

UPBEAT

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER UNITED PARISH FEBRUARY 2017

MID-WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA DREAMS

In the cold of December, towards twilight, I drove nine miles north of Bottineau into the mountains, then three miles west and turned in. It was bitterly cold and the wind was strong out of the Northwest. I was at Mystical Horizons, a place that I started to go for a quiet time, a place to sit and rest and marvel. On the way up the wind was playing with the snow, making it swirl and dance on the road. In the mountains, the trees were covered with sparkling frost and I could see the setting sun a dazzling red through the trees. I hoped I would be in time.

I pulled in the parking lot, leaving the car run, and got out to watch the sunset. The north wind was in my face as I stood there and looked at the horizon, as the sun started to set. Looking to the west, down below me, I was looking at the Souris Basin, stretching out ten miles, maybe more.

There were wind breaks out there and old groves remembering the time when they surrounded farm buildings. Above the treeline, I could see some windmills and church steeples of retired churches; one, two three; the symbols of the by-gone peoples' faith. The sun setting now. The light throws shadows and colors of yellow and fiery red throughout the valley. Beautiful.

After the glacier melted about 10,000 years ago, time went slow in the newly-formed Souris Valley. After the water finally left, buffalo came. And they had a happy time on the prairie. Until the Sioux (or whatever tribe of Indian) got the horse, and then the race was on. The battle between Native Americans versus an overly-plentiful meat supply. In an amazingly short time (about a 150 years) the buffalo was gone. And so were the Native Americans. The Souris valley was now available for the farmer. They immigrated from Norway and Germany, Scotland and Sweden, among other places. Some Indians tried their hands at farming as well. Homesteaders getting their free 160 acres from the Homestead Act. Houses and barns built, tight fences and wells were dug, and windbreaks and groves were planted. Crops were raised with the help of horses. Wheat, barley, flax. Along with the homesteaders came rural schools and churches, with the cemeteries along-side. The 160 acre farmers lasted awhile, but for many, theirs was not a happy task. It was a battle for them to survive financially, as well as doing all the work that was required, even after they got the use of tractors. They slowly quit the land or acquired a 4-wheel tractor and herbicides and went farming big. All that remains of the 160-acre homestead is now the groves left on the ground and the deserted churches and cemeteries. I wonder what will happen next? All I know, time never stands still. But the more important fact remains, God is with us. Through time that is static or through time that changes, God is with us. God has been there with us in the past, and he is with us now, and God will be with us in the future. Nothing else really matters. We'll be alright when we put our trust in God.

CHURCH-TALK *God and Good*


If you were wondering, there is a connection between God and good. God is a Germanic word : “Source of all light, worthy of our sacrifice”. Whereas the word for God in the Hebrew was YHWH, the tetra-grammaton, the first initials of the “I Am Who I Am”. In Exodus 3, when Moses asked the God, who appeared in the Burning Bush, what is your name and his reply was I Am Who I Am. Mysterious, isn’t it? But when you think of it, God is so ineffable, so immense, so powerful, so awesome that a human couldn’t even gaze upon him and live. So he can’t present himself to us humans in human terms, so I Am Who I Am is the name he gave himself. (By the way, God doesn’t have a gender and referring to him as a male just simplifies matters.)

I AM Who I Am; I will be who I will be, and I will do what I want to do. And what does I want to do? I want to love my creation. I created them in my image and I want them to grow into my image. And I want them to be with me for all eternity. In return, I desire their trust, humility, and obedience.

A good Jew held the same of God in such high esteem that he wouldn’t use the YHWH, he used the word Yehweh instead. And he uses that name frugally, using Adonai or Kyrious (Lord) usually instead. The Desert Fathers replaced Yehweh with Jehovah, in referring to God.

In due time, YHWH directly became involved with humanity more directly, and Jesus was born. A God that we can see and feel and touch; and who died our deaths. He was risen and taken into heaven where he will be sitted on the right hand of God, from whence he will judge the quick and the dead. For all eternity.

“Good” come out of our root word “God”, for all good things come from God. God is from the Germanic term, “Source of all light; worthy of our sacrifice.” Critics would say that it not a proper name; for it does not mean “I AM”. I do not think that God would mind. “God” describes what he does and who he is, and what we should do in return. For humanity to grasp who God is and what God is, that is God’s goal. To be with God eternally, that is what God truly desires.



THOUGHTS and QUOTES

“When you teach a man to hate and fear his brother, when you teach that he is a lesser man because of his color or his beliefs on the policies he pursues, when you teach that those who differ from you threaten your freedom or your job or your family, then you also learn to confront others not as fellow citizens but as enemies.

We must admit the vanity of our false distinctions among men and learn to find our own advancement in the search for the advancement of all. We must admit in ourselves that our own children’s future cannot be built on the misfortunes of others. We must recognize that this short life can neither be ennobled nor enriched by hatred or revenge.” *Robert F Kennedy*

“Nothing created by God is evil. It is not food that is evil but gluttony, not the begetting of children but unchastity, not material things but avarice, not esteem but self-esteem. It is only the misuse of things that is evil, not the things themselves.”

