



# UP BEAT

**UNITED PARISH CHURCH  
JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER**

## **FROM DARRELL'S DESK**     *Crab Apples Blossoms*

I was playing some golf last week and I caught a glorious scent; a lilac, or some holly-suckle, or a flowering crab apple. I looked around me and I didn't see any tree, but since there was the normal North Dakota 30 mile-per-hour wind, I presumed the wondrous smells came from the somewhere north. I just stood there and enjoyed it, backing up some, then going forward to catch another whiff of it before it disappeared, which it regrettably did. While my golf game was sub-par as usual, those aromas sure made my day.

I love the smells coming from flowering crab apple trees. I don't know which is better; the sights of a flowering crab tree in full bloom, or the fragrance emitting from them, but they are both totally divine.

This will be my last newsletter written by myself as pastor, for I must be moving on. We will be moving back to Minnesota around June 12<sup>th</sup>. A big Mayflower van will be picking our clothing, furniture, books, and some junk (mostly Gerry's) and moving us back to Herman, MN., again. There we will be installed as pastor in the Herman Methodist Church. Ken Mund will be installed as pastor in the Bottineau Church. I'm sure that he will be well received by you.

While we have been here for only one year, it has been like those flowering crab apples for me. Very sweet in meeting you people, both in sight and in the physical meeting of you. And as in flowering crabs, which only blossom for two weeks, tops; I got to know you for a short time. A very short time. Too short. It seems like I just got here, now I am leaving. I told Gerry that one year in Bottineau as interim will be an adventure. It surely was. Leading worship here was a privilege. In our visitations, friendships have been made, many of them forever.

When I agreed to come to Bottineau, I didn't know that a stroke was in my future. This church treated me kindly on the way to recovery with prayers, support, and with patience. I thank you.

It has been my experience that everyone should be a life-time learner. I am a better pastor than when I came. I have learned and greatly benefitted from the experiences I learned here, just like you-all learned and benefitted from us.

So, farewell. May God grant this church joys and success in the future to come.

CHURCH TALK: *COMMENTARY: Church shouldn't be this hard*  
by **Tom Elrich**; posted in the *Washington Post* (Jan 7, 2014)

After 36 years of serving churches as a pastor and consultant, I came to a startling conclusion the other day. Not startling to you, perhaps. I might be the last person to get the memo. But the conclusion drew me up short.

My conclusion: Religion shouldn't be this hard. An assembly that exists to help people shouldn't be so willing to hurt people—by declaring them to be worthless, unacceptable, undesirable, or strangers at the gate. An assembly that should relax into the serenity of God's unconditional love shouldn't be so filled with hatred and fear. An assembly that should do what Jesus did shouldn't be so inwardly focused, so determined to be right, so eager for comfort, so fearful of failing. An assembly that follows an itinerant rabbi shouldn't be chasing permanence, stability, and property. An assembly whose call is to oneness and serving the least shouldn't be perpetuating hierarchies of power and systems of preference.

Faith should be difficult, yes, because it inevitably entails self-sacrifice and renewal. Life, too, is difficult. Dealing with Mammon is difficult. Speaking truth to power is difficult. Confronting our own weakness and capacity for sin is difficult. But the institution whose sole justifiable purpose is to help us deal with those difficulties shouldn't be making matters worse.

When we bring our burdens to church, we shouldn't find ourselves feeling intimidated by the in crowds, caught up in conflicts about who is running things, budget anxieties, jostling over opinions or doctrine, or relentlessly demonizing of whoever is trying to lead.

Yes, I understand that church is a human institution and therefore it will participate in humanity's brokenness. But church should be seeking to redeem that humanity, to heal that brokenness, to show better ways to live. Instead, we celebrate our own cruelty and bigotry. We fight against the very transformation that God seeks.

Maybe I'm the last one to see this dilemma. The million who are fleeing institutional Christianity in America aren't escaping bad doctrine, shoddy performance values or inconvenient calls to mission, they are escaping the institution itself.

It doesn't have to be this way. God certainly doesn't want it this way.

I think, for example, of the performance anxiety that infects most churches. We needn't worry so much about pleasing constituents on Sunday. Worship isn't a Broadway show; it's a glimpse of God, not a celebration of style, excellence, and self.

I think of our leadership conflicts. Pastors aren't CEOs hired to maximize shareholder returns. They aren't impresarios rewarded for putting on great shows. Pastors are flawed creatures called to help other flawed creatures bring their neediness to God.

Church should be a safe place—safe to be oneself, safe to make one's confession, safe to love whoever one feels called to love, safe to imagine more, safe to fail. Instead, church often is a dangerous place, where people feel guarded, self-protective, hemmed in by tradition and experience, required to obey laws.

Church should be different from society. Instead, it plays by the same rules: get mine, be first, be right, punish the weak, exclude the different, reward the wealthy. Our society needs healthy faith communities. But neither society nor God has much room for religious institutions grounded in right-opinion, self-serving and systematic danger.



**CONGRATUATIONS** on our seniors who will graduate this spring. They are Bailey Schmidt, Nolan Pewe, Sasha Peck, Ethan Kippen, and Wyatt Heil. May God bless all of your lives and endeavors in the years to come.

