

# The Waltham Courier

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A Family Journal

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## *From The Pastor's Desk ...*

About 10 years ago, I traveled to Texas from Indiana. It was the week before Palm Sunday. My father was ill, so I went to visit my mother. (Dad passed away about a year later from a long and grinding twenty years with Parkinson's Disease.) Mother was tired and needed some uplifting, so Ann encouraged me to go. Looking back, it was one of my favorite trips.

It was a favorite for many reasons, but one of the major reasons was seeing Spring in north and western Texas. Because I schedule my trips around the busy times in the church calendar, most of my trips are in July or August. Late summer visits to Texas are when the sun has had its way for too many weeks. July and August the ground is hard and sometimes cracked, the foliage is a nondescript, monochromatic brown which often matches the color of the earth, and it's really hot then too.

In the spring it's different. The wild flowers bloom along the highways, new calves, lambs, colts, and wildlife abound. The grasses are green as far as the eye can see. There's the wonderful

In that trip I was reminded that all people are indebted to many variables in life. We've all been blessed, and in some ways cursed, by the events of our childhood and early adult life. We can still feel the warmth of some of those wonderful times, and the heat of the not so great events that still smart our soul when they are remembered. Each of us has different kinds of youthful experiential gifts and each of us has reacted differently to those. Still we are indebted. Indebted to people who actually loved us, institutions which invested in us, families who cared for us, friends and enemies who helped shape us, and the environment, which no matter what stage of the seasonal cycle it is in, still feels like home. No matter what we do, it's there and cannot be shaken. It's part of who we are.

vitality of new life. In particular, I enjoy the vast seas of Texas Blue Bonnets. In some places, the fields stretch for almost forever.

Well, in that trip I remembered Texas as I had enjoyed it in the springs of my youth and early adulthood. I was amazed at the almost free association of my memory. First there was recall and then the association of past experiences and feelings of growing up overwhelmed me. I found an Oldies channel and listened to 1960's-1970's rock music and drove and felt. I passed through the towns which our family had lived-Arlington, Wichita Falls, Strawn, Graford, Brownwood, Brady, San Angelo, and even McCamey. I remembered church and school experiences. There were happy and sad memories. I remembered Dad returning from the Korean Conflict and how the entire feeling of the family changed. I relived the time when my big brother passed away and saw in my mind's eye, my family's hurt and sorrow. I remembered my first fender bender, band trips, favorite places to eat, church camps, Friday and Saturday night cruising, leaving for college, gracious family friends and "committed pains in the neck" folk, and a great many feelings.

So it is here in Waltham and the Illinois Valley. I have no difficulty understanding how this time of the year refreshes and reminds us of whom we are. It's simply a matter of fact and life. It's a time, when we, with grateful hearts, can remember, hold, and move together with the gifts of our community that have shaped our love for one another and God's call upon us.

The Lord bless you in this Resurrection Season,  
Pastor Roy C. Backus, PhD.

## Announcements

**BIBLE STUDIES:**

For April, May and the first two weeks of June.

Young Professional Bible Study will be moving to Sunday Nights at 8 p.m. This Bible Study will be held in the lower lounge at the church. We will continue in the study of the Epistle of Romans.

The Monday Night Bible Study will be moving to Tuesday Nights at 7 p.m. We'll meet in the upstairs lounge beginning April 17<sup>th</sup>, except on Tuesday nights when we have committee meetings. We will be studying the Exodus, and it's connection with the rest of the Bible and our faith.

**HOLY WEEK:**

Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 7 pm at Waltham.

Good Friday Services with the Ecumenical Lenten Churches:

- Noon at St. Paul's Episcopal in LaSalle
  - 7:15 pm at Grace Methodist Church in Peru
- Same Schedule as last year for Easter.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

P.W. will meet Thursday, April 26th at 9 a.m. in fellowship hall. We will continue our Bible study from Genesis. So plan to join us!

*"LIFE IS A GARDEN AND*

**Things to do ...**

*Waltham Presbyterian Church V.B.S.*

We will have our Vacation Bible School from June 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. Mark your calendars today and be watching for more information!

