

The “E Messenger”

Notes and Comments by Wade

081409

On this Summer Sunday let us give thanks for the ministry of the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Dickinson. We pray that God’s divine grace continue to be with the members of this Western North Dakota Congregation and their pastor, M. Kathleen Chesnut as they seek the guidance of God’s vision.

Last Sunday Peg and I were traveling to Sioux Falls to take part in two events that thought they may seem very different were in reality very similar. One was a Midwestern Rural gathering at the Civic Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It was a gathering of folk from the 13 predominately-rural states to discuss major issues and concerns facing the people found there. It was a chance to talk with and hear from people as they shared the horror stories of not enough doctors, and a general lack of adequate health care, as well as celebrate the many blessings of rural life. Following that meeting (by several minutes) I joined 9 delegates from NPC in a special gathering of representatives from the Nebraska, South Dakota and NPC Conference in a conversation about ways that we could work together to more effectively be the church of Jesus Christ in the Prairie. This conversation was filled with hope and expectation as we talked about the challenges to which God is calling us and the promises of God’s abiding grace that accompany us. By Tuesday evening when Peg and I returned home we were both hopeful and tired.

82 – 4 – 2010 That is the code for a call that is going out across the Northern Plains Conference. As we look at the 2010 budget we will have an \$8,000 shortfall. It is our hope that with your help and support we will be able to go into 2010 not with a deficit but with the assurance that our budget will be covered. We are asking 82 NPC members to write a check for \$100 to the Northern Plains Conference identified for the 82 – 4 – 2010 Fund. We are currently well on our way there but we have a long way to go to make the Dec. 31st deadline. Individuals as well as groups are invited to share in this special call. The number 82 was arrived at as we remembered the Call of Christ to 12 disciples and to 70 whom he sent. Let us answer this call as we continue the journey of faith into the coming year.

Don’t miss the opportunity to help our brothers and sisters that are facing the threat of disaster. Church World Service is inviting us to lend a hand by putting together

hygiene and baby kits that can be distributed to folk in times of great need across the world. These kits will provide life saving help in some of the most critical times. Congregations that would be interested in assembling any of these kits should contact the Minn-Kota office of Church World Service at 1 888 297 2767 or the Conference Office.

Cluster Meetings this coming week are the Minot Cluster, August 19th at Garrison beginning at 11:00 am (ct) and the Fargo Cluster will be having a picnic at Shelter 4 in Lindenwood Park beginning at 5:00 pm (ct). If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.

The NPC continues its commitment to lay ministry training as we are joining with United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and their Academy of Vital Christianity program. The first classes in this program will be held October 10 and November 7 at Valley City and will be taught by Dr. Rich Weis, Dean of UTS. Please watch for a flier that will be coming by email to all NPCUCC participants.

All who are sharing in the Multiple Paths to Ordination program are invited to come to the Bismarck UCC and share in the special Saturday event focusing on Ministry in the Prairie. We will begin at 10:00 am and will conclude by 3:00 pm (ct). Several of our NPC pastors will be making an appearance. We will also be sharing vital information about future gatherings.

Peg Schemmel will be arrested August 19 as a part of the March of Dimes fundraiser. Any who would like to make a donation to bail her out are invited to contact the Conference Office.

Around the NPCUCC 081409 – 082309

Date	Time	Event	Location
8/18	12:00 Noon (ct)	Meeting with Camp Leaders	Jamestown
8/19	11:00 am (ct)	Minot Cluster	Garrison
8/20	5:00 pm (ct)	Fargo Cluster	Fargo
8/22	10:00 am (ct)	Multiple Paths to Ordination Gathering	Bismarck
8/23	10:30 am (mt)	Cm leads worship	Medora