



Northminster GAIT

Vol. XXXXII, No.9

September 2008

TIME FOR THE SLEEPING GIANT TO WAKE UP!

Submitted by Pastor Stacey Jones

Yep, summer is over. Time for the "Sleeping Giant" (our church) to wake up! What lies ahead? How about these things:

1. Sunday School Kick Off (Sept. 7)...the School of the Church officially begins.
2. The work of the various Committees and Ministry Teams....Youth Group, Choir, Bible studies, new small groups etc.
3. Time to present the results of the recent Natural Church Development survey to the Session for evaluation and begin a year long implementation plan.
4. Time to hear reports of the Officer Nominating Committee so that I may begin the process of training new officers for 2008-2009.
5. Time to be creative about small groups and various types of general interest and spiritually filling programs to help us both be faithful to God as well as grow.
6. Time to begin thinking about Wills, Living Wills, Power of Attorney and Durable Power of Attorney to equip you saints in things you may need to know as well as Endowment options.

7. Time to get serious consider our level of commitment to the future of this church as we continue to minister to the world around us.
8. Time to invite our family and friends to join us in ministry here at Northminster Presbyterian Church.

Yep, summer is over. Time to wake up and be joyful, faithful disciples of the One we call our Lord and Savior....Jesus Christ.

Sunday School Kick-Off

submitted by Lori Sulzberger

Everyone is invited to the Sunday School kick-off on Sunday, September 7 immediately following the church service. Fellowship time for that morning will be held in the education wing, so if you're looking for your morning cup of coffee, follow your nose to the Sunday School rooms. You'll have the opportunity to view and experience the Hands On Bible curriculum the children will be using this fall. And while you're there, you'll have the chance to sign up for various small groups that will be starting up this fall (like crafting, book clubs, or dining groups).

Sunday School Teachers Needed

submitted by Lori Sulzberger

Are you interested in working with the children and youth of Northminster, but you're unable to commit to teaching for an entire year? No problem. We are looking for teachers and assistants who can contribute as little as four weeks of their time to the Christian education of our youth. Teachers are needed for pre-school through high school beginning September 14. Hands on Bible curriculum will be used, which is engaging for both teachers and students (and super easy to use). See the display in the gathering area to contribute your time and talent.

Fall Schedule

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Joseph: September 14 thru October 5

David and Jonathan: October 12 thru November 2

Daniel and His Friends: November 9 - 23

Grades 1-3

Ruth: September 14 thru October 5

David: October 12 thru November 2

Friendship (David and Jonathan): November 9 - 23

Grades 4-6

Friendships: September 14 thru October 5

Self-Esteem: October 12 thru November 2

God's Love: November 9 – 23

Presbyterian Women September 18

Submitted by Jan Beran

Jubilee! Luke's Gospel for the Poor will be the Presbyterian Women's Bible study this year. Written by favorite author Dale Linsay Morgan it will introduce the gospel of Jesus that turned the world upside down. Learn why it was not welcomed by everyone, why the congregation was filled with rage and why they drove Jesus out of town.

Morgan is a minister/writer who causes us to rethink our faith as she presents the Bible in a contemporary setting. All women are invited to join at 9:30 in the Fireside room every third Thursday. In September it will be on the 18th.

Building a Stronger Ames-including ME!

Submitted by Jan Beran

In the last Gait, Pastor Stacey wrote about the importance of being a Good Neighbor. Here is a concrete way to do that. We, as individuals and as a congregation, are invited to participate in city-wide Community Conversations which will be held during October and November.

In small groups persons from diverse backgrounds will meet together in groups of 6-12 persons to get to know one another. A trained facilitator will guide the group in using the Ames specific study guide.

Why is this opportunity being offered? It is an outgrowth of a November, 2007 Community Forum, relating to the ability of our community to adapt to an increasingly diverse population.

Following that, the Mayor appointed the Inclusive Community Task Force which reported that if Ames is to be a thriving welcoming community, every citizen and every institution must be actively involved in identifying and dismantling the barriers that separate us from one another.

If interested, please call Story County Extensions at 515-382-6551 or send a message to : AmesCommunityConversations@gmail.com.

