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# The Waltham Courier

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July/August 2008

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A Family Journal

Volume LVIII, Number 01

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## From The Pastor's Desk ...

A Few Lines from the San Jose, G. A. . . .

Saturday evening I sat next to Evelyn, a sixty something elder from Washington State. The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, a 39 year old, energetic new church development pastor in San Francisco, was elected as the moderator of the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church on the second ballot. Although we knew nothing about him other than a few lines in some of our church's information, it was clear to us and the other observers around us, that he was by far the most articulate and delightful of the four nominees for the office. That really amazed us, because all four men were qualified, but Rev. Reyes-Chow's presence and gracious wit could not be overlooked. Although many of the commissioners disagreed with him on several issues, he clearly stated his love for and willingness to serve the entire church.

Sunday Morning I sat with Elder Frank Jackson from San Francisco. Originally he came from the South Side of Chicago. He accepted the Lord when he was in the Korean Conflict. The worship was phenomenal to us.

It was held in two huge auditoriums, but large screens allowed us to "visit and witness" the other setting throughout the service. Both places had wonderful musicians who presented the same musical selections. It overwhelmed me. It's been a long time since I participated in a service with a 150 plus choir, accompanied by brass, a pipe organ, and hundreds of congregational voices. The words and melodies of differing styles washed over my soul. I found it difficult to sing, because the feelings were just too great. The presence of the Holy Spirit through his people was amazing. The sermon of the Rev. Joan Gray, the Moderator of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, titled "The Impossible Commandment" was simple and clear. She engaged the hearts n minds of everyone.

Monday began the committee meetings in earnest. Since the Overtures to the General Assembly concerning the ordination of gays and lesbians was the most controversial, I decided to attend and see how it would be addressed. There were folk on all sides of the issue, and I was amazed at their graciousness while holding radically differing positions. I listened for about three hours and outlined the differences which were in four general areas. The four areas were personal experience, biblical authority, discrimination and the definition of natural. Most impressive to me were the articulate young folk who spoke.

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The second most controversial topic is the New Form of Government report and recommendation to the General Assembly. The rationale behind the change was stated in terms that something had to change in a church that is losing folk year by year. (Personally, I believe that church growth or loss has very little to do with church government. Church growth is secondarily an issue of a church's geographic placement, and primarily a church's commitment to serving the Savior and people.) There was a great deal of debate over differing approaches to the how we should be organized and accountable to one another. The major shift in the new FOG, (Form of Government), is away from the National Church to the Presbytery and Local churches.

Well, it is 6 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Other events of interest during this week have centered around my new racially and theologically diverse acquaintances whom I met on my many six mile bus trips to and from the San Jose Convention Center. (Orbitz was wrong when it said the motel was only .4 miles from the Convention Center.) This California valley really does have wide range of differing folk in it. I've met old friends, (one whom I thought died two years ago), met new creative folk in our church, debated several theological and polity issues with differing folk, ate all kinds of food, read seven books that I finally had time to read, relaxed a little, and prayed for the

Waltham Church and my family in light of the present movement of the Holy Spirit. I have approximately 24 more hours here in San Jose which

will include another worship service, attending a few more committee meetings, eating at the Blackhawk Presbytery dinner, saying, "Good Bye", to old and new friends, and packing up all the literature and information to bring home.



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During Monday afternoon worship, I sat next to The Rev. Gavin Finefield, a young Presbyterian minister from our very own Presbytery of Blackhawk. The worship was accompanied by a guitarist who composed short devotional choruses which fed the soul. The melodies and words were devotional in nature, simple in phrasing, and soothed the soul. The Rev. Thomas Daniel, a new church development pastor from Atlanta, Georgia, preached. His message titled, "A Thin Place", was playfully delivered and powerful in content. He spoke of walking with the Lord here and now.

Blessings to everyone back home, and the Lord bless y'all,

Interim Pastor Roy C. Backus,  
Ph.D.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

P.W. will resume their scheduled meetings on **Thurs. Sept. 18th at 9 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Have a great summer!!

Beginning this fall, P.W. would like to keep in touch with our college students. Please share their addresses with us and we will take it from there.

## THANK YOU's

My brothers, and Ron and I would like to thank everyone for their visits, calls, food, & prayers since the loss of my mother. A special Thank You to Pastor Backus for all the visits, prayers, and the Memorial Graveside Service. All our families felt blessed.

God Bless All,  
Linda and Ron Chalus

We thank all who donated food, paper products and monetary support for our suppers served to the children and staff for Vacation Bible School.

