

The Waltham Courier

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September 2008

A Family Journal

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From The Pastor's Desk ...

The end of the Olympics was celebrated yesterday. An amazing event with more countries participating and winning medals than any other Olympiad. It was quite the talk of the world, nation, and our household.

There's something delightful when people excel. The stories of Olympic participants are often full of struggle, overcoming injuries, defeating prejudice, conquering injuries, and putting emotional difficulties behind them. I think of the gold medal winner in the heavy weight lifting division whose wife died just a few months ago, and he held a picture of her in his left hand as he received his medal. And I think of the South African swimmer who had her left leg amputated below the knee. I even think of Mike Phelps whose elementary school teacher told his mother that he would never amount to anything.

Amazing, isn't it. Such gifted athletes who seem to have it all, actually had and have difficult times. Of course these Olympics athletes are only a very small slice of all the world's athletes, but they show us what is possible.

In the last twenty or so years, I've attended all kinds of church growth clinics. They are conducted by large church pastors and church growth institutes which study the attributes of large and growing congregations. There are certain little things that a church can do to make itself more visible to the surrounding population. There are adjustments in programming, worship, and scheduling which can help make things more convenient and approachable to the surrounding community. There are simple ways of making a church's facilities more welcoming. There are an

additional number of easy things, which a congregation can do in this vein.

Over the years and all these workshops, I've noticed one thing that is always assumed by the directors of these seminars. The assumption is that the folk in the church know the Lord and are committed to bring other people into the Kingdom of God. Without this primary focus in the hearts and attitudes of the lay folk in the congregation, all the adjustments are simply adjustments.

The Olympic athletes majored in their personal sport. The really successful ones attended to the side issues, but they never allowed anything to keep them from their central focus and goal of participating and doing their best in their Olympic event.

The Apostle Paul puts it this way, "As a good soldier of Christ Jesus you must endure your share of suffering. Soldiers on duty don't focus on outside jobs. They try only to please their commanding officer. No one wins an athletic contest without obeying the rules. And farmers who work hard are the first to eat what grows in their field. If you keep in mind what I have told you, the Lord will help you understand completely. Keep your mind on Jesus Christ." (2 Timothy 2:3-8a.)

The Lord Jesus bless you as Waltham Church moves forward serving the Savior,

Interim Pastor Roy C. Backus, Ph.D.

Congratulations to Adam & Maharah Jones on the birth of their son, Asher David. He was born August 24th at 1:05 pm. He weighs 8 lb 5 oz and is 20 ½ in long! His proud Grandpa is our Interim Pastor Roy Backus!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Presbyterian Women continue to collect items for our local school children for use in case of daily emergencies. In many cases parents may work an hour away, so the office needs to meet the needs of these children until the parents can pick them up. The list of needed items is posted on the narthex bulletin board and the collection box is also there. We will need to wait until sweat-pants, scarves and mittens are available to purchase to complete this collection.

On Sept. 18th we plan to take a trip to Kemmerer Village, a Presbyterian Child Care Agency south of Decatur, IL. We will have lunch there and then tour the campus. Do mark your calendars and plan to join us!! Sign up on the narthex bulletin board.

The Fall Gatherings of P.W. in the Presbytery of Blackhawk are Friday, Sept. 19 at First Presbyterian, Joliet or Saturday, Sept. 20th at First Presbyterian, Savanna. Rev. Hope Sibson from Central Presbyterian Church, New Lenox will teach us ways to study our HORIZONS Bible Study - JUBILEE! Luke's Gospel for the Poor. There will be workshops for Secretaries and Treasurers, Together in Service and Peace & Justice/Hunger. See the narthex bulletin board for sign-up sheet and details for

these gatherings. Do plan to attend one - so much information is shared and it is a great place to meet Presbyterian Women from all over the Presbytery!!

COLLEGE STUDENT ADDRESSES

Presbyterian Women would like to keep in touch with our college students while they are away from their home church. Please submit their addresses to enable us to start this new project. Submit addresses and/or questions to Bev Scharlau - 815-667-4970.

REMINDERS ...