***Stronghold Summer Camps***

During the summer, Stronghold Summer Camps become the place where many friendships and memories are born. Stronghold Summer Camps offer youth opportunities to respond positively to

***FRIENDSHIP IS IN BLOOM"***

The ladies of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Joliet cordially invite us to a Ladies Victorian Tea on Sunday, April 15th at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20.00 per person and must be purchased by April 5th. Lucy Miele will present a humorous portrayal of Julia Dent Grant - the General's Lady. More details are posted on the Narthex bulletin board.

***P.W. SPRING GATHERING*** Presbyterian Women in Blackhawk Presbytery will hold its *Spring Gathering and Annual Business Meeting Saturday, April 21st at First Presbyterian Church, Mendota.*

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at \$7.00 per person. The meeting is scheduled for 9:30 - 3 p.m. The program - AFTER KATRINA "MISSION IN ACTION" will be presented. More details and sign-up is on the bulletin board in the narthex - hope you can join us for the day - so close to home!!

Registration deadline is April 13th - sign up soon!! *P.W. again plans to collect layette items plus new or GENTLY USED children's clothing up to size 6X for Sunset Gap in Tennessee.* These items are either sold in their thrift shop to raise funds to keep the mission programs going or they are given to needy families. Watch the bulletin board for a sign up sheet!

the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, grow in their relationships with God and one another, and increase their understanding and appreciation for the world around them.

*Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex for all the information on Stronghold's 2007 Summer Camps.*

## **MEETING REPORTS** **SESSION**

### *March Session Report*

The Session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, Ill. held its regular March meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 p.m. in the upper lounge of the Church. Rev. Dr. Backus opened with prayer.

Those present were: Rev. Dr. Backus and Elders: Ida Brown, Ross Wilson, Ralph Moshage, Robert Van Drimmelen, Nancy Tuftie and Albert Hagenbuch. Excused: David Edgcomb. Also present was Marlene Moshage.

Marlene presented an invitation to our Church from the Ecumenical Outreach which is sponsored by the Grace Methodist Church in La Salle to participate in the Labyrinth Experience on Good Friday  
6:00 a.m. – 12:00 midnight and Easter Saturday  
6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. A motion was made and passed to allow the elders from our church to participate in the serving of communion during the Labyrinth Experience.

It was voted to support the community worship celebration which will be on Pentecost which this year falls on Memorial Day weekend, and appoint Marlene Moshage our representative on the committee organizing this event.

It was voted to allow the Deacons to serve communion after they have been trained by the Pastor in the language and symbolism of the sacrament.

It was voted to allow the Small family to use the Church facilities April 14<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of a bridal shower for Andrea Slater and Phil McConville.

It was voted to allow the Boy Scouts to use the Fellowship hall to have a Chili supper April 28<sup>th</sup>.

It was voted to approve having a memorial service for Katie Brubaker, who passed away earlier this winter, the wife of our former pastor Dale Brubaker on July 7, 2007.

It was voted to approve the use of the Church facilities by the Boy Scouts for leadership training on August 24, 25, and 26, 2007.

It was voted to approve the Pastor's employee business expenses of \$262.16 and mileage expense of \$335.78 for 2/11 – 3/08.

It was voted to approve the Pastor submitting to the treasurer for payment his EBE and mileage expenses at the end of each month and they will be submitted to the Session for approval at the following month's Session meeting.

It was voted to have the Pastor's name added to the sign in the parking lot.

It was voted to have two worship services starting June 3<sup>rd</sup> and continuing through and including September 2 with the early service at 8:00 a.m. and the regular service at 10:00 a.m.  
The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:05 p.m.

Albert Hagenbuch, Clerk of  
Session

## **TRUSTEES**

*Trustees Report from Month of March* Mother Nature was not nice for the trustee of the month of February, as we needed the parking lot and driveways plowed several times, plus the continuous shoveling of snow. Thanks again for my fellow trustees, Scott Freebairn, Tony Mertes, and Dave Deutsch, for their help during the morning of a funeral. Also thanks to Bruce Brown for resetting the furnace timer and lights timer, after a power outage. It's nice to have your cooperation. The Trustees met March 6<sup>th</sup> for their annual meeting. There were four trustees present and two absent. The project of fixing up the downstairs bedroom at the manse was discussed. And, as of now, the work has started. *The next meeting will be April 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm. Trustee for the Month of April will be*  
*Dave Deutsch.*

## **Stewardship & Finance**

No report received for this publication.

