

Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

May 2016

PRAYER CONCERNS/JOYS

Elsie Linn, mother-in-law of Teaching Elder Johnny Rhoad of Glencoe Sloan Memorial and First Presbyterian Church of Wilton, recently passed away in Malaysia. Please hold the whole Linn family in your prayers.

For the love of God to be evident in everything we do and say: 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 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 pray for our congregations in transition and congregations that are in need of healing.

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.

WE ARE PRICELESS IN GOD'S EYES

By: Ruling Elder Sylvia Pringle, moderator of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains

The month of May is often associated with graduation ceremonies. Graduates from high schools and colleges/universities are eager to make a name for themselves. The past years for these graduates have been instrumental in developing a life style that they hope will bring success, fame, happiness, financial freedom, and any other attribute that might signal to the world that they have "arrived." These attributes can define their self-worth.



Our culture places much emphasis on our position in society. An athlete's worth is measured according to his/her perceived value and they are paid accordingly. The corporate world defines success by a person's wealth and power. We cannot read a magazine or watch a TV program without seeing advertisements for creams, lotions, or exercise equipment that will bring back our youthful looks and thus improve our worth.

We know that financial fortunes can be lost. Youthful looks are exchanged for wrinkles, added pounds, an unsteady gait, and/or balding heads. In the eyes of the world, our worth has become less than noteworthy.

If the measurements of the world dictate how we view our worth, we are surely asking to be disappointed. If we measure our worth by these standards, we can expect failure.

How then can we measure our self-worth? We can get our eyes off ourselves and our self-importance and focus on how we are seen through God's eyes. We can realize

that God accepts us as we are, with all our failings and shortcomings. Psalm 139:1-18 is filled with reassurances and hope for us. Many of these verses tell us that God knows all about us, cares about us beyond our comprehension, and knows our past and our future. He is a present God; we cannot go any place where he is not! He thinks about us; his right hand holds us fast. He loves us and thinks we are wonderful!

How can we, and our dear graduates, transfer this kind of love to God's children? We can be that person who offers a smile and helping hand that translates to, "I know all about you, I know your past, your failings and I want to be with you as you go forward." We can be that person who helps another be the best he/she can be. We can love and forgive no matter how many times they stumble and fall. We can be that person who sees another with no judgment in our eyes. We can live in a present and work for a future where our best can emerge. We can love unconditionally.

I trust you will all realize that God places you in high esteem. He values you and considers you to be the finest of his creations. He thinks you are priceless.

May we be willing to see each one of his children as his priceless creation.

INSTALLATION SERVICE FOR THE REV. CATHERINE BISHOP

Sunday, June 5, 2016

at 4:00 p.m.



Come celebrate with the Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo as they install their new pastor, Teaching Elder Cathie Bishop, on June 5, 2016, at 4:00 p.m.

A special commission has been appointed by our moderator for this installation. A special thank you to those serving: Teaching Elder Mary Holtey (Fargo), Teaching Elder Donna Monteith (Grandin/Hunter), Presbytery Moderator and Ruling Elder Sylvia Pringle (Jamestown), and Ruling Elders Dawn Larson and Andrew Thostenson (West Fargo)

'BLESSED IS THE PEACEMAKER' THEME OF YOUTH RETREAT

By: Ashley Tangen, member of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Youth Connection Team



The Crystal Springs Youth Retreat has been a tradition within the Presbytery for over 20 years. Each Spring, 6th-12th grade youth from all over North Dakota (and Minnesota!) join together to learn about their faith, have some fun and let loose for a weekend. The topic of discussion, the number of youth and the retreat changes every year, but always continues to be a great amount of fun for all who take part!

This year, we had a great group of youth joining together to discuss "Peacemaking." We were lucky enough to have leaders from Chogoria join us to share in discussing the theme of "Blessed is the Peacemaker," and enjoyed time together learning about each other's culture-enjoying songs and games together.

Our youth really had fun with Prayer Stations led by our group from East Grand Forks. They were able to write down specific prayers through words or art, collect outside items to create a sculpture and add their own handprints to represent the peace symbol. Our youth had some reflective time to focus on prayer and peace with new friends, and youth from other churches.

