

The “E Messenger”

Notes and Comments by Wade 030510

This Amistad Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the ministry of our Conference Amistad Church, the Congregational United Church of Christ of Minot and its parish partner, Hope Congregational United Church of Christ of Granville. May God's creative Spirit continue to bless the members and the pastor, Frank Picard, of this parish which unites city and small town congregations as they minister in Jesus' name.
AMEN

Last Sunday it was my great pleasure to join in worship in my home church, Bismarck United Church of Christ and to have the privilege to present a long overdue anniversary plaque to Ed Zuern in honor of his many years of service as a licensed pastor.

On this World Day of Prayer let us celebrate the Spirit of the Living Christ that calls us together encouraging and enabling us to work with one another for the fulfillment of God's vision for all people. Let us be mindful that God has one church, the Jesus resurrection calls all to new life and that the gift of hope is shared without boundaries.

This coming Sunday, March, 7th it is our pleasure to share in worship with the members of the Arickara Congregational United Church of Christ of White Shield. We give thanks for the ministry of this historic congregation and pray for God's guiding hand to be with them as they begin to search for pastoral leadership.

The Northern Plains Conference is in the process of bringing WebEx into its regular operations. This requires some preparation on the part of the congregations, (cameras, speakers and microphones) plus for the best effect high -speed internet. We are inviting congregations to gear up to share in this exciting opportunity to be linked together regardless of geography. The Conference Council has made available a mission grant for the purpose of helping congregations purchase the necessary equipment. Cameras, microphones and speakers can be purchased for well under \$50. (If you have purchased a lap top computer lately it may have all that included). It is our hope to have all the congregations of the NPC wired for a cyber meeting by the Annual Meeting. Congregations are invited to purchase the necessary equipment and to contact the Conference Office for support.

As you make plans to come to the Annual Meeting in Valley City I would invite you to plan to bring your lap tops along. There will be a workshop on computers in the Church as well as opportunities to design a web site and get acquainted with using WebEx. If you do not have a laptop, do not despair there will be loaners for you to practice on.

Tentative plans are in the works for a spiritual retreat, April 25 – 26 at Camp of the Cross near Garrison. Soon there will be registration forms and more complete information. At this time there are two rate scales for lodging and meals, \$48 in the lodge and \$37 in dorm style rooms. The tentative schedule is 4/25 (4pm arrive, 6pm dinner, 7pm mixer opening prayers followed by informal sing along, folk-dancing, fellowship) and 4/26 (8am breakfast, 9am, morning session writing psalms, sail boat excursion, do own thing, 12:00 noon lunch, 1:00 pm meditation, games, sailing etc., 4pm ending worship, 5pm depart).

All NPC pastors and lay members are invited to make plans to share in the installation service for Teresa Heupel as the pastor of Emmanuel United Church of Christ of Hankinson. The installation service will begin at 4:00 pm (ct) and will be followed by a fellowship meal.

Around the NPCUCC 030510 – 031410

Date	Time	Event	Location
3/5	11:00 am (ct)	Stewardship Club	Jamestown
3/6	10:30 am (ct)	Multiple Paths Gathering	Bismarck
3/7	11:00 am (ct)	CM shares in worship	White Shield
3/9	10:00 am (ct)	MV Cluster	Hebron/First
3/14	10:00 am(ct)	Cm shares in worship	Winnipeg