

The “E Messenger”

Notes and comments by Wade 051410

As we gather for worship on the Seventh Sunday after Easter we hold in prayer the first United Church of Christ of Gackle. We celebrate the ministry of this Congregation as it seeks to continue to be a center of hope through proclamation and service in the name of our Redeemer, Jesus the Christ. May God’s grace flow through the members of this Central North Dakota Congregation and their pastor, Tim Blackman.

Last Sunday I had the pleasure of sharing in the 125th anniversary service for Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ of Fargo. It was a pleasure to share in this special service of celebration and praise as the congregation gathered in gratitude and praise.

Due to a family emergency I will have to fly to Louisiana on Monday, May 17th and will not be returning until Saturday, May 22nd. Peg will be flying down on May 22nd and will be returning on May 27th. We apologize for this inconvenience. Peg and I will have email and also cell phone and the Conference phone will be forwarded to my cell phone. We ask you prayers for our son. Brice and his wife Kira, both of whom will be hospitalized during that time. Following a service of worship in Fargo on May 23rd I will be returning to Bismarck.

This coming Sunday it will be my pleasure to join in worship with the members of Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Fargo as they celebrate the ministry of Aaron Roberts and wish him and his family well. I celebrate this opportunity to share in this very special service of worship and praise.

For any that have not already done so, please take this as my personal invitation to register soon for the Annual Meeting that will take place at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Valley City. You will find the registration forms on the NPC web site www.npcucc.org under forms and fliers.

Each year I prepare a sermon to be used in the NPC congregations on the Sunday of Annual Meeting. This year is no exception. Pastors have received this sermon via email and it can also be found on the web site under fliers. The sermon is entitled “No Spare Parts”. It follows the theme and text of the Annual Meeting. NPC pastors are invited to use this sermon as they see fit. One suggestion would be to give it to lay members in their congregation who could use it to help in leading worship on June 13th. It is hoped that this would free up the pastor to remain with the NPC community at the Annual Meeting in Valley City.

I hope that you take the opportunity of this coming Sunday to lift up the importance of the Strengthen the Church Offering which is generally received on Pentecost. This special five for five offering is one of the ways that we can reach out and support each other across the UCC. The Strengthen the Church offering is the only one that invites the Conferences to hold 50% of the money received within the Conference. In NPC that money is designated for church renewal and development.

Around the NPCUCC 051410 - 052310

Date	Time	Event	Location
5/15	11:00 am (ct)	ALWL #2	Bismarck
5/16	10:30 am (ct)	Farewell service for Aaron Roberts	Fargo/Plymouth
5/17	9:30 am (ct)	NDCC Board	Jamestown
5/19	1:30 pm (ct)	Conference Call on rural Ministry with Charlene J. Smith	-----
5/20	10:00 am (ct)	Fargo Cluster	Fargo/First
5/23	10:30 am (ct)	CM shares in Worship	Fargo/Plymouth