

Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

February 2017

PRAYER JOYS/CONCERNS

Please pray for our lives to be lived in grateful praise through our words and actions; for our mission personnel all around the world; for pastors who are facing health problems; for comprehensive immigration reform; for the unity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Please pray that God's love will work through us, our churches, our communities, and our world for peace, compassion, and justice for all.

Please join in prayer for the leadership of the Presbytery and the church in every time and place as we move forward in God's service.

Please hold our Chogoria partners in your prayers.

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 pnppoffice@gmail.com or call 701-772-0783. If the request is on behalf of someone else, please check with them before requesting.

WISH I COULD BOTTLE THAT . . .

By: Teaching Elder Donna Monteith, moderator of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains

*"Train children in the right way,
and when old, they will not stray."*

Proverbs 22:6

I love to people-watch. A favorite site for me is the presider's chair at the front of the church during worship services. I especially like to watch the children during worship.



This past Christmas Eve I took advantage of my spot during the 5:00 p.m. service at First Presbyterian Church of Hunter. One family had four generations in their pew, and I caught sight of the five-year-old great-grandson during the offering. He was sitting on his daddy's lap by the center aisle, and he grew more and more excited as the collection plate came near. He was so excited to drop his offering in the plate, I just had to smile. As we were getting our coats on after worship, I mentioned it to his mother, and she said that he is like that every Sunday in their church. For him, the offering is better than the children's sermon time.

When I got to the 7:00 p.m. service at the Grandin Presbyterian Church, I told the story to one of the Ruling Elders. We agreed that it would be a good thing if we could bottle that essence of joyful giving and sprinkle it over the congregation on occasion. This raises the question, at what point do we lose the thrill of giving God our first fruits, and begin to begrudge giving even our leftovers? I have seldom seen much excitement among the adults in any church as the plate is being passed on a Sunday morning.

The writer of Proverbs seems to indicate that this childhood excitement should follow through into adulthood, but those of us who wrestle with church budgets know that it does not seem to happen that way. Admittedly, it does say, "when old," and the retired generation does seem to do better than those of us in the middle, but many of us have still lost that sense of being a cheerful giver that brought a smile to my face.

It is February, and most of us are finding little to smile about, between the cold and the snow. I would suggest making a list of your blessings to reflect on through this time, and then remember those blessings as the offering plate comes your way. Give your pastor something to smile about from the presider's chair.



Presbytery of the Northern Plains

Rest Fest 2017

For youth 6th thru 12th grades
February 18-20, 2017
Park Rapids, MN

Picture...

- Getting dressed up for a nice meal
- Swimming in a pool with two 3 story water slides
- Relaxing in a large whirlpool that holds 18 people
- Playing golf on Detroit Lake
- Cross country skiing or snow shoeing
- Building a snowman
- Sitting by a fire in a Large Log home
- Sauna

What's the Cost?

\$70 for an entire weekend lodging, food, games, friends, fun, and rest.
An additional \$13 for waterpark (optional).

{REST}

Relax refresh

Registration Deadline:
February 6, 2017

STEPPING INTO GOD'S INVITATION TO REST!!

Questions?

Contact Scott Dobovsky at 615-986-9256 or scdobo@gmail.com
OR
Gloria Bancroft at 218-207-9521 or gloria.bancroft@hotmail.com



VIDEO CREATED TO AID IN UNDERSTANDING OF NEW STRUCTURE

By: Ruling Elder Jane Holtzclaw of the First Presbyterian Church of Minot and Enactment Task Force Member

The Enactment Task Force has published a short (6 min) video which reviews the development and implementation plan for the new structure and can be viewed on the Presbytery of the Northern Plains (PNP) website at

<http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com/new-structure>. Additional information including full details of the new structure can be viewed there as well.

Recognizing the need to operate more efficiently in terms of manpower and resources, the Presbytery has, over the past two years, reviewed its organizational structure with an eye to eliminating unnecessary or duplicated tasks and exploring alternatives to the current committee structure in order to enhance efficiency of operations.

Rather than functioning with a multitude of committees, each focused on a specific task area and often working independently of each other, a POD structure was devised. Four primary areas of responsibility were identified with a POD being created for each area – Leadership, Mission, Care for Pastoral Leaders, and Care for Congregations. Two committees required by the Book of Order (Nominating Committee and Committee on Representation) and the Permanent Judicial Commission remained as currently structured. POD membership (other than Elders nominated by the Nominating Committee and appointed by Presbytery as POD or task leaders) will be comprised of any interested congregational members.

It is felt that the new structure will enhance the ability of Presbytery to fulfill its primary mission, that of being a supportive resource to congregations, by making more efficient use of available resources. In addition, there will be increased opportunities for any interested congregational members to become actively involved in that mission.

Successful implementation of the new structure is dependent upon active participation by all congregations within the Presbytery. Each congregation is being asked to appoint at least one Elder as a Commissioner to Presbytery – a key conduit of information between the congregation and Presbytery. Other individuals interested in serving on a POD are encouraged to contact their congregational leadership or the Presbytery office. Formulation of POD leadership and membership will begin at the April 2017 Presbytery meeting. Full implementation with activation of the POD structure and dissolution of the committee structure will take place at the fall Presbytery meeting.



