
The Waltham Courier

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April 2009

A Family Journal

Volume MMIX, Number 04

Interim Notes

During Holy Week, the second week in April, darkness will fall at St. Benedict's Abbey, the abbey where I am an Oblate. On Good Friday all lights will be extinguished, and the monks will raise their cowls over their heads, a sign that they have entered the Great Silence. No voice will be heard, no bell will ring, no light of any kind will pierce the darkness until Easter morning.

About two-thousand years ago, darkness fell over the entire world. For the Light of the World, had been snuffed out. The Light would return, but for a time darkness reigned.

It won't be long before we celebrate the return of the Light. I must confess, I'm as anxious as some of you, to get to reach that day of celebration. But we aren't there yet. To truly appreciate the Light, we must first walk with the Light through the darkness.

For us, the darkness will begin to fall on April 5th; Palm/Passion Sunday. On

that day the purple of Lent's mourning will be gone. But it will only be gone because purple will be replaced by red; the color of the blood shed for us. Our service will begin with the great celebration of the entrance into Jerusalem. It will conclude with our starting our descent into our walk through Christ's passion.

On Maundy Thursday we will gather in worship at 7:00 P.M. to remember and reenact the events of that evening; the events which demonstrated Christ's love for us. The service will include the Sacrament of Communion; the act Jesus bid us to do and remember. For those who wish to participate, we will also celebrate another of Christ's commands to us, the Mandatum; the washing of feet.

On Good Friday we will join in the ecumenical service to be held at noon. It will be hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church in LaSalle. The service will be repeated again at 7:00 pm at Grace United Methodist. At both of these services, we will hear the story of the day's horror.

Be ready, the return of the Light will be soon. But please, don't forget to first walk with us through the darkness.

A Blessed Holy Week,

Why Foot Washing?

Our Maundy Thursday service will include foot washing for those who wish to participate. John Calvin, the founder of the Presbyterian Church, came very close to making foot washing our third sacrament. After all, Jesus commanded us in no uncertain terms, to do it.

For those who are not used to this act of worship it may seem a bit strange. But to those who participate in it, on the night Jesus washed the disciple's feet, are taken right back to that moment in the upper room. It can be the most intensely moving experience that you can imagine. For those who do the washing it is also one of the most humbling experiences that can be imagined.

By washing the disciple's feet, Jesus taught them how deeply they must serve each other. For in washing their feet, Jesus did something that was considered so humbling that a Jewish slave could not be required to do it.

One question that comes up is from women wearing pantyhose. For them we can simply wash and dry over the hose. Their feet should be plenty dry by the time the service is over. Another question is sanitation. The only potential sanitation problem in foot washing would be to those who have open wounds on their feet. But to allay any concerns, a mild antiseptic will be added to the water.

I hope you will consider participating in this ritual. I think you will find it to be incredibly meaningful and something you will want to do again.

TEXTS AND SERMONS

April 2009

Palm Sunday

Mark 11:1-11
Isa. 50: 4-9
Phil. 2: 5-11
Communion

April 5, 2009

Psalm 118: 1-2,19-29
Psalm 31:9-16
Mark 14: 1-15

Maunday Thursday

Communion

April 9, 2009

Good Friday

Easter Sunday

Acts 10: 34-43
1 Cor. 15: 1-11

April 10, 2009

April 12, 2009

Psalm 118:1-2,14-24
John 20: 1-18

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 32-35
1 John 1: 1-22

April 19, 2009

Psalm 133
John 20: 19-31

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3: 12-19
Psalm 4

April 26, 2009

1 John 3: 1-7
Luke 24: 36b-48

THINGS TO DO ...

Lenten Ecumenical Worship

The last pot luck & worship service will be Wed. April 1 at Grace Methodist in LaSalle. Bring salad or dessert plus your table service for the supper at 6:15. Worship will begin at 7pm.

Good Friday Services will explore the hymn "Were You There?". The service at noon will be at St. Paul Episcopal Church in LaSalle. The 7pm service will be at Grace Methodist in LaSalle.

