
The Waltham Courier

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March 2008

A Family Journal

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From The Pastor's Desk

. . .

It was an early Saturday morning, and I turned on the television set. There was a familiar face that I knew from High School. There he was speaking in his flannel, checked shirt looking as skinny and physically fit as he did in high school. He was a part of an interview on the religious channel in Chicago. In his conversation he was explaining his life in the Spirit and comparing it to the lack of the Spirit in his church back home in Texas. I listened as he attacked the pastor who obviously was a good guy, but the guy just didn't get it. My high school friend then typified what his pastor had preached and how lacking he was in Spiritual discernment and power. He felt sorry for the pastor who never walked in the Spirit.

It took me a little while to collect myself. First, here was my old friend, now a TV Evangelist celebrity. Second, he really hadn't changed all that much. Third, I knew the message which he stated concerning the ol' preacher wasn't accurate. I'd heard that ol' guy preach too. And this brings us to the fourth point, the ol' preacher he was attacking was my father.

At first I was very angry. After all who gave this TV talking head the right to speak about

my father this way? Then I started asking myself some other questions. How did my friend hear such a different message than I?

How had he continued in the same vein of his past years without adjusting some? How could he, or anyone else for that matter, be so presumptuous in judging another pastor's ministry, motives, and spiritual depth?

Reflecting, I remembered the hours my father spent in prayer and Bible study. His availability to those who called and were in need. His deep compassion for the suffering. His heart break when the church made decisions which would limit its ministry. His late nights. His early mornings. His love of the Lord. His love for people. I even remember my dad helping my high school friend get into college and seminary. Although my high school friend decided he didn't need them.

Then I thought of my high school friend too. I had always admired him. He was a leader in the youth group. He seemed to always have the answers. He was an athlete. He was a popular guy. He commanded an audience.

Well, how was I to resolve my problem? What was I to do? Call the guy up and tell him he was all wet? Call him a liar? Question his motivation for ministry? Attack him as a money grabber using his personality for his own advantage? Smear his ministry? I mean this guy

lied about my dad and his ministry. I prayed.
Thought. And prayed.

The answer was simple. My father's ministry and life stood on their own merit. My friend, for some reason, had not heard the same message nor experienced the same saving grace which others had. Some how, the depth of my father's compassionate character and commitment to the truths of God's Word experienced through the saving power of Jesus just didn't make the jump to my friend's life. So what was I to do? I thanked God for my father. Prayed for my friend. And recommitted myself to continue to minister the best that I can for the Savior.

You see, we're not in charge of others' thoughts or lives. We must give the Lord our own.

The Lord bless you as you live for Him,

Pastor Roy C. Backus, Ph.D.



PRESBYTERIAN **WOMEN**

P.W. will meet Thursday, March 27th at 9 a.m. in fellowship hall. We will continue our Bible Study - Once More, with Feeling from Jonah 3. We hope you can join us!!

We are still looking for addresses of our college students so we can keep in touch with them while they are away at school.

The Spring Gathering of P.W. in Blackhawk Presbytery is Saturday, April 5th at Westminster-Joliet - Mark your calendars!!

P.W. of the Synod of Lincoln Trails Gathering is May 30-June 1, 2008 at Millikin University, Decatur, IL. More information and registration form is on the narthex bulletin board.

These Gatherings are a great opportunity for us to see how our connectional church works and to meet women from all areas and to share ideas. Do consider joining us!!

As mentioned in the last courier, we are again planning to collect layette and young children's clothing for Sunset Gap in Tennessee this spring. So-- as you are sorting and cleaning this spring, keep the gently used items for this collection.

FOOD PANTRY BUNNY BASKETS

On Sunday, March 9th we will complete this project following a potluck after worship. After contacting the food pantry, we are hoping to complete 250 bunny baskets for them to distribute to the families they are serving at this time. We have plenty of grass and the milk jugs we need. We encourage you to bring your gifts and candy to fill them soon, so we are sure we have enough items to make them complete. Bring your glue guns, glue sticks, and scissors and enjoy the fellowship.

POTLUCK COMMITTEE IS THE MISSION COMMITTEE: Carol Shaver*, Carol & Ralph Freebairn*, Monica & Fred Blue, Kathy & Don Fox, Relynn & Phil Olivero, Bev and Don Scharlau. (Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass).

Things to do ...

Easter Lilies/Spring Plants

The Decorating Committee will be purchasing Easter Lilies and Spring Flowers. We do not have final prices yet. The cost should be between \$11 - \$13. Until we have a Church Treasurer in place, ***we are asking you to pay for the plants when placing your order.*** Checks may be made to Dena Ficek or Kathie Kleckner. Order forms will be in the upcoming Sunday bulletins.