We fed nearly 50 students plus the staff. They loved the fruit and cookies each evening. Our menu was: Mon. Hot dogs & chips, Tues. Ham & Turkey sandwiches with cheese slices on the side, Wed. Chicken fingers & chips, Thurs. Spaghetti & Jell-o jigglers and Fri. left-overs. Kitchen crew: Don & Bev Scharlau, Janet Small, Anne Backus, Rita Whipple, Ruth Sroka, Carol Shaver, Eileen Hagenbuch, Bob & Rita Van Drimmelen, Mary Small, Marilyn Laatz and any others that pitched in when and where needed!!

Thanks to all!! AND thanks to Ida Brown for the special desserts she brought two evenings for the staff!!

### **REMINDERS ...**

#### **MISSING ORANGE DRINK COOLER**

During VBS we noticed we have only one large orange drink cooler in the kitchen. We once had three and know of discarding one because it leaked. Anyone have information about the other??

Give Bev Scharlau a call - 667-4970 Thanks.

### **THINGS TO DO ...**

Communion Breakfast will be on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

The committee for this is: Albert & Eileen Hagenbuch\*, Skip & Joan Klinefelter, Ann Backus, John & Bonnie Kinzer, Mark & Janet Lynn Delaney.

\*denotes Chairman

Watch for more details in the upcoming bulletins!

### **MEETING REPORTS**

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Christian Education Committee Meeting  
June 10, 2008

Present: Dena Ficek, Rita Van Drimmelen, Karen Pillion, Lois Edgcomb, Eileen Hagenbuch, Sue Hughes

\*Still need Teachers and substitutes for the fall.

\*Graduation and Teacher Appreciation Sunday was May 18.

\*Ordering Bibles for Rally Sunday, September 7.

\*VBS June 16-20.

\*Mission Indy: July 20-26.

\*No scholarships.

\*Baptisms: June 1/Jessica Lynn Reel

***\*Next meeting is August 12, 2008.***

### **BENEVOLENCE FUND**

Benevolence Balance        \$ 6,562.79

Linda Chalus, Benevolence  
Treasurer

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer report for the month of May:

5 deposits/credits -        \$ 103,433.74

22 Checks/Debits-        \$    7,019.65

Ending Balance for May    \$ 108,557.02

Keri Sundberg,  
Treasurer

### **DEACONS**

No report received for this publication.

### **TRUSTEES**

No report received for this publication.

**MISSION COMMITTEE**

No report received for this publication.

**YOUTH UPDATE**

No report received for this publication.

**MEMORIAL FUND**

No report received for this publication.

**STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE**

No report received for this publication.

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Barto
- 13 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Walsh  
Mr. & Mrs. Ross Wilson
- 14 Mr. & Mrs. Dean Robinson
- 16 Mr. & Mrs. David Hagenbuch
- 21 Mr. & Mrs. David Wilson
- 20 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Hendrix
- 29 Mr. & Mrs. Tony Mertes
- 31 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Brown

**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Kathie Kleckner
- 4 Robert Anderson\*
- 5 Brian Barto  
Clarissa Barto
- 6 Jean Jones
- 7 Brett Klein
- 8 Karli Wensel
- 9 Monty Whipple
- 10 Rev. Lawrence Athorn
- 14 Johnathan Hagenbuch
- 16 Logan Finley
- 17 Dave Deutsch
- 18 Anne Finley
- 19 Paige Anne Hahne
- 20 Kyle Videgar  
Christina Whipple
- 24 Mark Whipple
- 25 Lynn Leonard
- 26 Tylyn Jude Chapman  
Matthew Olivero  
Paul Young
- 27 Steve Kleckner

- Jennifer Wilson
- 28 Harold Kinzer\*
- Russell Finley
- 30 Steve Wilson  
Daniel Ostrowski
- 31 Alexa Finley  
Kim Freeman

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Depenbrock
- 2 Mr. & Mrs. Ray Jones
- 4 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Edgcomb  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Anderson\*
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. J. Davis Small\*
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Finley
- 24 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dapkus
- 27 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Mertes
- 28 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Small

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 Jim Feuerborn  
Lindsey McConville
- 5 Esther Funk
- 7 Kyle Jordan Small
- 8 Paul Hess
- 10 Joe Kinzer  
Roger Laatz
- 11 Natalie Hallead  
Brian Robinson  
Greg Whipple  
Kathy Muckey
- 12 Norman Small
- 16 Douglas Carder
- 20 Reilly Muckey
- 21 Albert Hagenbuch
- 22 Ruth Ann Brizgis  
Dena Ficek  
Angela Givens
- 25 Don Scharlau
- 26 Marilyn Laatz  
John Thomas Walsh
- 28 Gary Morrison  
Tom Ostrowski

