
The Waltham Courier

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July/August 2005

A Family Journal

Volume LV, Number 07 & 08

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Ann and I have a wonderful friend in Burlington, Iowa. For years he taught in the public school system for children who were challenged in the area of reading and reading comprehension. He retired about six years ago, and people sang his praises because he created great miracles in the lives of so many children.

In addition to his teaching, he's a marvelous tenor vocalist and is sought in all the civic classical music groups and performances. He visits many churches annually and sings classical and Black Spiritual numbers during the worship services. Not only does he have a superior voice, but the Spirit of the Lord is always present in his singing. I can't recall any time that I didn't fill up with the joy of the Lord when he sang.

In addition to the addition, he has the uncanny ability to send a letter or card at just the right time! While we lived in Burlington and in the years since, his encouragement and thoughtfulness have turned my spirit towards the Lord on many occasions.

Well, today Ann and I received a happy anniversary card from Terry Struthers. Inside the card he wrote, "Enjoy the Dash!" We opened a folded slip of paper and here's what it said:

**I read of a preacher who stood to speak
at a funeral of his friend.**

**He referred to the dates on her tombstone
from the beginning . . . to the end.**

**He noted that first came the date of her birth
and spoke of the following date with tears,
but said what mattered most of all
was the dash between the years.
For that dash represented all the time
that she spent alive on earth,
and now only those who loved her
know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own;
the cars, the house, the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
and how we spend our dash.
So think about this long and hard,
are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left.
(You could be at "dash midrange.")
If we could just slow down enough
to consider what's true and real,
and always try to understand
the way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger,
and show appreciation more
and love the people in our lives
like we've never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
and more often wear a smile,
remembering that this special dash
might only last a little while.
So, when your eulogy is being read
with your life's actions to rehash . . .
would you be pleased with the things they say
about how you spent your dash?**

Author Unknown

I thank the Lord for Terry, and his reminder of richness of life.

The Lord bless you all,
Pastor Roy C. Backus

THANK YOU'S

Thanks to everyone for the cards, calls, and prayers following my knee surgery. A special thanks to Pastor Backus for his calls and extra special support. And yes, thanks to my family. Ardelle, you are extra special.

I love you all,
Melvin Hagenbuch

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women invite all women to join us as we begin meeting this fall. We will meet in fellowship hall Thursday, Sept. 22nd at 9 a.m. Our hostesses will be Janet Small and Linda Chalus.



Lois Edgcomb will lead our first lesson from our Bible Study this year, "For Everything A Season, A Study of the Liturgical Calendar. We will continue this study on Oct. 27th and Nov. 17th at 9 a.m.

Fall Gatherings for the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery are scheduled for Friday, Sept. 23rd and Sat. Sept. 24th. Mark your calendars now and plan to join us for any or all of these dates.

SCHOOL SUPPLY COLLECTION

Presbyterian Women again invite all to participate in collecting school supplies for needy students in LaSalle County. Check the list of suggested items in the narthex. All donations are due by Sunday, August 7th.

The birthday wishes I received brightened my day!

Thank you,
Florence Charnesky

I would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards, food, and flowers from Presbyterian Women during my recovery from surgery. You never know how wonderful your church family is until you are in a situation where they show such care and support when you need it most. It's been two weeks since my surgery and I'm happy to report that I am doing very well.

I'm looking forward to being able to work out in our flower gardens again soon. Feel free to stop by, our yard is always open to our friends for a garden tour.

Diana Deutsch

Thank you Rev. Backus for your visits and prayers for Tom, he really enjoyed them.

Also, many thanks to all the friends who gave me rides or went with me to spend the day. The cards from the church family was overwhelming.

Thank you so much,
Ruth Sroka

The Safari was an inspirational and educational expedition for all the children.

With you, the volunteers, this program came to a very happy ending. Thanks be to God and thanks be to you for stepping forward.

In Christian faith,
Monica Blue, V.B.S. Director

V.B.S. Special Reports

From the Director

We welcomed 57 children on a "Lord's Prayer" Safari into the Kingdom of the Son. Through their adventures, the children discovered that "God Listens", "God Protects", "God Forgives", "God Provides", and "God Rules"! They had a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, bible stories, and a great supper.

