

The Waltham Courier

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JUNE 2008

A Family Journal

Volume LVIII, Number 05

From The Pastor's Desk ...

A Time of Transition:

Almost four years ago, Ann, the girls, and I moved into the manse and began what was planned to be a one year interim ministry at Waltham. As the time moved along, the interim ministry in this place of service was one which would take more time. We have tackled many issues in these four years. Some were simple, some were complex, some were emotional, some were catching up, some were new thoughts, others were renewing priorities, some were geared to open the church to a larger ministry, and so on. All of them have been interesting, for they offer us all opportunities to show who we are, and how we work with others. The Backus family is truly thankful to be here, and we love this community of faith.

When we arrived, I told the Session that I would always be candid about my thoughts and my ideas for the church. I also promised that I would not "spring" new ideas on them, but instead I would offer thoughts, ideas, ministries, etc., and allow them to think about them for a while before we moved forward together. There were times when I was overruled; times when we brought additional outside information or specialists to speak; times when, after prayer and thoughtfulness,

we moved forward toward new ground for the church.

It's been a wonderful time with the leaders whom you elected through the Spirit of God.

The reality is that I am an interim, and interims have certain essential ministries to complete, and then it is time for them to move. Some of these include doing hard things to make it easier for the next installed pastor. Most of the interim ministry tasks have been fulfilled as of the present. There is a little cleaning up here and there, and we will follow the difficult course of addressing those issues honestly and straightforwardly together.

As I told the Session, I completed my Personal Information Form for the search toward a called ministry on May 25th. So I am in the process of seeking where the Lord leads us. This process does take a while. First there is the matching part which coordinates a church's needs and a pastor's gifts. Then there is the interviewing and getting to know one another phase. Lastly, there is the process of call which is similar to a downhill slalom course. Please be patient with the Backus family while we search.

In the mean time, I will work with the Session and church leadership to help determine immediate and long term priorities and tracking of them for the congregation. This will include some time with the Session, Deacons and the Trustees. In addition, it will take the leadership of the church working with the Committee on Ministry Liaison to get the process of

the church up to speed to look for the next installed pastor.

That takes time too, so be patient with one another.

The Lord knows what he is doing. It just takes a while for us to discover the Lord's path.

Keep me in your prayers, as I will all of you.

The Lord bless you all,
Rev. Roy C. Backus, Ph.D., Interim Pastor

Annual Baby-Bottle Fundraiser - Abigail Women's Clinic, Mendota

Don't forget to return your "Baby Bottle" on Father's Day, June 15th. Please direct any questions to Deacon Marlene Moshage.

MEETINGS ...

All Committee Meetings will be Tuesday, June 10th at 7:00 pm. Plan to attend your respective meeting!

Session will meet on Tuesday, June 3rd at 7:30 pm.

**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**



Presbyterian Women will meet at Delaney's in Oglesby for breakfast at 9 a.m. on Wed. June 25th! This is our last meeting until September. We welcome all to join us.

WE THANK YOU- For your generous contributions to our collection of layette and used children's clothing for Sunset Gap, our mission station in Cosby, TN. The church school children also brought items this year rather than contributing money from their offerings as they had in past years.

REMINDERS ...

SUMMER WORSHIP hours 8:00 am & 10:00 am will begin on Sunday, June 1st and continue through Sunday, August 30th. Make a note of it!

CHANGE FOR LIFE

THINGS TO DO ...

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SUPPERS

We will again serve supper each of the 5 nights of *V.B.S. (June 16 - 20, 5:30 pm - 8:15 pm)*. We appreciate any donation you can make - food, money or your time!!

Check the board in the narthex for needed items. Any questions, please call Bev Scharlau 667-4970. Thank you!!

Summer Sunday School has started.

Same time: 8:45-9:45.

Classes for Pre-school through 6th grade will be upstairs in the classroom next to the office. Teachers are set up with curriculum for a range of ages. If the older kids would like to help in the classroom, that will be appreciated too.

