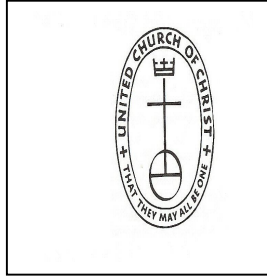


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AWARE
A Monthly newsletter
supporting the building of community
in the NPCUCC
a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-
lingual, multi-national community of faith
SEPTEMBER 2010

As I Look At It:

September is one of those months that tell us that soon things will change. It tells us that soon the leaves will be turning their brilliant colors, the heat of Summer will be a fleeting memory, we will soon be looking to the West to see if there is snow (Oh my did I really say that four letter word) in the air, and we are starting the unofficial church year. Given the unsettled nature of Summer and the fact that it is, for many of us, a time of low congregational activity, the Church year tends to run from September through May. I recently had some time to meditate and reflect. The question that was placed before me asked, "What is my dream for the Northern Plains Conference". This quickly became "What is my dream for the Congregations of the Northern Plains Conference United Church of Christ". For as I have said before, the NPC is not another layer of church, it is an extension of the congregations and the members that comprise them. The well being of the Conference is not separate from the well being of the congregations. The following is the dream list that evolved.

At the very top of my list was the renewal of worship in the NPC congregations. I know that the NPC is blessed with creative and faithful pastors and lay people who consistently are seeking to engage the membership in worship that is spiritually enriching and emotionally motivating. I am also aware that worship in NPC congregations is not the same all over. In fact just the opposite is true. A congregation that worships with 10 participants and one that worships with 70 has a very different dynamic at work. There may be different elements of worship at work in each of the Congregations. In each case, however, worship is the foundation of the life of the congregation, It is a central time for the recharging of spiritual batteries, as the community comes together around the vision of discipleship, God is placing in their midst. My dream would be that the NPC could empower Congregations to move forward and experience the worship that feeds their communal soul and sharpens their sacred vision. In the hope of starting that conversation I will be introducing a book in the September clusters, which I hope will enable a meaningful discussion around how we can enrich our worship. I look forward to exploring this and other ways that the Conference could help to support the work of already being done to make worship in the NPC congregations rich and filled with meaning.

My second dream would be that we in the NPC would grow in our understanding of our dedication to the ministry to which God calls us. I dream of the time when we would see our calling as an opportunity to share fully the many gifts God has placed within us. This means that we expect our stewardship to make a difference to our world, our community, our church and most of all in us. That stewardship is viewed not as that obligation we have to deal with but rather as the opportunity for discipleship in which we are invited to partake. For many, if not most of us, stewardship of our resources is where we bring our faith to life. It is where the words we pray and sing make a difference in the lives of others as well as ourselves. The NPC through the efforts of the Mission and Outreach Committee is looking forward to providing resources that will support congregations and their members as we seek to live more fully our call to be God's Stewards.

Finally I dreamed that the NPC would become a fountain of hope that touches the lives of those who are a part of it as well as those to whom we reach out. It would be my wish that we would find in our shared fellowship the hope we so desperately need as we face the calling of an ever changing world. I wish that such a hope could enable us to more effectively work together as we face the challenges of life in the prairie. For true hope does not come from ignoring the reality of the world in which we live, but from knowing that we face that reality in partnership with the God of all creation. This would mean for me that we are not victims of our destiny but rather partners with God in the birth of tomorrow.

I look forward to sharing with you in ministry of the NPC and the congregations that are a part of it, during the months ahead, as together we seek to live out not only my dreams but those we each hold.

Namaste
Wade

Congregations Seeking a Pastor: Mayville, Fargo, Plymouth

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE IN NEED OF KITS

Due to the many disasters that are taking place within this country and around the world and to the time of the year, Church World Service is in need of various kits. There is a special need for the School Kits, Hygiene Kits, Baby Care Kits, and the Emergency Clean-Up Kits. Collecting and assembling these kits is an excellent project for the various groups within a congregation (Sunday School, Youth, Women, Men, couples or Sunday Worship). You will find the list of items for each of these kits as well as instructions on how to pack and ship the kits on the NPC Web site under the "Church News" Heading. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Conference Office.

