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# The Waltham Courier

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April 2008

A Family Journal

Volume LVIII, Number 04

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

Spring is finally here. It's been a longer than usual winter for all of us, and with Easter so close to Christmas, it's been a dead run for all active church folk. Waltham Church is experiencing a gradual and continual revival of new folk who are seeking the Lord's leadership in their lives. It's a blessing to be a part of all that the Lord is doing through each of you. True, we are asking additional and new questions for this church, but they are questions whose answers will determine the continued growth of a very loving and caring congregation. Thank you all for being generous with your welcomes and genuine in your interest in new faces and hearts who are worshiping with us.

On Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> I mentioned that the Presbyterian Relief Funds from One Great Hour of Sharing had been disbursed in our Presbytery. Thankfully, Dr. Dykstra from Mendota mentioned some of these in his March article. To remind you, some funds were given through our very church after the tornado at Utica. We helped a lot of folk, and we've seen the hearts of people softened to the message of Christ because we Presbyterians responded.

Lately, One Great Hour of Sharing funds were released to help the Watseka Presbyterian and

Pontiac Presbyterian Churches in their assistance for flood victims in their communities. Other Presbyterians sent two large relief supplies to the area too.

Norther Illinois University, and all of us near to folk there, felt the great sorrow and harsh reality of the shootings there. Presbyterian Disaster Relief sent three counselors to the campus area. They are working through Westminster Presbyterian Church in DeKalb. These counselors are funded by the One Great Hour of Sharing.

This assistance was coordinated through our Presbytery Office in Oregon, Illinois. Often we feel like no one knows who we are as Presbyterians. Sometimes we wonder how to tell others; who we are, and what we believe, and how we minister. Here is one way we can let them know.

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

P.S. A special, "Thank you," to all the hard work which our Session, Deacons, Trustees, Mission Committee, and others are doing right now. It's amazing how much folk are doing in the background. We are truly a blessed congregation and church.

**Pastor Backus will be on vacation until April 8<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Dykstra from the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Mendota will be covering emergencies for Pastor Backus. Dr. Dykstra's phone numbers are: Church: 1-815-538-5603 Cell: 1-815-866-5110**

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

The Spring Gathering of P.W. in Blackhawk Presbytery is Saturday, April 5th at Westminster-Joliet. Do plan to join us as we hear about the work at Kemmerer Village in Assumption, IL. Our annual business meeting will also take place. Sign-up on the narthex bulletin board.



*We continue to gather the addresses of our college students to enable us to keep in touch while they are away from their church family.*

We are invited to "Life is a Garden and Friendship is in Bloom", a Victorian Tea on Sunday, April 13th at 1 p.m. by the ladies of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Joliet. "Chi-Town Sound" Quartet Sweet Adeline will present the program. Hats and Gloves are Encouraged! Tickets must be purchased by March 28th at \$25.00 each. See the invitation on the Narthex bulletin board.

*Waltham P.W. will meet on Thursday, April 24th at 9 a.m. in fellowship hall. We invite all women to join us as we study God's Extravagant Grace - Jonah 4*

P.W. of the Synod of Lincoln Trails Gathering is May 30-June 1, 2008 at Millikin University, Decatur, IL. More information and registration form is on the narthex bulletin board.

These Gatherings are a great opportunity for us to see how our connectional church works and to meet women from all areas and to share ideas. Do consider joining us!!

*As mentioned in the last courier, we are again planning to collect layette and young children's clothing for Sunset Gap in Tennessee this spring. So-- as you are sorting and cleaning this spring, keep the gently used items for this collection.*

### ***BUNNY BASKET SUNDAY A GREAT SUCCESS!!!***

On Sunday, March 9th we made and filled 266 Bunny Baskets for the Illinois Valley Food Pantry. They were delivered on Friday, March 14th to be distributed to many families the next day. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to make them, to fill them to the brim and to deliver them. We pray they brought joy to many on Easter morning!!

## **THANK YOU'S**

To our dear friends in Christ,

Thanks so much for your prayers, kind words, hugs, and caring cards directed to our family during the time of our father/grandfather, Walter Moshage's, illness and death. Your compassion and thoughtfulness has made a sad and difficult time much easier to bear.

We are so fortunate to have a great church family like you all!

Gratefully,  
Ralph and Marlene Moshage  
Scott, Nick, Sara and Chris

Thank you to all those who have purchased plants for Easter!

***A Big Thank You to everyone for their patience while we have been upgrading the office computer and its programs!***

**MEETINGS**

***Parent / Youth meeting April 6<sup>th</sup> after worship for those that are going on the Youth Mission Trip in July. This will be a brief meeting.***

There will be a decorating committee meeting on April 8th at 6:30 p.m.

***All Committee Meetings will be Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Plan to attend your respective meeting!***

Session will meet on Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Mark your calendars!

***A Town Hall Meeting will be Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup> after 10:00 am worship. Everyone is invited to this meeting!***

The Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> after 10:00 am worship. Plan to stay and participate in this important meeting.

