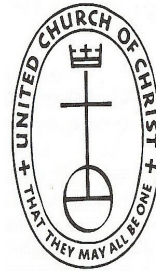


**NORTHERN PLAINS CONFERENCE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**A monthly newsletter supporting  
the building of community in  
the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic,  
multi-lingual, multi-national  
community of faith.**



**1200 East Highland Acres  
Road  
Bismarck, North Dakota  
58501-1252  
Office Phone: 701-255-1104  
Fax Number: 701-255-0103  
Website:  
<http://npcucc.org>**



**OCTOBER 2011  
AWARE**



#### **As I Look At It:**

October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the first Sunday of the 10<sup>th</sup> month and therefore is "World Communion Sunday". It is one of the most special and challenging times in the church year. Not only do we receive the Neighbor's In Need Offering, which enables your church to stand with people at the most critical times of their lives, but it is a time when the grandest vision for all of Creation is held before us. On World Communion Sunday, God's universal call for all people is highlighted. We are called to recognize that the love of God is freely shared without regard for culture, color, language, gender or orientation. God does not have favorites. There are no "black sheep" in the family of God.

The challenge that is placed before us is to take that vision of World Communion Sunday and make it our own. How can we in God's name or our own, do anything else? How can we hold one to be of lower stature than another? On what grounds would we say that White folk are superior, or that Men or Women are more

righteous? Do we not have to come to grips with the glaring reality that those feelings come not from the conditions of Creation but from our most basic fears. Those feelings come from our insecurities and our guilt. Often rather than face the fear that plagues us, fears that grow from our own sense of inadequacy, we push another down in a futile effort to make ourselves feel stronger, wiser or more popular. Those who respond from such fear are like the bully on the playground who beats up on another rather than face what scares them.

The challenge we have as people of faith is not just to pay lip service to the World Communion vision but to live it. We are to recognize that everyone is a member in full standing in the family of God. Let us never forget that God has no step children. As we receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday may we hold in our mind God's vision of a world of many colors, styles and cultures. May that vision be our guide not only for that



Sacramental Moment but for all the times that follow.

World Communion Sunday is not an isolated ritual but a stencil that guides us to live all our days more fully and more faithfully. World Communion Sunday calls us to see our discipleship. World Communion Sunday calls us to recognize that God's resources, freely given, are not to be used by some without regard for the needs of others. World Communion Sunday would declare that none are born to live in hunger or poverty or without health care, or lonely or forgotten. World Communion Sunday challenges us to live mindful of a justice that recognizes the worth of all in God's holy vision. May we make that vision our own.

Namaste

Wade



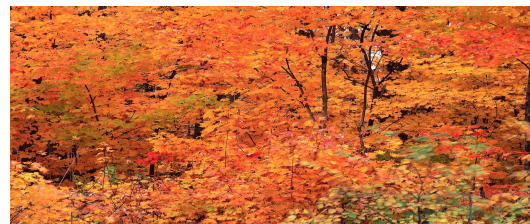
On **World Communion Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we will be receiving the **Neighbor's In Need Offering**. This offering invites us to "Imagine Another World Is Possible". Imagine a world without Discrimination and Oppression, or a world without Poverty, or a world without Violence, or Imagine a world without Hunger. That is what you do with this offering. The Neighbors in Need Offering is a call to faithful living. On October 2<sup>nd</sup> you can help to empower the church so that it can stand with the most vulnerable. You can make a difference. We all know what it means to be vulnerable, and the Neighbors In Need Offering means we do not have to stand alone.

# EACH 1 FRIEND BRING 1 RAISING SUNDAY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The UCC is holding **Each one bring one Sunday, Nov. 6, 2011**, asking each UCC member to invite co-workers, family members, or friends to join them for a day of fellowship and worship. Coinciding with **Mission: 1, Each One Bring One Sunday** a great way to showcase the UCC's Extravagant Welcome. Check out the **Each One Brings One** page on the UCC website [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org); located under the search engine for more information.



Let us join together this Fall in celebrating our mission work by designating a **Global Ministries Sunday**. This first annual Global Ministries Sunday is created to bring a face to mission, educating us about the work of our church through Global Ministries. Worship resources, ways to engage children and youth, guide to how to hold a mission fair and the step by step process for becoming a Global Mission Church are all available at [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org). All who are interested are invited to call the Conference Office at 701 255 1104.





