

The “E Messenger”

Notes and Comments by Wade
010909

Let us lift our hearts with gratitude for the ministry of our covenant partner, the National Setting of the United Church of Christ. We give thanks for the skills, dedication and passion of the many faithful servants who help to empower UCC congregations across the Northern Plains Conference and the wider United Church of Christ.

Last Sunday it was my pleasure to join with the members of my home Church, Bismarck United Church of Christ and our pastor, Jim Moss as we began our 2009 journey. I always appreciate the fellowship and support whenever I am able to worship with the Bismarck folk.

Pastors and congregational leaders and members are invited to Revive, Rejoice and Resurrect as the Evangelism Task Force of the NPCUCC hosts revivals across the Conference the special gatherings will be from 4 – 7 pm at: Jamestown, January 18, New Town January 25, Fargo February 8 and Bismarck February 15. It will be a time for fellowship, celebration and praise as we gather to share in study, worship and a meal. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

The themes that are being used in the Revivals taking place across the Conference come from Paul Nixon’s book entitled, “I Refuse To Lead a Dying Church!” These themes make strong themes for Lenten Preaching. Susan Lester has broken them down for a Lenten Sermon Series in the following manner; 3/8 John 11:17 – 44, Psalm 86:1 – 7, Life over death; 3/15 John 17:20 – 26, Psalm 133, “Community over isolation; 3/22, Ecclesiastes 9:7 – 10, Psalm 66:1 – 7, “Fun over drudgery”; 3/29, Hebrews 4:12 – 16, Psalm 3, “Bold over mild”; 4/5, Mark 13:1 – 2, Psalm 65:1 – 2, 9 – 13, Frontier over fortress, 4/12, Mark 16:1 – 8, Psalm 32, Now over Later. We thank Susan for her efforts. If you have questions about any of these passages please feel free to contact the Conference Office.

It is time to mark your calendars and prepare to attend the Annual Conference meeting. This year the gathering will be at the Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Minot. Plans are underway for a very special and meaningful time. The Annual Meeting will begin with registration on Friday, June 5 and will conclude with lunch on June 7th.

Congregations that have not already done so are invited to send in to the Conference Office their quilt squares that they can be incorporated into the Conference Quilt that will be displayed at the 2009 Annual Meeting. If you have lost your quilt square, please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.

Date	Time	Event	Location
1/9	6:00 pm (ct)	Holiday Gathering	Fargo
1/10	11:00 am (ct)	The Northern Red River Valley Covenant Group Gathering	Grand Forks
1/11	8:30 am (mt)	CM shares in worship	Elgin
1/13	10:00 am (ct)	MV Cluster	New Salem
1/14	11:00 am (ct)	Minot Cluster	Garrison
1/17	11:00 am (ct)	ALWL #4	-----
1/18	9:45 am (ct)	CM shares in Annual Meeting and worship	Carrington