
The Waltham Courier

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A Family Journal

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From The Pastor's Desk . . .

Who is that strange person? And what's he doing in our pulpit?

Yes, these questions and more may be crossing your minds in the weeks and months ahead. Of course I can't yet answer the "more" part of this equation. But perhaps I can answer some of your initial queries about who this person is who's come to be a part of your life.

My name is Frank Fisher and as of February 20th, I'll be your Interim Pastor. I'm a native of a small town in Missouri, I spent my adolescence in Madison, Wisconsin, and ever since I entered college I've been a resident of Illinois. When I began college, I intended to enter pastoral ministry. Instead, I was diverted into a thirty year career with the Chicago Fire Department. You'll hear more about the fire department, and about how I finally did become a pastor, during our time together. Also, you'll hear about the letters, "Obl OSB" that always follow my name. For now, the short explanation is that they mean I'm an Oblate of the Abbey of John the Baptist and Saint Benedict, an ecumenical Abbey located in Bartonville, Illinois. An Oblate is someone who has promised to follow the rule of Saint

Benedict in their lives up to the point where their position in life makes following the rule impossible.

I'll warn you in advance of two weaknesses of mine. As I've grown older, I've found names occasionally escape my mind. If I miss your name, please know that it does not mean that I don't know you. Instead, it merely means my mind is having a "senior moment." My other weakness is much, much, much worse. My handwriting is totally illegible. Sometimes even I can't read it. . If you get a note from me, please know that I'm doing my best to enable you to read it.

And now to the important facts. My wife Joan and I have been married for over twenty-eight years. Joan is a violin teacher with a company that contracts to teach music in the Chicago public schools. Our daughter Elaine is working on a PhD at Columbia University. David, our son, works at a local food store. We are also gifted with several cats, one of whom is attempting to help me with my typing at this instant.

As I mentioned earlier, I will be here as your Interim Pastor. That means I'll be working along side as you seek your called pastor and look into your future. As your Interim, I will not be eligible to be part of that future as a called pastor. Now, I want you to tell me about this congregation. Tell me about things you've liked and haven't liked. Most importantly, tell me when you need pastoral care or if you'd like me to visit you. I won't know if you're in the hospital, or if you're going through a bad time,

unless you tell me. If you know of someone else in the congregation who needs care, let me know too. Don't count on them to call on their own. I'd much rather get twenty calls to tell me one person is in need, than to never know about an unmet need in our midst.

I'm looking forward to getting to know you. I expect you all will simply address me as "Frank." For those who feel a title is needed "Pastor Frank" is fine too.

That's enough about me. Now tell me about you.

In Christ,
Pastor Frank

Where is the pastor?

I will be here in Utica, and the surrounding area, from Wednesday morning through Sunday. Unless there is a pastoral need, or a Presbytery event, you can find me in the office on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. On Mondays and Tuesdays I will be on my Sabbath time with my family in Chicago. I should note that my son is autistic and cannot tolerate the frequent moves of an interim pastor. Because I intend to still be married at the end of this interim, and because I love my family, I need to spend this time with them. For non-emergencies you can leave messages for me at the manse or send them by email. If there is an emergency please contact me on any day at any time. You can reach me at:

My cell phone: 773-793-0312.

The manse: 815-667-4935 - this number may change if we can recover the original manse phone number. I will be checking for messages at this number several times a day.

The church: 815-667-4611.

My Chicago home: 773-631-6386.

Email: f.fisher.obl.osb@comcast.net.

You can also find my status updates, and update me on your status, on Facebook and Twitter.

FOOD PANTRY BUNNY BASKETS

On Sunday, March 29th we will complete this project following a potluck after worship. After contacting the food pantry, we are hoping to complete at least 250 bunny baskets for them to distribute to the families they are serving at this time. We have lots of grass, but still need milk jugs. Please rinse them and remove the labels (a hair dryer works, or fill the jugs with hot water and peel off the label) We encourage you to bring your gifts and candy to fill them anytime so we are sure we have enough items to make them complete. Bring your glue guns, glue sticks, and scissors and enjoy the fellowship. Last year we provided 266 completed baskets.

POTLUCK COMMITTEE IS THE MISSION COMMITTEE: Janet Small, Monica Blue, Kathy Fox, Relynn Olivero, Maxine Cole, Kim Bernabei & Bev Scharlau. (Please bring your own table service and a dish to pass).

God tolerates even our stammering, and pardons our ignorance whenever something inadvertently escapes us - as, indeed, without this mercy there would be no freedom to pray.

