

The "E Messenger"

Notes and Comments by Wade

072508

We pray that God's gracious Spirit continue to be with our mission partner, the Protestant Church of East Timor. May they continue to be a beacon of hope amid the devastation and poverty in which the people live. We pray that God's grace, understanding and love continue to embrace and guide the members of this church as they follow God's vision into the future.

Last Sunday was a very special blessed time as I had the opportunity in the morning to share in a special service of commemoration as St. John church of Hebron celebrated the centennial of their sanctuary. Their celebration was a special time of thanksgiving and praise followed by a fellowship gathering. In the afternoon I shared in the centennial celebration for Bethel United Church of Christ of rural New Salem. Their service of praise and their time of fellowship were special for all who were present and shared in the service. This service marked the last regularly scheduled service for this historic rural congregation.

Two special e mail letters are on the way to your computers. They announce the training sessions for the "Mission Ambassadors". The Mission Ambassadors program is in its second year and we are looking for additional participants to help fill it out. Mission Ambassadors are lay folk who carry the message of outreach in the name of our Redeemer to neighboring congregations. While they carry that message to the next town they are also available to share that message within your congregation. Please let us know of folk who would find being such messengers meaningful. The Mission Ambassador Training will take place Sept. 13 at 11:00 am (ct) at Bismarck, Sept. 18, at 6:00 pm (ct) at Carrington and Sept 20, at 11:00 am (ct) at Mayville. The second letter was for pastors, ordained and licensed. It lifted up times for boundary training events which will take place September 6th at Valley City and September 27 at Bismarck. The events will begin at 10:30 am (ct) and conclude by 3:00 pm (ct). Please check the email letters for more information or call the Conference Office.

Notice to all NPCUCC Campers. The campers going to Wesley Acres have a special opportunity to use the challenge course at the camp, but to do so they must fill out the "Challenge Course Participation Agreement, Release and Assumption of risk Form" that was mailed to all registered campers and emailed to all pastors. Please take a moment to look over this agreement and release form and send it into the Conference Office or to Darcy Borden as soon as possible.

This Sunday it is my great pleasure to join with the members of the Federated UCC/UMC Church of Carrington and share with them the best wishes of their

brothers and sisters of the Northern Plains Conference as they celebrate their 125th

Anniversary. May God's grace and blessing be with them as they continue their journey into their second century of ministry.

For those who have not already registered for the program Charlene J. Smith will lead August 22 – 23 entitled "God Is Still Speaking, Do Not Be Afraid" you can find registration forms on the NPCUCC web site <npcucc.org/flier>. The Conference is assuming the cost for the program and meals and the participants are asked to cover the cost of lodging and transportation. It is vital that all participants register so that we can know how many to prepare for and how many to register for rooms. All room registrations need to be handled through the Conference Office.

This Fall, the United Church of Christ hopes to air the beloved "Steeple" commercial to a national audience, bringing Jesus' message of unity, welcome and hope to millions of people. It is our turn to speak out. To do this the UCC needs to raise a minimum of \$350,000. This is an opportunity for each congregation and member to respond and help put our message on the air for all to hear. Please make checks payable to the NPCUCC marked "Steeple".

All NPCUCC members lay and pastor, are invited to make plans to share in the Installation Service for Gaylund Olson, August 24 at 3:00 pm (ct) at St. John Church, Hebron. Let us gather to share in this special time of celebration.

Around the NPCUCC 072508 - 080308

Date	Time	Event	Location
7/25	-----	NYE	-----
7/26	-----	NYE	-----
7/27	-----	NYE	-----
7/27	10:00 am (ct)	CM Shares in Worship	Carrington
7/28	-----	NYE	-----
7/29	-----	NYE	-----
8/2	-----	Conference Council	Jamestown