THANK YOU'S

A big thanks from Linens of Love!

We collected 14 towel sets, extra wash cloths, and 4 sheet sets for the new Ronald McDonald House. This will be part of the new Advocate Hope Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn.

There will be an Easter Sunrise Service at 7:30a.m. on March 23 with breakfast following at 8:15 a.m.

Come early for worship and breakfast, or come for breakfast and stay for 10:00 am worship.

Easter Egg Hunt

We will do an Easter Egg Hunt after the 10 o'clock service on Easter Sunday. This will be for pre-school through 5th grade kids. Please bring a dozen plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy by March 20 (Maundy Thurs.). They can be left in either the upstairs or downstairs lounges.

Dinner for Eight

With the rapid growth of our congregation, we need additional ministries to meet our needs to learn about the Lord and one another. One great ministry which many churches have employed successfully is called, by various names, but it is basically a "Dinner for Eight."

There are eight adults, four couples or a combination of singles and couples, who covenant to eat together once in a three month period of time. They meet at a different home each quarter. The host/hostess prepares the main course and drinks. The other six individuals prepare the hors d'oeuvres, the vegetables, and the dessert. The time together is centered on getting to know one another by sharing a meal and time together. The choosing of the time and place is up to the group itself.

The goal of the ministry is to widen our relationships in the church and help new people fit in more rapidly.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. You can contact Eileen Hagenbuch or Sharon Reel with any questions. We hope you take the opportunity to strengthen your ties with the congregation and church.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Youth mission trip is July 20-26 — Mission Indy, Indianapolis, Indiana. Grades 7 through High School are invited to participate in this Mission Trip. Please contact Eric Mertes for more information.

MEETING REPORTS SESSION

February Session Report:

*The session held a Special meeting on January 23rd at 5:10 p.m. with all members present except one elder. Also present with an invitation from the Session was Suzanne Finefeld from the presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

*It was voted to approve the budget and present it to the congregation at the annual meeting on February 10th. After much discussion it was voted to compose a letter outlining for the congregation the purposed changes to the Pastor's compensation package to allow for a housing allowance, and to have an informational meeting on March 9th after worship and a meeting of the congregation on March 30th after worship to vote on the purposed changes.

*The meeting adjourned with prayer at 6:30 p.m.

*The Congregation held it's annual meeting following worship on Feb. 10 at 11:10 the meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Backus. A quorum was declared present and Albert Hagenbuch was elected to record the minutes of the meeting. It was voted to authorize the Session to approve the minutes of the meeting on behalf of the congregation. The call for the meeting by the Session was read by the Clerk.

*It was voted to approve all the 2007 financial reports as presented in the February 2008 Courier. It was voted to receive the 2008 Budget as presented in the February 2008 Courier.

Rita VanDrimmelin and Randy Tuftie were nominated to serve on the Church Nominating Committee for 2008. A motion was made and seconded that the nominations be closed, and instruct the clerk to cast a unanimous ballot for Rita VanDrimmelin and Randy Tuftie. The motion

carried. Kyle Videgar was nominated to serve on the Stewardship & Finance Committee for a term of three years. A motion was made and seconded that the nominations be closed, and instruct the clerk to cast a unanimous ballot for Kyle Videgar. The motion carried.

Rev. Backus then asked if there was any other business that needed to be properly brought before the Congregation. There was no other business brought forth and Rev. Backus asked for a motion to adjourn at 11:18.

*The Session held it's regular meeting on February 21st at 5:00p.m. with all members present. The annual report to general assembly, the minutes of the January 9 and January 23rd Session meetings, and the minutes of the Feb. 10th Congregational meeting were all approved.

*The benevolence and memorial treasurer's reports were received. Reports from the Christian Ed., Music and Worship, Mission Comm., and the Stewardship and Finance Comm. were received. It was voted to reimburse the Pastor \$35.00 for local Mission that he had done on the church's behalf with the money to come from the benevolence fund.

*It was voted to authorize a special offering during worship Feb. 24th for the Ill. Valley Flute choir who will be performing a number of pieces during worship.

*It was voted to pay \$19.80 to the Spring Valley Congregational Church for bulletin stock that will be used for the Lenten service that will be held at Waltham with the funds to come from the General Fund.

*It was voted to have baptism on March 16th for Mae Hagenbuch the infant daughter of Johnathan and Kati Hagenbuch.

*It was voted to approve the request for vacation time for the Pastor March 31 – April 7.

*The meeting adjourned with prayer at 6:15 p.m.

