

Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

May 2008

Prayer Concerns

Corinne Roy, wife of Emery (Pastor Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church of Fargo), died April 8 after a battle with cancer and two recent strokes. Cards may be sent to: Emery Roy at First Presbyterian Church of Fargo, P.O. Box 327 Fargo, ND 58107. Please keep the Roy family and friends in your prayers during this time.

Please lift up in prayer Blair Moorhead, Young Adult Volunteer from our Presbytery serving a year in Kenya.

Helen Schlobohm died on April 5, 2008 in Wisconsin. Helen was the wife of the late Rev. Hal Schlobohm, who served the Midway Parish for sixteen years. Please keep the Schlobohm family in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: Micah Scholbohn, P.O. Box 85 Marshfield, Wis 54449

THE MODERATORS IS COMING



The Rev. Joan S. Gray, moderator of the 217th General Assembly, will be visiting the Presbytery of the Northern Plains June 4-6, 2008.

First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks will be hosting a banquet in her honor on Thursday, June 5 2008. The dinner will be served at 6:30 pm with a

presentation from the Moderator starting 7:30 pm. A free-will offering will be taken for the meal with any extra funds going to support a mission of the Moderator's choice. **Space is limited for the dinner, please RSVP for the banquet directly to the church at 701-775-5545 or firstpres@firstpresgf.org.** No reservations required for the presentation. Those coming for the presentation only will be seated beginning at 7:15 pm.

Joan Gray was ordained as the first female pastor of a church in Atlanta Presbytery. She started her ministry in a small, country congregation where it was not unheard of for a dog to wander in and lie down in front of the communion table during the sermon. Then in an urban setting, the focus of her ministry as an associate pastor was reaching out to college students and overseeing a vigorous community ministry.

While pastor of Columbia Presbyterian Church, she also served as pastor, mentor and spiritual director to many seminary students and their families. After twenty years of installed pastorates, in 1999 she moved into a new ministry as a trained interim pastor. Her work since that time has often involved working with churches in conflict. Since her seminary years Joan has been active in the Presbyterian

Women. She wrote leader guides for two national PW circle Bible studies, has taught the Bible leaders in her congregations, and has led workshops for PW at the presbytery and denominational level. Two of her congregations have awarded her an Honorary Life Membership in the Presbyterian Women.

In her life outside church, Joan enjoys gardening (strange but true for someone who lives on the sixteenth floor of a condominium), baseball and taking walks with her husband Bill.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE – RISE UP

All high school youth are encouraged to attend the "Rise Up" Youth Leaders Conference on the campus of Jamestown College from June 6-8, 2008. This conference is intended for youth from a variety of denominations to learn and grow in their faith and to be equipped to share their faith with others. Large group sessions, small group discussions, recreational events, and a concert are being planned. The youth will stay on campus and have meals in the cafeteria. Scholarship monies will be available for youth from our Presbytery who would like to attend this great weekend conference. Please contact the Presbytery office. For more information, event specifics, and/or register log on to:

www.jc.edu/riseup



125th CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

Five congregations will be celebrating their 125th anniversaries this coming up summer and invite you to join them:

- June 1, 2008 First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton
10:00 am Worship service at the church with brunch to follow at 4H Building
- June 22, 2008 Baker-Downer Westminster Presbyterian Church
9:00 am Continental breakfast and fellowship
10:00 am Worship service at the church with a program and lunch to follow
- June 29, 2008 First Presbyterian Church of LaMoure
10:45 am Worship service at the church with a picnic to follow.
2:30 pm Celebration with cake, day will end with vespers before we head home.
- July 6, 2008 Westminster Presbyterian Church of Devils Lake
10:30 am Worship Service with Rev. Dr. Charles Traylor, Executive Presbyter
12:00 Turkey Dinner, catered Tickets: \$10 Adults, \$7 Ages 6-12;
Followed by 125th Program and an "anytime" Self-guided tour
- Aug 3, 2008 Presbyterian Church of Bathgate
10:00 am Worship service at the church with a dinner to follow

For more details, on any of these celebrations, please contact the church directly.

