

Light of the Northern Plains

Presbytery of the Northern Plains

November 2015

PRAYER CONCERNS/JOYS

Please keep the following people in your prayers as they recover from recent surgeries:

- Jim Legerski, member of the First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck
- Dixon Moorhead, Trained Ruling Elder and a member of the Community Presbyterian Church of West Fargo
- Julie Lindegard, member of the First Presbyterian Church of Hallock

and others who are dealing with health issues.

Deb Burger-Peery, Teaching Elder in Bottineau, would like to say thank you to everyone for your prayers and generosity during this time. Her son, Harrison, is heading toward remission. Please continue to pray for Harrison, as he will have three surgeries soon, and his family.

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 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.

GRATITUDE IS A LIFE STYLE

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



We recently observed, or some might say endured, another night of trick-or-treating. Since my husband and I live on the edge of town, and I no longer teach young children, and our own kids have long flown the nest, we generally don't have the hoards of masked children on the doorstep anymore. However,

we did hand out treats to enough kids to get a reading on the "thank you" meter. I found the vast majority of the masked tricksters were polite and did not need their parents to remind them of their manners. However, when older kids came knocking, they were inclined to grab a handful of treats and run to the next lit porch. Somewhere between youngsters and tweensters, a thankful spirit had been tossed aside.

In the fast approaching season of Thanksgiving, we are reminded to be thankful for our many blessings. Perhaps we will be sitting down to a Thanksgiving feast. When we offer our thanks through our table prayers, do we take time to really think about how our food got to our tables? The old song used as a table grace, *Back of the Bread*, gives us a little window into the process of "bread to table."

Back of the bread is the flour, and back of the flour is the mill, and back of the mill is the wind and the rain, and the Father's will.

There was a picture going around social media a while back showing a family sitting around a well presented meal offering thanks. The rest of the picture has a farmer in the field saying, "You're welcome."

In 1 Thess. 5:18 we read that we are to be thankful in all circumstances. We find that gratitude is not seasonal, nor is it situational. The very word "thanksgiving" gives us a clue. Other holidays don't have the word "thank" in their titles, but we certainly are grateful at Christmas for the birth of our Savior, and at Easter for the promise of our resurrections and our gratitude is evident on secular celebrations such as birthdays and anniversaries of special events. Christ gave thanks for the bread and wine at the last supper. He gave thanks before sharing the meal with the 5,000. Paul thanks God whenever he remembers the saints in Philippi. With thanksgiving, present your requests to God, Phil. 4:6. So as I said a few sentences back, gratitude is not seasonal, nor is it

situational. Check out your concordance and you will find numerous references regarding giving thanks.

If you keep a prayer journal, it might be helpful to have a section for thanksgiving. A section where "thank you" notes are written to God. We are receivers of miracles every day. Perhaps not as dramatic as those recorded in scripture, but miraculous still. Maybe you don't consider waking up each morning a miracle. Well for some who were close to death, this qualifies as miraculous. A meal that appears out of nowhere is a miracle for those who hunger. Medication that allows a longer life is miraculous. Getting supplies of food, water, and medicines to hard to reach areas, and to victims of terrorist activity or climate catastrophes are evidences of miracles.

God is constantly looking to amaze us by his goodness. We can't go through our daily lives with no thought to our blessings and no thought to the giver of those blessings. I hope you recognize so many reasons to be grateful that you run out of stationery as you send your many "thank you notes" to God. In all things, give thanks.

HEALTHY BOUNDARY TRAINING

The Presbytery will be hosting a Healthy Boundary Training on Thursday, November 12, 2015, at the United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. led by Diana Barber, Synod of the Lakes and Prairies Associate Synod Executive for Leadership Development. This training is open to everyone interested in attending and will fulfill the Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures (P-2.0200) requirement. It is also suggested for Ruling Elders and Christian Educators to attend this training. To receive credit and a certificate you **MUST** attend the entire training.

Please contact the presbytery office if you plan to attend at 701-772-0783 or pnpmmission@gmail.com, by November 4, 2015.

PRESBYTERY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

By: Michael Lochow, Ruling Elder, Stated Clerk

The Presbytery of the Northern Plains held its 113th Stated Meeting at the Glencoe Sloan Memorial Presbyterian Church in Rural Bismarck, North Dakota, on Friday, October 23, 2015. The commissioners and visitors enjoyed the rural setting and the hospitality of the members of Glencoe Sloan Memorial.

The presence of the Rev. Alonzo Johnson, Jr., OGA Peacemaking Program Staff was a highlight of the meeting. He led the Educational Event which was a review of the Five Peacemaking Affirmations for Presbyteries. Rev. Johnson also preached at the opening worship service. He brought considerable energy with a touch of humor to both.

