevin. God Bless you all!

Cori & Kevin Kaufmann



The Rev. Joan Gray wrapped in her beautiful star quilt

MODERATOR'S VISIT HIGHLIGHTS

The Rev. Joan S. Gray, moderator of the 217th General Assembly of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), visited the Presbytery of the Northern Plains June 4-6, 2008 and traveled throughout the eastern and central part of the presbytery. The Rev. Joan S. Gray, a minister in Greater Atlanta Presbytery, was elected to a two-year term as moderator on June 15, 2006.

On June 4, the Rev. Gray toured Jamestown College. Jamestown College, a historic college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is in a covenant relationship with the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

The tour focused on the college's nursing and Character in Leadership programs. While in Jamestown, the Rev. Gray was also given a demonstration of the Presbytery's video conferencing system, the first such system used by a governing body in the denomination. The Presbytery has four locations - Jamestown, West Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot - which had different people speaking about their programs in the life of the Northern Plains.

On June 5, the Rev Gray started the day with a visit to the Lake Region Presbyterian Parish, which consists of four congregations, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Devils Lake, First Presbyterian Church of Minnewaukan, Webster Chapel and Bdecan Presbyterian Church in Toiko.

The Bdecan Presbyterian Church, is a Dakota Sioux congregation and member of the non-geographic Dakota Presbytery. The moderator was shown how this four-point parish is meeting the needs of a multi-ethnic faith community. As a gift, members of the Bdecan Church gave the Rev. Gray a beautiful, hand-made star quilt.

That afternoon, the moderator met with the Emerging Churches Coaching Team, which spearheads the congregational transformation efforts for the Presbytery.

That evening the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks hosted a banquet in honor of the Rev. Gray. The feast was focused on North Dakota and Minnesota foods. The menu consisted of buffalo roast, wild rice, asparagus, cranberry salad, rolls and rhubarb crisp. A free-will offering was taken for the meal with any extra funds going to the Bdecan Food Program. Approximately 70 Presbyterian from the region attended the banquet.

At 7:30 pm, the Rev. Gray made a presentation at the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks. This event was open to the public. Rev. Gray told the audience that she would love to travel back to the Northern Plains Presbytery to lead a prayer retreat.

CLERGY COMMISSIONER NEEDED!

By: Donald G. Hariman, Chair of Committee on Nominations

The Nominating Committee is charged with making nominations of persons for the position of Commissioner to the Synod of Lakes and Prairies which is a three year term. The Policy of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains (P-6.0104) requires that such candidates must submit a statement "describing their desire, qualifications and sense of being called to serve the presbytery as commissioner".

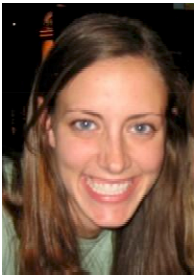
The person may be self nominated, or nominated by his/her Session or Parish Board.

This year the position open is for a CLERGY COMMISSIONER.

Please address all nominations and statements to the Chair of the committee either by land mail (Don Hariman 815 40th Avenue South Grand Forks, ND 58201) or by email (donhar@gra.midco.net). Nominations should be received by July 15, 2008 to be considered.

~ Thank You ~

A special "thank you" to all of the congregations who made the Rev. Joan Gray's visit a success: The First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks for serving and hosting such a wonderful banquet, the Lake Region Presbyterian Parish and Jamestown College.



INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ADULT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Katherine (Katie) Rains, once a member of **First Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks, ND**, has been selected by the General Assembly Council to serve in mission on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She will be serving with the International Young Adult Volunteer program in the nation of **Peru** during the 2008-2009 YAV cycle.

The International Young Adult Volunteer Program offers opportunities in Christian service and learning for young adults (21 to 30 years of age) in seven sites around the world. The job descriptions for the volunteers depend both on the needs of the partner and the skills of the Young Adult Volunteer.

In each placement, the volunteer works with a church or organization, develops Christian community, and meets regularly for prayer and Bible study with other Young Adult Volunteers.

Katherine recently attended the Placement Event held on the campus of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary where the volunteers had the opportunity to discern their placement in the midst of a community that included other volunteers, international site coordinators and the Young Adult Volunteer Program staff. Katherine goals in going to Peru are to raise awareness about how these issues affect us as a global community and to gain insight on how we can address similar problems here in the United States.

Funding for their time serving internationally is shared by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Young Adult Volunteer, supporting congregation(s) and presbyteries, as well as family and friends. The appointment as a Young Adult Volunteer is considered a full-time position, and volunteers are not allowed to secure other employment while they are serving overseas. They receive a small stipend to cover basic living expenses in the country where they will live and work. With the approval of the General Assembly Council, mission workers are asked to help raise funds to help defray the costs of supporting them and their work while they are at their places of assignment.