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**SYMPATHIES** to the Ben Nelson family and the Jean Lund families. Ben passed away August 5, 2016, and services were held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Jean passed over on February 1, and services were held on May 20<sup>th</sup>. May God bless the lives and memories of Ben Nelson and Jean Lund.

## PUNOGRAPHY

I tried to catch some fog. I mist.

When chemists die, they barium. J

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned vet

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop anytime.

They told me I had type A blood, but it was a Type O.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.

Class trip to the Coca-Copla factory. I hope that there's no pop quiz.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.

I wondered why the baseball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.



Thank you  
United Parish:

Thank you for the donation of quilts.  
Bottineau Fire Department

United Presbyterian Women

Thank you for the four stuffed animals for ER and one picture binder for activities donated to St. Andrew's Health Center's hospital departments. Your support is deeply appreciated.

St. Andrew's Health Center

Thank you for your quilt donation to Ronald McDonald House of Bismarck. We are so grateful for your gift to our house.

Here is a Hillbilly view on life's mandates.

1. Just one God
2. Put nothin' before God
3. Watch yer mouth
4. Git yourself to Sunday meetin'
5. Honor yer Ma & Pa
6. No killin'
7. No foolin' around with another fellow's gal
8. Don't take what ain't yers
9. No tellin' tales or gossipin'
10. Don't be hankerin' for yer buddy's stuff



June 2017

| Sun                   | Mon | Tue | Wed                 | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| 9:00 Fellowship       |     |     |                     | 1   | 2   | 3   |
| 10:00 Worship Service |     |     |                     |     |     |     |
| 4                     | 5   | 6   | 7                   | 8   | 9   | 10  |
| 5:00 Family Fun Nite  |     |     | 7:00 Parish Council |     |     |     |
| 11                    | 12  | 13  | 14                  | 15  | 16  | 17  |
| Potluck to follow     |     |     | 2:00 UMW            |     |     |     |
| 18                    | 19  | 20  | 21                  | 22  | 23  | 24  |
| 25                    | 26  | 27  | 28                  | 29  | 30  |     |



## June

- 1—Tyler Bernstein
- 3 - Trevor Bernstein
- 3 – Allan Peterson
- 3 – John Patterson
- 5 – Linda Bullinger
- 14 – Maggie DelAaTorre
- 18 – Paige Vad
- 20 – Peggy Nelson
- 22-Carson Reed Bremner
- 24 - Ron Martin
- 25 - Jim Whetter
- 30 – Marlyss Jostad
- 30 - Jim Berube
- 30 - Deb Syvertson



- 2- Dave & Deborah Peery
- 9 – Brad & Margo Knudson
- 22 – Jim & Sharon Whetter
- 24 - Howard & Dorothy Beyer
- 24 – Shari & Les Turner
- 27 - Allan & Edna Peterson

## United Parish Roof Fund

- Bernyl Nelson - Ronald & Helen Patterson
- Dorothy & Howard Beyer
- Lowell Nelson - Ronald & Helen Patterson
- Dorothy & Howard Beyer
- Betty Herbel - Karol Patterson
- Linda & David Kyle
- Les & Shari Turner
- Toni Ann McKay
- Robert & Karla Theis
- Gerald & Lucille Solberg
- Ronald & Helen Patterson
- Ralph & Luella Bjornseth
- Allan & Edna Peterson
- Dennis & Evon Gravseth
- Gary & Marlys Kippen
- Jean Lund - Howard & Dorothy Beyer
- Ronald & Helen Patterson
- Ralph & Luella Bjornseth
- David & Faye Bernstein

## United Parish Building Fund

- Bernyl Nelson - Scott & Pat Kippen
- Ralph & Luella Bjornseth
- Betty Herbel - Dwight & Gloria Olson
- David & Donna Reinholz
- Douglas & Leann Bremner
- Howard & Dorothy Beyer
- Scott & Pat Kippen
- Wayne & Dawn Pankratz
- Larry & Elise Grossman
- Les & Lorraine Christian
- Cash

## United Parish Mission Fund

- Violet Reinholz birthday- James Reinholz

## United Methodist Church

- Betty Herbel - Bruce & Shelly Bullinger

Sympathy is extended to O.D. Herbel and family on their loss and to Gordon Lund.

**United Parish**

**801 Min**

**Box 175**

**Bottineau, ND 58318**

**Facebook**

**We are on the web**

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**Newsletter News:**

**Send [unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com](mailto:unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com)**

**Deadline for June Newsletter is May 30**

**Pastor Boe's Cell phone 320-305-1953**

Greetings United Parish Congregation,



Rhonda and I are very excited to join the United Parish church family as we prepare to begin our journey with you. As native North Dakotans, we are looking forward to coming home and living in the state where our parents were raised and our siblings are located. We believe that United Parish and the community of Bottineau will be a wonderful place to live, to worship, and to continue our ministry for Christ. We enjoyed our initial visit with the church committee members and on our trip home, we anxiously discussed how wonderful it will be to live and worship among the people at United Parish. As our move to Bottineau draws nearer, our excitement to meet and know you continues to grow. You are

in our prayers and we ask that you continue to pray for us as we prepare our move to Bottineau. With God's guidance and grace, we will continue to win the world for Christ together! God bless you and we will see you soon. Pastor Ken and Rhonda Mund