### **Disaster Ministries Update by Lindy Holt, Disaster Ministries Coordinator**

While the flooding is in the past, a lot of help is still needed in Minot and the surrounding areas as they continue to recover and begin to rebuild. Much of the muck out and cleanup work has taken place, but there are still families waiting to get help with this now. In the next month there will be a push to enclose homes and get them ready for winter. Volunteers are needed now! If you are able to come for a day or two to help out please contact Lindy Holt at 701-430-0727 or at ethelindholt@gmail.com.

Please check out this link to learn more about what the Minot area is facing on the National Church's website.  
<http://www.ucc.org/volunteer/disaster-recovery-volunteers/immediate-need-for-volunteer.html>

Now is a great time to plan for groups from your church and community who would like to come to Minot for a week to help with rebuilding. At the present time our disaster teams will coordinate with Mennonite Disaster Service. To register your group, call Sarah Yoder, Coordinator of Volunteers, Mennonite Disaster Service 717-735-3536 or 1-800-241-8111.



**Well done Northern Plains Conference women.** Your gathering at the Abby in Richardton was a time of renewal, fellowship and praise. Thanks to the support of all the participants a truckload of items was raised for the New Town Ministerial Food Shelf. Our thanks go to Charlene J. Smith from the National Church for joining us as the facilitator of this special time.



### **"VOICES FROM THE PRAIRIE"**

As I have been reading Voices From The Prairie, I have come to the conclusion that I am looking at things from the other side. Instead of standing at the lectern / pulpit and looking at the congregation, I am sitting at least half way back, with my wife Marie, looking at the pastor. I also find I am not limited to sitting in a pew in one specific sanctuary but Marie and I are able to attend a number of different churches / denominations over the course of a year.

Thanks to Tammy Toepke Floyd for reminding all of you and me too that summer is ending and Christian Education materials, Sunday School classes and teachers are coming together and getting organized and a full church schedule is now

taking place. When I retired, I wasn't sure what I would do and how much I would miss the fall planning schedule, the preparations for the many church gatherings, special holiday worship services and the many fellowship opportunities that get scheduled between September and June. What I found is, I don't miss it as much as I thought and it is nice to let someone else do it.

This doesn't mean I've dropped out of the ministry, but that I minister in different ways. I've often heard the phrase: "when God closes one door, God opens another."

For a time, after retirement, I was able to help share with Ken Adams in the ministry of the Valley City Congregational Church. We continue to work together in the Alternative Paths To Ministry group.

Another door that opened was when I became involved in driving a para transit bus for HandiWheels in the Fargo-Moorhead area. I am working with a great group of people to make sure people with various abilities and disabilities as well as many New Americans are able to get to their medical and counseling appointments.

RSVP, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, said to me one day: "How would you like to be a puppeteer?" I love the stage and I love acting, but I never worked with puppets, so I said: "Why not." Another door opened. We are doing puppet shows for the YMCA / YWCA, libraries, and after school programs on Bullying. First comes the show and then I am able to talk with the audience through questions and answers. It

also enabled me to work with a senior high group at West Fargo High School.

Life after 40 years of full time ministry has become more rewarding than I could have imagined when I turned in my church keys. But, one of the best parts about retirement, I can now spend weekend and holidays with my wife and family.

Wishing all of you a good church year from the other side of the ministry.  
Jim Martin, retired



## A Visit to East Timor

In August, I had the incredible opportunity to travel with Global Ministries' staff to visit our partners in East Timor. I accompanied Rev. Dr. Jim Moos and Rev. James Vijayakumar and Vijay's daughter, Charu, to meet with staff and members of the Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL). We received an incredibly warm welcome, and it was my privilege to share greetings from the Bismarck/Mandan United Church of Christ and Northern Plains Conference with our friends in East Timor.

Part of our trip included a visit to Lospalos, a village where our missionaries, Dr. Monica Liddle and Tom Liddle, are

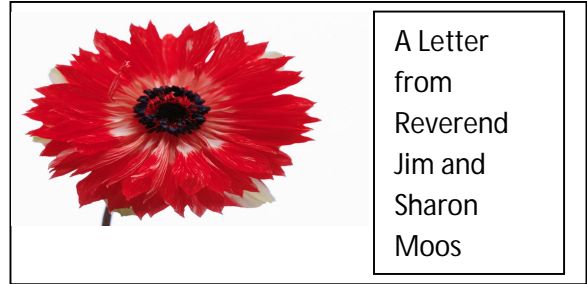
working. Monica is the only doctor at Clinic Imanuel, which is operated by IPTL, and Tom works with the IPTL on capacity building in the region. Monica works with a great staff of local women at the clinic, and they keep busy seeing 50-150 patients per day.