Our staff consisted of Pastor Backus, (Crafts & Pictures) Dena Ficek, Mary Ann Small, Kristen Beard, Kathy Kleckner, Mark Small, & Linda Chalus; (Music) Katie Videgar & Mary Small; (Games) Mark Small, Kristen Fox, Matthew Olivero & others; (Pre-school) Phyllis Mertes, Amy Ploch, & Birgit Mertes; (K,1,2) Clarissa Barto, Lindsey Olivero, Lois Edgcomb, & Ann Backus; (3,5,6) Veronica Blue, Brittney Greer, Samantha Hetzel, & Christina Eltrovoog; (7,8,9) Eric Mertes, Rita & Bob Van Drimmelen; (Food) Janet Small, Bev Scharlau, Lois Edgcomb, Marilyn Laatz, Ida Brown, Don Scharlau, and others; (Desserts) Ida Brown; (tractor/wagon rides) Bruce & Roberta Brown; (Skit Decorations) Veronica Blue, Brittney Greer, Samantha Hetzel, & Christina Eltrovoog.

The Safari skit was performed by Valerie Blue, Kaitlyn Small, Ben Ficek, Lucas Leonatti, Katlyn Casford, and Grace Backus.

A very special Thank You to Ida Brown for her mouth-watering desserts.

VBS CRAFTS

Next to eating and riding in Mr. Brown's wagon, decorating T-shirts was a favorite activity. Linda Chalus ironed the Kingdom of the Son decals. Then the kids added paw prints, and used their own creativity.

Other crafts included lion puppets, basket weaving, animal paw bookmarks, pompom lions, and journals. 50 kids had their picture taken in a safari setting. Then they made animal print picture frames.

A special thank you to Rita Whipple, Irene Mitchell, and Cyndi Hagenbuch, for cutting craft materials in advance.

We all had a great time!

Mary Ann Small
Dena Ficek
Kathie Kleckner

Pre-school

What a fun-filled week of V.B.S.! We had 12 children in the pre-school class. They were Jordan Ovanic, Jacob Ovanic, Andrew Engel, Missy Mertes, Katie Stoneking, Emily Backus, Julia Graham, Jack Mertes, Emma Mertes, Cade Ploch, Charity Munson, and Ray Casford. Teacher

was Phyllis Mertes. Helpers were Amy Ploch, Birgit Mertes, and Ann Backus.

We started our evening in the sanctuary watching some of the older kids put on a skit. The skit followed the Lord's Prayer. Monday was "God Listens"; Tuesday was "God Provides"; Wednesday was "God Forgives"; Thursday was "God Protects"; and Friday was "God Rules"! Following the skit we all went to the fellowship hall for a light supper. We did fun crafts, learned some fun action songs, had a Bible Story and played outside.

On two (2) different nights Bruce Brown gave us a ride in his wagon pulled by a neat old John Deere tractor. Thank you Bruce, we all enjoyed the rides!

We ended the week by sharing our songs and skits with our family and friends. It indeed was a good week!

Phyllis Mertes

K,1,2

We had a great week visiting on our trip to Kingdom of the Son at Waltham Presbyterian Church.

We did lots of great activities. Everyday we had a Bible lesson to help us learn the Lord's Prayer. We did crafts and sang songs. Children from the area did plays for us to help us learn. We met lots of new friends: Tonio, Emily F., Kelsey, Chris, Kyle, Drew, May, Mellisa, Hannah, Will, Emily M., Olivia, cole, Owen, Lacey, Dalton, Hannah, Tal, Tyler, and Deangelo.

We also had great helpers in our classroom. They helped us learn the Lord's Prayer. Our helpers this year were Lindsey Olivero, Lois Edgcomb, and Ann Backus.

Some of the fun activities we did this year were making t-shirts, fun workbook pages that had games, and riding in a wagon.

Thank you for letting us join in the fun at V.B.S. We had a great time. And a big Thank You

to Monica and everyone at Waltham Presbyterian Church for having us visit.

Also a Thank You to Clarissa for letting us take over her classroom - it was like a jungle in there!

Thanks again,
Elephant, Hippo, Zebra,
Monkey, Parrot

3,5,6

We had 18 children participate in the Kingdom of the Son, a Prayer Safari. They had a great time!

The children were Valerie Blue, Kaitlyn Small, Grace Backus, Ben Ficek, Katlyn Casford, Kelsie Bokus, Hannah Graham, Cassiday Senica, Mary Grusk, Karlie Wetzel, Sarah Finley, Nathan Olivero, Nick Mertes, Amy Wujek, Gina Anderson, Tori & Hannah Munson, and Christopher.

We had a lot of fun together.

Veronica Blue & Brittney Greer

MEETING REPORTS Session

The Session met on June 15th at 7:10 in the lower lounge with all members present.

Rev. Backus opened the meeting with prayer and the minutes of the May 18th meeting were approved as presented. It was voted to collect a designated special offering for the Githega children's home on June 26th during worship. It was voted to support the sending of 2 additional children to the grief camp, along with the third child that has already been provided for by a generous gift from a member of the congregation, with a designated special offering on July 10th during the communion breakfast and worship. The funds that are needed to accomplish this are approximately \$ 600.00. It was voted to provide Rev. Backus an advance of \$ 400.00 on his continuing education compensation that he will supply vouchers for when he returns. Where as: Dorine Young died June 9th it was voted to remove her name from the rolls of the church.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:10.
Albert Hagenbuch, Clerk of Session

Christian Education

No report received for this publication.

