



# The Waltham Courier

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December 2009

A Family Journal

Volume MMIX, Number 11

## SERVING OUR CHURCH

### Nursery Volunteers

#### **Dec. 6**

Scott & Heather Freebairn

#### **Dec. 13**

Tom & Wendy Olivero

#### **Dec. 20**

Dave & Diana Deutsch

#### **Dec. 27**

Tim & Nikki Mertes

If you are unable to serve, please make arrangements to exchange dates with someone. Thank-you

### Sunday Worship

#### **December**

Deacons – Lois Edgcomb, Kathie Kleckner

Ushers - Mission

Liturgist – Presbyterian Women

Coffee/Juice – Stewardship & Finance

#### **January**

Deacons – Kathie Kleckner, Mary Sundberg

Liturgist – Stewardship & Finance

Coffee/Juice – Deacons

#### **February**

Deacons – Kathie Kleckner, Marlene

Moshage

Liturgist - Deacons

### Coffee/Juice - Trustees

Keep in mind your group is responsible for getting someone to be liturgist or make coffee. That person does not have to be a member of your group.

I type up a sheet with the Prayer and Bible verses for the liturgist. It is posted on the office bulletin board. If I have an e-mail address, I can also e-mail it. Please list the name of the liturgist on the signup sheet in the narthex so their name can be added to the Bulletin. Thanks, Kathie

### **Filling the Candles**

November & December – Dena Ficek

January & February – Kathie Kleckner

### **Children's Program Potluck – Dec. 13**

Bring your table service & a dish to pass.

The children will present their Christmas Program after the pot luck

### Committee

Dave & Diana Deutsch, Gary & Deb Dahl, Anne Finley, Vaughn & Sally Kiner, Harold & Gilda Kinzer, Jim & Keri Sundberg, Dave & Jane Wilson

## ♪ Interim Notes ♪

“It seems you can see forever!” Joan, my wife, simply nods whenever I speak about my fascination with the Illinois prairie. As a farm girl, she’s been telling me of the glories of wide open spaces for years. As a boy, growing up in the foothills of Missouri’s Ozarks, I had become used to hills. I never thought that I would like to live where hills were not present. But, I have become awe filled at the majesty of the wide open spaces.

For those who follow Jesus, this time of year is also a time filled with awe. It is one of those times when if we look carefully, we can see forever. The Greek’s had a word for times like these. They called them a time of kairos. Kairos is a kind of time when the barriers of what we view as past, present, and future become fluid. In this kind of time, we are actually approaching Jesus’ Birthday at Bethlehem. We are also approaching the day, when Jesus will walk among us once more.

Kairos is a hard thing for our modern minds to grasp. But it accurately describes what is happening for us during Advent. We are remembering that first night, when angels danced among the stars singing out the joyful news that God cared enough about us to send God’s only begotten Child to live among us. As we remember we slip back in time to join the shepherds as they knelt in awe at the manger. We also remember that the evening in Bethlehem is not the only time that Jesus will appear among us. For one day, the same Jesus who came as a baby, will come among us in the full glory of God.

During this very busy season, please take a moment to stop rushing about. Go to the front of the sanctuary, or stand outside the church’s front entrance, and sit down and look out across the fields of Waltham Township. Be especially sure to look to the east, the direction from where our Lord will

come again. While you look, stand very still and concentrate on the horizon for awhile. Perhaps you’ll see the dance of the Christmas angels over Bethlehem. Or perhaps you might even see the glow in the east heralding our Lord’s return. It might sound silly to do this, but remember that this is Advent. And in Advent you can see forever.

The blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you this Advent.

*Pastor Frank*



## COMMITTEE REPORTS SESSION

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a regular meeting on October 19, 2009 at 7:04 in the upper lounge of the church. Members present - Moderator Pastor Frank Fisher, Dave Edgcomb, Bev Scharlau, Bruce Brown, Eileen Hagenbuch, Ralph Moshage, Bonnie Walsh and Clerk Ida Brown.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Frank Fisher. The minutes of the previous meetings were approved. Committee reports were received.