LOOKING FOR PRAYERS & CARE

By: John G. Gibbs, SCE for PNP

Prayer and action go hand-in-hand. Both are essential to the restoration of creation. We welcome your submissions of prayers for the creation, and suggestions for practical care of creation. There are many sources for both. Send possibilities to: gibbs@wcta.net. Your selection could be published here.

Prayer of "Thanks for the beauty of the earth," from The Book of Common Prayer (Seabury Press's proposed version, January 1977): "We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name... Amen."

Prayer for "Joy in God's Creation," from The Book of Common Worship (Board of Education of the PCUSA, 1964 8th printing from 1946 ed.): O [God], who has filled the world with beauty: Open, we beseech Thee, our eyes to behold Thy gracious hand in all Thy works; that, rejoicing in Thy whole creation, we may learn to serve Thee with gladness; for the sake of Him by whom all things were made, Thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."
[Recommendation for today: change Thee and Thy to you and yours.]

From website of Prairie Stewardship Network:
www.prairstewardship.org/Resources

Thinking about replacing your television?

Currently:

- Federal standards (Energy Star) measure only a television set's "standby mode," when the TV is idle, even though "active mode" accounts for 80 to 95 percent of its annual energy use;
- A television that earns the government's Energy Star rating for its efficiency in standby mode might draw more power in active mode than another model that didn't earn the label; and
- Nearly 100 percent of televisions on the market earn Energy Star stickers.

In September 2008, Energy Star will be implementing a new program that measures total energy consumption of televisions.

- With the proposed new standards, just 25 percent of television on the market is expected to earn Energy Star stickers.

Comparison: Energy Use and CO₂ Emissions*

A 50-inch plasma high-definition TV (HDTV): 679 kWh/year.

=1521 lbs CO₂/year or 0.76 tons CO₂/year **ND**

=1046 lbs CO₂/year or 0.52 tons CO₂/year **MN**

A 32-inch liquid-crystal display (HDTV): 387 kWh/year.

=867 lbs CO₂/year or 0.43 tons CO₂/year **ND**

=596 lbs CO₂/year or 0.30 tons CO₂/year **MN**

An older analog 34-inch TV: 209 kWh/year.

=468 lbs CO₂/year or 0.23 tons CO₂/year **ND**

=322 lbs CO₂/year or 0.16 tons CO₂/year **MN**

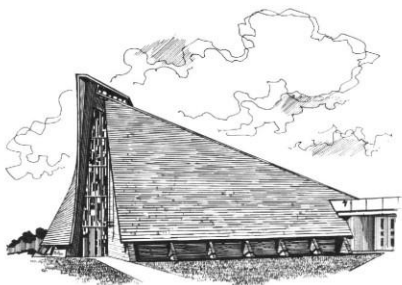
SUMMER MISSION TRIP PLANS ARE TAKING SHAPE

By: *the Rev. David Thompson, Leader of Youth Connection Ministry Team*

"It was one of the best trips of my life." "I definitely want to go again!" "Wow, it was awesome!" These are some of the responses from those who have participated in past mission trips with our Presbytery. This year's trip looks to provide the same type of responses.

We invite all 9th grade youth (entering this fall) through adults to join us for our annual Presbytery summer mission trip to California and Oregon from July 17-28. We will be leading Bible school in several Presbyterian churches in those areas, specifically McCloud, California, and Oakland, Oregon. We will also be visiting the Pacific Ocean and beautiful Crater Lake. If you are interested in going with us please contact Pastor Dave Thompson at the United Presbyterian Church in Jamestown. He can be reached at (701) 252-1748 or at dthompson@daktel.com. The cost of the trip is \$150/person and will include bus transportation, food, and lodging (sleeping arrangements will be on the floors in churches). Space is limited and is filling up quickly! This is a trip you won't want to miss!

MEETING LOCATION CHANGE



The Fall Presbytery meeting on October 3 & 4, 2008 location has been changed from First Presbyterian Church of Minot to First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead due to a scheduling conflict.