~John Calvin

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. ***we are asking you to pay for the plants when placing your order.*** Checks may be made to Waltham Church and given to Dena Ficek or Kathie Kleckner.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN P.W. will meet Thursday, March 26th at 9 a.m. in fellowship hall. We will continue working on our quilt project.

We hope you can join us! Our Spring Gathering will be in April and remember the CHURCHWIDE GATHERING "GOD WILL DO WONDERS AMONG YOU" WILL BE IN LOUISVILLE JULY 11-15, 2009!!

Change ~ Progress

In 1945, the PNC, Pastor Nominating Committee, decided that the youth representative should be secretary. So, I checked up on the latest technology and got a brand new tablet, a full bottle of ink, a couple new points for old pens, and sharpened some pencils. The composition of an informational letter to potential pastors was written by the secretary and mailed. Of course, I used the latest copy machine which consisted of another sheet of paper and more ink.

The main points of my letter were several. Waltham Church had seven acres of good land including five acres of pasture for your horse and cow. The barn was still in good shape and was recently cleaned. Pastor McNeilly up until

recently had a cow for the family. The home was kept up nicely for the new bride. She married Rev. McNeilly after Mrs. McNeilly lost her long battle with TB. She had spent months in the county TB Sanitarium but came home to spend many months living on the front porch, winter included. But let's mention a couple of the good things of 1945. Stamps were only 2 or 3 cents. Farmers did not need much limestone along gravel roads because sufficient dust blew off. Many roads were still dirt.

My next PNC was in 1955. A young pastor in his 30's came to make his home here for a generation. Pastor Young had a flock of sheep, but progress had torn down the barn and fences. He did get to live in a 6 year old new home and carry on his ministry in our recently (1939) remodeled church. Water was put in the church basement and a woman's bathroom added.

In those days, the majority of members were active farmers whose families were completely supported by farm income. Can you now, in 2009, name one active farmer member whose family income support is only from the farm?

A somewhat unrelated item of history tells us that the first Presbyterian Church in our area was in Rockwell in the mid 1830's.

Malcolm Whipple

Boy Scout Troop 97 Chili Supper

Saturday, March 14, 2009
5-8 pm

Waltham Presbyterian Church
Tickets ~ \$5.00 - Adults; \$3.00 kids-10&under

Tickets available from Troop 97 or at the door.
Raffle items available.
Vote for your favorite chili.

MEETING REPORTS

SESSION

February Session Report:

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a special meeting on February 5, 2009 at 5:38 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dale Dykstra. Members present – Moderator Dale Dykstra, Dave Edgcomb, Bonnie Walsh, Eileen Hagenbuch, Ralph Moshage, Bruce Brown, Bev Scharlau, and Clerk Ida Brown. Rev. Frank Fisher was also present.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Dale Dykstra.
A motion was made and carried to approve the position description for interim pastor. A
motion was made and carried to approve the contract for interim pastor.
A motion was made and carried to approve the compensation package for interim pastor.
A motion was made and carried to approve hiring Frank Fisher as interim pastor. A
motion was approved to adjourn at 6:43 pm. The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Dale Dykstra.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

The session of the Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica, IL held a regular meeting on February 10, 2009 at 8:31 in the upper lounge of the Church. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dale Dykstra. Members present – Moderator Dale Dykstra, Dave Edgcomb, Bonnie Walsh, Eileen Hagenbuch, Ralph Moshage, Bruce Brown, Bev Scharlau, and Clerk Ida Brown. Marlene Moshage and Kathie Kleckner were also present.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Dale Dykstra.
The minutes of the previous meetings were approved. Ralph and Eileen reported that Frank Fisher 's interim contract was approved at the Presbytery meeting. Marlene and Kathie presented the schedule for the Lenten series. A motion was made and carried to approve Waltham hosting a worship service on March 18 and Rev. Fisher giving the sermon for the March 25 service.

A motion was made and carried to allow the Boy Scouts to have a chili supper on March 15. A motion was made and carried to receive the committee reports. A motion was made and carried to approve the 2009 Liturgical Calendar. Eileen and Bonnie will do the Family Life schedule. The elders and deacons will be the committee for the March 18 Lenten series potluck. A motion was made and carried to move committee meetings to the second Thursday with the session meeting to follow. The next meeting night will be March 12. Committees will meet at 7:00 with session to follow at 8:15.

A motion was approved to adjourn at 10:10 pm. The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Dale Dykstra.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

Wherever we find the Word of God surely preached and heard, and the sacraments administered according to the institution of Christ, there, it is not to be doubted, is a church of God. ~John Calvin

The Waltham Presbyterian Church of Utica IL held a congregational meeting at 11:13 on February 15, 2009 for the purpose of receiving the annual reports and approving the 2009 budget. John Rickard opened the meeting with prayer as moderator.