SHAPING PRAIRE HOSPITALITY:

All NPC Congregations, pastors and lay leaders are invited to become part of an exciting growth opportunity. Charlene J. Smith, Minister of Evangelism for Church Development and Vitality, will be leading a seven session event entitled Shaping Prairie Hospitality. The very first, (September 10 – 11, 2010 in Jamestown) and the last (May 20 – 21 at a location to be announced) will be face to face. The five events between these two will be on WebEx. We invite congregations to gather as delegations and share in these special times. The focus for this series is shaping the way we

invite and welcome the stranger into our congregations, recognizing that we each live in unique communities with different mores, and opportunities. The first gathering will be to come together around the message for the multi facet event and to begin the process of working our way through the work book that will guide our common process. This first gathering will be held at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Jamestown. The following five WebEx events will be at 6:00 pm (ct) on 10/29/10, 11/16/10, 2/10/11, 3/10/11, and 4/14/11. All participants will be invited to take part in a common liturgy on Pentecost 2011 (June 12, 2011). A block of rooms has been reserved at the Quality Inn in Jamestown and all who wish to use them must register by August 27, 2010. While the Conference is assuming costs for program, and meals travel and lodging are the costs of the congregations that participate. Reservations can be made by calling 701 252 3611. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call the Conference Office at 701 255 1104. Registration information and an informational flier can be found on the NPC Web Site www.npcucc.org under Church News and Registration headings.

All NPC Women are invited to the State Women's Retreat September 17 - 19

All NPC women are invited to share in the State Women's Retreat which will take place at the Camp of The Cross September 17 - 19. The theme for the presentation is Images of Mary with Susan Blain, Minister for Worship, Liturgy and Spiritual Formation for the national church as the primary presenter. Also sharing in the meeting will be Story Teller, Elaine Blanchard, (who you may remember from last year) and Mary Kay Sauter of North Dakota who will guide us as we look at the UCC History. Please check the NPC web Site www.npcucc.org under the forms tab for an information flier and registration information. Do not forget the special service project for the gathering of bringing items for or soldiers overseas. A listing can be found on the web site.

Installation Services for Dorothy Borden, JoBeth Marshall and Rose Trenbeath.

All NPC pastors and lay members are encouraged to make plans to share in the two installation services we will be holding in the Northern Plains Conference. The Installation services for JoBeth Marshall at the Plymouth Congregational UCC in Fargo at 10:30 am, then for Dorothy (Darcy) Borden at the Congregational United Church of Christ of Argusville will take place at 4:00 pm (ct) on Sunday September 12th. These will be followed by the installation service for Rose Trenbeath as the pastor of the Horizon Parish on Sunday, September 26th at 10:00 am (mt) at the Fair Building in Carson. (There is a possibility that this time might undergo a slight change, so please be watchful). All NPC pastors and lay members are called to share in these very special dates in the life of congregations and pastors.

ND101

Pastors that have not gone to ND 101 are invited to do so. This program is an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with the history and unique opportunities and challenges of ministry on the Northern Prairie. ND 101 will take place at the Abbey in Richardton September 30 - October 1st. For more information please check the NPC web site where you will find an informative flier.

The Calendar for September

Date	Time	Event	Location
9/5	10:30 am (mt)	CM shares in worship	Medora
9/6	-----	Labor Day	-----
9/10	5:30 pm (ct)	Shaping Prairie Hospitality	Jamestown
9/11	9:00 am (ct)	Shaping Prairie Hospitality	Jamestown
9/12	10:30 am	Installation Service for JoBeth Marshall	Plymouth, Fargo
	4:00 pm (ct)	Dorothy Borden	Argusville
9/15	10:30 am (ct)	Minot Cluster	Garrison
9/16	10:00 am (ct)	Fargo Cluster	Fargo/Plymouth
9/17	4:00 pm (ct) registration	Women's Retreat	Camp of the Cross
9/18	-----	Women's Retreat	Camp of the Cross
9/19	-----	Women's Retreat	Camp of the Cross
9/19	10:00 am (ct)	CM shares in worship	Hankinson/Union
9/20	9:30 am (ct)	NDCC Board	Jamestown
9/22	10:00 am (ct)	MV Cluster	Leola Allen's home
9/24	6:00 pm (ct)	Multiple Paths to Ordination	Valley City
9/25	-----	Multiple Paths to Ordination	Valley City
9/26	10:00 am (mt)	Installation Service for Rose Trenbeath	Fair Building, Carson
9/27	11:00 am (ct)	Central Cluster	Joan DeKrey's home
9/29	12:00 (ct) Noon	Ft. Berthold Cluster	New Town