**Scout Master Bob's Corner**

**Upcoming Events**

June 24 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
July 1 – Troop Meeting/Troop Leader Elections  
7:00 P.M.  
July 8 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
July 13-19 – Summer Camp at Ingersoll Scout  
Reservation  
July 22 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
July 29 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
July 30 – Troop Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
August 5 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
August 12 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
August 13 – Troop TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
August 19 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
August 26 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
Sept. 2 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

**SCOUTS**

Sept. 3 – Troop TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
Sept. 9 – Troop Potluck/Court of Honor 6:00  
P.M.  
Sept. 13 – Labor of Love

**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.**

New address:

PFC Papineau, Joshua  
A.Co3-10 Inf. Bn 3rd PLT Roughriders  
495 Iowa Ave. Unit #15  
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS**

JULY 2008

July 6

Tim & Nikki Mertes

July 13

Amy Ploch  
Katilyn Small  
Valerie Blue

July 20

Ann Backus  
Lois Edgcomb  
Joshua Brown

July 27

Tony & Phyllis Mertes

AUGUST 2008

August 3

April & Jessica Medley  
Judy Applebee

August 10

Albert Hagenbuch  
Relynn & Nathan Olivero

August 17

Bob & Rita Van Drimmelen  
Rachel Van Drimmelen

August 24

Dena Ficek  
Marlene & Nick Moshage

August 31

Scott & Heather Freebairn

**TEXTS AND SERMONS**

JULY

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**July 6, 2008 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 45:10-17  
THE FIRST LESSON: Romans 7:15-25a  
THE SECOND LESSON: Matt 11:16-19, 25-30  
THE SERMON: More Than Words and Sayings  
(THE HEBREW LESSON:  
Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67)

**July 13, 2008 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 119:105-112  
THE FIRST LESSON: Romans 8:1-11  
THE SECOND LESSON: Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23  
THE SERMON: Choosing Sides: Election and  
God's Sovereign Plan: Doctrinal Hints  
(THE HEBREW LESSON: Genesis 25:19-34)

**July 20, 2008 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 139: 1-12, 23-24  
THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 28:10-19a  
THE SECOND LESSON: Matt 13:24-30, 36-43  
THE SERMON: When Spiritual Contact Is Made:  
The Call that Leaves Its Mark  
(THE EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 8:12-25)

## **JULY TEXTS**

**July 27, 2008 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 128  
THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 45:1-15  
THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32  
THE SERMON: Keeping Promises  
(Gospel Lesson: Matthew 15:21-28)

**August 24, 2008 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 124  
THE FIRST LESSON: Exodus 1:8-2:10  
THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:1-8  
THE SERMON: A Step Beyond  
(The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16:13-20)

**August 31, 2008 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 105:1-6 and 45c  
THE FIRST LESSON: Matthew 16:21-28  
THE SECOND LESSON: Exodus 3:1-15  
THE SERMON: Calling Names  
(The Epistle Lesson: Romans 12:9-21)

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

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THE FIRST LESSON: Matt 13:31-33 & 44-52  
THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:26-39  
THE SERMON: The Indestructible Foundation  
(The Hebrew Lesson: Genesis 29:15-28)

## **AUGUST**

**August 3, 2008 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 17:1-7 & 15  
THE FIRST LESSON: Romans 9:1-5  
THE SECOND LESSON: Genesis 32:22-31  
THE SERMON: Wrestling: The Sign of True  
Belief  
(Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:13-21)

**August 10, 2008 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 105:1-6 and 45c  
THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28  
THE SECOND LESSON: Matthew 14:22-33  
THE SERMON: Dreams and Possibilities  
(The Epistle Lesson: Romans 10:5-15)

**August 17, 2008 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 133

We welcomed 50 children to Cokesbury's Beach party - "Surfin' Through the Scriptures" Vacation Bible School, June 16 - 20<sup>th</sup>.

With each session, surfers met at the Surf's Up! Skit assembly and from there they visited different activity centers around our "beach". They experienced a Bible Story, learned songs, made crafts, ran off energy with the Rockin' Recreational Games, and enjoyed a tasty supper at the Snack Shack. Everyone learned to surf on the turf and surf through God's word, come to know Jesus, and develop new Beach Be-Attitudes: Be Obedient, Be Kind, Be forgiving, Be Bold, and Believe!