A motion was made to allow the session to approve the minutes of the congregational meeting. The motion carried.

A motion was made to receive the annual reports. The motion carried.

A motion was made to accept the 2009 annual budget. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:21.

Ida Brown, Clerk of Session

Memorial Fund

Memorials have been received for
Linda Roether.
Joyce Anderson, Memorial Treasurer

Serving Our Church

Keep in mind, your group is responsible for finding someone to do the job. That person does not have to be part of your group. Please list the person on the sign-up sheets next to the narthex clock.

March

Ushers - Session
Liturgist - Choir
Coffee/Juice - Deacons

April

Ushers - Choir
Liturgist - Session
Coffee/Juice - Trustees

May

Ushers - P. W.
Liturgist - Decorating
Coffee/Juice - Choir

Filling Candles - Linda Chalus - March & April

Things to do ...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 April 9th (Maundy Thurs.). They can be left in either the upstairs or downstairs lounges.

From Your PNC

Our Church Information Form is on line at PCUSA. We have been matched up with 41 interested pastors! We have had 3 pastors send us their our information sheets. Needless to say your PNC is reading, reading, reading! Please feel free to ask questions of your PNC; keeping in mind that we can not give out names or churches.

Let us not cease to do the utmost, that we may incessantly go forward in the way of the Lord; and let us not despair of the smallness of our accomplishments. ~ John Calvin

TRUSTEES

Church Maintenance

Looking at backup generator for church
Floor replaced in nursery
Drapery cleaned
floor and ceiling in both downstairs bathrooms
painted
Will replace part or all of floor in men's room
upstairs
Root problem north of manse taken care of - \$1074 to
Dwight Munson, subcontractor
& for supplies
Manse Repairs
Patch nail holes

Shower curtain and rod

Pastor moving 16th and 17th

Washer and dryer donated by Hagenbuch family

Insurance

Trustees are waiting for quotes from
Cincinnati Insurance.

\$4855 from Insurance, \$3000 spent

DEACONS

We discussed our Deacon Family Ministry Lists.

We signed & mailed 2 cards to 2 of our families.

We talked about the need for accompanying our
new interim pastor to visit shut-ins. We discussed
the up coming Lenten Services.

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

Present: Bonnie Walsh and Dena Ficek

Plans for the coming year were discussed.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sharon will look into and order curriculum for fall.
For summer, we'll use the curriculum we have from
last year. Youth had a movie night. Youth trip to
Walnut Lodge went well. We will need the names
of graduates. We are looking at gifts for
both teachers and grads.

Music & Worship

No more phone calls need to be made for pulpit
supply! We do have a couple of pastors who are
still willing to fill in when needed.

March 18 - Ecumenical Service - What do
we need to do?

Incorporating special music into each weekly
service

TREASURER’S REPORT

Actually Treasure Report as of January 30th,

8 Deposits/Credits for amount of \$17,019.28

36 checks/Debits for amount of \$99,627.21 (transfer of \$87,174.53 to memorial account should have been recorded in 08 year)

Ending Balance of \$26,958.74

BENEVOLENCE FUND

Benevolence Balance \$10,082.12

Linda Chalus, Treasurer

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission committee held its meeting on 02-10-09 at 7:00pm, members present were Moderator Relynn Olivero, Janet Small, and session rep Bev Scharlau.

Volunteer sign up sheet for serving PADS meal on 02-11-09 was reviewed. All meal items were covered for serving.

Discussion was had about Bunny Basket family life potluck to be held 03-29-09 after church.

Mission committee members urge all members of the congregation to remember to bring in a food item for the food pantry. There is a basket in the Narthex for your donated food items. Canned vegetable are always in great need. The mission committee is responsible for delivering the food donated by our members to the food pantry once a month.

Next meeting is scheduled for 03-12-09 at 7:00 pm

Relynn Olivero, Moderator Mission Committee

Food Pantry

You can help make Easter dinner special for low-income people in our area by donating to our local food pantry. Items needed: ham, instant potatoes, cake mix and frosting, Jell-o,

canned vegetables, canned fruit, pancake mix and syrup

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

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
- Angelique Depenbrock
- 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

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

March 2009

March 2

Judy Applebees
Lois Edgcomb
Joshua Brown

March 9

Phyllis Mertes
Tony Mertes

March 16

Albert Hagenbuch
Relynn Olivero
Nathan Olivero

March 23

Rita Van Drimmelen
Bob VanDrimmelen
Rachel VanDremmelen

March 30

Dena Ficek
Marlene Moshage
Nick Moshage

Angels Explained by Children

Submitted by Anne McNaight to the "Witness".

