
The Waltham Courier

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February 2009

A Family Journal

Volume MMIX, Number 02

Presbytery Meetings

February 10 - Morris
May 12 - Belvidere
September 8 - Waltham
November 9+ 10 - Stronghold

Texts and Sermons for February 2009

Feb. 1

Duet. 18: 15-20	Psalm 111
1 Cor. 8: 1-13	Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 8

Isa. 40: 21-31	Psalm 147: 1-11, 20
1 Cor. 9: 16-23	Mark 1: 29-39

Feb. 15

2 Kings 5:1-14	Psalm 30
1 Cor. 9: 24-27	Mark 1: 40-45

Feb. 22

2 Kings 2 :1-12	Psalm 50
2 Cor. 4: 3-6	Mark 9: 2-9

Serving Our Church

New lists have been posted for Ushers, Liturgists & Coffee/Juice. Please disregard the old lists; there have been some changes. Keep in mind, your group is responsible for finding someone to do the job. That person does not have to be part of your group.

Ushers - Decorating Comm.
Liturgist - Deacons
Coffee/Juice - Stewardship & Finance

March

Ushers - Session
Liturgist - Choir
Coffee/ Juice - Deacons

April

Ushers - Choir
Liturgists - Session
Coffee/Juice - Trustees

From Your PNC

The Committee on Ministry has Oked our CIF. We must wait to receive a PIN number from Louisville. Once we receive that, we may enter our CIF online at PCUSA.

Thank-you

Thanks to the men who worked so hard cleaning the sidewalks & parking lot, so we could have Lindsey's shower.

The Small Family

February

Rev. Young and Rev. Backus, thank-you so much for coming to the hospital and to our home to see Norman when he was sick. He really appreciated the visits.

Thanks to the ladies that prepared the delicious dinner after the funeral under the conditions you were working under.

Mary, thank-you for playing the organ and Andrea for the beautiful song you sang.

Rev. Young, thanks so much for your part in the service. Rev. Backus, thank-you for such a beautiful and meaningful service and for coming the night Norman died.

We are so blessed to have such a wonderful church family. It meant so much to us.

Janet & Family

Many Hands Make Light Work

The funeral dinner team lists are posted in the narthex - please review your information and make any corrections. In order to continue this ministry to our church family, we hope more of you will be willing to add your name to the lists. Men and women are both welcome to be part of this ministry. Questions - call Bev Scharlau, 667-4970.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

P.W. will meet Thursday, February 26th at 9 a.m. in fellowship hall. We will work on our meeting schedule for 2009 and hope to do a hands-on project! We encourage all women to join us!!



The 2009 Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women "GOD WILL DO WONDERS AMONG YOU" will be held in Louisville, KY, July 11-15. This is an international gathering of women held every three years. There is financial assistance available-check the pink sheet on the narthex bulletin board. It is an awesome experience!!

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.

FOOD PANTRY BUNNY BASKET PROJECT

Bunny Baskets will be made and filled late March

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. The food pantry counts on at least 200 baskets-last year we sent 266.

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). Watch for more information in the Sunday Bulletin and in the March Courier.

Information Please

Please try to have any announcements for the Sunday Bulletin to me by Thursday of that week. Courier information can be submitted any time during the month, but by the 21st. Leave a note in the secretary's box in the office or e-mail me at <walthamchurch@pcwildblue.com>

Thank, Kathie



MEETING REPORTS

SESSION

December & January Session Report:

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a regular meeting on January 13, 2009 at 8:54 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Bill Love. Members present - Dave Edgcomb, Bonnie Walsh, Eileen Hagenbuch, Ida Brown, Ralph Moshage, Bruce Brown, Bev Scharlau, and Clerk Ida Brown were present. Kathie Kleckner was also present.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Bill Love. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Communion was served to 883 people.

After discussion a motion was made to approve the 2009 budget. The budget will be presented at the annual meeting in February. The motion carried.

