

Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

October 2009

PRAY CONCERNS

Doris Potter, Honorably Retired Minister of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains passed away on Monday, October 5, 2009. A memorial service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck in on Sunday, October 11, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. Please keep the family of Doris in your prayers.

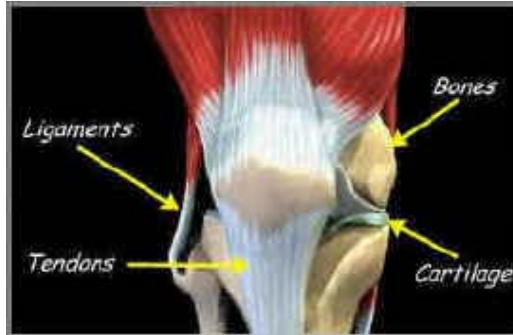
George & Virginia Reichman, members of First Presbyterian Church of Mandan, have been having some health issues over the past couple of months. Please keep them in your prayers.

Mark Lufkins, son of Sharon Georgeson of Bdecan Presbyterian Church, Tokio, ND, died on Sunday, September 27, 2009. Please keep the family of Mark in your prayers.

Please hold our Chogoria partners in your prayers as they deal with drought

ATTENDING TO OUR CONNECTIONS

By: The Rev. Dr. Steve Minnema, Interim Executive Presbyter



I was recently visiting one of the sessions of one of our churches and enjoyed, especially, the time of introductions when everyone present tried to describe their “special work” in the church. When it came to my turn, I was moved to say, “I guess you could call me a minister of connectionality. We call

ourselves a “connectional church” but those connections need attention and that’s a big part of what I am trying to do right now.”

But attending to our connections is really a responsibility every presbyter needs to accept. If we believe what Paul was teaching us in I Corinthians 12, that no part of the body can say to any other part, “I have no need of you,” then we would be wise to create and sustain strong bonds of friendship and affection with other parts of the body so that our mutual need for one another can be met.

This, of course, is why at the Presbytery meeting and in other places I have been urging us to see the presbytery as a ligament in the body of Christ, necessary if the various body parts called congregations are going to be kept in living and loving connection with one another. I also expressed my concern that many congregations do not seem to understand that they cannot be whole and healthy and energized alone.

Let me give you five examples from this past week’s presbytery meeting of how the life of the ligament can promote growth in the rest of the body. (I

could offer more but these come readily to mind.)

First, the opening communion service with sisters and brothers from across the presbytery was a wonderful opportunity, two days before world-wide communion Sunday was to be celebrated in our various churches, to remember that we are part of a larger covenant of grace than we normally see around our separate tables. There’s courage and hope in that.

Second, Chenoa Stock’s stirring report on her work in Sri Lanka was a vivid illustration of what we can and do accomplish when we work together to support the mission of the church.

Third, on Saturday morning we heard from several of the youth of the Rolla Church thanking us for supporting them with their recent mission trip to Kansas City. As each of them came to the mike and told her or his story, I was deeply grateful for this moment when our future leaders had a chance to see that the church is much bigger than what they normally experience on Sunday morning. I suspect they will remember the experience and take heart from it.

Fourth, we heard of several excellent upcoming programs to which all of our churches and presbyters are invited. These include a presentation in Grand Forks and Fargo with Doug Pagitt of the emerging church movement, an ecumenical program in Jamestown looking at care of creation concerns, and a report from Dave Thompson on his summer’s trip to Israel.

We can do these things – that benefit the whole body – when our ligament is strong.

And, finally, the two or so hours we spent identifying and prioritizing our core values was a great chance for all of us to think together about what really motivates us to do what we do. My hope and prayer is that such a discussion will continue as commissioners return to their churches and suggest that there too such an exercise would be valuable.

So we need to be body-wise is what I am mostly saying. Each of the parts needs to take responsibility for the health of the whole and for all the linkages that serve it. Then we will grow in love and service to the one who is our Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE OPPORTUNITY

By: Diane Wray Williams, Chair NP Self-Development of People



Think and act fast! Our Presbytery has been informed (along with others!) that we could access another \$15,000 of SDOP funds for a qualifying project if we submit an application and are approved before the end of December.

What would be a qualifying project? A project presented, owned and controlled by the group of people who will benefit directly from it; a project will address long-term correction of conditions that keep people bound by poverty and oppression; a project presented for funding will describe, in detail, its goal, specific steps the group will take to accomplish the goal, the way the beneficiaries will be involved in all stages of the project, and the methods to be used to achieve the goal and objectives.

Look around at your neighbors...is someone on the path to "seeking to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and injustice..." If they are, and they are in poverty, and they are controlling the direction of the action, and will benefit from the action you may have a winner.

Go to www.pcusa.org/SDOP, download an application and send a completed copy to Diane Wray Williams, tdwilliams@gomoorhead.com before Nov. 1, 2009.