**THINGS TO DO ...**

***OLD WALTHAM CHURCH MONUMENT***

Committee

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Scott Freebairn | Kyle Videgar  |
| Malcolm Whipple | Raymond Jones |

***The old Waltham Church has a place in history. Keep their memory alive.***

The church lot is holy ground that supported a majestic church, a buggy shed and a manse. It served Waltham families through joyous times and sorrow for 99 years. Decisions made in the mid twentieth century doomed the “auld Scot church”, a division of the old and new.

As a committee we are seeking free will donations to purchase a \$2500 stone monument to be placed by the session. No names will be added, church locations and dates only.

To donate to this monument please make your check out to the Waltham Presbyterian Church. In the memo line you must write, “Old Church Memorial”, so that the correct account will be credited.

**DESSERT AUCTION**

There will be a Dessert Auction on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00 am worship service. Proceeds from this auction will go toward the Youth Mission Trip that is planned for July. What a great way to support our youth AND take home some great desserts. (See the Youth report for more information!)

**YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

Youth mission trip is July 20-26 — Mission Indy, Indianapolis, Indiana. Grades 7 through High School are invited to participate in this Mission Trip. Please contact Eric Mertes for more information.

**MEETING REPORTS**  
**SESSION**

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a regular meeting at 7:00 pm in the upper lounge of the Church.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Backus. Those present were: Rev. Dr. Backus and Elders: Eileen Hagenbuch, Ida Brown,

*Session cont'd*

Bonnie Walsh, Ross Wilson, and Ralph Moshage.  
Absent: David Edgcomb.

A motion was made and seconded to elect Ida Brown as Clerk of Session. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to use up to \$700.00 of memorial funds to purchase a laptop computer to be used by the Clerk of Session. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to give \$50.00 to Grace United Methodist Church for expenses for an upcoming ecumenical service. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to hold Maundy Thursday services at 7:00 on March 13, 2008 and an additional service on Easter Sunday at 7:30. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Rev. Backus' EBE and mileage. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the use of the Church by the Boy Scouts for Eagle Scout Ceremonies on April 19th and 26th. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to cancel the housing vote scheduled for April 30th and schedule another "town meeting" for April 20th with the vote to take place on April 27th. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to have the next session meeting on April 10 at 7:30. The motion carried.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 7:54 pm.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Dr. Backus.

**TRUSTEES**

No report received for this publication

**DEACONS**

The deacons met on Tuesday, March 11. All deacons were present.

At the meeting we discussed the need for a list of active members to aid in the decision making process for a future family ministry opportunity.

We updated a list of all shut-ins as well as discussed protocol for reaching out to our new visitors.

The deacons also discussed plans for the upcoming Lenten season and any responsibilities involved in organizing the services.

**MISSION COMMITTEE**

Members present: Relynn Olivero, Monica Blue, and Carol Freebairn.

We as a committee will be liturgists the month of June and take care of coffee and juice for the month of October.

One Sunday a month, we as a committee, will be doing minute for mission during church service.

Dong meals for Pads Shelter again this year was discussed. Thanks to everyone that helped this year - it was a success.

As a committee, we will be talking about new ways to expand our mission work. Any ideas contact a member of the committee.

**MEMORIAL FUND**

No report received for this publication.

**BENEVOLENCE FUND**

Balance as of March 22, 2008 - \$ 9,218.86

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Christian Education Committee Meeting

March 11, 2008

Present: Dena Ficek, Rita Van Drimmelen, Karen Pillion, Lois Edgcomb, Eric Mertes, Eileen Hagenbuch, Sue Hughes

\*Sunday School: We're staying with our current curriculum. We will start music in the fall; looking at 9:30; work towards kids singing in Church possibly every other month

\*Classes: Split will stay the same as this year: Preschool, K-1, 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, and 8th through High School. Need teachers for next year. Adult Sunday School needs teachers.

\*Summer Sunday School will be multi-age with 8<sup>th</sup>-High School and Adults in their own classes. Multi-age will be preschool through 7<sup>th</sup> grade, with 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders being helpers. Same time: 8:45 to 9:45. Need teachers.

\*Sunday School offering: Collections are down. Possibly donate once a year to a local organization or make one donation to Heifer project for all the babies baptized in the Church (previous donation of \$100 to Heifer project for every baby baptized). Still support Simon Gnomo (\$400 + \$50 transfer fee) and Sunset Gap Layette (\$100).

\***VBS June 16-20, 2008. Need teachers.** Time will be from 5:30 – 8:15 with a light supper served. Youth Activities: Mission Indy: July 20-26. Down payment made. Remaining payment due.

\*Fundraising: Still looking at dessert auction (hopefully in April) and labor auction. These fundraisers will help offset the costs incurred with the mission trip.

\*Lock in planned for Friday, March 15 @ 7:30 until Saturday morning at 9:30.

\*No scholarships. No baptisms.

