



COMMUNITY  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

# THE CHIMES

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**D**ear Friends

For Christians this is the most joyous season of the year celebrating the wonder of Jesus' birth and the generation of hope and faith for 2000 + years. Our faith lives forever in our hearts.

After 4 years as an elder, I would like to share with you my reflections about knowing Dan and Kim, our very blessed pastors, and working in session meetings together for our church.

Dan and Kim both possess most generous spirits and faith.

Dan and Kim communicate a most passionate concern for all of us (their flock) and our strong church.

Dan and Kim have surprising and spontaneous creative energy for challenges.

I am constantly challenged by Dan and Kim's strength of purpose and buoyed by their humor and the laughter at our session meetings. We have so many issues to face together and like others of my generation, I have to learn to think and feel outside the "box" of tradition and habit and comfort. There is a birthing of new and stronger voices at session because Dan and Kim challenge us to lead.

The next year 2007 will bring much discussion and teamwork to clarify all the questions that have been with us for years, but can be further defined and need to be answered by all of us. Dan and Kim make it clear we must all be ministers of our faith and participate with all our hearts. Thank you, Dan and Kim!

Peace is with you, friends.  
Kris Johnson, elder

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### January, 2007

- 07 Heifer Project Kick-Off  
Ordination of New Officers
- 21 Bell Choir January Jar Sale

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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Matthew 2:10 "When they saw the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with Joy."

"What did you get for Christmas?" Remember asking that as a child when you saw your friends again in the New Year? I think we can put a wonderful twist on the age-old after Christmas conversation by asking a clarifying question "what did you give for Christmas?" Once again we have celebrated the coming of the Christ Child, God's amazing and gracious gift of a new relationship with us. Christmas is the story of what God does, coming to be with us.

As we start the New Year, we celebrate Epiphany and consider what we do in response to God's great gift of love acting in the world. The wise men follow the light revealed by the star, they find the child and give joyfully as they worship the newborn King.

Certainly each New Year invites us to consider our relationships, with each other and with God. What gifts of time and talent can we share with each other as we seek to follow God? My hope for the coming year is that we continue to develop and cherish meaningful relationships with each other and the church as we deepen our connection with God.

Each new year brings new officers to serve as Elders, Deacons and Trustees at CPC. We will ordain and install new officers in January. As this year ends, we give thanks for the service of Class of 2006.

Elders: Susan Gerling, Carmen Haugen, Dick Schneider, Jim Johnson, Mary Shideler, and Doug Viet

Deacons: Judy Brown, Andy Hagen, Gail Schaar, Deb Vergin and Betty Jones

Trustees: Len Brown, Keith Tok and Jim Rudnick.

Grace and Peace.

Dan

## NEWS OF THE FAMILY

### Nursing Homes

Evergreen Terrace: Betty Kauppi, Vivian Erickson, Harold Titus, Edith Mae Carrier

Manor House: Amy Johnson, Beulah Zobel, Dorothy Brace

Grand Village: Clyde Crotteau, Bob Oftelie

Pleasant Seasons: Sylvia White, Mildred Titus, Ed Sparen, Edith Fitzgerald, Warren Anderson

Homestead Nursing Home, Deer River: Ellie and Skip Broberg

### Deaths

Let us keep in thought and prayer the following families as they mourn the loss of loved ones:

Roy & Nadine Berg at the death of Roy's mother.

Gail & Denny Schaar, and Scott & Jane Cook at the death of their mother, Irene Cook.

Betty Felosi after Bill's death.

Vi Korol at the death of her brother, Nick Bibich. He was a retired Major in the military living in New Jersey.

Jan Crotteau at the death of her sister, Ardis Hannula

### Baptisms

On December 31 we celebrated the baptisms of Morgan, Taylor, and Izabel. They are the daughters of Heather Ruppelius.

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

### Adult Education

The Adult Ed. class has been having a great time gathering on Wednesday's at 5pm in room 102. Please come and join us and then stay for dinner at 5:45. The January classes begin a seven-week series titled *Just Eating; Practicing our Faith at the Table*.

### Confirmation Class of 2007

Class meets at 3:30 in room 102:

Wednesday, January 3: World Religions

Wednesday, January 17: Theology Review

Wednesday, January 31: Worship & Sacraments

Covenant Buddy Dinner will January 17 at 5:45. Be sure you have done something with your buddy outside of church.

### Something Special

The Sunday School children will gather in room 205 for Something Special on Sunday, January 7.

### Inter-Generational Activities

Join us on Wednesdays, January 10 & 24 for a chance to work with young and old on a special activity! We gather in various locations - we will announce the place at 5:45 dinner each night.

### Need addresses

At an intergenerational activity in January, we will be writing Valentines messages to military personnel overseas. If you know of anyone serving abroad that would like to receive one of these messages, please get their address to the church office.



### Need ideas

Intergenerational Activity leaders are needed for Feb. 21st and Mar. 7th. Please contact Kim if you are interested in leading an activity that brings all ages together on Wed. nights after supper. From church-related games to craft to comedy.