Any way that you can support and encourage Katherine during her year of service will be warmly welcomed. **Suggestions of support are:**

- ❖ **Your prayers!** All thoughts, prayers and positive energy are more than appreciated! Pray for Katherine and the people with whom she will work this year.
- ❖ **Your interest in her year of service!** Follow her experience through her newsletters posted at www.pcusa.org/missionconnections. Ask her to come speak to your church or group when she returns!
- ❖ **Your financial gifts!** Give a tax-deductible gift. Please consider pledging an amount given either as a one-time gift or in installments over the course of my year of service. Complete and return the Covenant of Support form. Checks can be mailed to the address on the form or you may give online at www.pcusa.org/give.

Interesting facts about Peru. . .

- The capital and largest city in Peru is Lima and the official language is Spanish.
- They have a population of almost 30 million which is the 41st biggest in the world.
- The literacy rate in Peru is 90.9%.
- Peru is most famous for being the home of the Inca Empire from the 15th century.
- 44% of Peruvians live in poverty, 16% in extreme poverty

SESSION RECORDS EVENTS

By: *Donald G. Hariman, Chair of Session Records*

Presbytery recently changed the format and manner of reading the record books for Sessions in the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

The Committee on Session Records has scheduled four reading sites for September, 2008. These will be Gilby for the Northeast, Casselton for the Southeast, Towner for the Northwest and Mandan for the Southwest.

All sessions will be on a Saturday in September and will commence at 1:30 PM. It is probable that the reading sessions will be complete within 1 ½ hours. Clerks of Session(s) will be notified of the time and place which is nearest them so they can bring the record books for the reading which is mandated by the Book of Order annually. The committee expects that this will be an informative experience for the Clerks and will facilitate the process.

Look for the notice of your meeting in the mail about August 1.

NCC CONFERENCE: MINDFUL

LIVING: HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY CHURCHES, HEALTHY PLANET

October 9-11, 2008: Alexandria, MN

Join this ecumenical gathering of denominational staff, clergy, seminarians, lay leaders, church educators, eco-justice coordinators, and Christians to educate yourself on the unfolding world of toxins found in everyday items in our homes, our churches, and even our bodies. Workshops, inspiring plenaries, hands-on experiences, and worship will provide education and knowledge to Christians involved in eco-justice ministries. Attendees will leave armed with the knowledge they need to speak about toxins with their families, churches, communities and decision-makers.

For more information about the conference, contact Cassandra Carmichael at cassandra@ncecejustice.org

OR WAS IT ALL JUST COINCIDENCE, CHANGE, LUCK?

By: *The Rev. Trey Everett, MICAH*

I have always been a sucker for the unexplained, the supernatural, what teeters between logical explanation and the outright mysterious. I was just reading a book by Frederick Buechner the Presbyterian minister and American novelist. In it he describes a dream he had of a friend who had recently died. Buechner's dead friend came to his bedside and visited with him. His friend seemed so real that Buechner asked him if he was actually there in the room. His friend said yes and then, as if to confirm his actual presence, he handed Buechner a piece of wool from the blue sweater he was wearing. Buechner said the small piece of wool felt so real that he immediately woke up. At breakfast he told his wife the dream. She said, "I saw that piece of wool on the carpet of our bedroom this morning." Buechner hurried upstairs and there on the carpet was the blue piece of wool. Coincidence? I am intrigued by stories like this, stories that could be explained away as simple coincidence and wishful thinking or they could be explained as a real glimpse of God's hand nudging us awake.

About two years ago while Corene and Zoe were on a walk Zoe turned to Corene and said, "Mommy, do you have a baby boy in your tummy?" "No honey. Why do you ask?" was Corene's surprised reply. "I just need a baby brother," Zoe answered. Corene and I giggled about such a cute and innocent comment. We had no plans of having a third child. Corene had actually given away all of her maternity clothes a few weeks before. Zoe's little question was so amusing, but three days later we stopped giggling when we found out we actually were expecting. Zoe got her little brother later that year. Did a four-year-old somehow catch a glimpse behind the mysterious ethereal curtain? Was she really somehow aware that her baby brother was growing and developing even before the world and even before the mother and father had an inkling? Or was it all just coincidence, chance, luck?

This brings me to a story that just happened at the MICAH site. A few weeks ago we began one of the first steps in the construction of the first MICAH building - drilling a well. We had established where the building would be and had also decided where a good spot was for the well in relation to the building. When the well drillers came they decided the original spot we had chosen wasn't a good place to find water. What did we know anyway, we're not professional well drillers, so another spot was decided upon by the professionals and then the drilling started. After 350 feet there was no water to be found and the drilling stopped. It was then that the professionals brought in an expert Water Witcher to decide where this elusive water could be found. A second spot was confidently chosen, drilling began, drilling stopped, and no water was found. In the midst of this second drilling Dan told me he had this 'feeling' that we should drill in the spot where we had wanted the well originally. He said he didn't have any scientific evidence that water was there but we had spent a lot of time and prayer on that land and he had this sense that we should try there. A sense? But the professionals didn't argue, their methods had failed anyway, and 141 feet later we had water. The professionals were pretty surprised. Coincidence or God?

