

The Waltham Courier

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May 2007

A Family Journal

Volume LVII, Number 05

From The Pastor's Desk ...

The Spring is finally upon us. The memories of last year are still fresh on our minds and our spirits either soar or crash according to our dispositions and how our past Springs have imprinted our lives.

It's amazing how our lives can be shaped by our memories. I remember Springs full of the excitement of school. It must have been very difficult for the teachers to keep all of us youthful type folk together in those later days of the school year. I also remember the freshness of everything in Spring. The earth is displayed in a new carpet of grass, new furniture of blooming trees, and the beauty of the Spring flowers transform the stark winter scene into a joyful color of hope.

But I do know that with the excitement of Spring in some years, other years bring a type of melancholy over our lives. It's difficult when Spring brings the visible and very real presentation of new life, and we don't feel like new life. In those times we may be missing our dearest loved one who was taken from us during the past year. Sometimes we're just plain disappointed in life, and it strikes our hearts with dreadful accuracy. To be quite clear, other than the Christmas New Year Season, the Spring is the time when depression hits the hardest in our society.

So what do we do with this Springtime issue? Well, first, I encourage you to think of the blessings and possibilities that God has before us. The Spring is an opportunity to bring new ideas, goals, and hopes into our personal, but also into our corporate, life together.

Second, it is a time to take stock of our sorrows and place them in the light of God's offering of new life. Sorrow is real. Loss of loved ones and loss of position can crush us. But our Lord knows what loss is all about. The Savior lost his very life for us. Accepting the difficult issues and making the best of them can be as life changing as any of the other positive life experiences which we might have had.

Third, it is a time to touch base with those around us. Knowing that Spring brings new joy or rhythmic unhappiness, we have an opportunity to touch the hearts and lives of those around us. If we're a little more sensitive to the needs of our family and our friends, then we can impact a great deal on the quality of life and the experience of Christ in the lives of folk around us.

I encourage you to share in this opportune time of the year! Share what God brings to your life, and allow others to share with you too.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Roy C. Backus, Ph.D

Announcements

The Pastor's Spring Summer Schedule looks something like this at the present time:

- April 29** Pastor Backus will be preaching at LaRoy, IL. Gary Barber will fill the pulpit.
- May 1-3** Pastor Backus will be in Arlington, TX on a General Assembly training and information seminar led by the PC, USA Board of Benefits.
- May 4-5** The Backus family will be celebration Grace's 12th Birthday on a family outing in Chicago.
- May 20** Pastor Backus will be celebrating the graduation of Havalah, his oldest daughter, in North Carolina. She will be receiving her Associates of Arts Degree.
- July 8-15** Pastor will be visiting with his Mother in Texas. He will leave following the July 8th Worship Services and return sometime following Sunday, July 15th.

celebrates Presbyterian Women's heritage of mission giving.

This year it recognizes five exciting projects involved in three areas of ministry - healing, hospitality and education.

1. Living Waters for the World - Clean Water U Program Expansion, Franklin, Tennessee
 2. Mulanje Mission Hospital-Revovation and Expansion Family Shelter, Mulanje, Malawi
 3. National Organization of Korean Presbyterian Woen-House of Peace, Seoul, South Korea
 4. Hope's Promise Orphan Ministries-Talitha-Kumi Christian School, Arandis, Namibia
 5. Kwangju Christian Hospital - Physical Rehabilitation Ward, Gwangju, South Korea
- The goal for this offering is \$1.2 million

We are again collecting layette items (a list of suggested articles is posted on the bulletin board by the clock in the narthex). We are also accepting new or GENTLY USED children's clothing up to size 6X. These items are either sold in their thrift shop to raise funds to keep the mission programs going or they are given to needy families. *Items should be brought to the church by May 28th.*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

P.W. will meet Thursday, May 24th at 9 a.m. in fellowship hall. We will continue our study of Genesis. You are welcome to join us for fellowship and study.



We will be receiving our annual Birthday Offering during this meeting. It is the 85th year this offering has been received. It

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL BUNNY BASKET

PROJECT On Sunday, March 25th we made and filled 267 Bunny Baskets for the Illinois Valley Food Pantry. Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to make them and fill them and deliver them. We pray they brought joy to many on Easter morning!!