The Presbytery approved calls to the churches in Bismarck and Jamestown. Bismarck has called the Rev. David Reiter and Jamestown the Rev. Robert Boyar. The Committee on Ministry previously approved a temporary pastoral agreement between the Rev. Johnny Rhoad and Glencoe Sloan Memorial and First Presbyterian of Wilton.

The Nominating Committee presented a full slate of candidates for various positions within the Presbytery. Representing the Presbytery at the 2016 General Assembly will be the Rev. Donna Monteith (Grandin/Hunter) as the Teaching Elder commissioner, Sylvia Pringle (Jamestown) as the Ruling Elder commissioner, and Adam Allmer (Jamestown) as the Youth Advisory Delegate. Ruling Elder Michael Lochow was elected to three-year terms as stated clerk and to the Clearwater Forest Board (for a complete list, see page 4).

The Rev. Paul Henschen presented an overture titled "A Call for a Ban of Fracking" on behalf of the Presbyterians for Earth Care Team (PEC). Rev. Henschen outlined the rationale in support of the overture. The overture failed to be approved by a close vote.

Ruling Elder Ellen Misialek reported on the steps taken by a group of persons versed in financial procedures which reviewed the financial records of the Presbytery for the years from 2009 – 2014. She reported that they concluded that the financial records were accurate and represent the financial position of the Presbytery as of December 31, 2014.

Other actions were the receipt of the final report of the Minot Church Administrative Commission with the dismissal of the Commission with gratitude; the approval of the 2016 budget; a review of the Presbytery survey results, the report of the Dickinson Administrative Commission which continues to work but is in need of new members; and reports from the Bdecan Ministry Team, the Youth Connection, and Clearwater Forest.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or toll free at 1-800-243-3532, or by email at pnpooffice@gmail.com.



Glencoe Sloan Memorial hosted the 2015 October Presbytery Meeting. Dates and locations have been set for 2016 and they are: April 1 & 2, 2016, at First Presbyterian Church of Oakes and October 14 & 15, 2016, at Presbyterian Church of Rolla/St. John.

2016 PER CAPITA

2016 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.

2016 Per Capita Apportionment breakdown is:

General Assembly	\$ 7.12
Synod of Lakes & Prairies	\$ 5.25
Northern Plains Presbytery	<u>\$ 31.13</u>
Total 2016 Per Capita	\$ 43.50

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 pnpooffice@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS YOUTH WORKERS!



The Presbytery of the Northern Plains had three youth workers recognized at the national level at the 10th birthday of the Presbyterian Youth Workers Association (PYWA) in October. Congratulations to Ashley Tangen Greenwood (First-Bismarck), Elizabeth Sherfy (United-Jamestown) and Joe Obermeyer (Bdecan)! They will also be honored on their website <http://pywa.org/youthworker/pywa-s-birthday-youth-worker-honorees>

Wondering what PYWA is? It is a national organization that helps provide continuing education for people who work with the youth of their congregation around the country. On their website they provide resources for Youth Workers, Congregations, and a Community Resource Bank. It is a great way to get new ideas or to help guide a newer volunteer or employee that works with youth. Check it out at www.pywa.org. If you have additional questions or would like to join the presbytery youth connection team, please contact Scott Dobovsky at scobo@gmail.com.

END OF YEAR TO DO LIST

By: Ruling Elder Lana Schultz, chair of the Session Records Committee

The Session Records Committee wanted to remind clerks of session and moderators of some items to include in your session's agenda before the end of the year:

1. Elect the church treasurer and clerk of session
2. Conduct the deacons' annual review
3. Approve the statistical report for your church
4. Appoint an auditor or financial person to review the church's financial records.
5. Report on the reading of session's records from September or October.
6. Set an annual meeting date and storm date for 2015.
7. Consider starting each session meeting with devotions as part of continuing education.
8. Be sure you have adopted and implemented a sexual misconduct policy.
9. Insure you have adequate property and liability insurance for facilities, programs, staff and officers.

The Session Records Committee welcomes your questions, suggestions and concerns. The Presbytery office, at 701-772-0783 or email pnppoffice@gmail.com, can put you in contact with Stated Clerk Michael Lochow, committee chair Lana Schultz, or committee members Denise Olson or Dorothy Bergh.

TRIENNIAL TRADING PINS DESIGNS NEEDED

At Triennial trading pins are a big thing and everyone ones tries to get as many as possible. The Youth Connection Team would like our youth to have a pin that represents our presbytery. Encourage your friends, youth, and fellow Presbyterians to put on their creative hats and have fun creating a unique design that is truly Northern Plains. For more details, go to the Presbytery's website or contact the Presbytery office. You may submit as many designs as you wish but the office must receive them by **December 1, 2015**.

