
The Waltham Courier

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December 2008

A Family Journal

Volume LVIII, Number 12

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

"COME TO CHRISTMAS" TEA

We invite all women of the church and ask that you invite your neighbors and friends to our 27th Annual "Come to Christmas" Tea, "MARY, DID YOU KNOW?" on **Wednesday, Dec. 10th at 1:30 p.m.**



We remind all our women to share 4 dozen cookies and your MARY AND BABY JESUS for set up day on Tuesday, Dec. 9th at 9 a.m.

Please note...Women's ensemble for the tea will rehearse Saturday morning Dec. 6th at 10:00 a.m.

THANK YOU'S

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!

Waltham Church collected items and completed 49 Hygiene Kits for Church World Service. This project began during VBS and continued after Church School began this fall. We thank all who participated in this effort and also thank those who provided the \$2.00 each for shipping them to their final destinations. These kits were dedicated at the November Presbytery meeting and we pray they will be a sign of God's love to whoever receives them.

November 5, 2008

Christopher, Paige, & I deeply appreciate your gift card. It has been an extremely difficult/emotional time for us and your support and kindness was appreciated. Believe me, we have looked to the Lord our God many times through this for guidance. We have scheduled surgery, a myectomy, for January 6 so keep us in your prayers as we go back to Rochester.

Thank you for your love and support.

The Hahne's

THINGS TO DO

There will be a potluck following the worship service on Sunday, December 14th. The youth Christmas Program will follow.

The committee for the potluck is: Leonard & Lois Edgcomb*, Dave & Diana Deutsch*, Jerry & Dawn Reed, Bruce & Roberta Brown, and Gary & Deb Dahl.

Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

Christmas Eve Worship Service will be held at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, December 24th. Mark your calendars and plan to be in attendance.

Don't forget your donations for our local Food Pantry. Christmas Distribution will be on Saturday, December 20th from 10:00am to 3:00 pm. They are in need of turkey or hams, instant potatoes, stuffing mix, cake & frosting, canned sweet potatoes, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned pumpkin, etc., etc.

YOUTH RETREAT

Grades 6 & up

Friday, January 16 - Sunday, January 18, 2009

Wal-nut Lodge

Stronghold, Oregon, IL

Cost is \$ 30 per youth (\$ 60 total/church pays half)

Friends/non-members \$ 60

Bring your bibles, sleeping bags, clothes, **towel, toothbrush, etc.**

Information and consents have been mailed.

Please see Eric Mertes or Ellen Wilson for more information.

A Resignation and an Opportunity

Chris Finley will be resigning as Church Secretary effective January 1, 2009. The session has accepted her resignation with regret.

The session is now looking for a part-time secretary to work approximately 3 hours per day, 4 days per week – preferably in the afternoon. A good working knowledge of basic office skills is required. Organization is a very necessary skill because this person will be assisting our current office volunteers as well as the various committees in a variety of endeavors. This will

be an increase in the number of hours of office assistance currently provided. The session feels that this increase in hours is necessary in view of our current situation and to assist any new interim or installed pastor.

If anyone is interested, or knows of a good candidate, contact a member of the Session prior to the next Session Meeting, December 9th.

Ida Brown, Dave Edgcomb, Eileen Hagenbuch, Ralph Moshage, Bonnie Walsh, Ross Wilson

DECORATING COMMITTEE

The Decorating Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with decorating our church for Advent. Without your help, the church would not look as beautiful as it does. A special thanks to Janet Lynn Delaney for helping with the new bows for our wreaths.

Thanks, also, to all the people who ordered Poinsettias. Don't forget to take them home with you on Christmas Eve.

FROM OUR PNC

The PNC is finalizing our church's information profile that will be posted online to pastors who are seeking a new church. Much of the form is a check list, but there are 5 questions that need special thought. The information to answer these questions is coming from our MAP meetings.

We wish to thank everyone who took the time to come to these meetings and help us.

MEETING REPORTS

SESSION

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a regular meeting on November 13, 2008 at 7:02 in the upper lounge of the Church.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Bill Love. Members present - Dave Edgcomb, Ross Wilson, Bonnie Walsh, Eileen Hagenbuch, Ida Brown, and Ralph Moshage.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.

Communion was served.

Marlene Moshage gave a presentation on the Illinois Valley Ecumenical Alliance's plans to publish a Lenten Devotional Booklet. The Alliance would like a response by the 11th to be able to make plans for publishing.

The Christian Education Committee requested that the un-designated funds from the offering be used to fund the tuition for Simon at the Githiga Children's Home and additional funds be used towards the Heifer project (traditionally \$100 is contributed per baptism). A motion was made and carried to allow up to \$1000 per year be used towards these obligations.

There will be a potluck and the Church will be decorated for the Christmas Season on Adventure Sunday (November 23rd).

The Children's Christmas Program will be Dec. 14th.

Music and Worship Committee has made arrangements for November and most of December for Pulpit Supply.

A motion was made and approved to move the December 1st communion to November 30th to allow

us to have an ordained minister administer the sacraments.

A motion was made and approved to allow the Clerk of Session to sign checks for the purpose of assisting with pulpit supply.

The Mission Committee requested that the 10% of the Kennedy fund that was designated for mission be disbursed as follows –

\$2,000 to the Illinois Valley Food Pantry, \$2,000 for the Peru PADS (overnight shelter for the homeless), \$2,000 for the ADV/SAS (Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter), \$1,500 for three area hospital indigent funds (\$500 for Ottawa, Peru, and Mendota each), and \$2,000 for a Deacon's fund (seed money to start a fund for emergency needs of persons in our community to be administered by the Deacons). A motion was made and carried to approve the disbursement.

The Nominating Committee has requested that election of the new board members take place on November 23rd. A motion was made and carried to hold a Congregational Meeting after services on the 23rd for that purpose.