**Benevolence Fund**

Balance on hand \$ 7,747.53

Linda Chalus, Benevolence Treasurer

**Memorial Fund**

Memorials have been received for Greg Setchell, Linwood Edgecomb, and Darlene Klinefelter.

Joyce Anderson, Memorial

Treasurer

**DEACONS**

*March 2007 Deacons Report*

The Deacons met on March 6<sup>th</sup> with four Deacons present. Discussions revolved around the final priorities that resulted from the Elder, Deacon and Trustee Retreat at the end of February. The availability of a before and/or after worship Prayer Room was discussed. A Deacon and/or Elder would be present to assist people in need of spiritual guidance, prayer, or some counseling. If this were to be implemented, some additional training would be required.

An overall emphasis on prayer was also determined to be an important goal of ours. Utilizing the Deacons' Prayer List located in the bulletin and following up with those individuals would emphasize the importance of prayer. In a related matter, we hope to emphasize to the congregation the importance of communication between the Deacons and the congregation. We hope to shorten the awareness time of a Deacon to a particular person in need of prayer, a visit, or a card. This will require an individual who knows of a particular hospitalization, sickness, or troubling time to notify a Deacon.

Our main discussion revolved around visiting our shut-ins. We identified these individuals and discussed some basic strategies on how to get the most out of a particular visit. We determined that we would report monthly on our visits.

Other items that were discussed involved the visitor cards. In particular, it was determined the card should be placed in the Deacons' In-box. Also, the coffee and juice fellowship time after worship will continue through the summer months. It is even a possibility that during nice weather, it will be moved outdoors. The meeting was adjourned after a word of prayer.

**Treasurer's Report**

General Account:	\$ 7,415.29
Special Building Account:	\$ 9,482.04
Work Trip Account:	\$ 421.84
Sunday School Savings:	\$ 437.72

Diana Deutsch, Treasurer

**MISSION COMMITTEE**

No report received for this publication.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

***Christian Education Committee Meeting***

***March 6, 2007***

Present: Dena Ficek, Sharon Reel, Nancy Tuftie, Lois Edgcomb, Karen Pillion, Rita Van Drimmelen

Moderator was elected: Dena Ficek; Secretary was elected: Karen Pillion

Sunday School:

- 1) Curriculum will stay the same. Dena will order the third set in the series. Rita will be contact

person for teachers for next year. Classes for next year will be: Preschool, Kingergarten-1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>-Senior.

2) There will be Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Kathy Kleckner will organize the Easter Egg Hunt which will be held after the 10:00 service.

3) On March 25, Monica Blue is going to discuss with the Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes about Simon Gnomo of the Githiga Children's School. She will educate the children on how their monetary donations help support Simon at the school. Treats and drinks will be provided during this time. Sunday School teachers for those classes will not need to prepare a full class that day.

Depending on questions and class participation, Monica may need part of the hour or most of the hour for her presentation. Monica will also present a Minute for Mission after the offering during the 10:00 service.

4) A teacher meeting with the Pastor to prepare for the fall Sunday School season with the new material will be held during the August committee meeting (August 14, 2007). Teachers will be invited to the Christian Ed Committee meeting and Pastor will go over the curriculum.

#### Stronghold Scholarships:

Please contact the Christian Ed Committee or Monica Blue if you are interested in attending Stronghold this summer.

#### Vacation Bible School:

Gospel Light, Sonforce Kids (Special Agents). June 18-22, 5:30-8:15. Ages Preschool through High School. Monica will order the material. Please contact Monica Blue if you are interested in being a teacher.

#### Confirmation Class:

There will be lock-in at the Church on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Food is being supplied by members of the Christian Ed Committee.

#### Summer Sunday School:

Preparations are being made to hold summer Sunday School this summer. Pastor Roy closed with prayer.

## **Scout Master Bob's Corner**

Troop 797 has had a busy winter in spite of the cold weather we had. January was the annual Klondike Derby. They were fortunate to have snow so they could run their sleds. February was the annual ice fishing derby at Ingersol Scout Camp. March was the 16-mile hike on the Boyce Trail. The troop has a lot of activities planned for the spring and summer.

#### Upcoming Events

March 27 - Troop Meeting at the YMCA in Ottawa 7:00 P.M.