In the Fargo-Moorhead area hotel rooms on Friday night are booked months in advance. Please make hotel reservations as soon as possible to make sure you get one. One hotel close to the church is the Travelodge (218- 233-5333). Make sure to let them know you are traveling for business and you will get a reduced rate of \$71.95 plus tax per night.

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS



The Presbytery office will normally be open 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.

RESOURCES

Celebration of Discipline: A Multimedia Resource for Groups (DVD) Explore what it means to celebrate Christian Disciplines: Hear 13 motivating presentations by Richard J. Foster. Participate in practical exercises; listen in on conversations among Richard, Daallas Willard, Margaret Campbell and Glandion Carney; Experience the music of George Skaramstad and Jim Stewart.

The Power of Forgiveness (DVD) 4 studies: The origin of Forgiveness; What is Forgiveness?; Why do We Need to Forgive?; How is Forgiveness Possible.

Through Domestic Abuse: A Guide to Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Healing (Finding Your Way) (Book): All too often resources for coping with domestic violence and physical abuse overlook the equally painful aspects of emotional and verbal abuse. Even fewer address the ongoing dynamics after a relationship ends, the long process of grieving, and the role of forgiveness. In *Finding Your Way Through Domestic Abuse*, Connie Fourre offers victims of domestic abuse the information they need to move through this difficult, painful time. Fourre, herself a survivor of domestic violence, guides readers through every step of the journey, from realizing the warning signs of an abusive relationship, to leaving the abuse behind, to coping with the aftermath.

Once upon a Time: A Humorous Retelling of the Genesis Story (Book) These re-telling of Genesis stories will tickle your funny bone, entertain you, and also give you a deeper knowledge of the Bible.

Ancient Laugh of God: Divine Encounters in Unlikely Places (Book) A collection of stories for inspiration, some present biblical themes in a contemporary context; others examine contemporary spiritual concerns in biblical stories

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.

SPRING YOUTH RETREAT A GREAT SUCCESS

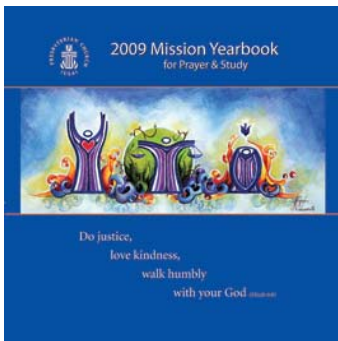
By: the Rev. David Thompson, Leader of Youth Connection

About 80 participants joined us for our annual spring youth retreat that was held at Crystal Springs Camp on April 18-20. Due to a snow storm on April 11, the retreat had to be postponed a week.

The theme for this weekend retreat was "Weight Lifting," with featured speaker Pastor Bob Edwards from the First Presbyterian Church in Minot. We also welcomed Mike Ewoldson, who is considered one of the strongest men in the world. Both of these men shared how God can help young people cope with the "weights" and pressures that many of them face in today's society.

Churches represented at the retreat included Hallock, Grand Forks, Moorhead, Minot, Jamestown, and West Fargo. A PowerPoint presentation was shared during the April Presbytery meeting.

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

May 12	Staff Reviews
May 20	COM by VCS
May 26	Holiday – Office Closed
May 29	Council Meeting
June 1	First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton 125 th Ann
June 5	Banquet for the GA Moderator
June 21	General Assembly convenes
June 22	Baker-Downer Westminster Presbyterian Church 125 th Ann
June 28	General Assembly ends
June 29	First Presbyterian Church of LaMoure 125 th Ann
July 4	Holiday – Office closed
July 6	Westminster Presbyterian Church of Devils Lake 125 th Ann
July 15	COM meeting by VCS
July 29	Kenya Mission Trip leaves
Aug 3	Presbyterian Church of Bathgate 125 th Ann
Aug 14	Council Mtg
Aug 15	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

The Presbytery office will normally be open Monday thru Friday 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. Due to flexible schedules and vacation time of the staff, please call before stopping by to make sure someone will be at the office.

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: David Thompson, Gretchen Graf, John Gibbs

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

Laurie Elhard

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

5555 South Washington Suite

Grand Forks, ND 58201

701-772-0783

pnpooffice@gmail.com