Bunny Basket Project cont.

After doing some research - since 1991 we have taken well over 3,250 bunny baskets to the food pantry. There was no record for 1992, 1993 and 1995. This project started in the youth sunday school class in 1991 through 1995 and then became a church wide project following a potluck. Thank you for bringing grass for next year. There are two garbage bags full in the storeroom. We also have well over 100 gallon jugs already!!

Things to do ...

The Mother/Daughter banquet will be held on Friday, May 11. Please make reservations with Karen Pillion at 815-433-1840 (kpillion@aol.com) or Phyllis Mertes at 815-667-4022. ***Please make reservations by Monday, May 7.*** The dinner this year will be potluck style, with the committee providing the main dish, drinks, plates, etc., and the attendees bringing a dish to pass. Please join us for a fun time together.

Waltham Presbyterian Church V.B.S.

We will have our Vacation Bible School from June 18th - 22nd, 2007. Mark your calendars today and be watching for more information!

Stronghold Summer Camps

During the summer, Stronghold Summer Camps become the place where many friendships and memories are born. Stronghold Summer Camps offer youth opportunities to respond positively to the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, grow in their relationships with

God and one another, and increase their understanding and appreciation for the world around them.

Please see the bulletin board in the Narthex for all the information on Stronghold's 2007 Summer Camps.

Change for Life

Abigail women's Clinic of Mendota (a pro-life Christian Outreach Center) would like you to join in the 6th baby Bottle Fundraiser to help them as they are *changing for life*. By participating in this way, you will give the clinic the opportunity to show those women coming to them that they have a little human being residing in them. Please support this compassionate witness by taking these bottles home and prayerfully putting in your loose change between Mother's Day and Father's Day this year.

The Abigail ministry is 10 years old this year. They are located at the corner of Jefferson and Main Streets in Mendota and have expanded and remodeled their facility. Their ultrasound machine will soon be offering free limited obstetrical scans to show the pregnant women that they have a viable life residing in them. Two nurses are ready to do this and as soon as they get their insurance they can proceed. At this time, the clinic offers free confidential pregnancy test, maternity and baby clothes and accessories, and volunteer lay counseling. They also refer for housing, financial and legal assistance, post-abortion counseling, professional Christian counseling, medical help and adoption agencies. They offer a library where pro-life books and cassettes can be borrowed and videos watched at the facility.

They also provide information that students can use for term paper research.

Marlene Moshage is the contact person for this fund-raiser at Waltham. On Mother's Day, please look for the table in the Narthex with information and baby bottles. Thank you for your interest and support.

MEETING REPORTS **SESSION**

April Session Report:

The Session and the church has had a busy month receiving new members. On March 18th Tony and Wilma Hudman joined the church. On March 25th Mary Sundberg from the United Methodist, Triumph; James and Keri (Watson) Sundberg, James from United Methodist, Triumph and Keri from the Arthur Baptist Church, Arthur, Nebraska; Mathew and Stefanie Sebastian from Federated Church, Sandwich IL. joined the church by transfer and Linda Roether and Judy Applebee joined the church by reaffirmation of faith.

On April 1st the Session met with the confirmands who have been studying with Rev. Backus the past few weeks and the following were received into membership by affirmation of faith: Ben Ficek, Ben Kiner, Grace Backus, Paige Hahne, Tylyn Chapman, Kelsey Hayne, Nathan Olivero, and Kevin Walsh.

The Session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, Ill. held its regular April meeting on the 17th at 8:05 p.m. in the upper lounge of the Church. Rev. Dr. Backus opened with prayer.

Those present were: Rev. Dr. Backus and Elders: Ida Brown, Ross Wilson, David Edgcomb Robert VanDrimmelen, and Albert Hagenbuch. Excused: Ralph Moshage and Nancy Tuftie. Also present was Marlene Moshage.

The minutes of the March 8, 18, and 25 were reviewed and approved. *The next Session meeting will be May 10th.*

It was voted to approve the expense of \$100.00 per month for the next year for an ad in the yellow pages of the area wide telephone directory.