A motion was approved to allow the use of the Church for an Eagle Court of Honor for Matthew Olivero on January 10, 2010 at 2. Pastor Frank’s last Sunday will be December 27, 2009. There will be a potluck following the service that day. He will be on vacation for the month of January.

Pastor Howard will begin at Waltham on February 1, 2010. His first Sunday will be February 7.

The Christian Education Committee requested to purchase two bibles for students who do not have their own. The purchase was approved.

Installation and ordination for the new church officers will be December 20.

A motion was approved to adjourn at 8:11 pm. The meeting was closed with prayer by Pastor Frank Fisher.

The Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica IL held a congregational meeting at 10:55 on November 15, 2009 for the purpose of calling Reverend Howard Smith as pastor of Waltham Presbyterian Church and that his Terms of Call be accepted. Spencer Lawrence opened the meeting with prayer as moderator.

The motion carried with a vote of 91 in favor and none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16.

The Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica IL held a congregational meeting at 10:50 on November 22, 2009 for the purpose of increasing the size of the Deacons to three per class and electing Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and members of the Church Nominating Committee.

Frank Fisher opened the meeting with prayer as moderator.

The motion to increase the size of the Deacons passed unanimously.

Elders, Kyle Videgar (2012) and Ralph Freebairn (2012), Deacons, Carol Shaver (2010), Nancy Tuftie (2011), Lois Edgcomb (2012), Roberta Brown (2012), and Ellen Wilson (2012) and Trustees, Jeff Ficek(2012) and Dave Deutsch (2012) were elected by unanimous ballot.

Don Scharlau and Dave Deutsch were elected to the Church Nominating Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

## TRUSTEES

Trustees moved their meeting to the manse for November. Present were Dave Deutsch, Jeff Bernabei and Harold Kinzer. We did a walk thru of the house to prioritize our to-do list. Currently there is old carpet in the office, living room, two bedrooms, the hallway and part of the basement. We will remove all carpets and tack strips, fill nail holes, sand down the surface, reseal with 2 coats of polyurethane and install quarter round molding. The kitchen sink drain will be replaced with 2" PVC instead of the current 1-1/2" galvanized pipe. Nail holes in the walls will be spackled and painted.

The whole house will be professionally cleaned to remove allergens. This also includes the basement and furnace duct work.

After talking to Pastor Howard and Patty, we will remove the chair rail molding in the living room and prepare the blue/off white walls for painting. The ceiling tiles in the basement near the bathroom will have to be removed because of their condition and also to aid the cleaning crew. Pastor Howard and Patty were pleased with the appearance of the one bedroom where carpet had been removed and the hardwood floors resealed. They measured the window sizes to see if their wood blinds would fit. The kitchen floor will be cleaned for now, with possible replacement in the future.

To provide an outdoor area, we will install a deck or patio on the north side of the manse. The fence can remain, but we will remove the gates for future use. There may

be other projects as funds allow, but most of this work will help the appearance of our manse and provide comfortable living in the future.

Also, the digital temperature controller for the church boilers is dead, but is scheduled to be replaced by Mucci-Kirkpatrick Wednesday, November 18.



## DEACONS

Deacons continue to look for ways to serve the people of our congregation and community. We will be drawing up next year's list of groups to help with supplying liturgists and for serving coffee & juice. Communion was served to 86 people.

## MUSIC & WORSHIP

Present: Katie Videgar, Amy Ploch, Ross & Ellen Wilson, and Mary Small.

We planned for participants for the lighting of the Advent Candles. This year those participating will be inter-generational family members of the church.

The two Yamaha pianos (sanctuary and Fellowship Hall) were tuned by R. Meyers, Streater. The organ technician, Larry Buening, Effingham, checked the organ and speakers with minor adjustments.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

YTD Income \$ 92,790.93  
YTD Expenses \$104,187.03  
YTD Deficit \$-11,396.10

General Fund \$14,405.92  
\$16,000 has been borrowed from the Special Building Fund and \$3000 from the Memorial Fund for day to day operations.  
Dena Ficek, Treasurer

## BENEVOLENCE FUND

Balance is \$6809.81.  
Linda Chalus, Benevolence Treasurer

## PADS

We are again serving meals at PADS on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of the month. Please consider signing up to help with the food or to serve. The dates are:, 12/9, 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14.