We may have had cold weather this year, but we had a great group of kids. The youth spent the short amount of time getting to know each other, celebrating their faith in all the activities we enjoyed together.

A small group from several churches have a few older youth who have attended the Crystal Springs Retreats the past couple years, and have agreed to help plan and lead next Springs Retreat! Our Youth Connect Team will soon announce the dates for next spring's retreat, and hope our churches will work hard to support their youth in attending this great event.



PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES SET

Mark your calendar, the 2017 Presbytery Meeting dates have been set (locations will be announced soon). Here is a list of the upcoming Presbytery Meeting dates:

- October 14-15, 2016 at Rolla/St. John Presbyterian Church
- April 21-22, 2017
- October 6-7, 2017

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains holds two stated meetings each year: one in the spring and the other in the fall. The dates are selected by taking into consideration weather, church calendars, and planting/harvesting. No one date is perfect so we ask that each congregation do their best to encourage attendance of at least their voting delegate and pastoral leader. However all are always welcome to attend.

The agendas of these meetings include inspirational worship, education focused on issues facing Northern Plains churches, fellowship and business. Voting matters are intended to be no more than 50% of meeting time.

At times a Special Meeting may be called as needed for the work of the Presbytery. The Moderator (if unable, Stated Clerk) shall call a special meeting at the request, or with the concurrence, of two teaching elders and two ruling elders (from different congregations). Notice of a special meeting shall be sent out no less than ten days in advance to each teaching elder and to the session of every church. The notice shall outline the purpose of the meeting, and no other business other than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.



During April Presbytery meeting everyone learned a song praise in Swahili.

MISSING OUT ON REGIONAL EVENTS?



Laughter filled the First Presbyterian Church of Oakes fellowship hall prior to the April Presbytery Meeting as three ministry regions, South-East, South-Central and North-

West, gathered for a meal, fellowship and some planning for future events.

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains has adopted a plan to try to strengthen connections among our congregations by fostering ministry region gatherings. Everyone is invited to come to these gatherings. Without you we miss your congregation's voice, relationship and ideas. These gatherings are intended to create opportunities to better get acquainted with your nearby Presbyterian brothers and sisters and unite in mission and ministry. It is expected these will be unique times of sharing your struggles and joys, building partnerships and relationships, growing through education, being encouraged through devotions, sharing resources and together working faithfully to revitalize your church, your pastor, your session, and your ministry.

Since the start of these gathering hundreds of Presbyterian across our Presbytery have shared in laughter, joys, education and prayers with each other. Events have ranged from volunteering at homeless shelters, a family camping weekend, concerts at area colleges, training of officers/elders and educational events about our individual strengths or the environment, and so much more.

Thank you to everyone for the energy and enthusiasm shown so far. If you haven't attended a gathering in your region, now is the time to get involved. Below is a glimpse at some of the upcoming events:

- **South-Central Ministry Region:** Camping anyone? Yes, once again this region will host a **Family Fun Weekend** at Grand Rapids Campground. Past activities included: camping, cookout, children's play, golfing and a Sunday worship service. In September they are bring back the **Music Festival** which will be held at Presbyterian-Methodist Church of Ellendale, ND. In addition, they are planning on hosting a **Church Growth Strategies** on October 23rd at First Presbyterian Church of LaMoure.
- **South-East Ministry Region:** This region is doing more than just cheering on runners in the Fargo Marathon, they will be handing out water, fruit and "Sweet Jesus Brownies" at an **Aid Station**. This is a day filled with fellowship and fun. In August don't miss the **Family Picnic** at Lindenwood Park.
- **South-West Ministry Region:** A **joint worship service** will be held in July at Sertoma Park in Bismarck, ND. There will be a potluck meal after the service. In September, make sure to grab your needles and join in **Knitting/Needle Day**.
- **North-West and North-East Ministry Regions:** Both of these region's next event is a planning meeting. This is a great time to come together to share ideas and plan for 2017.

