
The Waltham Courier

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September 2007

A Family Journal

Volume LVII, Number 09

From The Pastor's Desk ...

Well, ya'll have put up with me for three entire years! It proves something, and I'm not sure what exactly that is. It is my prayer that it has a great deal to do with the Lord's working and caring for His church. Here's a few thoughts as we begin our fourth year of ministry together.

My goals in the last three years have centered on several difficult ministries which are not always mentioned out loud. I'll try to clarify them and make them a little clearer.

First, I felt a real need to let this church know that its life is still strong, and its future is brighter than ever. This is based on the Lord himself, but also in the reality of where we are as a congregation and location. As a congregation, the past pastors, and I especially give credit to Pastor Young here, built a solid foundation on long term ministry. This gives a congregation a deeper sense of commitment to one another and keeps the congregation's expectations and feelings toward pastors in general on positive terms. The location of the church has been off the beaten path in

the past—and yes we are still off of most folk's beaten path—but the I-80/I-39 intersection area is beginning to grow numerically. New people. New opportunities for ministry. (We still need our signs up though.)

Second, the recent years had brought a succession of pastors and interim pastors who had eyes on their next job from the day they set foot in the manse. Initially this was true for me too. I was simply going to be here a year and then move on to a job in higher education. I was truthful with you about this, but, by the grace of God, that "sure thing" job didn't come through. The reality of where God placed me was clear. I've been truthful concerning my thankfulness and I've have not looked for other permanent placement while here. I've kept, and am still keeping, that covenant with you.

Third, I've been active and committed to the PC,(USA). In these present times, there are all sorts of folk who take pot shots at our denomination. They may be well meaning, but I do not believe they give opportunity for all sides of many questions to be heard. Basically, I'm an evangelical in the PC,(USA), but I'm often amazed at the anger and the bravado that my fellow evangelicals exhibit. They attack our

attempts at honest conversation, balanced biblical interpretation with Holy Spirit reasoning, and willingness to allow minority positions to be heard and studied. What amazes most is those individuals who bite the very hands of the people who feed them. I find this disingenuous and two-faced. They call the PC,(USA) apostate and then receive funds from the very folk whom they attack.

They do not speak of their love for the Reformed faith as much as the convenience of their history with it. Their comments tend to prove that covenant takes a back seat and fiscal expediency rules in their lives. I've seen it. I've read it. I've listened to it. It saddens me. When I was a Southern Baptist, I was a good one. When I believed that I no longer belonged within that Christian group, I prayed for the Lord to lead where he wished. I'm thankful for my Christian heritage, but I moved on in positive ways. The Lord still uses the Southern Baptist folk, and I'm thankful. As for me, I'm a Presbyterian in the PC, (USA), because God has placed me here. Never have I been asked to compromise my faith in the Lord Jesus, and never have I had to say that the denomination, presbytery or even local church was perfect.

After these years, I am still committed to the ordination vows which express my commitment to Christ, belief in the Scriptures, acceptance of the Reformed confessions, dedication to the larger church and its government, a friend to colleagues in ministry, commitment to living a life of ministry, furthering the peace, unity and purity of the church, serving with imagination, and proclaiming God's Word.

Well, this is enough for now. The Backus family is so very thankful for all that this community of faith has given us. Keep your eyes on the Lord. Hold on. We'll see what the Lord will do through our lives together. Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Roy C. Backus, Ph.D.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We thank you for sharing in the collection of needed items for nurses in school as they deal with a variety of emergencies each day. We pray the children will be made more comfortable with the items we have given.

Waltham P.W. will host one of two Blackhawk Presbytery P.W. Fall Gatherings on Friday, Sept. 21st. Registration begins at 9 a.m.- cost \$7.00. Find a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. We invite you to come all day or just for part of the day. ***The second Fall Gathering is Sat., Sept. 22nd at First Presbyterian-Rockford. Rev. Heidi Johnson, First Presbyterian, Joliet will lead us in "Creative Ways to teach the 2007-08 HORIZONS Bible Study. BRING YOUR 2007-2008 HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY BOOK WITH YOU-ABOVE AND BEYOND HEARING GOD'S CALL IN JONAH AND RUTH.*** Julia Jones will lead a workshop on "Peace & Justice/Hunger", Bev Scharlau will lead "Together in Service" and Marlene Jones will lead "Sharing Ideas Exchange." Each church is asked to bring a program idea or fund-raising idea that has been successful for your P.W.

