

---

# The Waltham Courier

809 N. 3450<sup>th</sup> Road, Utica, IL 61373

815-667-4611 (Office phone & fax)

[www.walthamchurch.org](http://www.walthamchurch.org)

[waltham@ivnet.com](mailto:waltham@ivnet.com)

---

January 2008

A Family Journal

Volume LVIII, Number 01

---

## From The Pastor's Desk ...

Greeting 2008

The new [Smithsonian Magazine](#) lists the wonderful achievements and advancements which were made in the year 1908. It's amazing to look back at the advances in technology, flight, automobiles, radio, phones, etc. In addition, it was a time of transition for the United States in its placement in the world. Not many folk can remember 1908, but we can learn from the wonderful opportunities and new hopes which it brought into our lives.

2007 has been a very interesting year for all of us too. Internationally and nationally we've watched as the landscape of ideas, ideologies, scientific discoveries, international relations, economic challenges, educational issues, and all sorts of things have happened. For me, I know that I'm getting a little older, because I know all the famous folk in the "Looking Back" obituaries of 2007. (I remember when my parents would make mention of a famous person who had passed, and I'd automatically ask, "Who was that? I've never heard of them!" I don't need to ask anymore!)

Right here in our country spot we've experienced changes too. The Lord has brought us through a year where we are beginning to see outreach to the community on a level which we haven't experienced it for a while. Having two Christmas Eve Services was a hope which the Lord

helped us realize. We had a over 270 people drive to us from all over LaSalle County for those two experiences of faith. Many were visitors who went out of their way to be here with us. I'm thankful for such a wonderful response. I'm thankful for our growing appreciation and active support of our Youth Ministries through Eric Mertes and others, and the Deacons are working diligently to clarify how they truly follow the biblical description of their ministry in the church. Session is continuing to evaluate and adjust our ministries together, and it's amazing how the Lord has truly worked through their dedication, intelligence, and spiritual directions during this year.

Without any stretch, I can safely say that we have our challenges before us as we move through 2008. We will meet them with intelligence, imagination, and love as the Lord works through our lives together.

What do we need more than anything else right now? I believe we need prayer on all our behaves as we seek the Lord's direction and will for our ministries together. And I believe this is on all levels of our commitment to and "followship" of our Savior's call upon our lives.

The Lord bless you all in this New Year,  
Pastor Roy C. Backus, Ph.D.

**DECORATING COMMITTEE**

We will be un-decorating the church on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> after worship. It won't take long if we all pitch in and help!

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

No report received for this publication.

**Reminders ...**

If you are using the copier in the office for *personal purposes* a small monetary donation per copy is requested. We want to keep the copier accessible to everyone, but it does take money to keep it running and we are way over our copies as outlined in our contract with Copy All. There is a designated container in the office for the monetary donations. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mailboxes in the office are for your convenience, please be sure that you are checking them and cleaning them out on a regular basis.

**Things to do ...**

PRAYERS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we enter a New Year, let us heed the call of our Savior, Jesus, as He prayed for Christian Unity for all his disciples. In John, Chapter 18, verses 20-23, Jesus petitioned the Father that his followers would be "ONE" as He, Jesus, and God the Father were ONE. For it was his great desire that...May they be brought to COMPLETE UNITY to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (NIV)

So, dear friends, let us embrace our Our Lord's petition by joining together with other Illinois Valley Christians for worship on

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2008  
at 4pm

at St. Bede Abbey Church

The monks of St. Bede Abbey will be our hosts that day for our first annual worship service-PRAYERS FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY-a wonderful opportunity to experience a liturgy flavored by centuries old prayer, litany, and song but motivated by a desire for greater ecumenism in our modern world. The Abbey Church is a beautiful sanctuary with excellent acoustics and generous seating. The service will be followed by a time of fellowship and refreshment. Please mark your calendar and plan to join our brothers and sisters in Christ for this special service.

Blessings of the NEW YEAR!

Marlene Moshage

**MEETING REPORTS**  
**SESSION**

No report received for this publication.

**TRUSTEES**

No report received for this publication.

**Stewardship & Finance**

No report received for this publication.

**Benevolence Fund**

No report received for this publication.

**DEACONS**

No report received for this publication.

**Memorial Fund**

No report received for this publication.

