
The Waltham Courier

809 N. 3450th Road, Utica, IL 61373

815-667-4611 (Office phone & fax)

www.walthamchurch.org

waltham@ivnet.com

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A Family Journal

Volume LVIII, Number 02

From The Pastor's Desk ...

Pastor's Annual Report for 2007

Dear Congregation:

This last year has sped by and it's difficult to remember all that the milestones and accomplishments which you have made during this year. But I'll give it a try.

Worship attendance and participation is up at Waltham. We have the joy of greeting new folk quite frequently now, and we are beginning to reach in the communities around the church. The church's reputation for graciously accepting new people into the fellowship is growing in the Illinois Valley. This influx of new souls to our fellowship is a great blessing and a challenge to our ministries which we will continue to address in 2008. Music has continued to be a central part of our worship. The choir, under Allen's direction, and the addition of Andrea McConville's portion in the service, have lifted all our spirits in worship. We have encouraged special music, like solos, duets, etc., but this is a growing edge in our worship. The Worship and Music Committee will continue to think of ways to include more variety of styles and individuals in our music program. Wouldn't it be great if we had a children's chorus and if our Youth could lead in some of the contemporary

songs in worship from time to time? It takes time to get there. One additional layer of Worship for us has been our inclusion in the LaSalle Peru Ecumenical services which included shared Ecumenical worship services during Lent, Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and a Sunday of Prayer for Christian Unity. We look forward to continuing in these shared experiences with our Christian family of other denominations.

Christian Education in our church ministry is going through a transition. New leadership and thoughtful ideas are beginning to perk in the Christian Education Committee and in our Sunday School in general. Eric Mertes has taken on the leadership of the Youth Program, and he is preparing the ongoing studies, activities, and Mission Trips for the youth. It will take a while to get things going, but they're moving in the right direction. Also, the second year of our Trunk or Treat Celebration was a great success. We thank the committee that coordinated the Trunk or Treat experience. A new attempt was to carry Sunday School through the Summer. Recognizing that this is a new tradition for Waltham we had varying degrees of success, but we recognize the need to continue for a few years to build this new tradition, which is really the old tradition of our church.

The Deacons have taken on additional responsibilities this last year. They are diligently addressing the issues of hospitality and care which the Deacon ministry in Scripture and in the Presbyterian Church [have emphasized](#). [We are](#)

adding one additional Deacon over a three year period to meet the additional load which they have embraced. Keep them in your prayers, and know that they will keep us in theirs.

The Session has continued to pay attention to keeping up with our growth and needs. I'm thankful for the leadership and commitment which our active elders continue to show. They are a thoughtful and deliberate group of folk who take their role seriously. They are not afraid to tackle difficult issues, but they are careful and thorough in their approach. They reflect the spirit of the church very well.

The Trustees continue to keep the facilities in excellent shape, and several have worked way over time to change the lighting fixtures to be more energy efficient. Extra time and unselfish working habits have led to our facilities being in great shape. It makes our education and worship experiences much easier to practice.

In Mission, I'm constantly reminded of the commitment which our Mission Committee has to the greater mission of the church. Both here at home and abroad, your mission dollars are used wisely and now the Mission Board is encouraging more hands on mission in our local area. I thank them for their diligence and commitment to our missions and to our education of others needs.

A special "Thank you" is in order for two very hard working folk who have given years of service to this church. First, to Albert Hagenbuch for being the Clerk of Session. His knowledge of the church's history has helped me and the Session beyond measure as we have worked to serve the church. Second, to Diana Deutsch for being the General Treasurer for several years. She has been thorough in her detail and has given freely of her time and talent in those detail areas for all of us.

As for your Pastor in this last year. I've continued to try to bring God's Word to you in Worship, Teaching, Leadership, and Visitation. The radio "Just a Minute" spot inspirational messages

continue to reach new folk. At best individuals are drawn to our congregation for worship and at least people know that we exist. And there still are a lot of folk who live within just a few miles of the church and whose children attend Waltham North School who do not know that we are here. There have been many challenges in this last year. It's been my duty and honor to walk with many of our families through difficult transitions and illnesses. Although I'm never adequate to do so, I know that the Lord carries us all through these difficult times of loss.