If you are in Rockford sometime, you may want to check out JustGoods, 201 7th St. It's open Tuesdays thru Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

It is a Fair Trade Marketplace selling decorative items, jewelry, stationary, coffees and teas, chocolates, toys and lovely clothing and handbags...most all of it from other countries!

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEER MORNING OFFICE HELPERS FOR CUTTING ALL THE NAME TAGS FOR THE FALL GATHERINGS!!

Presbyterian Women will be taking orders for pecans and walnuts again this fall as soon as we receive the information about this year's crop. Watch for sign up sheet and further information. Contact Linda Chalus: at 667-4946.

REMINDERS ...

We resume the 10:00 am - only - Worship service on September 9th. Please mark your calendars!

Rally Sunday will also be September 9th. Mark your calendars! See enclosed flyer for more information.

Please remember to post anything pertinent on the calendars in the East hall. This helps us all to remember!

Thank You's

With Love and Gratitude I thank all those of the Waltham Church and Community who contributed so much of time and love preparing for the July 7th Memorial Service for my wife, Cathrine (Katie) and the reception.

I'm grateful for the prayers, support, and concern during Katie's illness and death on February 15th, the many cards, notes, phone call, and memorial gifts.

Your Pastor, Roy Backus, was most helpful by phone with planning, prayers, and pastoral care. Thank you, Roy.

As is well known, of all the places we have lived and served, Waltham became home for Katie and me.

With Thanks and Love,
Dale Brubaker and family

Thanks for all who have participated to support the work of this pro-life clinic. As of July 26, 2007, 16 baby bottles had been returned with a total of \$234.48. A heartfelt thanks for these love offerings from Joyce Fassig, RN, the clinic director. As 25 bottles were distributed on Mother's Day, WE STILL HAVE A FEW BOTTLES OUT in our congregation. Please return them to Marlene Moshage or Phil McConville and we will send them on to the clinic. THANKS SO MUCH!

Things to do ...

A CALL TO ALL INTREPID TRAVELERS!

Have you ever longed to go to the HOLY LAND? Here's your opportunity to make the Bible come alive as you join a group of fellow Illinois Valley Christians as they discover WOMEN OF THE BIBLE next Spring, May 4 - 16, 2008.

This 13 day study tour is sponsored by the Jerusalem Institute for Biblical Exploration. Dr. Jennifer Wilson, the minister of Grace United Methodist Church in La Salle, and Dr. Sam Morris are the experienced and knowledgeable co-facilitators.

With Women of the Bible as your study focus, participants will enjoy a rich program of Biblical sights and sounds - Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Mt. Carmel, Nazareth, Bethsaida, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, Jordan River, Wilderness of Judea, Qumran, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Masada, the Red Sea, Sinai Peninsula, and ending with visits to Memphis, Giza and Cairo in Egypt.

For more details, please see the travel brochure posted on the narthex bulletin board or call Grace

United Methodist Church office at 815-223-1001. It's going to be a great trip!

Labor of Love

We will again be participating in our local Labor of Love on Saturday, September 8th. Please see Dave Deutsch for more information.

Land Of Oz Corn Maze

Camp Fire USA North Central Illinois Council, an Organization that provides a variety of programs for Boys & Girls, invites you to their annual fundraiser ... *Land of Oz Corn Maze*.

The maze will be open Fridays 5 p.m. until dark and Saturdays & Sundays Noon until dark from August 25 - October 28, 2007 (weather permitting).

Admission is \$ 5.00, night hikes are \$ 7.00 and are available by advance registration (6 person minimum). Please see the flyer enclosed and/or the brochure on the Narthex bulletin board for more information.

SAVE A LIFE

If you are between the ages of 18 and 60, here is your chance to save a life. The Medical Foundation of IVCH has given money to place donors in the National Marrow Registry. If you are in general good health and willing to donate either marrow or stem cells to any patient, you could be entered into the registry. Of patients needing these treatments, 70% must use the registry as they are unable to find a match in their family. If you are interested in this opportunity, call 815-780-4619 to have any questions answered or make an appointment. The drive will be held in Conference room A. on September 7th, 2007 from 2 – 6 PM. Thanks to the Foundation, there will be no cost to enter the registry.

