
The Waltham Courier

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November 2005

A Family Journal

Volume LV, Number 11

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Converted Eye Sight . . .

November already! It's amazing how quickly a year passes and here we are again! All the plans for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day are percolating in our minds, our family traditions, our church plans, and our community celebrations. It seems like a dead run from November 1 through January 1, and then we sort of settle in for the Winter schedules of life.

Amazingly, individuals living in the Northern Hemisphere have had celebrations—or at least seasonal observations—to remember the progress of time during the autumnal and winter transitions, and we twenty-first Century humans are still attuned to the seasons. We often speak of the spring, autumn or winter of our lives. The seasonal changes are important; they are a part of our God given, natural, human makeup.

In light of this reality, this time of the year presents itself as an opportunity to reflect on what God is doing in life, and this is a chance to move to a deeper level of reflection and experience of the Lord's movement in life. One way to approach a more spiritual life is by removing the artificial barrier which we erect between the "secular" things of this world and the "sacred" things of life. We Christians are all called to conversion (transformation, baptism, rebirth, changed, rearranged), and that conversion is a new way of seeing life. It is a recognition and experience of all areas of life as sacred.

One pastor recognized how difficult conversion is for American Christians when he wrote, ". . . we tend to be only half-converted. We let the secular world remain the same while adding our religious values. That is, we try to enjoy as much money and sex and power as we can without too much guilt. . . . We must understand that real conversion is not accepting the way things are and then compromising as little as necessary or accepting the way things are and then furiously fighting them. *Conversion is seeing things the way God sees them.*"

He goes on to write, "When God looks at life . . . God first of all sees his beloved daughters and sons who happen to be dealing with money and sex and power. But even then, God does not see wealth verses poverty, lust versus purity, power verses humility. No, God sees money as a medium of exchange for a just distribution of resources. God sees sex as the ultimate expression of human love. God sees power as the means of ordering the human family."

The pastor quoted sees the Christian life as totally converted when we stop looking at things the way the world does and recognize that *in the Lord's vision, everything is sacred*. So our Christian life not only calls us to living differently; it calls us to see and experience life differently. Christian life has its foundation in Christ Jesus that is born from a different motivation for all our actions.

With all the secularization which the world will constantly bombard us, we must remember to take care of our Christian eyesight. I pray that in these next few months of autumnal celebrations

and then the renewing winter cycles, that we can have converted, renewed eyes to see how the Lord is working in our midst; to see that every part of life is sacred; and to be willing to live a perceptive, new life for our Savior.

May the Lord bless you!
Pastor Roy C. Backus, Ph.D.

P.W. will host the 25th annual Christmas tea on Wednesday, December 14th at 1:30 p.m. "Come Lord Jesus" will be the theme this season!

Mark your calendars and invite your friends!!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Plan to join P.W. on Thursday, Nov. 17th at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Bev Scharlau will lead the lesson, "ADVENT - A Time to Tear, and a Time to Sew." Hostesses are Lois Edcomb and Louise Robinson. Final plans will be made for our tea on Dec. 14th.



HARVEST SUNDAY

On Sunday, Nov. 6th, we will be celebrating the Harvest as well as Communion. On this day we will bring forward our offerings as well as canned and boxed food for the Illinois Valley Food Pantry. Their special needs at this time are INSTANT POTATOES, STUFFING MIX, CANNED PUMPKIN, EVAPORATED MILK AND CANNED FRUIT & VEGETABLES. Let us continue to support this ministry to our community and share every week!!

"Come To Christmas" Tea

Poinsettia's

We again offer you the opportunity to share a white poinsettia to help beautify the sanctuary during the Advent season.

Watch the bulletin board in the Narthex for the sign up sheet. Price is \$9.00 each. Deadline for ordering is November 20th.



ADVENT DECORATING

The Sanctuary and remaining areas will be decorated on Monday, Nov. 21st at 7:00 p.m. If another time is better for you, call Bev Scharlau @ 667-4970.

P.S. THE DECORATING COMMITTEE NEEDS A FEW STRONG MEN TO HELP PUT THE TREES UP IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING CHURCH ON SUNDAY, NOV. 20th.

Lots of hands make light work!!

MEMORY ANGELS

This Advent Season Presbyterian Women in the Waltham Congregation will be adding Angels to the decorations on the gift tag tree in the Narthex. (Find one of the Memory Angels displayed on the Narthex Bulletin Board).

You may give an Angel in honor or in memory of a loved one. On Christmas Eve you may take your Angel home. Each Angel is \$5.00 and the proceeds from this project will be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the hurricane relief. All Angels need to be purchased, labeled and ready to go on the tree when we decorate on November 20th, 2005. Find enclosed a form for you to use to purchase an Angel.