**Treasurer’s Report**

No report received for this publication.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

No report received for this publication.

**MISSION COMMITTEE**

Mission committee would like to thank everyone who gave Christmas gifts to PADS clients and supplies to the shelter. We also collected gifts for 5 area families. We are sure all the gifts were much appreciated.

**Scout Master Bob’s Corner**

**Upcoming Events**

December 25-Jan. 1-No Scout Meeting-Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.

**January 8 – Scout Meeting 7:00 P.M. Troop Leader Elections**

January 12 – AT Trail Hike – Starved Rock State Park

January 12 – Pinewood Derby @ Kmart

January 15 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

January 18-20 – Klondike Derby @ Mendota Lake

January 22 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

January 29 – Troop Meeting 6:00 P.M.

Potluck & Court of Honor

February 2 – AT Trail Hike – Mattheson State Park

February 5 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 6 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 10 – Scout Sunday

February 12 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 15-17 – Troop Winter Fishing Campout @ Ingersall Scout Reservation

February; 19 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 20 – Troop Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 23 – Troop Chili Supper

February 26 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

**Troop 797 is preparing for two high adventure trips this coming summer.**

**The first trip will be June 15-28 to the AT Trail. They will be hiking from Thornton’s Gap to Harper’s Ferry. They are also planning a day trip to Washington D.C.**

**The second trip will be Aug. 2-8 to Cache Lake in Canada.**

**Troop 97 meets every Tuesday night at the Waltham Presbyterian Church.**

**Contact Ralph Moshage at 667-4511 or Ross Wilson at 434-1469 for information about the troop.**

**Nursery Workers**

**January 2008**

January 6

Albert Hagenbuch  
Relynn Olivero  
Nathan Olivero

January 14

Rita Van Drimmelen  
Bob Van Drimmelen  
Rachel Van Drimmelen

January 21

Dena Ficek  
Marlene Moshage  
Nick Moshage

January 28

Scott Freebairn  
Heather Freebairn

20 Robin Leonard  
Irene Munson  
22 June Kinzer  
Phillip McConville  
24 Luke Mertes  
25 Jeffrey English  
27 Annabelle Skoog  
Jenny Wilson  
28 Tanner Chapman  
  
29 Daniel Baker  
Ardelle Hagenbuch  
Serah Lukas  
31 Robert Geil

*(Please leave a note on the desk in the office if there are any additions or omissions from the Birthday/Anniversary lists.)*

**January Anniversaries**

31 Mr. & Mrs. Pat Hughes

**January Birthdays**

1 David Christopher  
Yvonne Geil  
Ross Wilson  
2 Norma Jann  
4 Phyllis Mertes  
5 Cole Wesley Freebairn  
7 Sue Hughes  
8 Anthony Brown  
10 Monica Blue  
11 Kerstie Lukas  
12 Wendy Deutsch  
Dave Wilson  
13 Dawn Hess  
14 Melvin Hagenbuch\*  
15 Emily Lukas  
18 Bruce Brown  
Benjamin Kiner  
19 Carol Hallead

**Deacon of the Month**

January - Marlene Moshage  
Phil McConville - Assistant

**Trustee of the Month**

January - Jeff Ficek

**Texts and Sermons**

**January 2008**

**January 6, 2008 Epiphany of the Lord**

*Out guest pastor is The Rev. William Love*

THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LESSON: Jeremiah 31:7-14

THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LESSON: John 1:1-18

THE SERMON: "Light in the Darkness"

**January 13, 2008 Baptism of the Lord**

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 29

THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LESSON: Isaiah 42:1-9

THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LESSON: Acts 10:34-43

THE SERMON: "Baptism: More than Being  
All Wet"

**January 20, 2008**

**Second Sunday after the Epiphany  
Ordination of Deacons and Elders, and the**

**Installation of  
Trustees**

THE CALL TO  
WORSHIP: Psalm  
40:1-11

THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LESSON: Isaiah 49:1-7

THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LESSON: John 1:29-42

THE SERMON: "Baby Steps Are Real  
Steps"

**January 27, 2008**

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

THE CALL TO  
WORSHIP:

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

THE 2<sup>ND</sup> LESSON: Matthew 4:12-23

THE SERMON: "The Intangible Un-  
Changeables"