### Heifer Project International Heifer International Program

2007 Project at CPC

#### *About Heifer International:*

*Since 1944, Heifer International has worked to bring help, healing, and hope to millions of impoverished families worldwide. In its first 60 years, Heifer assisted 7 million families or the equivalent of 38 million women, men, girls, and boys. In areas where hunger and despair once prevailed, Heifer programs have reinvigorated communities through livestock, training, and "passing on the gift".*

### CPC's Project : A Knitting Basket (or two)

The CPC community will be working to raise funds for a "Knitting Basket" gift in the month of January. The gift represents two llamas and two sheep - one male and one female each. These are four animals famous for their warm, income-producing wool. From shearing to spinning, weaving, and finally to selling woolen goods at market, the Knitting Basket will help struggling families earn extra income to break free from the grip of poverty and hopelessness.

### Look for the following ways to help:

- \*an offering donation
- \*an animal bank in the fellowship hall
- \*encouraging the children to save and give
- \*ask the children about activities they'll be doing to learn more about these animals and how they help people.



## BELL NEWS

### RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

Thank you to everyone who financially supported the bell choirs through the November bake sale and the freewill offering at the December 10 bell concert. The money raised will be used to fund the handbell festivals taking place this spring and summer. We are very grateful for your generosity.



### JANUARY JAR SALE



The bell choirs will be holding a January Jar sale on Sunday, January 21. A variety of items will be sold including soup mixes, brownies and bars, beverage mixes and candy.



We look forward to seeing you then!

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE

#### MOVEABLE FEAST SIGN-UP NOW!

It's Moveable Feast time again! This always popular group will be "re-grouping" again in February. In case you aren't familiar with this "feast format" it goes something like this: groups of 6,7, or 8 folks meet for dinner approximately once a month. The group can decide to meet in member's homes, at a restaurant, for a picnic, etc.... meals can be totally host provided, pot-luck, dutch treat and so on. The main purpose is to sit down and share a meal and get to know the folks in your group. Sign up by January 29<sup>th</sup> - - For further information call Sandie Trappe at 326-2576 or the church office 326-8515, and watch for that sign-up sheet!

### CELEBRATION OF PHYLLIS BROWN'S 23 YEARS WITH CPC WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17 AT 9:30

On Wednesday, January 17 at 9:30 a.m., we will be gathering in Fellowship Hall for cake and coffee to celebrate Phyllis' years and dedication to CPC. Phyllis started out as Financial Secretary 23 years ago and in 1992 was asked to take on the job as Treasurer also. Phyllis is going to be missed!!!

### ENJOY COOKIES/BARS AND COFFEE?



If you don't have time to bake, you can still help. You can contribute money here on "your" Sunday and the committee would be glad to buy the cookies for you and have them there on "your" Sunday.

If you would like to just serve the coffee, we need you, too! Sign up and put "serving coffee only." If you have questions, call the church office and ask Patty, 326-8515.



### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting will be Sunday, February 11. There will be only one service that Sunday at 10:00. The annual meeting will follow that service.

## MISSION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 - 2-4 P.M.  
ACT COVENANTING CEREMONY  
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our church is hosting the 2007 *ACT Covenanting Ceremony*. Each year the ACT churches and congregations gather to renew their commitment to the mission of ACT; "People of Faith Working Together to Promote Social and Economic Justice".

Speaking about Children's Health Care in Minnesota will be Norma Bourland from the Minnesota Children's Defense Fund.

Following her remarks there will be two breakout sessions. One will consider our responsibility to provide health care for all children and the other will look at shared community values based on Marian Wright Edelman's Book *I Can Make a Difference*.

Please come and be part of making the Grand Rapids area a better place for children and families to live.

## 6TH ANNUAL CHILI BOWL COMING SOON

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb. 3rd. The Bridges Kinship Mentoring/Rotary Clubs Annual Chili Bowl will once again be held at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church from 11AM – 2 PM. In addition to great chili choices, there will be raffle prizes both for adults and kids, hand-made items to purchase, a bake sale, and a really awesome silent auction. In addition, all children who attend will be entered into a drawing for an Apple Ipod.



Tickets are only \$5 and you may purchase them either in advance by calling Bridges at 326-4700 or at the door on the day of the Chili Bowl. Kids 5 and under are free. This event is not only fun for the entire family, it's a great way to support Bridges Kinship Mentoring

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2006

The task of the CPC Nominating Committee in 2006 was to find officer candidates to be Elders, Trustees and Deacons. The ministry committees were asked to fill their own committees this year. Specifically, the Nominating Committee recruited members to fill five Elder, five Deacon, and one Trustee openings. There is one Trustee position still available. If you are interested in helping lead CPC through these interesting and challenging times, contact Patty in the CPC office, at 326-8515.

The Nominating Committee generally does the bulk of its work for a few weeks in the Autumn. Whenever officer vacancies occur throughout the year, such as a term of service ending, people leaving, or the like, the Nominating Committee jumps back into gear.

We would like to say a BIG thank you to everyone who has said yes to serve, to those of you who have served in the past, and to those of you who are considering the opportunity to serve in the future. My second term as an Elder for CPC has come to a close, as has being chairperson of the Nominating Committee for the past six years.

Thank you again,  
Mary Shideler  
Nominating Committee Chairperson