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold. - Gregory, 5

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it. - Olive, 9

It's not easy to become an angel! First, you die. Then you go to Heaven, and then there's still the flight training to go through. And then you got to agree to wear those angel clothes. - Matthew, 9

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science. - Henry, 8

TEXTS AND SERMONS

March 2009

March 1, 2009 First Sunday in Lent

The Call to Worship: Psalm 25:-10
The First Lesson: 1 Peter 3:18-22
The Second Lesson: Mark 1:9-15

March 8, 2009 Second Sunday in Lent

The Call to Worship: Psalm 22: 23-31
The First Lesson: Romans 4:13-25
The Second Lesson: Mark 8:31-38

March 15, 2009 Third Sunday in Lent

The Call to Worship: Psalm 19
The First Lesson: 1 Cor. 1:18-25
The Second Lesson: John 2: 1

March 22, 2009 Fourth Sunday in Lent The

Call to Worship: Psalm 107: 1-3,17-22
The First Lesson: Eph. 2:1-10
The Second Lesson: John 3: 14-21

March 29, 2009 Fifth Sunday in Lent

The Call to Worship: Psalm 51:1-12
The First Lesson: Heb. 5: 5-10
The Second Lesson: John 12: 20-33

LENTEN 2009

Community Worship and Potluck Series

Waltham will once again be joining with area churches for worship and fellowship together during the upcoming Lenten Season. Five mid-week Wednesday services will be held in addition to two worship services on Good Friday. Each 7pm worship service will be preceded by a Soup Supper Potluck beginning at 6:15 pm. Those attending the meal are encouraged to bring a salad or dessert to share plus table service for their party. Host Churches will provide one meat and one vegetarian soup plus assorted breads and hot/cold beverages.

The schedule follows below:

Date & Time, Host Church Minister and Text

3/4/09 Trinity UCC of LaSalle Rev. Chuck Maney, Psalm 22

3/11/09 Spring Valley UCC Rev. Betty Delgado, Psalm 19

3/18/09 Waltham Presbyterian Rev. Jennifer Wilson, Psalm 107

3/25/09 Zion UCC of Peru Rev. Frank Fischer, Psalm 51 or 119

4/1/09 Grace UMC of LaSalle Rev. Gary Stillwell,
Psalm 118 or 31

Good Friday-April 10th

NOON St. Paul Episcopal of LaSalle All Ministers

7pm Grace UMC of LaSalle All Ministers

Session and Deacons will form the committee
in charge of the Waltham fellowship time on
Wednesday, March 18th.

Scout Master Bob Upcoming Events

February 24 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

March 3 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

March 4 – TLC Meeting 7:00 P.M.

March 5 – Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 P.M.

March 10 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

March 14 – Troop Chili Supper

March 17 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

March 19 – Cub Scout Meeting 6:30 P.M.

March 20-22 – Troop Campout

March 24 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

March 31 – Troop Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Troop 797 is gearing up for a busy summer.
July 9 – 23, twelve Scouts and Scouters are venturing
to Philmont for a week of hiking. They get back and
leave again for Ingersoll Scout Reservation, July 26 –
Aug. 1st. The troop is going to have another fun filled
summer of activities.

**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.**

From The Waltham Courier March 1961

MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

Our Easter message this year might be: take a good
look at the life of Jesus Christ as it is told in the
Gospels.

The gospels tell this story: Jesus came from
Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the
Jordan. He was in the wilderness forty days,
tempted by Satan. He came preaching the good
news of God. He taught as one who had authority.
He ate with sinners and tax-collectors. He declared
all foods clean. He said to them that the son of Man
must suffer. "Take up your cross and follow me."
He entered Jerusalem and the temple. He ate the
Passover with his disciples. He said to them "You
will all fall away." He was betrayed, arrested, tried,
sentenced, mocked and spat upon, crucified, laid in a
tomb. And then on Easter morning it was said of
him: "He is not here for he is risen!"

And after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the
disciples and said to them, "Thus it is written, that
the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise
from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness
of sins should be preached in his name to all nations
beginning from Jerusalem." And He said to them,
"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has
come upon you; and You shall be my witnesses to
the end of the earth."

This is our Easter message of hope and our
challenge for Christian witness to the whole world
that Jesus is our hope. ~ Ellsworth Young

SERVICE NEWS

Dale Wilson has returned home after six months
service in the National Guard.

Richard Cogdal, who is in the Navy, is spending a
furlough at home.

Wayne English has gone to Fort Leonard Wood,
Missouri to serve with the Army Reserve.

Our best wishes go with the Waltham Curling team
who will represent Illinois in the National Curling
Meet at Grand Forks, North Dakota, March 15-18,
1961.