It was voted to allow Marlene Moshage to make available to the congregation baby bottles to use to collect funds for the Abigail Women's Clinic in Mendota to support their work helping pregnant women.

The Session voted to approve the Mission Committee's budget request with the following figures: Labor of Love 500, Food Resource Bank 275, Food Pantry 1500, Treasurers of Life Camp 300, Pads 500, Boy Scouts 150, Community Mission Projects 500, Sunset Gap 300, Githiga Children's Home 3500.

It was voted to approve Rev. Backus' employee business expense of \$322.88 for March 12 B April 8 and Mileage of \$605.28 for 1248 miles March 8 B April 15.

It was voted to authorize Jean Jones to order additional letters to use in the sign in the parking lot for \$202.50 with the funds to come from the memorial fund.

It was voted to approve the use of the Church facilities May 6th by Alexis Ferracuti for a recital and reception.

The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:15 p.m.

Albert Hagenbuch Clerk of
Session

TRUSTEES

Trustees met April 10th, 2007 for their annual meeting. Four trustees were present, as two were absent. At the manse in March, Norm had finished the downstairs bedroom and Jeff Ficek had installed a set-back thermostat upstairs. Dave Deutsch had put the church sign back up at the East 8th Rd. and Rte. 52 junction. It had previously been blown down. Dave also has filled the sink hole in the front lawn with dirt. This will help the mowing service that has already started. The light over the front stairwell looks brighter, as Jeff Ficek had put his delicate cleaning and polishing to work. It looks Great! Thanks to all the trustees who are taking care of serving coffee and juice after worship services for the month of April.
The next meeting will be May 8th at 7:00 p.m. Trustee for the month of May will be Mark Small

DEACONS

Deacon Report for April 2007

The Deacons met on April 10 with four Deacons present. Dave Edgcomb was also present as the Elders= representative. We welcomed Pastor Norm Smith from the Henry Presbyterian Church and thanked him for coming. Pastor Smith was asked to come and share his thoughts and strategies on visiting and ministering to the congregation. Some of the strategies he shared with us included a Personal Invitation Evangelism (PIE) where new visitors would receive a Atreat@ from a member of the congregation as a sort of welcome, Prayer Chain through email to keep people informed of prayer needs, and a Baby Committee to welcome newborns into the church and help out the new parents.

The discussion turned to visiting strategies. He explained different approaches in dealing with different types of people including active members of the church, inactive members,

shut-ins, and new visitors. He also discussed differences in visits between hospitals, nursing homes, and homes. We also asked Pastor Smith his views on Family Ministry Plan. He gave his pros and cons on the plan and emphasized the "Shepherd's Responsibility" it gives to the Deacons.

We thank Pastor Smith for lending us a couple hours to share with us some very valuable information. It appears Henry Presbyterian Church is very blessed to have him. We concluded our meeting in prayer.

Memorial Fund

Memorials have been received for Catherine Brubaker
Joyce Anderson, Memorial Treasurer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

April 10, 2007

Present: Dena Ficek, Sharon Reel, Lois Edgcomb, Karen Pillion, Rita Van Drimmelen

Sunday School:

Curriculum was ordered. Material won't be mailed until July (ordered by May 1 to receive discount, but it is still being written).
Teachers: We are still in need of teachers for the 2007-08 year. We hope all will pray about this service to our youth.

Graduation Sunday and Teacher Appreciation: May 20.

Please contact Karen Pillion at 815-433-1840 or kpillion@aol.com with any names of graduates.

Summer Sunday School will be held this summer. Inter-generational. Fun, interactive. Will be held 8:45 to 9:45.

Vacation Bible School:

Still in need of teachers. Please contact Monica Blue. Please join in this mission outreach to our community. June 18-22.

No baptisms.

Decided again to donate \$100 to Presbyterian Women for Sunset Gap Layette.

Next meeting May 8, 2007

Graduation Sunday and Teacher Appreciation Sunday is May 20. Please contact Karen Pillion at 815-433-1840 or (kpillion@aol.com) with graduates' names.