ACTIONS OF PRESBYTERY

- The Presbytery will enter into an agreement with Pacer Energy to lease mineral rights on the land owned in Wener, ND (Dunn County) for \$100.00 for a three-year lease and 3/16ths royalty.
- Ministry teams are granted permission to raise funds for their ministry within the churches of the presbytery/individuals provided that sessions have given permission for fund-raising within their particular congregation.
- Starting January 2010, the Presbytery will no longer pay mileage for person attending Presbytery meeting.
- The policy on recommended guidelines for compensation packages and reimbursement was approved. You may read the policy at: <http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com/COM%20Salary%20Guidelines.pdf>
- Per Diem Guidelines were approved (effective immediately) for committee expenses as follows: a) daily meal allowance of \$35 divided approximately by \$10 each for breakfast and lunch and \$15 for dinner b) Hotel rooms for 2 persons under \$100, c) when overnight meetings require hotel accommodations, adults are asked to share a room with two beds with one person of the same gender if possible. Those preferring not to share a room will be asked to pay ½ the room cost (or the difference between the cost of a shared room and a single room).
- An administrative commission was formed to assist the First Presbyterian Church of Belfield, North Dakota, surrounding issues of closing. Members of the commission are the following: Elder Alice Burger, Rev. Bob Edwards, Elder Mark Frueh, Elder Kathy Bliss, Rev. Vicki Rucker, Elder Casey Chapman and Rev. Deanna Reikow.

Fall Meeting Highlights



By: Pat O'Donnell, Moderator of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains
From opening worship on Friday afternoon to the closing "Good

News" on Saturday, the Fall Presbytery meeting at First Presbyterian in Bismarck had lots to offer. It was a time of much business with great discussions, lots of "Good News," and a fun process of starting to develop our core values.

Much of the business conducted Friday afternoon involved finding creative ways to continue our mission while wrestling with balancing the budget for the coming year. We did find time to hear reports from committees, elect new officers and committee members, and to advance Curtis Brophy from Inquirer to the status of Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament. During "Good News" we heard reports from people who had received grant money from the Presbytery. Renee Gopel's report about the work of the Prairie Climate Stewardship Network was particularly interesting. The afternoon concluded with a presentation by Chenoa Stock detailing her work as a missionary to Sri Lanka.

Much of Saturday morning was spent on a process of starting to identify our core values which will be used to guide us as we set our priorities and move on in determining the future shape of the presbytery and its ministry. The morning ended with more "Good News" and a report from the Rolla/St John youth about their experiences on their mission trip and its importance in their lives.

The next Presbytery Meeting will be held on February 5 and 6, 2010 at United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following people, who were elected to a Presbytery Committee and start their new responsibilities February 2010:

Moderator	Mary Jo Holtey, Fargo
Council Chair	Pat O'Donnell, Grand Forks
COM	*Ellen Misialek (Minto), *Marilyn Nelson (Gilby), David Thompson (Jamestown), Paul Henschen (Ellendale), Julie Tweit (Fargo).
COR	*** Bob Edwards – Chair (Minot), Rachael Mickelson (Rolla/St John)
CPM	Paul Kuhn (Rolla), Dan Billings (Midway Parish), *Doreen Larson (Jamestown)
Session Records	Scott Davy – Chair, Lana Schultz (Casselton)
Synod YAD	Anthony Morrison (Pembina County Larger Parish)
Clearwater Forest	Mike Jacobs (Gilby)

2010 General Assembly

Minister Delegate	Matt Stith (West Fargo)
Alternate Minister	Steve Shive (Fargo)
Elder Delegate	Kevin Kaufmann (Lake Region Larger Parish)
Alternate Elder	Dixon Moorhead (West Fargo)
YAAD	Emma DeJong (West Fargo)

*Re-elected for a second term.

** Filling empty seat on committee, position starts immediately.

***Their position also holds a position on the Presbytery's Council.

Currently, the Committee on Nominations is still looking for people who would want to serve on the Committee on Ministry, Committee on Representation, Budget and Finance and Vice-Moderator. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving in one of these positions, please contact Don Hariman at 701-775-7590 or email him at donhar@gra.midco.net or contact the Presbytery office.

2010 PER CAPITA SET

2010 Per Capita will remain the same as 2009. The per capita apportionment is based on the funds necessary for the Presbytery/Synod/General Assembly to do its essential ecclesiastical work

2010 Per Capita Apportionment breakdown:

General Assembly	\$ 6.15
Synod of Lakes & Prairies	\$ 4.80
Northern Plains Presbytery	<u>\$31.00</u>
Total 2010 Per Capita	\$41.95

The 2010 apportionment is based on a church's membership as of December 31, 2008 as reported in the 2008 General Assembly Minutes (Part 11, Statistics).

For more information about per capita apportionment, go to: www.pcusa.org/percapita/.