A motion was made and approved to send \$750.00 to the Heifer Fund in honor of the 2008 baptisms and \$250.00 to Githiga.

A motion was made and approved to send \$1,000 to Presbytery to complete the 2008 mission pledge.

A motion was made and approved to allow the Mission Committee to use an additional \$4000.00 from the Benevolence Fund for local mission.

A motion was made and approved to set the annual congregational meeting for February 15, 2009.

February 1 is Scout Sunday. The Scouts will participate in the service.

A motion was made and approved to hold the next Session meeting on February 10th at 8:30 (after the 7:00 committee meetings).

A motion was approved to adjourn at 10:01 pm. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Love.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

TRUSTEES

Monthly report from Trustees:

- Getting bids to repair floors and ceilings damaged by the frozen heating system pipe fitting. Thanks to Mike from Mucci-Kirkpatrick and all those who showed up to man the squeegees, wet vacs, and sort through soaked stuff. We also set up tables and chairs. We have received a check from Cincinnati Insurance.

- Completed repairs to the storm drain tile, found tree roots blocking flow north of manse. Thanks to Dwight Munson and those who manned the pumps, squeegeed the floor again and replaced the tables and chairs. It took two days of digging to find the clog. Thanks to Gilda for knowing where the drainage maps were. We are making copies now to keep in the boiler room with the architectural drawings.

- Replaced 2 bathroom sink faucets in manse

- Discussed backup generator for church building, \$3,500 to \$5,500 plus installation. Getting readings for load capacity requirements at this time.

- Snow removal and sidewalk de-icing seems to be our constant focus lately.

Dave Deutsch, Trustee Chairman

Stewardship & Finance

No report received for this publication.

Benevolence Fund

See Annual Reports

DEACONS

The Deacons talked about ways to help people in our congregation that may be in need. We continue to focus on our Family Ministry plan. We made up the schedule for the Deacon of the month.

Memorial Fund

Memorials have been received for Norman Small and Donald B. Finely.

Joyce Anderson, Memorial Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

See Annual Reports

Please note: any contributions should be given to Ross Wilson or Lois Edgcomb for recording/deposit. Please make a note if this contribution is for a special purpose such as Food Pantry or Youth Group. Thank-you.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

See Annual Reports

MISSION COMMITTEE

Scout Master Bob's Corner

Upcoming Events

Jan. 27 – Troop Court of Honor & Potluck 6:00 P.M.

February 3 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 4 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 5 – Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 P.M.

February 10 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 17 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 18 – Troop Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.

February 19 – Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 P.M.

February 20-22 – Troop Campout – Caving

February 24 – 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 Workers

February 2009

February 1

Tom Olivero

Wendy Olivero

February 8

Dave Deutsch

Diana Deutsch

February 15

Tim Mertes

Nikki Mertes

February 22

Amy Ploch

Valerie Blue

Kaitlyn Small

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 Drew Depenbrock
- 19 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
AnnMarie Depenbrock
- 27 Malcolm Whipple*
Karissa Insko
- 28 Jillian Csutoras
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

Pray For Our Church and PNC

Early in December 2008, a commission of Presbytery gathered in Minonk, IL, to help close the doors of the Minonk Church. A few days before, the Grand Ridge Church building was sold. In 2005, the Holcomb Church closed. About three years ago, I attended one of the last services in Ladd Church. In the early 1990's, Presbytery closed the Troy Grove Church. Drive to the north of Prairie Center to see what does happen to Presbyterian Churches. Only a few old members remain who remember No. 6 north of Troy Grove. We are surrounded by rural small town churches that have closed. We have work to do.

Those old rural churches, like grain elevators, grocery stores, blacksmith shops, etc., were originally at crossroads only as far apart as a horse could walk in a couple of hours. We have no members left who can

remember when our church corner had two cemeteries, a blacksmith shop. A post office, and a few homes. Waltham Township had nine one room schools and over 200 students when our township had about three times our present population. Even fifty years ago, we had 250 members who lived almost exclusively within a 7 mile radius. Our present members, less than 200, come from Earlville, to Granville and Ottawa to Mendota, over 30 miles in diameter.