THANK OFFERING

The annual Thank Offering will be received on Sun. Nov. 20th. It is exciting to see of the 44 chosen projects to receive grants this year, two are going to agencies in the Synod of Lincoln Trails.

1). The center for Whole Health: Healthy Heart Program, Chicago, Illinois - \$10,000 to purchase equipment to provide 200 African American women with a culturally sensitive health-promotion program. 2). Projects Independence-Learn, Plan, Live, Joliet, Illinois-\$27,600.00 to provide free health services to persons unable to receive care from other sources due to lack of insurance and money.

At least 40% of the Thank Offering funds go to health-related projects.

Find the enclosed envelope for this offering and may God grant us a fruitful offering once again this year!!

ADVENTURE SUNDAY

On Nov. 20th we will have a potluck following worship. Plan to join us as we fellowship together, decorate the fellowship hall for Advent and make crafts. The craft samples will be displayed in the Narthex with sign-up sheets and costs.

Please sign up so we are sure to have supplies for everyone who wishes to participate!

The committee assigned for this event is: Tom & Bonnie Walsh*, Phil & Sharon Klein*, Jeff & Dena Ficek, Mark & Mary Ann Small, Don & Bev Scharlau, Chris & Amy Ploch.

* = Co-Chair

YOU'RE INVITED ...

6th Grade through High School

Lock-In at Jumpin' Jungle, Route 6 East, Ottawa
*Friday, November 11th 8:00 pm to
Saturday, November 12th 8:00 am*

Come join us and bring a friend for a night of fun and games along with some Bible time and prayer!

Bring your sleeping bag and some munchies to share.

Cost is \$ 7.50 per person.

Sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex or call Bonnie Walsh at 434-2978.

Jan 8th at 11:30 the 6th graders thru 12th graders will meet at Waltham Curling Club for lunch, curling, and other activities. More details to be announced later.

Christmas at the Castle

Albert Hagenbuch, Clerk of Session

Welcome the Holiday season with a visit to Stronghold Castle November 25th & 26th. There will be hayrides, carol sing, castle tours, craft projects, and much more. Admission is \$5 adults and \$3.50 children 6-12.

There are also volunteer opportunities for Christmas at the Castle hosted by Stronghold. These include adopting a room to decorate, set-up, greeters, ticket sales, and helping with craft projects. See the bulletin board for details.

MEETING REPORTS **Session**

October Session Report:

The Session met October 18th at 7:30 p.m. with four members present in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Roy Backus.

The minutes of the September 20th meeting were approved as presented.

The treasurer's report was accepted as given.

It was voted to approve the Pastor's reimbursement for mileage for August, September, and October for \$817.04. It was also voted to approve the Pastor's employee business expense of \$176.33 and continuing education expense of \$180.00.

It was voted to set the rate to using the fellowship hall and kitchen for functions in connection with a wedding at \$300.00 with \$200.00 being refundable at the discretion of the wedding committee.

It was voted to approve the use of the Church facilities October 22, 2005 by Barbara Wendel and Mathew McNabb for the purpose of having a wedding.

It was voted to have a Special Congregational Meeting November 13, 2005 following worship for the purpose of electing church officers for 2006.

It was voted to approve the liturgical calendar for 2005—2006.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 9:10 p.m.

Trustees

The trustees met on all committee night Oct. 11th with 5 present and one excused.

We replied to the letter received from Kathy Fox in regard to our committee being responsible for the liturgy schedule in December - Dec. 4th, Tony Mertes; Dec. 11th, Ross Wilson; Dec. 18th, Bev Scharlau; Dec. 25th, Dave Hagenbuch.

We discussed tree removal, snow plowing, painting the bell, mouse bait and other minor repairs.

Kick plates will be ordered and applied to five (5) metal doors.

Next meeting is Nov. 8th at 7 p.m.

Trustee for the month of November is Ross Wilson.

Deacons

Five members were present at our last meeting.

Discussion about how acolytes were doing, and felt that they were doing a very good job.

It was decided to place the prayer family of the week in the joy & concern area on the Sunday bulletin... will be drawn to ones attention.

Tracking of attendance for the past two years will be done by Beth.

Received from the WPCC comm. that the deacons are to be responsible for the liturgies for the month of November 2005. Will place names on the calendar in the narthex.

Christian Education

No report received for this publication.