Please check your respective mailbox in the office!

Choir Practice will be Wednesday, September 3rd at 7:00 pm. Plan to join us!

We resume the 10:00 am - only - Worship service on September 7th. Please mark your calendars!

September 7th, Rally Sunday - please join us for a potluck. The committee, Scott and Sharon Reel, Scott and Heather Freebairn, John and Kate Hagenbuch, Jason and Becky Johnson, Dave and Heidi Hendrix, and Beth Hahne will be providing the meat and beverage. Please bring a dish to pass and your table setting. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Bible Studies resume on Monday night September 8th.

There are several dishes, etc on the counter in the kitchen. Could they be yours? Check it out!

** It is time to re-order offering envelopes. If you would prefer not to receive your personal box of envelopes, please put a note in the offering plate by September 14th. **

THANK YOU'S

July 25, 2008

Dear Friends at Waltham Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for participating in our CHANGE FOR LIFE fund-raiser. Eighteen bottles with your gifts were returned. The total amount received was \$320.52. On behalf of the board of Abigail Women's Clinic and myself, I'd like to express our appreciation for standing with us to help hold the hands of those who are facing death. Because of your generosity we are able to touch more lives as we go out to minister with our mobile unit and here at the clinic.

Our schedule on the road is:

1st Wednesday- 10-1pm, Dairy Queen in Princeton and 2-5pm, JJ's DriveIn in LaSalle

2nd Wednesday- 10-1pm, Under His Wings in Ottawa and 2-5pm, Badge-a-Minit on Rt. 39, Oglesby

3rd Wednesday- 1-4pm, Petro Truck Stop in Rochelle

4th Wednesday- 1-4pm, WAL-MART in Peru (July and August)

You make it possible to touch more lives....

The Lord's Blessings,

Joyce Fassig

Director, Abigail Women's Clinic

Things to do ...

There will be a variety Bridal Shower to honor Janelle Videgar held on Saturday, September 6, 2008, at 2:00 pm in the church Fellowship Hall.

You are welcome to join us in helping Janelle celebrate her upcoming wedding.

Janelle is registered at Kohl' s and Target.

Labor of Love

We will again be participating in our local Labor of Love on Saturday, September 13th. This year we will be working on a house in Earlville. Please be in the church parking lot at 7:30 am if you are interested in helping with this worthwhile project. Please see Dave Deutsch for more information.

Passion Play

Every 10 years, the village of Oberammergau, Germany, fulfills a promise made in the 1600's when the black plague was sweeping Europe. The village vowed if they were spared they would put on the Passion Play every decade "until the end of time".

In May of 2010, Rev. James Camp, interim Pastor at Sterling Presbyterian Church, is hosting a trip leaving from Chicago to Rome Venice and the Passion Play.

If you are interested in more details, email him at happycampers@essex1.com or call him at home 815-772-7937.

Just a note ...

There are churches in this area that are using pre-recorded music for their hymns and other music. It is my hope that this church can solve the need for keyboard and singer musicians instead of allowing others to supply this for you. A singer especially feels a spiritual uplift in delivering inspiration to the church service. We need replacement parts for the choir and keyboard (piano/organ).

Alan Peters, Choir Director

MEETING REPORTS

SESSION

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a regular meeting on July 9, 2008 at 7:11 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Backus. All members were present.

Marlene Moshage and Kathy Kleckner presented the Deacon's plan for the Deacon's Family Ministry. They will begin the program with an initial focus on approximately 43 members. They may expand it later. The Deacons would like to have it in place by September. The session supported the program.

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

Chris will get more information on the copier. We do not need color. The suggestion was made to look into e-mailing the Courier at some point. The Deacons are already compiling an e-mail list.

Pastor Roy will reimburse the Church for the portion of the phone bill that was paid in error.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Blanket and Tool Offering for October and the Thank Offering for November. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the payment of Pulpit Supply at the rate of \$150 plus mileage. The motion carried.