See something you are interested in, however not in your region? Regional events are open for all to attend. Please just make sure to RSVP by the deadline. For more information about any of these events, please contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or email us at pnppmission@gmail.com. The churches near you would be truly blessed to have you actively involved!

2016 REGIONS EVENTS

Please be sure to spread the word about these gatherings and join with one another. The more we get together the stronger our connections grow; the more our knowledge of one another, the more we care for and our love for one another can flourish; and the better we can do God's glory. Events are open to everyone in or outside the hosting region. See what your region is planning and plan to attend or share with a friend.

North-East Region

June – Planning meeting

North-West Region

October 13 – Planning Meeting at Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John

South Central

August – Family Fun Weekend at Grand Rapids Memorial Park

September – Music Festival at Presbyterian-Methodist Church of Ellendale, ND

October 23 – Church Growth Strategies at First Presbyterian Church of LaMoure

South-East Region

May 21 – Fargo Marathon, 5K walk and aid station

August – Family Picnic at Lindenwood Park

October 14 – Planning Meeting & Meal at Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John

South-West

July – Joint Worship Service in the Park

August – Planning Meeting

Fall – Knitting/Needle Day

Fall - Art Festival (Volunteer/Attend)

If you would like to know more about any of the above mentioned gatherings, or you have suggestions/ ideas for your region please contact Alissa Anderson, Administrator for Connections and Records, at 701-772-0783 or pnppmission@gmail.com.

PENTECOST OFFERING



We are so thankful that many churches have given their local Pentecost offering to the Bdecan Ministry Team. This offering helps to support the children and youth programs, the Bdecan Food Pantry, the Youth and Outreach Coordinator position and so much more.

As you decide in the next weeks how to use your local Pentecost offering this year, would you consider using it to sustain the ministry that is happening at Bdecan Presbyterian Church? The support that has been given has grown the program at Bdecan in unbelievable ways. Your gift now can make sure that this ministry is sustained long into the future, and the amazing things happening now keep happening for years to come.

ARE YOU BEING CALLED TO SERVE



By: Hazel Merdink, Nominating Committee of the
Presbytery of the Northern Plains

Often times we don't recognize the skills that God has given us to use for the benefit of God's church. You are invited to reflect upon the gifts and skills you have and the gifts and skills you

see in others that would build up our mission and ministry together. You are then invited to share your name and the names of others with the Presbytery of the Northern Plains Nominating Committee.

The following are committees and representative positions opening in 2017:

- Moderator and Vice-Moderator
- Council Chair
- Committee On Ministry (COM);
- Committee for Preparation of Ministry (CPM);
- Committee on Representation (COR);
- Self-Development of People (SDOP);
- Session Records Committee;
- Clearwater Forest Representative;
- Synod Commissioner and Delegate YAAD (start in May 2017);

Please help us spread the word about this wonderful opportunity by placing this information in your newsletter and encouraging each other to take an active role in our Presbytery.

PROTEIN ENERGY BALLS

At the April Presbytery Meeting many enjoyed a treat during break time that had people talking and wanting the recipe. So here it is:

Mix together:

- ½ cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1 tsp vanilla

Add:

- 1 cup oatmeal
- 2/3 cup coconut
- ½ cup ground flax seed
- Chocolate chips mini

Roll into 1 inch balls. Place into air tight container and refrigerate.



Presbytery's Calendar

May 4	Nominating meeting cc
May 4	Youth Connection Team cc
May 7	Bdecan Ministry Team meeting at Bdecan Presbyterian Church
May 10	Committee on Ministry Meeting
May 19	Council Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of GF
May 30	Memorial Day, Office Closed
May 31	Summer Office Hours Begin Monday thru Thursday
June 16	Moderator meeting cc
June 16	Council meeting cc
June 15-17	Synod PW Gathering
June 18-25	General Assembly in Portland, OR.
July 4	Independence Day, Office Closed
July 19-23	Presbyterian Youth Triennium
July 24-30	Synod School

cc = Conference Call

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 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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