The First United Methodist Church of Mendota invites you to attend their Christmas Tea on Dec. 3 at 1:30pm. The guest speaker will be Alice Craig, a pencil artist/speaker from Tremont. No reservations or cost.

St. Margaret's Hospital Holiday Dinner will be served at 2pm on Sun., Dec. 13 in the cafeteria. The dinner is free. Please make reservations 664-1486 .

## MISSION

Present: Relynn Olivero, Maxine Cole, Monica Blue, Kathy Fox, and Bev Scharlua  
Minutes form Oct. 8, 2009 meeting read and approved.

### Treasurer's Report

Oct. 2009 donations received	\$486.00
Oct. 2009 monthly giving	
Janet Small (school supplies)	\$300.00
AmeronIP	\$230.00
(energy assist., church family)	

### Old Business

Minute for Mission: Maxine Cole/Nov. 29

Christmas Tree Giving

PADS – filling in covered

New Business:

Christmas Giving Tree – requesting needs from Waltham School & PADS To have on tree Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

Mission Money Request – Deacons reported need from church family; small committee formed to further discuss

Hold mission giving to present needs at this time

Covered ushers for Dec.

Worked on 2010 budget & turned it in for Session approval

### Help Needed

Stefanie Sebastian is trying to finish her schooling at Educators of Beauty 122

Wright St., LaSalle. She needs to complete a certain number of each type of treatment. She works Tues. – Sat. Call 815-223-7326 to request Stefanie. Besides shampoos, cuts, & color, she does manicures, pedicures, facials & waxing. Price sheets are available in the church narthex. Please give her your support.

### Conclusion . . . John Calvin

John Calvin and his family returned to Geneva on Sept. 13, 1541. Calvin wanted the Church organized following the way of the Apostles. Ministers preached and administered the sacraments. They were helped by elders, who were elected by the city council. They were to provide discipline. Deacons held their office by popular appointment. They helped with relief to the poor. There were doctors who instructed people in their faith.

Education was important to Calvin. There were primary and secondary schools. In 1559, what would become the University of Geneva was founded. By 1564, over 1,500 students attended. The University's main task was to train missionaries who spread Calvinism to France, Netherlands, Germany and Poland.

Calvin preached 2 sermons each Sunday with additional sermons during the week. He did not use notes during his hour long

sermons. In 1549, a professional scribe began copying down Calvin's sermons. In 1542, Calvin's wife, Idelette, gave birth prematurely. Their son, Jacques, died shortly after. In 1545, Idelette became ill. She passed away in March 1549. Calvin wrote "I have been bereaved of the best friend of my life, . . . she was the faithful helper of my ministry . . ."

Calvin faced opposition from some of the wealthy, political families, who saw themselves as exempt from the law. The law against dancing was especially unpopular, but they did not have enough power to banish Calvin.

By the end of Calvin's life, he had quite an international reputation. Missionaries continued to be sent to France despite King Henry II's opposition. Calvin's influence reached England and Scotland. In 1558, the final revision of the *Institutes* was published. It now contained 80 chapters. John Calvin preached his last sermon on Feb. 6, 1564. He died May 27, 1564. Fearing a cult-like following, his friends buried him in an unmarked grave in Geneva.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On Blanket Sunday, we raised \$632.00.

Thank-you so much for your contributions.

If you have not picked up your Walnut & Pecan order, check in the church office.

Please make check out to Linda Chalus.

There may be extra bags. Check with Linda.

### YOU ARE INVITED

The Presbyterian Women of Waltham

Invite you to the 28<sup>th</sup> annual

"Come to Christmas" Tea

Wednesday, December 9, 2009, 1:30pm

"TO US IS BORN A LITTLE CHILD"

"Strange sight within a stable old,

Lo! God is born in want and cold."