I was also honored to attend the fourth anniversary celebration of the middle school at Lisadila, which we helped build and continue to support. The 60 students and 7 teachers are working hard, and we were pleased to learn the students scored the second highest of all schools in the district on standardized government tests. Still, funding for the school continues to be a challenge.

While I experienced many new things and learned much during the trip, the most significant was the value and strength of our partnership with our friends in IPTL. It is important to remember that we have a long-term commitment to each other and that we all bring essential elements to our partnership. Our ongoing relationship is built on our commitment to God and to each other. This is an amazing gift that I am deeply grateful to have experienced firsthand.

Should you or your congregation be interested in learning more about my visit to East Timor, please don't hesitate to contact me at 701-214-0144 or [dana7206@gmail.com](mailto:dana7206@gmail.com).  
Respectfully submitted,  
Dana Schaar  
Moderator, Bismarck/Mandan UCC

Council Secretary, Northern Plains  
Conference



**To: Friends of East Timor Education  
Foundation**

**From: The Reverend Jim and Sharon Moos**

Greetings on behalf of the East Timor Education Foundation, which was developed eight years ago (2003) to help support schools for children in the island nation of East Timor. Since that time, with the support of friends in churches across the state of North Dakota and around the world, the Foundation has built and participated in the operation/management of a school in the remote Timor village of Lisa Dilla.

Earlier this summer, Jim was elected to serve as the Executive Minister of Wider Church Ministries/Co-Director of Global Ministries, which means we are re-locating to Cleveland, Ohio, the site of the national United Church of Christ office.

We would like to assure everyone that we intend to maintain the East Timor Education Foundation as a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of North Dakota and to continue to cherish and honor our relationships with North Dakota churches and supporters. The East Timor Education Foundation has a long standing covenantal relationship with the

Northern Plains Conference of the United Church of Christ which will certainly continue.

What will change will be the mailing address of the Foundation and **effective immediately the mailing address of the East Timor Education Foundation will be:**

**The East Timor Education Foundation**

**Post Office Box #96**

**Streeter, North Dakota 58483**

Sharon will be assuming responsibility for the management and day-to-day activities of the Foundation. We want to assure our supporters that management continues to be provided on a "volunteer" basis and all donated funds are applied directly to expenses related to the school and the children being served by the school.

As in the past, there continues to be little if any funds available from the Timorese government for supporting village schools. However, the foundation and school representatives continue to meet with government officials to insure the school meets accreditation standards and would be eligible for any funding that might be available in the future.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support over the past years. We will continue to stay in touch and keep you up to date with what is happening with the Foundation and the project in East Timor. The only noticeable change will be our mailing address!

Blessings to each of you-

The Reverend Jim and Sharon Moos



### **Ecumenical Media Resource Center**

Carmen Gill, Administrator

6509 S. Cliff Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57108

[mrc@sodakucc.org](mailto:mrc@sodakucc.org)

<http://www.plainsmedia.org>

605.334.2802

Is your church a member? The Presbytery and UCC churches which use our library contribute a nominal annual membership fee based on church size.

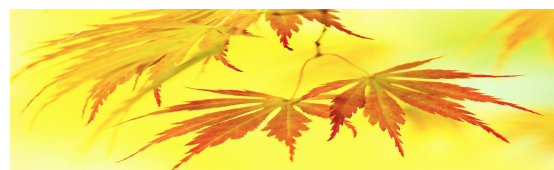
#### 2012 Membership Fees:

1-100	= \$15
101-250	= \$20
251 – 450	= \$25
451 – 850	= \$35
851 +	= \$45

Other denominations may also use our library at a slightly higher fee base. The Media Resource Center would like to help meet your congregation's resource needs.

Pastors, youth leaders, Sunday school teachers, adults, youth and children are all invited to utilize our library. Visit our website and view our resources! Are you already a member?

Thank you for your support!





### **Congregations Seeking A Pastor:**

The following churches are seeking new pastoral leadership:

**Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Fargo** (currently with a hold on profiles), and  
**United Church of Christ in Bismarck.**



### **AWARE Available in TWO Versions:**

The Northern Plains Conference AWARE will come in two versions. Please let the Conference Office know how this works for you. There will be one version held to two pages, and may have a smaller print size to accommodate that limitation. This is especially helpful to Congregations that mail it out via the US mail. Then, there will be a second version of the AWARE which will be an expanded version and sporting a larger font and photos. This version will serve Congregations that send out the AWARE via email. Please inform the Conference Office at 701-255-1104, which version works for your Congregation most efficiently.