Triennial packets have been mailed out. If your congregation has not received it or need additional information, please contact the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or go to: <http://www.northernplainspresbytery.com/#!2016-triennial/c1w28>

REGIONS: LOOKING AHEAD

On October 23, 2015, four of the ministry regions gathered before the presbytery meeting to plan their future together. It was an exciting time of brainstorming and sharing ideas. See what your region is planning and plan to attend or share with a friend.

North-West Region

November – Thanksgiving Dinner at United Church of Bottineau

February – Ruling Elder Training at Westminster Presbyterian Church of Devils Lake

February 26 & 27 – Youth Lock-in (30 Hour Famine) at United Church of Bottineau

April 1 – Fellowship Meal before Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Oakes

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

South Central

April – Mission Festival at Presbyterian-Methodist Church of Ellendale

April – Planning Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Oakes

August – Family Camp Out at Grand Rapids Memorial Park

Conflict Educational Event
Music Festival

South-East Region

February 2016 – Stewardship Educational Event
Serving a meal and volunteering at Churches United

April 2016 – Planning Meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Oakes

South-West

January – Ice Skating at Glencoe Sloan Memorial

July – Joint Worship Service in the Park

August – Planning Meeting

Fall 2016 – Knitting/Needle Day
Art Festival (Volunteer/Attend)

Please be sure to spread the word about these gatherings and join with one another. 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.

COME CELEBRATE WITH CAVALIER



You are invited to celebrate the Cavalier Presbyterian Church 125th Anniversary on December 6, 2015. Fellowship will start at 10:00 a.m. with coffee, worship at 10:30 a.m. with a catered meal to follow (all at the church). The meal will have a free will offering. If you plan on attending, please RSVP by November 16, 2015, by calling 701-265-4595.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Congratulations to the following people, who were elected to a Presbytery Committee and start their new responsibilities January 2016:

Stated Clerk Michael Lochow*

2016 General Assembly Commissioners/Alternates

Teaching Elder Commissioner	Donna Monteith***
Teaching Elder Alternate	Mary Holtey
Ruling Elder Commissioner	Sylvia Pringle***
Ruling Elder Alternate	Marilyn Dean
YAAD	Adam Allmer

Committee on Ministry

Teaching Elder - 2018	Rick Raum
Teaching Elder - 2018	Paul Lang
Teaching Elder - 2018	Robyn Eddy
Ruling Elder - 2018	Julie Lindegard*
Ruling Elder - 2018	Karen MacDonald
Teaching Elder - 2016	Deanna Reikow**

Committee on Nominations

Class of 2017	Nancy Emerson**
Class of 2018	Deanna Reikow
Class of 2018	Pauline Purath*

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2018	Tom Cummings
Class of 2018	Hazel Merdink*

Committee on Representation

Class of 2016	Elizabeth Sherfy**
Class of 2018	Elizabeth Swee *

Self Development of People

Class of 2018	Martha Mino
Class of 2018	Heeyoung Kim
Class of 2018	Karine Chan

Session Records

Class of 2018	Vicki Bunker
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Clearwater Forest

Class of 2018	Michael Lochow *
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The Committee on Nominations is always seeking people who are interested in serving on various Presbytery committees. If you feel you have been called to serve the Presbytery as a committee member or someone you know would be interested in serving, please contact Hazel Merdink, Nominating Committee Chair, 218-773-1832, or the Presbytery office at 701-772-0783 or email pnpooffice@gmail.com.

*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.

Presbytery's Calendar

Nov 4	Youth Connection Team cc
Nov 10	Committee on Ministry cc
Nov 12	Boundaries Training, 1 to 4, at United Presbyterian Church of Jamestown (pg 4)
Nov 13-14	Bdecan Bazaar at Moorhead Center Mall
Nov 19	Council meeting at United Presbyterian Church of Jmst
Nov 21	Self-Development of People Training at First – Moorhead
Nov 26-27	Holiday – office closed
Dec 6	Cavalier Presbyterian Church 125 th Anniversary Celebration
Dec 8	Committee on Ministry cc
Dec 17	Council cc
Dec 21-Jan 1	Office closed

cc = Conference Call

OFFICE HOURS

The Presbytery office is open Monday thru Friday, 7:00 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 pnpooffice@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: Sylvia Pringle, Michael Lochow, Lana Schultz, Alissa Anderson, and Laurie Elhard

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

Laurie Elhard
Presbytery of the Northern Plains
5555 South Washington Street Suite A
Grand Forks, ND 58201
701-772-0783
pnpooffice@gmail.com