New Member Classes ... will begin on September 9th and continue for 6 weeks. Those

interested should meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please see Pastor Backus for more information.

MEETING REPORTS SESSION

Elders meeting July 10, 2007

Present: Dr. Rev. Roy Backus, Dave Edgcomb, Ida Brown, and Nancy Tuftie.

Absent: Ralph Moshage, Ross Wilson, Bob VanDrimmelin, & Clerk of Session Albert Hagenbuch.

Pastor Roy opened with prayer.

MISSION COMMITTEE- wants to send Bibles to Githiga. Also, asked for PADS involvement to provide food and our youth to serve food once a month at the Peru shelter. They will be collecting soon for School Kits.

DEACONS: They are working on a Deacon Prayer List. They will start shut-in visitations and offering communion hopefully in the month of August 2007. They are working on a Family Ministry Plan and after Church Prayer Time with Deacons to deepen prayer time at Waltham.

STEWARDSHIP: No report

MUSIC & WORSHIP: Discussion on Communion Service Breakfast. It appeared to go very well.

TRUSTEES: Doing a good job on keeping things repaired. They were working on a list from the manse and items around the church.

BENEVOLENCE report from Linda Chalus. The balance on hand of \$14,382.69 but they still need to send approximately \$9000. to Africa and \$288. Personal designation giving also to Africa. Also, VBHP we gave 412000 last year & benevolence will wait for Session direction.

Session cont'.

A computer is needed for the Church office. One bid has been received and Dave Edgcomb will solicit other bids and bring back quotes to next meeting.

Pastor's business expense of \$326.89 were approved and seconded. Motion Carried.

Blanket Sunday dates were discussed and approved for October 14 & November 11.

Dave Edgcomb closed in Prayer @ 9:05 P.M.

August Session Report:

The Session held its August meeting on the 16th at 7:00 p.m. with all members present except one. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Backus.

The committee reports were received.

It was voted to have the Presbytery Women meet here Sept. 21.

It was voted to allow the Presbytery Committee on Ministry to meet here on October 16th.

It was voted to approve Rev. Backus' employee business expense for of \$140.18 and mileage expense of \$ 430.19 for 7/28/07 – 8/16/07.

It was voted to allow the Mertes family to use the church facilities on May 17th 2008 for the purpose of having a wedding for Maria.

It was voted to remove Myrtle Davis from the rolls of the Church.

The next Session meeting will be Sept. 13th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned with prayer at 8:45 p.m.

Albert Hagenbuch, Clerk of Session

DEACONS

July 2007 Deacon Report

The Deacons met at 7:00 pm on July 10 with four Deacons present along with our Elder representative. Our first item of discussion was an evaluation of the coffee and juice fellowship time

Deacon's cont'.

throughout the summer services. As a group we felt it was working well and should be limited to in between the two services. It was also noted that the cup supply was running short and we would all bring in more.

The Deacon's Prayer List that appears in the weekly bulletins was also discussed. It was felt by the group that the list really did not involve Deacons as much as it should. It was suggested that the

monthly Deacon's phone number should appear in the Courier in order to open communication between the congregation and the serving Deacon. Another concern dealing with the list involves following up with the people on the list. It would be helpful if the list was kept current and we would be kept up-to-date on the person's condition.

Our third topic of discussion pertained to Shut-in visitation. As a group, we felt we have had trouble getting the ball rolling. It was suggested that we might take a group approach in visiting our Shut-ins. The best time to meet as a group appears to be after worship on Sunday mornings. We are currently looking to do this at least once a month and possibly providing communion to the Shut-ins.

Welcoming new visitors was discussed next. We felt this has improved but could use another boost. It was noted that the Deacon at the door handing out bulletins tends to see everyone and notices if there are any new faces in the group. That Deacon should let other Deacons in attendance know of any new visitors and introduce them. This would help break the ice for new folks and open the lines of communication to our church. It was also suggested having follow-ups with these visitors by bringing some symbol of our church (cookies, pie, sun-catcher, etc.) to them at their homes to thank them for worshipping with us. Pertaining to the outreach program, printing new brochures was briefly discussed.

Deacon's cont'.