Please pray about being a teacher for our youth. Teachers are needed for Vacation Bible School June 18-22 (contact Monica Blue) and for the 2007-08 Sunday School starting in September (contact Rita Van Drimmelen).

Also, keep your schedules open this summer for summer Sunday School--same time 8:45-9:45.

Treasurer's Report

No report received for this publication.

Stewardship & Finance

No report received for this publication.

Benevolence Fund

No report received for this publication.

MISSION COMMITTEE

No report received for this publication.

Scout Master Bob's Corner

Upcoming Events

April 24 B Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

April 28 B Troop Chili Supper

May 1 B Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 2 B TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 4-7 District Pathways Campout

May 8 B Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 10 B District Roundtable in Peru 7:00 P.M.

May 15 B Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 16 B Troop Committee Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 18-20 OA Spring Conclave

May 22 B Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

May 29 B Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

June 5 B Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M. This will be troop elections for new officers.

June 6 B TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.

June 12 B Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

June 14 B District Roundtable in Peru 7:00 P.M.

June 15-17 Troop Campout

June 19 B Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

June 26 B 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.

“Mary gave birth to a king, but didn’t complain that no one had made reservations for her at the inn. Serving God means serving Him without guarantees - regardless.”

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

May 2007

May 6

Scott Freebairn
Heather Freebairn
Joshua Brown

May 13

Dave Deutsch
Diana Deutsch
Alexis Ferracuti

May 20

Nikki Mertes
Tim Mertes
Amy Ploch

May 27

Phyllis Mertes
Tony Mertes
Ann Backus

Deacon of the Month

May - Eric Mertes
Assistant - Kyle Videgar

Trustee of the Month

May - Mark Small

He said to them, “Whoever desire to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

Mark 8:34

May Anniversaries

- 1 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Mertes
- 4 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Klein
- 7 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Freeman
- 13 Mr. & Mrs. David Deutsch
- 19 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Leonard
- 21 Rev. & Mrs. Lawrence Athorn
- 22 Mr. & Mrs. John Thomson
- 25 Mr. & Mrs. Shannon Brown
- 27 Mr. & Mrs. Stephan Tomeskeski
- 30 Mr. & Mrs. Brad Mital

May Birthdays

- 1 Dayne Chalus Leonard
- 3 Jack Harrison Kinzer
Jane Young
- 5 Thomas Allen Freeman
Heidi Hughes Hendrix
Sandy Ostrowski
- 6 Tristan Chapman
- 7 Nicholas Fox
Relynn Olivero
- 8 Janet Delaney
- 11 Jon Fox
- 12 Doug Edgcomb
- 14 Maria Mertes
- 15 Gary Baker
- 16 Paige Leonard
- 17 Ellen Wilson
- 18 Tim Wilson
- 19 Leonard Edgcomb
- 21 Tom Small

- Dave Edgcomb, Jr.
- Diane Wilson
- 22 Joyce Anderson
- Barbara Small
- 23 Gary Small
- 24 Shawn Baker
- Valerie Blue
- Raynette Mason
- 25 Mary Small
- Florence Charneskey*
- 29 Eileen Hagenbuch
- 31 Travis Hagenbuch

Happy Mother's Day

Texts and Titles

May 2007

May 6, 2007 **5th Sunday of
Easter**
 CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 148
 FIRST LESSON: Revelation 21:1-6
 SECOND LESSON: Acts 11:1-18
 SERMON: "How to Trump the Law"

May 13, 2007 **6th Sunday of Easter**
Mother's Day and Christian Family
 CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 67
 FIRST LESSON: Revelation 21:10,
 21:22-22:25
 SECOND LESSON: Acts 16:9-15
 SERMON: "The Household of God"

May 20, 2007 **7th Sunday of Easter**
 CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 97
 FIRST LESSON: Revelation 22:12-14,
 16-17, 20-21
 SECOND LESSON: Acts 16:16-34
 SERMON: "Prison Acoustics"

May 27, 2007 **Day of Pentecost**
Memorial Day Weekend
 CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 104:24-34,
 35b
 FIRST LESSON: Romans 8:14-17
 SECOND LESSON: Acts 2:1-11
 SERMON: "It's Not Just About Time"