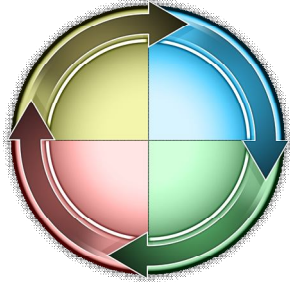
**2012 National Youth Event**  
**IMAGINE**

Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana  
July 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012

The Northern Plains Council of Youth and Young Adult Ministries is proud to announce the selection of the NPCYYAM - NYE2012 Contingent leader. Rev. Tammy Toepke-Floyd of Wishek UCC has agreed to be our 2012 NYE Northern Plains Leader. We still need to build our team of leaders for this amazing event. We will begin the journey in Fargo on July 7<sup>th</sup> leaving by bus for NYE early on July 8<sup>th</sup>. The NPC will take two days to get down to Indiana and three days afterwards to return to Fargo. Plans are still being developed for those days.

With this announcement, we want your youth to begin to think about the 2012 National Youth Event. We are looking for adults who wish to be the additional leaders/chaperones for this fun and great event. NYE-2012 will be one of those great moments your youth will talk about for years. Help us help them to have a great time. This is where we need you and the adults in your church. We hope to have information available for your local church by the Conference annual Fall Youth Rally (October 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> @ the Bismarck UCC). If you are interested in being an adult chaperone please either contact: the Northern Plains Conference Office or the Borden's' @ [revcarletonborden@gmail.com](mailto:revcarletonborden@gmail.com)





## Northern Plains Conference Fall Youth Rally October 20 - 22, 2011

**Location:** Bismarck United Church of Christ

**Address:** 1200 East Highland Acres Road

**Time:** Thursday @ 1 pm - Saturday @ Noon

**Cost:** \$50 /Save \$5 If Registration

Postmarked by October 8<sup>th</sup>

**Registrations Due:** October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Bring:** Sleeping Bag, Pillow & Personal Care Items

Clothing (appropriate for sports & service project) Swim Suit

Work Gloves & Rake

Money for Snacks (while traveling)

Talent Show Items (instruments, etc.)

Adult Chaperone / Advisor

**Make Checks Payable to: NPCUCC**

**Mail Registrations to:**

Bismarck United Church of Christ

Attn: Dawn Archer

1200 East Highland Acres Road

Bismarck, ND 58501

The Fall Youth Rally flyer and information can be located by going to the search engine and type in "Youth". There is a registration form there and also under the "Church News" tab and click on the Registration tab for the Registration form for the Fall Youth Rally.



### Mission 1 is coming soon:

ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. This is **Mission: 1**.

**Mission: 1** is an opportunity to make real Jesus' prayer for his disciples: "That they may all be one." It is also an opportunity to live out our faith – in unity – by offering the worship that God most desires from us: loosening the bonds of injustice and sharing our bread with the hungry

- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will collect more than 1 MILLION ITEMS OF HEALTHY FOOD and other household items for local food banks and outreach services.

- In 11 days, the United Church of Christ will make an extra-special push to gather online contributions of more than \$111,111.00 DOLLARS for Neighbors in Need, offerings that will be shared for hunger-action purposes with agencies of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Nov. 1-11, 2011... ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11



powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice. This is MISSION: 1• In 11 days, the United Church Of Christ will offer more than 11,111 LETTERS to Congress asking our government to reform U.S. foreign assistance in a way that more effectively benefits hungry and poor people worldwide, helping to provide

a major final push to Bread for the World's 2011 "Offering of Letters" campaign. The Conference Office has an example of a letter that we can supply all those who request it. Please contact the Conference Office for a copy.

### The NPC Calendar for October, 2011

Date	Time	Event	Location
10/1	9:00 am (ct)	Stewardship Workshop	Bismarck
10/2	-----	World Communion Sunday – Neighbor's In Need Sunday	-----
10/13	10:00 am (ct)	MV Cluster	New Salem
10:14	7:00 pm (ct)	Conference Committees	Jamestown
10/15	9:00 am (ct)	Conference Council	Jamestown
10/17-10/18	3:00 pm (ct)	SDC/NPC meeting	Fargo/First
10/19	12:00 Noon (ct)	Ft. Berthold Cluster	New Town
10/20	10:00 am (ct)	Fargo Cluster	Moorhead
10/20-10/22	12:00 Noon	Fall Youth Rally	Bismarck
10/24-10/27	6:00 pm (ct)	West Central Regional	Schuyler, NB
10/28	11:00 am (ct)	Central Cluster	-----
10/29	12:00 Noon (ct)	Annual Meeting Planning	-----
10/30	11:00 am (ct)	Minot Cluster	Garrison