

United Parish  
801 Main , Box 175  
Bottineau, ND 58318  
Facebook  
We are on the web  
www.unitedparishbottineau.com  
Newsletter News:  
Send unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com  
Deadline for February is January 24th  
Church office - 228-2800  
Secretary - 228-8123  
Pastor's cell 605-870-1453  
Please let the church know if you have a e-mail address  
Pastor Hours are  
Monday-8:30-12, 1-4:30  
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30-12, Afternoon visitations  
Wednesday-8:30 -12  
Fridays off



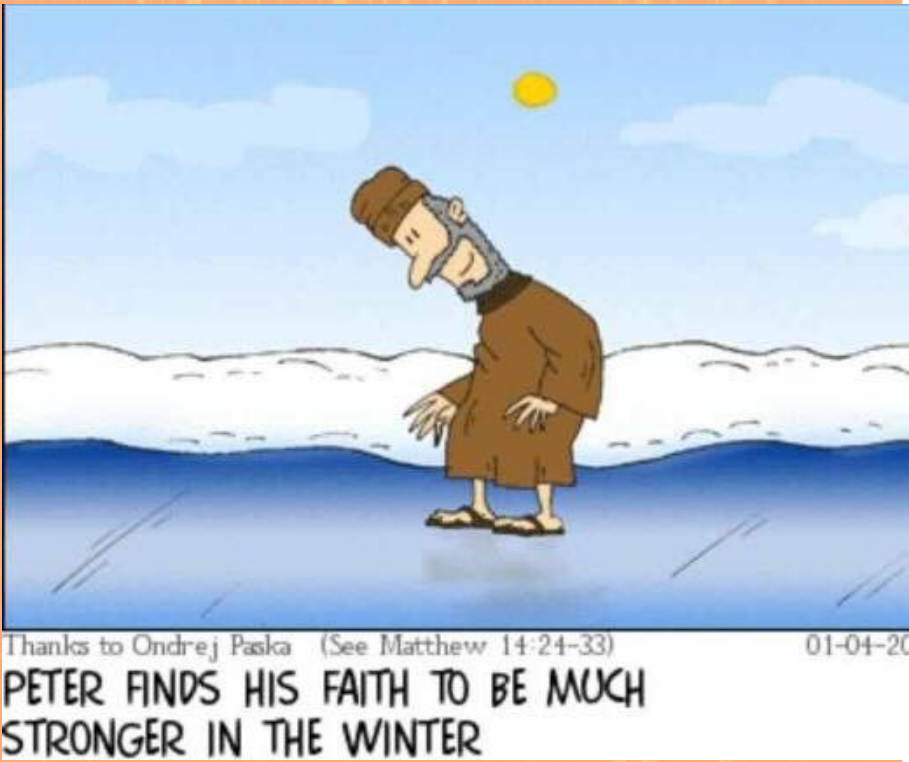
The Annual Meeting will be on January 30 following the church service.  
Congregational meetings will be held before church at 9:00.  
All reports are due on January 12th.

A Little Mixed Up

Just a line to say I'm living  
That I'm not among the dead  
Though I'm getting more forgetful  
And mixed up in the head.

I've got used to my arthritis  
To my dentures I'm resigned  
I can manage my bifocals  
But oh God, I miss my mind.

For sometimes I can't remember  
When I stand at the foot of the stairs  
If I must go up for something  
Or if I've just come down from there



# Up Beat

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER |  
UNITED PARISH  
JANUARY 2022

The benediction on Sunday, December 26, began with “May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph and the joy of the angels....” Since then I have been thinking a lot about joy prompted by our singing “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” and by the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. While the two events occurred thousands of years apart, they share the same joy.

One of the headlines noting Tutu’s passing called him “the joyous priest who helped end apartheid in South Africa.” Bishop Tutu was known for the joy and celebration he demonstrated even as he fought against racial hatred and worked for reconciliation after the end of apartheid in South Africa. Most newspaper accounts mentioned that, even in the darkest times, he never lost his sense of wonder and joy. While preaching he would often sing and was known break into dance with joy in worship as well as on other occasions.

His was not an easy life. His father was a teacher in a Methodist school and his mother a domestic worker. Their family lived under the harsh apartheid system. As a young boy he almost died with tuberculosis. Several years after he recovered his doctor recalled, “Even in the depth of the illness, Desmond never lost his sense of humor.” One tribute said of Tutu “and he laughed—no not just laughed, he cackled with delight when he shared their joy.” He knew joy at the darkest moments of his life. His joy was a witness to his faith in God through Jesus Christ.