Childcare Provided

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us!  
 Our guest speaker is Rev. Jane Esterline  
 from Park Presbyterian Church, Streator.  
 We remind all our women to share 4 dozen  
 cookies and your MARY, JOSEPH AND  
 BABY JESUS for set up day on Tuesday,  
 Dec. 8th at 10 a.m.

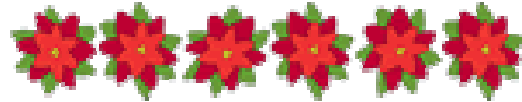


Women's Ensemble to practice for the Tea  
 will be Saturday mornings at 9am on Nov.  
 28<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. If you are not able to  
 come, please notify Mary Small.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Budget is done  
 Reviewed music – singing  
 Kids will sing Nov 22  
 Trunk or Treat went very well  
 Nov 22 decorate cookies  
 Need cookies, frosting, trimmings  
 Will deliver to shut-ins  
 SS balance Nov 7 - \$58. 38 –  
 \$185 going to Heifer International  
 Youth balance \$430  
 Total Christ Ed. \$3,592.41 – Expenses  
 Christmas Program Dec 13 After potluck  
 Working on parts and music  
 C/E requests purchase of a bible for 2  
 students who don't have their own.  
 Approx \$15/book  
 Possibility of serving meal for VBS to be  
 brought to the classroom – more as a VBS  
 Family – what are your thoughts  
 We are in need of a VBS Director.

## POINSETTIAS



Thank-you to all who purchased poinsettias  
 to decorate our Sanctuary.

Mrs. Cora J. Pope willed that her home, a  
 Victorian mansion overlooking the Illinois  
 River, was to be used for elderly ladies. The  
 home provides independent living with  
 furnished private rooms, housekeeping,  
 three home cooked meals daily and 24 hour  
 supervision for only \$425 per month. Call  
 Betsy Feagans, Director for details. PH 1-  
 815-433-0409. The home is located at 116  
 W. Prospect Ave. Ottawa

## Illinois Valley Food Pantry

Food for the Christmas Distribution should  
 be brought to church by Sunday, Dec 13.  
 There are baskets in the East Hallway is  
 receive whatever items you can share.  
 Some suggestions would be:  
 Instant Potatoes, Stuffing Mix, Canned  
 Sweet Potatoes, Jell-o, Cake & Frosting,  
 Canned vegetables, Canned fruit, Canned  
 pumpkin, Evaporated Milk  
 Let us continue to support this ministry.

## SCOUT MASTER BOB

12-1-09 Re Charter night - Training for  
 Cave Safety  
 12-2-09 TLC Meeting 7pm  
 12-8-09 Caving Trip campout Planning /  
 Cave Safety / Winter Camping  
 12-11-13-09 Caving with Troop 13  
 12-15-09 Christmas Party / Gift Exchange

NO MEETINGS on 12-22 and 12-29

Don't forget the Christmas Party. Dec. 15. For Scouts; Dec. 17 for Cub Scouts. The party will start at 6:00 pm. Everyone should bring board games and a holiday treat to share. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift for under \$10. We will also do a food drive during the Party. Bring canned and dry goods for donation to the Food Pantry. All food collected will be delivered to the Food Pantry on Dec. 18.

We have reserved the Wilderness Training Center at Ingersoll (Quartermaster Building) for a winter Camping trip the weekend of February 19 to 21, 2010. Mark your calendars - we expect to go ice fishing and will go sled riding if weather permits.

Next year's Summer Camp will be the week of July 11 to 17, 2010 at Ingersoll. We will most likely get Sauk Campsite - however, we requested Conestoga as our first choice. Remember, that if you want to go to Cache Lake next summer, you must have attended Summer Camp Ingersoll at least once (this goes for Scouts and Scout Leaders).

**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.**



## **Cub Scouts**

December 3 - Thursday Meeting at Waltham Church - Scouts will get their Pine Wood Derby cars at this meeting - we will start working on the

cars at this meeting so bring your tools. Brothers, sisters and parents can also build and race a car. Cars cost about \$5.00 and will be deducted from Scout Accounts.

January 7 - Thursday We will meet at Waltham Church and work on building the Pine Wood Derby Cars. Bring your tools.