On the Presbytery level, I continue as a Co-Chair of the Committee on Ministry which addresses the relationship of pastors and churches. I've learned a great deal about our Presbytery and various churches and their ministries. This continues to excite me how the Presbyterian Churches of our Presbytery think new ideas and ministries for their particular communities. In addition, I'm called in on some of the crisis issues in our churches, and I'm glad to say, that for the most part, our Pastors and Elders are serious about the work of the Lord Jesus Christ in all aspects of the life of the church and its mission.

Finally, thank you for loving the Backus family and being an extended family for us,

Pastor Roy C. Backus, Ph.D.



PRESBYTERIAN **WOMEN**

P.W. will meet Thursday, February 28th at 9 a.m. in fellowship hall. We will continue our Bible Study - Taking up Space in a Fish Named Grace - from Jonah 2 presented by Lois Edgcomb. Hostesses are Irene Mitchell and Linda Chalus. We hope you can join us!

P.W. is responsible for Sunday morning liturgists for the month of February.

We would like to keep in touch with our college students to let them know their church does not forget them while they are away. Please make their school addresses known to us by putting them in the P.W. box in the office.

The Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Blackhawk Presbytery is Sat. April 5th at Westminster-Joliet - mark your calendars!!

Planning ahead: We will be collecting layette and young children's clothing for Sunset Gap in Tennessee again this spring. When sorting drawers and closets keep this in mind and keep the gently used items for this collection. The thrift shop always has a need for gently used home decorating items like towels, bedspreads, quilts, curtains, etc.

FOOD PANTRY BUNNY BASKET PROJECT

Bunny Baskets will be made and filled on Sunday, March 9th.

Please save gallon milk plastic jugs - rinse them well and remove labels (fill with hot water and peel off or heat with a hair dryer and peel off). Also remove any sticky residue left behind from the label glue. (Goo-Gone works well). Bring your jugs as soon as possible so we can get started cutting. We have 80 jugs left from last year. The food pantry counts on at least 200 baskets-last year we sent 264. We also have 3 large bags of grass on hand. We will need gift items to fill the baskets - candy, bubbles, yo-yo's, sidewalk chalk, jump ropes, crayons, activity books, small games, etc. Bring your glue guns, glue sticks, and scissors. We will do this project following Sunday worship and potluck* (Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass).

Do plan to join us in fellowship as we have fun doing this service project for our community.

POTLUCK COMMITTEE IS THE MISSION COMMITTEE: Carol Shaver. Carol & Ralph Freebairn*, Monica & Fred Blue, Kathy & Don Fox, Relynn & Phil Olivero, Bev & Don Scharlau

Reminders ...

There are still several mailboxes that are quite full - have you checked yours lately? Also, please be courteous of others using the office and clean up after yourself.

Things to do ...

LENTEN ECUMENICAL POTLUCK AND WORSHIP AT WALTHAM

We will be hosting one of the Ecumenical Lenten services again this year. *There will be a potluck dinner on Wed., February 27th at 6 p.m. prior to the worship service at 7 p.m.* Please come and join us for this wonderful time of fellowship with our local community of faith.

The committee: Ralph & Marlene Moshage*, Bonnie & Tom Walsh*, Ross & Ellen Wilson, Ida & Paul Brown, Phil & Andrea McConville, Dave & Jan Edgcomb, Jean & Ray Jones, Kathie Kleckner, Mary Sundberg.

The Ash Wednesday topic is The Ears of Christ.

Ecumenical Services Schedule

		<u>Location</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
2/13/08	LaSalle Congreg.		Betty Delgado
	Theme: Eyes		
2/20/08	Trinity UCC		Gary Stillwell
	Theme: Hands		
2/27/08	Waltham Pres. Church		Jen Wilson
	Theme: Heart		

*Things to do cont' ...*Ecumenical Services Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
3/5/08	Spring Valley UCC	Alton Lewis
Theme: Feet		
3/12/08	Zion UCC	Chuck Maney
Theme: Mouth		
Good Friday 3/14/08		
12:30	either Trinity or St. Paul Episcopal	
Preacher: Roy Backus		Theme: Body
7:00	Grace United Methodist	Roy Backus
Theme: Body		

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Youth mission trip is July 20-26 — Mission Indy, Indianapolis, Indiana. Deadline for sign up is February 10, 2008. Grades 7 through High School.