\***Next meeting is April 8, 2008 at 7:00 pm.**

Committee members:

Dena Ficek, Moderator	815-223-8557
Karen Pillion, Secretary	815-433-1840
Eileen Hagenbuch, Session Rep.	815-667-4846
Rita Van Drimmelen	815-667-4305
Lois Edgcomb	815-538-7755
Sue Hughes	815-433-3383
Sharon Reel	815-538-1947
Eric Mertes, Youth Group	815-228-8716

### ***Teachers are needed for Summer Sunday School.***

Please see one of the Christian Ed Committee members if you are interested in volunteering. You should only have to teach once during the summer. It's a multi-age class and it's fun! You can prepare your own class or we can help you. Spending time with the children is so special--please consider sharing your time with them!

### ***Teachers are needed for Vacation Bible School.***

Please see one of the Christian Ed Committee members if you are interested in volunteering. You want to know how a busy and tiring week turns into something so rewarding and fun? It's called Vacation Bible School, and it's worth the time and effort! The kids are so much fun as is spending time with fellow teachers. Come join in the fun and fellowship!

## **YOUTH**

The plans for the summer youth group mission trip are set. We have a group of fifteen ready to head for Indianapolis from July 20<sup>th</sup> thru the 26<sup>th</sup>. We are all very excited to go but there are still some needs to be met.

This trip would never be possible without the faithful support of the entire congregation. ***So our first fundraiser will be April 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have a dessert auction following worship service.***

For those of you who weren't able to attend last year, it works like this: Everyone brings in a dessert or two, after we have a large pile of baked goods of every shape size and variety, the fun begins. We will have an auctioneer begin the festivities, from there it is a bidding frenzy to take the most valued treats home. It promises to be a most delightful time, and I hope everyone prayerfully considers coming.

*Youth cont'd*

*The next event for the youth group is going to be April 11<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the church for a time of fun, fellowship, and worship. We will meet at 6:30 and go until 10:00.*

*There will be a brief meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup> following worship for the parents and youth that are going on the mission trip.*

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE**

No report received for this publication.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report received for this publication.

**Scout Master Bob's Corner**

**Upcoming Events**

- March 18 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- March 25 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- April 1 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- April 2 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- April 8 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- April 11-13 – Troop Campout 7:00 P.M.
- April 15 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- April 19-20 – Appleseed Program at Buffalo Rock Shutter Supply – for more information, contact Jon Papineau at 815-434-7138**
- April 22 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- April 27 – Nick Moshage's Eagle Scout Court of Honor at Waltham Presbyterian Church**
- Scouts continued ...*
- April 29 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- May 2-4 – Pathways Campout
- May 6 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

- May 7 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- May 10 – AT Trail Hike at Matthesian State Park
- May 13 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- May 14 – Troop Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- May 18 – Pierce Province's Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony**
- May 20 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- May 27 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- May 30-June 1 – Troop Campout – AT Trail 10 mile Hike

**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 VOLUNTEERS**

April 2008

- April 6  
Scott Freebairn  
Heather Freebairn
- April 13  
Tom Olivero  
Wendy Olivero
- April 20  
Dave Deutsch  
Diana Deutsch
- April 27  
Tim Mertes  
Nikki Mertes

**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
- 15 Jack Anthony Mertes
- 16 Christopher Hahne
- 17 Pat Hughes  
Janelle Videgar  
Rita Whipple\*
- 18 Justin Givens
- 20 Vaughn Kiner
- 21 Nathan Olivero
- 24 John Kinzer
- 27 Alan Wilson
- 28 Doris Anderson\*  
Kristina (Deutsch) Turley
- 30 Roberta Brown  
Tim Mertes  
Rick Hayne

\* Special Birthday wishes to Rita and Doris!

**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

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WPC new email address:  
[walthamchurch@pcwildblue.com](mailto:walthamchurch@pcwildblue.com)

Make a note of it!

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**TEXTS AND SERMONS**

April 2008

***Third Sunday of Easter***      ***April 6, 2008***  
 Acts 2:14a, 36-41      Psalm 116:14, 12-19  
 1 Peter 1:17-23      Luke 24:13-35  
 Visiting Pastor The Rev. Dr. Christopher Clemmer  
 will bring the message.

***Fourth Sunday of Easter***      ***April 13, 2008***  
 The Call to Worship:      Psalm 23  
 The First Lesson:      John 10:1-10  
 The Second Lesson:      1 Peter 2:19-25  
 The Sermon:      “The Guardian of Our Souls”

***Fifth Sunday of Easter***      ***April 20, 2008***  
 The Call to Worship:      Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
 The First Lesson:      John 14:1-14  
 The Second Lesson:      1 Peter 2:2-10  
 The Sermon:      “Exactly, What Is the Church?”

***Sixth Sunday of Easter***      ***April 27, 2008***  
 The Call to Worship:      Psalm 66:8-20  
 The First Lesson:      John 14:15-21  
 The Second Lesson:      1 Peter 3:13-22  
 The Sermon:      “Keeping Up With the Times”

***Please leave a note on the office desk if there are additions/corrections to the Birthday and Anniversary list.***