

The “E Messenger”

Notes and Comments by Wade
070210

Our prayers this Independence Day are with the youth of the Northern Plains Conference attending the Regional Youth Event in Billings, Montana. We pray that this gathering of youth from across the Area might be a time of growth, spiritually and personally as they share in worship, discussion and fellowship. May God's blessed presence be with them, bringing safety and substance as they continue to seek God's vision for their life. AMEN

Last Sunday Peg and I had the pleasure of sharing in the 100th anniversary of the Independence Congregational United Church of Christ located on the Ft. Berthold Reservation. It was a joy to share with them in their worship and fellowship. Peg and I wish to thank the members of this congregation and their pastors Randy and Jo Ann Keehn for their warm and welcoming invitations which made all feel comfortable. May God's blessing be with this congregation as they set out upon their second century of service in Jesus' name.

Several of the Clusters have scheduled special gatherings during the Summer Months. Each of these gatherings is times for fellowship, as we come together to eat to share and to celebrate the ministries to which God has called us. The Summer schedule is as follows: July 15th beginning at 5:00 pm (ct) the Minot Cluster will meet at the Garrison Marina. Meat and drink will be furnished and each that comes is asked to bring a dish to pass. Guests are invited. The Fargo Cluster will be meeting at Don McCullagh's lake place near Pelican Rapids, MN which is located about 50 miles from Fargo. (Map Quest directions will be forth coming). People are invited to gather any time after 10:00 at the Lazy Acres Camping Area. All are invited to bring their meat for grilling and a dish to pass. Drink will be furnished. Guests are invited. The Central Cluster is meeting August 6th at the park in Valley City at 11:00 am (ct). Guests are invited. Meat and drink will be furnished and all are invited to bring a dish to pass. Please mark these dates on your calendar. Emails will be sent out to each of the Clusters with more information. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact the Conference Office.

This Sunday Peg and I will have the pleasure to sharing in the 125th anniversary celebration for St. John Church of Hebron. We look forward to being part of the service of worship as well as sharing in the times of fellowship. Our prayer is that God's grace continues to bless the ministry of the members of this congregation and their pastor, Gaylund Olson as they remain on their pilgrimage of service in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus the Christ.

The State Women's Retreat will take place September 17 – 19 at the Camp of the Cross near Garrison. The theme for this gathering is "Images of Mary". The presenters will be Susan Blain, Minister for Worship Liturgy and Spiritual Formation at the National Church, Elaine Blanchard a storyteller and Mary Kay Sauter, daughter of the Conference who will lead UCC History. The service project for this year will be the collection of items for soldiers in military service. Please check the Website www.npcucc.org for an informational flier and registration form.

The New NPCUCC web site is coming to life. It is a work in progress as I write this note in the E Messenger. Please take a moment to get acquainted with it. Your thoughts and suggestions are invited. The address for the web site remains the same www.npcucc.org.

In cooperation with Charlene J. Smith, Minister of Evangelism for Church Development and Vitality, for the National Church the Northern Plains Conference is sponsoring a special series of workshops entitled "Shaping Prairie Hospitality for the 21st Century". The focus will be on ways that congregations can be invitational, welcoming and supportive of those who would come through the door. This series of workshops will look at the needs of city and rural congregations. There will be two face-to-face gatherings, one at the beginning and one at the conclusion (September 10 – 11 and May 20 and 21). In between these there will be five WebEx gatherings: Oct. 29, Nov 16, Feb. 10, March 10, and April 14. These gatherings will begin at 6:00 pm (ct) and will last for approximately 90 minutes. The final element of the workshops will be a common liturgical celebration for the Pentecost service June 12, 2011. I invite you to mark your calendars for these dates. More information and registration forms will be forth coming. This workshop is for pastors and lay leaders. So that we have adequate opportunity for all to participate, we invite each congregation to log in for one WebEx site (possibly a group from a church could get together around one computer). Please be on the watch for more information.

Let us celebrate with our brothers and sisters in the formerly named Federated Church of Grand Forks as they rename themselves as a United Church of Christ. The revealing of their new name will be during a special service Sunday, July 11, 2011. Are prayers are with the members of this reforming congregation and their pastor, Keith Mills

Around the NPCUCC 070210 – 071110

Date	Time	Event	Location
7/4	10:00 am (ct)	Cm shares in worship, 125 th Anniversary Celebration	St. John/Hebron
7/6	-----	RYE	Billings
7/7	-----	RYE	Billings
7/8	-----	RYE	Billings
7/9	-----	RYE	Billings
7/10	-----	RYE	Billings
7/11	11:00 am (ct)	CM shares in worship	????? Grand Forks