Please contact Eric Mertes to sign up!

MEETING REPORTS

SESSION

December & January Session Report:

*The Session held a special meeting Dec. 23rd before worship to approve the baptism Kaia Johnson who was presented by her parents Jason and Becky (Mertes) Johnson for baptism during worship.

*The Session held an abbreviated regular Dec. meeting after worship on the 23rd with all members present. It was voted to approve for payment the Pastor's employee business expense of \$175.09 and his mileage expense of \$533.01 for the time period of November 15 – December 22, 2007.

*It was voted to purchase the equipment for a satellite internet connection and wireless router for

the Church with the funds for the equipment to come from the memorial fund and the monthly service of \$49.95 to come from the general fund. The Trustees will be consulted as to the positioning of the satellite dish in the yard between the church and the manse.

*The meeting adjourned with prayer at 11:55 a.m.

The Session held its regular January meeting on the 9th at 7:08 p.m. with all members present.

*Communications and the treasurer's reports were received. The minutes of the November 14 and 18th, December 23rd Special and regular meetings were approved.

*The Pastor's EBE of \$37.10 and Mileage of \$230.32 for Dec. 22, 2007 – Jan. 8, 2008 was approved.

*It was voted to approve the participation of youth in a work trip to Indianapolis July 20-26.

*It was voted to concur with the Christian Ed. Committee request to have Vacation Bible School June 16- 20th.

*Reports were also received from the Mission, Music & Worship, Stewardship committees and the board of Trustees and Deacons.

*It was voted to have Ordination and Installation of new officers on January 20th. Both the active and the inactive rolls of the Church were reviewed. It was voted to approve the liturgical calendar for 2008.

*It was voted to give from the general fund \$50.00 for advertisement of the ecumenical service on January 20th at the St. Bede School.

*It was voted to set the Benevolence portion of the 2008 budget at \$23,000.00 which was the same as 2007. It was voted to pay the 2008 per capita of \$5187.42 to Blackhawk Presbytery for the 179 members of the church which is divided as follows: \$1036.41 to General Assembly, \$599.65 to Synod, and \$3551.36 to Presbytery. It was noted that this is an increase from \$27.20 in 2007 to \$28.98 per member in 2008.

Session cont' ...

*It was voted to call a congregational meeting for February 10th following worship to review the annual reports for 2007 and present the 2008 Budget.

*Because of the passing of Florence Setchell and Thomas Sroka it was voted to remove there names from the rolls of the Church.

*The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:30 p.m.

Albert Hagenbuch, Clerk of Session

TRUSTEES

See Annual Reports

Stewardship & Finance

No report received for this publication.

Benevolence Fund

See Annual Reports

DEACONS

See Annual Reports

Memorial Fund

Memorials have been received for Christa Jones Demo, Willard McLachlan, Tom Sroka, and Donald B. Finley.

Joyce Anderson, Memorial Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

See Annual Reports

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education Committee Meeting
November 13, 2007

Decorate cookies for shut-ins December 2nd
Youth Christmas program December 9th at 12:15.
Final practice is December 8th. Lunch provided after the final practice.

Christian Education Committee Meeting
January 8, 2008

Dena elected moderator and Karen secretary.
A date for a Teacher meeting will be set up.
Next meeting is February 5, 2008.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Mission Committe Report for January 8, 2008

Mission Committee meet 01-08-08. Members present were Relynn Olivero, Janet Delaney, Carol Shaver, and Monica Blue, and Rev Roy Backus.

Budget for 2008 was discussed and Budget forwarded on to Stewardship and Finance Committee for approval.

Discussed the need for monthly financial giving updates to be added to Mission Committee's monthly reports.

Rev. Backus is working on details for possible mission trip with Gulf Coast Presbytery for continued work with post Katrina clean up.

