

---

# The Waltham Courier

809 N. 3450<sup>th</sup> Road, Utica, IL 61373

815-667-4611 (Office phone & fax)

www.walthamchurch.org

waltham@ivnet.com

---

January 2007

---

A Family Journal

Volume LVII, Number 01

---

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

From the Pastor:

It's the time for making resolutions. Yes, I've made mine. It came while I was being weighed at our family doctor's office for my physical. When I went for a screening for a very near future medical test, the first thing they did there was weigh me. Sure enough I hadn't started my New Year's resolution yet. Yes, I will keep it. Yes, it will be difficult. Yes, I'll need encouragement from family and friends. We'll see how well "we" did by April or May.

The New Year offers us an opportunity to decide to do something different with our lives. All of us have habits, opinions, practices, issues, histories, present situations, and/or relationships that need work. By setting aside a special day to mark the beginning of a New Year, it allows us to rethink and resolve to do a little differently in one of the areas. Some folk say that people never change, and that resolutions are a waste of time. Although I'm only an antique so far—that is I'm only 57—I've lived long enough to know that people can change. It takes a recognition that life cannot stay the way it presently is, and that action on some level must be taken.

The resolve for action is one which can never be kept alone. A long time ago, Alcoholics Anonymous discovered that

there were several steps which one had to follow in order to rearrange life and place healthy habits in the place of unhealthy ones. I believe the most important steps, after admitting that something has to change, are; the recognition that there is a higher power who gives strength when we don't have it; the need to have accountability to someone, usually through a sponsor; and the need to help someone else as you go through your program. Notice that all three force the person to recognize that they cannot defeat the habit alone. It is with others' assistance that true life changing habits are formed. We are not meant to live alone nor to make it alone.

I know; I know! People hate to admit that they can't do it alone. That's why some folk never change! They refuse to give in to their need for God. They refuse do the hard work to find someone accountable to help them. They forget their own need to help someone else.

We all know someone who has actually turned their life around by taking the steps to recovery seriously. They're the same steps we need to take in order to complete our New Year's resolutions.

I don't know where you are, but I encourage you to take a little time. Take advantage of a new start, and start anew in your authentic living for Christ through this church family and in your own family too.

Blessings and Prayers for 2007,  
Pastor Roy C. Backus, Ph.D.

***Waltham Presbyterian Church is on the Radio now.***

Well, at least we're being represented there. At least two families have found our church because they enjoyed the radio opportunities which we've used. We are serving the community in two ways.

***WLPO--1220 AM***

Once a month Pastor Backus is featured on the You, Jim and Lou program. This is a public interest program which airs from 11:05 until 11:25. Pastor Backus and Jim and Lou use this as an opportunity to ask some straight forward questions of faith as well as some pretty difficult issues in present day faithful living. Our time slot is usually the third Thursday of every month. (In December it had to be the third Tuesday, because Pastor Backus went to celebrate one of his daughter's graduation from college on the third Thursday.) A generous gift was seed money for this time slot. It covered four months at \$250 a show. If you're willing to help in this ministry, it is an opportunity to get the message of this wonderful congregation to the Illinois Valley audience. Several women at the Christmas Tea made a special effort to mention that they had heard and enjoyed the information and inspiration given during these conversations.

***WKOT- FM***

Twice a day we are represented by Pastor Backus's "Just a Minute" devotional thoughts. This has been a very successful program after only three months. There have been many individuals who have gone out of their way to express their positive opinions concerning the use of these minutes of inspiration. People are discovering our church in another way. An example of a one minute devotional the month of December is:

**Got Sixty-Seconds? Here's "Just a Minute" I'm Pastor Roy Backus.**

**Sometimes we get surprised for Christmas. The other day while I was preparing for an IVCC Jazz Ensemble concert, I realized that my parents gave me my alto saxophone on Christmas Eve 1966. That's 40 years ago!**

**My parents explained that they simply didn't have the money. They were going to give me a new, leather bound Bible instead. How could a 16 year old preacher's kid be upset if his folks were going to get him a Bible for Christmas?**

**The Bible size box was under the tree, and inside it was a note to look in the back hall closet. I ran through the house crying, and sure enough, there was my new saxophone. That saxophone helped me through college, the Viet Nam conflict, and still brings me joy today. It's a reminder of the love and the sacrifices of my parents on my behalf.**

**I encourage you to look into the gifts and to the givers in this Season of the year and express your love for the givers.**

**Thanks for taking just a minute to listen. I'm Pastor Roy Backus, of Waltham Presbyterian Church.**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women will meet ***Thurs. Jan. 25th at 9 a.m.*** in the fellowship hall. Linda Chalus and Marilyn Laatz will hostess. We will continue with the Bible Study in Genesis. "Perspectives on Sibling Rivalry - Cain and Abel." Do plan to join us in fellowship and study.