In her Christmas message Queen Elizabeth paid tribute to Prince Phillip noting “his sense of service, intellectual curiosity, and capacity to squeeze fun out of any situation.” Then she went on to say, “But life, of course, consists of final partings as well as first meetings; and as much as I and my family miss him, I know he would want us to enjoy Christmas.” There is the sorrow of final partings, but there is also, the Queen reminds us, the joy of the first meetings. Prince Phillip knew the importance of squeezing “fun out of any situation” and of enjoying every day.”

The difference between “happy” and “joy” is noteworthy. Happy is a feeling of pleasure or contentment; synonyms are contented, glad, cheerful. Joy, on the other hand, is a feeling of great pleasure and happiness; synonyms are jubilant, rejoicing, grateful.

The angels were filled with great joy (not happiness) at the birth of Jesus. Desmond Tutu was filled with great joy despite his illness, his poverty, his racist country. Prince Phillip made joy



with his family even in the midst of their pain and struggles.

On Christmas Day I called my older sister who lives in North Carolina. She asked me what I wanted for our niece and nephew and their families. I said I wanted them to be happy. But I was wrong. I want them have joy, joy in the midst of whatever life comes to them. And that is my prayer for the United Parish and beyond.

May you be filled with the joy of the angels. Have a joyous New Year!



## Two Constants in the New Millennium

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

A full century ago my great, great grandfather reminisced in a New Year's sermon over the changes he had witnessed in his 79 years.

"Our letters were sealed with wax, and postage was 15 cents. There were no stamps, no envelopes, no steel pens, but our thoughts were 'wafted on the pinions of a gray goose quill.' The typewriter, photograph, telephone and telegraph have been invented. In college I saw Morse's horse-shoe magnet," he recalled. Perhaps you can remember the first televisions. Today the Internet shrinks the globe.

"The first of the century grass was cut by a scythe; grain by a sickle, and thrashed with a flail," recounted the Rev. Charles Henry de Long. "I remember cradling my father's wheat and holding horses to tread out the grain." Today huge combines do the work of many men.

My 93-year-old mother can remember her father's horse and buggy. In our lifetimes men have walked on the moon, and every five years our scientific knowledge doubles.

What has been constant throughout the past century? Change. Yet the pace of change itself seems to be accelerating.

How do we prepare for change?

One of my heroes is Joshua. Moses, that towering figure who had led Israel for 40 years, was dead. Now his assistant had to step into Moses' giant sandals and assume leadership in the most precarious and unsettling of times. Israel was about to cross the Jordan River at flood stage and attack the heavily fortified city of Jericho. The Israelites had been slaves, then desert nomads. What did they know of war? They couldn't stay where they were, but to go where God was leading was frightening, fraught with change.

God prepared Joshua with these words: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

Change is one constant, but the other constant is God himself, the One who never changes, who sees the end from the beginning, and for whom the future holds no surprises. God has made us a solemn promise: to be with us always. That promise holds wherever we are, and is not invalidated by the unexpected. In whatever success we enjoy, amidst whatever failure we suffer, God has promised to be there with us.

I really don't like roller coasters. I don't like to scream all the way down. I don't like fear. Unfortunately, life in the new millennium is likely to be that kind of ride, with its dizzying heights, its gut wrenching turns, and its freefall downslopes. But we have a seatmate who is God himself, there to steady us, protect us, and guide us. Today he repeats to us those timeless words that echo across the centuries and millennia: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."



Thank you to everyone who brought poinsettia's to the church .

United Parish friends:

Thank you for the Christmas themed cross to hang on my front door and for the gift certificate from Pride Dairy.

I'll enjoy the both!

Thanks for your thoughtfulness.,  
Love, Beth

Thank you for the fit of meat, crackers and candy. Also for the visits.  
Thanks again,  
O.D. Herbel



04 – Mary Elise McKay

05 – Haylie Moore

08 - Noel Sand

09 – Amy Sand

10 – Trevor Wettlaufer

11 – Lori Witteman

12 – Mark Gregg

19 – Brad Knudson

22 – Marie Faye Sand

25 – David Reinholz



1 – Jim & Linda Berube

26 – Dennis & Evon Gravseth

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00 Sun School 9:00 Fellowship 10:00 Worship						1
2	3 10 Quilters 6 Happy Hearts	4	5 7 Parish Council	6	7	8
9	10 10 Quilters	11	12 2 UMW Reports Due	13	14	15
16	17 10 Quilters 6 Happy Hearts	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 10 Quilters	25	26	27	28	29
30 Annual Meeting After Worship	31 10 Quilters					