January 21 - Thursday Pack and Den Meetings at Waltham Church. Each Den will have a separate meeting to work on advancement.

February 4 - Thursday We will meet at Waltham Church and continue work on building the Pine Wood Derby Cars. Bring your tools.

## **From Your PNC**

On Sat. evening, Nov. 14, about 60 people attended a Dessert Reception for Rev. Howard and Patty Smith. The Smiths enjoyed meeting and talking informally with members of the congregation. The committee wishes to thank everyone who helped make the reception a success, especially those excellent cooks who made desserts for us.

On Sun., Nov. 14, Rev. Smith candidated before a Waltham congregation of 120 people. At the congregational meeting after worship the motion was made to Call Rev. Howard Clark Smith as Pastor of Waltham Presbyterian Church. The vote was 91yes; 0-no.

The plan is for Rev. Smith to begin preaching at Waltham on Sun., Feb. 7, 2010. The session and the PNC will need to do a lot of paper work between now and then. The PNC will officially be disbanded at Rev. Smith's installation in February.

LECTIONARY for the LORD'S DAY

Dec. 6 2<sup>nd</sup> Sun. in Advent

Mal. 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79

Phil. 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 13 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. in Advent

Children's Program

Zeph. 3:14-20 Isa. 12:2-6

Phil. 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 20 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. in Advent

Mic. 5:2-5a Luke 1:47-55

Heb. 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Isa. 9:2-7 Ps. 96

Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

Dec. 27 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. after Christmas

1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26 Ps. 148

Col. 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

**Thank-you**

A special thank-you to all who sent get well cards and also for the phone calls following my surgery. I really appreciated being remembered by so many Waltham Church friends. Sincerely, Dave Small

We would like to thank everyone who helped with Labor of Love.

Sincerely, The Sebastians

Dear members of Waltham Presbyterian Church, Thank-you for participating in our 2009 *Change for Life* fundraiser. 14 bottles with donations were returned. The total amount received was \$152.89. On behalf of the board of Abigail Women's Clinic and myself I'd like to thank you for supporting us as we strive to minister to those in stressful pregnancy situations. 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. Since

2007 our clientele has increased by 79%.

We are becoming familiar in Princeton, Peru, LaSalle and Oglesby, but most of our clients still come to the Clinic in Mendota. May the Lord bless you for taking a stand for Life. Joyce Fassing, Director

DECEMBER ANNIVERSERIES

11 Mr./ Mrs. Melvin Hagenbuch\*

18 Mr. & Mrs. Marc Delaney

31 Mr. & Mrs. Earl Finley

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Audrey Deutsch

Sally Wilson

Lois Edgcomb

7 Diana Deutsch

8 Sue Baker

Ron Chalus

Lindsey Olivero

9 Kristen Wensel

10 Wayne English

Earl Finley

Emily Ficek

Sharon Klein

11 Shelly Chapman

Diana Mital

Peggy Geiger

William E. W. Edgcomb

12 Barbara Christopher

14 Mary Whipple

15 Scott Freebairn

LaVern Klinefelter

17 Olivia Freeman

18 Don Croissant

20 Heather Kiner

22 Daniel Munson

26 Holly Videgar

28 Janet Small

29 Rev. Roy Backus

30 Scott Moshage

31 Kory Robinson

## More Thank-you Notes

### **Soup & Dessert**

Thank-you to all who helped make our soup & dessert auction a big success. Soup was great. We continue to hear how delicious the desserts were. We raised \$4,036.00 to help cover the cost of cleaning and updating the manse.

