

The “E Messenger”

Notes and Comments by Wade
052709

This Pentecost Sunday as we celebrate the embracing touch of the Spirit of God let us rejoice in the wondrous gift of God’s grace as it surrounds and enfolds the small town Congregation of St. John in Hebron, North Dakota. It is our prayer that God’s strengthening love would continue to be with the members of this farming congregation and their pastor, Gaylund, Olson.

This coming Sunday it will be our pleasure to join in the special tenth anniversary recognition service for Karl Limvere. Sunday will mark the 10th anniversary for Karl and Jean as the pastoral family of Zion United Church of Christ of Medina. We pray that God’s continued gracious presence might be with the members of this small town congregation on this day of celebration as they unite in gratitude for the ministry that they and their pastor have shared.

Peg and I will be on vacation the remainder of this week, (May 28 – May 30) as we along with our oldest Son and our daughter in law will be going to Ft. Sam Houston, Texas to celebrate the graduation of our youngest Son from training to be an army medic. We will be back in the office Monday, June 1st.

As registrations continue to come into the Conference Office we are growing in our anticipation of the Annual Meeting of the Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ. We give thanks for the opportunity to come together to lift our spirits in praise as we allow God’s wisdom and vision to guide us into the future. If you have not already done so, please take this opportunity to register that we might be prepared to come together in the name of our redeemer. Please check on the NPCUCC website www.npcucc.org under “forms” or “fliers” for more information and for registration forms. If you have difficulty finding the registration form or have a question do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.

This Sunday we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church Offering. This special five for five offering is an opportunity for us to unite in our support of the ministry of our congregations as well as the congregations across our conference and the wider United Church of Christ. This money helps to support the ministry of church revitalization, new church development and evangelism training across the UCC. One special characteristic of this offering is that half of all the funds raised remain

in the Northern Plains Conference to help Strengthen the local Churches. Please be generous.

Please check out the workshop being offered July 31 and August 1 at the Congregational United Church of Christ of Valley City. This workshop is entitled “Stewardship for the 21st Century and will be an opportunity for us to explore the means and the call to help our congregations find financial stability in a time of financial unrest. The NPCUCC will pick up the cost of program and food and asks that congregations absorb the cost of travel and lodging. Pastors and lay leaders of congregations are invited to share in this special time. We will begin July 31st at 6:00 pm (ct) with dinner (registration will begin at 5:00 pm (ct)) and will conclude by 4:00 pm (ct) on August 1st, 2009. For more information and a registration form, check the NPCUCC web site www.npcucc.org under “fliers” or “forms”.

It is time to mark Nov. 13 and 14 on your calendars for a special gathering in which we will look at God’s call to us and our congregations to share the message and to grow in our vision and practice of ministry. Charlene J. Smith whom many of us know from the National Church will be the convener for this meaningful gathering which will take place at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Fargo. Please check the Conference Web Site www.npcucc.org and check under “forms”; or “fliers” or call the Conference Office for more information.

Around the NPCUCC 052809 – 060709

Date	Time	Event	Location
5/28	-----	CM on vacation	-----
5/29	-----	CM on vacation	-----
5/30	-----	CM on vacation	-----
5/31	-----	Pentecost/ Strengthen the Church Offering	-----
5/31	3:00 pm (ct) – 6:00 pm (ct)	10 th Anniversary celebration for Karl Limvere	Medina
6/3	1:00 pm (ct)	Small and Rural Church Conference Call	-----
6/4	7:00 pm (ct)	Conference Committee Meetings	Minot/International Inn
6/5	9:00 am (ct)	Conference Council	Minot/International Inn
6/5	2:00 pm (ct)	Church and Ministry Meeting	Minot/International Inn
6/5	3:30 pm (ct)	Registration begins	Congregational

		for Annual Meeting	United Church of Christ. Minot
6/6	7:30 am (ct)	Annual Meeting	Minot
6/7	7:30 am (ct)	Annual Meeting	Minot