Decorating Committee

No report received for this publication.

Stewardship & Finance

No report received for this publication.

Trustees

The Trustees met on all committee night, June 14th. 3 members attended. The swing set at the manse has been sealed and swings replaced.

Dirt was backfilled around new cement at the back. The bathroom cabinets for the ladies washrooms are scheduled for delivery in July. Next meeting is July 12th at 7 p.m. Trustee for the month of July is Dave Hagenbuch.

NOTICE

New sinks & cabinets will be installed in the women's washrooms during the week of July 11th. Please have patience with us during this time.

Thanks -- your Trustees

Deacons

- * June 14, 2005
- * Four members present.
- * Pew cards are in place and feel they are working.
- * No discussion on the summer schedule, but felt that was going very well.
- * Will discontinue coffee & juice until September, Will accept any volunteers for assisting.
- * There will be no meeting in July.

Mission Committee

All members were present for the June meeting. We made plans for Claire Brenneka's visit on June 26th. She will speak at both services with a continental breakfast served in the basement between services. We are looking forward to hearing her tell of her visit to Africa.

We heard of a family wishing to send two children to the grief camp. Monica will approach the session about funding for this. She will also check with another local family to see if their children are interested.

We reviewed our spending for the year and made plans to send funds to Githiga soon.

We have been asked to look into a family mission trip for 2006. If any of our church members have ideas on this, please contact a Mission Committee member and pass the ideas on. We will check to see if Sunset Gap would have any openings.

We continue to seek your prayerful giving to the mission efforts of our church.

Treasurer's Report

ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF MAY 31, 2005

General Account:	\$13,360.45
Special Building Account:	\$ 4,326.24
Youth Work Trip:	\$ 441.60
Sunday School Savings:	\$ 1,943.81

Diana Deutsch, Treasurer

Benevolence Fund

Donation to Food Pantry	\$ 312.00
Donation to Githiga Home	\$ 1,250.00
Balance	\$ 13,797.99

Linda Chalus, Treasurer

Memorial Fund

Memorials have been received for John Donald Anderson and Dorine Young.

Joyce Anderson, Treasurer

Deacon of the Month

July - Anne Finley
August - Bruce Brown

Ushering Group

July - Courier
August - Miscellaneous

Trustee of the Month

July - Dave Hagenbuch
August - Tony Mertes

Nursery Workers

JULY

July 03	Amy Ploch Alexis Ferracuti
July 10	Beth Hahne Paige Hahne
July 17	Marlene Moshage Ann Backus
July 24	Dave Deutsch Diana Deutsch
July 31	Nikki Mertes Tim Mertes

AUGUST

Aug 07	Phyllis Mertes Tony Mertes
Aug 14	Relynn Olivero Lindsey Olivero
Aug 21	Rita Van Drimmelen Bob Van Drimmelen
Aug 28	Albert Hagenbuch Joshua Brown

This schedule is for the 10:00 am service only.
Remember, if you need to change a date try to swap with someone or call one of the substitutes and make the appropriate arrangements. *Please make sure that there is at least one adult in the nursery.*

Scout Master Bob's Corner

Troop 97 has started on it's adventures for the summer. We will update you in the fall about our summer adventures.

Upcoming Events

July 5 – 7:00 P.M. Troop Meeting
 July 6 - 7:00 P.M. TLC Meeting
 July 10-16 Summer Camp at Ingersall Scout Reservation
 July 19 - 7:00 P.M. Troop Meeting
 *July 22 – Aug.4 Josh Papineau, Ken Dankenbring, & Jon Papineau to National Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, VA
 July 26 - 7:00 P.M. Troop Meeting
 July 27 – 7:00 P.M. Troop Committee Meeting
 Aug. 2 – 7:00 P.M. Troop Meeting
 Aug. 3 – 7:00 P.M. TLC Meeting
 Aug. 9 – 7:00 P.M. Troop Meeting
 *Aug. 12-14 Family Camp and Court of Honor @ Riverbend Retreat south of Utica
 Aug. 16 – 7:00 P.M. Troop Meeting
 Aug. 17-21 LaSalle Fest – Troop 97 money - maker for the year.
 Aug. 23 – 7:00 P.M. Troop Meeting
 *Aug. 28 – 7:00 P.M. Scott Moshage's Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony at Waltham Presbyterian Church
 Aug. 30 – 7:00 P.M. Troop Meeting

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.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