### **Christmas in the Country**

The committee would like to thank all who participated in our Open House. PW served Coffee and cookies. Our vendors donated door prizes. We would also thank everyone who helped with the setup and the cleanup. We made \$833.55. Thank-you, Thank-you

Dear Friends, We are grateful for your congregation's contribution in Sept. of \$355 to One Great Hour of Sharing. The theme of this year's One Great Hour of Sharing was "Where is your treasure?" For, as Jesus told the multitude in the Sermon on the Mount, where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Clearly, your hearts are in the ministries of healing, compassion, and justice that your gift will support. At a time when most Americans are feeling some economic pinch due to the global economic crisis, the impact of the same crisis on our sisters and brothers who lack any economic cushion is often literally a matter of life and death. So especially at a time when many Presbyterians may be cutting back on their giving, I want to thank you for your generous gift. May the Spirit of thanksgiving with which you gave it continue to overflow abundantly within both your own lives individually and that of your congregation. Grace, Alan B. Kron

On behalf of Oglesby Public Schools we want to thank you so much for providing our students with school supplies for the 2009-2010 school year. Your generous donations

of school supplies is overwhelming and deeply appreciated. Your concern for these families in need has made an impact on their lives. They will always remember you, because you cared to make a difference in their lives during these tough economic times. God bless all of you and keep you healthy and safe.

Mary Newcomer, School Nurse Food Allergies

On September 26<sup>th</sup> Bud, Mandie, and I participated in the FAAN (Food Allergy Anaphylaxis Network) Walk for Food Allergies in Chicago. We walked as part of Team Illinois Valley Food Allergy Awareness (IVFAA). Our team consisted of our family, Bud's mom Carol Lane, Amber, Kory, William and Max Robinson, and Amber's mom Diane Halm. We walked in honor of Mandie and William. The walk took place in Lincoln Park. Over 1,000 people participated in the walk, raising close to \$90,000. Thanks to generous donations from many of you, our team raised close to \$400.

Prior to the start of the walk, participants were able to walk around to tables from vendors offering treats, painting faces, and sharing information. Vendors on hand included Divvies, Enjoy Life Foods, Home Free, Cherrybrook Kitchens, Sun Butter, Allergic Living Magazine, Children's Memorial Hospital, and DEY "Makers of Epi-Pens. There was also free face painting, free cartoon portraits, and a bounce house for the kids. All treats were allergen free, including several wonderful chocolate bars, cookies, cupcakes, etc. It was wonderful to be able to walk around and enjoy all of the offerings.

One of the best things about this event was seeing all of the different team tee-shirts and being in the same place as so many other people who experience life the way we do each day. It was an extremely moving experience. Living with food allergies often

feels isolating and lonely, since only those living with them really know what daily life is like. It will be great as Mandie grows to show her that there are many people just like her.

### **Caramel Apple Dip**

from

[www.kidswithfoodallergies.org](http://www.kidswithfoodallergies.org)

1/2 cup sugar

3 Tbsp. light corn syrup

2 Tbsp. margarine

1 cup vanilla-flavored milk alternative

Boil milk alternative over med-low heat until reduced to 1/2 cup. Heat first three ingredients and 1/4 cup milk alternative over medium heat until boiling. Stir constantly so it doesn't burn. Add remaining milk alternative and continue to boil gently over medium low heat. Stir frequently approximately 10-15 minutes until it turns a caramel color. Let mixture cool down slightly, then use as a sauce for whole apples or a dip for apple slices. Makes enough for about two apples. Use dairy, soy, egg, corn, wheat and/or gluten free ingredients as needed.

### **Annika's Soft Pumpkin Cookies**

from [www.kidswithfoodallergies.org](http://www.kidswithfoodallergies.org)

2 cups gluten-free flour blend

1/2 cup oat flour

1 tsp baking soda

1 tsp baking powder

1 tsp xanthan gum

1 tsp cinnamon

1/2 tsp nutmeg

1/2 cup shortening

1 1/2 cups sugar

1 1/4 cups canned pumpkin

1 Tbsp. Egg Replacer mixed with 2 Tbsp. water

1 tsp vanilla

In large bowl, combine all ingredients. Stir until completely mixed. Preheat oven to 350\*. Place spoonfulls of batter on ungreased cookie sheet, 12 - 15 per

sheet. Bake 18-20 minutes. To avoid gluten, replace oat flour with additional gluten-free flour blend. Use dairy, soy, egg, corn, wheat and/or gluten free ingredients as needed.

*note: I made these using whole wheat flour and quick cooking oats, and one egg. VERY yummy!*