
The Waltham Courier

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October 2005

A Family Journal

Volume LV, Number 10

From the Pastor's Desk ...

Well, as most of you know, I'm a Grandpa now. It's a great feeling. There's something wonderful about another generation of the family growing, building, nurturing, and living. Some say that seeing your children's children is a visible sign of immortality, I don't know if I'd go that far, but it sure is nice seeing them. Seeing a child is related to hope. When we see new life, we humans have a real sense that God is at work and there are still new possibilities in life.

Some of us are blessed enough to have spiritual children too, and seeing grandchildren reminds me of growing up in West Texas Southern Baptist circles. We always had a Fall revival and a Spring revival in our churches. (Some folk actually thought that bringing a paid evangelist into our church for a week freed church members from sharing their faith the rest of the year. They saw revivals as a kind of a salve to remove guilt for clergy and lay people not telling folk about Christ all the time. I'm still thinking about that one.) My earliest recollections are centered on the excitement which built in the church before, during and after the revivals. First, we'd divide the congregation up into cottage prayer groups. The prayer groups would meet in homes on different nights of the weeks and people would actually read the Bible and pray together. They would seek God's will for themselves, the church and the community. It was amazing how praying together brought a new perspective into our lives and the church. My father's feelings were that the revival

in the hearts of people was always started in the prayer groups.

Second, we'd plan and have the revival. There would be special music, refreshments following the services, names of families to contact, morning prayer groups, afternoon teas, and special information shared with the community. This flurry of activity always excited me. I remember how everyone, from the youngest to the oldest was encouraged to participate and help. It was a church family affair. Working together soothed the past disagreements of some folk, and actually enabled us to set new goals and agendas for our ministries together.

Third, clergy and lay people follow up on the folk who professed their faith or renewed their faith in Christ. It was a time of nurturing new Christians and including new folk into our family of faith. This was usually accomplished through a home visitation, assigning a lay person to work with the new Christian, encouraging attendance at Adult Bible studies and worship, and a real commitment to include the new folk in our church family in general.

All in all, I look back at the revivals and think about the new Christians who professed their faith. They gave the church a feeling of new life and new possibilities in Christ. One of the greatest rewards during our times of action was when there was a new Christian who had been brought to faith by one of our newer Christians. It was almost like seeing a grandchild born, because it showed that the faith had taken root in another generation's life.

Well, in general I look back at those revival times and realize the greatest gift they gave us was an opportunity to allow God to use us in new ways. It helped to keep us from getting too comfortable. It allowed us a time to get right with God and with one another. It helped to reshape our priorities according to the Lord's work in our lives. In short, it caught our spiritual attention again!

The closest periods that Presbyterians have to the revival times are our Advent and Lenten seasons. They are times set aside in the church year to renew our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, one another, and to the world to which God has called us. It's my prayer and hope that we can begin to look at these spiritual opportunities with new eyes, new hope, and maybe with new lives added to the kingdom of God.

The Lord bless you all,
Pastor Roy C. Backus, Ph.D.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

P.W. invite all women to join them on Thursday, October 27th at 9 a.m. in fellowship hall. Mary Small will present "Liturgical Seasons and Life Cycles - A Time for Every Matter Under Heaven". Our hostesses will be Marilyn Laatz and Rita Whipple. *Our "Come to Christmas" Tea will be Wednesday, December 14th --our 25th!!*



PECANS & WALNUTS

Presbyterian Women are now receiving orders for pecans and walnuts. The nuts are from this year's crop. We do not know the price yet per pound bag. The sign-up sheet is on the narthex bulletin board or you may call Linda Chalus @ 667-4946. Deadline for orders is October 16th.

TOOLS OF HOPE & BLANKET OFFERING

On Sunday, October 16th, we will receive the Church World Service "Tools of Hope and Blanket" Offering. The need continues to be great worldwide and especially now as a large part of our country has been devastated by recent hurricanes. A \$5 blanket has a lot in common with something like a hoe, shovel, or a rake - it's small, simple, relatively inexpensive, but for someone in need, it's a gift that can make a world of difference!! Together, with our prayers and offerings, we are able to provide life and hope to many in need. Please use the enclosed envelope for this special offering.