Easter Egg Hunt

We will hold an Easter Egg Hunt after the 10 o'clock Easter Sunday Service. This will be for children Nursery through 5th grade. Please bring a dozen plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy to church by Thus. April 9 (Maundy Thurs.) We will plan to have the hunt on the front lawn of the church.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Spring Gathering of P.W. in Blackhawk Presbytery will be Friday, April 24th in Morris. It is the annual meeting. Dramatic story teller Gerri Smith will portray Fanny Crosby. Frances Jane, "Fanny" Crosby (1820-1915), a blind American hymns-writer and poet, wrote more than 6,000 hymns and many sacred poems. Her favorite hymns include - Safe in the Arms of Jesus; I am Thine, O Lord; Rescue the Perishing; Pass Me Not; and Blessed Assurance. Born in Southeast, New York, she became blind at the age of 6 weeks. She studied at the New York Institution for the Blind. In 1858 she married Alexander Van Alstyne, who was also blind. Registration sign-up is on the narthex bulletin board - do plan to join us! We have received an invitation to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Joliet to their Victorian Tea on Sunday April 19th at 1 p.m. Check the narthex bulletin board for details. Remember all women are invited to attend the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women July 11-15 in Louisville, Kentucky. This international gathering is held every 3 years and this years title is GOD WILL DO WONDERS AMONG YOU. Register by May 15th and save \$50.00! See Bev Scharlau for details.

For though we very truly hear that the kingdom of God will be filled with splendor, joy, happiness and glory, yet when these things are spoken of, they remain utterly remote from our perception, and as it were, wrapped in obscurities, until that day

~John Calvin

MEETING REPORTS **SESSION**

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a regular meeting on March 12, 2009 at 8:33 in the upper lounge of the Church.

Members present – Moderator Pastor Frank Fisher, Dave Edgcomb, Bonnie Walsh, , Ralph Moshage, Bruce Brown, Bev Scharlau, and Clerk Ida Brown. Ben Ficek was also present. Absent Eileen Hagenbuch.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Frank Fisher. The minutes of the previous meetings were approved.

Ben Ficek requested a donation of \$100 to cover expenses for his Eagle Project. After discussion the issue was referred to the mission committee for further consideration.

A motion was made and approved to revise the liturgical to include two services during the summer.

A motion was made and carried to receive the committee reports.

A motion was made and carried to move committee meetings for April to the first Thursday with the session meeting to follow in order to not conflict with Maundy Thursday. The next meeting night will be April 6. Committees will meet at 7:00 with session to follow at 8:15.

A motion was approved to adjourn at 10:04 pm. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Frank Fisher.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

TRUSTEES

Decided to purchase generator ourselves and do the work to pour the concrete pad, run conduit and gas line.

Investigated minor issues in the manse. We may need to purchase a clothes dryer, but are looking into repair of the existing dryer.

DEACONS

We served communion to 77 at church on 3/1. Jean reported on her visit with Pastor Frank to 3 of our shut ins. Communion was served to them as well. We discussed that there would be communion on Palm Sunday and at the Maundy Thursday Service. We finished our schedule of Coffee & Juice for the month of March. At the next meeting, we will up date our lists for the Deacon Family Ministry Plan.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Meeting was held March 12, 2009.

In attendance were moderator Relynn Olivero, Maxine Cole, and session representative Bev Scharlau.

We will serve our last meal of the season for PADS on 4-8-09. The sign up sheet is in the foyer. There are still some meal items needed. Please check to see if there is some item you could provide.

The request form for Mission money has been approved and forms are available in the Mission mail box.

Minute for Mission will be April 26. Topic: use of money allocated to Mission from Charlotte Kennedy gift to the church. Discussion on use of mission money left from 2008 was postponed until more committee members were present. Relynn will contact Grace Methodust to set up time & date for their presentation. Final plans were made for the Bunny Basket pot luck to be held after church March 29. If you have any questions regarding the Mission Committee & its work please contact Relynn Olivero.

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Benevolence Balance \$11,713.12
Linda Chalus

The Kirkinâ™ Oâ™ the Tartan

To celebrate their Scottish roots, the Somonauk United Presbyterian Church will be having a Vesper Service at 4:00pm on Saturday, April 4th entitled, *The Kirkinâ™ Oâ™ the Tartan*. Kirk is Scottish for church.

Originally known in Scotland as the *Church of Scotland*, the immigrants changed the name to the *Presbyterian Church* after arriving in America . Along with their religious beliefs, they also brought their traditions. The Scottish people had a rich culture, filled with kilts, bagpipes, clans and tartans. Each clan wore a distinctive plaid cloth called a tartan.