Stewardship & Finance

Treasurer's Report

Your Stewardship and Finance Committee has met several times over this past year discussing stewardship and its importance in the church. We believe stewardship should be viewed from a spiritual perspective rather than a fund-raising perspective. In other words - "What is God calling me to do?" rather than "What does the church need in order to pay its bills?"

General Account: \$ 7,426.03
Special Building Account: \$ 5,921.18
Youth Work Trip: \$ 441.60
Sunday School Savings: \$ 1,577.53

Financial contributions help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry in the local community and around the world. We will be discussing the importance of giving in the upcoming weeks. In addition, on Consecration Sunday on November 13th, we will be distributing estimate of giving cards that we will be asking you to complete and return.

Diana Deutsch, Treasurer

In the coming weeks, please prayerfully consider "What is God calling me to give". Thank you.

Scout Master Bob's Corner

The Camporee was a great success - something we can all be proud of! Thank you to everyone who helped organize, donated to, or helped staff the program areas. I think we all did a great job working together to show our community how we are prepared incase of an emergency.

There were over 230 boy Scouts and Boy Scout leaders, about 350 Cub Scouts and Cub Scout Leaders, more than 100 volunteers and an uncounted number of other visitors.

We are working on an article and will have a CD with all of the photos we took of the weekend activities. If you want a copy of the CD, send me a note with your address. I will email the article when it is finished.

Thanks again for all your support.
Ralph Moshage Troop 97

Mission Committee

No report received for this publication.

Benevolence Fund

No report received for this publication.

Linda Chalus, Treasurer

Upcoming Events

November 1 - Troop Meeting at Leheigh Park in Oglesby @ 7:00 pm This will be a game night.

November 8 - Troop Meeting @ 7:00 pm

November 11-13 Troop Campout at Hummiston Woods near Pontiac, IL

November 15 - Troop Meeting @ 7:00 pm

November 22 - Troop Meeting @ 7:00 pm

November 29 - Troop Meeting @ 7:00 pm

Caving Safety will be the theme for this meeting.

Memorial Fund

Memorials have been received for Wesley Freebairn and Russell Kinzer.

Joyce Anderson, Treasurer

December 6 - Troop Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Troop Elections and payment of Dus
Planning for the annual Caving Trip to Buck er’s Cave
December 9 -11 Troop Caving Trip to Buckner’s Cave
in Indiana
December 13 - Troop Meeting @ 7:00 pm
December 20 & 27 - NO Troop Meeting
Happy Holidays To All
January 3 - Troop Meeting @ 7:00 pm

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.

Sermon: Special Speaker

20 Christ the King Sunday/Reign of Christ (ROY OUT OF TOWN/AAR/SBL)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 100: Ephesians
1:15-23, Ezek. 34:11-
16, 20-24, and
Matthew 25:31-46

27 1st Sunday in Advent (Lectionary B Year begins)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
The 1st Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
The 2nd Lesson: Mark 13:24-37
Sermon: “Awakening to the Shining
Clouds”

Nursery Workers

Texts and Sermons

6 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Christian Citizen Day, Election Day on 8th)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 78:1-7
The 1st Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13
The 2nd Lesson: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Sermon: “The Importance of Checking
Your Oil”

13 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Stewardship Commitment Sunday)

CONSECRATION SUNDAY
THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 123
The 1st Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30
The 2nd Lesson: Judges 4:1-7

November 6

Dena Ficek
Nick Moshage

November 13

Amy Ploch
Alexis Ferracuti

November 20

Beth Hahne
Paige Hahne

November 27

Dave Deutsch
Diane Deutsch

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Laatz*
- 14 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne English
- 16 Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Jann
- 24 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Finley
- 25 Mr. & Mrs. Don Scharlau

- 26 Chris Moshage
- 27 Jayden Brown
Caleb Tomeseski
- 28 Amy Ploch
- 29 Marcie Holland
- 30 Steve Finley
Rich Muckey

Deacon of the Month

November - Kyle Videgar

Trustee of the Month

November - Ross Wilson

Ushering Group

November - Sunday School

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Glenn Stevenson
- 5 Ralph Moshage
Kevin Walsh
Diane Williamson
- 6 Lavon Blue*
- 8 Clint Baker
Norman Videgar
- 9 Melissa Dapkus
Jill Durant
Ron Larabee
Mandy Tomaseski
- 12 Shannon Small
- 16 Tony Mertes
- 18 Tim Leonard
Wendy Olivero
Andrew Ostrowski
- 20 Sarah Finley
Beth Hahne
- 21 Corlin Lukas
- 22 John Christopher
Tyler Hagenbuch
Raymond Jones*
- 23 Stacey Kinzer