YOU'RE INVITED...

to a Church-wide Bonfire/Hayrack ride on Saturday, November 5th at 4:00 pm. There will be games and music throughout the night! Please bring a lawn chair, flashlight, hot dog stick and some good stories to share!! In case of inclement weather, we will move to the fellowship hall. Mark your calendars today!!

MEETING REPORTS

Session

September Session Report:

The Session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church held a Special Session meeting on Sunday Sept. 11, 2005 following worship in the upper lounge of the church with all members present except one.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Roy Backus.

After some discussion a motion was made and seconded to approve an extension of one-year to the contract between Rev. Backus and the Waltham Church starting September 13, 2005.

It was voted to approve the pastor's compensation package as negotiated by the Session and the Pastor with the following increases: Total Salary will increase by \$1300.00 to \$31475.60, Professional Expenses will increase by \$200.00 to \$4100.00, and Medical Reimbursement will increase by \$300.00 to \$2998.45. The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 11: 30 a.m.

The Session met September 20th at 7:30 p.m. with all members present in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Roy Backus.

The minutes of the August 17 and September 11 meetings were approved as presented.

The treasurer's report was accepted as given.

It was voted to start publishing, in the Sunday morning bulletin, the amounts of the previous Sunday's offering to keep the congregation informed.

It was voted to order 4 copies of "Raising the Roof" books with the funds coming from the General Fund.

It was voted to give the 17 Spanish young people that have been visiting our community for the past two weeks Spanish language Bibles and T - shirts to commemorate their visit to Waltham.

It was voted to have baptism for Florence Charneskey at the Pastor's earliest convenience.

It was voted to concur with the written request made by Raymond Jones to have a "historic church monument placed somewhere near the present church" with the following stipulations: (1) The

Session will have the final approval of the design of the marker stone, (2) The Session will have the final approval of the location of the placement of the stone.

The Pastor gave his report including his report of the September Presbytery meeting.

It was voted to approve the Pastor's expense voucher for August of \$139.41.

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

Albert Hagenbuch, Clerk of Session

Christian Education

Reminder ... Sunday School starts at 8:45 a.m. with no music before!

We need 5 people to teach a craft on Advent-ure Sunday, November 20th. The craft will be provided for you. We just need people to help the kids make the crafts.

Please contact Bev Scharlau if you can help!

Decorating Committee

No report received for this publication.

Stewardship & Finance

No report received for this publication.

Trustees

The Trustees met on all committee night Sept. 13th with 4 members attending.

We reviewed our work list-light bulbs have been changed in the sanctuary, the breeze-way doors at the manse have been repaired and we will spray for Asian beetles. Kick plates will be put on all doors needing them in the church to help keep them clean. We walked the building to check all areas. *Next meeting is Tues. Oct. 11th at 7 p.m.*
Trustee for the Month of October is Bev Scharlau

Deacons

The Deacons met on the 13th of September with five members present.

We discussed the effectiveness of the new prayer cards. We decided that the offering users should be reminded to collect the cards in the offertory plate and then separate them and hand them to the Pastor.

The two summer services were discussed. We felt the Deacons' duties worked best when the Assistant Deacon handled one of the services. We discussed some of the pros and cons to the tow-service format. The pros included the choice of times, the ability to get home at an earlier time to take advantage of the beautiful weather, and the informal feeling of the early service. The cons included the inability of the entire congregation to worship and have fellowship together, the possibility of missed announcements for the early service, and the small size of the worshipping crowd.

We also discussed the restarting the "Coffee and Juice" fellowship time in the Narthex directly following worship. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex and encourage anyone willing to sign up.

We also briefly discussed the Acolyte and their timing to extinguish the candles. The Acolyte should be ready to go at the beginning of the last hymn. There is also a sign up sheet for Acolytes in the Narthex and encourage anyone willing and trained to participate. Any little ones that are interested in being trained for Acolyte duties please see one of the Deacons.

Other items discussed included sending cards to new visitors thanking them for worshipping with us and other ways to follow up with newcomers.

Mission Committee

No meeting in September.