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance Update

Submitted by Mary Jo Larsen

Hunger and hardship take no holiday. This has proven to be very evident in Ames this summer. Our full time director, Mike Fritz, has shared stories supporting this fact. Just last week you may have read in the Tribune about the growing need that local food pantries are experiencing. Mike reported that just in July, 393 healthy food vouchers were distributed through Good Neighbor. Other data of interest are...
40 applicant interviews were conducted,
26 individual/families recieved rental assistance,
3 received rental deposits and
10 received help with their utilities.

The first of July many of the board members/representatives attended a workshop prior to the Good Neighbor annual meeting. This resulted in identifying goals for committees and members. One goal is to involve youth. Mike will be working with Students in Action, and organization comprised of high school and college students that participate in volunteer activities within Story County. Are there any NPC youth interested? Also, one of Mike's goals is to visit each member church. He is scheduled to join the NPC Deacons on Sept. 11 and exchange ideas and info. He'd be willing to meet with any other group or individual, too.

The annual meeting of Good Neighbor was in July this year. Due to the ASSET partnership, the bylaws were changed to reflect July as the annual meeting time requirement. (It was in Jan. in the past). So, those of you good at numbers will realize that "yours truly" had her term extended by 6 months!! June '09 will be my final month in this capacity. There is now time to consider if you would be interested in serving on this committee. Come to me if you want to know more. (Jan Beal and Leona Nau have served in the past). As I mentioned not too long ago to a friend, this has been very rewarding. And the best example of ecumenical partnership I've experienced. There are many similarities amongst the group of us. Good friendships are to be made.

Upcoming Good Neighbor events that you could be involved in are....

Sept. ?? Next quarterly Good Neighbor Special offering opportunity at NPC
Sept.11 Mike Fritz, GNEA director meets with the NPC Deacons
Nov. 2 NPC Choir sings at the Mass Choral Concert at Collegiate Methodist 3:00pm
Nov. ?? Worldly Goods Shopping night to benefit Good Neighbor, 5:00-8:00
Dec. Alternative Gift Market
Dec. ?? Borders Book Store-gift wrapping for donations.

Thanks for reading my ramblings....there will be more to follow. My term is not over yet. !!
Mary Jo Larsen

Successful Vacation Bible School

Submitted by Lori Sulzberger

Thank you to all the many, many volunteers that made our Jerusalem Marketplace a success. This summer marked the rebirth of Vacation Bible School at Northminster, and co-directors Stacey Jones and Lori Sulzberger were pleased with the results. By the end of the week, we had 13 children participating, some of them visitors to our church. All the children had a great time, and stronger connections were made between the children and adults in the church. Some of you stepped out of your comfort zone to help out as shopkeepers, tribal leaders, and actors. Hopefully, you were all enriched by the experience. Most importantly, the children spent a fun week growing in their faith.

If you were not able to participate in our Jerusalem Marketplace during Vacation Bible School, you still have the opportunity to experience some of the excitement of that week. The children (and adults) will be sharing some of the songs and dances they learned on September 7, during the worship service and Sunday School kick-off. You won't want to miss it.

Bible Study Opportunities

Pastor Stacey will be offering two new opportunities to study your Bible that will commence in conjunction with the Sunday School kick-off. One will be a WEEK DAY EVENING and the other will be a WEEK DAY LUNCH study.

WEEK DAY EVENING study will be the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month starting Sept 9th. We will start at 6:30 p.m. I plan to have nursery care available. The plan for this Bible study is to start at the beginning and work our way through the Bible – verse by verse. We will start with a basic overview of how to engage and study the Bible. Participants will be expected to do some homework between meetings and bring what they have learned to class with them. This will not be a lecture style study. We will all share what we have learned and what our perspective on the passage is.

WEEK DAY LUNCH study will be on Wednesdays from 12:10-12:50. Bring a sack lunch if you desire. This study will focus on the passages that I am using for the Sunday sermon. I will present my study of the scripture so far each week. We will then share our insights and thoughts. It is my hope that you will be able to contribute to the sermons each week through this study. We will begin this study on Wednesday September 10th.

Spiritual Growth Sunday School

Pick up a magazine, enter a conversation with your neighbor, or check out the latest blog on the Internet. It's clear: *spirituality* is a word that gets bandied about—as much today in the secular sphere as in religious circles. But what is spirituality? And of what use is it to faithful, thoughtful Christians? Come explore this question and many more as we explore what it is to be spiritual and how we might have a more passionate spirituality.