The Nominating Committee gave a report on the progress on the Pastor Nominating Committee. A request was made to approve the use of the Church for the Bray (Moshage) family reunion of August 30. The motion was approved.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 9:02 pm. The meeting was closed with prayer by David Edgcomb.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a special meeting on July 27, 2008 at 11:29 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer

by the Rev. Dr. Backus. Ralph Moshage, Dave Edgcomb, Ross Wilson, and Ida Brown were present.

A motion was made and seconded to hold a congregational meeting on August 10, 2008 to elect the Pastor Nominating Committee. The motion carried.

A final bid for the purchase of a new copy machine has been accepted.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 11:42 am. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Roy.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a special meeting on August 10, 2008 at 9:50 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Backus. Bonnie Walsh, Eileen Hagenbuch, and Ida Brown were present.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Baptism and membership of David Demo, the baptism of Avery Demo, and the membership of Kim, Jeff, and Russ Bernabei.. The motion carried.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 9:56 am. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Roy.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

Session cont'd. . .

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a regular meeting on

August 11, 2008 at 7:07 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Backus. Members present - Dave Edgcomb, Ross Wilson, Bonnie Walsh, Eileen Hagenbuch, and Ida Brown. Member absent – Ralph Moshage.

An additional \$300 was received from the Charlotte Kennedy Estate. It will be placed in the memorial fund.

A motion was made and carried to approve the transfer of membership of Alison Heafitz to Warner Memorial Presbyterian Church, Kensington MD.

A motion was made and seconded to approve up to \$500 for the memorial stone placement. The motion carried.

The purchase of the new copier has been finalized.

A request was made to approve the use of the Church for a bridal shower for Janelle Videgar on 6 September. The motion was approved.

A motion was made and seconded to approve Rev. Backus's continuing educational expenses – up to the allowable amount remaining. The motion carried.

It was moved, seconded, and carried to adjourn at 8:50 pm. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Roy.

Next Meeting will be September 10th at 7:00 pm.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

Session and others, we, your deacons are initiating a DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY program in middle September.

Sensing a call to be "servant-leaders" in the New Testament sense, we will be working in tandem with Pastor Roy (and his successor) to improve communication, deepen ties of friendship and enhance spiritual support within our church body through this new program.

Through face-to-face home and institutional visits, phone calls, e-mails, letters and cards, etc., we will minister to our members needs for fellowship through empathetic listening, prayer, scripture reading and sharing communion when authorized by the minister. In this work, we will be "helping hands to our minister" (NOT A REPLACEMENT) and will work under his/her guidance.

Since this is a new focus for us, our initial interactions will be limited to the following "groups" within our fellowship: new members (excluding Confirmands), members 80 years of age and older, individuals who have experienced a significant loss or difficulty in the last 1-2 years and any member that Pastor identifies as needing extra support such as our shut-ins.

As we deacons gain experience and more deacons are added to our committee (in January 09), we hope to expand the number of members served by this program.

We are excited by this opportunity to serve the Lord and HIS people at Waltham. Please pray for us as we undertake this special ministry!

IN HIS SERVICE: Jean Jones, Kathie Kleckner, Phil McConville, Marlene Moshage, Mary Sundberg, Tom Walsh YOUR DEACONS

DEACONS

DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY PROGRAM

After months of preparatory study, prayer and discussion with Pastor Roy, Members of

for the summer schedule.

On July 14th several members, along with the Trustees, trimmed bushes at the Church and the manse. Trimming of the trees throughout the grounds was discussed and we are presently seeking bids from contractors.

August brought sealing and striping of the parking lot and mulch in the flower beds.

This is just a portion of the work the Trustees have done. Please contact the Trustee of the month or any Trustee with maintenance problems.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Your PNC committee held its first meeting on Mon. Aug.18. Rev. Bill Love of Streator met with us.

Our first task is to conduct a Mission Study. We have contacted Janet Chandler from Gardner to lead the study. We will meet with her to set the dates for the Mission Study meetings. She is able to meet with us in the evenings only. The dates will be published in the Sunday Bulletin as soon as they are available.

We encourage all members to attend as many meetings as possible.