WELCOME REV. JOHN E. RITCHIE



On February 1, 2017, Mendenhall Presbyterian Church of East Grand Forks, MN, welcomed the Rev. John E. Ritchie as their new called pastor. Rev. Ritchie was born in Arizona and spent his early years in communities near Los Angeles, CA. His family moved to Spokane, WA, when he was a freshman in high school.

After high school, he earned a B.B.A. (bachelor of business administration) degree in Management Information Systems with a Communications minor at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA, in 1986. He completed his master of divinity degree at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1990. Rev. Ritchie served as an associate pastor/director of youth ministry at Southfield Presbyterian Church in Southfield, MI; at First Presbyterian Church in Gloucester, VA; and at First Presbyterian Church in Mexico, MO, before becoming solo pastor

at Wabash, IN, Presbyterian Church in 2002. In 2005, he accepted the first of several solo pastoral roles at First Presbyterian Church in nearby Huntington, IN, and served there until this year.

Pastor John and his wife Brenda have three children: Andrew (Bethany) Arkills, who live in St. Louis; Megan Estes, who lives in Charleston, S.C.; and Johnny Ritchie, a freshman at Columbia College in Chicago.

Please help us welcome Rev. Ritchie to the Presbytery of the Northern Plains! We are excited to have him here and be with the Mendenhall Presbyterian Church.

HEALTHY BOUNDARY TRAINING FOR TEACHING ELDERS

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains will be hosting a boundary training for pastoral leaders on Thursday, March 9, 2017, at Grandin Presbyterian Church of Grandin, ND. The training will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude by 4:00 p.m. Laurie Elhard, Administrator for Communication and Finance, and Alissa Anderson, Administrator for Connections and Records, will be leading the session. This training has been designed with the pastoral leader in mind, however all are welcome. **You MUST attend the entire training in order to receive the certificate and to fulfill the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures (P-2.0200) requirement.**

Everyone is highly encouraged to attend. Please contact the presbytery office to registrar at 701-772-0783 or pnpmmission@gmail.com, by March 2, 2017.

REGARDING RULING ELDERS: THE MINISTRY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



By: Jane Rogers Vann, Office of the General Assembly

Margaret's sitting room is bright and cheerful, and there is the fragrance of fresh muffins in the air. Julia (Margaret's daughter, a deacon not presently serving) and I have just come from church where we have celebrated the Lord's Supper. In a small basket I am carrying broken bread and a small bottle of wine (or juice) that have been taken from the Lord's Table during worship. Soon we will extend the Lord's Table with Margaret.

People who are unable to attend worship always enjoy visits from church leaders, especially those visits when the ongoing life of the congregation is shared. "Extending the Table," celebrating the Lord's Supper with those unable to come to church can be one of highest ministries to which ruling elders are called. The Directory for Worship, in the section describing the Lord's Supper, says this: "The serving of the elements may be extended by two or more persons in the ordered ministry of the church, to those isolated from the community's worship. ... [T]he elements are to be served following worship on the same calendar day, or as soon thereafter as practically feasible, as a direct extension of the serving of the gathered congregation ..." (*Book of Order*, W-3.3616e).

Visits to homebound members are occasions for meaningful pastoral care, honest talk about life's joys and difficulties. When extending the Table, the unity of Word and Sacrament is a central focus and so I also carry a Bible, an order for worship from the day's service, and some notes I've made on the details of the service and on the sermon. This ensures that the Lord's Supper does not become some sort of "magical" ritual or a purely personal "moment with Jesus." In the Lord's Supper we "join our voices with prophets and martyrs and with all the faithful of every time and place." The presence of two members of ordered ministry—deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders, both active and inactive—gives embodied emphasis to the communal emphasis of the sacrament. If there has been a baptism during worship, it is fitting to remind those at home of their own baptism, as was done with the gathered congregation. Water and the sign of the cross on the forehead may be used, with the words, "Margaret, remember your baptism and be thankful."

The words we share are familiar: "The Lord be with you." "And also with you." "The Word of the Lord." "Thanks be to God." "The bread of life." "Amen." "The cup of Salvation." "Amen." For Margaret, and many like her, these are signs of her inclusion in the ongoing life of the congregation. No special serving pieces are needed for this service. An ordinary plate and cup from the kitchen bring the sacrament even closer to home.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) provides an Order for the Extended Serving of the Communion of the Church at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/extendedservingorderworship.pdf>.

The two-page order can be printed into a small booklet. These are "rubrics," suggestions for how the service should be conducted. This resource is invaluable to elders and deacons who are ministering by extending the Table.

As we prepare to leave Margaret, our farewells are laced with the assurance of Christ's presence among us in the sharing of bread and wine. All of us have been blessed by the ministry of extending the Table.

