

THE “E MESSENGER”

NOTES AND COMMENTS BY WADE

050209

Our prayers are with the historic ministry of Charles Hall Youth Services of Bismarck. We pray that God's vision and empowering Spirit might continue to guide the development of their ministry to and with the troubled youth of North Dakota. May God's grace be with the co directors, Gayla Sherman and Gayle Klopp.

Last Sunday was one of those days that carried many blessings. The morning began with the opportunity to worship with the members and pastor from the Congregational United Church of Valley City as they returned to their building after being told by city officials the previous week not to use it. It was a joyous return as we celebrated the goodness of God's divine grace and love that guides us even through the high water and its impact. Following the worship at Valley City I had the privilege of joining with many UCC pastors as we gathered in Jamestown at the First Congregational UCC church for the Post Lenten Retreat. This began a time of fellowship and sharing as we explored the ministry to which we are being called by the assets that God places within the membership of our congregations. Luther Snow was the guide for the weekend.

It is time to gratefully give thanks and celebrate as the Northern Plains Conference has just received a \$7,500 Brown Grant designated to assist with the development of its lay ministry program. We are grateful for this grant and for the support of our Covenant Partner, the National Church.

This coming Sunday it is my pleasure to share in the service of worship of Salem United Church of Christ of New Salem. Peg and I look forward to this opportunity to share in this service of worship with the members of this congregation and their acting pastor, Ron Hildahl.

The Strengthen the Church Special Offering is scheduled to be received on Pentecost, which is May 31. This offering is used for the purpose of empowering church vitality

ministries within our congregations, conferences and beyond. The focus for this offering is the local congregation. In fact one-half of all that is given will go to support the ministries of church renewal within the Conference. That is correct, one-half of all that is received through this offering stays within the Northern Plains Conference. That is a reason for us to be especially generous as we receive the Strengthen the Church Offering.

Sunday afternoon through Wednesday noon I will be on a mixture of study leave and personal vacation as I share in educational events around the Matthew Shepherd Legislation that is currently coming before the Senate. Monday I will be in classes lead by various people from across the country including John Thomas, the president of the UCC, as well as helping to lead some discussion groups. Tuesday I will have the privilege to visit with our Senators and Congressman and also to have a meeting with the Global Warming folk of the National Council of Churches. I hope to be back in the office Wednesday mid afternoon.

Around the NPCUCC 050109 – 051009

Date	Time	Event	Location
5/3	9:00 am (ct)	Cm shares in worship	New Salem
5/3	1:00	CM flies to DC	
5/4	-----	CM on study leave	DC
5/5	-----	CM visits National Senators and Representative	DC
5/6	1:00 pm (ct)	CM returns to Office	Bismarck
5/9	11:00 am (ct)	C & M Committee	Fargo/Plymouth
5/10	-----	Festival of the Christian Home	-----
5/10	10:00 am (ct)	CM shares in worship	Garrison