YOUR BIBLE! The Study Begins

submitted by Sally Shaffer

One of the new Adult Christian Education classes being offered this fall beginning on September 14, this class will use Kerygma curriculum developed to promote Christian growth through interaction with each other.

Topics covered in the 7 class sessions include how the present –day Bible was formed; a closer look at the contents of the Old and New Testaments; a look at the major differences among translations, versions and paraphrases; identifying major resources for Bible study; and determining the place of the Bible in each individual's life. Come celebrate the kick off of our 2008-2009 Sunday School year on September 7th and take a look at the resource book for class participants in the Adult Education room.

Mission Corner

Submitted by Jan Beran

Where in the World are our PC(USA) missionaries at work?

Tricia Lloyd-Sidle works with Cuba Presbyterians. She writes, "We are grateful to God that over 5000 people in Jaguey Grande, Cuba gathered at a great public Pentecost celebration. We were able renew ourselves in the Holy Spirit in order to live joyful and abundant lives in God in our country". We have a connection to Cuba. Northminster Presbyterian Church hosted Mireya Garcia Brito, a Cuban church leader, a few years ago. She told us at that time about the efforts of young people of her church in Cabiguan to bring the Good News to Camaguey where there were many students wanting to learn about the Bible. Today they are a congregation and they will soon be purchasing a building. Today Presbyterian missionaries work alongside and support the efforts of local church leaders. Tricia writes that almost every congregation has several missions, either house churches or small chapels where they are sharing God's Good News.

More Mission News....

The January 3-9 North Central Iowa Adult Mission Trip to Frontera De Cristo still has some openings. Presbyterians from Collegiate Presbyterian, Toledo, Fort Dodge, Grundy Center, Conrad and our own church have already registered. We can still have a few more.

We will be 'headquartered' in the New Hope Community Center in Nogales, Arizona, learning about the Just Trade Center, build relationships with Mexican Presbyterians, growing in understanding about life in the border communities.

Mark Adams, a young Presbyterian missionary working in Nogales, will lead our group activities. Because of a Presbyterian grant, the cost per person for the one week's program, housing and food is just \$135.00. A brochure and registration forms are on the kiosk in the gathering space. Questions? Ask Jan Beran

Session Clerk's Report

Statistical Report

Active Membership Roll:

September 1, 2008 – 240

New Members:

Garrett Johnson, Claire Rogers, Daniel Vigil, Mark & Linda Westgate, 5/11/08

Baptisms:

Daniel Vigil, 5/11/08; Levi John Larsen, 6/1/08

Weddings:

Ryan Patrick & Erika MacCrea, 5/17/08

Deaths:

Virginia Harding Roth, 5/18/08; Harold Schnormeier, 7/17/08

Other Business

1) Received into membership on August 19, 2008 -- Charles and Janet Flick from Cedar Heights Presbyterian, Cedar Falls, IA and Brent Brewer from University Presbyterian in Seattle, WA.

2) Approved a rental increase from \$550 to \$750/month from the Korean Christian Reformed congregation effective September 1, 2008.

Acolytes for September

The upcoming schedule for candle lighters is as follows::

September 7 Brad and Lucas Johnson

September 14 Andrea Daley and Jaycee Moore

September 21 Connor Olson and Ben Perrin

September 28 Tierney and Claire Rogers

October 5 Nick and Garrett Johnson

THANKS EVERYONE FOR HELPING WITH OUR WORSHIP SERVICES. YOU'RE DOING A GREAT JOB!

Happenings in September

Anniversaries:

5th Steven Gilbert and Joanne Marshall

7th Peggy and Randall Cutlip

12th Larry and Carol Jahn

Birthdays:

2nd Ben Sulzberger

6th Emily Nau

8th Steven Lawrence

11th Carol Schulze

13th Christjahn Beck

16th Jonathan Nau

23rd Seth Rogers

24th Dennis Grove

25th Luke Johnson

28th Ben Perrin Yay BEN!!

30th Randal Cutlip

GAIT Deadline for October is Friday, September 19th. Please e-mail your articles to rpcykp@msn.com or put them in the GAIT editor's box next to the church office