In 1745, the Scottish were defeated by the English, and thereafter, all Scottish items were banned including the kilt, shoulder plaids and bagpipes. At church services, during this oppression, according to the Kern County Scottish Society, the Scottish would hide a piece of their tartan in a pocket, and then touch it while they were being blessed. This hidden tartan bit reminded them of their strong heritage and faith. Often, the tartans were made from their own sheep, and this hard work was woven into the fine woolen tartans just as a strong faith was interwoven into their lives.

Whether you have Scottish ancestry or are just fond of shortbread & scones, all are invited to attend this unique Scottish Service. The service will be followed by tea and Scottish delicacies.

The Somonauk United Presbyterian Church is located five miles north of Somonauk at Chicago Rd and Governor Beveridge at 13040 Chicago Road , Somonauk , IL 60552 .

For more information: 815.786.2703

www.somonaukupchurch.com

somonaukupchurch@yahoo..com

FROM YOUR PNC

We have read almost 50 Pastor Information Forms. We have now conducted 4 telephone interviews and are scheduling more. We have asked those 4 pastors to send us tapes of their sermons.

“THESE DAYS”

The newest issue of “These Days Daily Devotions is in the stand on the heater in the church narthex. Please take one. They are only \$0.40 each.

Once Easter is over, please don't forget the local food pantry. Nonperishable food may be placed in the baskets in the East Hall. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate. Please mark the envelope “food pantry”. Thank-you

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Present: Sharon Reel, Veronica Blue

Future Dates:

Rally Sunday will be August 30 or September 13.
Session will get back to us with the confirmed date.

Advent-ure Sunday will be November 22.

Children's program will be December 13.

Easter egg hunt will follow the service on April 12.

Kathie Kleckner has again offered to coordinate.

There will also be a breakfast potluck following the service.

Still collecting names of graduates. Please contact Sharon Reel at 538-1947

A date for a dessert auction has not been set.
There is interest.

Veronica Blue will make a presentation regarding Stronghold scholarships. Date to be announced.

Pastor Frank is ordering curriculum for adult Sunday school. Please contact him if you are interested in joining this group.

Discussed summer Sunday school.

Children's offering continues to be low. Discussing options.

Discussing children's church.

The children will sing in Church on March 29 and on Easter Sunday.

VBS is June 15th-19th. Anyone interest in teaching may contact any member of the Christian Ed Committee or Monica Blue.

No scholarships.

No baptisms.

Attention Graduates

Please contact Sharon Reel with names of graduates to be honored for their accomplishments. We will recognize all graduates during service on May 17th.

Names, where they graduated from, future plans or whatever else you would like mentioned. We will be presenting them w/ t-shirts so please let Sharon know what size.

Scout Master Bob's Corner

Upcoming Events

Scout Master Bob

Upcoming Events

March 24 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

March 31 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 1 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 2 – Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 P.M.

April 7 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 14 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 16 – Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 P.M.

April 17 – 19 Troop Campout

April 21 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 25 – CPR in the morning at Waltham Presbyterian Church

2:00 Jack Miller's Eagle Ceremony at Waltham Presbyterian Church

April 28 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Troop 797 is gearing up for a busy summer. July 9 – 23, twelve Scouts and Scouters are venturing to Philmont for a week of hiking. They get back and leave again for Ingersoll Scout Reservation, July 26 – Aug. 1st. The troop is going to have another fun filled summer of activities.

Troop 97 meets every Tuesday night at the Waltham Presbyterian Church.

Contact Ralph Moshage or

Ross Wilson for information about the troop.

If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy.

Who is Jesus?

HE IS JESUS

WHO IS HE?

**IN CHEMISTRY, HE TURNED WATER
TO WINE.**

**IN BIOLOGY, HE WAS BORN
WITHOUT THE
NORMAL CONCEPTION;**

**IN PHYSICS, HE DISPROVED THE
LAW OF
GRAVITY WHEN HE ASCENDED
INTO HEAVEN;**

**IN ECONOMICS, HE DISPROVED
THE LAW
OF DIMINISHING RETURN BY
FEEDING 5000 MEN WITH
TWO FISHES & 5 LOAVES OF
BREAD;**

**IN MEDICINE, HE CURED THE SICK
AND THE
BLIND WITHOUT ADMINISTERING
A SINGLE DOSE OF DRUGS,**

**IN HISTORY, HE IS THE BEGINNING
AND THE END;**

**IN GOVERNMENT, HE SAID THAT
HE SHALL
BE CALLED WONDERFUL
COUNSELOR, PRINCE OF PEACE**

**IN RELIGION, HE SAID NO ONE
COMES TO
THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH
HIM;**

SO, WHO IS HE?