The remaining grades will continue to meet downstairs.

Please let any member of the Christian Ed Committee know if you are interested in volunteering to teach this summer or starting in the fall.

MEETING REPORTS

SESSION

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a special meeting on April 27, 2008 at 9:51 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Backus. Eileen Hagenbuch, Bonnie Walsh, Ralph Moshage, and Ida Brown were present.

It was voted to approve the Baptism of Caleb Stephen and Paige Lilian Tomaseki.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a special meeting on May 4, 2008 at 9:45 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Backus. Eileen Hagenbuch, Bonnie Walsh, Ross Wilson, and Ida Brown were present.

It was voted to approve the membership of Jason and Angelique Depenbrock and Andrea McConville.

It was also voted to approve the Baptism of Jalen Andrew, AnnMarie Elizabeth, and Drew Ambrose Depenbrock.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a regular meeting on May 6, 2008 at 7:31 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Backus. All members were present.

Communion was served.

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

The new treasurer was present and presented options for reports that are available. She will come to the next committee meetings to discuss what the various committees would like to receive for reports.

An endowment for \$96,527.26 was received from the Charlotte Kennedy Estate. A decision on how the use of the endowment was tabled until a later date.

A motion was made and seconded to allow the Kewanee Church to use Waltham as a neutral pulpit on May 25, 2008.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Rev. Backus's EBE of \$131.99, mileage of \$436.82, and Continuing Education expense of \$268.68 for the period April 11 through May 6. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to schedule the pastor housing allowance vote for May 18, 2008. The meeting will be announced May 11 and May 18.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 9:34 pm. The meeting was closed with prayer by David Edgcomb.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

The Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica IL held a congregational meeting at 11:00 on May 18 for the

purpose of determining whether to allow the Pastor nominating committee (PNC) flexibility in determining the terms of call for a new pastor to be either with a provided manse, or alternatively with a housing allowance.

The motion carried.

The meeting was closed at 11:08.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian Education Committee Meeting
May 13, 2008

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

Sunday School/Fall: Classrooms:
Preschool/south half of nursery;
K-1/north half of nursery;
2-4/classroom next to library;
5-7/classroom next to office;
8-High School/Basement

Fall Music: Eileen will check and purchase.

Fall Teachers: still need teachers and subs.

Sunday School/Summer: Curriculum has been ordered and received. Geared toward multi-age group.

VBS June 16-20, 2008. Teacher meeting will be June 1 at 9 a.m. Teachers will get a copy of the schedule of class rotation.

Mission Indy: July 20-26. 15 are going.

Dessert auction raised \$3,203.00.

No scholarships. Baptisms: 5

Next meeting is June 10, 2008.

Congratulations to our Graduates!

8th Grade-

T.J. Chapman	Ben Ficek
Ben Kiner	Kevin Walsh
Kelsey Hayne	Nathan Olivero
Paige Hahne	

L-P High School - Nick Moshage

Sarah Morrow-Hickle (daughter of Mary Ellen Morrow and granddaughter of Bernadine Johnson)- received a Masters of Arts from San Diego State University

Shannon Small (granddaughter of Norman & Janet Small) - received Bachelors Degree in Nursing from Aurora College

DEACONS

The Deacons met on committee night Tuesday. We discussed the Family Ministry project and decided to hopefully start it in September. Kathy and Marlene will meet to make a form to help the Deacons keep track of the families in their care. We will trade lists about every six months and this tracking sheet will help with continuity during the trade. It will also serve to keep us accountable for our ministry. We will plan to contact families (those living in the same household) who are members, families who attend regularly and shut-ins. By August we should have our program planned and refined and will plan to take this before the Session for approval.

We discussed the plans for two services starting in June and how our duties will be taken care of. We

discussed the possibility of a tape ministry. We agreed that the Family Ministry is our goal at this time and we will see if there is a need for a tape ministry as we serve the families and shut-ins of the congregation.

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.

BENEVOLENCE FUND

No report received for this publication.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

No report received for this publication.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report received for this publication.