THANK YOU to all who helped in any way for another successful "Come to Christmas" Tea. Thanks to the cookie bakers, the child care givers, the kitchen crew, for participating in the program

and for inviting a friend and attending. It is a special day for all!!

*Thank you for supporting the Angel project. \$225.00 has been sent to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. for hurricane relief.*

### **Make a Note ...**

Session will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. Next meeting will be January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please mark your calendars.

### **Reminders ...**

If you are using the copier in the office for *personal purposes* a small monetary donation per copy is requested. We want to keep the copier accessible to everyone, but it does take money to keep it running and we are way over our copies as outlined in our contract with Copy All. There is a designated container in the office for the monetary donations. Thank you for your cooperation.

**All Annual Reports, and the budget for 2007, will be posted in the February 2007 Courier. Please submit your information for publication as soon as possible.**

### **DECORATING COMMITTEE**

We thank you for sharing your poinsettia during Advent and thank those who helped prepare the sanctuary and other areas of the church for the season.

***We will be taking things down on Sunday, Jan. 7th following worship.*** If possible, please plan to help!! We plan to pack things by room, so it is easier for those responsible to put them up next year.

### **Things to do ...**

***YOUTH RETREAT  
(JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH)  
at Stronghold Castle, Oregon, Illinois  
January 5, 6, & 7, 2007***

***Don't forget the upcoming retreat to Stronghold.*** Your money is due \$30/youth & \$20/each additional youth from a family. Permission slips are in the Youth mailbox in the church office.

This retreat will mark the beginning of ***Confirmation which will last 12 weeks and end on Palm Sunday, April 1, 2007.*** All Sixth Graders and older youth who wish to participate need to plan to attend the retreat for the big jump start.

***Confirmation will be every Sunday following worship.*** Pastor Backus encourages all Confirmands to begin memorizing the Books of the Bible (in order), the Apostles' Creed, and The Lord's Prayer. Please contact Pastor Backus if you wish to participate in this Confirmation.

\* Note ... you will need to bring your Bible, sleeping bag, clean clothes, toiletries, towel(s), a positive attitude, and lots of energy!

**\*\* Please see the sign-up easel in the Narthex for items that are needed for this trip \*\***

### **Adult Discipleship Study Options!**

There are a great many wonderful folk who love to make converts, but we in the Presbyterian tradition prefer making disciples. Disciples are individuals who work together as they follow the Savior in every area of their lives. It can be easy to say, "I believe", but it is more demanding on a person to practice and study the belief. It takes discipline and dedication to study, reason, pray, and apply the Christian life. That's why we believe that everyone grows in discipleship through the study of the Bible, the major disciplines of Christian living, and the issues of transforming daily life into a life of following for the Savior.

We are offering the following discipleship opportunities to our adult church members.

**1) *The Sunday School offers two choices for adult discipleship.***

First is the on going Lectionary study group which meets in the upstairs lounge. The Lectionary identifies the texts for each Sunday's worship on a rotating schedule. There's always an Old Testament reading, a Psalm, an Epistle, and a Gospel reading for each week. They balance and inform one another and focus on the events which surround the Christian yearly calendar.

Second, we will be beginning a Christianity 101 course which the pastor will teach in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a 6 to 8 week course covering the basic beliefs of the Christian faith. It is a great opportunity for the basics of Adult confirmation and/or brush up on the doctrines which identify us as Disciples of Christ. In addition, this will be an opportunity for folks who are interested in joining the church to find out what we Presbyterians believe which makes us a little different than our other brothers and sisters in Christ.

**2) *Monday nights are our special time of adult discipleship.***

We will be beginning a study on prayer. The title of the study is "Living Prayer". If there was ever a time when the people of God need help in prayer and its practice it is now. We will cover the basics prayer in a seven week study. There are workbooks which help lead a person in their personal prayer life, and we'll divide into small groups to share what we learn as individuals and together. This study meets from 7 to 8 p.m.

**3) *Monday nights is the time when we also offer the study of the Letter to the Romans.***

This letter is a very challenging one, because it looks at Paul's later, mature theology, and the student is challenged by his inspirational use of the Old Testament quotes, the role of law and grace, the work of the Holy Spirit, the role of the nation of Israel in faith history, as well as many other challenging aspects of our faith. The Book of Romans was the center of St. Augustine's

conversion and understanding of grace. It was in the study of Romans that Martin Luther was spiritually awakened to grace. And in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Karl Barth, the great German Presbyterian theologian, found the answer to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century chill in Protestant faith. It was a renewed understanding of God's grace in Jesus Christ.

