

# Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

January 2018

## PRAYER JOYS/CONCERNS

Please lift up in prayer those displaced from their homes by the wild fires in California and other natural disasters in the United States and all over the world, those in need of basic supplies and those who are working to offer assistance. Pray that conditions improve so that delivery of much needed relief supplies can reach their distribution points.

Shine your light in and over us. Please pray that God's love will work through us, our churches, and our communities for peace, compassion, and justice for all. May we make a difference in this world for your glory and purposes.

Please join in prayer for the leadership of the Presbytery and the church in every time and place. Keep our footstep firm and on solid ground helping us to be consistent and faithful as we move forward in God's service.

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

Please hold our Chogoria partners in your prayers.

For the love of God to be evident in everything we do and say, For people listening to God's voice to serve in leadership positions in their churches, For our sessions, For the ministry of the different agencies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), For wisdom for the many committees that are at work at all levels of the church, For pastors who are facing health problems, For the unity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

*If you or someone from your congregations would like a prayer concern/joy to be sent out to the Presbytery, please contact the office at [pnpooffice@gmail.com](mailto:pnpooffice@gmail.com) or call 701-772-0783. If the request is on behalf of someone else, please check with them before requesting.*

## BEING A CHEERFUL GIVER

*By: the Rev. Donna Monteith, moderator of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains*

*The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*

- II Corinthians 9:6-8 NRSV

Many of you are probably recovering from Christmas as you read this. We have a tendency to go overboard in trying to make each Christmas the best one ever for our loved ones. This was true in my family, as I received a Lionel train set for Christmas when I was only four months old. My dad had always wanted one, but his parents could not afford it, so I was his excuse for buying one.

In addition to shopping for loved ones, many of us also write out checks to our favorite charities before the year is over, and drop donations in the red kettles outside many stores. Our hearts are cheerful in response to the great gift we have received from God in Jesus Christ, and so we remember those less fortunate, and we give. Our churches and many charities count on our Christmastime feelings of good will to balance their books for the year. There are toy drives and food drives in virtually every community. From Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, we are a generous lot.

The problem is, the needs of these organizations and the people they serve are there twelve months of the year, not just the last six weeks. For our congregations, the pastor and other staff need to be paid every month, as well as the utilities and office expenses. Child-related organizations need to provide activities to those children every day, not just a gift at Christmas. Food pantries have hungry people coming to them every time they are open, not just for baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Homeless people need a meal and a bed every day, as well as help finding a permanent solution to their homelessness.



Do not let yourself become a Grinch this January! The needs of our neighbors do not go away just because the tree is down and the lights are off until next winter. God provides each of us with enough so that we can help others out of our abundance. It is our responsibility to help others in the name of Christ. We are promised that if we sow bountifully, we will also reap bountifully. I have found that to be the case in my own life. If I write my tithe to the church first, my salary will last through the month. If I think I cannot afford the church that month, I will be sure to be short. Continue to give as we go through the year, and keep the cheerfulness of Christmas in your heart.

May you all have a blessed and bountiful 2018.

## INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR THE REV. ROBERT DRAKE

Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.\*

Come celebrate with the First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead, MN, as they install their new pastor, the Rev. Robert Drake, on January, 21, 2018, at 4:00 p.m\*. A special commission has been appointed by our moderator for this installation. A special thank you to those willing to serve: Presbytery Moderator the Rev. Donna Montieth (Grandin/Hunter); the Revs. John Ritchie (East Grand Forks) and Paul Lang (Fargo); Ruling Elders Kim Kelsh and Walt Worman from First Presbyterian Church of Moorhead.

\*Please note the change in time. The December Light of the Northern Plains had it listed at 3:00 p.m. instead of 4:00 p.m.



## WELCOMING SERVICE FOR THE REV. PAUL SCHLADOR

Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.



Presbyterian Churches of Rolla & St. John's are pleased to celebrate their new pastor, the Rev. Paul Schlador. He is a chaplain in the National Guard. He was ordained in the Evangelical Free Church, and has served in Baptist, Free, and Presbyterian churches in his past 14 years of ministry. The Rev. Schlador will be studying Presbyterian Polity and Reformed Theology to fulfill requirements in our presbytery to be received as a temporary member with permission to officiate sacraments and lead session meetings. Both congregations are thrilled to welcome their new pastor, his experience and passion for ministry. He brings with him to Rolla his wife Launa and five children.

The Welcoming Service for the Rev. Schlador will be held Sunday January 21, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of Rolla (101 NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Rolla ND) with a meal to follow. All are invited to celebrate and join in this blessing of a new ministry!