April 3 - Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 4 - TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 10 - Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 12 - District Roundtable in Peru 7:00 P.M.

April 13-15 - Troop Campout

April 17 - Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M./OA Elections

April 24 - Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 28 - Troop Chile Supper

May 1 - Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 2 - TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 4-7 District Pathways Campout

May 8 - Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 10 - District Roundtable in Peru 7:00 P.M.

May 15 - Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 16 - Troop Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 18-20 OA Spring Conclave

May 22 - Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 29 - 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.*

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

**April 2007**

**April 1**

Nikki Mertes  
Tim Mertes  
Amy Ploch

**April 8**

Phyllis Mertes  
Tony Mertes  
Ann Backus

**April 15**

Albert Hagenbuch  
Relynn Olivero  
Nathan Olivero

**April 22**

Rita Van Drimmelen  
Bob Van Drimmelen  
Rachel Van Drimmelen

**April 29**

Dena Ficek  
Marlene Moshage  
Nick Moshage

**Deacon of the Month**

April - Glenn Stevenson  
Eric Mertes (Assistant Deacon)

**Trustee of the Month**

April - Dave Deutsch

**April Anniversaries**

12 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bedenko  
20 Mr. & Mrs. Billy Wensel  
22 Mr. & Mrs. David Williamson  
24 Mr. & Mrs. LaVern Klinefelter  
25 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Ostrowski  
26 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Baker  
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Olivero  
27 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Olivero  
28 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chapman  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Cole

**April Birthdays**

2 Debbie Swenson  
5 Phil Olivero  
6 Cyndi Hagenbuch  
Dwight Munson  
7 David Carder  
Brent Leonard  
8 Pat English  
Ralph Freebairn  
11 Kelsey Hayne  
13 Myrtle Davis\*  
15 Jack Anthony Mertes  
16 Christopher Hayne  
17 Pat Hughes  
Janelle Videgar  
Rita Whipple\*  
18 Justin Givens  
20 Vaughn Kiner  
21 Nathan Olivero  
23 Rebecca Schweers  
24 John Kinzer  
27 Alan Wilson  
28 Doris Anderson\*  
Phil Klein  
Kristina (Deutsch) Turley  
30 Roberta Brown  
Tim Mertes  
Rick Hayne

## LENT DEVOTIONALS

### *April 1 Palm Sunday*

Luke 19:28-40                      The Lord's way for us.

### *April 2 Monday*

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29            The true strength in life.

### *April 3 Tuesday*

Isaiah 50:5-9a                      The true help in difficult times.

### *April 4 Wednesday*

Philippian 2:5-11

### *April 5 Maundy Thursday (Communion)*

John 13:1-17, 31b-35              Jesus' example of service.

### *April 6 Good Friday*

Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9            Jesus, our high priest.

### *April 7 Holy Saturday*

John 18:1-19:42                      The way of the Cross.

### **6 Good Friday: 7:15 pm Ecumenical Worship at Grace United Methodist Church, Peru**

The Call to Worship: Psalm 22

The First Lesson: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Second Lesson: Luke 5:17-26 and 23:32-34

The Sermon: "The Most Difficult Thing for God  
to Do"

### **8 Resurrection Sunday**

The Call to Worship: Isaiah 65:17-25

The First Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

The Second Lesson: Luke 24:1-12

The Sermon: "What's Christianity All About . . .  
Anyway?"

### **15 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

The Call to Worship: Psalm 118:14-29

The First Lesson: John 20:19-31

The Second Lesson: Acts 5:27-32

The Sermon: "What Have You Witnessed Lately?"

### **22 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

The Call to Worship: Psalm 30

The First Lesson: Revelation 5:11-14

The Second Lesson: Acts 9:1--20

The Sermon: "The Righteous Persecutor Takes a  
New Look"

### **29 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

The Call to Worship: Ps. 23

The First Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

The Second Lesson: Acts 9:36-43

The Sermon: "Disciples Come in All Sizes and  
Shapes"

## Texts and Sermons

April 2007

### **1 Palm Sunday: Confirmation Sunday**

The Youth will pick out their texts and topics for the  
Worship Service

### **5 Maundy Thursday: Communion**

The Call to Worship: Ps. 116:1-2, 12-19

The First Lesson: Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

The Second Lesson: John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The Sermon: "They Used to Wash Feet"