

# The “E Messenger”

---

## Notes and Comments by Wade

012309

We pray that God’s Gracious Spirit be with the members of Zion United Church of Christ of Manvel and the Federated (UCC/ABC) Church of Grand Forks and their pastor, Keith Mills. May God’s blessing continue to guide and strengthen this diverse parish as they explore God’s vision for each of them in an ever-changing world.

Last Sunday it was my pleasure to join with many from Central North Dakota as we experienced the first of the revivals in Jamestown. It was a celebration of the hopes and the faith of the people of the Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ. I look forward to joining with the Evangelism Task Force Crew as we journey to New Town for the Second Revival this coming Sunday evening. The Revival will begin at the UCC church in New Town at 4:00 pm and will conclude by 7:00 pm (dinner will be included). Other Revivals will be in Fargo at First Church on February 8<sup>th</sup> and Bismarck UCC on February 15<sup>th</sup> they also will begin at 4:00 pm (ct).

For the past four years, churches throughout the Northern Plains Conference have collected special Lenten offerings to help support the East Timor Education Foundation. With the help of its partners here and abroad the Foundation has established and operates a village school in Lisadilla, East Timor. To date, a three-classroom school has been constructed as well as several units of faculty housing. Seventy-five young students are now being taught academic and vocational subjects by six newly hired teachers. Future plans include new water well for the school and construction of a dormitory for students who live beyond a reasonable walking distance from the village. The East Timor Education Foundation works in partnership with the Protestant Church of East Timor, the Northern Plains Conference and Global Ministries. In addition to Lenten Offerings and financial gifts from churches in the Northern Plains Conference, the Foundation has supporters from across the United States who joins in the work. A request to consider a 2009 Lenten offering, as well as information about the East Timor project will be sent to all local church pastors in mid-February. If you have questions about the East Timor Educational Foundation or the operation of the school in Lisadilla, please email [moossharon@yahoo.com](mailto:moossharon@yahoo.com) or call pastor Jim at 701 223 1915 (o) or 701 224 9582 (h).

This Sunday it will be my pleasure to join with the members of Bismarck United Church of Christ and their pastor Jim Moos in the installation service for Camille Grothier into a four-way covenant as Associate for Hospice chaplaincy. I look forward to sharing in this celebration and invite NPCUCC members from across the Conference to join us.

Coming up in February and March there will be a series of Covenant Gatherings across the Conference for the purpose of exploring the opportunities to express our faith through our stewardship and especially through the establishment of a wills program. The programs will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will run for two hours (or until 8:00 p.m.). The dates and locations for the Covenant gatherings are: **2/24 at Plymouth/Fargo, 2/26 at Medina, 3/3 at New Salem, 3/5 at Elgin, 3/9 at First Congregational/Hebron, 3/12 at New Town, 3/16 at Garrison.**

Early in the month of January, you received the yearbook forms. It is very important that you fill out these forms as accurately as possible so that we can send accurate figures in to the national setting of the church. We asked that all forms be returned to the Conference Office by **February 2<sup>nd</sup>**, so that we can return them to the national church in a timely fashion. We want to thank you in advance for taking the time to fill out these important documents. We realize that it takes time to do this but it is necessary for us to keep in touch with one another across the church. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.

Around the NPCUCC 012309 – 020109

Date	Time	Event	Location
1/23	10:00 am (ct)	Wilson Health Collaborative	New Town
1/23	10:30 am (ct)	Central Cluster	Medina
1/23	6:00 pm (ct)	Yankton College Class	-----
1/24	9:00 am (ct)	Yankton College Class	-----
1/24	11:00 am (ct)	ALWL #4	Garrison
1/25	10:30 am (ct)	Installation for Camille Grothier	Bismarck
1/25	4:00 pm (ct)	Revival	New Town
1/26	1:00 pm (ct)	Children's Defense Fund	Bismarck Library
2/1	10:30 am (mt)	CM shares in worship	Dickinson