## 2017 BDECAN MINISTRY IN REVIEW

By: Joe Obermeyer, Youth and Outreach Coordinator at Bdecan Presbyterian Church

On Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, we at Bdecan were hard at work, with our biggest giveaway of the year. We started collecting kids winter clothing in early 2017, when it was on clearance sale. We got donations and continued purchasing these items throughout the year. The night of the giveaway we had about 52 girls and 52 boys signed up to get clothing. We gave about 100 coats, 85 pairs of boots, and 73 pairs of snow pants. The families of Bdecan, in Tokio and the Woodlake District, are so grateful for your help in providing these items. Without you, some families may not have been able to provide these items for their kids.



The Bdecan Food Pantry provides food for the Spirit Lake Reservation. We open to the public once a month. We normally give out about 50-60 boxes of food. The reason we have

the food pantry each month is because of the kids on the Spirit Lake Reservation. The kids don't get to choose how their parents or grandparents spend their money. The kids are the innocent victims. We open so their families can eat. These are the numbers from the last two months.

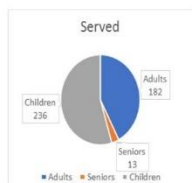
Both our Kids Winter Wear Giveaway and the Bdecan Food pantry are opened to the public. They are outreach events that we have for the community on the Spirit Lake Reservation. These events are truly about helping kids on the reservation.

The Bdecan food pantry gets most of it's funding from the Unified Mission Fund in the Presbytery of Northern Plains. If it wasn't for these funds, the food pantry wouldn't be able to open. We want to thank you

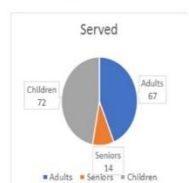
for giving to the Unified Mission Funds so we can provide food each month.

The kids had a wonderful Christmas here at Bdecan. Their Christmas program was December 17<sup>th</sup>. The kids all read their own parts this year, with very little narration. The congregation had a Christmas Eve service on December 24<sup>th</sup>. From all of us at Bdecan, thank you for a wonderful 2017, and we wish you a happy 2018.

October and November Food Pantry Numbers



**October 2017  
Food Pantry  
88 Households  
1639 pounds**



**November 2017  
Food Pantry  
38 Households  
1181 pounds**

# BOUNDARY TRAINING: What Are My Options????

*By: the Rev. Paul Henschen, Care for Pastoral Leader Pod Leader of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains*

The Care for Pastoral Leaders Pod has explored and debated the issue of how best to meet the needs of pastoral leaders and at the same time require these same pastoral leaders to receive boundary training. One clergy member suggested a while ago that we look into online training. Some members of the Pod, as well as Administrator Alissa Hancock, did so and the Pod has voted to allow clergy and CLP's to take online training for a trial period of one year. Some other alternatives are offered below as well.



There are two options for online training that were approved.

1. The first is the cheapest and looks to be a good course. You can find it at Congregation U and it is called "Safe Gatherings." It costs \$22.00. Go to <https://safegatherings.com/congregationu/> and click on "Register" to begin the process.
2. The other online option is to take the course "Understanding Clergy Sexual Ethics" at <https://www.keepingoursacredtrust.org/>. This course is a part of the Lewis Center and costs \$49.00. This course is also used by the United Methodists in our area.

How else can you get the boundary training? Our presbytery offers a workshop once or twice a year—although the last two have been cancelled due to a lack of people who registered. Remember that we are required to get this training every three years! You may also get training through workshops offered by the United Methodists and the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America). Both of these denominations offer workshops once or twice per year in North Dakota or South Dakota. If you take one of these, you must obtain their certificate and show it as proof that you took the workshop.

If you take an online course, let someone on the Care for Pastoral Leaders Pod know whether you liked it or not and why. We will re-evaluate taking these online courses toward the end of 2018.

## PNP POLICY ON APPOINTED MODERATORS FOR SESSION

*By: the Rev. Dr. Paul Lang, Session Moderator Task Leader of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains*

I have been asked to write briefly to describe the newly approved policy which governs the appointment of Session-moderators within the Presbytery of Northern Plains (PNP). This policy has been researched and discussed by the Congregational Pod of the PNP.

### WHEN IS A MODERATOR APPOINTED?

When a congregation is without a pastor who is qualified to serve a moderator, a moderator shall be appointed by the presbytery. For some congregations this "vacancy" is a temporary one, while they search for a pastor or await the appointment of a temporary pastor. Some congregations might be served by an ordained minister from another denomination; these situations require the appointment of a moderator who is a PC(USA) Minister of the Word and Sacrament or a PC(USA) Commissioned Lay Pastors. The role of the Moderator of Session is, in part, to represent the Presbytery of Northern Plains in meetings of Session, so therefore moderators must be members of presbytery (either by ordination or by commission). Some smaller membership congregations might be served solely by a moderator and pulpit supply preachers.