Kathie Kleckner, chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT

For period ending July 31, 2008:

5 deposits/credits -	\$ 13,951.18
23 Checks/Debits -	\$ 10,617.73
Ending Balance -	\$ 112,439.32

Keri Sundberg, Treasurer

MEMORIAL FUND

Memorials have been received for Irene Mitchell.

Joyce Anderson, Memorial Treasurer

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

No report received for this publication.

Mission minutes - July 8th, 20

Minute for Mission: August - Boy Scouts, September discussed disaster kits or Food Pantry.

New Mission ideas: Stronghold needs, Local Hospitals for emergency situation needs, disaster funds, school supplies/educational needs, dental care for "needy" children in our area.

Labor of Love: Saturday, September 13th. Wrote our vouchers for \$ 500 for Labor of Love. Decided to make sack lunches for workers.

Decided to ask Linda Chalus, Benevolence Treasurer, to attend our meetings.

Next meeting September 9th.

TRUSTEE

The Trustees and members of the congregation have been very busy over the summer.

Earlier this spring a new air conditioner was installed in the lower lounge and several rooms were cleaned. The Church signs along Route 52 were relocated.

In preparation for Vacation Bible School, a leak was repaired in the nursery bathroom. The gutters were cleaned at the manse and a garbage disposal problem was solved. The message board sign was cleaned and changed

BENEVOLENCE FUND

No report received for this publication.

Stewardship & Finance

No report received for this publication.

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*
- 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
- 22 Logan Phoenix Brown
- 24 Tahnee Hagenbuch

Diane Kinzer

- 25 Pat Fox
- 26 Shawn Robinson
- 28 Rachel VanDrimmelen

Ann Backus

- 30 Robert Anderson Jr.

Veronica Blue

Mark Klinefelter

*Special Birthday greetings to these special people!

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

September 7

Tom & Wendy Olivero

September 14

Dave & Diana Deutsch

September 21

Tim & Nikki Mertes

September 28

Amy Ploch
Valerie Blue
Kailtyn Small

Scout Master Bob's Corner

Upcoming Events Sept. 4 - Scout Meeting 7:00 P.M. Sept. 11 - Scout Meeting 7:00 P.M. Sept. 13 - Labor of Love 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.

Coffee and Juice Organizers - September

Presbyterian Women

Liturgist Organizers - September

September - Christian Education

TEXTS and SERMONS

September 7, 2008

The Psalm: Psalm 149
First Lesson: Romans 13:8-14
Second Lesson: Matthew 18:15-20
The Sermon: "Defeating a Fatal Disease"
The Hebrew Lesson: Exodus 12:1-14

September 14, 2008

The Psalm: Psalm 114
First Lesson: Romans 14:1-12
Second Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35
The Sermon: "No Way Around It"
The Hebrew Lesson: Exodus 14:19-31

September 21, 2008

The Psalm: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
First Lesson: Philippians 1:21-30
Second Lesson: Matthew 20:1-16
The Sermon: "Equal Pay for Unequal Work"
The Hebrew Lesson: Exodus 16:2-15

September 28, 2008

The Psalm: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
First Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13
Second Lesson: Matthew 21:23-32
The Sermon: "Two Aspects of Profession"
The Hebrew Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7

Members present: Carol Freebairn, Carol Shaver, Janet Small, Kathy Fox.
June minutes read and approved.
Checked mailbox: read "Thank you" from Sunset Gap and Newsletter from Food Pantry.

Old business: Rev. Backus explained our budget.

New business: sent Food Pantry \$ 750 and Food Resource Bank \$ 275. Giving vouchers to Linda Chalus, she will give us check # & date.

Discussed sending "disaster" money to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Discussed our Mission trip kids telling about their trip for Minute for Mission in July and Boy Scouts doing M4M in August.

Next meeting August 12th.

Mission minutes - August 12th, 2008

Members present: Relynn Olivero, Carol Shaver, Kathy Fox.

Approved July minutes.

Monthly giving update: \$750 to Food Pantry, \$275 to Food Resource Bank.

Deacon of the Month - September

Tom Walsh & Phil McConville, Assistant

Trustee of the Month - September

Steve Pillion