We encourage you to come grow with us as we grow, not simply as converts to a doctrine, but as people who have "followship" with Jesus as his disciples.

## **PICTORIAL DIRECTORY**

Do you ever see people in church and wonder what their names are? Have you ever heard an announcement regarding a member and wished you could put a face with a name? Are you new to our church and wish you had something to help you put names with faces? Well, help is on the way!

We are producing a pictorial directory for our church. There is no cost to you or the church to have your photographs taken, and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory for participating.

You will be able to view your images electronically immediately after you are photographed. At that time, you will have the opportunity to purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends. We look forward to "seeing you in pictures!"

To make our directory a success we need volunteers. Eileen Hagenbuch is coordinating the volunteers for our new directory. If you are interested in helping during our photography sign-ups, telephoning our members, or serving as a host or hostess during the actual photography sessions, contact Eileen at 667-4846.

### ***Directory cont'd ...***

We are accepting sign-ups for photography and protrait viewing sessions for ***Thurs. Jan. 25,***

*Fri. Jan. 26, and Sat. Jan. 27, 2007.* See our sign up information center in the narthex on Sunday mornings. Bring your calendars and sign up soon!! We ask that you allow an hour for your sitting and to arrive 10 minutes early to check in.

*Please note - If scheduling is a problem for you on these dates, we may be able to have your photo taken at another nearby church in the weeks prior or following our scheduled dates. If a photo is submitted by you, there is a \$10.00 fee to be included in the directory of our church family and that enables you to receive a copy of the directory.*

*If there are 5 or more in your family, it is suggested that you sign-up for two(2) time slots to allow enough time for your group photo.*

Please call Eileen @ 667-4846,  
Kathie Kleckner @ 667-4349 or Bev Scharlau  
@ 667-4970 if you have any questions.

We pray all families will participate in this project so it will include everyone and be a complete tool for the work of our church.

approximately \$125.00 with the funds coming from the general fund.

It was voted to approve the Rev. Backus' expenses of \$431.19 for his trip to Washington DC. as part of his continuing education. It was voted to approve Rev. Backus' employee business expense for 10/19 – 11/21 of \$356.95 and mileage expense of \$ 781.86 for 10/19 – 12/12/06.

The annual review of the rolls of the Church was accomplished.

It was voted to allow the Cub Scouts to put up a bulletin board on the East wall of the fellowship hall between the furnace room and the storage room.

It was voted to authorize the Clerk of Session to sign the Annual reports to Presbytery.

It was voted to elect Albert Hagenbuch to be Clerk of session for 2007.

*The next Session meeting will be January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.* The meeting adjourned with prayer at 12:40 p.m.

Albert Hagenbuch, Clerk of Session

## MEETING REPORTS

### SESSION

December Session Report:  
The Session held its December meeting December 17, 2006 after worship at 11:35 a.m. with all members present including elders elect David Edgcomb and Ralph Moshage. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Backus. The minutes of the October 17<sup>th</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved as amended.

It was voted to look into the possibility of acquiring an audiovisual projector and screen for the Church Sanctuary.  
It was voted to have communion Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> during a service at 5:00 pm.

It was voted to purchase advertising in the News Tribune for the Christmas Eve Service for

### TRUSTEES

Trustees met Dec. 12th with 4 members present, two excused and welcomed newly elected Scott Freebairn.

Roof repair was done Nov. 21st and 22nd. We pray our leaks are gone!  
A lift was rented to oil the ceiling fans in the sanctuary - thanks Jeff and Mark!!

#### *Trustees cont'd ...*

A thank you to Dave Wilson for helping get the parking lot and drives cleaned out after the big snowfall!!

Dec. 5th and Dec. 12th the boiler system and the manse furnace were checked over.

Dave Wilson and Bev Scharlau are completing their 3-year terms and we welcome Dave Deutsch and Scott Freebairn.

Next meeting Jan. 9th at 7 p.m.  
Trustee for the month of January is Jeff Ficek

be discussing a potential new strategy in ministering to the congregation through Deacon family ministry. We will be evaluating to see if this process would best serve our church.

\*Note - the Decorating Committee is in charge of coffee and juice after worship for January 2007.

### **Stewardship & Finance**

No report received for this publication.

### **Benevolence Fund**

No report received for this publication.

### **DEACONS**

December 2006

The Deacons met twice this month. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, we had a “Deacon Training” with Pastor Backus. Five (5) Deacons were present to discuss our role in the church through guidelines set out by Scripture and The Book of Order.