The last item on our agenda included the after worship prayer time. It was noted that the attendance has been minimal and ways to increase attendance were discussed. We felt that a set time and place would increase attendance. It was determined that the prayer time should be at 11:15 am in the upper lounge. This would allow people to commune with each other for 15 minutes prior to prayer. Another brief prayer time prior to worship was also discussed. It was suggested that a brief 5-10 minute prayer time with the Pastor was desired to prepare our hearts for worship. This prayer time would be a 1-on-1 prayer with the Pastor.

It was also determined that training was needed in regards to implementing a Family Ministry Plan. Training would require about 4-5 hours. It was suggested that possibly a Saturday in August would suffice if our schedules allow.

The meeting adjourned around 8:15 pm with prayer.

DEACON'S PRAYER TIME

One of our goals as deacons for this year has been to strengthen our commitment to corporate prayer.

So we would like to invite any member of our worship community to join us for a few minutes of sharing and praying together each Sunday. We will be meeting in the upper lounge after the 10:00am service. A few of us have been meeting together this summer (kind of a trial run) and it's been a great way to build bonds of trust and fellowship. It is a very informal gathering with no rules or requirements...only a willingness to BE THERE and BE BLESSED! We'll look forward to seeing you!

ADDRESS

Christa Demo
U of C Hospital
5841 S. Maryland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60637-1470

MISSION COMMITTEE

The committee met on the designated committee meeting evening. The following is a report of what is going on with Mission Committee work in our church.

In order to give more visibility to our projects and to keep you all informed, we will be using the Minute for Mission time more regularly.

The school kits project is in its final stages. We have enough supplies and have surpassed our goal. We will be able to send over 70 kits to Church World Service. The church youth will be assembling the kits shortly.

\$275.00 has been sent to the Food Resource Bank.

\$500.00 has been given to the Labor of Love project sponsored by United Way., Our church will again have a team. Our committee will be responsible for providing a lunch for the workers. Any help will be much appreciated.

We will be working on the meal a month for the PADS shelter in Peru. A sign up sheet is located in the narthex...those who are willing to help will be asked to prepare food and/or serve if needed. The youth group and advisors will help with the serving.

We appreciate all the help that so many of you have provided. Any comments or suggestions are welcome. Our committee consists of Janet Lynn Delaney, Janet Small, Monica Blue, Carol Freebairn, and Carol Shaver.

TRUSTEES

Trustees met at the annual meeting on August 14th.

Dave Deutsch announced that he purchased a new de-humidifier for the manse, and replaced the old one.

Trustees cont'.

Tony Mertes had gone over to the manse and repaired a leaky faucet.

Norm Videgar trimmed the bushes around the church in the middle of July.

The main air conditioner, at the church has been serviced and cleaned. The belt was replaced on the blower. The AC was also checked over at the manse. This was done for its yearly service.

The air conditioner, in the kitchen, has been replaced with a good used one donated by Mike Sundberg. Thank You Mike! As some of you know, the old one became very noisy because the fan motor squealed. The replacement work was done by Norm.

The next meeting will be on Sept. 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee for the month of September will be Norm Videgar

Benevolence Fund

Githiga Children's Home, Africa -	\$ 8,138.00
Presbytery of Blackhawk -	\$ 9,000.00
Balance remaining -	\$ 450.34

Linda Chalus, Benevolence Treasurer

Memorial Fund

Memorials have been received for Cathrine Brubaker, John P. Donahue, and Myrtle Davis.

Joyce Anderson, Memorial Treasurer

Stewardship & Finance

No report received for this publication.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Family Life Committee for Rally Sunday
September 9th, 2007:

Shelly & Bob Chapman*, Rick & Debbie Hayne*,
Haolrd & Golda Kinzer, Scott & Sharon Reel,
Malcolm Whipple, and Rita Whipple.

* = Co-chairmen

(If you cannot participate in this event, please feel free to trade with someone who is assigned to another date. A list is posted in the church office.)

YOUTH

It has been a great summer for the youth group. We have done quite a few different events, ranging from water fights and game night, to lock-ins and concerts. We have also had some wonderful times of sharing God's word together, and listening to what he is telling us. This church has some rather amazing youth that are an absolute delight to work with. The Lord Jesus is definitely working in their lives, and it is exciting to see them grow in the Lord. We would ask that you continue to pray for the youth and the leadership, that the Lord would continue to show us in what direction he wants the group to go. The youth are such a vital part of our ministry here in Waltham and as time goes on the Lord will continue to grow them up in the body

I would like to thank all of the youth for their commitment to the group and the church. Waltham wouldn't be the same without out you all. And thank you to Jennifer Wilson, Andrea & Phil McConville, and Eric Moore for all of your help and you willingness to serve. None of this could be possible without your help.