GOING TO THE ALTER AND WE ARE GOING TO GET MARRIED

Exciting news from the Presbytery Office! Alissa Anderson, Administrator of Connections and Records, got engaged to Casey Hancock of Northwood, ND, at Stone Ridge Development on East Devils Lake on June 3, 2016. Casey and Alissa met in January 2014 and have had many adventures together since; such as vacations at Clearwater Beach, FL, and Las Vegas, along with a variety of concerts and many fishing adventures all year around.

Now the engagement story: *Earlier in the week Casey asked Alissa for a copy of her fishing license to put in the tackle box. Alissa asked why they needed a copy since last year they didn't do that and Casey said it was just to have a backup if their phones died. So on Friday evening when they arrived at the lake, they decided to go fishing before dark. Casey was hoping to take the boat out but due to the small storm that had just gone through they fished from shore. While fishing Casey told Alissa that he had a copy of her fishing license in the tackle box for her to sign. She said "Yep, ok" and kept fishing. He waited a couple of minutes and said "You know you should really sign it; I was told that the game warden has been around lately." "Oh, ok." So she reeled in her line, went over to the tackle box and pulled out the license to sign and the first piece of paper said "My one and only catch, Marry Me?" with a fishing hook and line taped to it. Alissa was shocked and froze. Casey had to tell her to turn around and he was on his knee. The answer of course was YES, YES, YES!*

Both families are very excited! They plan to be married in Grand Forks and can't wait to start their next adventure together!



PW GRANTS AWARDED

By: Ruling Elder Lana Schultz, Moderator of the Presbyterian Women of the
Presbytery of the Northern Plains

Part of the Presbyterian Women Purpose charges PW to “commit ourselves to support the mission of the church worldwide.” This year Presbyterian Women of the Northern Plains offered mission funds to any church group/ ministry team affiliated with the Presbytery through an application process. We were pleased to receive several worthwhile requests, but our funds allowed us to select only three - “Camp in a Van” in conjunction with Clearwater Forest for Bdecan Presbyterian Church and two mission trips this summer sponsored by Youth Connection Team.

Thank you to all the organizations who applied and, as moderator of Presbyterian Women of the Northern Plains, I hope PWP can continue offering the mission fund application process on an annual basis.

SAVE THE DATE for PWP’s Spring Gathering, April 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Moorhead. We are planning a fun, informative gathering with speakers from around the Synod. Open to all women in the Presbytery. This is a PW event you will not want to miss!



2017 PER CAPITA

2017 Per Capita was approved at the October Presbytery Meeting. The per capita apportionment is based on the funds necessary for the Presbytery/ Synod/General Assembly to do their essential ecclesiastical work.

2017 Per Capita Apportionment breakdown is:

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|------------------------------|-----------------|
| General Assembly | \$ 7.50 |
| Synod of Lakes & Prairies | \$ 5.30 |
| Northern Plains Presbytery | \$ 31.20 |
| Total 2017 Per Capita | \$ 44.00 |

The Presbytery office has a free brochure which will help individuals understand the fundamentals of Per Capita and Unified mission. If you would like to receive a copy, please contact the office at 701-772-0783 or email pnppoffice@gmail.com.

Officer Training

Federated Presbyterian Church
702 Griggs Avenue, Grafton, ND

February 18, 2017
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

All leaders are invited to this new training at the Federated Presbyterian Church in Grafton, ND, on February 18, 2017. There will be Ruling Elder training for everyone to attend in the morning. With training for the Clerks of Session and Treasurers in the afternoon.

The Stated Clerk, Michael Lochow; Treasurer, Walter Knipe; and Rev. Spencer Homan will lead each of the different areas of training. Whether you would like to get a refresher or are new to your position, you and your questions are welcome.

Please RSVP by February 10, 2017
to Alissa Anderson at 701-772-0783
or pnppmission@gmail.com

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5555 S. Washington Street
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701-772-0783 (office)
pnppmission@gmail.com (Alissa)
pnppoffice@gmail.com (Laurie)

Presbytery’s Calendar

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|--------------|--|
| Jan 31-Feb 2 | COM/CPM Training |
| Feb 1 | Clerk of Session/Moderator conference call at 9:30 a.m. |
| Feb 2 | Enactment Task Force cc |
| Feb 9 | Committee on Ministry cc |
| Feb 16 | Council meeting at United Presbyterian Church of Jmst |
| Feb 18 | Elder & Officer Training (pg 4) |
| Feb 18-20 | Youth Rest Fest (pg 1) |
| March 9 | Healthy Boundaries Training at Grandin Presbyterian Ch. (pg 2) |
| March 9 | Committee on Ministry meeting |
| March 16 | Council cc |
| April 21-22 | Annual Presbytery Meeting at Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo |
| October 6-7 | Fall Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Hallock |

cc = Conference Call

OFFICE HOURS

The Presbytery office is open Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 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 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: Jane Rogers Vann, Jane Holtzclaw Michael Lochow, Alissa Anderson, and Laurie Elhard.

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

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