St Maximos the Confessor

“We need leaders not in love with money, but in love with justice. Not in love with publicity, but in love with humanity.”

Martin Luther King Jr

Lord Jesus, heal me. Heal my memory. Heal my heart. Heal my emotions. Heal my spirit.

NORWEGIAN BLESSING

May the ruts always fit your pickup tires, May your earmuffs keep out the wind and cold, May the sun always shine on your lefsa, May the rain fall gently on your lutefisk, and may the Good Lord protect you from all unnecessary uffdas.

FUNNIES

The invisible man married an invisible women. Their kids weren't much to look at either.

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love, and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

What to do call a fish with no eyes? A fsh.

God hath not promised Skies always blue, Flower-strewn pathways All our lives through;
God hath not promised Sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, Peace without pain. But God hath promised Strength for the day, Rest for the labor, Light for the way. Grace for the trials, Help from above, Unfailing sympathy, Undying Love. Annie Johnson Flint



Potato Bake & Chili Feed
Sunday, February 19, 2017
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome.

United Parish Building Roof Fund

Arlene Sanderson - Karol Patterson
Marcella Bertch - Karol Patterson
Jean Hahn - Linda & David Kyle
Gary & Marlys Kippen



5 – Arlene Wettlaufer
6 – Gary Kippen
9 – Kooper Allard
18 – Bev Hammes
23 – Lauren Vad
25 – Andrew Bremner
26 - Dorothy Beyer

←————→
KARTOON KNUGGETS

By Troy Knechtel



Well Lord... Glad you are still here! Let's do this again!
But as for you, be strong and do not give up... 2 Chronicles 15:7

[Http://www.christiancartoons.com/kartoons](http://www.christiancartoons.com/kartoons) copyright 2009

←————→
New address
Nancy Nelson's
1425 15th Ave SE, #110
Aberdeen SD 57401
PH#: 402-957-3418

Lowell & Colleen Helgersen
Edgewood Vista
4420 37 th Ave S
Fargo, ND 58104

United Presbyterian Women

United Parish

United Parish Friends

United Methodist Women

Thank you for the delicious Christmas goodies, beautiful cards and body cologne.

O.D. & Betty

United Parish

Thank you very much for the thoughts prayers and gifts. Your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated. It is because of your thoughts and prayers Dawson has made a speedy recovery. Thank you! A special thank you to the quilters for the beautiful quilts.

God bless,

Brian. Ali, Dawson, Bryson

Thank you for the wonderful gift of theatre tickets for all the teenage children - it was a wonderful gift. May God bless all of you.

Thank you for your generosity.

The Bottineau Study Club

Thanks for the wonderful lunch .

Arlene Sanderson family

United Parish,

It was nice to be remembered at Christmas time. I enjoyed your thoughtfulness and visit.

Gladys Nehring

February 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Fellowship 10:00 Worship Ser-			1 2:00 PW 7:00 Parish Council	2 10:00 Bible Study	3	4
5	6 10:00 Quilters & Fellowship 7:00 Happy Hearts	7	8 2:00 UMW	9 10:00 Bible Study	10	11
12	13 10:00 Quilters & Fellowship 7:00 Happy Hearts	14 	15	16 10:00 Bible Study	17	18
19 11:15 Potato Bake 4:00 Good Sam.	20 10:00 Quilters & Fellowship 7:00 Happy Hearts	21	22	23 10:00 Bible Study	24	25
26 1:30 Worship at St. Andrew's	27 10:00 Quilters & Fellowship 7:00 Happy Hearts	28				

The United Parish

801 Min

Box 175

Bottineau, ND 58318

Facebook

We are on the web

[Www.unitedparishbottineau.com](http://www.unitedparishbottineau.com)

Newsletter News:

Send
unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com

Deadline for March Newsletter is Feb.
27th

Pastor Boe's Cell phone 320-3-5-1953

Gerry Boe's cell phone 320-305-1340



Sign up sheet for ushers is on the bulletin board.



Sign up sheet for readers is on the bulletin board.

United Parish Members, Per Capita and apportionment envelopes are included in your offering envelopes. Please use them or specify on your check if this is what it for.

This makes it much easier for the treasurer to put it in the proper place.

CONGRATULATIONS!

We're excited to share that in 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members chose to direct Choice Dollars® to more than 32,000 churches, schools and other nonprofits, including United Parish, through Thrivent Choice®. Based on member recommendations, United Parish received \$1,704 in charitable outreach funding in 2016. The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities.

REMIND SUPPORTERS THAT 2016 CHOICE DOLLARS EXPIRE SOON!

Now is the time to promote Thrivent Choice. All 2016 Choice Dollars have been made available for members to direct so there is no reason to wait. Use the free promotional materials available on the Thrivent Choice page on Thrivent.com to easily remind your supporters about Thrivent Choice® and the positive impact that can be made by directing Choice Dollars to your organization. As a reminder, 2016 Choice Dollars expire on March 31.