RESOURCES

FAITHQUESTIONS - WHAT ABOUT RELIGION AND SCIENCE?: A STUDY OF REASON AND FAITH (BK3711)

This book invites us to consider ways to remain confident in our faith as we understand and appreciate the discoveries and advances of science. How can Christians integrate, believe, or accept all the teachings of science, the Bible, and Christian tradition? How can we believe in both the discoveries of science and the Bible? Are science and religion compatible or incompatible? As Paul Stroble addresses these questions and others, he helps us examine different possible ways that religion and science relate to each other and ways that science and religion provide meaning and value in our lives.

In addition to video and print resources, the Resource Center for Churches has a growing collection of interactive resources designed to encourage sharing and community building. Here are some examples:

A Prayer Path - A kit designed to facilitate a labyrinth experience. Includes instructions for setting up a number of "stations" designed to help participants shed the worries of daily life and grasp the sacred. Also includes: 6 copies of an audio guide on CD, 10 copies of a student journal, and 1 copy each of the videos needed for two of the stations. Rental Fee: \$10.00 for Members

FaithTalk (Youth) - For use with youth and their parents or with small intergenerational groups, these question cards are designed to encourage meaningful sharing of memories, activities, specific events, and value forming experiences of faith.

To borrow this or a different 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. For a complete listing of resources, go to: <http://resourcesforthejourney.org/>

FAITH AND 21ST CENTURY CULTURE

Doug Pagitt will be leading an interactive workshop, Faith and 21st Century Culture Workshop, on navigating our faith at the intersection of our culture at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 17, 2009 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. This workshop is open to the public and registration is \$25 per person or for groups of three or more \$15 per person. To register contact the Presbytery of the Northern Plains at 701.772.0783 or go to www.northernplainspresbytery.com.

In addition, Pagitt will hold two Live Occurrence events, billed as part revival, part book reading, part hootenanny, and part community gathering: on Fri, Oct 16, at the Loading Dock, UND Memorial Union GF from 7-9 pm. and on Sat, Oct 17, at Depot, 701 Main Ave, Fargo from 7-9 pm. The Live Occurrence is a free event and targeted not only at those who have a faith community in which to participate, but also at those who wonder what church has to offer.

Pagitt is co-founder of Emergent Village – a social network of Christians around the world and is a speaker and consultant for churches, denominations and businesses throughout the United States and around the world on issues of postmodern culture, social systems and Christianity. He seeks to find creative, entrepreneurial, generative ways to join in the hopes, dreams and desires God has for the world; and one of the fruits of that includes Solomon's Porch, a holistic missional Christian community (www.SolomonsPorch.com).

Pagitt's most recent book, *A Christianity Worth Believing*, is the foundation for his book tour. The book's subtitle advocates "spreading a hope-filled, open-armed, alive and well faith for the left-out, left-behind, and let-down." Doug writes, "It is my hope that this book [can be] an invitation for people to pursue a Christianity that is good for the world, good for their spirits and good for their faith. I want it to be an invitation to a Christianity that makes sense in the world we live in. This book... is for those like me who do not think we need to be afraid of asking tough questions or raising new concerns."

FAITH LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE: CREATION CARE AND CLIMATE STEWARDSHIP

You are invited to join the Prairie Climate Stewardship Network's event of Faith Leadership Dialogue on Sunday, November 15, 2009 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Jamestown, from 3:30 pm to 6:30 pm. This event is free and open to the public.

The purpose of this dialogue is to create an opportunity for people of faith to gather and learn about what each of our faith traditions has to say about creation care and climate stewardship; the importance of acting; and what can be done now. This first-ever gathering of ND denomination leaders will highlight: shared theology of the sacredness of creation, what the various Christian traditions bring to creation care, and what we are called to do as people of faith.

Creation care is a responsibility shared by all Christian faith traditions. Our engagement in stewardship of creation signifies our love and respect for God's creation, human and nonhuman, and is a demonstration of our responsibility to all who come after us.

For additional information about this event, please go to: <http://www.prairiestewardship.org/leadershipdialog.html>

Presbytery's Calendar

Oct 15	ABS Meeting by VC
Oct 16	Live Occurrence at the Loading Dock, UND Memorial Union GF from 7-9 pm. Free and open to the public.
Oct 17	- Workshop: Faith and Culture at First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks from 9 am to 3 pm. Contact Presbytery office to register. -Live Occurrence at the Depot, 701 Main Ave, Fargo from 7-9 pm. Free and open to the public.
Oct 19	CLP Task Force Meeting
Oct 22	Transformation Meeting
Oct 27	Staff Meeting by VC
Nov 10	Personnel Meeting
Nov 15	Faith Leadership Dialogue: Creation Care & Climate Stewardship at St. John's Lutheran Church in Jamestown
Nov 19	Council Meeting at JC

CC = Conference Call
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 pnpoffice@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.

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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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