In Christ,
Eric Mertes

Treasurer's Report

No report received for this publication.

Deacon of the Month

September - Marlene Moshage
Glenn Stevenson - Assistant

Trustee of the Month

September - Norm Videgar

Coffee & Juice Committee - September

Presbyterian Women

Scout Master Bob's Corner

Upcoming Events

August 21 - Scout Meeting 7:00 P.M.
August 24-26 - Troop Campout
August 28 - Troop Court of Honor/Pot Luck
6:00 P.M. Everyone should bring two dishes to
pass and their own table service. The meat will be
provided.
Sept. 4 - Scout Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Sept. 8 - Labor of Love
Sept. 11 - Scout Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Sept. 14-16 - Order of the Arrow Fall Conclave
Sept. 18 - Scout Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Sept 25 - Scout Meeting 7:00 P.M.
Sept. 28-30 - Troop Family Camp at Woodhaven
Lakes in Mendota

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

We need to increase the number of volunteers in
the nursery. We currently have two volunteers
each Sunday and would like to increase to three.
We

would like to have the volunteers in place when
Sunday School starts back.

If you would like to volunteer on a regular basis
or just for a certain time frame please contact Ida
Brown at 815-883-3327.

*Just a reminder - the nursery is for children who
are kindergarten age or younger.*_____

September

September 9

Dave Deutsch
Diana Deutsch
Alexis Ferracuti

September 16

Nikki Mertes
Tim Mertes
Amy Ploch

September 23

Phyllis Mertes
Tony Mertes
Ann Backus

September 30

Albert Hagenbuch
Relynn Olivero
Nathan Olivero

Texts and Sermons

September 2

Communion/Christian Vocation Sunday/Labor Day Weekend

Call to Worship:	Psalm 81:1, 10-16
1 st Lesson:	Hebrews 13:1-8
2 nd Lesson:	Luke 14: 1, 7-14
The Sermon:	The Reasons Behind the Reasons of Faith

September 9**Christian Education Week Begins/ Sunday School Begins/ Rally Sunday**

Call to Worship:	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 st Lesson:	Jeremiah 18:1-11
2 nd Lesson:	Luke 14:25-33
The Sermon:	“The Expense of Faith in Christ”

September 16

Call to Worship:	Psalm 14
1 st Lesson:	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28
2 nd Lesson:	Luke 15:1-10
The Sermon:	“Recovering the Lost”

September 23

Call to Worship:	Psalm 79:1-9
1 st Lesson:	1 Timothy 2:1-7
2 nd Lesson:	Luke 16:1-13
The Sermon:	“A Central Paradox in Life”

September 30

Call to Worship:	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
1 st Lesson:	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
2 nd Lesson:	Luke 16:19-31
The Sermon:	“Where’s Your Retirement Account?”

September Anniversaries

1	Pastor & Mrs. Glen Hallead Mr. & Mrs. Joe Kinzer
3	Mr. & Mrs. Jim Feuerborn
4	Mr. & Mrs. Norman Small*
8	Mr. & Mrs. Vaughn Kiner
14	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Freebairn*

Birthdays cont.’

16	Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hayne
21	Mr. & Mrs. Monty Whipple
26	Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Freebairn
29	Mr. & Mrs. Don Croisant
30	Mr. & Mrs. Steve Durant

September Birthdays

2	Ginny Whipple
3	Beverly Scharlau Dalton Wensel
5	Larry Wilson
6	Everett Christopher Bruce Funk Robert Funk*
	Kaitlyn Small
7	Nick Moshage Melissa Taylor
8	Debra Hayne Sally Kiner
9	Paul Athorn J. Davis Small*
10	Heather Robinson Carol Shaver
13	Caleb Davis Hallead
14	Tommy Wilson
15	Tim Kinzer Dean Robinson
16	Eleanor Anderson*
17	Tom Freebairn*
19	Linda Murfey
24	Tahnee Hagenbuch Diane Kinzer
25	Pat Fox
26	Shawn Robinson
27	Florence Setchell*
28	Rachel VanDrimmelen Ann Backus
30	Robert Anderson Jr. Veronica Blue Mark Klinefelter