HE IS JESUS!

**JOIN ME AND LET'S CELEBRATE
HIM;**

HE IS WORTHY.

REMAIN IN GOD AND SEEK HIS

FACE ALWAYS.

AMEN

IN GOD I'VE FOUND EVERYTHING!

The Greatest Man in History

**Jesus had no servants, yet they called
Him Master.**

**Had no degree, yet they called Him
Teacher.**

**Had no medicines, yet they called Him
Healer**

**He had no army, yet kings feared
Him..**

**He won no military battles, yet He
conquered the world.**

**He committed no crime, yet they
crucified Him.**

**He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives
today.**

**I feel honored to serve such a Leader
who loves us!**

Two friends sent me this by e-mail. There are beautiful pictures with it. Outside of Groom, TX are wonderful metal sculptures of the crucifixion. I will gladly forward the pictures to

What happens when the bush stops burning? A monthly column for the church by the General Assembly

by the Rev. Byron Wade Vice-moderator of the 218th PC(USA) General Assembly

RALEIGH, NC I remember very well the day of commencement from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary. I was graduating with honors. I had a master's degree from Union Theological Seminary-Presbyterian School of Christian Education. I was definitely ready to serve a congregation and was energized to do ministry. The commencement speaker that day was the Rev. Renita Weems, former professor of Old Testament at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Her message was entitled, "What Happens When the Bush Stops Burning?" from the call of Moses in Exodus 3. She asked us, "What will you do in-between the first time you heard from God and the next time you do?" In her message, I was reminded of the "burning bush" moments when God is present in our lives ordination and installation of pastors, marriages, births of children, formation of friendships or relationships, and so forth. Those are the times when God's presence burns brightly in our lives. But as life goes along, things happen church conflicts, broken relationships, loss of loved ones, periods of economic recession, loss of employment, and more. In those times, we cannot feel the presence of God, and we don't know when we will hear next from God. Rev. Weems ended her message that day by telling the story of a time when she was invited to be a guest preacher. She recalled that she was going through some difficulties in her personal life that particular Sunday. As the choir sang, she heard the most beautiful voice. She wanted to see who

was singing, so she turned around to look at the choir. The voice was coming from a man whose face was totally disfigured. She knew then that God used that man to speak a word of comfort to her in a time of need. What happens to you when the bush stops burning? What do you do in between the last time you heard from God and the next time? For me, it is helpful to remember Rev. Weems' message, especially during this Lenten season. God speaks to us in unexpected ways to let us know the "bush is still burning."

Thank-you

We have received a thank-you note from Alan Krome of One Great Hour of Sharing. In 2008, our congregation contributed \$487.75. "On behalf of all the communities that have been changed because of those gifts, please thank your members for their support of One Great Hour of Sharing."

We would like to thank everyone for all their thoughts, prayers and kindness during Mark's surgery and Dolly's illness. That means a lot to us.

Leonard and Lois
Edgcomb

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

April 2009

April 5

Scott Freebairn

Heather Freebairn

April 12

Tom Olivero

Wendy Olivero

April 19

Dave Deutsch

Diana Deutsch

April 26

Tim Mertes

Nikki Mertes

SERVING OUR CHURCH

April

Ushers - Choir

Liturgist - Session

Coffee/Juice - Trustees

May

Ushers - P. W.

Liturgist - Decorating

Coffee/Juice - Choir

June

Ushers - Music & Worship

Liturgist - Mission

Coffee/Juice - Christian Ed

Filling Candles - Linda

Chalus, April

Janet Lynn

Delaney, May &

June

-

Birthday and Anniversary list. I have been reworking the lists, so please check to see that I have not left anyone off.

- 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 Stevens**
- Rita Whipple***
- 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**
- Jason Depenbrock**

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**

Please leave a note on the office desk if there are additions/corrections to the