Treasurer's Report

As of August 30, 2005

General Account:	\$ 8,006.63
Special Building:	\$ 5,917.54
Youth Work Trip:	\$ 441.60
Sunday School Savings:	\$ 1,576.34

Diana Deutsch, Treasurer

Reminder ... please, please write out vouchers for any disbursements approved by Session. Also, any other financial decisions that I need to take action on need to be in writing so I can keep track of everything.
Thanks, Diana

Benevolence Fund

No report received for this publication.

Linda Chalus, Treasurer

Memorial Fund

Memorials have been received for Dorine Young and Wesley Freebairn.

Joyce Anderson, Treasurer

Scout Master Bob's Corner

Troop 797 is once again in full swing. They are busy preparing for their upcoming Fall Camporee. If you have some time, come out and join the troop at IVCC on October 15th. The theme is Emergency Preparedness. The event should prove to be very informative and fun.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 27 – 7:00 P.M. Troop Meeting
 Sept. 30-Oct. 2 – O.A. Section Conclave
 October 1 - Troop Popcorn Sales Start
 October 4 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M. at the Oglesby Fire Station –
 Final preparations for Camporee
 October 5 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 October 11 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 October 14-16 Fall Camporee at IVCC
 October 18 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 October 19 – Troop Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.
 October 22 Troop Popcorn Orders must be turned into Mrs. Hucker
 November 1 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

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.

NOTE TO ANY & ALL

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Narthex for those who would have several hours in the morning (9-Noon) to spend in the church office beginning Tuesday, September 6th.

We are in need of someone to be here on a regular basis to answer the phone and just be a presence in this place.

If you are not here to sign up, please call 815-667-4611 and leave a message as to

when you are available.

This is an easy way to provide ministry in the name of our Lord Jesus.

Texts and Sermons

October 2005

2 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (World Communion and Peace Offering)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 19
 The 1st Lesson: Matthew 21:33-46
 The 2nd Lesson: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
 Sermon: "They're Not the Ten Suggestions"

9 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (HIV/AIDS Awareness, Columbus Day Weekend)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
 The 1st Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14
 The 2nd Lesson: Exodus 32:1-14
 Sermon: "Gold, Bulls, Tuxedos, and The Lord"

16 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (World Food Day)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 99
 The 1st Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22
 The 2nd Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23
 Sermon: "Caesar Always Gets His Portion"

23 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
 The 1st Lesson: Matthew 22:34-46
 The 2nd Lesson: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
 Sermon: "The Greatest"

30 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Reformation Sunday: Daylight Saving Time Ends!)

THE CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
 The 1st Lesson: Matthew 23:1-12
 The 2nd Lesson: Joshua 3:7-17
 Sermon: "Only a Stone's Throne Away"

Nursery Workers

October

Oct 02

Nikki Mertes

Tim Mertes

Oct 09	Phyllis Mertes	12	Bonnie Klinefelter
	Tony Mertes	15	Beth Crane
Oct 16	Relynn Olivero		Ashley Small
	Lindsey Olivero	17	David Hagenbuch
Oct 23	Rita Van Drimmelen		Marlene Moshage
	Bob Van Drimmelen	19	Zachary Hallead
Oct 30	Albert Hagenbuch	21	Claire Kinzer
	Joshua Brown		Colin Kinzer
			Katie Videgar
		22	Michael Delaney
		25	Casey Baker
		26	Kirsten Gage
			Erica Weeden
		27	Donna Barto
			Alexis Ferracuti
			Bonnie Kinzer
		28	Jan Edgcomb

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

7	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Schweers
9	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Kleckner
11	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Moshage
13	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Geil
17	Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Edgcomb
25	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Brown
	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Barto
28	Mr. & Mrs. Tim Leonard
31	Mr. & Mrs. Randy Tuftie

Deacon of the Month
 October ~ Beth Hahne
Trustee of the Month
 October ~ Bev Scharlau
Ushering Group
 October ~ Deacons

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Alison Viet
	Bonnie Walsh
4	Janis Ferracuti
	Jeff Ficek
	Warren Morrison*
	Jane Wilson
5	Velma Clement*
	Louise Robinson
7	Belinda Givens
8	Mary Gage
	Bobby VanDrimmelen
	Jacqueline Walsh
10	Greg Setchell
	Joshua Steele