I keep thinking to myself that if we really do believe God interacts with us then why are we so surprised when things like the dream, Zoe's question, and the well happen? I wonder, if we really listened, listened to all parts of ourselves not just what was scientific and logical and easily explained, I wonder if we might get more glimpses behind the veil.

Not for the purpose of telling fantastic stories but because God is speaking and because our job is to pay attention.

RESOURCES

If this is the way the world works : Science, congregations, and leadership (Book)

By: *William O. Avery and Beth Ann*
In *If This Is the Way the World Works*, William O. Avery and Beth Ann Gaede ask two primary questions: First, what principles from science are so broadly accepted that scientists themselves are willing to say, 'This is the way the world works'? Second, how do congregations and their leaders behave when they operate in concert with these seemingly universal principles?

The Power of Vision: Discover and Apply God's Vision for Your Ministry (Book)

By: *George Barna*
Barna shows ministers how to discover and apply God's vision to their work. He reveals how vision differs from mission and dispels common myths and practices.

Humble leadership : Being radically open to God's guidance and grace (Book)

By: *Standish, N. Graham*
Humble leadership, grounded in the teachings of Jesus, means recognizing that what we have and who we are gifts from God, and our lives should reflect our gratitude for these gifts. It requires us to be radically and creatively open to God's guidance, grace, and presence in everything. When we lead out of such openness, God's power and grace flow through us.

The meandering way : Leading by following the spirit (Book)

By: *Shockley, Gary A.*
This book is one pastor's story of his journey from a success-oriented drivenness to a significance-oriented, meandering style of life. What you will find are reflections from a fellow traveler who is now less desirous of doing something spectacular for God and is instead committed to doing something significant with God—who is discovering a more grace-filled, Spirit-led way.

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

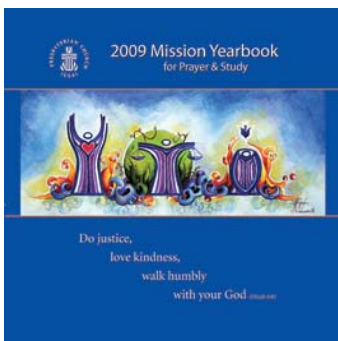
SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Presbytery office will normal summer hours are Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm from Memorial Day weekend until Labor Day weekend. Due to flexible schedules and reduced staffing during the summer, please call before stopping by to make sure someone will be at the office.

Starting June 23 until August 25, Laurie Elhard, Communication Coordinator for the Presbytery will be on family leave from the office. During this time, Bobbie Shields from First Presbyterian Church-Grand Forks, will be answering the Presbytery phones and forwarding them to the proper individuals within the Presbytery. Other staff members will cover where possible. However, some of the work Laurie does will be suspended during her leave. No staff members will be at the physical office during this time. However, all mail correspondence should still be mailed to 5555 South Washington Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201.

Also, because of General Assembly, vacation, and Synod School, Executive Presbyter Chuck Traylor's *Chat With Chuck* column will be on hiatus for the summer. It will resume in September.

LET THE PRESBYTERY SAVE YOU MONEY!



Let the Presbytery save you money by placing your 2009 Mission Yearbook order with us. You can order the 2009 Mission Yearbook and 2009 Children's Mission Yearbook for a discounted price.

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 enhance those already established between presbyteries and partners overseas. Synod and presbytery maps and mission-partner maps show mission locations around the world. Demographic profiles help readers learn about particular countries where the church has mission partnerships. Those who are interested can follow the suggested daily order of worship for use especially with the Yearbook.

We request that you pay with your order; we will charge postage (minimum of \$3.00) if you do not send a check with your order. Thanks!

Please fill out the following form and return to the Presbytery office by August 1, 2008.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Church: _____

Number of Mission Yearbooks _____ X \$ 4.50 = _____

Number of Children's Yearbooks _____ X \$ 6.00 = _____

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

Presbytery's Calendar

July 4	Holiday – Office closed
July 6	Westminster Presbyterian Church of Devils Lake 125 th Ann
July 12	Friends of Clearwater Day
July 15	COM meeting by VCS
July 22	Personnel Conference Call
July 27	Knox Presbyterian Church of Minto 125 th Ann
July 29	Kenya Mission Trip leaves
July 31	Deadline for Budget Requests
Aug 3	Presbyterian Church of Bathgate 125 th Ann
Aug 5	Budget and Finance Mt at Community Presbyterian Church of WF
Aug 28	Council Mtg at United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown
Aug 18	Kenya Mission Trip returns

CC = Conference Call
VCS = Video Conferencing Sites

Presbytery office information:

Address: 5555 South Washington Suite 115
Grand Forks, ND 58201
Phone #: 701-772-0783
Toll Free: 800-243-3532
Fax #: 701-775-7599

How 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 Mission Advocacy Ministry Team (MAMT) of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains.

Chuck Traylor, Executive Presbyter
Steve Shive, MAMT Moderator
Laurie Elhard, Communications Coordinator

Other contributors: John Gibbs, Don Hariman, and Trey Everett

A copy deadline for the Light is the twenty fifth of the month. Item maybe sent to:

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