

United Parish
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We are on the web
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Newsletter News:
Send unitedparishbottineau@gmail.com
Deadline for Oct. Newsletter is
Sept. 27

Church office - 228-2800
Secretary - 228-8123
Manse - 228-3159

Please let the church know if you have a e-mail address



Welcome to Pastor Beth and a special thank you to Pastor Carol, Janell Shannon, Zahra Moss, Gary Wendel, and Doug Bremner who have filled the pulpit while we were without a pastor.

The Sunday School Teacher asked, “Now, Johnny, tell me frankly, do you say prayers before eating?”

“No sir,” little Johnny replies, “I don’t have to – my Mom is a good cook!”

September Calendar

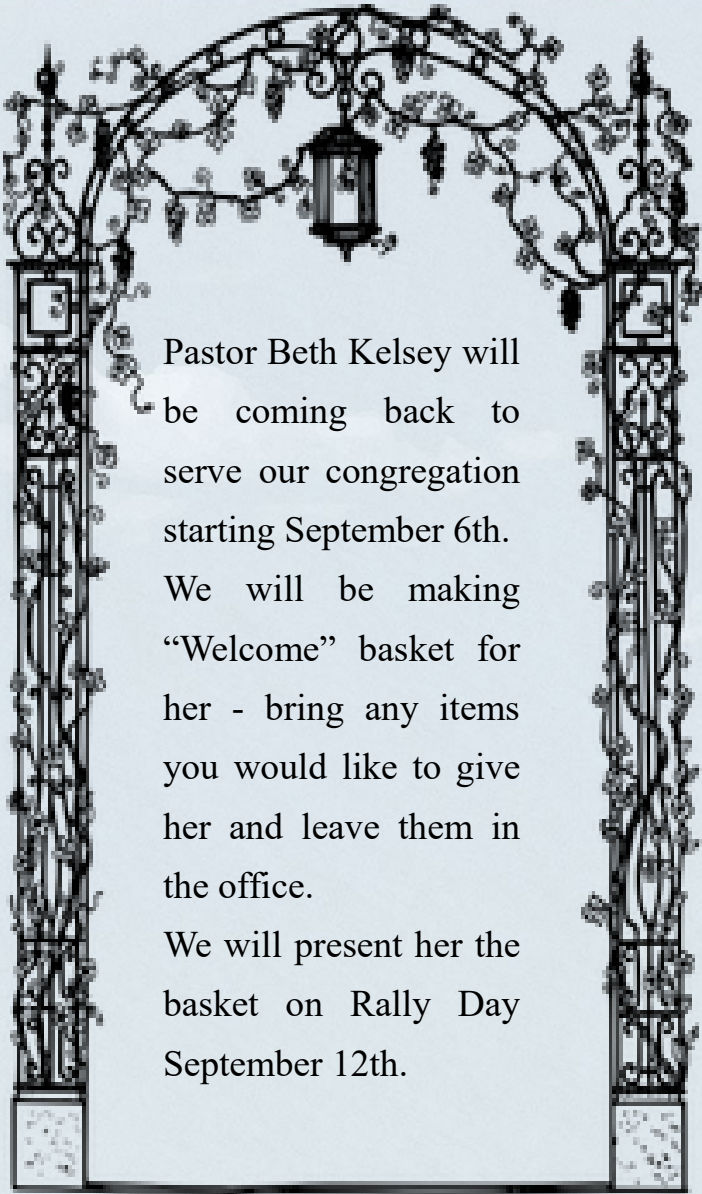
Wednesday Sept. 1 - 2:00 Pw
7:00 Parish Council
Sunday Sept. 5 - 9:00 Fellowship
10:00 Worship Service
Monday Sept 6 - 6:00 Happy Hearts
Wednesday, Sept 8 - 2:00 UMW
Sunday Sept 12 - Rally Day
9:00 Fellowship
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship ‘Service
Hot dogs & hamburgers to follow

Sunday Sept 19 - 9:00 Sunday School
9:00 Fellowship
10:00 Worship Service
Sunday Sept 26 - 9:00 Sunday School
9:00 Fellowship
10:00 Worship Service



Up Beat

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
UNITED PARISH
SEPTEMBER, 2021|



Pastor Beth Kelsey will be coming back to serve our congregation starting September 6th. We will be making “Welcome” basket for her - bring any items you would like to give her and leave them in the office. We will present her the basket on Rally Day September 12th.



Rally Day - September 12th

9:00 Sunday School for prekindergarten thru 6th grade
9:00 Fellowship
10:00 Worship Service
Following the service there will be hot dogs, hamburgers, and chips. Dessert will provided by Lula bell ice cream.

TEACHER: George, go to the map and find North America.
GEORGE: Here it is!
TEACHER: Correct. Now, class, who discovered America?
CLASS: George!

Why Do People Attend Church?

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Ever wonder what motivates people to attend church? Take it from an old hand, the reasons are numerous, and sometimes bizarre.

Now if you lived in the South or parts of the Midwest, social standing might be determined by which church you attend. Out here in California, though, few people seem to care. No great loss: pride and social-climbing never were terribly good reasons anyway.