On December 12, four (4) Deacons were present as we welcomed Eric Mertes and Phil McConville to the Deacon ministry. We also thanked Bruce Brown and Marilyn Laatz for their years of service. They will be missed but we know their ministry will continue.

We reviewed the procedural duties of our office such as Communion preparation, Baptismal preparation, visitor greeting, and an overall care for the congregation.

Ways to improve our service to the church were also discussed. Some ideas included having brief training seminars on various tasks of the Deacon. This would improve our effectiveness to minister to others in need. Additional fellowship times were also discussed, such as card parties and shut-in visits. In the upcoming weeks and months, we will

### **Memorial Fund**

No report received for this publication.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Account Balances as of 11/30/2006:

General Account	\$ 6,098.23
(including \$4,000 from spec. bldg)	
Special Building	\$ 9,107.93
Youth Work Trip	\$ 421.84
Sunday School Savings	\$ 351.13

Diana Deutsch, Treasurer

### **MISSION COMMITTEE**

No meeting for the month of December 2006.

Happy New Year!

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*To: All Sunday School Children*

**Do you know where your money goes that you put in your blue Sunday School offering envelope?**

The money that you put in here is used to pay for a young man, just like you, to go to school in Africa. Without your support, he wouldn't be able to go to school.

Another portion of your money goes to the Heifer Project, each time someone is baptized in our Church.

Your money is also spent to do fun things with you – bowling parties, curling, retreats, and lock-ins. As you can tell, when you give money to the Church, God makes it grow to help people all over the world. In order to keep doing these important works, we, your Christian Ed committee, need your support. If you want to make sure your money gets used in the ways listed above, make sure you use your Sunday School envelope every week. Thanks for helping support all of these activities.

**Scout Master Bob's Corner**

**Upcoming Events**

- December 26 and January 2 – No Scout Meetings
- January 3 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- January 9 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- January 11 – District Roundtable in Peru 7:00 P.M.
- January 16 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- January 19-21 District Klondike Campout
- January 23 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- January 30 – Troop Potluck and Court of Honor 6:00 P.M.
- February 6 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- February 7 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- February 8 – District Roundtable in Peru 7:00 P.M.
- February 13 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- February 16-18 – Winter Camp at Ingersol Scout Reservation
- February 20 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- February 21 – Troop Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- February 27 – 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**  
**January 2007**

January 7

- Albert Hagenbuch
- Relynn Olivero
- Nathan Olivero

January 14

- Rita Van Drimmelen
- Bob Van Drimmelen
- Rachel Van Drimmelen

January 21

- Dena Ficek
- Marlene Moshage
- Nick Moshage

January 28

- Scott Freebairn
- Heather Freebairn
- Joshua Brown

**January Anniversaries**

- 31 Mr. & Mrs. Pat Hughes

**January Birthdays**

- 1 David Christopher
- Yvonne Geil
- Ross Wilson
- 2 Norma Jann

- 4 Phyllis Mertes
- 5 Cole Wesley Freebairn
- 7 Sue Hughes
- 8 Anthony Brown
- 10 Monica Blue
- 11 Kerstie Lukas
- 12 Wendy Deutsch
- Dave Wilson
- 13 Dawn Hess
- 14 Melvin Hagenbuch\*
- 15 Emily Lukas
- 18 Bruce Brown
- Benjamin Kiner
- 19 Carol Hallead
- 20 Robin Leonard
- Irene Munson
- 22 June Kinzer
- Phillip McConville
- 24 Luke Mertes
- 25 Jeffrey English
- 27 Annabelle Skoog
- Jenny Wilson
- 28 Tanner Chapman
- 29 Daniel Baker
- Ardelle Hagenbuch
- Serah Lukas
- 31 Robert Geil

**7 Baptism of the Lord**

- The Call to Worship: Isa. 43:1-7
- The First Lesson: Acts 8:14-17
- The Second Lesson: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- The Sermon: "A Stepping Beyond Prophecy"

**14 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- The Call to Worship: Isa. 62:1-5
- The First Lesson: 1 Cor. 12:1-11
- The Second Lesson: John 2:1-11
- The Sermon: "Water, Wine, and Saying 'OK'"

**21 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- The Call to Worship: Neh. 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
- The First Lesson: 1 Cor. 12:21-31a
- The Second Lesson: Luke 4:14-21
- The Sermon: "Straight Forward Truth"

**28 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- The Call to Worship: Jeremiah 1:4-10
- The First Lesson: 1 Cor. 13:1-13
- The Second Lesson: Luke 4:21-30
- The Sermon: "A Brief Swim-Up Stream"

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

**Deacon of the Month**

**Trustee of the Month**

January - Jeff Ficek

**Texts and Sermons**

**January 2007**