Scout Master Bob's Corner

Upcoming Events

- May 27 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- May 30-June 1 – Troop Campout – AT Trail 10 mile Hike
- June 3 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- June 10 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- June 12 – Tentative Flag Day Celebration with the Elks
- June 15-28 – AT Trail high adventure trip
- June 17 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
- 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.

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.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ethel Anderson*
- 2 Caleb Gage
- 3 Lori Munson
- 4 Elizabeth Brown
Linda Robinson
Megan Small
- 6 James Wilson
- 7 June Freebairn*
- 8 Rev. Glen Hallead
Shannon Brown
- 9 Douglas Hagenbuch
Emma Pillion
- 16 Kenneth Kinzer*
Gail Munson
- 19 Dan Edgcomb
Nancy Tuftie
- 20 Juanita Edgcomb
- 22 Jessica Small
John Small
- 26 Kalli Steele
Jalen Depenbrock
- 27 Jacob Small
- 28 Rita Van Drimmelen
- 29 Jackie Bailey
Jodie Foster
Sandy Wood

30 Sara Moshage
Leila Croissant

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

1 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Chalus
4 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Young
6 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sroka
8 Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Ficek
12 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hagenbuch
14 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Small
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Murphy
16 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Videgar
17 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Small
20 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Funk
21 Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Videgar
22 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Finley
28 Mr. & Mrs. John Kinzer
29 Mr. & Mrs. Rich Muckey

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

JUNE 2008

June 1

Rita Van Drimmelen
Bob Van Drimmelen
Rachel Van Drimmelen

June 8

Dena Ficek
Marlene Moshage
Nick Moshage

June 15

Scott Freebairn
Heather Freebairn

June 22

Tom Olivero
Wendy Olivero

June 29

Dave Deutsch
Diana Deutsch

TEXTS AND SERMONS

JUNE 2008

Although all Christians say that the Bible is the Word of God, there are many obstacles which stand between Christians and God’s Word. One major obstacle is that many Christians attended Sunday School as children, but they have spent little personal devotional time in God’s Word since those early years. Many adult Christians still carry third or fourth grade understanding of the texts, because they were taught age appropriate understandings of the stories. It’s really important that our reading and understanding of God’s Word mature. A good example is that it’s very sad when an adult child only has a fourth or fifth grade understanding of life or a fourth or fifth grade emotional development. We can’t imagine an adult worker settling for a fourth or fifth grade understanding of his or her work. This Summer we will be focusing on tools to read and understand the Bible.

Each Sunday’s Sermon will highlight a particular aspect of reading and understanding God’s Word. The hope is to add depth in our reading, understanding, and applying God’s Word.

June 1st, 2008

Call to Worship: Psalm 46
The First Lesson: Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-31
The Second Lesson: Genesis 6:9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19
The Sermon: “More Than Fishing: Understanding Story in Faithful Living”
(The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 7:21-29)

June 8th, 2008

Call to Worship: Psalm 33:1-12
The First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-9
The Second Lesson: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
The Sermon: “Calling All Disciples: When God Reaches Toward Us”
(The Epistle Lesson: Romans 4:13-25)

June 15th, 2008

Call to Worship: Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
The First Lesson: Genesis 18:1-15 & 21:1-7
The Second Lesson: Matthew 9:35-10:8-23
The Sermon: “Miracles: The Foundation of Faith”

(The Epistle Lesson: Romans 5:1-8)

June 22nd, 2008

Call to Worship: Psalm 86:1-10 & 16-17

The First Lesson: Genesis 21:8-21

The Second Lesson: Matthew 10:24-39

The Sermon: “The Role of the Outcast: God’s
Provision for the Outsider”

(The Epistle Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11)

June 29th, 2008

Call to Worship: Psalm 13

The First Lesson: Genesis 22:1-14

The Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

The Sermon: “The Last Sacrifice: Types and
Foreshadowing in Holy Scripture”

(The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 10:40-42)