Malcolm Whipple

Remember Our Members

New addresses. Please take a minute to send a card. Scott is the son of Ralph and Marlene. Irene and her family were members until they moved to Waterman in the late 1960's.

Irene Kleinmaier
Shabbona Health Care Center
US Route 30
Shabbona, IL 60550

Moshage, Scott
1st BDE ABP ETT
FOB Hughie
APO,AE 09310

Reminder

With all of our funerals and pot luck dinners, we have collected a large number of dishes on the counter in the kitchen. Please take a minute to check if any of them belong to you. There are dishes, towels, a crock pot & a square picnic basket.

Youth Retreat at Stronghold

We had a group of 19 go to the Barrick (Walnut lodge @Stronghold retreat center in Oregon, IL.

We left Friday night, and settled into bedrooms and had some snacks, and got to know everyone.

Games, led by Veronica Blue, followed by Bible study session(s) led by Eric Mertes.

Our study sessions started out with a few songs led by the musicians, which included Andrea

McConnville,(guitar and vocals) Teresa Cofer, (guitar player from previous Saturday night worship services) Tom Wilson (guitar) and Ellen Wilson (Congo drum and vocals), followed by prayer and Bible study led by Eric Mertes.

Saturday morning started with prayer with scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage, prepared by Marlene Moshage and Jenny Wilson, and cereal & homemade cinnamon rolls donated by Naomi Munson.

We got to build our own sandwiches for lunch, with assorted luncheon meats, toppings (lettuce, tomato, mayo, mustard, etc...) and chips n cookies n assorted munchies donated by church members (THANK YOU!) And for dinner we devoured several extra large pan pizzas and large multi topping pizzas, donated by the Presbyterian Women's group. (THANK YOU again!)

We had several study sessions and games and music and worship and prayer. And plenty free time where multiple activities were enjoyed, individually and in groups. And plenty munchies n snacks N treats donated by generous church members.

We got to know a little more about God's Word and each other and can't wait til the next one!

Thank you to Waltham Church and all the individuals who help make it happen. To God be the glory,

And may Jesus Christ be praised!

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the first One Great Hour of Sharing, begun as American Christians recognized the need to respond to the worldwide devastation caused by World War II. Just as we stepped up in a new way then, today we face crises whose threat of global devastation calls us to act anew with creativity and generosity. Both the growing problems of climate change and the international financial crisis are likely to have a disproportionate impact on the world's poorer people, in many places threatening their very survival.

Yet today, as sixty years ago, One Great Hour of Sharing offers hope for those most hopeless: we walk towards recovery and wholeness with those whose lives have been shattered by disaster; we stand with communities facing the slower crises of hunger, disease, unemployment, and environmental degradation that make them vulnerable even before disasters strike. In sharing resources with people in need around the world, we not only witness God's love in action in their lives, but feel it moving in our own. (Source: 5 for 5 flyer, Mission In-terpretation, Presbyterian Church (USA))

Contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing have come back to Blackhawk Presbytery in the last year to support flood relief and assist with recovery after the shootings at Northern Illinois University.

From Blackhawk Presbytery Connections



2009 Celebrations

2009 makes the 200th birthday of our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln. We are celebrating with an new series of postage stamps featuring Lincoln. The penny will see changes as well. The reverse side will feature 2 different stages of Lincoln's life. Be on the look out for them. Check out the web site <www.lincoln200.gov> If you haven't made it to Springfield and the Abraham Lincoln Museum, do so. My personal favorite is "Ghosts in the Library". Don't forget our own LaSalle County Historical Museum in Utica has Lincoln exhibits as well.

2009 will also mark the 500th year of the birth of John Calvin. The Web site for PCUSA states "his monumental contributions to theology, church government, education, language, music and politics as well as the more troubling aspects," Calvin strongly believed in singing hymns in church, but he excommunicated people for dancing at social gatherings.