02	Kathie Kleckner
04	Robert Anderson*

05	Brian Barto		Lindsey McConville
07	Brett Klein	05	Esther Funk
08	Karli Wensel	07	Kyle Jordan Small
09	Monty Whipple	08	Paul Hess
10	Rev. Lawrence Athorn	10	Joe Kinzer
14	Johnathan Hagenbuch		Roger Laatz
16	Logan Finley	11	Natalie Hallead
17	Dave Deutsch		Brian Robinson
18	Anne Finley		Greg Whipple
19	Paige Anne Hahne		Kathy Muckey
20	Kyle Videgar	12	Wesley Freebairn*
	Christina Whipple		Allison Green
24	Mark Whipple		Norman Small
25	Lynn Leonard	16	Douglas Carder
26	Tylyn Jude Chapman	20	Reilly Muckey
	Matthew Olivero	21	Albert Hagenbuch
	Paul Young	22	Ruth Ann Brizgis
27	Steve Kleckner		Dena Ficek
	Jennifer Wilson		Angela Givens
28	Harold Kinzer	25	Don Scharlau
	Russell Finley	26	Marilyn Laatz
30	Steve Wilson		John Thomas Walsh
	Daniel Ostrowski	28	Gary Morrison
31	Alexa Finley		Tom Ostrowski
	Kim Freeman		

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

01	Mr. & Mrs. Gary Barto
13	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Walsh
	Mr. & Mrs. Ross Wilson
14	Mr. & Mrs. Dean Robinson
16	Mr. & Mrs. David Hagenbuch
21	Mr. & Mrs. David Wilson
20	Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hendrix
29	Mr. & Mrs. Tony Mertes

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

04	Mr. & Mrs. Dave Edgcomb
	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson*
07	Mr. & Mrs. J. Davis Small*
18	Mr. & Mrs. Russell Finley
19	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Finley
24	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dapkus
28	Mr. & Mrs. Mark Small

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

03	Jim Feuerborn
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SUMMER WORSHIP TEXTS AND SERMONS**July 3rd 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Independence Weekend Celebration

Ps. 45:10-17 or Song of Solomon 2:8-13;

Rom. 7L15-25a

The 1st Lesson: Matthew 11:16-19,25-30The 2nd Lesson: Genesis 24:34-38,42-49,58-67

Sermon: "The Swing Shift"

July 10th 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ps.119:105-112; Rom. 8:1-11

The 1st Lesson: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23The 2nd Lesson: Genesis 25:19-34

Sermon: "What Does It Take To Succeed?"

July 17th 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ps.139:1-12, 23-24; Rom.8:12-25

The 1st Lesson: Matthew 13:24-30,36-43The 2nd Lesson: Genesis 28:10-19a

Sermon: "The Real Ladder of Success"

July 24th 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Guest Pastor

Gen. 29:15-28

Ps.105:1-22, 45b or Ps. 128

Rom. 8:26-39

Matthew 13:31-22, 44-52

July 31st 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Guest Pastor

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalm 17:1-7,15

Romans 9:1-5

Matthew 14:13-21

August 7th 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ps. 105:1-6,16-22,45b; Rom. 10:5-15

The 1st Lesson: Matthew 14:22-33The 2nd Lesson: Genesis 37:1-4,12-28

Sermon: "Epic Salesmanship"

August 14th 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ps. 133; Rom.11:1-2a, 29-32

The 1st Lesson: Matthew 15:(10-20)21-28The 2nd Lesson: Genesis 45:1-15

Sermon: "Why We Need Margins"

August 21st 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Higher Education Sunday

Ps.124: Rom. 12:1-8

The 1st Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20The 2nd Lesson: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Sermon: "It's a Question of Identity"

August 28th 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Young People in the Church

Ps. 105:1-6,23-26,45c; Rom. 12:9-21

The 1st Lesson: Matthew 16:21-28The 2nd Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15

Sermon: "The Best Excuses"

**Monday Night Bible Studies Summer
of 2005**

*July 4, 2005	<i>No Bible Study</i>
July 11, 2005	Nahum (3 chapters long)
*July 18, 2005	<i>No Bible Study</i>
*July 25, 2005	<i>No Bible Study</i>
*August 1, 2005	<i>No Bible Study</i>
August 8, 2005	Habakkuk (3 chapters long)
August 15, 2005	Zephaniah (3 chapters long)
August 22, 2005	Haggai (2 chapters long)
August 29, 2005	Malachi (4 chapters long)

(We will not look at Daniel, Hosea, Amos, Micah, or Zechariah because they are the longer of the Minor Prophets. Note, every book we will study is only four or less chapters, so try to read the book ahead of the date it is to be studied. You could use it as your Bible study for the week.

Blessings! Pastor Backus)