Our staff consisted of (crafts & pictures) Dena Ficek, Mary Ann Small, Kathie Kleckner, Linda Chalus, and helpers; (music) Alexis Ferracuti, Jacki & Tiffany Wasilewski; (games) John, Nick, & Kristin Fox; and Teachers (pre-school) Karen Pillion and Clarissa Barto; (K - 2) Lois Edgcomb, Ida Brown, and Ann Backus; (3-6) April Medley, Marlene Moshage, and Pat Hughes;

(7-12) Eric Mertes and Andrea McConville. Suppers were co-ordinated by Bev & Don Scharlau, and many other helpers.

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Tractor/Wagon rides were provided by Bruce & Roberta Brown. Skit deco - Monica Blue, Dena Ficek, and MaryAnn Small.

The Surf Skit was performed by Valerie Blue, Kailtyn Small, Emily Ficek, Kyle Small, Grace Backus, and Jessica Medley with Monica Blue as skit director.

A very special "Thank You" to Ida Brown for all the delicious desserts.

It was a "Surfin'-Fun Beach Party" week and I would like to thank all the people who donated food and their time for the children of our community. You have brought the children, as well as all the participating adults, into a closer relationship with God and each other. What a blessing to the community. Thanks be to God!

In Christian faith,  
Monica Blue, VBS Director

## **VBS Crafts**

Dena Ficek and Mary Ann Small were in charge of crafts. On Monday, all the classes made picture frames. A beach scene was set up in the Fellowship Hall. Kathie Kleckner took photos of each child. These photos were placed in their frames. The younger children made door hangers and name tags in the shapes of surf boards and palm trees. Older students painted turtle banks and made keepsake boxes decorated with shells.

On Wednesday, everyone decorated their T-shirts. The younger children ended the week by writing messages about VBS and placing them in plastic bottles. The older students used colored sand to fill wave bottles.

**VBS-PRESCHOOL** What a week! The energy of preschoolers is amazing! We had 11 children this week: Noah, Samantha, Brett, Emma, Joey, Luke, Dawson, Cole, Grace, Kara, and Ashton. We read our Bible stories "at the beach," with beach balls, a pool, and beach towels. We read about obedience in the Call of Gideon, the kindness of King David, forgiveness in The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, boldness of the Woman Healed, and believing in the story of Jesus and Thomas. We also talked about

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creatures we might see at the beach—clownfish (yes—Nemo), starfish, oyster, turtle, and sand dollar. We did some coloring and worked in our activity books. And, yes, just played sometimes, too. Hopefully the kids enjoyed this week with us—they are very special to God and to us!

Thanks to Sue Hughes for helping this week. Also, thanks to Alexis, Tiffany and Jackie for their help.

Karen Pillion and Clarissa Barto

## **VBS K - 2**

Our week was a very fast swim through the Bible. We were in the book of Judges learning of Gideon. This told of the importance of OBEDIENCE.

The next day we were in II Samuel and heard of Mephilosheth (which I found very difficult to say!). This told of KINDNESS.

On our third day we traveled to Matthew and heard of the unforgiving servant, and how important it is to FORGIVE.

On our fourth day, the book of Luke showed us how a woman who needed healing was not afraid to touch Jesus. We have to be BOLD and ask the Lord for help.

Our last day we went into the book of John. This told us of the importance of BELIEVE... not to be a Thomas.

There were 16 enrolled in this class, all with much energy and enthusiasm for life and the Lord. I had a great week with them and was so glad that my two faithful helpers were there... they were Ida Brown and Ann Backus. One day Eileen Hagenbuch as also there.

The class consisted of the following: Jack & Emma Mertes, Katie Stoneking, Emma Freebairn, Caleb Tomaseski, McKenna Rietgraf, Lewis Johnson, Andrew Csurtots, Madison Aimone, Cade Ploch, Jordan & Jacob Orvanik, Emily Backus, Charity Munson, Ryan Skoog, and Abbey May.

Lois Edgcomb

## **VBS 3-6**

We started out the week with 15 children and our numbers varied from day to day with the lowest of 9: Austin Cooper, Lacey Johnson, Emily Ficek,

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Jessica Medley, Chris Moshage, Johanna Munson, Mellisa Nickel, Kyle Small, Johnathon Stachowiak, Owen Stoneking, Drew Towne, Tyler Towne, Hannah Uranich, Max Uranich, Jackie Walsh, and Jacquelynn Wendal.

We met some very interesting people from the Bible: King David, Gideon, Thomas, and also learned of the wonderful, healing, kind, protecting, bold, forgiving, believing love of our heavenly Father. Along the way, we learned some cool science facts and the magic of some of our beautiful creatures of the sea. We learned how to apply these life lessons to our everyday actions.