Rev Backus will further investigate and report back to Mission on Money to Go to refugees in Rockford

Discussion had about how PADS shelter project (serving and preparing meals once a month) is going. Things have gone well. October thru January were all covered by volunteers.

Mission cont' ...

February is still in need of volunteer to provide a vegetable and drink. March 12, still needs volunteers to serve, provide a entree, vegetable, salad, and drink. April 9 has all the volunteers needed. Sign up sheet is on bulletin board in narthex.

Monica Blue read a letter from Githiga acknowledging the money they received from Waltham and thanking Waltham for their continued support of their school. Monica will post the letter on the front bulletin board in the narthex.

Easter Bunny Baskets will be done again for the Food Pantry. They will be put together at the after the Church Potluck on 03-09-08.

Next Misssion Committee Meeting Scheduled for February 12, 2008

April 19-20 – Applesed Program at Buffalo Rock Shutter Supply – for more information, contact Jon Papineau at 815-434-7138

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.

Scout Master Bob’s Corner

Upcoming Events

January 29 – Troop Meeting 6:00 P.M.
Potluck & Court of Honor
February 2 – AT Trail Hike – Mattheson State Park
February 5 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
February 6 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.
February 12 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
February 15-17 – Troop Winter Fishing Campout @ Ingersall Scout Reservation
February 19 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
February 20 – Troop Committee Meeting 7:00 pm
February 23 – Troop Chili Supper
February 26 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
March 4 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
March 5 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.
March 7-9 – Troop Campout
March 11 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
March 18 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
March 25 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Nursery Workers

February 2008

February 3

Tom Olivero
Wendy Olivero

February 10

Dave Deutsch
Diana Deutsch

February 17

Tim Mertes
Nikki Mertes

February 24

Volunteers Needed, contact
Heather Freebairn

February Birthdays

- 1 Kevin Cole
Darlene Larabee
Stephan Tomaseski
- 2 Grace Hendrix
- 3 Nick Barto
Linda Gage
Carol Kleckner
- 4 Dula Mae Carder*
Donald Finley
Rachel Foster
Dale Wilson
- 5 Carol Freebairn
- 6 John Munson
- 9 Pat McManiman
Gary Setchell
Emily Backus
- 10 Maxine Cole*
- 12 Joshua Brown
- 13 Paige Lilian Tomaseski
- 15 Kristen English Bailey
- 17 Ida Brown
- 18 Ross Wilson
- 19 Wylie Anderson*
Sarah Schweers
- 20 Ruth Sroka
- 21 Waynea Finley
- 22 David Young-Gaul
- 23 Laura Hagenbuch
Isabella Hagenbuch
- 24 Sabrina Bedenko
Eric Mertes
- 25 Christine Finley
Johanna Munson
- 26 Shanna Lukas
- 27 Malcolm Whipple*
Karissa Insco
- 28 Jillian Casford
Tom Walsh

(Please leave a note on the desk in the office if there are any additions or omissions from the Birthday/Anniversary lists.)

February Anniversaries

- 09 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Veit
- 10 Mr. & Mrs. Fred Blue
- 21 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Kinzer*
- 24 Mr. & Mrs. Warren Munson

Texts and Sermons

February 2008

Transfiguration Sunday, February 3, 2008

The Call to Worship: Psalm 2

The First Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18

The Second Lesson: Matthew 17:1-9

The Sermon: "The Brilliance of God
which Transcends Time"

Throughout the Lenten Season we will look at the Old Testament texts which highlight Gospel conversations and then address them in relationship with New Testament texts of the Gospel.

Ash Wednesday, February 6, 2008

The Call to Worship: Joel 2:1-2

The First Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The Devotion: "The Call to All Christian
Believers"

1st Sunday in Lent, February 10, 2008

The Call to Worship: Psalm 32

The First Lesson: Romans 5:12-19

The Second Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

The Sermon: "The Reality of Temptation"

2nd Sunday in Lent, February 17, 2008

The Call to Worship: Psalm 121

The First Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

The Second Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a

The Sermon: "The Gift that Overpowers
All Others"

3rd Sunday in Lent, February 17, 2008

The Call to Worship: Psalm 121

The First Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

The Second Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

The Sermon: "Cutting Ourselves Off"