How about joining a large church to network for your business? It could happen. But before you judge too harshly, consider that when you're looking for a future husband or a wife, networking in a church isn't a bad place to start — at least you're likely to find people with the same value system.

Fear? Guilt? Those are motivators sometimes, but not ones to impress God very much, not a God who at his very core oozes love. Love is on a different plane from fear and guilt.

People attend for the most human of reasons. Family history has its place. Children of Catholics are most often Catholic, in orientation at least. Habit and duty figure, too. But let me talk for a moment about what I see most.

Hurt is way up there on the list. At times we find ourselves reeling from some of the most painful wounds imaginable. Estrangement of a spouse or lover. Loss of a loved one to death, loss of a family, loss of a job, loss of innocence, loss of health, loss of hope. We're on the ropes, we're down for the count. It's only natural to seek healing in God, and it's amazing how God uses some of his dear people to be channels of God's healing, hope-filled, non-judgmental love. I can't begin to count the times I've seen people's hurts healed within the context of a healthy congregation.

Our children also bring us back to church. We feel the awesome responsibility of molding and shaping their young lives to be happy and productive for the future, and sense almost instinctively that those things require faith and a knowledge of God. We know they won't develop a strong moral core from the society around them. It didn't work for us, did it? And so we bring them to God's house, and come along with them, sometimes for the first time since our own childhood. And as our children learn about Jesus, we experience a wonderful renewal of our faith. I've seen it happen time after time.

Friendship brings us to church, too. Sometimes, literally, we are invited by friends and come with them. But often it's the *desire* for friends — good friends, caring friends, friends who share our values — that brings us to church in hope. God knows, loneliness can eat at our sense of well-being. Being new in a community often accentuates that longing to love and be loved. And this is as it should be. God *means* for the church to be a place to build long-term caring relationships, to be a *community* in every sense of that word.

Personal growth is a factor. Gradually we allow our smokescreens to blow away. Men sometimes decide to grow up and get past when once-upon-a-time they saw a hypocrite in church. (You saw an actual hypocrite? Wow!) They move beyond resentments at having to attend church as a child. (They didn't stop enjoying dinner because their parents insisted they eat their supper, did they?) We learn about ourselves, we grow past childish rebellions, we grow up, and we're freed once again to include God in our personal exploration.

The need for significance is a strong motivator, too. Something inside of us wants to make a difference, to do something meaningful, lasting, to be part of a cause bigger than ourselves. Church is a perfect context for this type of fulfillment, since, at their best, churches change communities for good --one person at a time. Believe it or not, there *are* people who are asking, "What do I have to *give* here?" rather than just "What can I *get*?" Refreshing, isn't it!

Finally, people attend church in order to come to know God, to honor him through worship and by their very presence in his house. The French philosopher Blaise Pascal put it succinctly, "There's a God-shaped vacuum in every man that only God can fill." You and I have felt that emptiness. We've wondered at times if we've lost forever that most important link of faith that shapes who we are and who we can become. People come to church because they are searching, and they find they can search for God in this context better than others. "Our hearts are restless," said Augustine, "until we find our rest in You."

That's pretty much the list. Some motives are better, some worse, but in one sense it doesn't matter much what your motivation. For years I spent two weeks each summer as a leader at Christian youth camps in the San

Bernardino mountains. Teenagers would come for predictable reasons: wanting to get away from home, wanting to find a boyfriend, wanting to find a girlfriend. I would see lots of romances wax and wane in the space of a week. But time after time I saw those young people encounter *God* at camp. Decisions were made to affect a lifetime. Transformations came about not because these kids came for perfect motives, *but because they came!* *And God met them there.*

So I invite you to attend church this weekend. For whatever reason: come. It just may be God will meet you, too.



Thank you Jim Berube ,John Gregg and Dennis Gravseth for taking care of the lawn at the manse.

Thank you to everyone who worked at the manse to freshen it up after being vacant.

Special thanks to Scott and Pat Kippen for getting the furniture and moving it to the manse.

A grateful thank you to Karen Larson for the tables in memory of Ruth Gust.

United Parish Memorial

Ruth Gust - Neola Garbe

David & Donna Reinholz

Carolle Tennacour

David & Faye Bernstein

Dianne Kuhl

Kay Hochstrasser & Terri Johns

Ronald & Avis Tvedt

Violet Arden

Lynn & Martha Schepp

Gerald & Joan Wettlaufer

United Parish Quilters

Ruth Gust - Karol Patterson

Linda & David Kyle

Ron & Marsha Martin

Noreen Bahn - MaryLou Reamer

Marlys Kippen

United Parish Building

Ruth Gust - Paul & Rhonda Milbrath

Dwight & Gloria Olson

Marlys Kippen

Noreen Bahn - Leann Bremner

Dwight & Gloria Olson

Our family would like you all to know how much we appreciated everything everyone did and the delicious treats. Many were mon’s favorites. It was a very nice time of fellowship;

Family of Ruth Gust

Dear United Parish Quilt Group

Thank you so much sharing some of your quilting supplies with members of the

Grand Forks Historical Society Guild.

United Parish Women,

Thank you so much for the blanket you gave me . It put a smile on my face and