### WHO APPOINTS THE MODERATOR?

The PNP Moderator (currently, the Rev. Donna Monteith) appoints moderators, based upon the recommendation from the PNP Care for Congregational Pod.

### GUIDELINES FOR MODERATOR COMPENSATION

The compensation schedule for appointed moderators is set by the presbytery. Compensation is based upon the amount of time involved for administrative tasks. Appointed moderators shall receive a 1099 tax form from the treasurer of the congregation for each tax year in which they serve. Under no circumstances is it appropriate for the moderator to "donate" her or his time, or for the congregation to request that the moderator do so. This creates financial inequity between congregations with moderators. Moderators shall be paid monthly, unless a more frequent payment schedule is agreed upon by the moderator and the session.

### COMPENSATION SCHEDULE FOR SESSION MEETINGS (P-200.05)

#### Appointed Moderator

- a. Compensation for a moderator to moderate meetings of session shall be \$50/hour (for meeting and phone time but not travel time).
- b. Vouchered mileage to Session meetings and any other administrative meetings shall be reimbursed at the maximum IRS approved rate (54.5 cents/mile for 2018).

The Care for Congregational Pod is still in the process of refining P-200.05 and expanding our understanding of who may or may not moderate a session. Any changes will be brought forward to a Presbytery Meeting for approval. If you have comments, questions or concerns, please contact the Rev. Dr. Paul Lang, PNP Session Moderator Task Leader, at 701-293-6311 or email [plang@firstpresfargo.org](mailto:plang@firstpresfargo.org).



# RESTFEST RETREAT (YOUTH)

Greater Grand Forks Area

February 17-18 (Presidents Day Weekend)

By: Kayla Bone, Youth Connection Team Member

Calling all youth to join the Youth Connection Team in RESTing on February 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in Grand Forks, ND. All people in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to join us for this event; in fact, bring a friend or two to share in this relaxing weekend.

The weekend will provide options to take part in various activities outside in the snow (sledding, ice skating, building a snowman or snow shelter) and indoors as well (swimming, worship, board games and exploring a water park). Back by popular demand, we will get dressed up for a fancy dinner out on the town. The schedule for the weekend will be light and flexible to allow you to rest.

Our accommodations will be at a hotel in Grand Forks. The cost is \$95 which includes lodging, meals and activities. Registration materials have been emailed out to churches and are also available on the Presbytery website at [www.northernplainspresbytery.com](http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com), or by contacting the Presbytery office.

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Obermeyer ([bdecanpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:bdecanpresbyterianchurch@yahoo.com)) or Gloria Bancroft ([gloria.bancroft@hotmail.com](mailto:gloria.bancroft@hotmail.com)).

## 2018 IRS MILEAGE RATES

Beginning on January 1, 2018, the standard mileage rates for the use of a vehicle will be:

- 54.5 cents for every mile of business travel driven, up 1 cent from the rate for 2017 (the Presbytery reimburses 60% of the IRS rate)
- 18 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 1 cent from the rate for 2017
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The standard mileage rate for business is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs as determined by the same study.



## 2017-2019 BOOK OF ORDER AND PLANNING CALENDARS FOR SALE

The Presbytery office has two different resources for you to purchase at a reduced price. The first is the 2017-2019 Book of Order for sale at \$ 8.80 plus shipping cost. The second is the 2017-2018 Presbyterian Planning Calendars for sale at \$ 9.35 plus shipping cost. If interested, please contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or email [pnppoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pnppoffice@gmail.com). There are a limited number available, so it is on a first come, first served basis.



## Presbytery's Calendar

Dec 25 – Jan 2	Christmas Break, office closed
Jan 11	Care for Pastoral Leaders cc
Jan 13	Recharge Event, Fargo
Jan 18	Leadership Pod cc
Jan 18	Mission Pod cc
Jan 18	Staffing Task Force wc
Jan 21	Drake Installation Service (pg 2)
Jan 21	Schlador Welcoming Service (pg 2)
Jan 29	Care for Congregations Pod wc
Feb 8	Care for Pastoral Leaders meeting
Feb 15	Leadership Pod meeting
Feb 17-18	RestFest (pg 4)
Feb 26	Care for Congregations Pod wc
Apr 13, 2018	Spring Presbytery Meeting at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Casselton
October 8	Fall Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Mandan

cc = Conference Call  
wc = Web Conference

## OFFICE HOURS

The Presbytery office is open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Due to meeting schedules, please call before stopping by to make sure someone will be at the office.

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](mailto:pnppoffice@gmail.com) and request to be put on the electronic newsletter list.

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

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