Albert Hagenbuch, Clerk of Session

As most of you know I have asked the Session to find someone to replace me as Clerk and I would like to thank everyone that has, over the years, helped me get this job done. I know that some times, on very short notice, I have asked for some to make decisions for their committees or boards that haven't always been easy so I would just like to say thank you again.

Albert Hagenbuch

TRUSTEES

No report received for this publication.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

No report received for this publication.

DEACONS

No report received for this publication.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

No report received for this publication.

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report received for this publication.

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Benevolence Balance \$6,914.83
Linda Chalus, Treasurer

MEMORIAL FUND

Memorials have been received for Florence Setchell.

Joyce Anderson, Memorial Treasurer

MISSION COMMITTEE

Members present were Relynn Olivero and Kathy Fox.

Budget for 2008 was approved by Session.

Discussion on PADS shelter project. Final two months: March & April are both covered by volunteers.

Discussed liturgy & coffee & fellowship months.

Finally, if anyone has a request for the mission committee please contact Relynn Olivero, moderator.

Food Pantry

You can help make Easter dinner special for low-income people in our area by donating to our local food pantry.

Items need: ham, instant potatoes, cake mix and frosting, Jell-o, canned vegetables, canned fruit, pancake mix and syrup

The Easter distribution will be Saturday, March 15th, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Deliveries to the homebound will be on Monday, March 17th.

Thank you for being a part of the solution to hunger in our area.

Scout Master Bob's Corner

Upcoming Events

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.
April 1 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
April 2 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.
April 8 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
April 11-13 – Troop Campout 7:00 P.M.
April 15 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
April 19 – Troop Spaghetti Supper
April 19-20 – Appleseed Program at Buffalo Rock Shutter Supply – for more information, contact Jon Papineau at 815-434-7138
April 22 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.
April 29 – Troop 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.

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

21 Mr. & Mrs. Bob Van Drimmelen
28 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Ploch

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Steve Pillion
9 Rev. Ellsworth Young*
14 Bob Van Drimmelen
16 Benjamin Ficek
18 Brian Funk
Jordan Hayne
21 Linda Chalus
22 Mary Crane
23 Janet Munson
25 Fred Blue
27 Sue Feuerborn
29 John Wilson
30 Jennifer Delaney
Sandra Finley

***Special Birthday greetings to Rev. Ellsworth Young.**

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

March 2008

March 2

Ann Backus
Lois Edgcomb
Joshua Brown

March 9

Phyllis Mertes
Tony Mertes

March 16

Albert Hagenbuch
Relynn Olivero
Nathan Olivero

March 23

Rita Van Drimmelen
Bob Van Drimmelen
Rachel Van Drimmelen

March 30

Dena Ficek
Marlene Moshage
Nick Moshage

TEXTS AND SERMONS

March 2008

March 2, 2008 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

The Call to Worship: Psalm 23
The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
The Second Lesson: John 9:1-41
The Sermon: "You Can Only Drive One
Way!"

Wednesday 3/5/08 7 p.m. Spring Valley U.C.C.

Theme The Feet of Jesus

March 9, 2008 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

The Call to Worship: Psalm 130
The First Lesson: Romans 8:6-11
The Second Lesson: John 11:1-45
The Sermon: "The Secret of Our Christian Faith"

Wednesday 3/12/08 7 p.m. Zion U.C.C.

Theme The Mouth of the Lord Jesus

March 16, 2008 **Sixth Sunday in Lent**

The Call to Worship: Psalm 31:9-16
The First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a
The Second Lesson: Matthew 21:1-11
The Sermon: "Whose Parade Is It?"

March 20, 2008 Maundy Thursday/Communion

Scripture Readings for the Evening are:

The Torah: Exodus 12:1-14
The Psalter: Psalm 116:1-19
The Epistle: I Corinthians 11:23-26
The Gospel: John 13:1-35
The Reflection: "Saying, 'Good bye' to
Jesus"

Good Friday March 21, 2008

Ecumenical Services:

12:30 at Trinity or St. Paul Episcopal

The Body of Christ

7:00 at Grace United Methodist

The Body of Christ

Resurrection of the Lord

Services at 7:30 a.m. and at 10 a.m.

March 23, 2008 **Easter Sunday**

The Call to Worship: Jeremiah 31:1-6
The First Lesson: Colossians 3:1-4
The Second Lesson: John 20:1-18
The Sermon: "Garden Conversations"

March 30, 2008 **2nd Sunday of Easter**

The Call to Worship: Acts 2:22-32
The First Lesson: Peter 1:3-9
The Second Lesson: John 20:19-31
The Sermon: "Let's Go Up Stairs, And Take a
Deep Breath"