Ralph reported from Presbytery that the 49 Hygiene kits have been delivered. He reported that the per member contribution to Presbytery is going from \$28.98 to \$34.34. He also reported that the Synod is working towards making the Cora Pope Home a more effective ministry.

Chris Finley's resignation as Church Secretary, effective January 1, 2009, was accepted with regret.

A motion was made and approved to hold the next Session Meeting on December 9th at 8:30 (after the committee meetings).

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 8:49 pm. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Love.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

Subs - April Medley, Wendy Olivero, Heather Freebairn, Heidi Hendricks, and Kathie Kleckner

MISSION COMMITTEE

November 11, 2008

*The Mission Committee met on Nov. 11, 2008. Those in attendance were Relynn Olivero, Janet Small, Monica Blue, Carol Shaver, and Kathy Fox.

*Minute for Mission - Janet Small will get information about Giving Tree to Relynn who will give Minute for Mission in December.

*Food Pantry - Janet Small delivered bags on November 6th & November 11th.

*Monica Blue brought "Thank You" letter and pictures from Githiga Home (thanking us for \$3500 gift). They have needs for blankets, sheets, socks, etc. We will further discuss taking an offering for needed merchandise or money to buy said items.

*Carol Shaver will make wreaths for giving tree. Committee will meet after church on designated Sunday to complete & put on tree.

*Budget was presented to Roberta Brown to take to Session for approval (including Kennedy Memorial Fund proposition).

The Children's Christmas program will be December 14, 2008 at 12:30 p.m. following the potluck. Any one interested in helping with the program please contact Dena Ficek.

MUSIC & WORSHIP

*Committee Report for November, 2008

*Those in attendance: Ida Brown, Amy Plch, Mary Small, and Ellen Wilson.

*Budget request for 2009 was submitted. Plans were made for families to participate in the lighting of the Advent Candles for November 30, December 7, 14, 21, and Christmas Eve.

* The pulpit for November and December will be filled by the Rev. Spencer Lawrence from Streator and Amy Vinson-Ritter from Wheaton. Rev. Lawrence will be here November 23 & 30, and December 21 and 24. Amy will be in the pulpit December 7 and 14.

*December 28 the worship service will be planned by Eric Mertes and Phil & Andrea McConville.

*The Christmas Eve Service will be at 5:00 pm.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

November meeting notes:

The Sunday School children will sing in church once a month.

Sunday School Teachers for the fall:

Preschool – Karen Pillion and Sharon Reel

K-1st – Dena Ficek and Carol Shaver

2nd-4th – Veronica Blue and Monica Blue

5th-7th - Rita VanDrimmelen and Ross Wilson

8th-High School – Eric Mertes and Andrea & Phil McConville

TRUSTEES

No report received for this publication.

DEACONS

No report received for this publication.

Stewardship & Finance

No report received for this publication.

Scout Master Bob's Corner

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of October 31, 2008

5 Deposits/Credits equaling	\$ 28,028.17
24 Check/Debits equaling	\$ 8,059.77
Ending Balance	\$ 118,015.72

Keri Sundberg, Treasurer

BENEVOLENCE FUND

No report received for this publication.

MEMORIAL FUND

No report received for this publication.

Coffee and Juice Organizers - December
Session

Liturgist Organizers - December
Stewardship & Finance

Deacon of the Month - December
Kathie Kleckner
Marlene Moshage, Assistant

Trustee of the Month - November
Mark Small

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 2 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M. – Dues/Rechartering Meeting
- Dec. 3 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- Dec. 4 – Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 P.M.
- Dec. 9 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- Dec. 12-14 – Troop Campout
- Dec. 16 – Troop Christmas Party
- Dec. 18 – Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 P.M.
- Dec. 23 & 30 – No Troop Meeting
- Jan. 6 – 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

December 7
Tim & Nikki Mertes

December 14
Amy Ploch
Valerie Blue
Kaitlyn Small

December 21
Judy Applebee
Lois Edgcomb
Joshua Brown

December 28
Tony & Phyllis Mertes

Texts for Advent
(based on the Liturgical Calendar)

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Hagenbuch
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. Marc Delaney
- 31 Mr. & Mrs. Earl Finley

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Audrey Deutsch
Sally Wilson
Lois Edgcomb
- 4 Ross Muckey
- 7 Diana Deutsch
- 8 Sue Baker
Ron Chalus
Lindsey Olivero
- 9 Kristen Wensel
- 10 Wayne English
Earl Finley
Emily Ficek
Sharon Klein
- 11 Shelly Chapman
Diana Mital
Peggy Geiger
William Edward Warnell
- 12 Barbara Christopher
- 14 Mary Whipple
- 15 Scott Freebairn
LaVern Klinefelter
- 16 Mike Veit
- 17 Olivia Freeman
- 18 Don Croissant
- 20 Heather Kiner
- 22 Daniel Munson
- 26 Holly Videgar
- 28 Janet Small
- 30 Scott Moshage
- 31 Kory Robinson

November 30th - 1st Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 64:1-9
- Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19*
- 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
- Mark 13:24-37

December 7th - 2nd Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 40:1-11
- Psalm 85:1-2,8-13*
- 2 Peter 3:8-15a
- Mark 1:1-8

December 14th - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
- Psalm 126 or Luke 1:47-55*
- 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 21st - 4th Sunday of Advent

- 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
- Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26*
- Romans 16:25-27
- Luke 1:26-38

December 24th - Christmas Eve

- Isaiah 9:2-7
- Psalm 96*
- Titus 2:11-14
- Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

December 28th - 1st Sunday after Christmas

- Isaiah 61:10-62:3
- Psalm 148
- Galatians 4:4-7
- Luke 2:22-40